

BRIEF



A braj artiste with artists from Africa during the International Surajkund Crafts Mela 2022, in Faridabad, Monday.

Factory fire

Pune: A huge fire broke out in a plant manufacturing inks, varnish and coatings in Srirampur MIDC area in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district on Monday, an official said. There were no reports of injuries to anyone in the incident, though it caused considerable damage to property, he added. "The blaze took place at around 11:30am in a unit of 'Surface Coatings', which manufacturers inks, various coatings, resins and varnish.

Protest

Bhopal: Some of the candidates who appeared for the Madhya Pradesh Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) and police constable recruitment exam staged a protest in front of the head office of the Staff Selection Board, earlier known as Vyapam, here on Monday alleging irregularities in the two exams, a charge denied by government officials.

Sworn-in

Chennai: Advocates N Mala and S Sounthar, who were appointed as additional judges of the Madras High Court last week, were sworn-in on Monday. Chief Justice M N Bhandari administered the oath of office to the new judges at a brief function in the High Court premises.

Busted

New Delhi: The police has busted a fake call centre and arrested eight persons for allegedly duping foreign nationals by posing as members of the technical support team of Amazon and PayPal, officials said on Monday. The call centre was running in Delhi's Jamia Nagar area, they said. Ten mobile phones, seven laptops, six keyboards, six computer monitors, four CPUs and one WiFi router with modem have been seized by the police, officials said.

Bribe

Damoh: A forest guard was nabbed on Monday for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000 for allowing a tractor-trolley carrying illegally mined sand to pass from a forest area in Damoh district of Madhya Pradesh, a Lokayukta Police official said. Forest guard Jitendra Patel had stooped the vehicle coming from the Patha area on March 12 and allowed it to go only after its owner paid Rs 11,000 in bribe, Lokayukta inspector Manju Singh said.

Weather
High 31 Low 22

MARKET
NIFTY 17,222.00
SENSEX 57,593.49

BULLION
GOLD 51,608
SILVER 68050

NATIONWIDE STRIKE: 1ST DAY

'Bandh-like situation in at least 8 states'

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

The joint forum of central trade unions on Monday said that bandh-like situation prevailed in at least eight states due to the nationwide strike against various policies of the government. The two-day strike began on Monday.

"There is a bandh-like situation in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Assam, Haryana and Jharkhand," the forum said in a statement.

According to the forum, agitations were held in many industrial areas across states like Goa, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Bihar, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh.

Security workers in Sikkim went on strike. Besides, workers in industrial areas in Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Jammu & Kashmir also joined the strike, it added.



Activists of various trade unions stage a protest in support of the two-day Bharat Bandh called over the Centres policies that are allegedly affecting farmers, workers and citizens, in Chennai, Monday.

SAIL, RINL, NMDC workers join strike

Thousands of workers of state-owned SAIL, RINL and NMDC on Monday joined the nationwide strike, affecting production at steel plants and mines. Around 8,000 non-executive Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) workers out of 11,000 of the total did not come to work on Monday as part of the ongoing nationwide strike, a company official said. He further informed that production has been affected at the unit as only one furnace out of three is functional at the plant in Visakhapatnam. While one was already under maintenance, the second one has been shut down as a precautionary measure. Rajesh Sandhu, Secretary of NMDC Sanyukt Khadaan Mazdoor Sangh that represents workers at the NMDC operated mines, said around 10,000 non-executive employees of the company are observing the protest. "Workers of NMDC mines and offices in Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana, are on strike today," he said. Work at important mining complexes like Bachel in Chhattisgarh and Donimalai in Karnataka are completely closed, Sandhu added.

Flames rip through parts of Odisha reserve

Baripada, Mar 28 (PTI):

Fire has engulfed parts of the Similipal National Park in Odisha, an official said on Monday, as authorities battled to prevent a repeat of last year's havoc at the UNESCO biosphere reserve.

Forest fire is an annual phenomenon in Similipal park — spread over 2,750 square kilometers in Mayurbhanj district and home to Bengal tiger, Asian elephant and Indian bison among other animals.

At least six places in the forest including areas in Talabandha and Chahala ranges — were found to have caught fire

Efforts underway to tackle situation

on Monday, the official said. According to Regional Chief Conservator of Forests M Yogajayanand, 200 firefighters have been pressed into service to douse the flames.

The firefighting teams have been able to put out the fire in Gudugudia range, while efforts to tackle the situation were underway in other locations.

Established in 1973, Similipal derives its name from the 'simul' (silk cotton) tree. Sal trees are also found abundantly in the region. Last year,

between February and March, the fire situation had gone out of control, and it took authorities almost three weeks to contain the rage. The Odisha government had to seek assistance of central forces to control the inferno. The Similipal authority has undertaken several steps to ensure safety of locals, including an awareness campaign conducted at the villages on the foothills of the wildlife sanctuary, Yogajayanand said.

As many as 500 leaf blowers are being used to create fire breaks in buffer areas of Similipal. It will prevent the spread of fire towards the core areas, he explained.

NATURE'S BEAUTY



Fishermen ride a boat on the Hooghly River during evening hours, in Nadia district, Monday.

I-T notice to former PM Gowda's wife

Bengaluru, Mar 28 (PTI): The Income Tax department has issued a notice to former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda's wife Chennamma regarding her property, their son and former Karnataka minister H D Revanna said on Monday.

Let them (I-T) issue notice to us. Now, they are issuing notice to my mother. We are growing sugarcane in our land. They should come and see, he told reporters in the district headquarters town of Hassan.

They are issuing notice to former Prime Minister's wife. Let them

serve notice. I am not saying that they should not do it, the Holenarasipura MLA added.

He even asked the I-T officials to see for themselves how they were growing crops in each acre of land.

Former chief minister and JD(S) second-in-command H D Kumaraswamy expressed ignorance about any notice being served to his mother.

I have no information about the notice but if they have served it then we should not panic. In our family, our activities are like an open book, Kumaraswamy told reporters in Bengaluru.

Massive fire breaks out at Ghazipur landfill site

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI): A massive fire broke out at the dumping yard of east Delhi's Ghazipur area on Monday leading to a huge cloud of smoke enveloping the region and neighbouring areas.

No casualty has been reported, an official of the fire department said, adding that nine fire tenders are at the spot to bring the blaze under control.

Chief Fire Officer Atul Garg said efforts are on to douse the flames, adding that it may take few more hours.

According to the fire department, a call was received at around 2.30 pm about the fire in Khaata at Ghazipur.



Flames and smoke rise from a fire at Ghazipur Landfill, in New Delhi, Monday.

Garg told PTI that the cause of fire is yet to be ascertained. A thick blanket of smoke was seen at a section of the dumping yard, where the fire broke out.

Meanwhile, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai directed the Delhi Pollution Control

Prez confers Padma awards

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI): Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister late Kalyan Singh, often termed as a Hindutva icon, and actor Victor Banerjee were among the 65 distinguished personalities who were conferred with Padma awards by President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday. This year, the first civil investiture ceremony was held on March 21 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan during which 54 personalities were given the Padma awards. Amongst the prominent awardees at the second investiture ceremony were Padma Vibhushan recipients Kalyan Singh (posthumous), during whose tenure the Babri Masjid was demolished in 1992, and classical vocalist Prabha Atre. Singh's son Rajveer Singh, who is a Lok Sabha MP from Uttar Pradesh's Etah, received the honour. The Padma Bhushan recipients include actor Victor Banerjee, and Krishna Murthy Ella and Suchitra Krishna Ella of Bharat Biotech, the maker of coronavirus vaccine Covaxin, an official statement said.

Banking operations, public transport hit

Public dealings at some bank branches were hit and public transport services were thrown out of gear in states like West Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu as thousands of workers on Monday began a two-day nationwide strike to protest against policies of the Union government. However, essential services like healthcare, electricity and fuel supplies remained unaffected. Public offices as well as educational institutions were not impacted by the strike called by nearly a dozen trade unions. Some bank branches, particularly in cities with a strong trade union movement, did very limited over-the-counter public dealings such as cash deposits and withdrawals.

'Centre selling PSUs, depriving beneficiaries of quota'

Mumbai, Mar 28 (PTI): Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday alleged that the BJP-led Central government is anti-reservation and selling public undertakings like Railways and Air India so that intended beneficiaries are deprived of quota.

Baghel made the comments during the Other Backward Class (OBC) meet held at Shegaon in the Buldhana district of Maharashtra. Maharashtra minister Yashomati Thakur, state Congress president Nana Patole, AICC secretary Ashish Dua and other leaders of Congress attended the meet, a statement said. We are fighting to give reservations to OBCs. But the BJP's government at the Centre is anti-reservation, the statement quoted Baghel as saying. He said that quota gives benefits to government jobs, but the Centre is selling the companies owned by it. The government is



selling undertakings like Railways, airports and Air India. How will one get reservation benefits if the public undertakings won't be there? The BJP government is selling these undertakings so that (communities concerned) don't get reservation benefits, the Congress leader alleged. He alleged that a big conspiracy was hatched to keep people away from getting the benefits of reservation. Baghel pitched for fighting for quota and also against the sale of government companies. He said Congress has always supported scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and OBCs.

Sawant sworn in as Goa CM

8 other ministers also take oath

Panaji, Mar 28 (PTI):

Three-time MLA Pramod Sawant, who led the BJP to win 20 seats in the recently concluded elections to the 40-member Goa Assembly, was sworn in as the state's chief minister for the second time on Monday in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other dignitaries.

Goa Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai administered the oath to Sawant (48) and eight other BJP MLAs as cabinet ministers in a ceremony held at Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee stadium at Bambolim near Panaji,



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with BJP leader Pramod Sawant during the latter's swearing-in ceremony as Goa Chief Minister, in Panaji, Monday.

four km from the Raj Bhavan. Over 10,000 people were present during the function.

Prime Minister Modi, Union ministers Nitin Gadkari, Shripad Naik,

BJP national president J P Nadda, Himachal Pradesh Governor Rajendra Arlekar (who hails from Goa) and Maharashtra's former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, who

was the Goa election in-charge, were among those who attended the event.

This was the second time that Goa's chief minister was sworn in outside the Raj Bhavan. In 2012, Manohar Parrikar had taken oath as the CM at a ground in Campal area of the state capital Panaji after the BJP emerged as the single largest party in the House.

Sawant took the oath in Konkani language. This is his second term as the state's chief minister. He became the CM for the first time in March 2019 after the demise of then chief minister Manohar Parrikar.

HIJAB BAN IN CLASSROOM

AIMPLB moves SC challenging HC verdict

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has moved the Supreme Court challenging the Karnataka High Court verdict which had dismissed the petitions seeking permission to wear Hijab inside the classroom saying Hijab is not a part of the essential religious practice in the Islamic faith. Several other petitions have already been filed in the apex court challenging the high court verdict of March 15. The AIMPLB, along with two other petitioners, have said in its plea that the four issues framed by high court do not address the core issue of whether or not it was necessary to consider the doctrine of essential religious practice where the petitions

have asserted their fundamental rights under Article 25(1) and 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. Secondly, while deciding the said issues, the high court has laid too much emphasis on propositions which results into discrimination, exclusion and overall deprivation of a class from the mainstream public education system apart from the fact it seriously encroaches upon an individual's sacrosanct religious belief, said the plea, filed through advocate M R Shamshad. The plea said it is a case of direct discrimination against the Muslim girls. Hence laying too much emphasis on bringing uniformity in the uniform without accommodating a person of one religion to cover her hair with a piece of cloth' is travesty of justice. The

impugned judgment also ignores the doctrine of reasonable accommodation, it said. The plea said determination of essentials under the principles of essential religious practice (ERP) had started with the idea of determination of essential religious practice that fell within the complete autonomy of the religious denomination in the matters of deciding as to what rites and ceremonies are essential according to tenets of a religion. Over a period of time, it appears that the courts have completely taken upon themselves the task to determine what are the essentials and integrals of any and every religion practiced in our country for the purpose of regulatory control over them by the State authorities, it said.

Indian Army snipers' gets new weapon: Sako TRG-42 rifles

New Delhi, Mar 28: The Indian Army has inducted the Sako .338 TRG-42 sniper rifles from Finland for soldiers deployed along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

"The latest sniper rifles have been inducted into the army. They are using it now," a senior official told PTI. The Sako .338 TRG-42 sniper rifles have a better range, firepower, and telescopic sights than those possessed by the adversary, the official said.

Sniping has been a bigger challenge for the troops patrolling forward areas along the LoC and the International Border

in Jammu and Kashmir, said the official. Between 2018 and 2019, there was a sudden increase in the number of sniping incidents along the LoC and IB prompting armed forces to induct better sniper rifles and train its snipers against such attacks.

The Sako rifles have replaced the .338 Lapua Magnum Scorpio TGT by Beretta, and the .50 Calibre M95 by Barrett, which were inducted in the Indian army in 2019 and 2020.

These rifles, made in Italy and America, had replaced the ageing Russian Dragunov, the mainstay of Indian soldiers.

Nationwide strike fails to make an impact in Steel Plant

Abducted minor girl rescued; accused arrested



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 28: Police have arrested a 21-year-old youth on charges of abducting and raping a minor girl. With sustained efforts, police managed to arrest the accused after about three months. DSP (Head Quarters) Abhishek Jha informed that police are handling the cases of crime against women in a sensitive manner. The police are also searching and rescuing the missing / abducted minor boys and girls under operation Muskaan. In this sequel, Nandini Nagar Police Station had received a complaint about abduction of a minor girl. A boy had lured her to flee with him. Police launched investigations and with the help of Cyber Cell, the CDR of the mobile phone was collected. The accused was constantly changing the mobile numbers as well as the

whereabouts. The accused had kept the girl with him and raped her. On March 27, the girl contacted her mother on mobile phone and narrated the entire incidence. The victim family immediately informed the police about the mobile number from which the girl had made the call. Police collected information about the location of this mobile phone and immediately a police team was sent to Urla in Raipur. Police team managed to arrest the accused and rescue the girl. The accused Vikas Jangde (21) son of Naindas Jangde has been booked under the provisions mentioned in sections 363, 366, 376 (2) N of IPC and Sections 5 & 6 of POCSO Act. Head Constable Rohit Bhuraya, Constable Navneet Kalsi, Constable Chote Lal Yadav and Constable Rupesh Sinha played vital role in arresting the accused.

ties for frontline workers serving people amid the pandemic; Increase in agriculture, education, health and other important public investments by taxing the rich through wealth tax etc to revive and improve the national economy; Concrete remedial measures for reduction of central excise duty on petroleum products and to check price rise; Regularization of contract workers, scheme workers and equal pay for equal work for all; Cancellation of NPS and restoration of old pension Substantial increase in minimum wage under Employees' Pension Scheme 1995/implementation of Supreme Court judgment. The unions of Bhilai Steel Plant are further demanding immediate settlement of outstanding arrears, gratuity and salary of contract workers of Bhilai Steel Plant. Here in Bhilai Steel Plant, the leaders of CITU, INTUC, AITUC, HMS, AICTTU, Ispat Shramik Manch and Steel Workers Union remained present at the entry gates of the plant and urged the employees to stay away from work and participate in the strike. The union leaders tried to stop the employees who were moving towards the workplace but most of the employees did not stop.



Trade Union leaders staging protest at BSP



Postal workers staging demonstration



LIC workers union at Civic Centre



Bank employees demonstrating at Civic Centre

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 28: The nationwide general strike called by central trade unions failed to make an impact in the SAIL's flagship unit - Bhilai Steel Plant. As per the tradition, the attendance was above normal in Bhilai Steel Plant. The strike at Bhilai Steel Plant remained restricted to symbolic demonstrations which saw participation of labour leaders

only. On the other hand, the employees' organisations of the Banking and Postal sector participated in the strike. Functioning of nationalised banks and post offices remained unaffected. Transport and railway also functioned as normal days. The joint trade unions including AITUC, CITU, AICTTU, HMS, Ispat Shramik Manch, Steel Workers Union, LOIMU and HITSU participated in

the strike. On the other hand, INTUC Union was on strike separately. They will also observe strike on March 29 also. The union leaders said that this strike is not only to save the rights and livelihood of the people/workers but also to save the economy of the country and the democratic system, which the dictatorial forces in the government are leading to destruction. The dictatorial elements have the support

of the corporate world, both domestic and foreign. The union leaders informed that the demands for strike on March 28 and 29 includes Abolition of four Labor Codes, Abolition of EDSA, which prohibits strike; Accept the 6-point demand of Samyukt Kisan Morcha after the repeal of agricultural laws; Not accepting privatization in any form and scrapping the privatization and NMP policy; Rs

7500 and free nation and cash assistance to non income tax paying families; Method in allocation for MGNREGA and extension of employment guarantee scheme in urban areas; To formalize the Universal Social Security; Statutory minimum wage and social security for Anganwadi, Asha, mid-day meal and other scheme workers by giving them the status of labourers; proper protection and insurance facili-

Workshop organised under National Tobacco Control Program

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 28: A workshop was organised under the National Tobacco Control Programme was organised here to sensitise the law enforcement agencies about the provisions of the laws which have been enacted to reduce the tobacco addiction. The workshop was organised under the directions of Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr JP Meshram and District Nodal Officer Dr RK Khandelwal. The programme was organised in collaboration with District Traffic Police. DSP (traffic) Gurjit Singh was specially present. The workshop commenced with a general introduction, after which the



National Tobacco Control Program District Advisor Dr Sonal Singh gave general information about the National Tobacco Control. Information about the activities to be done under the program and the ill-effects of tobacco on health was given in the programme. The cops of traffic police were detailed about the COTPA Act 2003. Social worker Kavita Tamrakar detailed Section 4, Section 5 and Section 6 while Dr Sonal Singh explained the

provisions mentioned in Sections 7, 8 and 9. Dr Munish Bhagat gave information about the origin of tobacco, the harm caused by tobacco consumption and how a person becomes addicted to the harmful substances found in it and how one can get rid of it or the way to quit it. The programme was successfully conducted with collaboration of National Tobacco Control Program Social Worker Kavita Tamrakar and Counselor Lalit Sahu.

PHE Minister attends Karma Jayanti and Jas Geet Competition

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 28: A two-day Jas Geet and tableaux competition was organized in Sirsa Khurd. On the second day of this event, Minister of Public Health Engineering and Village Industries, Guru Rudra Kumar attended the programme. He performed Bhoomi Poojan for works worth 45.50 lakhs. These projects include mid-day meal shed in high school, pipeline expansion, construction work in ponds, community building and stage construction and CC road construction. Addressing the people, he said that through programs like Jas Geet competition, we come closer to our culture. Such programs should be organized regularly. He further said that overall develop-



ment can be ensured only after the development of the villages. Hence, it is necessary that public representatives and officials should keep their attention focused on development of villages. Making rural areas stronger is the priority of the state government. On this occasion, he also spoke about providing free tap connections to all households by the end of 2023. Various groups participated in this competition and gave exciting performances. The artists entertained the audience with music and dance and made them aware of the culture. Ajay Chauhan, Pushpa Bhuneshwar Yadav, Devendra Kumar Deshmukh, Bhuneshwar Yadav and other villagers were present on this occasion. Public Health Engineering and Village Industries Minister Shri



Guru Rudra Kumar also attended the get-together and introduction programme of marriageable youth organised by Bhilai Vaishya Teli Samaj of Sector 6. He praised the organization of Sahu Samaj and said that Sahu Samaj will always be on the path of development due to its unity. On this occasion, he further said that the introduction programme of marriageable youth gives an opportunity to the new

families to come together and find suitable match for the marriageable youth. Such events are a powerful medium to connect new families. On this occasion, about 50 marriageable boys and girls participated in the introduction programme. Ram Narayan Sahu, Umesh Nandlal Sahu, Sunil Sahu, Usha Omprakash Sahu, Ashok Sahu and families of Sahu Samaj were present.

PM's Trophy Scholarships given away to 255 meritorious students

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 28: A grand programme was organised by SAIL-BSP's Education Dept to give away PM's Trophy Scholarships for year 2020-21 to 255 meritorious students at Mahatma Gandhi Kala Mandir on March 26. The total amount to be disbursed for the scholarships is Rs 40.26 lakhs, including the amount disbursed as scholarship amount for SAIL scholarships given away on March 25. Director In-Charge, Bhilai Steel Plant Anirban Dasgupta was present as the Chief Guest on the occasion, along with Manas Biswas, ED (Mines & Rowghat), Dr SK Issar, ED (M&HS), AK Bhatta, ED (Projects), KK Singh, ED (P&A), Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), Dr AK Panda, CGM (Finance & Accounts), UK Jha, CGM (TSD). Also present was Shikha Dubey,



GM (Education), R Raju, AGM (Education), NK Banchorr, President, Officers Association, Pervinder Singh, Secretary, OA, Union representatives, parents of scholars and other officials. At the outset, a welcome song was presented by students of Senior Secondary School, Sect 10. Addressing the recipients of PM's Trophy Scholarships and guardians present on the occasion, KK Singh said Bhilai has



made a mark for itself in various fields. Be it Education or Sports, Art or Production, Bhilai has made a lasting impact everywhere. The culture of Bhilaians has made us the recipient of the PM's trophy for best integrated steel plant 11 times. Urging students to be responsible citizens of our country to progress, he wished them the very best for their future. Congratulating the recipients of PM's Trophy Scholarships,



Anirban Dasgupta, Director In-Charge, Bhilai Steel Plant expressed hope that the Scholarships would encourage them to move ahead and shape their careers. Students from Bhilai have a unique identity due to their value system, creating a mark for themselves across the globe, he said. Indians are very hard working, dedicated and have strong values, and this makes them stand apart from others in foreign lands,

he said. He expressed confidence that as Bhilai's ambassadors, the students would shine wherever they go and make Bhilai and the Nation proud, he added. Bhilai has over the years emerged as education hub of the region with students from Bhilai making it to premier institutes of the country every year. The PM's Trophy Scholarships awarded every year from the interest earned from PM's Trophy prize money have en-

couraged meritorious students to perform even better while pursuing higher studies. Shikha Dubey, GM (Education) proposed the Vote of Thanks. The programme was coordinated by R Raju, AGM (Education). The programme was compered by Sarita Bahl from EMMS, Ruabandha and Mahua Chhaterjee from EMMS Sector 06. The total amount of Rs 40.26 lakhs to be disbursed for the PM's Trophy scholarships, includes the amount disbursed as scholarship amount for SAIL scholarships given away on March 25. As many as 75 students who received the PM Trophy Sarvottam Scholarships would receive Rs 25000 annually while the 180 students who received the PM Trophy Merit cum Means scholarships would receive Rs 11000 annually. Those pursuing non-technical studies would receive Rs 7500 annually.

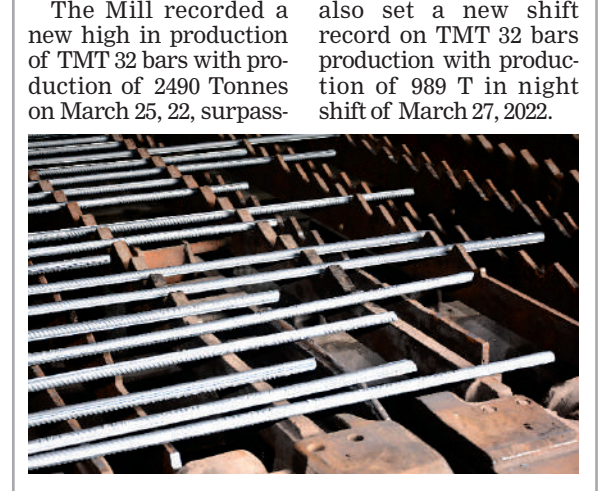
Merchant Mill sets New Record in TMT 32 Bars Production



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 28: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Merchant Mill that rolls out light structurals and TMT bars set a new day record in production of TMT 32 bars on March 25, 2022 and a new shift record in the night shift of March 27, 2022. The Mill recorded a new high in production of TMT 32 bars with production of 2490 Tonnes on March 25, 22, surpass-

ing previous best of 2318 T on March 23, 22. Director I/c Bhilai Steel Plant, Anirban Dasgupta and Executive Director (Works) Anjani Kumar visited Merchant Mill on March 26, 22 to congratulate the Mill collective for record breaking performances. Merchant Mill has also set a new shift record on TMT 32 bars production with production of 989 T in night shift of March 27, 2022.



OBITUARY

Bindeshwar Singh
Bhilai: Retired BSP employee Bindeshwar Singh left for heavenly abode at the age of 84 years on Sunday. Funeral procession was taken out from his residence situated at Pragati Nagar and last rites of the mortal remains were performed at Risali Muktidham. He was the father of BSP employee Ramashankar Singh and Shivshankar Singh. Kashtriya Kalyan Sabha Bhilai Nagar mourned his death.

DMC budget to be presented today at BIT Conference Hall

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 28: Durg Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal and Durg Municipal Commissioner Haresh Mandavi accompanied by other officials inspected the preparations being made at the Conference Hall in BIT College for the budget GBM on March 29. Taking stock of

the venue, necessary instructions were given to the officials for preparation. They instructed to check adequate arrangement of electricity and drinking water supply. Public works in-charge Abdul Gani, Executive Engineer Nemichand Jain, Executive Engineer RK Pandey, Assistant



Engineer Jitendra Samai, Assistant Engineer RK Jain, Assistant Engineer RK Palia, Nodal Officer Prakash Chand Thawani, Water Works Inspector Narayan Thakur were present.

States to face huge financial loss if GST compensation discontinued: CM

CM Baghel sends a letter to the CM's of 17 states

Requests Center to continue with the GST compensation



Raipur, Mar 28: In regard to Central Government's decision to discontinue the GST compensation after June 2022, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, has written a letter to the Chief Minister of 17 states to discuss this issue. Through this letter, he has discussed the losses that will be faced by all the states due to this decision taken by the Central Government. Baghel has sent letters to the Chief Ministers of Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Punjab, Bihar, West Bengal, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana and Delhi. In this letter, Baghel

has requested the Chief Ministers of 17 states to make a joint request to the Central Government to continue the GST compensation for ten years, so that the revenue of the states can be saved from huge loss, otherwise the centre should create an alternative arrangement.

CM Baghel in this letter has talked about three key points; First point being that in the pre-budget meeting under the chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister on 29th December in New Delhi, Chief Ministers and state finance ministers present in the meeting expressed deep concerns over the closure of GST Compensation after June

2022 and these state Chief Ministers and Finance ministers, hoping for a positive response from the central government

In the second key point, he discussed the issues that will be faced by manufacturing states like Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh. He further said, these states will face huge financial losses if GST Compensation is discontinued. Chhattisgarh, being a manufacturing state, our contribution to the growth of the country's economy is much higher than the consumer states which have benefited from the GST regime due to higher consumption of goods and services. He said If GST compensation is not continued beyond June 2022, Chhattisgarh may face huge revenue loss. There may be a loss of around Rs 5,000 crore in the coming financial year. Similarly, other states will also have less revenue receipts in the coming financial year. And this problem will

make it very difficult for the states to arrange money for public interest works and development works.

In the third key point, Baghel has pointed out that after the introduction of the GST regime, the independence of the states on tax policy has been greatly reduced. Apart from commercial tax, the states are left with no option but to increase the revenue in other items of tax revenue. Therefore, in order to recover from the impact of COVID-19 on the state's economy and get the due benefits of GST compensation, the states should request the central government to implement the continuation of this existing mechanism of compensation of GST, at least for the next 5 years. Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel exuded confidence that the states would agree to his point of view and together would make a common request to the Center to agree on this issue.

18 wagons of two goods train get derailed, no casualties

Near Raigarh Railway station at Jamgaon

Central Chronicle News

Raigarh, Mar 28: There are reports that two goods train had collided from back-side near Raigarh Railway station and 18 wagons of the two goods trains have got derailed near Raigarh Railway Station at Jamgaon at 4:15 am today. Since the goods train collided from back side with each other, a total of 18 wagons of both the goods train got derailed and got badly damaged. This has also affected the train movement on Up and Dn route and on the other hand, other trains were stopped at different stations.

On getting information



about this incident, the railway officers from Brijrajnagar, Raigarh and Bilaspur have left along with relief trains to the site of the accident. This has badly affected the Mumbai-Howrah rail route. So far there is no news about any casualties in this accident, but there are reports of loss of goods worth lakhs. This entire incident has taken place at Jamgaon near Raigarh railway station.

One cancelled, few terminated early; other run

on diverted route:

The trains which have been cancelled include- 08736 -Bilaspur-Raigarh passenger; 08735 Bilaspur Raigarh Passenger special; the pre-termination of trains include- 08263-Titalagarh-Bilaspur passenger will be terminated at Jharsuguda station; train No. 08861- Gondia-Jharsuguda- Pasenger special will terminate at Kirodimal station today; train No. 12070 Gondia-Raigarh Janshatabd will terminate at Bilha station

of Raipur division; train No. 12811 LTT-Hatia Express will run on diverted route via Lakhoul; train No 20471- Bikaner-Puri Express on diverted route from Bilaspur-Raipur- Lakhoul route; 12811 - LTT -Hatia Express will run on diverted route via Lakhoul; Train No. 12860 Howrah-LTT expressed via diverted route from Jharsuguda- Titalagarh route; Train o. 22845 Hatia-Pune Express will run from diverted route via Jharsuguda- Titalagarh route and train No. 17322 - Jasidih-Vasco-De-gama Express will run via diverted route of Jharsuguda- Titalagarh route. The railway administration has expressed regret over the inconvenience caused to the passengers and hope for due cooperation.

Universities exams to be held online

In current academic calendar year

Order issued from Higher Education Department on the suggestion of universities and demand of students

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 28: All the examinations of universities for the current academic year (2021-22) will be conducted in online / blended mode. Orders to this effect have been issued by the Higher Education Department on the instructions of

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.

The decision to conduct university examinations remaining for the current academic year 2021-22 in online/blended mode has been taken on the suggestion of the universities and the demand of the students.

According to the order the University Grants Commission issued guidelines regarding academic calendar, teaching method and examinations in higher educational institutions, keeping in mind the special circumstances arising out of the implementation of lockdown implemented by Higher Education Department since March

2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Through the letter of the University Grants Commission on February 11, 2022, all the higher educational institutions have been authorized to take decisions to open educational institutions, conduct class rooms and conduct examinations in offline, online or blended mode in accordance with the local situation.

It has been said in the order that due to the second and third wave of Covid-19 infection, the teaching work of the academic session 2021-22 in the state was started with a delay, as a result of which the examinations are also proposed to be

conducted late after completion of the courses. Annual examinations are usually completed in 50 to 60 days. It is a big challenge for the examination centers to make arrangements according to the Covid protocol for such a long period. Even a small mistake in this direction can have serious consequences. Keeping this in mind, instructions have been given to conduct the remaining examinations of the year 2021-22 in online, blended mode on the basis of the recommendations made in relation to online / blended mode in the suggestions received from various universities regarding the conduct of examinations.

Says bugle for election has been played

Addresses BJP district working committee meeting

Raipur, Mar 28: The BJP Raipur district working committee meeting was held in the chief presence of MLA and former Minister Brijmohan Agrawal and District President BJP Srichand Sundrani. Brijmohan Agrawal said that the coming year will be election year and the party work-

ers will now have to understand that the bugle for election has been played. Now the party workers will have to struggle day & night and be ready for it.

Speaking further Brijmohan said that the final centre of the actual election strategy of any organisation is at the 'shakti kendra' and booths. In line with rural areas, we will now have to carry out result oriented work for their organisation. BJP District President Srichand Sundrani carried out review of earlier works done 'mandal-wise' and added that it is the constant flow

which is named as 'organisation' and that flow needs to be reviewed.

District working committee - District V-P Amarjeet Chawla presented political resolution and it was supported by District Secy. Sanjay Tiwari. BJP passed a resolution against the Congress government on not fulfilling the promises; increasing user charges; increasing incidents of crime and drugs in urban areas; rental scam during Covid-19 and the problems faced by the people affected. Along with this another resolution to work in favour of general public

was also passed.

Meeting was also addressed by BJP spokesman Sanjay Shrivastava and it was conducted by general secy Ramesh Singh Thakur and vote of thanks was proposed by Secy Jitendra Jain. It was attended by Sachchidanand Upasane, Subhash Tiwari, District secy, RS Thakur, Suyrkant Rathore, Mirz Irshad Baig, Avdhesh Jain, Ashok Pandey, district media in-charge Anurag Agrawal, Yogi Agrawal, Bajrang Khandelwal, Satyam Duba, Lalit, Aashu Chandravanshi and other party workers and leaders.

Booking starts for international flights from Raipur after getting approval

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 28: After the order of the Central Government, airline companies have been allowed to operate regular international flights. In such a situation, booking of international flights from the Raipur has also started. Earlier, international flights were banned under the Covid-19 protocol. According to air travel



agencies, a large number of passengers travel from the Raipur to many countries of Europe including Dubai, Thailand, Malaysia, Maldives. Now people are booking for international flights for the summer

season. According to the officials of Swami Vivekananda Airport, more than 40 thousand passengers boarded flight from Raipur in the last one week. The number of flights from the airport has now crossed 360 every week, as the number of passengers is expected to increase further after the new summer schedule.

According to the air travel agencies, a large number

of foreign trips take place every year from Raipur and other districts of the state, with the highest number of business class and tourism-related passengers travelling to the countries of Asia and Europe. Regular international flights were banned from March 20, 2020 due to corona pandemic, after which regular flights have resumed from March 27, 2022.

Four-day 'Kaushal Mahotsav' concludes with zeal

In KPS Dunda

Raipur, Mar 28: Krishna Public School in collaboration with Krishna Lalit Kala Mahavidyalaya hosted the All India Music and Dance fest "Kaushal Mahotsav" in which around 250 participants performed in different genres of performing arts from Junior to Senior Category. Krishna Public School celebrated Kaushal Mahotsav successfully for four days from 24th March to 27th



march 2022. Various dances and vocal performances were presented by participants across the nation such as Kathak,

Kuchipuddi, Odissi, Bharatnatyam dances along with Classical and Carnatic Vocal and Instrumental music.

Renowned classical dancers Ms. Tapasree Paul Majumdar and Ms. Rajeshwari was present in the judgment panel and Dr. Vijay Vshnu Joshi felicitated the winners with Rs. 5001/- cash prize in the memoir of his late father Pt. Vishnu Krishna Joshi.

The Executive Director of the KPS Raipur Region, Mr. Ashutosh and the Principal Ms. Priyanka Tripathi of the school congratulated and extended their best wishes for all the participants in the event.

Infiniti services qualify into the semi-finals

Raipur, Mar 28: The last quarter final of the Suresh Agrawal Memorial corporate cricket tournament was played today.

The game took place in between teams who came from Sarda Energy and Infinity services. After winning the toss IS captain Md. Israar wisely opted bowling first and the batsman's of Sarda Energy after losing 9




wickets could merely manage to make a very simple

score of 81 runs.

While playing the next innings the batsman's of IS concluded their winning game very fast at the 10th over itself on very minimum loss of 2 wickets, and that's what made them the winners and the qualifiers of the semifinals also. The Game changer of this match a bowler from Infinity services Mr. Javed

Azhar who snatched 5 wickets was awarded the player of the Match trophy.

The second semi-final match of this series shall be played on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 1st match would be in between GPIL Ecopel and Jaiswal Neco and the 2nd match on Wednesday shall be played in between Axis Bank and Infiniti Services.



Dr. DILIP LAKRA

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Best Wishes From Family & Friends

Dahria attends annual convention of Ch'garh fishermen society



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 28: Urban Administration, Development and Labour Minister Dr. Shivkumar Dahria attended the annual

convention of Chhattisgarh Dhiwar (Dhimar) Samaj Kotni Pargana in village Seoni Godhi of Arang development block.

On this occasion, he ded-

icated a shed and premises constructed at a cost of Rs. 5 lakh and community toilet constructed at a cost of Rs. 3 lakh 50 thousand to the public. While addressing the program, he said

that the people of fishermen community are hard-working. He said that society has an important contribution in fisheries.

Dr. Dahria said that under the guidance of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, welfare schemes and programs are being run for all sections in Chhattisgarh, which should be taken advantage of by all. District Panchayat President, Raipur Mrs. Domeswari Verma, Janpad Panchayat, President, Arang, Khillesh Devangan along with Komal Sahu, Purushottam Dhiwar, Leelaram Tarak, Dilip Dhiwar and other officials of Dhiwar Samaj and representatives of Panchayats were present in the program.

Dilip Lakra awarded Ph.D



Raipur: Dilip Lakra, Principal of Holy Cross Senior Secondary School Kapa, Lodhipara Raipur has been awarded Ph.D by Kalinga University Naya Raipur for his research on the topic 'A Study of the Grading System and its Influence on Attitude, Teacher's Effectiveness and Academic Achievement at High School Level'. He completed his Ph.D under the supervision of Dr Beena Shukla, Department of Education, Kalinga University Raipur.

RUSH AT REGISTRY OFFICE



With hardly few days left for end of FY, there was huge rush at the registry office here on Monday.

Khadi and handloom fabrics fashion show gets good response

Raipur, Mar 28: Urban and rural women displayed khadi and handloom fabrics in a fashion show organized at Chhattisgarh Haat Complex, Pandri, Raipur. In the fashion show, young men and women and children were seen on the ramp wearing traditional Khadi clothes, women from rural areas were also seen walking on the ramp in Khadi and handloom sarees. Crazy Champs choreographed the fashion show. On this occasion, the Chairman of Khadi and Village Industries Board, Rajendra Tiwari said that Khadi clothing is showing its effect in this era of modernity. Today's fash-



ion show will definitely be a topic of discussion at the national level, the way this fashion show has got a good response from the audience is commendable. The program started with Shri Ganesh Vandana. The fashion show was conducted in five rounds, in the first round 12 youths and 2 children displayed fashionable clothes of Khadi. In the second

round of tribal fashion showcased khadi garments. Similarly, in the third round, young men and women were seen on the ramp with silk clothes. In the fourth round, 10 boys and girls and 2 children showcased wedding dresses. In the final round, the models of Crazy Champs were seen dancing to the beats of Chhattisgarhi song. On this occasion, Principal Secretary Village Industries Dr. Alok Shukla, Managing Director of Chhattisgarh Khadi and Village Industries Board Mrs. Rekha Shukla along with departmental officers-employees and a large number of visitors enjoyed it.

Dy Director NHM inspects activities in CHCs, PHCs



● Under National Health Mission in four block Hq's

Kondagaon, Mar 28: The Dy. Director Chhattisgarh National Health Mission (CNHM) and in-charge Nodal officer of the District Dr Kamlesh Jain conducted inspection of activities under National Health Mission in Kondagaon district during his two-day tour. During

this he inspected all the CHCs, PHCs, Sub-health centres and 'haat bazars' in all the four block headquarters. There he checked about availability of medicines, basic facilities, presence of doctors and held talks with the doctors checking duty roster.

Apart from this he also organised virtual meeting with Google meet with all the health officers of the district and held talks about upgradation of health services and motivated all to work with promptness. Taking part on occasion of World TB Day in PHC Kondagaon he asked the health employees to create awareness about TB.

BoB, Raipur region participates in Export Conclave as Associate Partner

Raipur, Mar 28: Bank of Baroda (BoB), Raipur Region participated in the Export Conclave organised on March 26, 2022 at Raipur as Associate Partner. Chief Minister, Bhupesh Baghel was present in this program as the chief guest. The program was inaugurated by Minister of Commerce and Industry, Chhattisgarh, Kawasi Lakhma. The event was organised in association with Federation of Indian Export Organization (set up of FEO/Ministry of Commerce, Government of India) and Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce, Government of India. The theme of the



program was 'Way ahead in doubling the exports from Chhattisgarh'. The objective of this program was to double the imports of Chhattisgarh. In this conclave, Bank of Baroda, Raipur Region was present as Associate Partner. Bank of Baroda is committed to the economic de-

velopment of the state by participating in various programs organized from time to time. In this conclave, Raipur Regional Head, Satyanjan Mohapatra, Sub-Regional Head, Abhishek Bharti and other officials were present on behalf of Bank of Baroda, Raipur Region.

Saras Mela to be held from March 29 to April 7

● Opportunity for visitors to see and buy products of many states

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 28: Regional Saras Mela is being organized at Pandri Haat, Raipur for the exhibition and sale of products manufactured by women self-help groups formed under Chhattisgarh State Rural Livelihood Mission (BIHAN). Materials manufactured by rural communities of Chhattisgarh

as well as many states will sold and displayed at this ten-day fair from 29th March to 7th April.

People will be able to enjoy local delicacies in the food stall of Chhattisgarhi cuisine in the fair. Cultural programs will also be presented in the evening at the venue of the fair which is being organized for the promotion and sale of natural products produced and manufactured by rural women under 'Bihaan'. Visitors will also be able to see exhibition, purchase products, enjoy Chhattisgarhi cuisine and watch cultur-

al evening to be held every day from 11 am to 9 pm.

This regional Saras Mela is being organized under the Chhattisgarh State Rural Livelihood Mission - 'Bihaan' scheme, run by the Panchayat and Rural Development Department of the State Government for the prosperity of the villages and creation of employment opportunities. Under 'Bihaan', there will be a system of exhibition-cum-sale of many special organic products manufactured by women self-help groups formed in rural areas of the state.

Products such as silk, khadi, handloom, bellmetal, terracotta, bamboo, wood crafts etc. will be available for sale and exhibition. Chemical free special products like aromatic rice, black rice, spices, oil, rare forest produce based products, honey etc. will be sold in the fair from different districts of the state. Excellent products produced by rural communities from several states including Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan will also be available for exhibition-cum-sale in the regional Saras Mela.

Bilaspur, Mar 28: A review meeting was held under the chairmanship of Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal, Vice-Chancellor of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (Central University), to review the preparations for the convocation to be held in the university.

In the meeting held on March 28 in the meeting room of the administrative building, the Convener, Prof. Manish Srivastava, Co-convener, Dean Student Welfare, Controller of Examinations and Deputy Registrar, Examination, Coordinators of various committees and University Engineer attended the



meeting. The ninth convocation will be held in the university on April 20, 2022.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Chakrawal said that the ninth convocation of the university would be in accordance with the prestige, dignity and image of the university. The prepara-

tions of various committees constituted in the university are going on in full swing for this highest function of academic activities, the convocation ceremony.

While reviewing the progress of the preparations being done at various levels, the Chairman provided necessary guide-

lines. University is like a family. We have to actively cooperate in every work of the University with the spirit of co-ordination, harmony, cooperation, and discipline.

In the meeting, the coordinators of the committees formed for the successful conduct of the event presented the progress report of various activities being carried out by the committees in front of the Vice-Chancellor. Conduct of the meeting and vote of thanks was given by the Convener of the Ninth Convocation Organizing Committee, Prof. Manish Srivastava

Nirankari Sant Samagam from today

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 28: Satguru Mata Sudikshaji Maharaj, the head of Sant Nirankari Mission, is visiting Raipur to spread the message of universal brotherhood.

Sant Samagam has been organized in her holy presence in the open courtyard in front of Indira Gandhi Agriculture University, located in Jora, Raipur. Satsang Programme will be held between 6 pm and 8:30 pm.

It is worth mentioning that Satguru Mataji's salvation tour of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh started on March 20, 2022 from Gwalior, which will reach Raipur on 29th March 2022 via Indore, Bhopal, Sagar, Katni, Rewa, Satna, Jabalpur and



belief that while the formless Parabrahma is contained in every particle of the universe, it is also separate from the entire visible world. The entire visible creation is Maya which is changeable. God, through formless, is perceptible and worth knowing. In fact, knowing the formless God is the basic aim of human life.

Any sage who wants to do devotion after getting information about the formless God, the great saint can come to the Nirankari Samagam and get this knowledge of Supreme soul.

There is no age restriction for the knowledge of this Supreme soul, all mankind can attain it voluntarily, all are equal, all are human because there is only one race of human, that is humanity.



Shri Gujrati School receives 'Best School of the Year Award'

● In best sports infrastructure category

Raipur, Mar 28: SRM University has awarded Shri Gujrati School with 'Best School of the Year Award' under best sports infrastructure category. This award was presented at a programme which was attended by SGSS Vice President Kirti Bhai Vyas, Secretary duo Tulsi Bhai Patel, Ashok Bhai

Patel, Joint Secretary Vitthal Bhai Patel and Jayesh Bhai Pithalia and Hitesh Bhai Vyas. The award was presented by Mayor of RMC Ejaz Dhebar and former Mayor Kironmoyee Naik. All the office bearers of Shri Gujrati Shikshan Sangh joined together in congratulating the principals of all the three schools, teachers and other non-teaching staff for their efforts in fetching this award.

Karma Jayanti celebrated with gaiety at Sahu Bhawan

Central Chronicle News

Konta/Sukma, Mar 28: On the occasion of Mother Karma Devi Jayanti, District Sahu Sangh Sukma performed Maha Aarti by worshipping Mother Karma Devi on Monday and Prasad was distributed by offering Khichdi to the mother. District Sahu Union and Municipal President Jagannath Raju Sahu said that Mother Karma had seen Lord Krishna with her devotion and had stayed by the sea for a long time in Jagannathpuri and fed khichdi to Balakrishna in her lap. Karma Devi, who was engaged in wealth, social and religious work, had compassion for the poor and the afflicted. Today, work is being done in various fields for the upliftment of the Sahu society. On this occasion, Vice



President of District Sahu Union, Sevak Ram Gurupanch, Smt. Pramila Sahu, District Secretary Gupteshwar Gangber, City President Tikaram Sahu, Treasurer Dayalu Ram Sahu, Chovaram Sahu, Gautam Sahu, Gulshan Sahu, Gokul Ram Sahu, Jetharram Sahu, Doman Sahu, Shiv Kumar Sahu, Devendra Sahu, Kanhaiya Lal Sahu,

Neemu Sahu, Komal Sahu, Nitesh Sahu, Santram Sahu, Khorbara Sahu, Mrs. Satyabhama Gangber, Mrs. Janaki Sahu, Mrs. Yashoda Sahu, Mrs. Anju Sahu, Mrs. Sunita Sahu, Chaman Sahu, Sushram Sahu, Hundreds of people of Sahu community including Sahu, Rohit Sahu, Devendra Sahu, Mohan Sahu were present.

Apollo Super Specialty Medical Camp held

At NMDC Apollo Hospital Bachel, Project Hospital Kirandul



Central Chronicle News

Bachel, Mar 28: Apollo Super Specialty Medical Camp was organised at NMDC Apollo Hospital in assistance with NMDC management here on Saturday. In his camp, Dr Manoj Kumar Agrawal (cardiologist) from Apollo Hospital Hyderabad; Dr Kartik Pingle (Orthopaedician); Dr PL Abhijit (Gastroenterologist)

examined the patients and gave them necessary consultancy and advice. The NMDC officers and employees, their family members, tribals, denizens of city and villagers from remote areas avail immense benefit of this camp. This medical camp was organised from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm and again from 4:30 pm and to 6:30 pm. After this in the evening

a medical seminar was organised at NMDC's Training Institute and in this all the doctors of NMDC Apollo Hospital, Bachel and Project Hospital, Kirandul were present. In this seminar, Dr MK Agrawal (Cardiologist) from Apollo Hospital Hyderabad highlighted on the reasons for rise in heart-related diseases and also about ways & means

to avoid falling victim of such heart problems. He asked people to exercise regularly and live a balanced and disciplined lifestyle and keep on bringing changes in the diet as per hard work and age. Dr Kartik Pingle (Orthopaedician) from Apollo Hospital Hyderabad gave information ortho related problems among men and

women as per age and Dr PL Abhijit spoke about Liver Cirrhosis, its symptoms and solution. In the end of the seminar, the specialised doctors from Apollo Hospital Hyderabad answered to the question by doctors from NMDC Hospital Bachel and Project Hospital, Kirandul. At the end of the programme, NMDC Apollo Hospital Bachel Chief Medical Administrator expressed gratitude towards the doctors from Apollo Hospital Hyderabad for their services and solving queries of doctors from NMDC Apollo Hospital Bachel. It was on March 25, the doctors from Apollo Hyderabad examined patients at NMDC Project Hospital Kirandul and the employees, tribals and denizens of the region availed its benefit.

SHOBHA YATRA



Kharora: A massive 'Shobha-Yatra' was taken out on the first day of the 'Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapurana Katha-Gyan' held at Purani Bastipara in Kharora on Sunday. In this Pt. Yugal Kishore Maharaj will recite 'Katha' about 'Bhagwat Mahapurana'.

Youth presents innovative idea before collector

Wishes to prepare generator which runs without fuel



Central Chronicle News

Korea, Mar 28: In the 'Collector Janchaupal' among the several applications received, one application drew the attention of collector Kuldeep Sharma, Zilla Panchayat CEO Kunal Dudawat and other district

level officers. In lines with TV show 'Shark Tank', Anil Kumar Rajwade of village Patrapali reached collector's Janchaupal with an innovative idea and asked for permission to prepare a generator model which runs without any fuel. Anil requested collector for fi-

ancial assistance for trial and patent of his model. After listening to Anil's idea, collector and Zilla Panchayat CEO praised his efforts and directed DEO to provide necessary financial arrangements and make available necessary instruments through ITI.

St. Xavier's Bharni organizes Euphoria-2022

Hostel Parents Meet

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Mar 28: St. Xavier's High School, Bharni celebrated the Grand Hostel Parents Meet "Euphoria" along with cultural extravaganza with great zeal and enthusiasm. This programme tends to create a new wave to strengthen and to gratify the bond between parents and school teachers. The occasion was graced by the Chief Guest Dr Rashmi Singh Thakur; Sansdiya Sachiv, MLA Takhatpur and a galaxy of dignitaries Managing Director Dr GS Patanaik, Director Ms Lekhashree Pattanaik, Assistant Director A Samantaray, CEO Mr Mukesh Saraaf, Principal JS Hundal and Heads of various other branches of St. Xavier's Chain of schools. As per the tradition, the

programme was initiated by the enkindling of the lamp. The Annual Report read by the Principal JS Hundal unfolded the achievements of the students and presented the principal's vision for the progress of the school. This was followed by the honouring and appreciating the achievers with accolades. A parents teacher Talk Show was organized where every parent was made acquainted of their child's progress and behavior. Teachers took the initiative to make the parents aware of how school hostels can make a child self-reliant and disciplined and the benefits of proximity. Before the cultural extravaganza, the Open Sky Gym was inaugurated by the chief guest, Dr Rashmi Singh Thakur. The cultural extravaganza commenced with the dance of Divinity and de-



votional songs ending with a plea to dispel darkness. The impeccable performance by the junior students showcased the transformation of human minds through education. The Indo-western dance performance accompanied with the folk dance mesmerized the audience. A dance drama featuring

the system of gurukul was endorsed by the students. The management lauded the efforts made by the students and staffs. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. GS Patnaik shared his future vision regarding the school. He announced that the school management is very keen to begin coaching facility

of NEET, IIT-JEE etc for the hostel students of the school by experienced subject experts from Kota, Rajasthan. Dr. Rashmi Singh Thakur congratulated the parents and students and also lauded the efforts of the school management and teachers for the steps being taken for the overall growth of the children. The programme was conducted under the mentorship of hostel superintendent Mr. Subash Roy and Administrator Mr. Abhilash Patnaik, Mr. Subendu Mondal, principal St. Xavier's High School, Mungeli, Ms. Nancy Parekh- Primary Headmistress, Mrs. Reema Sharma Arora-Secondary Headmistress, Mr. MS Patro - ATL Incharge were also present on the occasion. The programme culminated with the sumptuous feast for the students, parents and staff members.

NAME CHANGE

It is hereby being informed to general public that I Renuka Sharma, W/o Shri Ramkumar Sharma, age-37, R/o Vijay Vastra Bhandar, Shanichari Bazar, Durg, Tehsil and District Durg (C.G.), is submitting the following affidavit:

1. That name of my daughter is Juhi Ram Sharma (old name) has changed her name to Juhi Sharma (new name).
2. That in the near future my daughter will be known and identified as Juhi Sharma and it should be read and written in all the documents.

DEPONENT

'Tribal society is a victim of neglect, state govt completely failed'

Central Chronicle News

Konta, Mar 28: Even after 72 hours of fierce demonstration of tribal society in Sukma district, the administration has not woken up from sleep. What would be a bigger failure of the Congress government in the state than this when, despite minister Kawasi Lakhma and administrative pressure, more than 15,000 tribals of Sukma district even gheraoed the collectorate for 20-point demands. These things have been said by former minister and BJP state spokesperson Kedar Kashyap through a release. Kedar Kashyap said that this

is the first time in the history of Chhattisgarh that tribals from far flung areas broke all the barriers and reached very close to the collector's chamber for their legitimate demands. I had heard of corruption in Sukma district, but the way the tribal society is being neglected, the Congress will have to bear the brunt of it in the entire Bastar division. The neglect of tribal society by Sukma Collector is not a big deal, such an environment has been created in the whole of Chhattisgarh. Kedar said that as information has been received that in many places including Sukma Collector, the list of whom to meet has been issued. This is a living example of the way father and son have terror in Sukma. Senior officers have been ordered by both that they will meet whom they will



Kedar Kashyap

not. Earlier too, the collector had refused to meet some of the young colleagues of the opposition due to panic, while all of them wanted to submit a memorandum regarding the problem of the unemployed. Before the approval of any construction work in Sukma district, the commission rate is also fixed at 10 to 15 per cent, and this is the reason

why Collector and SP are being run through remote from the bungalows of Sukma and Raipur. Many serious and proven allegations have been leveled against DMC Shyam Sunder Singh Chauhan (Bablu Chauhan) posted in Sukma district by the tribal society. Thousands of tribals have alleged in their memorandum that a teacher has more power than the collector. Despite this, due to the patronage of the local minister, he was not removed. Kedar said that after the BJP government comes to power in the state, strict action would be taken by identifying such people. The government should take all the matters of the tribal society seriously and take action within the time limit so that future resentment can be avoided.

Shrimad Bhagwat Katha from April 2-9

Mudhipar, Mar 28: 'Shrimad Bhagwat week 'Gyan-Yagna' programme will be organised in Gram Marrapar from April 2-9. It was on occasion of 'Hindu Nav-varsh' in Garm Garrapar of Khairagarh block, it is under leadership of Topsisingh Rajput- Janpad member Khairagarh, the 'Shrimad Bhagwat saptah Gyan Yagna' programme is being organised and in this well-known story teller Acharya Pt. Jhamman Prasad Shastri Maharaj will be present.

	PIRAMAL CAPITAL & HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED <small>(Formerly Known as Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.)</small> Unit No. 601, 6th Floor, Piramal Amity Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction Opp. Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kuria (West), Mumbai 400 070	POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)
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APPENDIX - IV, [Rule 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)		
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, Demand Notice (s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower (s) / Guarantor (s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower (s) / Guarantor (s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The Borrower (s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of PCHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.		
Name of the Borrower (s) & Co-borrower (s)	Description of the Secured Assets	Date of Demand Notice & Amount
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Date : 29.03.2022 Place : Raipur	Sd/- Authorised Officer Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited	

REGIONAL OFFICE, LIC BUILDING, 3RD FLOOR, PANDRI, RAIPUR (C.G.)

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule - 8 (1)]

Whereas the Authorized Officers of Union Bank of India Branch under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice of the following borrowers/guarantors/ mortgagors calling upon them to repay the amount mentioned in the Notices within 60 days from the date of said Notice.

The Borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors having failed to repay the amount, Notices are hereby given to the borrowers/guarantor(s)/mortgagor in particular and the public in general that Authorized Officer has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on below mentioned date:

The Borrowers/guarantor(s)/mortgagor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Union Bank of India, for the amounts and interests and incidental expenses and costs and charges thereon as mentioned below -

The Borrower's / Guarantor's / Mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

A Name of the Borrowers	Description of Secured Assets	1. Date of Demand Notice
1. Mrs Noorjahan Ali	KH No. 270/28, PH No. 109/3, Bhimrao Ambedkar Ward 27, Mowa, Raipur.	11.06.2021
2. Mr Javed Ali		23.03.2022
Branch: Shankar Nagar, Raipur		
Mr. Shankar Wadhvani, Mr. Amit Wadhvani, Mrs. Meera Wadhvani, Mr. Gyanchand Wadhvani.	Residential House Property at 26/2A, Part of Kh No. 26/2, 27/4, 27/12, PH No.114, Ward No. 46, Dr Rajendra Prasad Ward, Mouza Amlidih, Teh and Distt.: Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001 measuring 2242 Sq. Ft. in the name of Smt. Meera Wadhvani and Shri Gyanchand Wadhvani.	01.06.2021
Branch: Pandri, Raipur		
Date: 29.03.2022, Place: Raipur (C.G.)		

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

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorized Officer issued demand notice on the date mentioned against the account stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The borrower(s), having failed to repay the amount notice is hereby given to the borrower(s) and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules 2002 on the date mentioned against the loan account. The borrower(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank for the amounts, interest, costs and charges thereon. The borrowers'/borrowers' attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

Name of borrower(s) & Loan Account No.	Description of property mortgaged (Secured Asset)	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Symbolic Possession Notice	Outstanding Amt. as on Date of Demand Notice
Mr. Chitti Raju Bandaru Mrs. Jyothy Bandaru 851/959 & 851/100	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property situated at Khasra No. 441/50, Rakba 2400 sq. ft., Mauja Srinagar, Khamtarai, Veersshivaji Ward No. 10, PH No. 108, RNM Raipur-1, Tehsil & District-Raipur, Chhattisgarh and bounded by: North: Road, East: Other Land, West: Road, South: Others Land	07.01.2022	24.03.2022	Rs. 18,96,169.33 for Loan A/c No. 851/959 & Rs. 18,52,069.77 for Loan A/c No. 851/100 aggregating to Rs. 37,48,239.10

Place: Raipur
Date: 29/03/2022

Authorised Officer
Bandhan Bank Limited

BRIEF

Attaching

■ **Srinagar:** Jammu and Kashmir Police said innocent people need not to worry about attaching properties of those giving shelter to militants, saying it has the skill and knowledge to segregate the chaff from grains. Honest and innocent citizens don't have to worry a bit about the implementation of law regarding action against house owners in whose house terrorists come to hide at gunpoint. Law already provides protection to such persons.

Recovers

■ **Ferozpur:** The BSF has recovered heroin weighing eight kilogram near a border out post in Abohar Sector of Punjab, officials said. The estimated cost of the recovered contraband is Rs 40 crore in the international market, they said. BSF troops observed some suspicious movement ahead of border security fencing during the early hours following which they challenged the miscreants. However, intruders fled towards Pakistani territory.

Award

■ **Kochi:** In a boost to the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute's (CMFRI) efforts to popularise its cage fish farming technology, one of the farmers associated with it has won the 'Thozhil Shreshta' award instituted by Kerala's State Labour Department. The award was won by PM Dinil Prasad (28) from Kannur for his excellent performance in the fisheries sector; the institute said. He won Rs one lakh and a certificate for his achievement.

Thrashed

■ **Jabalpur:** A man was tied to a pole by the road in a marketplace in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district and beaten up for allegedly stealing a bicycle. A video of the incident, which took place in Omti police station limits, soon went viral on social media. An inebriated Ashraf Ansari was caught while trying to steal a bicycle by two persons identified as Mohsin Khan and Faizan Khan.

Renamed

■ **New Delhi:** A municipal school in north Delhi has been "renamed" after prominent Kashmiri Pandit leader Tika Lal Taploo, who was gunned down in Srinagar 33 years ago, a senior civic official said. The move comes amid a raging debate on the Kashmiri Pandit's issues triggered by the controversial film 'The Kashmir Files'.

Theft

■ **Mathura:** The Uttar Pradesh special task force and the Farah police in a joint operation here arrested a man carrying a reward of Rs 15,000 and accused of stealing mobile phones, officials said. On a tip off, accused Parvez Ahmad of Laxmi Nagar, Delhi, was arrested when he was proceeding for Rajasthan in a car with a few mobilephones, Special Task Force (STF) Additional SP, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Raj Kumar Mishra said.

Open doors for judicial officials to serve in executive

● **Parliamentary panel tells DoPT**

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

A parliamentary committee has asked the Department of Personnel and Training to shun its assumption and open up possibilities for officials of the legislative and judicial wings to serve the executive wing.

In its report tabled in the parliament recently, the panel said the Union government should restructure and align its personnel requirement in line with its current and future challenges.

In view of increasing role and responsibilities of the Union government, the committee recommends the Department of Personnel



South Block, Delhi.

and Training (DoPT) to make advanced projections and align its human resource architecture so as to meet its future requirements, it said.

While doing so, the department may attempt to increase the number of Union government personnel per lakh population, the panel said, high-

lighting the finding from a seventh central pay commission report that the total number of federal/Union government personnel per lakh of population in India and the US is 139 and 668, respectively.

The committee is not satisfied with the explanation offered by DoPT

that posts manned through central staffing scheme are of specialised executive nature and that it is not appropriate to draw officials from other wings of the government, the report said. The panel said it is of the view that this explanation is basically flawed as it is based on the assumption that officials serving other wings of the Union government lack skills, competency and aptitude required for these posts.

Also, when the officials of the executive wing can man certain posts in the legislative and judicial wings, why the reverse of the same is not possible, asked the panel headed by BJP's Rajya Sabha member Sushil Kumar Modi in its report tabled in parliament on Thursday.

Punjab CM announces doorstep ration delivery scheme

Chandigarh, Mar 28 (PTI):

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday announced the rollout of the doorstep ration delivery scheme, saying the poor will no longer need to stand in queues as good quality ration will be delivered at their doorstep.

However, the scheme will be optional for the eligible beneficiaries, Mann said in a video message.

Mann said the details of this scheme will be made available shortly.

"The AAP government has decided to start the doorstep delivery of ration scheme. Under the scheme, good quality ration items will be delivered at the beneficiaries' doorstep and no one will now need to stand in



Bhagwant Mann

queues or leave his work for this, he said.

"Our officers will make a phone call to the beneficiaries and ration will be delivered at their homes as per their convenience and availability," said Mann.

He said this scheme is optional. The Punjab chief minister said if the ration depot is very close to your home, one may fetch the ration from there. Mann said the Arvind Kejriwal government had started

this scheme in Delhi too, "but unfortunately it was stopped. But in Punjab we are going to implement this scheme and we will run it successfully".

At an online briefing on Monday, the Delhi chief minister said once the Punjab government implements the policy of doorstep delivery of ration to people, citizens in others states too will "start demanding" it.

Kejriwal also alleged that the BJP-led central government has been trying to "impede" the implementation of this policy in the national capital.

"Time for this idea (doorstep delivery policy) has come. They won't let it get implemented in Delhi, but it will be implemented in Punjab.

'Limited opposition space in Gujarat, BJP in strong position'

Gandhinagar, Mar 28 (PTI):

Asserting that the BJP is on a strong footing in Gujarat, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity and policies have shrunk the opposition space in the state and in that limited space some may choose the AAP over the Congress in the next assembly polls.

Underlining that the state's finances are in good shape, Patel said in the long run the AAP's culture of freebies is not good for the state and society as well.

Interacting with a select group of journalists, Patel said the BJP is in a strong



Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel addressing a function in Gandhinagar.

position in the state and is continuously engaging with the people.

When asked about the prospects of the AAP in Gujarat Assembly polls, Patel said, "See in democ-

racy every party has the right to contest elections. But please understand that the BJP is functioning consistently with the same intensity, engaging with the people and staying with

Not just Muslims, other minorities also against UCC: AIMPLB

Lucknow, Mar 28 (PTI):

Close on the heels of the newly-elected BJP government in Uttarakhand initiating action to implement the Uniform Civil Code, All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has said that not only Muslims but other religious minorities, too, have objections to it.

The board's executive committee, during its meet, also discussed the recent hijab controversy in Karnataka and said it will "strongly" contest the case in the Supreme Court, a member said on Monday.

The committee here



All India Muslim Personal Law Board

pointed out that there exist tribal laws in Mizoram and other places, in addition to different laws within the majority community as well as within religious communities.

"The constitution has already given everyone the right to uphold their culture, customs and tra-

ditions. No custom, tradition or law can be uniformly implemented all over the country constitutionally or on the basis of India's ethos," a senior member of the board, who attended the meeting, told PTI.

In the first cabinet meeting of the Pushkar Singh Dhami government, it was decided that the

panel of experts for implementing the UCC be headed by a retired judge of the Supreme Court or high court.

The AIMPLB was set up in 1973 to adopt suitable strategies for the protection and continued applicability of Muslim personal laws in India, especially, the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat).

Most of the Muslim sects are represented in the board and its members include prominent people from a cross section of the Indian Muslim society, such as religious leaders, scholars, lawyers and politicians among other professionals.

Kerala HC asks state Govt about concrete poles intention

Kochi, Mar 28 (PTI):

The Kerala High Court on Monday asked the state government whether the intention behind putting up concrete poles, instead of survey marks as provided under the law, to identify land for the SilverLine rail corridor was to scare people into accepting the project.

The high court also said that entering people's property to lay stones without prior notice or information would "startle" and "terrorise" them and asked whether that was the purpose behind the ongoing survey which has generated "so much controversy and unrest".

"Why should K-Rail insist on a pole of this nature? Are you trying to scare people? Do you give them prior notice before entering their property



Kerala High Court

for a survey? Are you not required to do so? If the officials enter their property suddenly one day without prior information, it will certainly startle people.

"Is the purpose of the survey by K-Rail to startle and terrorise them? People are scared. It is your (government) haste which is causing the problem. You have reached a situation where so much controversy and unrest is going on," Justice Devan Ramachandran said.

The judge further said

that such issues are not being seen during other projects in the country or state, especially in connection with constructing national highways where land on a much larger scale is sought to be acquired. The observations by the court came during hearing of several pleas opposing the ongoing survey process as well as the type of survey stones laid by the K-Rail — a joint venture of the Kerala government and the Railway Ministry for developing railway infrastructure in the southern state.

Mizoram mulls common uniform for Govt schools

Aizawl, Mar 28 (PTI):

The state Human Resources Development Board in Mizoram has proposed a common uniform for all government schools in the north-eastern state.

In a recent meeting presided over by state Education Minister Lachandama Ralte, the board suggested introduction of similar school uniforms for all state-run schools, its vice-chairman L Thangmawia said.

The HRD board would formally submit its proposal to the state education department this week, he said.

The main reason for introducing common school uniforms was to bring 'equality' in the dresses of

the rich and economically weak students in both urban and rural areas, Thangmawia, who is also an MLA, said.

A common school uniform is not a new thing and has already been introduced in some states, and in all English medium schools under the Presbyterian Church of Mizoram, the MLA said.

"The common uniforms, if introduced, will help students to join other state-run institutions without purchasing new sets when their parents are transferred from one place to another," Thangmawia told PTI.

He, however, said that the colour of the school uniforms might differ from the lower level to the

higher level. "The school uniforms used in primary schools may not be similar to the one used in middle, high and higher secondary levels," he said.

Thangmawia further said that the HRD board meeting had agreed to make an appeal to all schools, both government and private, to sing a patriotic and devotional song Aw nang, kan Lal kan Pathian' in school assemblies whenever standard operating procedure permits holding of assemblies in the educational institutions. Aw nang, kan Lal kan Pathian is a famous Mizo devotional and patriotic song composed by renowned Mizo writer and composer Rokunga.

Seamless, transparent and flexible process aim of Govt: Singh

Steel Minister says Strategy needs to be devised to reach target of 300 million tonnes by 2030 and 500 million tonnes by 2047

Ministry of Steel organises National Conference on 'Making India Atmanirbhar in Steel - Role of Secondary Steel Sector'

New Delhi, Mar 28:

Speaking during the inauguration of the conference, Union Minister of Steel, Ram Chandra Prasad Singh mentioned the suggestions from the industry



A day long National Conference on "Making India Atmanirbhar in Steel - Role of Secondary Steel Sector" on 27th March 2022 is being held at the Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

will be considered and seamless, transparent and flexible process is the avowed aim of the Government of India. He said that industry has made great strides in production by moving from 22 million tonnes in 1991 to 120 million tonnes in 2021-

22. Strategy needs to be devised to reach target of 300 million tonnes by 2030 and 500 million tonnes by 2047. The Minister said that increase of Iron ore production and other needed raw materials need proper strategic directions with suitable policy support.

There is an urgent need to move towards green steel and Hon'ble PM has ambitious vision on Hydrogen. Iron and steel industry will be big beneficiary as coal can be replaced by Hydrogen and our dependency on import of coal also will reduce.

The Minister of State for Steel, Fagga Singh Kulaste in his address urged the industry to be vocal about their requirements and put views of the industry forward with the confidence that they will be heard and the Government will work towards establishing an industry - friendly environment in our country. Secondary steel sector is a diverse industry in itself. Ideas generated through the conference will be helpful in setting policy directions for the Government.

BRIEF**Control**

London: The British government has relinquished control of the former Royal Bank of Scotland for the first time since it bailed out the lender during the global financial crisis almost 15 years ago. The Treasury said on Monday that it had sold 1.2 billion pounds of shares back to the bank, now known as NatWest Group, cutting the government's stake to 48.1 per cent from 50.6 per cent. Royal Bank of Scotland came to the brink of collapse.

Leave

The Hague: Dutch brewing giant Heineken says it is pulling out of Russia amid Moscow's ongoing war against Ukraine. The company said Monday that its business in Russia is no longer sustainable nor viable in the current environment. As a result, we have decided to leave Russia. It said it is seeking an orderly transfer of our business to a new owner in full compliance with international and local laws. Heineken will continue to pay.

Plunges

Peshawar: At least seven people, including women and children, were killed and 10 others injured when the passenger van they were travelling in lost control and plunged into a deep ditch in Pakistan's mountainous Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Monday, officials said. The passenger coach was going from Mardan district to Kalkot in Upper Dir district (290 km north of provincial capital Peshawar) when the driver failed to negotiate.

Fire

Dubai: A fire broke out Monday at an under-construction new terminal at Kuwait International Airport, authorities said. Firefighters still were trying to control the blaze in Kuwait City, Interior Ministry spokesman Tawheed al-Kandari told The Associated Press. Al-Kandari said a cause for the blaze was not immediately known. It wasn't immediately clear if anyone had been injured. Photos circulated smoke behind the lines of planes.

Blocked

Berlin: Russian authorities have blocked the website of German newspaper Bild, part of their efforts to control the message on Ukraine. Communications and media regulator Roskomnadzor said it blocked Bild's website at prosecutors' request. Instagram and Facebook were already blocked in Russia after Roskomnadzor said they were being used to call for violence. Russian authorities also have shut access to websites.

Rename

Houston: Spiced fuzzy coconut Moscow Mule cocktail, served in a chilly copper mug, has completely vanished from bars across the US, as an attempt to raise awareness and show solidarity against the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Shanghai starts China's biggest COVID-19 lockdown

Beijing, Mar 28 (AP):

China began its most extensive lockdown in two years Monday to conduct mass testing and control a growing outbreak in Shanghai as questions are raised about the economic toll of the nation's 'zero-COVID' strategy.

China's financial capital and largest city with 26 million people, Shanghai had managed its smaller, past outbreaks with limited lockdowns of housing compounds and workplaces where the virus was spreading. But the citywide lockdown that will be conducted in two phases will be China's most extensive since the central city of Wuhan,



Pudong district that is in lockdown, in Shanghai on Monday.

where the virus was first detected in late 2019, first confined its 11 million people to their homes for 76 days in early 2020. Millions more have been kept in lockdown since then. Shanghai's Pudong financial district

and nearby areas will be locked down from Monday to Friday as mass testing gets underway, the local government said. In the second phase of the lockdown, the vast downtown area west of the Huangpu River that di-

vides the city will start its own five-day lockdown Friday. Residents will be required to stay home and deliveries will be left at checkpoints to ensure there is no contact with the outside world. Offices and all businesses not considered essential will be closed and public transport suspended.

Already, many communities within Shanghai have been locked down for the past week, with their housing compounds blocked off with blue and yellow plastic barriers and residents required to submit to multiple tests for COVID-19. Shanghai's Disneyland theme park is among the businesses that closed earlier.

Ukrainian welders turn donated vehicles into army transport

Lviv, Mar 28 (AP):

A strawberry-scented air freshener dangled from the Ukrainian military's latest vehicle to head to war.

In a welding shop in Ukraine's western city of Lviv, workers were adding steel plates to a donated pickup truck so a volunteer could drive it to the front.

'Our victory depends on us,' said Ostep Datsenko, a welder who is part of a huge volunteer effort playing a role in Ukraine's resistance, with support from the diaspora. But he hadn't expected to see so much of the war, or its shrapnel, so soon.

He had been standing on the truck hurrying to



Car welder Ostep Datsenko works on a vehicle that will be sent to soldiers on the frontlines, at a welding workshop in Lviv.

finish the job before sunset Saturday when he heard a noise, looked up and saw an object whizzing through the air. 'It was pretty large, but I've never seen rockets before,' he said. 'Then I

heard a huge explosion.'

The Russian airstrike hit a factory connected to the military, and the blast sent Datsenko tumbling. Dazed, he hurried into the garage's makeshift bunker in the grease pit.

Jaishankar meets Sri Lankan Finance Minister

Colombo, Mar 28 (PTD):

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday met Sri Lanka's Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa and discussed with him the island nation's economic situation and India's support during its current foreign exchange crisis.

Sri Lanka is facing an acute economic and energy crisis triggered due to the shortage of foreign exchange.

Jaishankar is here to hold bilateral talks with the country's top leadership and attend the seven-nation BIMSTEC summit.

Began the visit by meeting Finance Minister @RealB Rajapaksa. Discussed the economic situation and India's supportive response. We will continue to be guided by Neighbourhood First, he



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar meets Sri Lankan Finance Minister B Rajapaksa in Colombo.

said on Twitter:

Jaishankar's visit is taking place at a time when the public outrage over the Lankan government's inefficiency in handling the crisis has come out in the open. This is his first visit to the island nation since India extended an economic relief package to bail Sri Lanka out of the current economic crisis.

Although Jaishankar's

Colombo visit is primarily for the BIMSTEC engagements, officials here said he would be taking part in all important bilateral talks with the Sri Lankan leaders. Besides India and Sri Lanka, the BIMSTEC comprises Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan.

The summit is being hosted by Sri Lanka in its capacity as the chair of

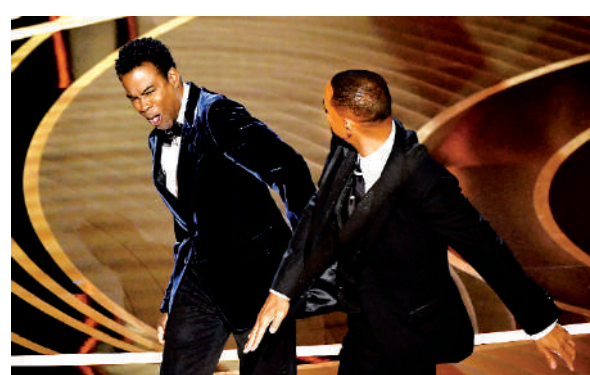
Will Smith confronts Chris Rock, then wins best actor Oscar

Los Angeles, Mar 28 (AP):

When Will Smith marched onto the Oscars stage and smacked Chris Rock, the unpredictable moment served as a jarring interruption to Hollywood's feel-good celebration.

But once Smith returned moments later to accept his first-ever Academy Award, he delivered a tearful apology for an act sure to overshadow his milestone achievement. He seized the opportunity during awards to speak on being a fierce defender just like his tennis dad character Richard Williams from 'King Richard.'

Smith felt like the protector of many including his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, after Rock made a joke about her appearance that didn't sit right with



US actor Will Smith (R) slaps Chris Rock onstage during the 94th Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, California.

him. 'Richard Williams was a fierce defender of his family,' Smith said as he began his acceptance speech after winning best actor honors. He apologized afterward to many people including tennis stars Venus and Serena Williams, Richard Williams' daughters but did not mention Rock in

his apology.

Smith then spoke about being a protector for those who worked with him on the film such as Aunjanue Ellis along with Saniyya Sidney and Demi Singleton, the two actors who played Venus and Serena.

'I'm being called on in my life to love people and

to protect people and to be a river to my people,' said Smith during his acceptance speech after winning his first-ever Oscar. 'I know to do what we do you've got to be able to take abuse. You've got to be able to have people talk crazy about you. In this business, you've got to be able to have people disrespecting you. And you've got to smile and pretend like that's OK.'

The exchange began when Rock took aim at Pinkett Smith's shaved head, saying, 'Jada, I love you. 'G.I. Jane 2,' can't wait to see it, all right?' Rock's reference was made from the 1997 film 'G.I. Jane,' starring Demi Moore, who shaved her head to portray a fictional Navy Seal candidate.

Pinkett Smith revealed in 2018 that she was diagnosed with alopecia.

US, Filipino forces start war drills in region facing Taiwan

Manila, Mar 28 (AP):

Thousands of American and Filipino forces began on Monday one of their largest combat exercises in years that will include live-fire maneuvers, aircraft assaults, urban warfare and beach landings in a showcase of US firepower in the northern Philippines near the sea border with Taiwan.

The annual exercises, called Balikatan Tagalog for shoulder-to-shoulder will run up to April 8 with nearly 9,000 troops, navy, marines, air force and army troops, including 5,100 American military personnel, to strengthen the longtime treaty allies' capabilities and readiness for real-world challenges, US and Philippine military officials said.

China will likely frown on the war drills given their relative proximity to Taiwan, which it claims as Chinese territory, but or-



Philippines and US officers unfurl the "Balikatan" flag during opening of military exercises Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Philippines on Monday.

ganizers said the exercises don't envision any particular country as a target.

The US military and Armed Forces of the Philippines will train together to expand and advance shared tactics, techniques, and procedures that strengthen our response capabilities and readiness for real-world challenges, said Maj. Gen. Jay Barger, the US 3rd

Marine division's commanding general. Our alliance remains a key source of strength and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. First staged in 1991, the Balikatan exercises are anchored on the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty, which commits the United States and the Philippines to come to the aid of the other in case of an attack.

Taliban ban Afghan women from flying without male relative



Poster at Kabul airport with rules for women.

Kabul, Mar 28 (AFP):

The Taliban have ordered airlines in Afghanistan to stop women from boarding flights unless accompanied by a male relative, aviation officials told AFP.

The latest restriction on women follows

Wednesday's shutdown of all girls' secondary schools just hours after they were allowed to reopen for the first time since the hard-line Islamists seized power in August.

Two officials from Afghanistan's Ariana Afghan airline and Kam Air said that the Taliban

had ordered them to stop boarding women if they were travelling alone.

The decision was taken after a meeting on Thursday between representatives of the Taliban, the two airlines and airport immigration authorities, the officials told AFP, asking not to be named.

Since the Taliban's return to power, many curbs on women's freedoms have been reintroduced — often implemented locally at the whim of regional officials from the Ministry for Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice.

The ministry said it had not issued any directive banning women from taking flights alone.

But a letter issued by a senior official of Ariana Afghan to the airline's staff after the meeting with the Taliban, a copy of

which was obtained by AFP, confirmed the new measure. "No women are allowed to fly on any domestic or international flights without a male relative," the letter said.

Two travel agents AFP contacted also confirmed they had stopped issuing tickets to solo women travellers. "Some women who were travelling without a male relative were not allowed to board a Kam Air flight from Kabul to Islamabad on Friday," a passenger who was on that flight told AFP. An Afghan woman with a US passport was also not allowed to board a flight to Dubai on Friday, another source said. The Taliban have already banned inter-city road trips for women travelling alone, but until now they were free to take flights.

INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
NASC COMPLEX, PUSA, NEW DELHI
 (Estate & Maintenance Section)

Expression of Interest

Expression of Interest from registered reputed companies is invited for running the newly constructed auditorium at National Agriculture Science (NAS) Complex, PUSA Campus, Dev Prakash Shashi Marg, New Delhi- 110012, in PPP mode (Revenue Sharing Model).

For details you may visit the ICAR website www.icar.org.in Expression of Interest (Eoi) may be submitted in a sealed envelope giving details of company/agency profile, past experience, financial details, human resource available with the company/agency etc. The envelope may be addressed to The US (E&M) ICAR, and submitted at E & M Section, NASC Complex PUSA Campus, Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, New Delhi-110012 on any working day between 10.00 am to 5.00 pm before 20.04.2022.

**US (E&M),
ICAR, NASC Complex**

davn 01302/12/0015/2122



CENTRAL Chronicle

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Ten-minute delivery

The Greater Chennai Traffic Police department recently met with food delivery aggregators Swiggy and Zomato to discuss road safety. Police department had earlier questioned Zomato's 10-minute instant delivery promise citing traffic conditions. Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra had said that food delivery company Zomato's new feature promising delivery of food within 10 minutes is akin to jeopardising the life of delivery persons and people on roads and asked the company to change the quick delivery plans. Congress MP Karti Chidambaram called the 10-minute delivery promise absurd and stressed on the gig economy startups to be regulated. Raising the issue in Parliament, he said that it's going to put undue pressure on the delivery personnel, who are not employees and who have no benefits or security, and have no bargaining power. Swiggy's Instamart does deliver groceries in 10 minutes, it is not yet doing the same for restaurant orders. But there's no doubt that the 10-minute delivery space is heating up in India given apps like Zepto and BlinkIt (formerly Grofers). The unbeatable convenience of rapid deliveries is evident in Europe and the United States, where companies such as Turkey's Getir and Germany's Gorillas are expanding fast, but India's accident-prone roads make quick commerce a dangerous business. Even in cities, most roads are riddled with potholes, while cattle or other animals straying into traffic present a frequent challenge for motorists, who often violate basic rules. Last year, the World Bank said India had a death every four minutes on its roads. Crashes kill about 150,000 people each year. Deliveries by Indian startups are mostly free in a nation with a population of 140 crore potential customers. India had a quick commerce sector worth USD 300 million in 2021, now, it could end up surging to 10 or 15 times that amount by 2025. With free delivery, the business is unlikely to be viable in long term.

The biggest differentiator touted by these startups is the extremely short window they can achieve between placing an order and completing delivery. The entire business model is optimized for speed, resulting in major departures from the operational, fulfilment, and inventory norms. The burden of all of this falls on the already over-worked delivery agents who typically have to make a certain number of deliveries in a day to earn the bonus companies offer them. In their attempt to make it within the ambitious promised time, delivery agents often end up taking risks including speeding, taking wrong turns in case it shortens the distance they need to cover or parking illegally. In the process, they not only risk their own lives, but often run afoul of police. Quick commerce is a venture capitalist-backed trend. It found more utility in Europe because the retail infrastructure is poor, but India doesn't have a retail distribution problem, India does not have food deserts in India, so there isn't a need for 10-minute deliveries here. Apart from adding pressure on the delivery agents, the trend, should it continue at its current speed, has the potential of changing the metropolitan retail landscape as customers turn to an increasing number of dark stores for their needs rather than their neighbourhood shops. The convenience of ordering from the smartphone is taking over shopping. The question remains whether one actually needs groceries and food to be delivered within 10 minutes. The delivery agents are not informed of the promised time of delivery. Time optimization does not happen on the road and does not put any lives at risk. Moreover, challenges such as road conditions, traffic, and weather remain critical as the widespread use of 10-minute food delivery looks unsustainable in the long run.

Labour policies

Amid strike called by labour trade unions in India, it is time to introspect on trend of labour policies in political economy. The last four decades of globalization and technological innovation have been a boon for those with the skills, wealth, and connections to take advantage of new markets and opportunities. But ordinary workers have had much less to cheer about. In advanced economies, earnings for those with less education often stagnated despite gains in overall labour productivity. In developing countries, where standard economic theory predicted that workers would be the main beneficiary of the expanding global division of labour, corporations and capital again reaped the biggest gains. Even where democratic governments prevailed, trade liberalization went hand in hand with repression of labour rights. Decline in blue-collar jobs had fuelled an increase in family breakdown, drug abuse, and crime. And a growing empirical literature has linked the rise of authoritarian, right-wing populism in advanced economies to the disappearance of good jobs for ordinary workers. As a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic, labour problems are receiving renewed attention and rightly so. But how can workers not only get their fair share but also have access to decent jobs that enable meaningful lives? One approach is to rely on the enlightened self-interest of large corporations.

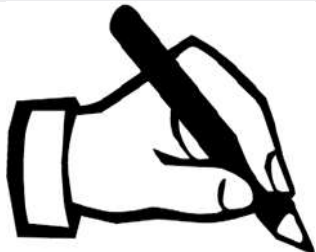
Happy, fulfilled workers are more productive, less likely to quit, and more likely to provide good customer service. The trouble is that strong worker rights can also create dualistic labour markets, where the benefits accrue to 'insiders' while many less experienced workers struggle to find jobs. A strategy, which aims to minimize unemployment, is to ensure adequate labour demand through expansionary macroeconomic policies. When fiscal policy keeps aggregate demand high, employers chase workers rather than the other way around and unemployment can remain low. But although tight labour markets can help workers, they can also pose an inflation risk. Moreover, macroeconomic policy cannot target the lowest-skilled workers or the regions where jobs are most needed. Another policy is to shift the structure of demand in economy in order to benefit less educated workers and depressed regions in particular. The shortage of secure, middle-class jobs is closely linked to the disappearance as a result of globalization and technological change of blue-collar manufacturing work and service-sector sales and clerical jobs. Policymakers must focus on expanding the supply of jobs.

ART CARNIVAL



Visitors look at paintings on display at a stall during the annual 'Chitra Santhe' art carnival in Bangalore, Karnataka.

Targeted advertising on social media drives people to extremes

JEANNA MATTHEWS

Have you had the experience of looking at some product online and then seeing ads for it all over your social media feed? Far from coincidence, these instances of eerily accurate advertising provide glimpses into the behind-the-scenes mechanisms that feed an item you search for on Google, "like" on social media or come across while browsing into custom advertising on social media. Those mechanisms are increasingly being used for more nefarious purposes than aggressive advertising. The threat is in how this targeted advertising interacts with today's extremely divisive political landscape. As a social media researcher, I see how people seeking to radicalize others use targeted advertising to readily move people to extreme views. Advertising is clearly powerful. The right ad campaign can help shape or create demand for a new product or rehabilitate the image of an older product or even of an entire company or brand. Political campaigns use similar strategies to push candidates and ideas, and historically countries have used them to wage propaganda wars. Advertising in mass media is powerful, but mass media has a built-in moderating force. When trying to move many people in one direction, mass media can only move them as fast as the middle will tolerate. If it moves too far or too fast, people in the middle may be alienated.

The detailed profiles the social media companies build for each of

their users make advertising even more powerful by enabling advertisers to tailor their messages to individuals. These profiles often include the size and value of your home, what year you bought your car, whether you're expecting a child, and whether you buy a lot of beer. Consequently, social media has a greater ability to expose people to ideas as fast as they individually will accept them. The same mechanisms that can recommend a niche consumer product to just the right person or suggest an addictive substance just when someone is most vulnerable can also suggest an extreme conspiracy theory just when a person is ready to consider it. It is increasingly common for friends and family to find themselves on opposite sides of highly polarized debates about important issues. Many people recognize social media as part of the problem, but how are these powerful customized advertising techniques contributing to the divisive political landscape? One important part of the answer is that people associated with foreign governments, without admitting who they are, take extreme positions in social media posts with the deliberate goal of sparking division and conflict. These extreme posts take advantage of the social media algorithms, which are designed to heighten engagement, meaning they reward content that provokes a response.

Another important part of the answer is that people seeking to radical-

ize others lay out trails of breadcrumbs to more and more extreme positions. These social media radicalization pipelines work much the same way whether recruiting jihadists or US Capitol insurrectionists. You may feel like you're 'doing your own research,' moving from source to source, but you are really following a deliberate radicalization pipeline that's designed to move you toward more and more extreme content at whatever pace you will tolerate. For example, after analyzing over 72 million user comments on over 330,000 videos posted on 349 YouTube channels, researchers found that users consistently migrated from milder to more extreme content. The result of these radicalization pipelines is apparent. Rather than most people having moderate views with fewer people holding extreme views, fewer and fewer people are in the middle. TV remains a potent means of manipulation. But the internet may be an algorithmic, personalized upgrade. Its role in radicalization has now been researched for more than two decades; one study published earlier this month found that YouTube's recommendation algorithm regularly suggests videos with misinformation and hate speech that violate company policies. One study published sought to delve deeper into anecdotal evidence of the internet's role in radicalization; it found that 'beheading' videos were the most sought-after jihadist material online among young people in Belgium, but also the material least predictive for radicalization. The conclusion that it might not be the internet that radicalizes people, as much as general moral disengagement.

Still, pressure has mounted on social media sites to crack down. Facebook recently provided a glimpse of a related effort that asks users if they're concerned someone, they know is becoming an extremist and provides a link to 'get support.' The changing threat has been catalysed

by arguably the two most significant trends in terrorism over the past two decades, the emergence of people acting alone who have been inspired by the ideology of terrorists and the ease of online radicalization. Both trends encourage the increased involvement of young people in extremism: When radicalization occurs in the living room and not places of worship and when acts of terrorism no longer require complex planning, barriers to entry are lowered, allowing even teenagers to take active part. What can you do? First, I recommend a huge dose of scepticism about social media recommendations. Most people have gone to social media looking for something in particular and then found themselves looking up from their phones an hour or more later having little idea how or why they read or watched what they just did. It is designed to be addictive.

I've been trying to chart a more deliberate path to the information I want and actively trying to avoid just clicking on whatever is recommended to me. If I do read or watch what is suggested, I ask myself 'How might this information be in someone else's best interest, not mine?' Second, consider supporting efforts to require social media platforms to offer users a choice of algorithms for recommendations and feed curation, including ones based on simple-to-explain rules. Third, and most important, I recommend investing more time in interacting with friends and family off of social media. If I find myself needing to forward a link to make a point, I treat that as a warning bell that I do not actually understand the issue well enough myself. If so, perhaps I have found myself following a constructed trail toward extreme content rather than consuming materials that are actually helping me better understand the world.

(Jeanna Matthews is Professor of Computer Science at Clarkson University in US.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Undelivered

I would like to draw the attention of the department of Post, Ministry of Communications, Government of India regarding an undelivered speed post item even after 16 days have elapsed, which contained some perishable food items. This has exposed the lackadaisical attitude of India Post towards its customers. The said parcel was sent from just neighbouring states. Such incidents prove the futility of India Post and expose it as an inefficient department compared to the private operators. The higher authorities of India Post may now either shelve this incident or bring to book the erring officials concerned.

Bimal Singh, via email

Cricket format

I with my limited knowledge about cricket, considered a gentlemen's game, know that it is a team game played among the Commonwealth nations. Initially, only one format of the game existed which is known as Test Match which lasts for 5 days with a one rest day in between the match. When Kerry Packer, an Australian millionaire, introduced the white-ball limited-over format of the game, it made the game an instant hit with the spectators and also made the game more exciting and commercially more viable. It was later followed by another instant type of the cricket developed in England, the T20. This slam-bang form of the game further eroded the popularity of the purest form of cricket, i.e., Test Cricket. In the meantime, the ICC, the supreme body of international cricket, made a slew of changes in the Test cricket like abolishing the rest day, two bouncers per over, mandatory 90 overs a day, introduced day-and-night Test cricket, which is played with a pink ball, and also introduced the World Test Championship. Gradually, Test cricket has once again started regaining some of its lost popularity as the matches have become more result-oriented. But there appeared some unhealthy practices, too, with the preparation of the pitches by the host nation to suit favour their team. Apart from the pitches, the weather also played a crucial role in giving the host side an undue advantage. To be fair to the both host and the visiting side, I feel with my limited knowledge that the Test Matches should be played in neutral venues where the pitch and the weather condition will help none. I guess the ICC is working on that module with the introduction of World Test Championship, where the final was played in the neutral venue. I feel if from semi-final onwards the matches could be held in neutral venue, we would get the world's best Test side. At this moment it looks like a bizarre suggestion, but in future some arrangements can certainly be worked out. Any takers?

Ashim, via email

WHAT THEY TWEET!



Waishwarya@whosthatmiss
Call me old fashioned but when it comes to my to do list, goals, important notes, anything related to planning or creative writing, I prefer a nice diary instead of notepad or any app in phone. It feels personal, more comfortable when you write your thoughts down on paper. Try!



Ramandeep@ramanmann1974
Students from Punjab r leaving for foreign countries in droves, Canada alone is absorbing 100,000 Indians/year; & now Haryana students (specially from the G.T road belt) have joined this trend. In the past week, saw 5 kids leaving India; this brain drain is killing these States!




Dhruva@d_jaishankar
First, there is a long and ugly tradition implying that certain peoples are incapable of rational, objective thought. This was once used to perpetuate colonization. But it lives on today in the idea that certain countries cannot define or act on their rational self-interests.



Arpita@arpita_dg
Guava Collectors of Sundarbans.



Sameer@joe_sameer
A major feedback for the #IndianMOD from Ukraine - Combined arms, air-ground integration, close combat, precision attack & unmanned systems, cyber/EW & good leadership at all levels - are foundational capabilities for modern hybrid war; conspicuously absent in the Russian forces.



Prasanna@prasannavishy
Economic crisis in Sri Lanka must be a humbling experience for 'Kerala Model' proponents. Striking similarity. No manufacturing, no high-end services, tourism-led, importing even essential food items, huge debt, remittance dependency. 'HDI' indices means zilch without foundation.



Vinay@vinaygb
A student who gave all of her 6 attempts but couldn't crack IAS - who's going through difficult phase - asked me how did I cope with failure and bounce back. I told her that I too went through the pain, but I kept thinking big. Thinking big even when beaten & fallen was the secret.

BRIEF

Sales



New Delhi: Automobili Lamborghini on Monday said it has crossed the 400 cumulative sales mark in India since initiating full-scale operations in 2007. Lamborghini India's Shradh Agarwal said we experience with this milestone achievement along with our customers.

Dividend

New Delhi: EKI Energy Services board on Monday approved an interim dividend of two hundred per cent or Rs 20 per equity share of the face value of Rs 10 each for fiscal 2021-22. The board in its meeting held on March 28, 2022, has recommended an interim dividend of Rs 20 (i.e., 200 per cent) per equity share of the face value of Rs 10 for the financial year 2021-2022, a BSE filing said.

Invest



New Delhi: UAE-based retail major Lulu group on Monday announced an investment of Rs 3,500 crore in Tamil Nadu to set up shopping malls, hypermarkets and a food-logistic park. ED Ashraf Ali MA said a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed.

IPO

New Delhi: Travel service provider Yatra Online Ltd on Monday said it has filed a draft prospectus with markets regulator Sebi for its initial public offering that includes a fresh issue of shares aggregating up to Rs 750 crore. Yatra also announced the appointments of Rohit Bhasin, Deepa Misra Harris and former bureaucrat Ajay Narayan Jha as non-executive independent directors.

Subsidiary



New Delhi: Byju's and Qatar Investment Authority have partnered to launch a new edtech business and research and development centre in Doha. Byju's CEO Byju Ravendran said it is next phase of expansion, development and building innovations in learning.

Housing prices may go up 10-15% on rise in construction cost

Mumbai, Mar 28 (PTI):

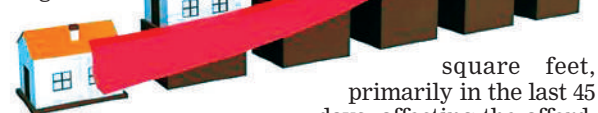
Realtors' body CREDAI on Monday said the cost of construction has gone up by 20-25 per cent, mainly during the last 45 days, due to steep rise in prices of raw materials like steel, and builders will be forced to increase property prices from next month by an average 10-15 per cent.

CREDAI-MCHI, the Maharashtra chapter of CREDAI, demanded that the central as well as state governments consider giving relief to the industry by reducing stamp duty and GST rates, besides allowing input tax credit (ITC) to developers.

The association said it would not advise member developers to stop construction works as of now, but if the price rise continues then builders

would have no option but to halt works at project sites and defer purchase of raw materials.

Recently, CREDAI-NCR had issued a statement that it was considering stopping construction works and also halt purchase of raw materials. "Steel prices have gone up from Rs 35-40 per kg to Rs 85-90 per kg.



Cement prices have gone up by around Rs 100 per bag. Fuel and transportation costs have gone up. This has resulted in an increase of 20-25 per cent in the overall construction cost," CREDAI-MCHI President Deepak Goradia told reporters in

a press conference. Association's secretary Dhaval Ajmera said the construction cost has gone up by Rs 400-500 per

square feet, primarily in the last 45 days, affecting the affordable housing segment the most. He demanded that the Maharashtra government consider reducing the stamp duty from 5-6 per cent to 3 per cent to mitigate the impact of sharp rise in raw material prices, which have gone up due to the geo-

political situation. Ajmera also sought reduction in the GST rate of 18 per cent on raw materials like cement. He demanded ban on exports of cement and steel for a short period. He said the developers should be allowed to claim ITC.

Stating that developers are operating on very small margin or no margin, Ajmera said developers would be forced to hike prices of their apartments from next month onwards. The price rise could happen by an average 10-15 per cent, he added. "Some of the measures that are currently being considered include raising the prices of the unsold inventory which has not been delivered, by 10-15 per cent to cover the rising input costs.

Coal prices may stay elevated throughout FY23: ICRA

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

The price of imported coal is poised to rise by 45-55 per cent in the first quarter of FY23 as markets face supply disruption following the Russia-Ukraine conflict and it would severely impact domestic users of imported dry fuel, ICRA said on Monday.

Russia remains a key supplier of coal in the seaborne market, accounting for 17 and 10 per cent of the international trade in thermal coal and coking coal respectively, as per ICRA's latest report on coal sector.

"Prices of imported coal are poised to spike by 45-55 per cent Q-o-Q in Q1 FY2023 as markets face supply disruption following the Russia-Ukraine conflict. As per

latest ICRA note on the coal sector, this will severely impact domestic users of imported coal since, notwithstanding some moderation from the all-time highs of March 2022, coal prices are expected to stay elevated throughout FY2023," it said.

With SWIFT sanctions imposed on some Russian banks and concerns over counterparty credit risks, buyers are unable to trade with Russian coal suppliers.

Moreover, a growing number of western power utilities are also looking to voluntarily place an embargo on Russian coal supplies, which is leading to disruptions in the normal coal trade flows.

"Notwithstanding elevated prices, supplies from

non-Russian sources are unlikely to fully compensate for the shortages in Russian supplies as miners have limited spare capacity to ramp up production. As coal supplies remained tight, domestic spot e-auction premiums for auctions conducted by Coal India Limited reached all-time highs, climbing sharply to 270 per cent in February 2022 as against 30 per cent in February 2021.

"Our channel checks suggest that domestic e-auction premiums reportedly increased further to 300 per cent in March 2022. Within the regulated sector, imported coal-based and merchant power stations, which lack a long-term coal linkage, will absorb the maximum impact of this price rally.

Adani Group accelerates enterprise-wide digital transformation strategy with Google Cloud

Organizations team up to modernize Adani's IT operations for future scale and drive group-wide innovation

Ahmedabad, Mar 28:

The Adani Group today announced a multi-year, cloud-first partnership with Google Cloud to power the next phase of innovation across India's fastest-growing diversified business portfolio.

Specifically, the strategic collaboration will tap each organization's expertise across best-in-class infrastructure, technology, and industry solutions to modernize the Adani Group's IT operations at scale.

"The inevitability and pace of cloud adoption mandates that every business redefine its business model. This provides new challenges and new oppor-

tunities that will not only be transformational but will also require new forms of industry collaboration. said Mr. Gautam Adani, Chairman, Adani Group. "We are pleased to work with Google Cloud across its multidimensional offerings to help us build a technology-driven organization which potentially opens up new business areas for us.

The first phase of the partnership is well underway, with the Adani Group making swift progress migrating its extensive IT footprint from its existing on-premises data center and colocation facilities to Google Cloud.

Moving Adani's 250+ business-critical applica-

tions, such as its SAP HANA core, and peripheral systems to Google Cloud's secure, reliable and high-speed cloud infrastructure will centralize workflows, streamline operations, and enable business users to tap powerful new data capabilities for fast and accurate decision making.

"The Adani Group is paving the way towards a cloud-first future, and we're thrilled to partner with the company on landmark projects that will support its innovation and future growth. Adani's SAP migration is one of the fastest we've seen at scale and is already delivering significant value across its business.

India not considering buying Russian oil in rupee: Rameswar

New Delhi, Mar 28:

India has no plans to pay in rupees for the Russian oil its public sector companies buy, Parliament was informed on Monday.

India buys less than one per cent of its total oil imports from Russia. But western sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine have given way to talk of a rupee trade for the oil and gas purchases. "At present, oil public sector undertakings neither have any contract nor is any such proposal under consideration from Russia or any other country for the purchase of crude oil in Indian rupees," Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Rameswar Teli said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.



He did not elaborate. State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has bought two parcels or shiploads of distressed Russian oil through traders at deep discounts. IOC bought 3 million barrels in each trade through European trader Vitol. Separately, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) bought two million barrels of Russian crude Urals through a trader. Western sanctions on Russia over its invasion

of Ukraine have prompted many companies and countries to shun its oil. This has led to Russian crude being available in the market at deep discounts. To capture the opportunity, Indian refiners are floating tenders to buy such discounted oil. The tenders are mostly won by traders, who would have stocked inventories of the cheap Russian oil. Since 2020, IOC has had a term or fixed volume deal to buy crude oil from Russia's Rosneft. But, it rarely imported volumes under the term deal as the cost of transporting the oil from Russia made it uneconomical. But, discounts of USD 20-25 per barrel have turned the tide in favour of Russian crude and Indian refiners are lapping it up, sources said.

ITC Savlon launches Powder Handwash

New Delhi, Mar 28: The awareness of hand hygiene and its critical role in public health is now a well-established discourse globally. But as the fear of the pandemic gradually wanes, affordability may cause consumers to revert to washing hands with just water.

ITC Savlon is known for redefining norms and has demonstrated innovative design-thinking approach in responding to consumer needs. In its efforts to address the problem of access, and to make hand hygiene affordable at the last mile, Savlon announces the launch of the new Savlon Powder Handwash. Priced at just Rs 10/-, one Savlon Powder Handwash sachet makes 200ml liquid handwash that provides more than 120 washes.

NMDC Director (Finance) Amitava Mukherjee honoured

At the FE CFO Awards 2022

Hyderabad, Mar 28: The Director (Finance) of the largest iron ore producer of India, Amitava Mukherjee, was awarded the 'FE CFO of the Year Award' by Financial Express for the year 2022 in the Large Industry - Manufacturing Category, at the recently held FE CFO Awards 2022. NMDC was the only Public Sector Enterprise awarded this year with this prestigious honour. Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Piyush Goyal was the Chief Guest for the event. He congratulated the brightest Chief Financial Officers of India for their exceptional con-

tribution in building the financial strength of their companies and the national economy. On this occasion, Amitava Mukherjee said, "Continued focus on enhancing efficiency, productivity, and safety has built an iron-strong financial management system for NMDC over the years. Undaunted by the headwinds of Covid-19, we registered a record financial performance in 2021. Going forward, our capex outlay and funding ambitious projects is in line with the Government of India's Economic strategy of enhanced investment and infrastructure development to provide growth and accomplish the vision of #Atmanirbharbharat."

Lamborghini crosses 400 cumulative sales mark



New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

Italian luxury sports car maker Automobili Lamborghini on Monday said it has crossed the 400 cumulative sales mark in India since initiating full-scale operations in 2007. "We are pleased to announce the achievement of 400 Lamborghini in

India and mark the Lamborghini Day experience with this milestone achievement along with our customers who have supported us in this journey," Head of Lamborghini India Shradh Agarwal said in a statement. The company offers unique platforms where existing and

prospective customers can experience the values that define the Lamborghini brand in India, he added. To mark the sales milestone and showcase its leadership position in the super-luxury car segment, Lamborghini India curated its third edition of 'Lamborghini Day' in Goa.

Govt's total liabilities rise 2% to Rs 128.41 lakh cr in Dec quarter

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

The government's total liabilities rose to Rs 128.41 lakh crore in December quarter from Rs 125.71 lakh crore in the three months ended September 2021, according to the latest public debt management report.

The increase reflects a quarter-on-quarter increase of 2.15 per cent in October-December 2021-22.

In absolute terms, the total liabilities, including liabilities under the 'Public Account' of the government, jumped to Rs 1,28,41,996 crore at the end of December 2021. As of September 30, the total liabilities stood at Rs 1,25,71,747 crore.

The report released by the finance ministry on



Monday said public debt accounted for 91.60 per cent of the total outstanding liabilities in December quarter compared to 91.15 per cent at the end of September.

Nearly 25 per cent of the outstanding dated securities had a residual maturity of less than 5 years.

The ownership pattern of the central government securities indicates that the share of commercial banks stood at 35.40 per cent at end-December 2021, lower than 37.82 per cent at end-September 2021.

Pure Flour from Europe celebrates World Flour Day

Mumbai, Mar 28:

Flour is the base of our human history of civilization. Flour that wonderful produce which converts into so many varieties of food, each unique in a very signature-stamp way to the culture it belongs to. The same flour can evoke so many different emotions. For some it could be survival, a basic staple diet every single day without any fanfare. For others, it could be rustling up an elaborate menu tantalizing all the olfactory senses and playing attention to every single detail of the dish and its presentation. Flour is that plant source that entices man towards hope and aspiration, in equally strong measure. March

20th, World Flour Day, acknowledges the importance and impact of flour. Every single day, billions of people around the globe consume flour in one form or the other. Just think about bread, biscuits, cakes, pasta, pizza, rotis, naan, rolls, patties, croissant, pies, and so many other variations. And World Flour Day marks our respect towards the seeds, the harvest and the amazing array of delicacies that are possible only due to the existence of flour. The EU flour milling industry has been consistently producing highest quality of flours and boasts a low use of natural resources, the use of biomass for sustainable energy production, the reduc-

tion of emissions, the productive use of by-products and zero product losses. Today's European milling industry combines traditional skills with advanced modern technology. Approximately 47 million tons of rye and soft wheat are processed each year, with more than 3,800 companies employing 45,000 people. The EU flour milling sector is the single largest consumer of domestic wheat, rye, and oat, resulting in 600 various types of flour, which meet the high standards and unique demands of consumers. The flour products from the EU have won a well-deserved reputation worldwide because of their quality and safety assurance.

Sensex rebounds 231 pts, Nifty recovers 69 pts

Mumbai, Mar 28 (PTI):

Equity benchmark Sensex pared its early losses to close higher by 231 points on Monday, helped by buying in index heavy-weight Reliance Industries and ICICI Bank amid positive global trends.

After falling 537.11 points to a low of 56,825.09 in morning trade, the 30-share BSE barometer saw a recovery in afternoon trade and climbed 231.29 points or 0.40 per cent to settle at 57,593.49. As many as 20 Sensex stocks closed with gains while 10 declined.

The broader NSE Nifty recovered 69 points or 0.40 per cent to settle at 17,222 with 29 of its constituents ending in green.

From the 30-share pack, Bharti Airtel, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, ITC, State Bank of India, Indusind



Bank, Power Grid, Bajaj Finserv, Hindustan Unilever and Reliance Industries were among the leading gainers.

On the other hand, Nestle India, HDFC, HCL Technologies, Dr Reddy's, Asian Paints, Wipro, Larsen & Toubro, Tech Mahindra were among the laggards.

"Benchmark indices reversed early morning losses on positive global cues," according to S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP securities.

On Friday, the 30-share BSE benchmark dropped 233.48 points or 0.41 per cent to settle at 57,362.20. The Nifty had declined 69.75 points or 0.40 per cent to 17,153.

Equity exchanges in Tokyo and Seoul settled lower, while Hong Kong and Shanghai ended higher. Stock exchanges in the US also ended on a mixed note on Friday.

European markets were trading with gains as investors weigh the developments of the war between Russia and Ukraine. In

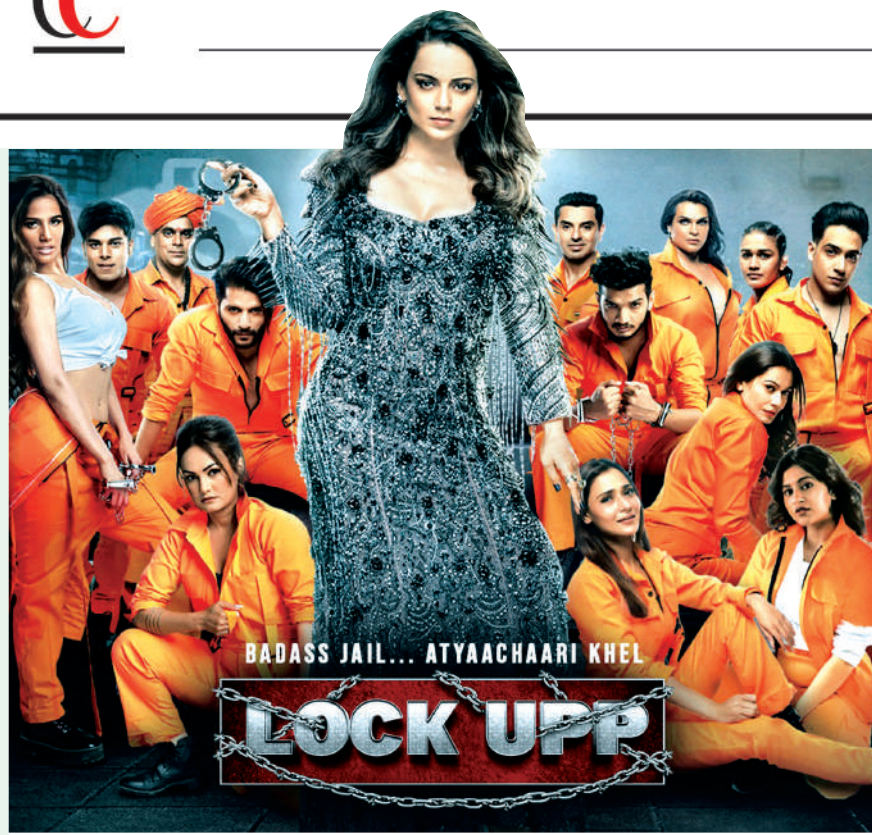
Rupee rises 8 paise to 76.16 against USD, bullion falls

Mumbai, Mar 28 (PTI): The rupee appreciated 8 paise to 76.16 against the US dollar on Monday, supported by positive domestic equities and a fall in global crude oil prices.

However, a strengthening American currency overseas and concerns over renewed foreign capital outflows capped the gains in the domestic unit, forex traders said.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened weak at 76.36 but entered positive territory later in the session. It witnessed an intra-day high of 76.15 and a low of 76.38.

The rupee traded at 76.16 at 1530 hrs, registering a rise of 8 paise over its previous close. In the previous session, the rupee had settled at 76.24 against the US dollar.



BADASS JAIL... ATYAACHAARI KHEL
LOCK UPP

block made 57 coins at the end of the shram, whereas the right block were able to make 33 coins.

Team selection task takes place for Zeeshan & Vinit. To select a particular team, they are both asked to nominate one contestant who will be eliminated immediately from the house. Both coincidentally write Kaaranvir's name in the card.

The guards then inform all of the kaidis about the secret ploy that had taken place in the Benakabi zone, revealing that Zeeshan had picked the right block and Vinit had chosen the left block. They also reveal that each of the kaidis

Everyone left teary eyed as Kaaranvir gets evicted

Synopsis Day 29 :We witness a new fight emerging in the Lock Upp house with a new week. Anjali Arora, Ali Mechant and Poonam Pandey had a massive battle in the morning as Anjali had borrowed Poonam's hairdryer from her when she went to take a shower. Azma hides Poonam's hairdryer into Mandana's t-shirt and thus begins a fight in the house. Anjali and Poonam do not find the hairdryer and hence they

announce they will inspect everyone's bag. "I don't know where these folks come from, such cheap individuals," After getting out of the shower, Mandana realised Azma had hidden the hairdryer in her towel, saying, "whatever you're hoping to get out of it, you won't get it." Later in the day, we see the Sharirik Shram happening; The shram was to make currency coins out of the basic materials provided and then paint them. While gather-

ing for the raw materials for the second time, Shivam and Zeeshan got into a verbal and physical spat over the raw materials. The fight continued, with Zeeshan involving Shivam's family into it and abusing Shivam. Finally, the situation gets out of hand; Zeeshan, Ali, Munawar, Anjali, Mandana, and others dragged and pushed each other. By the end of the shram, both blocks were engaged in a physical and verbal brawl. The left

had the option of removing one contestant from the charge sheet. Everyone was taken aback when they learn that Kaaranvir had been eliminated. On learning this, everyone in the left block were seen teary eyed. Shivam Sharma had an emotional breakdown.

To know more about the major twists and turns happening in the house, Watch Lock Upp only on ALTBalaji and MX Player at 10:30pm

Shreyas Talpade on returning to cricket with 'Kaun Pravin Tambe?' after 'Iqbal'

Seventeen years after his runaway success 'Iqbal', Shreyas Talpade is gearing up for yet another cricket film, this time a biopic titled 'Kaun Pravin Tambe?' based on the life of former spinner Pravin Tambe.

Pravin happens to be the oldest ever IPL debutant having made his foray into the league at the age of 41. In a recent conversation with IANS, the actor spoke about the biopic, what he has learnt from the cricketer and working again on a cricket drama after almost two decades.

For him, working on the film brought a lot of perspective as he got to know "How a person's journey of twenty years can be shown in just a two hour long film."

Ask him about Pravin's one quality that he would like to imbibe and make a part of your social conduct, and pat comes the response, "His focus towards his work, dream or cricket. This is something which has usually inspired me as well not only when I was being a part of the film but even when I heard the story. When it comes to cricket he has a single minded



focus and that is something which I will try to add in my life."

He plays a bowler in both 'Iqbal' and 'Kaun Pravin Tambe?' Although, the techniques of a pacer and a spin bowler are vastly differ-

ent but the creative memory lives on for any artist. On being asked as to how did he maneuver his way around this memory, he says, "Iqbal was a fictional film where the character is trying to play for the

Indian team and there was a lot of bowling involved in 'Iqbal'."

What helped him was his involvement with the sport in real life as well. He adds, "Moreover, I have played cricket in real life as well. However, during this film we need to know that it is his journey and cricket is just a part of it and the focus was more on the journey of the sports person so there was bigger responsibility as it was a true story."

Bowling in a way was incidental as he was a medium pacer in his younger times and a spinner in the age where he made name for himself." He continues, "For this film, we had to show a story which happened in real life and even though we can take a few cinematic liberties, we decided to stay true to the essence of the story as there are certain things which are to be portrayed the way they have been in real life."

After doing another cricket film after 'Iqbal' there are going to be certain comparisons but I believe that people will love me in this role as well", he concludes.



Sayli Kamble dons the role of a Captain

Following the overwhelming success of Superstar Singer season 1, Sony Entertainment Television is all set to bring another vibrant season of its homegrown kids based singing reality show - Superstar Singer. Celebrating singing ka kal, Superstar Singer 2 will showcase some extraordinary little wonders from across the country with a unique sense of musical expression, dedication and passion. Grooming and mentoring these young singing talent will be a well appointed panel of Captains. Joining Arunita Kanjilal and Pawandeep as the captain of Superstar Singer 2 will be Indian Idol Season 12's finalist and popularly known as Bharat ki Beti - Sayli Kamble. Known for her sweet and melodious voice, Sayli is someone who has seen an upward trajectory throughout the season of Indian Idol and now is all geared up to use her learning, experience and knowledge to train the young brilliant voices from across the country.

Elated to be the captain, Sayli said, "Singing is my identity Indian Idol was a starting point of my career and I owe it to the show and Sony Entertainment Television, as they have been an important pillar for my growth. I am really thankful to them for believing in me and giving me a fantastic opportunity to be the captain of one of the most prestigious singing talent show for kids."

Tune In to watch, Superstar Singer Season 2 airing at 8.00 PM from 23rd April 2022 only on Sony Entertainment Television!

Swara Bhasker opens up on meeting 'dynamic talent' like Priyanka Chopra, Lilly Singh at pre-Oscars event



Swara Bhasker was one of the many desi actors who attended the pre-Oscars event a few days. While the glamorous ceremony is all set to take place in a few hours, the run-up to the Oscars saw several galas being held by the Academy. One such gala was to celebrate South Asian excellence. Hosted by actors like Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Mindy Kaling, and Kumail Nanjiani, among others, the event saw this year's several nominees in attendance. Swara Bhasker also attended the gala and opened up on meeting 'dynamic talent' like Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Lilly Singh, Kal Penn and Poorna Jagannathan among many others. Recalling the gala, Swara revealed, "It was a lovely, vibrant, warm evening with very dynamic talent in the room. There were lots of really interesting, creative, talented people. It was really nice to be there and to see our own people excelling in Hollywood, and, you know, celebrating each other. The nicest thing about it was the sense of fraternity, sense of camaraderie and the sense of unity and identity as something that can be also enabling and empowering for each other." When asked if she is keen on exploring Hollywood, Swara quipped, "Well, never say never." Swara added, "The world is so global now, and because of streaming platforms and social media, you don't have to be confined to the boundaries of your country. We tell stories, which are universal and have the power to cross boundaries. This year, India's Writing with Fire is in the race to win an Oscar, which shows how the very Indian story resonated internationally. It is great that Indian talent and South Asian stories are being appreciated in the West."

Vijay Deverakonda announces next film with Puri Jagannadh

'Arjun Reddy' actor Vijay Deverakonda announces his next with 'Pokiri' director Puri Jagannadh. As the duo awaits the release of their first movie 'Liger' together, they have decided to collaborate for another time.

Releasing an interesting poster, the 'Pelli Choopulu' actor announced his next with Puri Jagannadh. In the poster released by Vijay, the latitude and longitude values are inscribed. The values which led to Mumbai when googled.

The makers have also mentioned that, more details about the crazy project will be unveiled at 02:20 p.m. on Monday.

As of now, the makers of Vijay Deverakonda-Puri Jagannadh's movie have kept the details under the wraps.

On the other hand, the duo's 'Liger' is currently in the post-production phase and will be released soon. Vijay Deverakonda has essayed a titular role as a MMA fighter in this upcoming movie.



HOROSCOPE TUESDAY MARCH 29

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

You may find your schedules running haywire today! Your workload may be daunting, especially if you're an administrator. However, Ganesha says your diligence and commitment will tide you through. And you are still ready to party in the evening. What energy!

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Your business associates will marvel at your business acumen, and will respect the insights you provide for them to work with. Meanwhile, you will be busy spending quality time with your family and showing them how much they mean to you today, says Ganesha.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today, you want to do something for the environment. Ganesha says plant a tree, clean up your neighbourhood, ask for a paper bag. You wish to lead the world into a better place? Do it by all means, but one step at a time.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

Nostalgia will paint your workplace a bright energetic red today, says Ganesha. All the problems that life throws at you will be deflected by your tough exterior and efficient capabilities. Medals and trophies beckon as you taste success and emerge a winner.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21

You will tend to be religiously inclined today, feels Ganesha. For this purpose, you may spend some time visiting a temple, mosque or church. You are also likely to go shopping, and chances are that this too is for a religious purpose. May God bless you, says Ganesha.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

Ganesha predicts an excellent and exceptional day for you at work. You are likely to need all your business acumen while negotiating deals. Your leadership skills are likely to come to the fore during the final stage of a deadline, be it about completing an order or launching new products and marketing them, says Ganesha.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

Today may not be the best time to mess with you, considering the aura of invincibility that you possess. Be it a game, a competition, or an argument, you will have the edge over others in every sphere, says Ganesha. Also, you may come across people with whom you will have personal differences, and those who will try to change your fortunes.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

Ganesha feels that today may be an important turning point in your life. You will look to secure the money much required for your bright future. Relationship matters will top your priorities during the afternoon today. You may also feel the need for spirituality, so try your hand at meditation and yoga.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

Developments over the past few days could have you feeling very excited and particularly optimistic about your love life, Libra. Communications with your beloved could take the form of romantic songs or poetry. If you want to give your friend a gift, by all means do, but confine it to something nonthreatening like a book.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

You are likely to get overboard with your ambitions and be loud-mouthed, says Ganesha. But do not be too forceful or severe lest you end up tarnishing your image. It is best to stay clear of conflicts in the larger scheme of things, advises Ganesha.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21

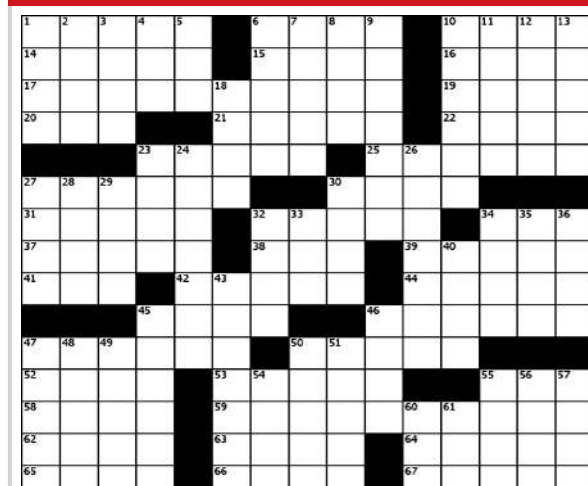
A day full of cheer and joy is in store. You will probably enrol in a part-time course and sharpen your skills. But for those in police and legal professions, you will be the lions of the jungle! Roar and stamp your authority, says Ganesha.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

Plans for expanding business may require you to take risks, leaving you in a dilemma on more than one occasion. In such desperate circumstances, following your instincts can lead you to success, advises Ganesha.

CROSSWORD

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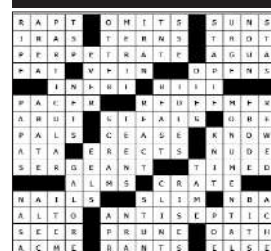
ACROSS

- Bushy fence
- Breathe heavily
- Pant
- Farm units
- Diva's solo
- Govern
- Sneaker lace
- Rework proofs
- Bunny's motion
- Bowler's button
- Staff member
- Mushroom "seed"
- Spring holiday
- Early car (2 wds.)
- Possess
- Concur
- Texas shrine
- Staff
- Andes animal
- Perfect gymnastics score
- Desist
- Lower limb

DOWN

- Corned beef dish
- Yodeler's feedback
- Fall
- Golly!
- 19th letter
- Peeler
- Get up
- IX
- Wrestling duo (2 wds.)
- Lubricate
- Check accounts
- Glide
- Anchorman _____ Jennings
- Jogging gait
- Look
- Gratified
- Guacamole ingredient

SOLUTION 252



Bopanna-Shapovalov pair enters Miami Open quarterfinals



Miami (US): India's Rohan Bopanna and his Canadian partner Denis Shapovalov stunned top seeded Croatian pair of Nikola Pietrangeli and Mate Pavic in straight sets to enter men's doubles quarterfinals at the Miami Open tennis tournament here. The unseeded Indo-Canadian pair surprised Pietrangeli and Pavic 6-3 7-6(3) in a second round doubles match on Sunday. Bopanna and Shapovalov will now face the sixth seeded pair of Wesley Koolhof of Netherlands and Great Britain's Neal Skupski for a place in the semifinals. Koolhof and Skupski defeated Spanish-Italian combination of Pedro Martinez and Lorenzo Sonego 6-3 7-6(8) in the second round. Bopanna and Shapovalov earlier registered a fighting 6-7(5) 6-2 10-3 win over Marcela Avrevalo of El Salvador and Jean-Julien Rojer of Netherlands in the opening round of the ATP Masters 1000 event.

No Deepika in Asian Games squad for first time since 2010

Sonapat: World number two Deepika Kumari has failed to make the Indian squad for the upcoming Asian Games, suffering one of the biggest setbacks in her illustrious career. Deepika lost two of her three round robin matches in the final leg to miss her Asian Games berth at the SAI centre here on Sunday. Deepika had finished a lowly fifth in the two-phase eliminations on Saturday to determine the top-eight, as she had to fight in the round robin matches. This is for the first time since winning a gold medal at the New Delhi Commonwealth Games 2010, Deepika will be out of a multi-discipline showpiece event. The 27-year-old has represented India at the Asian Games in 2010, 2014 and 2018, winning a team bronze in Guangzhou 12 years ago.

'We would be more than interested to own a team in Women's IPL'



New Delhi: Punjab Kings would be "more than interested" if they are offered to own a team in the proposed Women's IPL next year, their co-owner Ness Wadia said on Monday. In an IPL Governing Council meeting last week, a five to six team Women's IPL was proposed for next year with the existing franchises getting first preference to be part of the competition. "We would be more than interested in that (Women's IPL). IPL for women is long overdue and it would be very special when it happens. Women's cricket has really developed over the years," Wadia told PTI. "The World Cup is going on right now and there is so much interest for the women's game. It was heartbreaking to see our team lose yesterday." Asked about the base price for owning a women's team, Wadia said: "That is for the BCCI to decide but I can tell you if we are asked to own a team we would be more than interested. I feel the league would be sustainable as well." "I would be surprised if it doesn't double at least. Upwards of 35000 crore for sure," said Wadia.

Indian women's football team to play two international friendly matches

New Delhi: The Indian women's team will play two international friendly matches — against Egypt and Jordan — in April, the All India Football Federation said on Monday. The matches will be played in Jordan on April 5 (against Egypt) and 8 (against Jordan). "The senior women's national team will be playing Egypt and Jordan in two friendly matches, both of which are to be played in Jordan from April 5-8, 2022," the AIFF said in a release. "The Blue Tigresses will thereafter, be joining their respective clubs for the upcoming Hero IWL season." The training camp of the 30-member Indian squad under head coach Thomas Dennerby began in Goa on Monday. The team will leave for Jordan on Saturday. Dennerby was with the national U-18 team which won the SAFF Championships in Jamshedpur last week. Astam Oraon, Apurna Narzary and Martina Thokchom of the U-18 side have joined the senior national camp. The national side was forced to withdraw from the group stage of the AFC Asian Cup which India hosted in January-February after it failed to field a team due to COVID-19 outbreak inside its bio-bubble in Mumbai.

Erigaisi to headline Indian Chess Tour

New Delhi: Reigning national champion Arjun Erigaisi will be the star attraction at the USD 1,00,000 prize money MPL Indian Chess Tour, an elite online event beginning on Thursday. In the first regional expansion of Meltwater Champions Chess Tour, the event will give 16 top talents of the country a chance to qualify for the elite Tour. The line-up is a mix of some of India's hottest chess talent, both established and new, headlined by the 18-year-old Erigaisi from Telangana who recently won the Challengers event at Wijk aan Zee. There is also 15-year-old Chennai's Dommaraju Gukesh, one of India's brightest stars who will be hoping to break through to the top level. Gukesh is a huge talent who narrowly missed out on the record for the world's youngest grandmaster aged 12. The line-up also includes more established stars like S L Narayanan, Adhiban Baskaran, Harika Dronavalli and five-time Commonwealth champion Abhijeet Gupta. Leg 1 will be a four-day rapid chess tournament running from March 31 to April 3. The event will have a time control of 15m + 10s.

Rajasthan Royals and Sunrisers Hyderabad aim for winning start in match against each other

Pune, Mar 28 (PTI):

Packed with multiple match-winners in their ranks, heavyweights Rajasthan Royals face Sunrisers Hyderabad in a clash of former champions as both sides aim for a winning start in the IPL here on Tuesday.

Royals' batting fortunes will hinge largely on the form of their talented skipper Sanju Samson, who has been around the scene for a while now but has not delivered up to the expectations. Inconsistency has been his bane and he would like to change that and lead from the front this season in search of their first title since the inaugural edition in 2008.

Each year, Samson plays one or two match-defining knocks but this time he would have to go the extra mile if the Royals want to win that elusive second title.

Good performances in the IPL could also help Samson cement a place in the Indian team with the T20 World Cup scheduled for later this year. The Jaipur-based side are most likely to open with



Rajasthan Royals' bowling coach Lasith Malinga shares a laugh with spinner Yuzvendra Chahal.

Jos Buttler and Devdutt Padikkal. A rampaging Buttler can tear into any bowling attack and if he and the stylish Padikkal can get off to flying starts, the Royals would be well served with the likes of Samson and the others to follow.

Royals have an array of players like power-hitter Shimron Hetmyer, Rassie Van der Dussen, Jimmy Neesham and Riyan Parag to pick for the middle-order and their contribution could well determine the team's fortunes. They have a

stronger bowling unit this time around with the inclusion of ace off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal, and the duo are certain to be crucial in the overall context of a particular game and nothing would please skipper Samson if the duo can spin a web around the SRH batters.

Kiwi Trent Boult, earlier the spearhead of Mumbai Indians, would be leading the pace attack which includes the likes

of Prasidh Krishna and Navdeep Saini.

For SRH, the experience of captain Kane Williamson, probably the best batter in the squad, would be vital. His contributions with the willow and as a leader could go a long way in determining the team's fortunes.

Williamson's compatriot Glenn Phillips can open the batting while hard-hitting West Indian Nicholas Pooran, Priyam Garg and Rahul Tripathi would be expected to shoulder responsibility in the middle order. Tripathi has also played significant knocks in the IPL but it is time he shows consistency.

If Williamson chooses to bat at No.3, then Ravikumar Samarth can open the batting while Abdul Samad, who has impressed many, can play the role of a finisher for the franchise.

The bowling attack will be led by pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar, one of the finest death bowlers. But he would need to dish out consistent spells as would new pace sensation Umran Malik.

'Rajasthan Royals have enough options to play around'

Pune, Mar 28 (PTI):

A formidable squad at his disposal, Rajasthan Royals skipper Sanju Samson is hoping to end his team's 13-year-long title drought in the Indian Premier League.

IPL's inaugural champions in 2008, Rajasthan Royals have built a formidable outfit this season with some big players like Jos Buttler, Devdutt Padikkal, Ravichandran Ashwin, Trent Boult and Yuzvendra Chahal, besides Samson himself, in their ranks.

And Samson said gelling together quickly as a unit will be key to achieving their goal.

"Our main focus is to get together as soon as possible. We have a different squad this time, some new members in the team, so it is important to come together and understand your teammates," Samson said ahead of RR's IPL opener against Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Tuesday.

"We definitely had a lot of learning from the last 2-3 seasons. We discussed and



worked on a few options and we got a really very good team in the auction," he said on Monday during a virtual press conference.

Sanju said the Royals have variety in the team this season for the nearly two-month long tournament. "We have a lot of Indian and international strength in our team. It's a very long tournament. We need to understand the mindset and the fitness and form of all players. But we have enough options to play around," he said.

"I think this format has to be played with lot of fearless mindset and that sort of characters are there in this team this year. So we would just like to go out there and express ourselves."

DC player Marsh injured ahead of ODI series in Pak

Lahore, Mar 28 (PTI):

Australia all-rounder Mitchell Marsh's availability for IPL side Delhi Capitals this season was on Monday rendered doubtful after he suffered a hip injury, which has all but ruled him out of the upcoming ODI series in Pakistan.

Marsh, who was bought for a whopping Rs 6.5 crore in the IPL auction, was to join Delhi Capitals on April 6 after the end of white-ball series in Pakistan but his availability will now depend on the degree of his injury. Australia ODI captain



Aaron Finch said here on Monday that Marsh's scans have been sent for examination after he sustained hip flexor injury during a high-intensity fielding drill on Sunday.

"He's (Marsh) injured his hip flexor, we think, at training. We are going to have to wait and see what that looks like but I

don't think he'll be available for the series based on how he was feeling yesterday," Finch told reporters.

"He sustained that in a fielding drill, it was a high intensity, lateral movement drill and he bent down to pick it up one handed and went to throw and felt a twinge."

Hip flexors are a group of muscles towards the front of the hip. They help in movement and flexing of leg and knee up towards one's body.

The three-match ODI series against Pakistan begins on Tuesday. After the ODIs, the lone T20I will be played on April 5.

Jehan Daruvala claims second podium of F2 season in Jeddah

Jeddah, Mar 28 (PTI):

Indian racer Jehan Daruvala claimed his second podium of the season by finishing third in the Formula 2 Feature race, held on the sidelines of the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix here. Jehan raced brilliantly after starting from the 14th position on the grid at the Jeddah Corniche Circuit on Sunday. The 23-year-old from Mumbai, began his weekend on the back foot after a mechanical issue hampered his qualifying round. But the Red Bull-backed racer used a mix of race craft, strategy and tyre management to claw his way up the ladder. "It's very satisfying.



Coming into this weekend I knew Prema (Racing) had a really good car. I was really down after qualifying. But once we discovered that our lack of pace was down to a mechanical issue, it made me believe again," Jehan, who races for the Italian team, said. "It was good damage limitation and honestly third

was probably the maximum we could have had today (Sunday)." Jehan, who went from 13th to seventh in Saturday's sprint race, earned his ninth podium in F2 with a mature drive. He passed two cars off the line at the start, pulled off a bold pass around the outside of three cars on Turn 1 at one stage, and swept past fellow Red Bull junior Ayumu Iwasa on the start-finish straight. He timed his lone pit stop to perfection and used all his experience to keep his pace up, hunting down and passing Marcus Armstrong while managing tyre wear over a long second stint on the harder tyre.

Shantha bats for Smriti to be next India captain

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

Smriti Mandhana's knack of taking responsibility while being consistent makes her the ideal candidate to replace the veteran Mithali Raj at the helm, former captain Shantha Rangaswamy said on Sunday after India's elimination in the group stage in the ODI Women's World Cup.

The Mithali Raj-led side, who were the last edition's runners-up, lost to South Africa by three wickets to make a premature exit from the showpiece, capping an inconsistent show.

Even as she has stopped short of calling it quits, Mithali's 23-year-old

International career may have come to an end with the defeat. Talking to PTI, Shantha said her choice for the next captain is Smriti and not the India star batter Harmanpreet Kaur. "Mithali can go on if she wants to... Smriti should lead. Harman is a proven match-winner and star player but captaincy needs taking responsibility and playing consistently well. Additional responsibility of captaincy may weigh Harman down," Shantha said. "It will put an additional burden on Harman. Smriti can handle that better. Her temperament is suited to captaincy," the BCCI Apex Council member added.

West Indies crushes England in 3rd test to win series 1-0

St. George's, Mar 28 (AP):

West Indies crushed England by 10 wickets in the third and final cricket test on Sunday to win the series 1-0.

The hosts needed only 4.5 overs on Day 4 for their batters to reach the winning target in Grenada. West Indies finished on 28-0 in the second innings after earlier dismissing England for 120.

West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite was 20 not out and John Campbell undefeated on 6.

When England resumed on 103-8, it was already on the brink of defeat with a lead of only 10 runs with just two wickets in hand in its second innings.



West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite, left, celebrates the last run, in partnership with John Campbell, to defeat England by ten wickets on dday four of their third Test cricket match at the National Cricket Stadium in St. George.

The visitors lasted another 11 overs in the opening session with Kemar

Roach (2-10 off 9.2 overs) taking both England wickets Chris Woakes (19) and

Jack Leach (4). It took almost 45 minutes for West Indies to break up England's ninth-wicket partnership, with a stunning reaction catch from Jason Holder doing the job. Woakes middled Roach's first ball as it went down the leg side and Holder flung out a hand and plucked the ball out of the air at leg gully.

No. 11 Saqib Mahmood, who hit a defiant 49 in the first innings, was 3 not out.

West Indies medium-pacer Kyle Mayers started the day with an incredible 5-9 from 13 overs, a maiden five-for, but went for five in his first over on Sunday and finished with 5-18 from 17 overs.

Canada advances to World Cup for first time in 36 years

Toronto, Mar 28 (AP):

Cyle Larin, Tajon Buchanan and Junior Hoilett scored and Canada secured its first World Cup berth in 36 years with a 4-0 victory over Jamaica.

Canada has been to the World Cup just once before, in 1986.

Speechless. Dream come true, midfielder Jonathan Osorio said on Sunday.

We all dreamed of this as little kids, and as a Canadian that was impossible. Today the impossible happened. It's an incredible feeling."

Canada missed out a chance to secure a spot in Qatar last week with a 1-0 loss to Costa Rica. It was Canada's first loss in three World Cup qualifying



Canada's Sam Adekugbe in action with Jamaica's Tarick Ximines.

rounds and it snapped a six-game winning streak.

Boosted by the home crowd at BMO Field, Canada rebounded in a big way against the Jamaicans, who were already eliminated from World Cup contention. Following the match the

fans broke into the Canadian national anthem and Osorio led the crowd for a drum chant before the team danced on the field. Buchanan circled the field waving Canada's flag. Canada coach John Herdman became the first coach ever to lead both a

men's and women's team to a World Cup berth. He coached the Canadian women's team from 2011-18. In a post-game interview Herdman was doused with champagne by Canadian goalkeeper Milan Borjan.

Canada is a football nation, man. We better believe it, Herdman said.

And we're going to keep coming. We've only gotten started. Canada sits atop the table in the final qualifying round with 28 points, followed by the United States (25 points), which held the edge over third-place Mexico (25) on goal difference. The United States defeated Panama 5-1 and Mexico downed Honduras 1-0 in the late games Sunday.

Bajrang's leg defence is not weak, it's just his style of play: Coach Maan

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

Contrary to the popular opinion that Bajrang Punia's leg defence is a major shortcoming in his game, Sujeet Maan, the new personal coach of the star grappler says the wrestler looks vulnerable only because of his attacking style and all he needs to do is to convert the moves into points.

Bajrang's leg defence has been a major talking point in the last three years, especially in run up to the Tokyo Games, where he won a bronze medal. Bajrang's struggle against Japanese nemesis Takuto Otoguro only accentuated the issue. His coach Shako Bentineidis

also worked on the same but Bajrang, 28, never made the desired progress, something which irked the national federation and eventually the Georgian was removed from his support staff. However, Maan, who started working with Bajrang from January this year, says Bajrang's leg defence is not as weak as it is thought of. "A lot of people opine that his leg defence is weak but that's not the case. It's a style. In cricket, the aggressive batters go for their shots and in the process they run the risk of losing their wicket. In Bajrang's case when he plays attacking game, he appears vulnerable in his leg defence," Maan told PTI in an interview.

EXAM TIME



Students sanitise their hands and undergo thermal testing before appearing for the first exam of the Karnataka SSLC Board, in Bengaluru, Monday.

Oppn in RS raise concerns over price rise

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

Opposition members in Rajya Sabha on Monday raised their concerns over price rise and asked the government to take measures to protect interests of the common people who have been hit hard by it. DMK member T K S Elangovan said the government has completely ignored the interests of the poor such as daily wagers in the Union Budget for 2022-23.

"Budget has failed to provide relief to the common man and the poorest of the poor of this country," he said, adding prices of diesel and petrol have gone up which will have a cascading effect on all of them. The budget's purpose should be to protect

the citizens and to provide socio-economic protection, he added.

"What this budget has done. They (government) have talked about rich people and getting money back from borrowers but what is the progressive idea for the people who are suffering," said Elangovan. He also asked the government to fulfil its promise to implement the MS Swaminathan Committee report, which had suggested fixing the minimum support price (MSP) for all crops at 150 per cent of the input cost.

The upper house was having a discussion on the Appropriation Bill, 2022. Amar Patnaik of the BJD said inequality in the society has increased and the government would have to

rethink the economic policy for inclusive growth.

According to him, too much inequality would give rise to social strife. The total number of the middle class has gone down by 3.2 crore in 2020. In 1981 the share of the middle class in total income was 45 per cent and it has decreased to 22.9 per cent in 2020.

"We need to have a greater investment in education, health and nutrition and the purchasing power of the bottom of the pyramid has to be increased," he said, adding "for this, we have to increase the revenue." Patnaik suggested for the reintroduction of wealth tax and Covid tax to generate resources for meeting social sector expenditure.

"The tax-GDP ratio is hovering around 10.7 per cent currently and in last five years, (it was) 11.5 per cent... We have to increase our tax-GDP ratio. Some way, some method has to be devised," he said.

Citing an Oxfam India report, Patnaik said a 1 per cent wealth tax on 98 billionaires would finance the Ayushman Bharat scheme for more than seven years. It can also take care of the total expenditure on school, education and literacy, he added. "Two per cent tax on individuals with an income of over Rs 10 crore would increase the ministries' budget by an astounding 121 per cent. We need this revenue so that we can spend on the social sector," he added.

2021-22 season

Govt's paddy procurement reaches 741.62 lac tons

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

The Centre has procured 741.62 lakh tonne of paddy in the ongoing 2021-22 marketing year so far at the minimum support price (MSP), Union Food Ministry said on Monday.

"Till now about 105.14 lakh farmers have been benefitted with MSP value of Rs 1,45,358.13 crore," the ministry said in a statement.

A quantity of 741.62 lakh tonne of paddy has been procured till March 27 of the ongoing 2021-22 marketing year, it said.

Out of the total procurement undertaken so far, maximum of 187.28 lakh tonne of paddy has been procured from Punjab, followed by 92.01 lakh tonne from Chhattisgarh, 70.22 lakh tonne from Telangana, 55.30 lakh tonne from Haryana and 66.53 lakh tonne from Uttar Pradesh till March 27 of the ongoing marketing year.

The paddy marketing season normally begins from October and runs through September.

During the 2020-21 marketing season, the gov-

ernment had procured 895.83 lakh tonne of paddy at a MSP value of Rs 1,69,133.26 crore.

The government undertakes procurement operations through state-run Food Corporation of India (FCI) as well as state agencies.

The government buys largely paddy and wheat to protect farmers with MSP as well as use the procured grains for distribution through ration shops for the poor beneficiaries registered under the National Food Security Act at highly subsidized rates.

Congress, BJP tit for tat over crime in Raj

Jaipur, Mar 28 (PTI):

A day after the BJP said it sent Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra a train ticket to meet women crime victims in Rajasthan, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot offered to send Union Home Minister Amit Shah a chartered plane to visit the state. Gehlot tweeted that he wanted Shah to see the law and order-related innovations made in Rajasthan and how well the state is fighting crime.

The tit for tat was over the alleged rape of a 15-year-old girl by the son of a ruling Congress MLA. BJP state secretary Jitendra Gothwal on Sunday challenged Gandhi to come to Jaipur, tweeting that he

has sent her a train ticket and also reminding the Congress general secretary of her "Ladki Hoon, Lad Sakti Hoon" campaign. A day later, Gehlot responded by saying, "BJP leaders repeatedly invite Priyanka Gandhi over (the situation of) crimes in Rajasthan even though she does not hold any constitutional post."

"We want to send Union Home Minister Amit Shah a chartered plane and request him to come to Rajasthan to see the law and order-related innovations made in the state and the strict action taken against crimes so that the confusion being spread by his party is cleared," the chief minister tweeted in

Hindi. The opposition BJP on Sunday demanded the arrest of Congress MLA Johari Lal Meena's son Deepak Meena accused of raping the minor, with Gothwal even asking Gandhi to visit the state.

"Congress MLA's son has raped a minor in Rajasthan. The minor girl is not able to fight against the power of the MLA. @priyankagandhi ji, I am sending a train ticket for you. Come to Jaipur immediately. There are girls in Rajasthan too and they are not able to fight," he said in a tweet in Hindi.

Gandhi had come out with the poll slogan "Ladki Hoon, Lad Sakti Hoon (I am a girl and can fight)" ahead of the Assembly elections

in Uttar Pradesh.

Gehlot said the law and order situation in Rajasthan is better than in BJP-ruled states. In the three years of the Congress government, there have been convictions in 620 cases under the POCSO Act. Of these, seven people were sentenced to death and 137 awarded life imprisonment.

"We do not do politics on crimes like the BJP," he said. Sharing NCRB data, Gehlot said, "Despite the lockdown in 2020, when crime across the country increased by 28.03 per cent compared to the previous year, Rajasthan saw a decrease of 14.46 per cent. According to the NCRB data, there has been a de-

crease in all types of crimes, including dacoity, robbery, kidnapping, rape, rioting, burglary and theft, in the state in 2020."

He claimed there was a 62.29 per cent increase in crime in Amit Shah's home state Gujarat. "In the year 2021 also, there was a decrease of 4.77 per cent in crimes in Rajasthan as compared to 2019," Gehlot said. He said the state government has made FIR registration mandatory.

"While implementing the mandatory FIR registration policy, we knew that crime figures would increase, and the opposition and media would question it, but we implemented this policy to get justice for every victim," he said.

Violence as stones hurled at former CM's convoy

Oppn demands President's Rule

Gangtok, Mar 28 (PTI):

Stones were hurled at former Sikkim chief minister Pawan Chamling's convoy in Gangtok on Monday when he was returning from the assembly, triggering clashes between supporters of the ruling SKM and the opposition SDF. A huge number of Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) supporters from all across the state had gathered in Gangtok as Chamling went to the assembly on the first day of the Budget session after hiatus of almost three years.

Tensions ran high as a large number of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) supporters also gathered in the state capital. When Chamling was returning from the assembly, which

was adjourned till Tuesday over the death of former chief minister BB Gurung, stones were hurled at his convoy in Nainital, police said.

Several cars in the cavalcade were damaged, while some SDF supporters were also injured, leading to a flare-up, they said. Later, when SDF supporters went to the Sadar police station to file a complaint about the incident, clashes broke out with SKM supporters, police said.

Several people were injured in the clashes with police managing to separate the two groups and somewhat control the situation. Both sides raised slogans against each other as the security personnel stood in between.

The injured persons were admitted to the

STNM hospital for treatment. Addressing the press, Chamling alleged that the violence was instigated by the top leadership of the SKM. He said that President's Rule should be imposed in Sikkim, and a memorandum would be submitted to the governor over the demand.

"In SKM's governance, there is no rule of law in the state," he said. Chamling, who served as the chief minister of the state for five consecutive terms from 1994 to 2019, stopped attending the assembly since June 2019 after he was heckled in the House. However, he recently announced that he will start attending the assembly to expose the "misdeeds" and "corruption" of the Prem Singh Tamang-led SKM government.

MENDHAR FEST 2022



Army personnel perform Mallakhamb during the Mendhar Fest 2022, organised by Indian Army, at Mendhar area of Poonch district, Monday.

MPs request PM

'Give immediate financial support to rare disease patients'

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

A group of MPs from the Rajya Sabha has sought urgent intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide immediate financial support to rare disease patients under government's RAN scheme to save their lives.

Rashtriya Aarogya Nidhi (RAN) was set up to provide financial assistance to patients, living below the poverty line and who are suffering from major life-threatening diseases, to receive medical treatment at any of the super speciality hospitals or institutes or other gov-

ernment hospitals.

A group of Members of Parliament from the Rajya Sabha, cutting across party lines, have written to Modi, seeking an urgent meeting with him about saving the lives of several young patients, diagnosed with life-threatening rare disease conditions, classified under Group 3(a) in the National Policy for Rare Diseases.

We would like to seek a meeting with you urgently to discuss the life threatening risks that many of the young patients, primarily children, are facing and the impending loss of lives due to the lack of im-

mediate support for their treatment, the letter read.

The MPs noted that despite several pleas to extend the Umbrella Scheme of Rashtriya Aarogya Nidhi (RAN) as a special, one-time provision for treatment of these patients before March 31, 2022, these patients and their care givers have been left with no option but to wait for the inevitable.

The members expressed concern that the non-utilisation of the budgetary allocation under RAN before March 31, 2022, would not only lead to a fund lapse, but also deprive

many of these eligible patients from seeking life-saving treatment to their conditions, for which the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) approved therapies are already available in India since long. The group includes Congress MPs Vandana Chavan and Fauzia Khan and RJD MP Manoj Kumar Jha, among others.

According to the parliamentarians, even after almost a year of the crowd funding platform being set up, only a meagre amount of Rs 1.16 lakh has been raised so far, as a result of which not a single patient has been put on treatment.

MLAs engage in fisticuffs in Assembly over Birbhum killings

5 BJP MLAs suspended

Kolkata, Mar 28 (PTI): The budget session of the West Bengal Assembly ended in an exchange of fisticuffs on Monday, as legislators of the TMC and the BJP came to blows after heated arguments over the Birbhum killings, prompting the speaker to suspend five saffron party MLAs, including Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari, who was also accused of busting the nose of a rival MLA. Shortly after the House assembled at 11 am, it plunged into pandemonium as BJP MLAs trooped to the well, demanding a statement by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over the "worsening" law and order situation in the wake of the tragedy in Birbhum district, where eight people were burnt alive last week.

BJP MLA against curbs on non-Hindu traders during fairs

Belagavi, Mar 28 (PTI):

In the wake of denial of permission to non-Hindu traders and vendors to carry on business during annual temple fairs and religious events in some parts of Karnataka, BJP legislator Anil Benake on Monday said everyone can ply his or her trade and that it is for the people to decide where to buy what.

The MLA from Belagavi north cited the Constitution to drive home the point. "There is no question of imposing any restrictions during the temple fair, we will not impose, but if people do, we can't do anything. We will not allow it (im-

position of restrictions)," Benake told reporters here. Stating that it is wrong to tell people where to purchase and where not to, he said the Constitution advocates equal opportunity to all. "Everyone has the opportunity to carry out their activities, but people have to become clever. People have to decide where to buy what," he added.

Initially, banners were placed during the annual Kaup Marigudi festival in Udupi district. They said non-Hindu vendors and traders should not be allowed entry, and the temple management paid heed to the request of certain pro-Hindu organisations.

Later, similar banners were displayed at Padubidri temple festival also, and at a couple of temples in Dakshina Kannada district as well.

Some Hindu activists have submitted memoranda to officials in different parts of the State citing the Karnataka Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Act, 1997.

When the matter came up in the Legislative Assembly recently, the BJP government sought to distance itself from it by citing a rule which states that no property, including land, building near the place of worship shall be leased to non-Hindus.

BRIEF



A braj artiste with artists from Africa during the International Surajkund Crafts Mela 2022, in Faridabad, Monday.

Factory fire

Pune: A huge fire broke out in a plant manufacturing inks, varnish and coatings in Srirampur MIDC area in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district on Monday, an official said. There were no reports of injuries to anyone in the incident, though it caused considerable damage to property, he added. "The blaze took place at around 11:30am in a unit of 'Surface Coatings', which manufacturers inks, various coatings, resins and varnish.

Protest

Bhopal: Some of the candidates who appeared for the Madhya Pradesh Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) and police constable recruitment exam staged a protest in front of the head office of the Staff Selection Board, earlier known as Vyapam, here on Monday alleging irregularities in the two exams, a charge denied by government officials.

Sworn-in

Chennai: Advocates N Mala and S Sounthar, who were appointed as additional judges of the Madras High Court last week, were sworn-in on Monday. Chief Justice M N Bhandari administered the oath of office to the new judges at a brief function in the High Court premises.

Busted

New Delhi: The police has busted a fake call centre and arrested eight persons for allegedly duping foreign nationals by posing as members of the technical support team of Amazon and PayPal, officials said on Monday. The call centre was running in Delhi's Jamia Nagar area, they said. Ten mobile phones, seven laptops, six keyboards, six computer monitors, four CPUs and one WiFi router with modem have been seized by the police, officials said.

Bribe

Damoh: A forest guard was nabbed on Monday for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000 for allowing a tractor-trolley carrying illegally mined sand to pass from a forest area in Damoh district of Madhya Pradesh, a Lokayukta Police official said. Forest guard Jitendra Patel had stooped the vehicle coming from the Patha area on March 12 and allowed it to go only after its owner paid Rs 11,000 in bribe, Lokayukta inspector Manju Singh said.

Weather
High 31 Low 22

MARKET
NIFTY 17,222.00
SENSEX 57,593.49

BULLION
GOLD 51,608
SILVER 68050

NATIONWIDE STRIKE: 1ST DAY

'Bandh-like situation in at least 8 states'

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

The joint forum of central trade unions on Monday said that bandh-like situation prevailed in at least eight states due to the nationwide strike against various policies of the government. The two-day strike began on Monday.

"There is a bandh-like situation in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Assam, Haryana and Jharkhand," the forum said in a statement.

According to the forum, agitations were held in many industrial areas across states like Goa, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Bihar, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh.

Security workers in Sikkim went on strike. Besides, workers in industrial areas in Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Jammu & Kashmir also joined the strike, it added.



Activists of various trade unions stage a protest in support of the two-day Bharat Bandh called over the Centres policies that are allegedly affecting farmers, workers and citizens, in Chennai, Monday.

SAIL, RINL, NMDC workers join strike

Thousands of workers of state-owned SAIL, RINL and NMDC on Monday joined the nationwide strike, affecting production at steel plants and mines. Around 8,000 non-executive Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) workers out of 11,000 of the total did not come to work on Monday as part of the ongoing nationwide strike, a company official said. He further informed that production has been affected at the unit as only one furnace out of three is functional at the plant in Visakhapatnam. While one was already under maintenance, the second one has been shut down as a precautionary measure. Rajesh Sandhu, Secretary of NMDC Sanyukt Khadaan Mazdoor Sangh that represents workers at the NMDC operated mines, said around 10,000 non-executive employees of the company are observing the protest. "Workers of NMDC mines and offices in Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana, are on strike today," he said. Work at important mining complexes like Bachel in Chhattisgarh and Donimalai in Karnataka are completely closed, Sandhu added.

Flames rip through parts of Odisha reserve

Baripada, Mar 28 (PTI):

Fire has engulfed parts of the Similipal National Park in Odisha, an official said on Monday, as authorities battled to prevent a repeat of last year's havoc at the UNESCO biosphere reserve.

Forest fire is an annual phenomenon in Similipal park — spread over 2,750 square kilometers in Mayurbhanj district and home to Bengal tiger, Asian elephant and Indian bison among other animals.

At least six places in the forest including areas in Talabandha and Chahala ranges — were found to have caught fire

Efforts underway to tackle situation

on Monday, the official said. According to Regional Chief Conservator of Forests M Yogajayanand, 200 firefighters have been pressed into service to douse the flames.

The firefighting teams have been able to put out the fire in Gudugudia range, while efforts to tackle the situation were underway in other locations.

Established in 1973, Similipal derives its name from the 'simul' (silk cotton) tree. Sal trees are also found abundantly in the region. Last year,

between February and March, the fire situation had gone out of control, and it took authorities almost three weeks to contain the rage. The Odisha government had to seek assistance of central forces to control the inferno. The Similipal authority has undertaken several steps to ensure safety of locals, including an awareness campaign conducted at the villages on the foothills of the wildlife sanctuary, Yogajayanand said.

As many as 500 leaf blowers are being used to create fire breaks in buffer areas of Similipal. It will prevent the spread of fire towards the core areas, he explained.

NATURE'S BEAUTY



Fishermen ride a boat on the Hooghly River during evening hours, in Nadia district, Monday.

I-T notice to former PM Gowda's wife

Bengaluru, Mar 28 (PTI): The Income Tax department has issued a notice to former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda's wife Chennamma regarding her property, their son and former Karnataka minister H D Revanna said on Monday.

Let them (I-T) issue notice to us. Now, they are issuing notice to my mother. We are growing sugarcane in our land. They should come and see, he told reporters in the district headquarters town of Hassan.

They are issuing notice to former Prime Minister's wife. Let them

serve notice. I am not saying that they should not do it, the Holenarasipura MLA added.

He even asked the I-T officials to see for themselves how they were growing crops in each acre of land.

Former chief minister and JD(S) second-in-command H D Kumaraswamy expressed ignorance about any notice being served to his mother.

I have no information about the notice but if they have served it then we should not panic. In our family, our activities are like an open book, Kumaraswamy told reporters in Bengaluru.

Massive fire breaks out at Ghazipur landfill site

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI): A massive fire broke out at the dumping yard of east Delhi's Ghazipur area on Monday leading to a huge cloud of smoke enveloping the region and neighbouring areas.

No casualty has been reported, an official of the fire department said, adding that nine fire tenders are at the spot to bring the blaze under control.

Chief Fire Officer Atul Garg said efforts are on to douse the flames, adding that it may take few more hours.

According to the fire department, a call was received at around 2.30 pm about the fire in Khaata at Ghazipur.



Flames and smoke rise from a fire at Ghazipur Landfill, in New Delhi, Monday.

Garg told PTI that the cause of fire is yet to be ascertained. A thick blanket of smoke was seen at a section of the dumping yard, where the fire broke out.

Meanwhile, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai directed the Delhi Pollution Control

Prez confers Padma awards

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI): Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister late Kalyan Singh, often termed as a Hindutva icon, and actor Victor Banerjee were among the 65 distinguished personalities who were conferred with Padma awards by President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday. This year, the first civil investiture ceremony was held on March 21 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan during which 54 personalities were given the Padma awards. Amongst the prominent awardees at the second investiture ceremony were Padma Vibhushan recipients Kalyan Singh (posthumous), during whose tenure the Babri Masjid was demolished in 1992, and classical vocalist Prabha Atre. Singh's son Rajveer Singh, who is a Lok Sabha MP from Uttar Pradesh's Etah, received the honour. The Padma Bhushan recipients include actor Victor Banerjee, and Krishna Murthy Ella and Suchitra Krishna Ella of Bharat Biotech, the maker of coronavirus vaccine Covaxin, an official statement said.

Banking operations, public transport hit

Public dealings at some bank branches were hit and public transport services were thrown out of gear in states like West Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu as thousands of workers on Monday began a two-day nationwide strike to protest against policies of the Union government. However, essential services like healthcare, electricity and fuel supplies remained unaffected. Public offices as well as educational institutions were not impacted by the strike called by nearly a dozen trade unions. Some bank branches, particularly in cities with a strong trade union movement, did very limited over-the-counter public dealings such as cash deposits and withdrawals.

'Centre selling PSUs, depriving beneficiaries of quota'

Mumbai, Mar 28 (PTI): Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday alleged that the BJP-led Central government is anti-reservation and selling public undertakings like Railways and Air India so that intended beneficiaries are deprived of quota.

Baghel made the comments during the Other Backward Class (OBC) meet held at Shegaon in the Buldhana district of Maharashtra. Maharashtra minister Yashomati Thakur, state Congress president Nana Patole, AICC secretary Ashish Dua and other leaders of Congress attended the meet, a statement said. We are fighting to give reservations to OBCs. But the BJP's government at the Centre is anti-reservation, the statement quoted Baghel as saying. He said that quota gives benefits to government jobs, but the Centre is selling the companies owned by it. The government is



selling undertakings like Railways, airports and Air India. How will one get reservation benefits if the public undertakings won't be there? The BJP government is selling these undertakings so that (communities concerned) don't get reservation benefits, the Congress leader alleged. He alleged that a big conspiracy was hatched to keep people away from getting the benefits of reservation. Baghel pitched for fighting for quota and also against the sale of government companies. He said Congress has always supported scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and OBCs.

Sawant sworn in as Goa CM

8 other ministers also take oath

Panaji, Mar 28 (PTI):

Three-time MLA Pramod Sawant, who led the BJP to win 20 seats in the recently concluded elections to the 40-member Goa Assembly, was sworn in as the state's chief minister for the second time on Monday in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other dignitaries.

Goa Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai administered the oath to Sawant (48) and eight other BJP MLAs as cabinet ministers in a ceremony held at Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee stadium at Bambolim near Panaji,



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with BJP leader Pramod Sawant during the latter's swearing-in ceremony as Goa Chief Minister, in Panaji, Monday.

four km from the Raj Bhavan. Over 10,000 people were present during the function.

Prime Minister Modi, Union ministers Nitin Gadkari, Shripad Naik,

BJP national president J P Nadda, Himachal Pradesh Governor Rajendra Arlekar (who hails from Goa) and Maharashtra's former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, who

was the Goa election in-charge, were among those who attended the event.

This was the second time that Goa's chief minister was sworn in outside the Raj Bhavan. In 2012, Manohar Parrikar had taken oath as the CM at a ground in Campal area of the state capital Panaji after the BJP emerged as the single largest party in the House.

Sawant took the oath in Konkani language. This is his second term as the state's chief minister. He became the CM for the first time in March 2019 after the demise of then chief minister Manohar Parrikar.

HIJAB BAN IN CLASSROOM

AIMPLB moves SC challenging HC verdict

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has moved the Supreme Court challenging the Karnataka High Court verdict which had dismissed the petitions seeking permission to wear Hijab inside the classroom saying Hijab is not a part of the essential religious practice in the Islamic faith. Several other petitions have already been filed in the apex court challenging the high court verdict of March 15. The AIMPLB, along with two other petitioners, have said in its plea that the four issues framed by high court do not address the core issue of whether or not it was necessary to consider the doctrine of essential religious practice where the petitions

have asserted their fundamental rights under Article 25(1) and 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. Secondly, while deciding the said issues, the high court has laid too much emphasis on propositions which results into discrimination, exclusion and overall deprivation of a class from the mainstream public education system apart from the fact it seriously encroaches upon an individual's sacrosanct religious belief, said the plea, filed through advocate M R Shamshad. The plea said it is a case of direct discrimination against the Muslim girls. Hence laying too much emphasis on bringing uniformity in the uniform without accommodating a person of one religion to cover her hair with a piece of cloth' is travesty of justice. The

impugned judgment also ignores the doctrine of reasonable accommodation, it said. The plea said determination of essentials under the principles of essential religious practice (ERP) had started with the idea of determination of essential religious practice that fell within the complete autonomy of the religious denomination in the matters of deciding as to what rites and ceremonies are essential according to tenets of a religion. Over a period of time, it appears that the courts have completely taken upon themselves the task to determine what are the essentials and integrals of any and every religion practiced in our country for the purpose of regulatory control over them by the State authorities, it said.

Indian Army snipers' gets new weapon: Sako TRG-42 rifles

New Delhi, Mar 28: The Indian Army has inducted the Sako .338 TRG-42 sniper rifles from Finland for soldiers deployed along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

"The latest sniper rifles have been inducted into the army. They are using it now," a senior official told PTI. The Sako .338 TRG-42 sniper rifles have a better range, firepower, and telescopic sights than those possessed by the adversary, the official said.

Sniping has been a bigger challenge for the troops patrolling forward areas along the LoC and the International Border

in Jammu and Kashmir, said the official. Between 2018 and 2019, there was a sudden increase in the number of sniping incidents along the LoC and IB prompting armed forces to induct better sniper rifles and train its snipers against such attacks.

The Sako rifles have replaced the .338 Lapua Magnum Scorpio TGT by Beretta, and the .50 Calibre M95 by Barrett, which were inducted in the Indian army in 2019 and 2020.

These rifles, made in Italy and America, had replaced the ageing Russian Dragunov, the mainstay of Indian soldiers.

Nationwide strike fails to make an impact in Steel Plant

Abducted minor girl rescued; accused arrested



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 28: Police have arrested a 21-year-old youth on charges of abducting and raping a minor girl. With sustained efforts, police managed to arrest the accused after about three months. DSP (Head Quarters) Abhishek Jha informed that police are handling the cases of crime against women in a sensitive manner. The police are also searching and rescuing the missing / abducted minor boys and girls under operation Muskaan. In this sequel, Nandini Nagar Police Station had received a complaint about abduction of a minor girl. A boy had lured her to flee with him. Police launched investigations and with the help of Cyber Cell, the CDR of the mobile phone was collected. The accused was constantly changing the mobile numbers as well as the

whereabouts. The accused had kept the girl with him and raped her. On March 27, the girl contacted her mother on mobile phone and narrated the entire incidence. The victim family immediately informed the police about the mobile number from which the girl had made the call. Police collected information about the location of this mobile phone and immediately a police team was sent to Urla in Raipur. Police team managed to arrest the accused and rescue the girl. The accused Vikas Jangde (21) son of Naindas Jangde has been booked under the provisions mentioned in sections 363, 366, 376 (2) N of IPC and Sections 5 & 6 of POCSO Act. Head Constable Rohit Bhuraya, Constable Navneet Kalsi, Constable Chote Lal Yadav and Constable Rupesh Sinha played vital role in arresting the accused.

ties for frontline workers serving people amid the pandemic; Increase in agriculture, education, health and other important public investments by taxing the rich through wealth tax etc to revive and improve the national economy; Concrete remedial measures for reduction of central excise duty on petroleum products and to check price rise; Regularization of contract workers, scheme workers and equal pay for equal work for all; Cancellation of NPS and restoration of old pension. Substantial increase in minimum wage under Employees' Pension Scheme 1995/implementation of Supreme Court judgment.

The unions of Bhilai Steel Plant are further demanding immediate settlement of outstanding arrears, gratuity and salary of contract workers of Bhilai Steel Plant. Here in Bhilai Steel Plant, the leaders of CITU, INTUC, AITUC, HMS, AICTTU, Ispat Shramik Manch and Steel Workers Union remained present at the entry gates of the plant and urged the employees to stay away from work and participate in the strike. The union leaders tried to stop the employees who were moving towards the workplace but most of the employees did not stop.



Trade Union leaders staging protest at BSP



Postal workers staging demonstration



LIC workers union at Civic Centre



Bank employees demonstrating at Civic Centre

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 28: The nationwide general strike called by central trade unions failed to make an impact in the SAIL's flagship unit - Bhilai Steel Plant. As per the tradition, the attendance was above normal in Bhilai Steel Plant. The strike at Bhilai Steel Plant remained restricted to symbolic demonstrations which saw participation of labour leaders

only. On the other hand, the employees' organisations of the Banking and Postal sector participated in the strike. Functioning of nationalised banks and post offices remained unaffected. Transport and railway also functioned as normal days. The joint trade unions including AITUC, CITU, AICTTU, HMS, Ispat Shramik Manch, Steel Workers Union, LOIMU and HITSU participated in

the strike. On the other hand, INTUC Union was on strike separately. They will also observe strike on March 29 also. The union leaders said that this strike is not only to save the rights and livelihood of the people/workers but also to save the economy of the country and the democratic system, which the dictatorial forces in the government are leading to destruction. The dictatorial elements have the support

of the corporate world, both domestic and foreign. The union leaders informed that the demands for strike on March 28 and 29 includes Abolition of four Labor Codes, Abolition of EDSA, which prohibits strike; Accept the 6-point demand of Samyukt Kisan Morcha after the repeal of agricultural laws; Not accepting privatization in any form and scrapping the privatization and NMP policy; Rs

7500 and free nation and cash assistance to non income tax paying families; Method in allocation for MGNREGA and extension of employment guarantee scheme in urban areas; To formalize the Universal Social Security; Statutory minimum wage and social security for Anganwadi, Asha, mid-day meal and other scheme workers by giving them the status of labourers; proper protection and insurance facili-

Workshop organised under National Tobacco Control Program

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 28: A workshop was organised under the National Tobacco Control Programme was organised here to sensitise the law enforcement agencies about the provisions of the laws which have been enacted to reduce the tobacco addiction. The workshop was organised under the directions of Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr JP Meshram and District Nodal Officer Dr RK Khandelwal. The programme was organised in collaboration with District Traffic Police. DSP (traffic) Gurjit Singh was specially present. The workshop commenced with a general introduction, after which the



National Tobacco Control Program District Advisor Dr Sonal Singh gave general information about the National Tobacco Control. Information about the activities to be done under the program and the ill-effects of tobacco on health was given in the programme. The cops of traffic police were detailed about the COTPA Act 2003. Social worker Kavita Tamrakar detailed Section 4, Section 5 and Section 6 while Dr Sonal Singh explained the

provisions mentioned in Sections 7, 8 and 9. Dr Munish Bhagat gave information about the origin of tobacco, the harm caused by tobacco consumption and how a person becomes addicted to the harmful substances found in it and how one can get rid of it or the way to quit it. The programme was successfully conducted with collaboration of National Tobacco Control Program Social Worker Kavita Tamrakar and Counselor Lalit Sahu.

PHE Minister attends Karma Jayanti and Jas Geet Competition

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 28: A two-day Jas Geet and tableaux competition was organized in Sirsa Khurd. On the second day of this event, Minister of Public Health Engineering and Village Industries, Guru Rudra Kumar attended the programme. He performed Bhoomi Poojan for works worth 45.50 lakhs. These projects include mid-day meal shed in high school, pipeline expansion, construction work in ponds, community building and stage construction and CC road construction. Addressing the people, he said that through programs like Jas Geet competition, we come closer to our culture. Such programs should be organized regularly. He further said that overall develop-



ment can be ensured only after the development of the villages. Hence, it is necessary that public representatives and officials should keep their attention focused on development of villages. Making rural areas stronger is the priority of the state government. On this occasion, he also spoke about providing free tap connections to all households by the end of 2023. Various groups participated in this competition and gave exciting performances. The artists entertained the audience with music and dance and made them aware of the culture. Ajay Chauhan, Pushpa Bhuneshwar Yadav, Devendra Kumar Deshmukh, Bhuneshwar Yadav and other villagers were present on this occasion. Public Health Engineering and Village Industries Minister Shri



Guru Rudra Kumar also attended the get-together and introduction programme of marriageable youth organised by Bhilai Vaishya Teli Samaj of Sector 6. He praised the organization of Sahu Samaj and said that Sahu Samaj will always be on the path of development due to its unity. On this occasion, he further said that the introduction programme of marriageable youth gives an opportunity to the new

families to come together and find suitable match for the marriageable youth. Such events are a powerful medium to connect new families. On this occasion, about 50 marriageable boys and girls participated in the introduction programme. Ram Narayan Sahu, Umesh Nandlal Sahu, Sunil Sahu, Usha Omprakash Sahu, Ashok Sahu and families of Sahu Samaj were present.

PM's Trophy Scholarships given away to 255 meritorious students

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 28: A grand programme was organised by SAIL-BSP's Education Dept to give away PM's Trophy Scholarships for year 2020-21 to 255 meritorious students at Mahatma Gandhi Kala Mandir on March 26. The total amount to be disbursed for the scholarships is Rs 40.26 lakhs, including the amount disbursed as scholarship amount for SAIL scholarships given away on March 25. Director In-Charge, Bhilai Steel Plant Anirban Dasgupta was present as the Chief Guest on the occasion, along with Manas Biswas, ED (Mines & Rowghat), Dr SK Issar, ED (M&HS), AK Bhatta, ED (Projects), KK Singh, ED (P&A), Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), Dr AK Panda, CGM (Finance & Accounts), UK Jha, CGM (TSD). Also present was Shikha Dubey,



GM (Education), R Raju, AGM (Education), NK Banchorr, President, Officers Association, Pervinder Singh, Secretary, OA, Union representatives, parents of scholars and other officials. At the outset, a welcome song was presented by students of Senior Secondary School, Sect 10. Addressing the recipients of PM's Trophy Scholarships and guardians present on the occasion, KK Singh said Bhilai has



made a mark for itself in various fields. Be it Education or Sports, Art or Production, Bhilai has made a lasting impact everywhere. The culture of Bhilaians has made us the recipient of the PM's trophy for best integrated steel plant 11 times. Urging students to be responsible citizens of our country to progress, he wished them the very best for their future. Congratulating the recipients of PM's Trophy Scholarships,



Anirban Dasgupta, Director In-Charge, Bhilai Steel Plant expressed hope that the Scholarships would encourage them to move ahead and shape their careers. Students from Bhilai have a unique identity due to their value system, creating a mark for themselves across the globe, he said. Indians are very hard working, dedicated and have strong values, and this makes them stand apart from others in foreign lands,

he said. He expressed confidence that as Bhilai's ambassadors, the students would shine wherever they go and make Bhilai and the Nation proud, he added. Bhilai has over the years emerged as education hub of the region with students from Bhilai making it to premier institutes of the country every year. The PM's Trophy Scholarships awarded every year from the interest earned from PM's Trophy prize money have en-

couraged meritorious students to perform even better while pursuing higher studies. Shikha Dubey, GM (Education) proposed the Vote of Thanks. The programme was coordinated by R Raju, AGM (Education). The programme was compered by Sarita Bahl from EMMS, Ruabandha and Mahua Chhaterjee from EMMS Sector 06. The total amount of Rs 40.26 lakhs to be disbursed for the PM's Trophy scholarships, includes the amount disbursed as scholarship amount for SAIL scholarships given away on March 25. As many as 75 students who received the PM Trophy Sarvottam Scholarships would receive Rs 25000 annually while the 180 students who received the PM Trophy Merit cum Means scholarships would receive Rs 11000 annually. Those pursuing non-technical studies would receive Rs 7500 annually.

Merchant Mill sets New Record in TMT 32 Bars Production



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 28: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Merchant Mill that rolls out light structurals and TMT bars set a new day-record in production of TMT 32 bars on March 25, 2022 and a new shift record in the night shift of March 27, 2022. The Mill recorded a new high in production of TMT 32 bars with production of 2490 Tonnes on March 25, 22, surpass-

ing previous best of 2318 T on March 23, 22. Director I/c Bhilai Steel Plant, Anirban Dasgupta and Executive Director (Works) Anjani Kumar visited Merchant Mill on March 26, 22 to congratulate the Mill collective for record breaking performances. Merchant Mill has also set a new shift record on TMT 32 bars production with production of 989 T in night shift of March 27, 2022.



OBITUARY

Bindeshwar Singh
Bhilai: Retired BSP employee Bindeshwar Singh left for heavenly abode at the age of 84 years on Sunday. Funeral procession was taken out from his residence situated at Pragati Nagar and last rites of the mortal remains were performed at Risali Muktidham. He was the father of BSP employee Ramashankar Singh and Shivshankar Singh. Kashtriya Kalyan Sabha Bhilai Nagar mourned his death.

DMC budget to be presented today at BIT Conference Hall

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 28: Durg Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal and Durg Municipal Commissioner Haresh Mandavi accompanied by other officials inspected the preparations being made at the Conference Hall in BIT College for the budget GBM on March 29. Taking stock of

the venue, necessary instructions were given to the officials for preparation. They instructed to check adequate arrangement of electricity and drinking water supply. Public works in-charge Abdul Gani, Executive Engineer Nemichand Jain, Executive Engineer RK Pandey, Assistant



Engineer Jitendra Samai, Assistant Engineer RK Jain, Assistant Engineer RK Palia, Nodal Officer Prakash Chand Thawani, Water Works Inspector Narayan Thakur were present.

States to face huge financial loss if GST compensation discontinued: CM

CM Baghel sends a letter to the CM's of 17 states

Requests Center to continue with the GST compensation



2022 and these state Chief Ministers and Finance ministers, hoping for a positive response from the central government

In the second key point, he discussed the issues that will be faced by manufacturing states like Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh. He further said, these states will face huge financial losses if GST Compensation is discontinued. Chhattisgarh, being a manufacturing state, our contribution to the growth of the country's economy is much higher than the consumer states which have benefited from the GST regime due to higher consumption of goods and services. He said If GST compensation is not continued beyond June 2022, Chhattisgarh may face huge revenue loss. There may be a loss of around Rs 5,000 crore in the coming financial year. Similarly, other states will also have less revenue receipts in the coming financial year. And this problem will

make it very difficult for the states to arrange money for public interest works and development works.

In the third key point, Baghel has pointed out that after the introduction of the GST regime, the independence of the states on tax policy has been greatly reduced. Apart from commercial tax, the states are left with no option but to increase the revenue in other items of tax revenue. Therefore, in order to recover from the impact of COVID-19 on the state's economy and get the due benefits of GST compensation, the states should request the central government to implement the continuation of this existing mechanism of compensation of GST, at least for the next 5 years. Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel exuded confidence that the states would agree to his point of view and together would make a common request to the Center to agree on this issue.

has requested the Chief Ministers of 17 states to make a joint request to the Central Government to continue the GST compensation for ten years, so that the revenue of the states can be saved from huge loss, otherwise the centre should create an alternative arrangement.

CM Baghel in this letter has talked about three key points; First point being that in the pre-budget meeting under the chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister on 29th December in New Delhi, Chief Ministers and state finance ministers present in the meeting expressed deep concerns over the closure of GST Compensation after June

18 wagons of two goods train get derailed, no casualties

Near Raigarh Railway station at Jamgaon

Central Chronicle News

Raigarh, Mar 28: There are reports that two goods train had collided from back-side near Raigarh Railway station and 18 wagons of the two goods trains have got derailed near Raigarh Railway Station at Jamgaon at 4:15 am today. Since the goods train collided from back side with each other, a total of 18 wagons of both the goods train got derailed and got badly damaged. This has also affected the train movement on Up and Dn route and on the other hand, other trains were stopped at different stations.



On getting information about this incident, the railway officers from Brijrajnagar, Raigarh and Bilaspur have left along with relief trains to the site of the accident. This has badly affected the Mumbai-Howrah rail route. So far there is no news about any casualties in this accident, but there are reports of loss of goods worth lakhs. This entire incident has taken place at Jamgaon near Raigarh railway station.

One cancelled, few terminated early; other run on diverted route:

The trains which have been cancelled include- 08736 -Bilaspur-Raigarh passenger; 08735 Bilaspur Raigarh Passenger special; the pre-termination of trains include- 08263-Titalagarh-Bilaspur passenger will be terminated at Jharsuguda station; train No. 08861- Gondia-Jharsuguda- Pasenger special will terminate at Kirodimal station today; train No. 12070 Gondia-Raigarh Janshatabd will terminate at Bilha station

of Raipur division; train No. 12811 LTT-Hatia Express will run on diverted route via Lakhouli; train No 20471- Bikaner-Puri Express on diverted route from Bilaspur-Raipur- Lakhouli route; 12811 - LTT -Hatia Express will run on diverted route via Lakhouli; Trainl No. 12860 Howrah-LTT expressed via diverted route from Jharsuguda- Titalagarh route; Train o. 22845 Hatia-Pune Express will run from diverted route via Jharsuguda- Titalagarh route and train No. 17322 - Jasidih-Vasco-De-gama Express will run via diverted route of Jharsuguda- Titalagarh route. The railway administration has expressed regret over the inconvenience caused to the passengers and hope for due cooperation.

Universities exams to be held online

In current academic calendar year

Order issued from Higher Education Department on the suggestion of universities and demand of students

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.

The decision to conduct university examinations remaining for the current academic year 2021-22 in online/blended mode has been taken on the suggestion of the universities and the demand of the students.

According to the order the University Grants Commission issued guidelines regarding academic calendar, teaching method and examinations in higher educational institutions, keeping in mind the special circumstances arising out of the implementation of lockdown implemented by Higher Education Department since March

2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Through the letter of the University Grants Commission on February 11, 2022, all the higher educational institutions have been authorized to take decisions to open educational institutions, conduct class rooms and conduct examinations in offline, online or blended mode in accordance with the local situation.

It has been said in the order that due to the second and third wave of Covid-19 infection, the teaching work of the academic session 2021-22 in the state was started with a delay, as a result of which the examinations are also proposed to be

conducted late after completion of the courses. Annual examinations are usually completed in 50 to 60 days. It is a big challenge for the examination centers to make arrangements according to the Covid protocol for such a long period. Even a small mistake in this direction can have serious consequences. Keeping this in mind, instructions have been given to conduct the remaining examinations of the year 2021-22 in online, blended mode on the basis of the recommendations made in relation to online / blended mode in the suggestions received from various universities regarding the conduct of examinations.

Says bugle for election has been played

Addresses BJP district working committee meeting

Raipur, Mar 28: The BJP Raipur district working committee meeting was held in the chief presence of MLA and former Minister Brijmohan Agrawal and District President BJP Srichand Sundrani. Brijmohan Agrawal said that the coming year will be election year and the party work-

ers will now have to understand that the bugle for election has been played. Now the party workers will have to struggle day & night and be ready for it.

Speaking further Brijmohan said that the final centre of the actual election strategy of any organisation is at the 'shakti kendra' and booths. In line with rural areas, we will now have to carry out result oriented work for their organisation. BJP District President Srichand Sundrani carried out review of earlier works done 'mandal-wise' and added that it is the constant flow

which is named as 'organisation' and that flow needs to be reviewed.

District working committee - District V-P Amarjeet Chawla presented political resolution and it was supported by District Secy. Sanjay Tiwari. BJP passed a resolution against the Congress government on not fulfilling the promises; increasing user charges; increasing incidents of crime and drugs in urban areas; rental scam during Covid-19 and the problems faced by the people affected. Along with this another resolution to work in favour of general public

was also passed.

Meeting was also addressed by BJP spokesman Sanjay Shrivastava and it was conducted by general secy Ramesh Singh Thakur and vote of thanks was proposed by Secy Jitendra Jain. It was attended by Sachichidanand Upasane, Subhash Tiwari, District secy, RS Thakur, Suyrkant Rathore, Mirz Irshad Baig, Avdhesh Jain, Ashok Pandey, district media in-charge Anurag Agrawal, Yogi Agrawal, Bajrang Khandelwal, Satyam Duba, Lalit, Aashu Chandravanshi and other party workers and leaders.

Booking starts for international flights from Raipur after getting approval

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 28: After the order of the Central Government, airline companies have been allowed to operate regular international flights. In such a situation, booking of international flights from the Raipur has also started. Earlier, international flights were banned under the Covid-19 protocol. According to air travel



agencies, a large number of passengers travel from the Raipur to many countries of Europe including Dubai, Thailand, Malaysia, Maldives. Now people are booking for international flights for the summer

season. According to the officials of Swami Vivekananda Airport, more than 40 thousand passengers boarded flight from Raipur in the last one week. The number of flights from the airport has now crossed 360 every week, as the number of passengers is expected to increase further after the new summer schedule.

According to the air travel agencies, a large number

of foreign trips take place every year from Raipur and other districts of the state, with the highest number of business class and tourism-related passengers travelling to the countries of Asia and Europe. Regular international flights were banned from March 20, 2020 due to corona pandemic, after which regular flights have resumed from March 27, 2022.

Four-day 'Kaushal Mahotsav' concludes with zeal

In KPS Dunda

Raipur, Mar 28: Krishna Public School in collaboration with Krishna Lalit Kala Mahavidyalaya hosted the All India Music and Dance fest "Kaushal Mahotsav" in which around 250 participants performed in different genres of performing arts from Junior to Senior Category. Krishna Public School celebrated Kaushal Mahotsav successfully for four days from 24th March to 27th



march 2022. Various dances and vocal performances were presented by participants across the nation such as Kathak,

Kuchipuddi, Odissi, Bharatnatyam dances along with Classical and Carnatic Vocal and Instrumental music.

Renowned classical dancers Ms. Tapasree Paul Majumdar and Ms. Rajeshwari was present in the judgment panel and Dr. Vijay Vshnu Joshi felicitated the winners with Rs. 5001/- cash prize in the memoir of his late father Pt. Vishnu Krishna Joshi.

The Executive Director of the KPS Raipur Region, Mr. Ashutosh and the Principal Ms. Priyanka Tripathi of the school congratulated and extended their best wishes for all the participants in the event.

Infiniti services qualify into the semi-finals

Raipur, Mar 28: The last quarter final of the Suresh Agrawal Memorial corporate cricket tournament was played today.

The game took place in between teams who came from Sarda Energy and Infinity services. After winning the toss IS captain Md. Israar wisely opted bowling first and the batsman's of Sarda Energy after losing 9




wickets could merely manage to make a very simple

score of 81 runs.

While playing the next innings the batsman's of IS concluded their winning game very fast at the 10th over itself on very minimum loss of 2 wickets, and that's what made them the winners and the qualifiers of the semifinals also. The Game changer of this match a bowler from Infinity services Mr. Javed

Azhar who snatched 5 wickets was awarded the player of the Match trophy.

The second semi-final match of this series shall be played on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 1st match would be in between GPIL Ecopel and Jaiswal Neco and the 2nd match on Wednesday shall be played in between Axis Bank and Infiniti Services.



Dr. DILIP LAKRA

Ph.D. in

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Best Wishes From Family & Friends

Dahria attends annual convention of Ch'garh fishermen society



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 28: Urban Administration, Development and Labour Minister Dr. Shivkumar Dahria attended the annual

convention of Chhattisgarh Dhiwar (Dhimar) Samaj Kotni Pargana in village Seoni Godhi of Arang development block. On this occasion, he dedi-

calated a shed and premises constructed at a cost of Rs. 5 lakh and community toilet constructed at a cost of Rs. 3 lakh 50 thousand to the public. While addressing the program, he said that the people of fishermen community are hard-working. He said that society has an important contribution in fisheries. Dr. Dahria said that under the guidance of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, welfare schemes and programs are being run for all sections in Chhattisgarh, which should be taken advantage of by all. District Panchayat President, Raipur Mrs. Domeswari Verma, Janpad Panchayat, President, Arang, Khillesh Devangan along with Komal Sahu, Purushottam Dhiwar, Leelaram Tarak, Dilip Dhiwar and other officials of Dhiwar Samaj and representatives of Panchayats were present in the program.

Dilip Lakra awarded Ph.D



Raipur: Dilip Lakra, Principal of Holy Cross Senior Secondary School Kapa, Lodhipara Raipur has been awarded Ph.D by Kalinga University Naya Raipur for his research on the topic 'A Study of Grading System and its Influence on Attitude, Teacher's Effectiveness and Academic Achievement at High School Level'. He completed his Ph.D under the supervision of Dr Beena Shukla, Department of Education, Kalinga University Raipur.

RUSH AT REGISTRY OFFICE



With hardly few days left for end of FY, there was huge rush at the registry office here on Monday.

Khadi and handloom fabrics fashion show gets good response

Raipur, Mar 28: Urban and rural women displayed khadi and handloom fabrics in a fashion show organized at Chhattisgarh Haat Complex, Pandri, Raipur. In the fashion show, young men and women and children were seen on the ramp wearing traditional Khadi clothes, women from rural areas were also seen walking on the ramp in Khadi and handloom sarees. Crazy Champs choreographed the fashion show. On this occasion, the Chairman of Khadi and Village Industries Board, Rajendra Tiwari said that Khadi clothing is showing its effect in this era of modernity. Today's fashion



show will definitely be a topic of discussion at the national level, the way this fashion show has got a good response from the audience is commendable. The program started with Shri Ganesh Vandana. The fashion show was conducted in five rounds, in the first round 12 youths and 2 children displayed fashionable clothes of Khadi. In the second

round of tribal fashion showcased khadi garments. Similarly, in the third round, young men and women were seen on the ramp with silk clothes. In the fourth round, 10 boys and girls and 2 children showcased wedding dresses. In the final round, the models of Crazy Champs were seen dancing to the beats of Chhattisgarhi song. On this occasion, Principal Secretary Village Industries Dr. Alok Shukla, Managing Director of Chhattisgarh Khadi and Village Industries Board Mrs. Rekha Shukla along with departmental officers-employees and a large number of visitors enjoyed it.

Dy Director NHM inspects activities in CHCs, PHCs



Under National Health Mission in four block Hq's

Kondagaon, Mar 28: The Dy. Director Chhattisgarh National Health Mission (CNHM) and in-charge Nodal officer of the District Dr Kamlesh Jain conducted inspection of activities under National Health Mission in Kondagaon district during his two-day tour. During

this he inspected all the CHCs, PHCs, Sub-health centres and 'haat bazars' in all the four block headquarters. There he checked about availability of medicines, basic facilities, presence of doctors and held talks with the doctors checking duty roster. Apart from this he also organised virtual meeting with Google meet with all the health officers of the district and held talks about upgradation of health services and motivated all to work with promptness. Taking part on occasion of World TB Day in PHC Kondagaon he asked the health employees to create awareness about TB.

BoB, Raipur region participates in Export Conclave as Associate Partner

Raipur, Mar 28: Bank of Baroda (BoB), Raipur Region participated in the Export Conclave organised on March 26, 2022 at Raipur as Associate Partner. Chief Minister, Bhupesh Baghel was present in this program as the chief guest. The program was inaugurated by Minister of Commerce and Industry, Chhattisgarh, Kawsali Lakhma. The event was organised in association with Federation of Indian Export Organization (set up of FEO/Ministry of Commerce, Government of India) and Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce, Government of India. The theme of the



program was 'Way ahead in doubling the exports from Chhattisgarh'. The objective of this program was to double the imports of Chhattisgarh. In this conclave, Bank of Baroda, Raipur Region was present as Associate Partner. Bank of Baroda is committed to the economic development of the state by participating in various programs organized from time to time. In this conclave, Raipur Regional Head, Satyaranjan Mohapatra, Sub-Regional Head, Abhishek Bharti and other officials were present on behalf of Bank of Baroda, Raipur Region.

Saras Mela to be held from March 29 to April 7

Opportunity for visitors to see and buy products of many states

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 28: Regional Saras Mela is being organized at Pandri Haat, Raipur for the exhibition and sale of products manufactured by women self-help groups formed under Chhattisgarh State Rural Livelihood Mission (BIHAN). Materials manufactured by rural communities of Chhattisgarh

as well as many states will sold and displayed at this ten-day fair from 29th March to 7th April. People will be able to enjoy local delicacies in the food stall of Chhattisgarhi cuisine in the fair. Cultural programs will also be presented in the evening at the venue of the fair which is being organized for the promotion and sale of natural products produced and manufactured by rural women under 'Bihaan'. Visitors will also be able to see exhibition, purchase products, enjoy Chhattisgarhi cuisine and watch cultur-

al evening to be held every day from 11 am to 9 pm. This regional Saras Mela is being organized under the Chhattisgarh State Rural Livelihood Mission - 'Bihaan' scheme, run by the Panchayat and Rural Development Department of the State Government for the prosperity of the villages and creation of employment opportunities. Under 'Bihaan', there will be a system of exhibition-cum-sale of many special organic products manufactured by women self-help groups formed in rural areas of the state.

Products such as silk, khadi, handloom, bellmetal, terracotta, bamboo, wood crafts etc. will be available for sale and exhibition. Chemical free special products like aromatic rice, black rice, spices, oil, rare forest produce based products, honey etc. will be sold in the fair from different districts of the state. Excellent products produced by rural communities from several states including Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan will also be available for exhibition-cum-sale in the regional Saras Mela.

Convocation will be in accordance with the prestige of CU: V-C

Bilaspur, Mar 28: A review meeting was held under the chairmanship of Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal, Vice-Chancellor of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (Central University), to review the preparations for the convocation to be held in the university.

In the meeting held on March 28 in the meeting room of the administrative building, the Convener, Prof. Manish Srivastava, Co-convener, Dean Student Welfare, Controller of Examinations and Deputy Registrar, Examination, Coordinators of various committees and University Engineer attended the



meeting. The ninth convocation will be held in the university on April 20, 2022. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Chakrawal said that the ninth convocation of the university would be in accordance with the prestige, dignity and image of the university. The prepara-

tions of various committees constituted in the university are going on in full swing for this highest function of academic activities, the convocation ceremony. While reviewing the progress of the preparations being done at various levels, the Chairman provided necessary guide-

lines. University is like a family. We have to actively cooperate in every work of the University with the spirit of co-ordination, harmony, cooperation, and discipline. In the meeting, the coordinators of the committees formed for the successful conduct of the event presented the progress report of various activities being carried out by the committees in front of the Vice-Chancellor. Conduct of the meeting and vote of thanks was given by the Convener of the Ninth Convocation Organizing Committee, Prof. Manish Srivastava

Nirankari Sant Samagam from today

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 28: Satguru Mata Sudikshaji Maharaj, the head of Sant Nirankari Mission, is visiting Raipur to spread the message of universal brotherhood.

Sant Samagam has been organized in her holy presence in the open courtyard in front of Indira Gandhi Agriculture University, located in Jora, Raipur. Satsang Programme will be held between 6 pm and 8:30 pm. It is worth mentioning that Satguru Mataji's salvation tour of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh started on March 20, 2022 from Gwalior, which will reach Raipur on 29th March 2022 via Indore, Bhopal, Sagar, Katni, Rewa, Satna, Jabalpur and



belief that while the formless Parabrahma is contained in every particle of the universe, it is also separate from the entire visible world. The entire visible creation is Maya which is changeable. God, through formless, is perceptible and worth knowing. In fact, knowing the formless God is the basic aim of human life. Any sage who wants to do devotion after getting information about the formless God, the great saint can come to the Nirankari Samagam and get this knowledge of Supreme soul. There is no age restriction for the knowledge of this Supreme soul, all mankind can attain it voluntarily, all are equal, all are human because there is only one race of human, that is humanity.



Shri Gujrati School receives 'Best School of the Year Award'

In best sports infrastructure category

Raipur, Mar 28: SRM University has awarded Shri Gujrati School with 'Best School of the Year Award' under best sports infrastructure category. This award was presented at a programme which was attended by SGSS Vice President Kirti Bhai Vyas, Secretary duo Tulsi Bhai Patel, Ashok Bhai

Patel, Joint Secretary Vitthal Bhai Patel and Jayesh Bhai Pithalia and Hitesh Bhai Vyas. The award was presented by Mayor of RMC Ejaz Dhebar and former Mayor Kironmoyee Naik. All the office bearers of Shri Gujrati Shikshan Sangh joined together in congratulating the principals of all the three schools, teachers and other non-teaching staff for their efforts in fetching this award.

Karma Jayanti celebrated with gaiety at Sahu Bhawan

Central Chronicle News

Konta/Sukma, Mar 28: On the occasion of Mother Karma Devi Jayanti, District Sahu Sangh Sukma performed Maha Aarti by worshipping Mother Karma Devi on Monday and Prasad was distributed by offering Khichdi to the mother. District Sahu Union and Municipal President Jagannath Raju Sahu said that Mother Karma had seen Lord Krishna with her devotion and had stayed by the sea for a long time in Jagannathpuri and fed khichdi to Balakrishna in her lap. Karma Devi, who was engaged in wealth, social and religious work, had compassion for the poor and the afflicted. Today, work is being done in various fields for the upliftment of the Sahu society. On this occasion, Vice



President of District Sahu Union, Sevak Ram Gurupanch, Smt. Pramila Sahu, District Secretary Gupteshwar Gangber, City President Tikaram Sahu, Treasurer Dayalu Ram Sahu, Chovaram Sahu, Gautam Sahu, Gulshan Sahu, Gokul Ram Sahu, Jetharram Sahu, Doman Sahu, Shiv Kumar Sahu, Devendra Sahu, Kanhaiya Lal Sahu,

Neemu Sahu, Komal Sahu, Nitesh Sahu, Santram Sahu, Khorbara Sahu, Mrs. Satyabhama Gangber, Mrs. Janaki Sahu, Mrs. Yashoda Sahu, Mrs. Anju Sahu, Mrs. Sunita Sahu, Chaman Sahu, Sushram Sahu, Hundreds of people of Sahu community including Sahu, Rohit Sahu, Devendra Sahu, Mohan Sahu were present.

Apollo Super Specialty Medical Camp held

At NMDC Apollo Hospital Bachel, Project Hospital Kirandul



Central Chronicle News

Bachel, Mar 28: Apollo Super Specialty Medical Camp was organised at NMDC Apollo Hospital in assistance with NMDC management here on Saturday. In his camp, Dr Manoj Kumar Agrawal (cardiologist) from Apollo Hospital Hyderabad; Dr Kartik Pingle (Orthopaedician); Dr PL Abhijit (Gastroenterologist)

examined the patients and gave them necessary consultancy and advice. The NMDC officers and employees, their family members, tribals, denizens of city and villagers from remote areas avail immense benefit of this camp. This medical camp was organised from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm and again from 4:30 pm and to 6:30 pm. After this in the evening

a medical seminar was organised at NMDC's Training Institute and in this all the doctors of NMDC Apollo Hospital, Bachel and Project Hospital, Kirandul were present. In this seminar, Dr MK Agrawal (Cardiologist) from Apollo Hospital Hyderabad highlighted on the reasons for rise in heart-related diseases and also about ways & means

to avoid falling victim of such heart problems. He asked people to exercise regularly and live a balanced and disciplined lifestyle and keep on bringing changes in the diet as per hard work and age. Dr Kartik Pingle (Orthopaedician) from Apollo Hospital Hyderabad gave information ortho related problems among men and

women as per age and Dr PL Abhijit spoke about Liver Cirrhosis, its symptoms and solution. In the end of the seminar, the specialised doctors from Apollo Hospital Hyderabad answered to the question by doctors from NMDC Hospital Bachel and Project Hospital, Kirandul. At the end of the programme, NMDC Apollo Hospital Bachel Chief Medical Administrator expressed gratitude towards the doctors from Apollo Hospital Hyderabad for their services and solving queries of doctors from NMDC Apollo Hospital Bachel. It was on March 25, the doctors from Apollo Hyderabad examined patients at NMDC Project Hospital Kirandul and the employees, tribals and denizens of the region availed its benefit.

SHOBHA YATRA



Kharora: A massive 'Shobha-Yatra' was taken out on the first day of the 'Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapurana Katha-Gyan' held at Purani Bastipara in Kharora on Sunday. In this Pt. Yugal Kishore Maharaj will recite 'Katha' about 'Bhagwat Mahapurana'.

Youth presents innovative idea before collector

Wishes to prepare generator which runs without fuel



Central Chronicle News

Korea, Mar 28: In the 'Collector Janchaupal' among the several applications received, one application drew the attention of collector Kuldeep Sharma, Zilla Panchayat CEO Kunal Dudawat and other district

level officers. In lines with TV show 'Shark Tank', Anil Kumar Rajwade of village Patrapali reached collector's Janchaupal with an innovative idea and asked for permission to prepare a generator model which runs without any fuel. Anil requested collector for fi-

nancial assistance for trial and patent of his model. After listening to Anil's idea, collector and Zilla Panchayat CEO praised his efforts and directed DEO to provide necessary financial arrangements and make available necessary instruments through ITI.

St. Xavier's Bharni organizes Euphoria-2022

Hostel Parents Meet

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Mar 28: St. Xavier's High School, Bharni celebrated the Grand Hostel Parents Meet "Euphoria" along with cultural extravaganza with great zeal and enthusiasm. This programme tends to create a new wave to strengthen and to gratify the bond between parents and school teachers.

The occasion was graced by the Chief Guest Dr Rashmi Singh Thakur, Sansdiya Sachiv, MLA Takhatpur and a galaxy of dignitaries Managing Director Dr GS Patanaik, Director Ms Lekhashree Pattanaik, Assistant Director A Samantaray, CEO Mr Mukesh Saraaf, Principal JS Hundal and Heads of various other

branches of St. Xavier's Chain of schools. As per the tradition, the programme was initiated by the enkindling of the lamp. The Annual Report read by the Principal JS Hundal unfolded the achievements of the students and presented the principal's vision for the progress of the school. This was followed by the honouring and appreciating the achievers with accolades. A parents teacher Talk Show was organized where every parent was made acquainted of their child's progress and behavior. Teachers took the initiative to make the parents aware of how school hostels can make a child self-reliant and disciplined and the benefits of proximity. Before the cultural extravaganza, the Open Sky Gym was inaugurated by



the chief guest, Dr. Rashmi Singh Thakur. The cultural extravaganza commenced with the dance of Divinity and devotional songs ending with a plea to dispel darkness. The impeccable performance by the junior students showcased the transformation of human minds through education. The Indo-western dance performance accompanied with the folk dance mesmerized the audience. A

dance drama featuring the system of gurukul was endorsed by the students. The management lauded the efforts made by the students and staffs. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. GS Patnaik shared his future vision regarding the school. He announced that the school management is very keen to begin coaching facility of NEET, IIT-JEE etc for the hostel students of the school by experienced sub-

ject experts from Kota, Rajasthan. Dr. Rashmi Singh Thakur congratulated the parents and students and also lauded the efforts of the school management and teachers for the steps being taken for the overall growth of the children. The programme was conducted under the mentorship of hostel superintendent Mr. Subash Roy and Administrator Mr. Abhilash Patnaik. Mr. Subendhu Mondal, principal St. Xavier's High School, Mungeli, Ms. Nancy Parekh- Primary Headmistress, Mrs. Reema Sharma Arora-Secondary Headmistress, Mr. MS Patro - ATL Incharge were also present on the occasion. The programme culminated with the sumptuous feast for the students, parents and staff members.

Each and every party worker should contest as Komal Janghel: Nabeen

- BJP starts holding Mandal-level meeting to gear up party workers
- For Khairagarh by-poll

BJP will lay the stone for 2023 VS polls to be held in the state, he added. Further addressing the meeting, LS MP Santosh Pandey said that a common party worker like him doing work seriously has been made as Lok Sabha MP and added that if all the party workers of BJP would work with dedication and commitment then the party would definitely give them chance as well. He said that no government in the country has paid attention towards sensitive an issue that of Kashmir, but it was PM Modi who brought into open the reality before all. He charged that after Congress government came into power in the state, the incidents of rape, corruption and other serious crime are on the upper side and he made an appeal to all the oust the Congress government in the state. On this occasion Leader of Opposition in VS Dharamlax Kaushik, ex-MP Abhishek Singh, OP Choudhary, Sanjay Shrivastava, Pawan Sai, Komal Janghel, Rajesh Munat, Madhusudan Yadav, and other office bearers and workers of BJP were present in large number.

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Mar 28: Prior to start of electioneering for Khairagarh by-poll, the national political parties have started holding Mandal-level meetings to gear up party workers. Addressing the party worker the co-in-charge of Chhattisgarh and Road Construction Minister of Bihar Nitin Nabeen said that each and every party worker has to contest the by-poll becoming Komal Janghel. He said that Bhupesh Baghel of Chhattisgarh is being compared to Lalu's government in Bihar and charged that Bhupesh government is running mafia-raj in its last three year of rule. Corruption is at its peak in Congress government and to put an end to it, one has to bring back BJP rule in the state. He said that the victory of Khairagarh by-poll by

SPS celebrate Kindergarten Graduation Day



Central Chronicle News

Masturi, Mar 28: Kindergarten Graduation Day was celebrated in a dignified atmosphere at Sandipani Public School (SPS) Pendra. Annual Examination (Term-2) result was announced in the teacher-parent meeting in

which the children of class KG 2 were awarded the Bal Graduation Degree. Principal Reader Jitendra Kumar Dash presented the degree to the children in the traditional dress of the convocation ceremony on the lines of the university. After that, while addressing the par-

ents, he said that the purpose of celebrating the results of the school in the form of a festival is to develop interest in studies and examinations in the youth, these children will be the vigilant watchdogs of the nation and society in our coming times. Only these will decide the future direction and condition of the country. Expressing his gratitude to all the parents in his remarks, he said that the function was completed in a grand manner due to the co-operation and activism of you people. Nursing college principal, all the staff and parents of the school including Sankhatir Selvi, class teacher Nisha Banjare were present. Ajay Pandey conducted the above program.

Excellent Hindi Medium School to be named after Swami Karpatri



Central Chronicle News

Kawardha, Mar 28: In a meeting chaired by collector Ramesh Kumar Sharma which was called to open excellent Hindi Medium School in the district, members of school management committee, parents and staff of

Swami Karpatri Government Higher Secondary School was invited to present their views this connection. The meeting attended by DEO Rakesh Pandey clarified doubts that name of great persons associated with the school will not be changed as like it was

kept in case of Raja Narhardeo School Kanker. Collector informed that Excellent Hindi Medium School will be known as Swami Karpatri Excellent Higher Secondary School. For the development of school Rs 2.5 crore has been sanctioned from DMF fund.

'Tribal society is a victim of neglect, state govt completely failed'

Central Chronicle News

Konta, Mar 28: Even after 72 hours of fierce demonstration of tribal society in Sukma district, the administration has not woken up from sleep. What would be a bigger failure of the Congress government in the state than this when, despite minister Kawasi Lakhma and administrative pressure, more than 15,000 tribals of Sukma district even gheraoed the collectorate for 20-point demands. These things have been said by former minister and BJP state spokesperson Kedar Kashyap through a release.

Kedar Kashyap said that this is the first time in the history of Chhattisgarh that tribals from far flung areas broke all the barriers and reached very close to the collector's chamber for their legitimate demands. I had heard of corruption in Sukma district, but the way the tribal society is being neglected, the Congress will have to bear the brunt of it in the entire Bastar division. The neglect of tribal society by Sukma Collector is not a big deal, such an environment has been created in the whole of Chhattisgarh. Kedar said that as information has been received that in many places includ-



Kedar Kashyap

ing Sukma Collector, the list of whom to meet has been issued. This is a living example of the way father and son have terror in Sukma. Senior officers have been ordered by both that they will meet whom

they will not. Earlier too, the collector had refused to meet some of the young colleagues of the opposition due to panic, while all of them wanted to submit a memorandum regarding the problem of the unemployed. Before the approval of any construction work in Sukma district, the commission rate is also fixed at 10 to 15 percent, and this is the reason why Collector and SP are being run through remote from the bungalows of Sukma and Raipur. Many serious and proven allegations have been leveled against DMC

Shyam Sunder Singh Chauhan (Bablu Chauhan) posted in Sukma district by the tribal society. Thousands of tribals have alleged in their memorandum that a teacher has more power than the collector. Despite this, due to the patronage of the local minister, he was not removed. Kedar said that after the BJP government comes to power in the state, strict action would be taken by identifying such people. The government should take all the matters of the tribal society seriously and take action within the time limit so that future resentment can be avoided.

Shrimat Bhagwat Katha from April 2-9

Mudhipar, Mar 28: 'Shrimad Bhagwat week 'Gyan-Yagna' programme will be organised in Gram Marrapar from April 2-9. It was on occasion of 'Hindu Navvarsh' in Garm Garrapar of Khairagarh block, it is under leadership of Toppingh Rajput-Janpad member Khairagarh, the 'Shrimad Bhagwat saptah Gyan Yagna' programme is being organised and in this well-known story teller Acharya Pt. Jhamman Prasad Shastri Maharaj will be present.



BRIEF

Attaching

■ **Srinagar:** Jammu and Kashmir Police said innocent people need not to worry about attaching properties of those giving shelter to militants, saying it has the skill and knowledge to segregate the chaff from grains. Honest and innocent citizens don't have to worry a bit about the implementation of law regarding action against house owners in whose house terrorists come to hide at gunpoint. Law already provides protection to such persons.

Recovers

■ **Ferozpur:** The BSF has recovered heroin weighing eight kilogram near a border out post in Abohar Sector of Punjab, officials said. The estimated cost of the recovered contraband is Rs 40 crore in the international market, they said. BSF troops observed some suspicious movement ahead of border security fencing during the early hours following which they challenged the miscreants. However, intruders fled towards Pakistani territory.

Award

■ **Kochi:** In a boost to the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute's (CMFRI) efforts to popularise its cage fish farming technology, one of the farmers associated with it has won the 'Thozhil Shreshta' award instituted by Kerala's State Labour Department. The award was won by PM Dinil Prasad (28) from Kannur for his excellent performance in the fisheries sector; the institute said. He won Rs one lakh and a certificate for his achievement.

Thrashed

■ **Jabalpur:** A man was tied to a pole by the road in a marketplace in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district and beaten up for allegedly stealing a bicycle. A video of the incident, which took place in Omti police station limits, soon went viral on social media. An inebriated Ashraf Ansari was caught while trying to steal a bicycle by two persons identified as Mohsin Khan and Faizan Khan.

Renamed

■ **New Delhi:** A municipal school in north Delhi has been "renamed" after prominent Kashmiri Pandit leader Tika Lal Taploo, who was gunned down in Srinagar 33 years ago, a senior civic official said. The move comes amid a raging debate on the Kashmiri Pandit's issues triggered by the controversial film 'The Kashmir Files'.

Theft

■ **Mathura:** The Uttar Pradesh special task force and the Farah police in a joint operation here arrested a man carrying a reward of Rs 15,000 and accused of stealing mobile phones, officials said. On a tip off, accused Parvez Ahmad of Laxmi Nagar, Delhi, was arrested when he was proceeding for Rajasthan in a car with a few mobilephones, Special Task Force (STF) Additional SP, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Raj Kumar Mishra said.

Open doors for judicial officials to serve in executive

● **Parliamentary panel tells DoPT**

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

A parliamentary committee has asked the Department of Personnel and Training to shun its assumption and open up possibilities for officials of the legislative and judicial wings to serve the executive wing.

In its report tabled in the parliament recently, the panel said the Union government should restructure and align its personnel requirement in line with its current and future challenges.

In view of increasing role and responsibilities of the Union government, the committee recommends the Department of Personnel



South Block, Delhi.

and Training (DoPT) to make advanced projections and align its human resource architecture so as to meet its future requirements, it said.

While doing so, the department may attempt to increase the number of Union government personnel per lakh population, the panel said, highlighting the finding from a seventh central pay commission report that the total number of federal/Union government personnel per lakh of population in India and the US is 139 and 668, respectively.

The committee is not satisfied with the explanation offered by DoPT that posts manned through central staffing scheme are of specialised executive nature and that it is not appropriate to draw officials from other wings of the government, the report said. The panel said it is of the view that this explanation is basically flawed as it is based on the assumption that officials serving other wings of the Union government lack skills, competency and aptitude required for these posts.

Also, when the officials of the executive wing can man certain posts in the legislative and judicial wings, why the reverse of the same is not possible, asked the panel headed by BJP's Rajya Sabha member Sushil Kumar Modi in its report tabled in parliament on Thursday.

Punjab CM announces doorstep ration delivery scheme

Chandigarh, Mar 28 (PTI):

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday announced the rollout of the doorstep ration delivery scheme, saying the poor will no longer need to stand in queues as good quality ration will be delivered at their doorstep.

However, the scheme will be optional for the eligible beneficiaries, Mann said in a video message.

Mann said the details of this scheme will be made available shortly.

"The AAP government has decided to start the doorstep delivery of ration scheme. Under the scheme, good quality ration items will be delivered at the beneficiaries' doorstep and no one will now need to stand in



Bhagwant Mann

queues or leave his work for this, he said.

"Our officers will make a phone call to the beneficiaries and ration will be delivered at their homes as per their convenience and availability," said Mann. He said this scheme is optional. The Punjab chief minister said if the ration depot is very close to your home, one may fetch the ration from there. Mann said the Arvind Kejriwal government had started

this scheme in Delhi too, "but unfortunately it was stopped. But in Punjab we are going to implement this scheme and we will run it successfully".

At an online briefing on Monday, the Delhi chief minister said once the Punjab government implements the policy of doorstep delivery of ration to people, citizens in other states too will "start demanding" it.

Kejriwal also alleged that the BJP-led central government has been trying to "impede" the implementation of this policy in the national capital.

"Time for this idea (doorstep delivery policy) has come. They won't let it get implemented in Delhi, but it will be implemented in Punjab.

'Limited opposition space in Gujarat, BJP in strong position'

Gandhinagar, Mar 28 (PTI):

Asserting that the BJP is on a strong footing in Gujarat, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity and policies have shrunk the opposition space in the state and in that limited space some may choose the AAP over the Congress in the next assembly polls.

Underlining that the state's finances are in good shape, Patel said in the long run the AAP's culture of freebies is not good for the state and society as well.

Interacting with a select group of journalists, Patel said the BJP is in a strong



Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel addressing a function in Gandhinagar.

position in the state and is continuously engaging with the people.

When asked about the prospects of the AAP in Gujarat Assembly polls, Patel said, "See in democ-

racy every party has the right to contest elections. But please understand that the BJP is functioning consistently with the same intensity, engaging with the people and staying with

them. On the back of Prime Minister Modi's rising popularity and his pro-people policies, the BJP is in a strong position in Gujarat and the opposition space is shrinking so in that space some people might choose the AAP over the Congress, Patel said.

Citing the BJP's performance in local elections, he said this time the party even got a clear majority in the Gandhinagar municipal corporation after a very long time. There is a very good coordination between the government and the organisation, which has ensured effective delivery of all welfare schemes on the ground.

Not just Muslims, other minorities also against UCC: AIMPLB

Lucknow, Mar 28 (PTI):

Close on the heels of the newly-elected BJP government in Uttarakhand initiating action to implement the Uniform Civil Code, All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has said that not only Muslims but other religious minorities, too, have objections to it.

The board's executive committee, during its meet, also discussed the recent hijab controversy in Karnataka and said it will "strongly" contest the case in the Supreme Court, a member said on Monday.

The committee here

SANITISE BEFORE EXAM



Students sanitise their hands and undergo thermal testing before appearing for the first exam of the Karnataka SSLC Board, in Chikmagalur, Monday.



All India Muslim Personal Law Board

pointed out that there exist tribal laws in Mizoram and other places, in addition to different laws within the majority community as well as within religious communities.

"The constitution has already given everyone the right to uphold their culture, customs and tra-

ditions. No custom, tradition or law can be uniformly implemented all over the country constitutionally or on the basis of India's ethos," a senior member of the board, who attended the meeting, told PTI. In the first cabinet meeting of the Pushkar Singh Dhami government, it was decided that the

panel of experts for implementing the UCC be headed by a retired judge of the Supreme Court or high court.

The AIMPLB was set up in 1973 to adopt suitable strategies for the protection and continued applicability of Muslim personal laws in India, especially, the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat).

Most of the Muslim sects are represented in the board and its members include prominent people from a cross section of the Indian Muslim society, such as religious leaders, scholars, lawyers and politicians among other professionals.

Kerala HC asks state Govt about concrete poles intention

Kochi, Mar 28 (PTI):

The Kerala High Court on Monday asked the state government whether the intention behind putting up concrete poles, instead of survey marks as provided under the law, to identify land for the SilverLine rail corridor was to scare people into accepting the project.

The high court also said that entering people's property to lay stones without prior notice or information would "startle" and "terrorise" them and asked whether that was the purpose behind the ongoing survey which has generated "so much controversy and unrest".

"Why should K-Rail insist on a pole of this nature? Are you trying to scare people? Do you give them prior notice before entering their property



Kerala High Court

for a survey? Are you not required to do so? If the officials enter their property suddenly one day without prior information, it will certainly startle people.

"Is the purpose of the survey by K-Rail to startle and terrorise them? People are scared. It is your (government) haste which is causing the problem. You have reached a situation where so much controversy and unrest is going on," Justice Devan Ramachandran said.

The judge further said

that such issues are not being seen during other projects in the country or state, especially in connection with constructing national highways where land on a much larger scale is sought to be acquired. The observations by the court came during hearing of several pleas opposing the ongoing survey process as well as the type of survey stones laid by the K-Rail — a joint venture of the Kerala government and the Railway Ministry for developing railway infrastructure in the southern state.

Mizoram mulls common uniform for Govt schools

Aizawl, Mar 28 (PTI):

The state Human Resources Development Board in Mizoram has proposed a common uniform for all government schools in the north-eastern state.

In a recent meeting presided over by state Education Minister Lachandama Ralte, the board suggested introduction of similar school uniforms for all state-run schools, its vice-chairman L Thangmawia said.

The HRD board would formally submit its proposal to the state education department this week, he said.

The main reason for introducing common school uniforms was to bring 'equality' in the dresses of

the rich and economically weak students in both urban and rural areas, Thangmawia, who is also an MLA, said.

A common school uniform is not a new thing and has already been introduced in some states, and in all English medium schools under the Presbyterian Church of Mizoram, the MLA said.

"The common uniforms, if introduced, will help students to join other state-run institutions without purchasing new sets when their parents are transferred from one place to another," Thangmawia told PTI.

He, however, said that the colour of the school uniforms might differ from the lower level to the

higher level. "The school uniforms used in primary schools may not be similar to the one used in middle, high and higher secondary levels," he said.

Thangmawia further said that the HRD board meeting had agreed to make an appeal to all schools, both government and private, to sing a patriotic and devotional song Aw nang, kan Lal kan Pathian' in school assemblies whenever standard operating procedure permits holding of assemblies in the educational institutions. Aw nang, kan Lal kan Pathian is a famous Mizo devotional and patriotic song composed by renowned Mizo writer and composer Rokunga.

Seamless, transparent and flexible process aim of Govt: Singh

Steel Minister says Strategy needs to be devised to reach target of 300 million tonnes by 2030 and 500 million tonnes by 2047

Ministry of Steel organises National Conference on 'Making India Atmanirbhar in Steel - Role of Secondary Steel Sector'

New Delhi, Mar 28:

Speaking during the inauguration of the conference, Union Minister of Steel, Ram Chandra Prasad Singh mentioned the suggestions from the industry



A day long National Conference on "Making India Atmanirbhar in Steel - Role of Secondary Steel Sector" on 27th March 2022 is being held at the Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

will be considered and seamless, transparent and flexible process is the avowed aim of the Government of India. He said that industry has made great strides in production by moving from 22 million tonnes in 1991 to 120 million tonnes in 2021-

22. Strategy needs to be devised to reach target of 300 million tonnes by 2030 and 500 million tonnes by 2047. The Minister said that increase of Iron ore production and other needed raw materials need proper strategic directions with suitable policy support.

There is an urgent need to move towards green steel and Hon'ble PM has ambitious vision on Hydrogen. Iron and steel industry will be big beneficiary as coal can be replaced by Hydrogen and our dependency on import of coal also will reduce.

The Minister of State for Steel, Fagga Singh Kulaste in his address urged the industry to be vocal about their requirements and put views of the industry forward with the confidence that they will be heard and the Government will work towards establishing an industry - friendly environment in our country. Secondary steel sector is a diverse industry in itself. Ideas generated through the conference will be helpful in setting policy directions for the Government.

BRIEF

Control

London: The British government has relinquished control of the former Royal Bank of Scotland for the first time since it bailed out the lender during the global financial crisis almost 15 years ago. The Treasury said on Monday that it had sold 1.2 billion pounds of shares back to the bank, now known as NatWest Group, cutting the government's stake to 48.1 per cent from 50.6 per cent. Royal Bank of Scotland came to the brink of collapse.

Leave

The Hague: Dutch brewing giant Heineken says it is pulling out of Russia amid Moscow's ongoing war against Ukraine. The company said Monday that its business in Russia is no longer sustainable nor viable in the current environment. As a result, we have decided to leave Russia. It said it is seeking an orderly transfer of our business to a new owner in full compliance with international and local laws. Heineken will continue to pay.

Plunges

Peshawar: At least seven people, including women and children, were killed and 10 others injured when the passenger van they were travelling in lost control and plunged into a deep ditch in Pakistan's mountainous Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Monday, officials said. The passenger coach was going from Mardan district to Kalkot in Upper Dir district (290 km north of provincial capital Peshawar) when the driver failed to negotiate.

Fire

Dubai: A fire broke out Monday at an under-construction new terminal at Kuwait International Airport, authorities said. Firefighters still were trying to control the blaze in Kuwait City, Interior Ministry spokesman Tawheed al-Kandari told The Associated Press. Al-Kandari said a cause for the blaze was not immediately known. It wasn't immediately clear if anyone had been injured. Photos circulated smoke behind the lines of planes.

Blocked

Berlin: Russian authorities have blocked the website of German newspaper Bild, part of their efforts to control the message on Ukraine. Communications and media regulator Roskomnadzor said it blocked Bild's website at prosecutors' request. Instagram and Facebook were already blocked in Russia after Roskomnadzor said they were being used to call for violence. Russian authorities also have shut access to websites.

Rename

Houston: Spiced fuzzy coconut Moscow Mule cocktail, served in a chilly copper mug, has completely vanished from bars across the US, as an attempt to raise awareness and show solidarity against the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Shanghai starts China's biggest COVID-19 lockdown

Beijing, Mar 28 (AP):

China began its most extensive lockdown in two years Monday to conduct mass testing and control a growing outbreak in Shanghai as questions are raised about the economic toll of the nation's 'zero-COVID' strategy.

China's financial capital and largest city with 26 million people, Shanghai had managed its smaller, past outbreaks with limited lockdowns of housing compounds and workplaces where the virus was spreading. But the citywide lockdown that will be conducted in two phases will be China's most extensive since the central city of Wuhan,



Pudong district that is in lockdown, in Shanghai on Monday.

where the virus was first detected in late 2019, first confined its 11 million people to their homes for 76 days in early 2020. Millions more have been kept in lockdown since then. Shanghai's Pudong financial district and nearby areas will be locked down from Monday to Friday as mass testing gets underway, the local government said. In the second phase of the lockdown, the vast downtown area west of the Huangpu River that di-

vides the city will start its own five-day lockdown Friday. Residents will be required to stay home and deliveries will be left at checkpoints to ensure there is no contact with the outside world. Offices and all businesses not considered essential will be closed and public transport suspended.

Already, many communities within Shanghai have been locked down for the past week, with their housing compounds blocked off with blue and yellow plastic barriers and residents required to submit to multiple tests for COVID-19. Shanghai's Disneyland theme park is among the businesses that closed earlier.

Ukrainian welders turn donated vehicles into army transport

Lviv, Mar 28 (AP):

A strawberry-scented air freshener dangled from the Ukrainian military's latest vehicle to head to war.

In a welding shop in Ukraine's western city of Lviv, workers were adding steel plates to a donated pickup truck so a volunteer could drive it to the front.

'Our victory depends on us,' said Ostep Datsenko, a welder who is part of a huge volunteer effort playing a role in Ukraine's resistance, with support from the diaspora. But he hadn't expected to see so much of the war, or its shrapnel, so soon.

He had been standing on the truck hurrying to



Car welder Ostep Datsenko works on a vehicle that will be sent to soldiers on the frontlines, at a welding workshop in Lviv.

finish the job before sunset Saturday when he heard a noise, looked up and saw an object whizzing through the air. 'It was pretty large, but I've never seen rockets before,' he said. 'Then I

heard a huge explosion.' The Russian airstrike hit a factory connected to the military, and the blast sent Datsenko tumbling. Dazed, he hurried into the garage's makeshift bunker in the grease pit.

Jaishankar meets Sri Lankan Finance Minister

Colombo, Mar 28 (PTD):

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday met Sri Lanka's Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa and discussed with him the island nation's economic situation and India's support during its current foreign exchange crisis.

Sri Lanka is facing an acute economic and energy crisis triggered due to the shortage of foreign exchange.

Jaishankar is here to hold bilateral talks with the country's top leadership and attend the seven-nation BIMSTEC summit.

Began the visit by meeting Finance Minister @RealB Rajapaksa. Discussed the economic situation and India's supportive response. We will continue to be guided by Neighbourhood First, he



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar meets Sri Lankan Finance Minister B Rajapaksa in Colombo.

Colombo visit is primarily for the BIMSTEC engagements, officials here said he would be taking part in all important bilateral talks with the Sri Lankan leaders. Besides India and Sri Lanka, the BIMSTEC comprises Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan.

The summit is being hosted by Sri Lanka in its capacity as the chair of

the grouping BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the virtual summit of the BIMSTEC grouping on March 30, which is expected to focus on expanding economic engagement among its member countries. Amidst the current foreign exchange crisis, people are holding protests and vigils urging immediate solutions to rid them of fuel and gas queues and enduring long hours of power cuts. A sudden rise in prices of key commodities and fuel shortage forced tens of thousands of people to queue for hours outside petrol filling stations. People are also facing long hours of power cuts daily.

Taliban ban Afghan women from flying without male relative



Poster at Kabul airport with rules for women.

Kabul, Mar 28 (AFP):

The Taliban have ordered airlines in Afghanistan to stop women from boarding flights unless accompanied by a male relative, aviation officials told AFP.

The latest restriction on women follows

Wednesday's shutdown of all girls' secondary schools just hours after they were allowed to reopen for the first time since the hard-line Islamists seized power in August.

Two officials from Afghanistan's Ariana Afghan airline and Kam Air said that the Taliban

had ordered them to stop boarding women if they were travelling alone.

The decision was taken after a meeting on Thursday between representatives of the Taliban, the two airlines and airport immigration authorities, the officials told AFP, asking not to be named.

Since the Taliban's return to power, many curbs on women's freedoms have been reintroduced — often implemented locally at the whim of regional officials from the Ministry for Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice.

The ministry said it had not issued any directive banning women from taking flights alone.

But a letter issued by a senior official of Ariana Afghan to the airline's staff after the meeting with the Taliban, a copy of

which was obtained by AFP, confirmed the new measure. "No women are allowed to fly on any domestic or international flights without a male relative," the letter said.

Two travel agents AFP contacted also confirmed they had stopped issuing tickets to solo women travellers. "Some women who were travelling without a male relative were not allowed to board a Kam Air flight from Kabul to Islamabad on Friday," a passenger who was on that flight told AFP. An Afghan woman with a US passport was also not allowed to board a flight to Dubai on Friday, another source said. The Taliban have already banned inter-city road trips for women travelling alone, but until now they were free to take flights.

OSCARS BEST PICTURE



(L-R) Eugenio Derbez, Sian Heder, Marlee Matlin, Troy Kotsur, Emilia Jones, Daniel Durant and Amy Forsyth, Oscars winners of the Best Picture award for 'CODA' in Hollywood, California, US.

Will Smith confronts Chris Rock, then wins best actor Oscar

Los Angeles, Mar 28 (AP):

When Will Smith marched onto the Oscars stage and smacked Chris Rock, the unpredictable moment served as a jarring interruption to Hollywood's feel-good celebration.

But once Smith returned moments later to accept his first-ever Academy Award, he delivered a tearful apology for an act sure to overshadow his milestone achievement. He seized the opportunity during awards to speak on being a fierce defender just like his tennis dad character Richard Williams from 'King Richard.'

Smith felt like the protector of many including his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, after Rock made a joke about her appearance that didn't sit right with



US actor Will Smith (R) slaps Chris Rock onstage during the 94th Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, California.

him. 'Richard Williams was a fierce defender of his family,' Smith said as he began his acceptance speech after winning best actor honors. He apologized afterward to many people including tennis stars Venus and Serena Williams, Richard Williams' daughters but did not mention Rock in

his apology. Smith then spoke about being a protector for those who worked with him on the film such as Aunjanue Ellis along with Saniyya Sidney and Demi Singleton, the two actors who played Venus and Serena. 'I'm being called on in my life to love people and

to protect people and to be a river to my people,' said Smith during his acceptance speech after winning his first-ever Oscar. 'I know to do what we do you've got to be able to take abuse. You've got to be able to have people talk crazy about you. In this business, you've got to be able to have people disrespecting you. And you've got to smile and pretend like that's OK.'

The exchange began when Rock took aim at Pinkett Smith's shaved head, saying, 'Jada, I love you. 'G.I. Jane 2,' can't wait to see it, all right?' Rock's reference was made from the 1997 film 'G.I. Jane,' starring Demi Moore, who shaved her head to portray a fictional Navy Seal candidate.

Pinkett Smith revealed in 2018 that she was diagnosed with alopecia.

US, Filipino forces start war drills in region facing Taiwan

Manila, Mar 28 (AP):

Thousands of American and Filipino forces began on Monday one of their largest combat exercises in years that will include live-fire maneuvers, aircraft assaults, urban warfare and beach landings in a showcase of US firepower in the northern Philippines near the sea border with Taiwan.

The annual exercises, called Balikatan Tagalog for shoulder-to-shoulder will run up to April 8 with nearly 9,000 troops, navy, marines, air force and army troops, including 5,100 American military personnel, to strengthen the longtime treaty allies' capabilities and readiness for real-world challenges, US and Philippine military officials said.

China will likely frown on the war drills given their relative proximity to Taiwan, which it claims as Chinese territory, but or-



Philippines and US officers unfurl the "Balikatan" flag during opening of military exercises Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Philippines on Monday.

ganizers said the exercises don't envision any particular country as a target.

The US military and Armed Forces of the Philippines will train together to expand and advance shared tactics, techniques, and procedures that strengthen our response capabilities and readiness for real-world challenges, said Maj. Gen. Jay Barger, the US 3rd

Marine division's commanding general. Our alliance remains a key source of strength and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. First staged in 1991, the Balikatan exercises are anchored on the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty, which commits the United States and the Philippines to come to the aid of the other in case of an attack.

INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
NASC COMPLEX, PUSA, NEW DELHI
(Estate & Maintenance Section)

Expression of Interest

Expression of Interest from registered reputed companies is invited for running the newly constructed auditorium at National Agriculture Science (NASC) Complex, PUSA Campus, Dev Prakash Shashi Marg, New Delhi- 110012, in PPP mode (Revenue Sharing Model).

For details you may visit the ICAR website www.icar.org.in Expression of Interest (Eoi) may be submitted in a sealed envelope giving details of company/agency profile, past experience, financial details, human resource available with the company/agency etc. The envelope may be addressed to The US (E&M) ICAR, and submitted at E & M Section, NASC Complex PUSA Campus, Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, New Delhi-110012 on any working day between 10.00 am to 5.00 pm before 20.04.2022.

**US (E&M),
ICAR, NASC Complex**

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CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 9 No. 355

Ten-minute delivery

The Greater Chennai Traffic Police department recently met with food delivery aggregators Swiggy and Zomato to discuss road safety. Police department had earlier questioned Zomato's 10-minute instant delivery promise citing traffic conditions. Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra had said that food delivery company Zomato's new feature promising delivery of food within 10 minutes is akin to jeopardising the life of delivery persons and people on roads and asked the company to change the quick delivery plans. Congress MP Karti Chidambaram called the 10-minute delivery promise absurd and stressed on the gig economy startups to be regulated. Raising the issue in Parliament, he said that it's going to put undue pressure on the delivery personnel, who are not employees and who have no benefits or security, and have no bargaining power. Swiggy's Instamart does deliver groceries in 10 minutes, it is not yet doing the same for restaurant orders. But there's no doubt that the 10-minute delivery space is heating up in India given apps like Zepto and BlinkIt (formerly Grofers). The unbeatable convenience of rapid deliveries is evident in Europe and the United States, where companies such as Turkey's Getir and Germany's Gorillas are expanding fast, but India's accident-prone roads make quick commerce a dangerous business. Even in cities, most roads are riddled with potholes, while cattle or other animals straying into traffic present a frequent challenge for motorists, who often violate basic rules. Last year, the World Bank said India had a death every four minutes on its roads. Crashes kill about 150,000 people each year. Deliveries by Indian startups are mostly free in a nation with a population of 140 crore potential customers. India had a quick commerce sector worth USD 300 million in 2021, now, it could end up surging to 10 or 15 times that amount by 2025. With free delivery, the business is unlikely to be viable in long term.

The biggest differentiator touted by these startups is the extremely short window they can achieve between placing an order and completing delivery. The entire business model is optimized for speed, resulting in major departures from the operational, fulfilment, and inventory norms. The burden of all of this falls on the already overworked delivery agents who typically have to make a certain number of deliveries in a day to earn the bonus companies offer them. In their attempt to make it within the ambitious promised time, delivery agents often end up taking risks including speeding, taking wrong turns in case it shortens the distance they need to cover or parking illegally. In the process, they not only risk their own lives, but often run afoul of police. Quick commerce is a venture capitalist-backed trend. It found more utility in Europe because the retail infrastructure is poor, but India doesn't have a retail distribution problem, India does not have food deserts in India, so there isn't a need for 10-minute deliveries here. Apart from adding pressure on the delivery agents, the trend, should it continue at its current speed, has the potential of changing the metropolitan retail landscape as customers turn to an increasing number of dark stores for their needs rather than their neighbourhood shops. The convenience of ordering from the smartphone is taking over shopping. The question remains whether one actually needs groceries and food to be delivered within 10 minutes. The delivery agents are not informed of the promised time of delivery. Time optimization does not happen on the road and does not put any lives at risk. Moreover, challenges such as road conditions, traffic, and weather remain critical as the widespread use of 10-minute food delivery looks unsustainable in the long run.

Labour policies

Amid strike called by labour trade unions in India, it is time to introspect on trend of labour policies in political economy. The last four decades of globalization and technological innovation have been a boon for those with the skills, wealth, and connections to take advantage of new markets and opportunities. But ordinary workers have had much less to cheer about. In advanced economies, earnings for those with less education often stagnated despite gains in overall labour productivity. In developing countries, where standard economic theory predicted that workers would be the main beneficiary of the expanding global division of labour, corporations and capital again reaped the biggest gains. Even where democratic governments prevailed, trade liberalization went hand in hand with repression of labour rights. Decline in blue-collar jobs had fuelled an increase in family breakdown, drug abuse, and crime. And a growing empirical literature has linked the rise of authoritarian, right-wing populism in advanced economies to the disappearance of good jobs for ordinary workers. As a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic, labour problems are receiving renewed attention and rightly so. But how can workers not only get their fair share but also have access to decent jobs that enable meaningful lives? One approach is to rely on the enlightened self-interest of large corporations.

Happy, fulfilled workers are more productive, less likely to quit, and more likely to provide good customer service. The trouble is that strong worker rights can also create dualistic labour markets, where the benefits accrue to 'insiders' while many less experienced workers struggle to find jobs. A strategy, which aims to minimize unemployment, is to ensure adequate labour demand through expansionary macroeconomic policies. When fiscal policy keeps aggregate demand high, employers chase workers rather than the other way around and unemployment can remain low. But although tight labour markets can help workers, they can also pose an inflation risk. Moreover, macroeconomic policy cannot target the lowest-skilled workers or the regions where jobs are most needed. Another policy is to shift the structure of demand in economy in order to benefit less educated workers and depressed regions in particular. The shortage of secure, middle-class jobs is closely linked to the disappearance as a result of globalization and technological change of blue-collar manufacturing work and service-sector sales and clerical jobs. Policymakers must focus on expanding the supply of jobs.

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: editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com
The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

ART CARNIVAL



Visitors look at paintings on display at a stall during the annual 'Chitra Santhe' art carnival in Bangalore, Karnataka.

Targeted advertising on social media drives people to extremes

JEANNA MATTHEWS

Have you had the experience of looking at some product online and then seeing ads for it all over your social media feed? Far from coincidence, these instances of eerily accurate advertising provide glimpses into the behind-the-scenes mechanisms that feed an item you search for on Google, "like" on social media or come across while browsing into custom advertising on social media. Those mechanisms are increasingly being used for more nefarious purposes than aggressive advertising. The threat is in how this targeted advertising interacts with today's extremely divisive political landscape. As a social media researcher, I see how people seeking to radicalize others use targeted advertising to readily move people to extreme views. Advertising is clearly powerful. The right ad campaign can help shape or create demand for a new product or rehabilitate the image of an older product or even of an entire company or brand. Political campaigns use similar strategies to push candidates and ideas, and historically countries have used them to wage propaganda wars. Advertising in mass media is powerful, but mass media has a built-in moderating force. When trying to move many people in one direction, mass media can only move them as fast as the middle will tolerate. If it moves too far or too fast, people in the middle may be alienated.

The detailed profiles the social media companies build for each of

their users make advertising even more powerful by enabling advertisers to tailor their messages to individuals. These profiles often include the size and value of your home, what year you bought your car, whether you're expecting a child, and whether you buy a lot of beer. Consequently, social media has a greater ability to expose people to ideas as fast as they individually will accept them. The same mechanisms that can recommend a niche consumer product to just the right person or suggest an addictive substance just when someone is most vulnerable can also suggest an extreme conspiracy theory just when a person is ready to consider it. It is increasingly common for friends and family to find themselves on opposite sides of highly polarized debates about important issues. Many people recognize social media as part of the problem, but how are these powerful customized advertising techniques contributing to the divisive political landscape? One important part of the answer is that people associated with foreign governments, without admitting who they are, take extreme positions in social media posts with the deliberate goal of sparking division and conflict. These extreme posts take advantage of the social media algorithms, which are designed to heighten engagement, meaning they reward content that provokes a response.

Another important part of the answer is that people seeking to radical-

ize others lay out trails of breadcrumbs to more and more extreme positions. These social media radicalization pipelines work much the same way whether recruiting jihadists or US Capitol insurrectionists. You may feel like you're 'doing your own research,' moving from source to source, but you are really following a deliberate radicalization pipeline that's designed to move you toward more and more extreme content at whatever pace you will tolerate. For example, after analyzing over 72 million user comments on over 330,000 videos posted on 349 YouTube channels, researchers found that users consistently migrated from milder to more extreme content. The result of these radicalization pipelines is apparent. Rather than most people having moderate views with fewer people holding extreme views, fewer and fewer people are in the middle. TV remains a potent means of manipulation. But the internet may be an algorithmic, personalized upgrade. Its role in radicalization has now been researched for more than two decades; one study published earlier this month found that YouTube's recommendation algorithm regularly suggests videos with misinformation and hate speech that violate company policies. One study published sought to delve deeper into anecdotal evidence of the internet's role in radicalization; it found that 'beheading' videos were the most sought-after jihadist material online among young people in Belgium, but also the material least predictive for radicalization. The conclusion that it might not be the internet that radicalizes people, as much as general moral disengagement.

Still, pressure has mounted on social media sites to crack down. Facebook recently provided a glimpse of a related effort that asks users if they're concerned someone, they know is becoming an extremist and provides a link to 'get support.' The changing threat has been catalysed

by arguably the two most significant trends in terrorism over the past two decades, the emergence of people acting alone who have been inspired by the ideology of terrorists and the ease of online radicalization. Both trends encourage the increased involvement of young people in extremism: When radicalization occurs in the living room and not places of worship and when acts of terrorism no longer require complex planning, barriers to entry are lowered, allowing even teenagers to take active part. What can you do? First, I recommend a huge dose of scepticism about social media recommendations. Most people have gone to social media looking for something in particular and then found themselves looking up from their phones an hour or more later having little idea how or why they read or watched what they just did. It is designed to be addictive.

I've been trying to chart a more deliberate path to the information I want and actively trying to avoid just clicking on whatever is recommended to me. If I do read or watch what is suggested, I ask myself 'How might this information be in someone else's best interest, not mine?' Second, consider supporting efforts to require social media platforms to offer users a choice of algorithms for recommendations and feed curation, including ones based on simple-to-explain rules. Third, and most important, I recommend investing more time in interacting with friends and family off of social media. If I find myself needing to forward a link to make a point, I treat that as a warning bell that I do not actually understand the issue well enough myself. If so, perhaps I have found myself following a constructed trail toward extreme content rather than consuming materials that are actually helping me better understand the world.

(Jeanna Matthews is Professor of Computer Science at Clarkson University in US.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Undelivered

I would like to draw the attention of the department of Post, Ministry of Communications, Government of India regarding an undelivered speed post item even after 16 days have elapsed, which contained some perishable food items. This has exposed the lackadaisical attitude of India Post towards its customers. The said parcel was sent from just neighbouring states. Such incidents prove the futility of India Post and expose it as an inefficient department compared to the private operators. The higher authorities of India Post may now either shelve this incident or bring to book the erring officials concerned.

Bimal Singh, via email

Cricket format

I with my limited knowledge about cricket, considered a gentlemen's game, know that it is a team game played among the Commonwealth nations. Initially, only one format of the game existed which is known as Test Match which lasts for 5 days with a one rest day in between the match. When Kerry Packer, an Australian millionaire, introduced the white-ball limited-over format of the game, it made the game an instant hit with the spectators and also made the game more exciting and commercially more viable. It was later followed by another instant type of the cricket developed in England, the T20. This slam-bang form of the game further eroded the popularity of the purest form of cricket, i.e., Test Cricket. In the meantime, the ICC, the supreme body of international cricket, made a slew of changes in the Test cricket like abolishing the rest day, two bouncers per over, mandatory 90 overs a day, introduced day-and-night Test cricket, which is played with a pink ball, and also introduced the World Test Championship. Gradually, Test cricket has once again started regaining some of its lost popularity as the matches have become more result-oriented. But there appeared some unhealthy practices, too, with the preparation of the pitches by the host nation to suit favour their team. Apart from the pitches, the weather also played a crucial role in giving the host side an undue advantage. To be fair to the both host and the visiting side, I feel with my limited knowledge that the Test Matches should be played in neutral venues where the pitch and the weather condition will help none. I guess the ICC is working on that module with the introduction of World Test Championship, where the final was played in the neutral venue. I feel if from semi-final onwards the matches could be held in neutral venue, we would get the world's best Test side. At this moment it looks like a bizarre suggestion, but in future some arrangements can certainly be worked out. Any takers?

Ashim, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Waiishwarya@whosthatmiss
Call me old fashioned but when it comes to my to do list, goals, important notes, anything related to planning or creative writing, I prefer a nice diary instead of notepad or any app in phone. It feels personal, more comfortable when you write your thoughts down on paper. Try!

Sameer@joe_sameer
A major feedback for the #IndianMOD from Ukraine - Combined arms, air-ground integration, close combat, precision attack & unmanned systems, cyber/EW & good leadership at all levels - are foundational capabilities for modern hybrid war; conspicuously absent in the Russian forces.



Ramandeep@ramanmann1974
Students from Punjab r leaving for foreign countries in droves, Canada alone is absorbing 100,000 Indians/year; & now Haryana students (specially from the G.T road belt) have joined this trend. In the past week, saw 5 kids leaving India; this brain drain is killing these States!

Arpita@arpita_dg
Guava Collectors of Sundarbans.



Dhruva@d_jaishankar
First, there is a long and ugly tradition implying that certain peoples are incapable of rational, objective thought. This was once used to perpetuate colonization. But it lives on today in the idea that certain countries cannot define or act on their rational self-interests.



Prasanna@prasannavishy
Economic crisis in Sri Lanka must be a humbling experience for 'Kerala Model' proponents. Striking similarity. No manufacturing, no high-end services, tourism-led, importing even essential food items, huge debt, remittance dependency. 'HDI' indices means zilch without foundation.

Vinay@vinaygb
A student who gave all of her 6 attempts but couldn't crack IAS - who's going through difficult phase - asked me how did I cope with failure and bounce back. I told her that I too went through the pain, but I kept thinking big. Thinking big even when beaten & fallen was the secret.

BRIEF

Sales



New Delhi: Automobili Lamborghini on Monday said it has crossed the 400 cumulative sales mark in India since initiating full-scale operations in 2007. Lamborghini India's Shradh Agarwal said we experience with this milestone achievement along with our customers.

Dividend

New Delhi: EKI Energy Services board on Monday approved an interim dividend of two hundred per cent or Rs 20 per equity share of the face value of Rs 10 each for fiscal 2021-22. The board in its meeting held on March 28, 2022, has recommended an interim dividend of Rs 20 (i.e., 200 per cent) per equity share of the face value of Rs 10 for the financial year 2021-2022, a BSE filing said.

Invest



New Delhi: UAE-based retail major Lulu group on Monday announced an investment of Rs 3,500 crore in Tamil Nadu to set up shopping malls, hypermarkets and a food-logistic park. ED Ashraf Ali MA said a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed.

IPO

New Delhi: Travel service provider Yatra Online Ltd on Monday said it has filed a draft prospectus with markets regulator Sebi for its initial public offering that includes a fresh issue of shares aggregating up to Rs 750 crore. Yatra also announced the appointments of Rohit Bhasin, Deepa Misra Harris and former bureaucrat Ajay Narayan Jha as non-executive independent directors.

Subsidiary



New Delhi: Byju's and Qatar Investment Authority have partnered to launch a new edtech business and research and development centre in Doha. Byju's CEO Byju Raveendran said it is next phase of expansion, development and building innovations in learning.

Housing prices may go up 10-15% on rise in construction cost

Mumbai, Mar 28 (PTI):

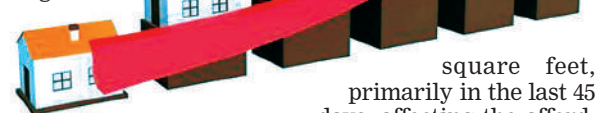
Realtors' body CREDAI on Monday said the cost of construction has gone up by 20-25 per cent, mainly during the last 45 days, due to steep rise in prices of raw materials like steel, and builders will be forced to increase property prices from next month by an average 10-15 per cent.

CREDAI-MCHI, the Maharashtra chapter of CREDAI, demanded that the central as well as state governments consider giving relief to the industry by reducing stamp duty and GST rates, besides allowing input tax credit (ITC) to developers.

The association said it would not advise member developers to stop construction works as of now, but if the price rise continues then builders

would have no option but to halt works at project sites and defer purchase of raw materials.

Recently, CREDAI-NCR had issued a statement that it was considering stopping construction works and also halt purchase of raw materials. "Steel prices have gone up from Rs 35-40 per kg to Rs 85-90 per kg.



Cement prices have gone up by around Rs 100 per bag. Fuel and transportation costs have gone up. This has resulted in an increase of 20-25 per cent in the overall construction cost," CREDAI-MCHI President Deepak Goradia told reporters in

a press conference. Association's secretary Dhaval Ajmera said the construction cost has gone up by Rs 400-500 per

square feet, primarily in the last 45 days, affecting the affordable housing segment the most. He demanded that the Maharashtra government consider reducing the stamp duty from 5-6 per cent to 3 per cent to mitigate the impact of sharp rise in raw material prices, which have gone up due to the geo-

political situation. Ajmera also sought reduction in the GST rate of 18 per cent on raw materials like cement. He demanded ban on exports of cement and steel for a short period. He said the developers should be allowed to claim ITC.

Stating that developers are operating on very small margin or no margin, Ajmera said developers would be forced to hike prices of their apartments from next month onwards. The price rise could happen by an average 10-15 per cent, he added. "Some of the measures that are currently being considered include raising the prices of the unsold inventory which has not been delivered, by 10-15 per cent to cover the rising input costs.

Adani Group accelerates enterprise-wide digital transformation strategy with Google Cloud

Organizations team up to modernize Adani's IT operations for future scale and drive group-wide innovation

Ahmedabad, Mar 28:

The Adani Group today announced a multi-year, cloud-first partnership with Google Cloud to power the next phase of innovation across India's fastest-growing diversified business portfolio.

Specifically, the strategic collaboration will tap each organization's expertise across best-in-class infrastructure, technology, and industry solutions to modernize the Adani Group's IT operations at scale.

"The inevitability and pace of cloud adoption mandates that every business redefine its business model. This provides new challenges and new oppor-

tunities that will not only be transformational but will also require new forms of industry collaboration. said Mr. Gautam Adani, Chairman, Adani Group. "We are pleased to work with Google Cloud across its multidimensional offerings to help us build a technology-driven organization which potentially opens up new business areas for us.

The first phase of the partnership is well underway, with the Adani Group making swift progress migrating its extensive IT footprint from its existing on-premises data center and colocation facilities to Google Cloud.

Moving Adani's 250+ business-critical applica-

tions, such as its SAP HANA core, and peripheral systems to Google Cloud's secure, reliable and high-speed cloud infrastructure will centralize workflows, streamline operations, and enable business users to tap powerful new data capabilities for fast and accurate decision making.

"The Adani Group is paving the way towards a cloud-first future, and we're thrilled to partner with the company on landmark projects that will support its innovation and future growth. Adani's SAP migration is one of the fastest we've seen at scale and is already delivering significant value across its business.

NMDC Director (Finance) Amitava Mukherjee honoured

At the FE CFO Awards 2022

Hyderabad, Mar 28: The Director (Finance) of the largest iron ore producer of India, Amitava Mukherjee, was awarded the 'FE CFO of the Year Award' by Financial Express for the year 2022 in the Large Industry - Manufacturing Category, at the recently held FE CFO Awards 2022. NMDC was the only Public Sector Enterprise awarded this year with this prestigious honour. Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Piyush Goyal was the Chief Guest for the event. He congratulated the brightest Chief Financial Officers of India for their exceptional con-

tribution in building the financial strength of their companies and the national economy. On this occasion, Amitava Mukherjee said, "Continued focus on enhancing efficiency, productivity, and safety has built an iron-strong financial management system for NMDC over the years. Undaunted by the headwinds of Covid-19, we registered a record financial performance in 2021. Going forward, our capex outlay and funding ambitious projects is in line with the Government of India's Economic strategy of enhanced investment and infrastructure development to provide growth and accomplish the vision of #Atmanirbharbharat."

Lamborghini crosses 400 cumulative sales mark



New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

Italian luxury sports car maker Automobili Lamborghini on Monday said it has crossed the 400 cumulative sales mark in India since initiating full-scale operations in 2007. "We are pleased to announce the achievement of 400 Lamborghini in

India and mark the Lamborghini Day experience with this milestone achievement along with our customers who have supported us in this journey," Head of Lamborghini India Shradh Agarwal said in a statement. The company offers unique platforms where existing and

prospective customers can experience the values that define the Lamborghini brand in India, he added. To mark the sales milestone and showcase its leadership position in the super-luxury car segment, Lamborghini India curated its third edition of 'Lamborghini Day' in Goa.

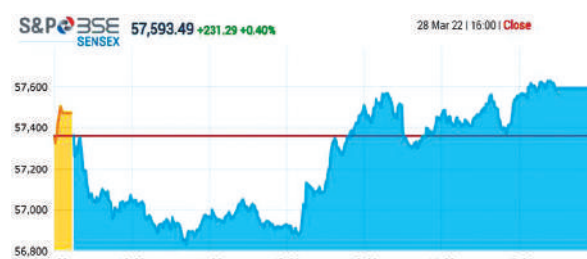
Sensex rebounds 231 pts, Nifty recovers 69 pts

Mumbai, Mar 28 (PTI):

Equity benchmark Sensex pared its early losses to close higher by 231 points on Monday, helped by buying in index heavy-weight Reliance Industries and ICICI Bank amid positive global trends.

After falling 537.11 points to a low of 56,825.09 in morning trade, the 30-share BSE barometer saw a recovery in afternoon trade and climbed 231.29 points or 0.40 per cent to settle at 57,593.49. As many as 20 Sensex stocks closed with gains while 10 declined.

The broader NSE Nifty recovered 69 points or 0.40 per cent to settle at 17,222 with 29 of its constituents ending in green. From the 30-share pack, Bharti Airtel, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, ITC, State Bank of India, Indusind



Bank, Power Grid, Bajaj Finserv, Hindustan Unilever and Reliance Industries were among the leading gainers.

On the other hand, Nestle India, HDFC, HCL Technologies, Dr Reddy's, Asian Paints, Wipro, Larsen & Toubro, Tech Mahindra were among the laggards.

"Benchmark indices reversed early morning losses on positive global cues," according to S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP securities.

The government's total liabilities rose to Rs 128.41 lakh crore in December quarter from Rs 125.71 lakh crore in the three months ended September 2021, according to the latest public debt management report. The increase reflects a quarter-on-quarter increase of 2.15 per cent in October-December 2021-22. In absolute terms, the total liabilities, including liabilities under the 'Public Account' of the government, jumped to Rs 1,28,41,996 crore at the end of December 2021. As of September 30, the total liabilities stood at Rs 1,25,71,747 crore. The report released by the finance ministry on

Rupee rises 8 paise to 76.16 against USD, bullion falls

Mumbai, Mar 28 (PTI):

The rupee appreciated 8 paise to 76.16 against the US dollar on Monday, supported by positive domestic equities and a fall in global crude oil prices.

However, a strengthening American currency overseas and concerns over renewed foreign capital outflows capped the gains in the domestic unit, forex traders said.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened weak at 76.36 but entered positive territory later in the session. It witnessed an intra-day high of 76.15 and a low of 76.38.

The rupee traded at 76.16 at 15:30 hrs, registering a rise of 8 paise over its previous close. In the previous session, the rupee had settled at 76.24 against the US dollar.

Coal prices may stay elevated throughout FY23: ICRA

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

The price of imported coal is poised to rise by 45-55 per cent in the first quarter of FY23 as markets face supply disruption following the Russia-Ukraine conflict and it would severely impact domestic users of imported dry fuel, ICRA said on Monday.

Russia remains a key supplier of coal in the seaborne market, accounting for 17 and 10 per cent of the international trade in thermal coal and coking coal respectively, as per ICRA's latest report on coal sector.

"Prices of imported coal are poised to spike by 45-55 per cent Q-o-Q in Q1 FY2023 as markets face supply disruption following the Russia-Ukraine conflict. As per

latest ICRA note on the coal sector, this will severely impact domestic users of imported coal since, notwithstanding some moderation from the all-time highs of March 2022, coal prices are expected to stay elevated throughout FY2023," it said.

With SWIFT sanctions imposed on some Russian banks and concerns over counterparty credit risks, buyers are unable to trade with Russian coal suppliers.

Moreover, a growing number of western power utilities are also looking to voluntarily place an embargo on Russian coal supplies, which is leading to disruptions in the normal coal trade flows. "Notwithstanding elevated prices, supplies from

non-Russian sources are unlikely to fully compensate for the shortages in Russian supplies as miners have limited spare capacity to ramp up production. As coal supplies remained tight, domestic spot e-auction premiums for auctions conducted by Coal India Limited reached all-time highs, climbing sharply to 270 per cent in February 2022 as against 30 per cent in February 2021.

"Our channel checks suggest that domestic e-auction premiums reportedly increased further to 300 per cent in March 2022. Within the regulated sector, imported coal-based and merchant power stations, which lack a long-term coal linkage, will absorb the maximum impact of this price rally.

India not considering buying Russian oil in rupee: Rameswar

New Delhi, Mar 28:



India has no plans to pay in rupees for the Russian oil its public sector companies buy, Parliament was informed on Monday.

India buys less than one per cent of its total oil imports from Russia. But western sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine have given way to talk of a rupee trade for the oil and gas purchases. "At present, oil public sector undertakings neither have any contract nor is any such proposal under consideration from Russia or any other country for the purchase of crude oil in Indian rupees," Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Rameswar Teli said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

of Ukraine have prompted many companies and countries to shun its oil. This has led to Russian crude being available in the market at deep discounts. To capture the opportunity, Indian refiners are floating tenders to buy such discounted oil. The tenders are mostly won by traders, who would have stocked inventories of the cheap Russian oil. Since 2020, IOC has had a term or fixed volume deal to buy crude oil from Russia's Rosneft. But, it rarely imported volumes under the term deal as the cost of transporting the oil from Russia made it uneconomical. But, discounts of USD 20-25 per barrel have turned the tide in favour of Russian crude and Indian refiners are lapping it up, sources said.

ITC Savlon launches Powder Handwash

New Delhi, Mar 28: The awareness of hand hygiene and its critical role in public health is now a well-established discourse globally. But as the fear of the pandemic gradually wanes, affordability may cause consumers to revert to washing hands with just water.

ITC Savlon is known for redefining norms and has demonstrated innovative design-thinking approach in responding to consumer needs. In its efforts to address the problem of access, and to make hand hygiene affordable at the last mile, Savlon announces the launch of the new Savlon Powder Handwash. Priced at just Rs 10/-, one Savlon Powder Handwash sachet makes 200ml liquid handwash that provides more than 120 washes.

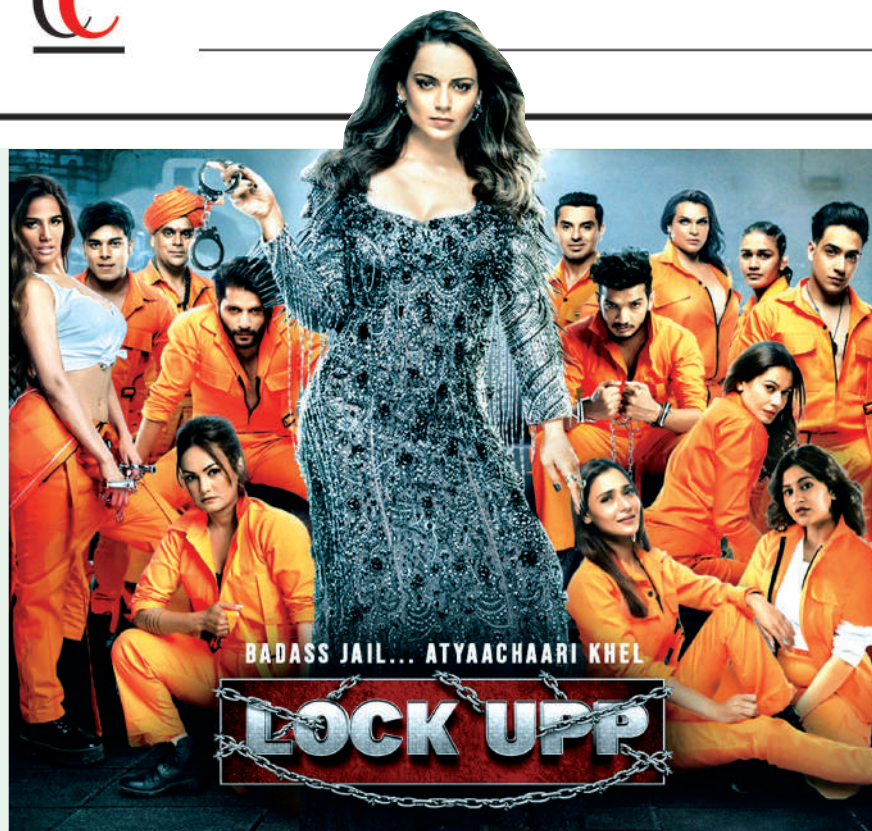
Pure Flour from Europe celebrates World Flour Day

Mumbai, Mar 28:

Flour is the base of our human history of civilization. Flour that wonderful produce which converts into so many varieties of food, each unique in a very signature-stamp way to the culture it belongs to. The same flour can evoke so many different emotions. For some it could be survival, a basic staple diet every single day without any fanfare. For others, it could be rustling up an elaborate menu tantalizing all the olfactory senses and playing attention to every single detail of the dish and its presentation. Flour is that plant source that entices man towards hope and aspiration, in equally strong measure. March

20th, World Flour Day, acknowledges the importance and impact of flour. Every single day, billions of people around the globe consume flour in one form or the other. Just think about bread, biscuits, cakes, pasta, pizza, rotis, naan, rolls, patties, croissant, pies, and so many other variations. And World Flour Day marks our respect towards the seeds, the harvest and the amazing array of delicacies that are possible only due to the existence of flour. The EU flour milling industry has been consistently producing highest quality of flours and boasts a low use of natural resources, the use of biomass for sustainable energy production, the reduc-

tion of emissions, the productive use of by-products and zero product losses. Today's European milling industry combines traditional skills with advanced modern technology. Approximately 47 million tons of rye and soft wheat are processed each year, with more than 3,800 companies employing 45,000 people. The EU flour milling sector is the single largest consumer of domestic wheat, rye, and oat, resulting in 600 various types of flour, which meet the high standards and unique demands of consumers. The flour products from the EU have won a well-deserved reputation worldwide because of their quality and safety assurance.



BADASS JAIL... ATYAACHAARI KHEL
LOCK UPP

block made 57 coins at the end of the shram, whereas the right block were able to make 33 coins.

Team selection task takes place for Zeeshan & Vinit. To select a particular team, they are both asked to nominate one contestant who will be eliminated immediately from the house. Both coincidentally write Kaaranvir's name in the card.

The guards then inform all of the kaidis about the secret ploy that had taken place in the Benakabi zone, revealing that Zeeshan had picked the right block and Vinit had chosen the left block. They also reveal that each of the kaidis

Shreyas Talpade on returning to cricket with 'Kaun Pravin Tambe?' after 'Iqbal'

Seventeen years after his runaway success 'Iqbal', Shreyas Talpade is gearing up for yet another cricket film, this time a biopic titled 'Kaun Pravin Tambe?' based on the life of former spinner Pravin Tambe.

Pravin happens to be the oldest ever IPL debutant having made his foray into the league at the age of 41. In a recent conversation with IANS, the actor spoke about the biopic, what he has learnt from the cricketer and working again on a cricket drama after almost two decades.

For him, working on the film brought a lot of perspective as he got to know "How a person's journey of twenty years can be shown in just a two hour long film."

Ask him about Pravin's one quality that he would like to imbibe and make a part of your social conduct, and pat comes the response, "His focus towards his work, dream or cricket. This is something which has usually inspired me as well not only when I was being a part of the film but even when I heard the story. When it comes to cricket he has a single minded



focus and that is something which I will try to add in my life."

He plays a bowler in both 'Iqbal' and 'Kaun Pravin Tambe?' Although, the techniques of a pacer and a spin bowler are vastly differ-

ent but the creative memory lives on for any artist. On being asked as to how did he maneuver his way around this memory, he says, "Iqbal' was a fictional film where the character is trying to play for the

Indian team and there was a lot of bowling involved in 'Iqbal'."

What helped him was his involvement with the sport in real life as well.

He adds, "Moreover, I have played cricket in real life as well. However, during this film we need to know that it is his journey and cricket is just a part of it and the focus was more on the journey of the sports person so there was bigger responsibility as it was a true story."

Bowling in a way was incidental as he was a medium pacer in his younger times and a spinner in the age where he made name for himself." He continues, "For this film, we had to show a story which happened in real life and even though we can take a few cinematic liberties, we decided to stay true to the essence of the story as there are certain things which are to be portrayed the way they have been in real life."

After doing another cricket film after 'Iqbal' there are going to be certain comparisons but I believe that people will love me in this role as well", he concludes.

Everyone left teary eyed as Kaaranvir gets evicted

Synopsis Day 29 :We witness a new fight emerging in the Lock Upp house with a new week. Anjali Arora, Ali Mechant and Poonam Pandey had a massive battle in the morning as Anjali had borrowed Poonam's hairdryer from her when she went to take a shower. Azma hides Poonam's hairdryer into Mandana's t-shirt and thus begins a fight in the house. Anjali and Poonam do not find the hairdryer and hence they

announce they will inspect everyone's bag. "I don't know where these folks come from, such cheap individuals," After getting out of the shower, Mandana realised Azma had hidden the hairdryer in her towel, saying, "whatever you're hoping to get out of it, you won't get it." Later in the day, we see the Sharirik Shram happening; The shram was to make currency coins out of the basic materials provided and then paint them. While gather-

ing for the raw materials for the second time, Shivam and Zeeshan got into a verbal and physical spat over the raw materials. The fight continued, with Zeeshan involving Shivam's family into it and abusing Shivam. Finally, the situation gets out of hand; Zeeshan, Ali, Munawar, Anjali, Mandana, and others dragged and pushed each other. By the end of the shram, both blocks were engaged in a physical and verbal brawl. The left

had the option of removing one contestant from the charge sheet. Everyone was taken aback when they learn that Kaaranvir had been eliminated. On learning this, everyone in the left block were seen teary eyed. Shivam Sharma had an emotional breakdown.

To know more about the major twists and turns happening in the house, Watch Lock Upp only on ALTBalaji and MX Player at 10:30pm

Sayli Kamble dons the role of a Captain

Following the overwhelming success of Superstar Singer season 1, Sony Entertainment Television is all set to bring another vibrant season of its homegrown kids based singing reality show - Superstar Singer. Celebrating singing ka kal, Superstar Singer 2 will showcase some extraordinary little wonders from across the country with a unique sense of musical expression, dedication and passion. Grooming and mentoring these young singing talent will be a well appointed panel of Captains. Joining Arunita Kanjilal and Pawandeep as the captain of Superstar Singer 2 will be Indian Idol Season 12's finalist and popularly known as Bharat ki Beti - Sayli Kamble. Known for her sweet and melodious voice, Sayli is someone who has seen an upward trajectory throughout the season of Indian Idol and now is all geared up to use her learning, experience and knowledge to train the young brilliant voices from across the country.

Elated to be the captain, Sayli said, "Singing is my identity Indian Idol was a starting point of my career and I owe it to the show and Sony Entertainment Television, as they have been an important pillar for my growth. I am really thankful to them for believing in me and giving me a fantastic opportunity to be the captain of one of the most prestigious singing talent show for kids."

Tune In to watch, Superstar Singer Season 2 airing at 8.00 PM from 23rd April 2022 only on Sony Entertainment Television!

Swara Bhasker opens up on meeting 'dynamic talent' like Priyanka Chopra, Lilly Singh at pre-Oscars event



Swara Bhasker was one of the many desi actors who attended the pre-Oscars event a few days. While the glamorous ceremony is all set to take place in a few hours, the run-up to the Oscars saw several galas being held by the Academy. One such gala was to celebrate South Asian excellence. Hosted by actors like Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Mindy Kaling, and Kumail Nanjiani, among others, the event saw this year's several nominees in attendance. Swara Bhasker also attended the gala and opened up on meeting 'dynamic talent' like Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Lilly Singh, Kal Penn and Poorna Jagannathan among many others. Recalling the gala, Swara revealed, "It was a lovely, vibrant, warm evening with very dynamic talent in the room. There were lots of really interesting, creative, talented people. It was really nice to be there and to see our own people excelling in Hollywood, and, you know, celebrating each other. The nicest thing about it was the sense of fraternity, sense of camaraderie and the sense of unity and identity as something that can be also enabling and empowering for each other." When asked if she is keen on exploring Hollywood, Swara quipped, "Well, never say never." Swara added, "The world is so global now, and because of streaming platforms and social media, you don't have to be confined to the boundaries of your country. We tell stories, which are universal and have the power to cross boundaries. This year, India's Writing with Fire is in the race to win an Oscar, which shows how the very Indian story resonated internationally. It is great that Indian talent and South Asian stories are being appreciated in the West."

Vijay Deverakonda announces next film with Puri Jagannadh

'Arjun Reddy' actor Vijay Deverakonda announces his next with 'Pokiri' director Puri Jagannadh. As the duo awaits the release of their first movie 'Liger' together, they have decided to collaborate for another time.

Releasing an interesting poster, the 'Pelli Choopulu' actor announced his next with Puri Jagannadh. In the poster released by Vijay, the latitude and longitude values are inscribed. The values which led to Mumbai when googled.

The makers have also mentioned that, more details about the crazy project will be unveiled at 02:20 p.m. on Monday.

As of now, the makers of Vijay Deverakonda-Puri Jagannadh's movie have kept the details under the wraps.

On the other hand, the duo's 'Liger' is currently in the post-production phase and will be released soon. Vijay Deverakonda has essayed a titular role as a MMA fighter in this upcoming movie.



HOROSCOPE TUESDAY MARCH 29

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

You may find your schedules running haywire today! Your workload may be daunting, especially if you're an administrator. However, Ganesha says your diligence and commitment will tide you through. And you are still ready to party in the evening. What energy!

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Your business associates will marvel at your business acumen, and will respect the insights you provide for them to work with. Meanwhile, you will be busy spending quality time with your family and showing them how much they mean to you today, says Ganesha.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today, you want to do something for the environment. Ganesha says plant a tree, clean up your neighbourhood, ask for a paper bag. You wish to lead the world into a better place? Do it by all means, but one step at a time.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

Nostalgia will paint your workplace a bright energetic red today, says Ganesha. All the problems that life throws at you will be deflected by your tough exterior and efficient capabilities. Medals and trophies beckon as you taste success and emerge a winner.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21

You will tend to be religiously inclined today, feels Ganesha. For this purpose, you may spend some time visiting a temple, mosque or church. You are also likely to go shopping, and chances are that this too is for a religious purpose. May God bless you, says Ganesha.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

Ganesha predicts an excellent and exceptional day for you at work. You are likely to need all your business acumen while negotiating deals. Your leadership skills are likely to come to the fore during the final stage of a deadline, be it about completing an order or launching new products and marketing them, says Ganesha.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

Today may not be the best time to mess with you, considering the aura of invincibility that you possess. Be it a game, a competition, or an argument, you will have the edge over others in every sphere, says Ganesha. Also, you may come across people with whom you will have personal differences, and those who will try to change your fortunes.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

Ganesha feels that today may be an important turning point in your life. You will look to secure the money much required for your bright future. Relationship matters will top your priorities during the afternoon today. You may also feel the need for spirituality, so try your hand at meditation and yoga.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

Developments over the past few days could have you feeling very excited and particularly optimistic about your love life, Libra. Communications with your beloved could take the form of romantic songs or poetry. If you want to give your friend a gift, by all means do, but confine it to something nonthreatening like a book.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

You are likely to get overboard with your ambitions and be loud-mouthed, says Ganesha. But do not be too forceful or severe lest you end up tarnishing your image. It is best to stay clear of conflicts in the larger scheme of things, advises Ganesha.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 31

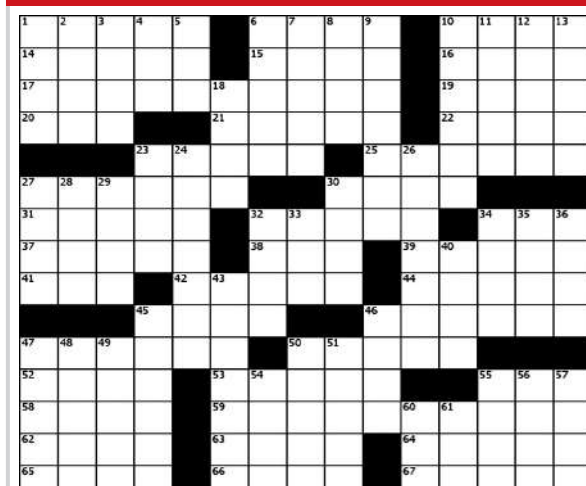
A day full of cheer and joy is in store. You will probably enrol in a part-time course and sharpen your skills. But for those in police and legal professions, you will be the lions of the jungle! Roar and stamp your authority, says Ganesha.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

Plans for expanding business may require you to take risks, leaving you in a dilemma on more than one occasion. In such desperate circumstances, following your instincts can lead you to success, advises Ganesha.

CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

- Bushy fence
- Breathe heavily
- Pant
- Farm units
- Divorced solo
- Govern
- Sneaker lace
- Rework proofs
- Bunny's motion
- Bowler's button
- Staff member
- Mushroom "seed"
- Spring holiday
- Early car (2 wds.)
- Possess
- Concur
- Texas shrine
- Staff
- Andes animal
- Perfect gymnastics score
- Desist
- Lower limb

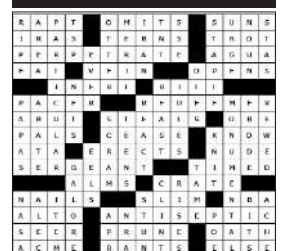
- Endured
- Eve's fruit
- Seed
- Reporter's boss
- Exert excessively
- Great destruction
- Heap
- Chicago's airport
- Alias abbr.
- Was a passenger
- Certain fortune teller (2 wds.)
- A Baldwin
- She, in Nice
- Dickens title beginning (2 wds.)
- Jack rabbit
- Wind instrument
- Florida City

DOWN

- Corned beef dish
- Yodeler's feedback
- Fall
- Golly!
- 19th letter
- Peeler
- Get up
- IX
- Wrestling duo (2 wds.)
- Lubricate
- Check accounts
- Glide
- Anchorman _____ Jennings
- Jogging gait
- Look
- Gratified
- Guacamole ingredient

- Shopper's paradise
- Eye suggestively
- Pull behind
- Farm worker
- Energy source
- Zodiac sign
- Enthralled
- Norwegian port
- Antlered animal
- Long story
- State police officer
- Athens' country
- For all time
- Actress _____ Winfrey
- String instrument
- Senior
- Oscar winner _____ Berry
- Carrying weapons
- Robust
- Genesis man
- Seaweed
- Zone
- Dine
- One _____ time (2 wds.)

SOLUTION 252



Bopanna-Shapovalov pair enters Miami Open quarterfinals



Miami (US): India's Rohan Bopanna and his Canadian partner Denis Shapovalov stunned top seeded Croatian pair of Nikola Pietrangeli and Mate Pavic in straight sets to enter men's doubles quarterfinals at the Miami Open tennis tournament here. The unseeded Indo-Canadian pair surprised Pietrangeli and Pavic 6-3 7-6(3) in a second round doubles match on Sunday. Bopanna and Shapovalov will now face the sixth seeded pair of Wesley Koolhof of Netherlands and Great Britain's Neal Skupski for a place in the semifinals. Koolhof and Skupski defeated Spanish-Italian combination of Pedro Martinez and Lorenzo Sonego 6-3 7-6(8) in the second round. Bopanna and Shapovalov earlier registered a fighting 6-7(5) 6-2 10-3 win over Marceloa Avrevalo of El Salvador and Jean-Julien Rojer of Netherlands in the opening round of the ATP Masters 1000 event.

No Deepika in Asian Games squad for first time since 2010

Sonapat: World number two Deepika Kumari has failed to make the Indian squad for the upcoming Asian Games, suffering one of the biggest setbacks in her illustrious career. Deepika lost two of her three round robin matches in the final leg to miss her Asian Games berth at the SAI centre here on Sunday. Deepika had finished a lowly fifth in the two-phase eliminations on Saturday to determine the top-eight, as she had to fight in the round robin matches. This is for the first time since winning a gold medal at the New Delhi Commonwealth Games 2010, Deepika will be out of a multi-discipline showpiece event. The 27-year-old has represented India at the Asian Games in 2010, 2014 and 2018, winning a team bronze in Guangzhou 12 years ago.

'We would be more than interested to own a team in Women's IPL'



New Delhi: Punjab Kings would be "more than interested" if they are offered to own a team in the proposed Women's IPL next year, their co-owner Ness Wadia said on Monday. In an IPL Governing Council meeting last week, a five to six team Women's IPL was proposed for next year with the existing franchises getting first preference to be part of the competition. "We would be more than interested in that (Women's IPL). IPL for women is long overdue and it would be very special when it happens. Women's cricket has really developed over the years," Wadia told PTI. "The World Cup is going on right now and there is so much interest for the women's game. It was heartbreaking to see our team lose yesterday." Asked about the base price for owning a women's team, Wadia said: "That is for the BCCI to decide but I can tell you if we are asked to own a team we would be more than interested. I feel the league would be sustainable as well." "I would be surprised if it doesn't double at least. Upwards of 35000 crore for sure," said Wadia.

Indian women's football team to play two international friendly matches

New Delhi: The Indian women's team will play two international friendly matches — against Egypt and Jordan — in April, the All India Football Federation said on Monday. The matches will be played in Jordan on April 5 (against Egypt) and 8 (against Jordan). "The senior women's national team will be playing Egypt and Jordan in two friendly matches, both of which are to be played in Jordan from April 5-8, 2022," the AIFF said in a release. "The Blue Tigresses will thereafter, be joining their respective clubs for the upcoming Hero IWL season." The training camp of the 30-member Indian squad under head coach Thomas Dennerby began in Goa on Monday. The team will leave for Jordan on Saturday. Dennerby was with the national U-18 team which won the SAFF Championships in Jamshedpur last week. Astam Oraon, Apurna Narzary and Martina Thokchom of the U-18 side have joined the senior national camp. The national side was forced to withdraw from the group stage of the AFC Asian Cup which India hosted in January-February after it failed to field a team due to COVID-19 outbreak inside its bio-bubble in Mumbai.

Erigaisi to headline Indian Chess Tour

New Delhi: Reigning national champion Arjun Erigaisi will be the star attraction at the USD 1,00,000 prize money MPL Indian Chess Tour, an elite online event beginning on Thursday. In the first regional expansion of Meltwater Champions Chess Tour, the event will give 16 top talents of the country a chance to qualify for the elite Tour. The line-up is a mix of some of India's hottest chess talent, both established and new, headlined by the 18-year-old Erigaisi from Telangana who recently won the Challengers event at Wijk aan Zee. There is also 15-year-old Chennai's Dommaraju Gukesh, one of India's brightest stars who will be hoping to break through to the top level. Gukesh is a huge talent who narrowly missed out on the record for the world's youngest grandmaster aged 12. The line-up also includes more established stars like S L Narayanan, Adhiban Baskaran, Harika Dronavalli and five-time Commonwealth champion Abhijeet Gupta. Leg 1 will be a four-day rapid chess tournament running from March 31 to April 3. The event will have a time control of 15m + 10s.

Rajasthan Royals and Sunrisers Hyderabad aim for winning start in match against each other

Pune, Mar 28 (PTI):

Packed with multiple match-winners in their ranks, heavyweights Rajasthan Royals face Sunrisers Hyderabad in a clash of former champions as both sides aim for a winning start in the IPL here on Tuesday.

Royals' batting fortunes will hinge largely on the form of their talented skipper Sanju Samson, who has been around the scene for a while now but has not delivered up to the expectations. Inconsistency has been his bane and he would like to change that and lead from the front this season in search of their first title since the inaugural edition in 2008.

Each year, Samson plays one or two match-defining knocks but this time he would have to go the extra mile if the Royals want to win that elusive second title.

Good performances in the IPL could also help Samson cement a place in the Indian team with the T20 World Cup scheduled for later this year. The Jaipur-based side are most likely to open with



Rajasthan Royals' bowling coach Lasith Malinga shares a laugh with spinner Yuzvendra Chahal.

Jos Buttler and Devdutt Padikkal. A rampaging Buttler can tear into any bowling attack and if he and the stylish Padikkal can get off to flying starts, the Royals would be well served with the likes of Samson and the others to follow.

Royals have an array of players like power-hitter Shimron Hetmyer, Rassie Van der Dussen, Jimmy Neesham and Riyan Parag to pick for the middle-order and their contribution could well determine the team's fortunes. They have a

stronger bowling unit this time around with the inclusion of ace off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal, and the duo are certain in the playing XI. Their eight overs would be crucial in the overall context of a particular game and nothing would please skipper Samson if the duo can spin a web around the SRH batters.

Kiwi Trent Boult, earlier the spearhead of Mumbai Indians, would be leading the pace attack which includes the likes

of Prasidh Krishna and Navdeep Saini.

For SRH, the experience of captain Kane Williamson, probably the best batter in the squad, would be vital. His contributions with the willow and as a leader could go a long way in determining the team's fortunes.

Williamson's compatriot Glenn Phillips can open the batting while hard-hitting West Indian Nicholas Pooran, Priyam Garg and Rahul Tripathi would be expected to shoulder responsibility in the middle order. Tripathi has also played significant knocks in the IPL but it is time he shows consistency.

If Williamson chooses to bat at No.3, then Ravikumar Samarth can open the batting while Abdul Samad, who has impressed many, can play the role of a finisher for the franchise.

The bowling attack will be led by pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar, one of the finest death bowlers. But he would need to dish out consistent spells as would new pace sensation Umran Malik.

'Rajasthan Royals have enough options to play around'

Pune, Mar 28 (PTI):

A formidable squad at his disposal, Rajasthan Royals skipper Sanju Samson is hoping to end his team's 13-year-long title drought in the Indian Premier League.

IPL's inaugural champions in 2008, Rajasthan Royals have built a formidable outfit this season with some big players like Jos Buttler, Devdutt Padikkal, Ravichandran Ashwin, Trent Boult and Yuzvendra Chahal, besides Samson himself, in their ranks.

And Samson said gelling together quickly as a unit will be key to achieving their goal.

"Our main focus is to get together as soon as possible. We have a different squad this time, some new members in the team, so it is important to come together and understand your teammates," Samson said ahead of RR's IPL opener against Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Tuesday.

"We definitely had a lot of learning from the last 2-3 seasons. We discussed and



worked on a few options and we got a really very good team in the auction," he said on Monday during a virtual press conference.

Sanju said the Royals have variety in the team this season for the nearly two-month long tournament. "We have a lot of Indian and international strength in our team. It's a very long tournament. We need to understand the mindset and the fitness and form of all players. But we have enough options to play around," he said.

"I think this format has to be played with lot of fearless mindset and that sort of characters are there in this team this year. So we would just like to go out there and express ourselves."

DC player Marsh injured ahead of ODI series in Pak

Lahore, Mar 28 (PTI):

Australia all-rounder Mitchell Marsh's availability for IPL side Delhi Capitals this season was on Monday rendered doubtful after he suffered a hip injury, which has all but ruled him out of the upcoming ODI series in Pakistan.

Marsh, who was bought for a whopping Rs 6.5 crore in the IPL auction, was to join Delhi Capitals on April 6 after the end of white-ball series in Pakistan but his availability will now depend on the degree of his injury. Australia ODI captain



Aaron Finch said here on Monday that Marsh's scans have been sent for examination after he sustained hip flexor injury during a high-intensity fielding drill on Sunday.

"He's (Marsh) injured his hip flexor, we think, at training. We are going to have to wait and see what that looks like but I

don't think he'll be available for the series based on how he was feeling yesterday," Finch told reporters.

"He sustained that in a fielding drill, it was a high intensity, lateral movement drill and he bent down to pick it up one handed and went to throw and felt a twinge."

Hip flexors are a group of muscles towards the front of the hip. They help in movement and flexing of leg and knee up towards one's body.

The three-match ODI series against Pakistan begins on Tuesday. After the ODIs, the lone T20I will be played on April 5.

Jehan Daruvala claims second podium of F2 season in Jeddah

Jeddah, Mar 28 (PTI):

Indian racer Jehan Daruvala claimed his second podium of the season by finishing third in the Formula 2 Feature race, held on the sidelines of the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix here. Jehan raced brilliantly after starting from the 14th position on the grid at the Jeddah Corniche Circuit on Sunday. The 23-year-old from Mumbai, began his weekend on the back foot after a mechanical issue hampered his qualifying round. But the Red Bull-backed racer used a mix of race craft, strategy and tyre management to claw his way up the ladder. "It's very satisfying.



Coming into this weekend I knew Prema (Racing) had a really good car. I was really down after qualifying. But once we discovered that our lack of pace was down to a mechanical issue, it made me believe again," Jehan, who races for the Italian team, said. "It was good damage limitation and honestly third

was probably the maximum we could have had today (Sunday)." Jehan, who went from 13th to seventh in Saturday's sprint race, earned his ninth podium in F2 with a mature drive. He passed two cars off the line at the start, pulled off a bold pass around the outside of three cars on Turn 1 at one stage, and swept past fellow Red Bull junior Ayumu Iwasa on the start-finish straight. He timed his lone pit stop to perfection and used all his experience to keep his pace up, hunting down and passing Marcus Armstrong while managing tyre wear over a long second stint on the harder tyre.

Shantha bats for Smriti to be next India captain

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

Smriti Mandhana's knack of taking responsibility while being consistent makes her the ideal candidate to replace the veteran Mithali Raj at the helm, former captain Shantha Rangaswamy said on Sunday after India's elimination in the group stage in the ODI Women's World Cup.

The Mithali Raj-led side, who were the last edition's runners-up, lost to South Africa by three wickets to make a premature exit from the showpiece, capping an inconsistent show.

Even as she has stopped short of calling it quits, Mithali's 23-year-old

International career may have come to an end with the defeat. Talking to PTI, Shantha said her choice for the next captain is Smriti and not the India star batter Harmanpreet Kaur. "Mithali can go on if she wants to... Smriti should lead. Harman is a proven match-winner and star player but captaincy needs taking responsibility and playing consistently well. Additional responsibility of captaincy may weigh Harman down," Shantha said. "It will put an additional burden on Harman. Smriti can handle that better. Her temperament is suited to captaincy," the BCCI Apex Council member added.

West Indies crushes England in 3rd test to win series 1-0

St. George's, Mar 28 (AP):

West Indies crushed England by 10 wickets in the third and final cricket test on Sunday to win the series 1-0.

The hosts needed only 4.5 overs on Day 4 for their batters to reach the winning target in Grenada. West Indies finished on 28-0 in the second innings after earlier dismissing England for 120.

West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite was 20 not out and John Campbell undefeated on 6.

When England resumed on 103-8, it was already on the brink of defeat with a lead of only 10 runs with just two wickets in hand in its second innings.



West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite, left, celebrates the last run, in partnership with John Campbell, to defeat England by ten wickets on dday four of their third Test cricket match at the National Cricket Stadium in St. George.

The visitors lasted another 11 overs in the opening session with Kemar

Roach (2-10 off 9.2 overs) taking both England wickets Chris Woakes (19) and

Jack Leach (4). It took almost 45 minutes for West Indies to break up England's ninth-wicket partnership, with a stunning reaction catch from Jason Holder doing the job. Woakes middled Roach's first ball as it went down the leg side and Holder flung out a hand and plucked the ball out of the air at leg gully.

No. 11 Saqib Mahmood, who hit a defiant 49 in the first innings, was 3 not out.

West Indies medium-pacer Kyle Mayers started the day with an incredible 5-9 from 13 overs, a maiden five-for, but went for five in his first over on Sunday and finished with 5-18 from 17 overs.

Canada advances to World Cup for first time in 36 years

Toronto, Mar 28 (AP):

Cyle Larin, Tajon Buchanan and Junior Hoilett scored and Canada secured its first World Cup berth in 36 years with a 4-0 victory over Jamaica.

Canada has been to the World Cup just once before, in 1986.

Speechless. Dream come true, midfielder Jonathan Osorio said on Sunday.

We all dreamed of this as little kids, and as a Canadian that was impossible. Today the impossible happened. It's an incredible feeling."

Canada missed out a chance to secure a spot in Qatar last week with a 1-0 loss to Costa Rica. It was Canada's first loss in three World Cup qualifying



Canada's Sam Adekugbe in action with Jamaica's Tarick Ximines.

rounds and it snapped a six-game winning streak.

Boosted by the home crowd at BMO Field, Canada rebounded in a big way against the Jamaicans, who were already eliminated from World Cup contention. Following the match the

fans broke into the Canadian national anthem and Osorio led the crowd for a drum chant before the team danced on the field. Buchanan circled the field waving Canada's flag. Canada coach John Herdman became the first coach ever to lead both a

men's and women's team to a World Cup berth. He coached the Canadian women's team from 2011-18. In a post-game interview Herdman was doused with champagne by Canadian goalkeeper Milan Borjan.

Canada is a football nation, man. We better believe it, Herdman said.

And we're going to keep coming. We've only gotten started. Canada sits atop the table in the final qualifying round with 28 points, followed by the United States (25 points), which held the edge over third-place Mexico (25) on goal difference. The United States defeated Panama 5-1 and Mexico downed Honduras 1-0 in the late games Sunday.

Bajrang's leg defence is not weak, it's just his style of play: Coach Maan

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

Contrary to the popular opinion that Bajrang Punia's leg defence is a major shortcoming in his game, Sujeet Maan, the new personal coach of the star grappler says the wrestler looks vulnerable only because of his attacking style and all he needs to do is to convert the moves into points.

Bajrang's leg defence has been a major talking point in the last three years, especially in run up to the Tokyo Games, where he won a bronze medal. Bajrang's struggle against Japanese nemesis Takuto Otoguro only accentuated the issue. His coach Shako Bentineidis

also worked on the same but Bajrang, 28, never made the desired progress, something which irked the national federation and eventually the Georgian was removed from his support staff. However, Maan, who started working with Bajrang from January this year, says Bajrang's leg defence is not as weak as it is thought of. "A lot of people opine that his leg defence is weak but that's not the case. It's a style. In cricket, the aggressive batters go for their shots and in the process they run the risk of losing their wicket. In Bajrang's case when he plays attacking game, he appears vulnerable in his leg defence," Maan told PTI in an interview.

EXAM TIME



Students sanitise their hands and undergo thermal testing before appearing for the first exam of the Karnataka SSLC Board, in Bengaluru, Monday.

Oppn in RS raise concerns over price rise

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

Opposition members in Rajya Sabha on Monday raised their concerns over price rise and asked the government to take measures to protect interests of the common people who have been hit hard by it. DMK member T K S Elangovan said the government has completely ignored the interests of the poor such as daily wagers in the Union Budget for 2022-23.

"Budget has failed to provide relief to the common man and the poorest of the poor of this country," he said, adding prices of diesel and petrol have gone up which will have a cascading effect on all of them. The budget's purpose should be to protect

the citizens and to provide socio-economic protection, he added.

"What this budget has done. They (government) have talked about rich people and getting money back from borrowers but what is the progressive idea for the people who are suffering," said Elangovan. He also asked the government to fulfil its promise to implement the MS Swaminathan Committee report, which had suggested fixing the minimum support price (MSP) for all crops at 150 per cent of the input cost.

The upper house was having a discussion on the Appropriation Bill, 2022. Amar Patnaik of the BJP said inequality in the society has increased and the government would have to

rethink the economic policy for inclusive growth.

According to him, too much inequality would give rise to social strife. The total number of the middle class has gone down by 3.2 crore in 2020. In 1981 the share of the middle class in total income was 45 per cent and it has decreased to 22.9 per cent in 2020.

"We need to have a greater investment in education, health and nutrition and the purchasing power of the bottom of the pyramid has to be increased," he said, adding "for this, we have to increase the revenue." Patnaik suggested for the reintroduction of wealth tax and Covid tax to generate resources for meeting social sector expenditure.

"The tax-GDP ratio is hovering around 10.7 per cent currently and in last five years, (it was) 11.5 per cent... We have to increase our tax-GDP ratio. Some way, some method has to be devised," he said.

Citing an Oxfam India report, Patnaik said a 1 per cent wealth tax on 98 billionaires would finance the Ayushman Bharat scheme for more than seven years. It can also take care of the total expenditure on school, education and literacy, he added. "Two per cent tax on individuals with an income of over Rs 10 crore would increase the ministries' budget by an astounding 121 per cent. We need this revenue so that we can spend on the social sector," he added.

2021-22 season

Govt's paddy procurement reaches 741.62 lac tons

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

The Centre has procured 741.62 lakh tonne of paddy in the ongoing 2021-22 marketing year so far at the minimum support price (MSP), Union Food Ministry said on Monday.

"Till now about 105.14 lakh farmers have been benefitted with MSP value of Rs 1,45,358.13 crore," the ministry said in a statement.

A quantity of 741.62 lakh tonne of paddy has been procured till March 27 of the ongoing 2021-22 marketing year, it said.

Out of the total procurement undertaken so far, maximum of 187.28 lakh tonne of paddy has been procured from Punjab, followed by 92.01 lakh tonne from Chhattisgarh, 70.22 lakh tonne from Telangana, 55.30 lakh tonne from Haryana and 66.53 lakh tonne from Uttar Pradesh till March 27 of the ongoing marketing year.

The paddy marketing season normally begins from October and runs through September.

During the 2020-21 marketing season, the gov-

ernment had procured 895.83 lakh tonne of paddy at a MSP value of Rs 1,69,133.26 crore.

The government undertakes procurement operations through state-run Food Corporation of India (FCI) as well as state agencies.

The government buys largely paddy and wheat to protect farmers with MSP as well as use the procured grains for distribution through ration shops for the poor beneficiaries registered under the National Food Security Act at highly subsidized rates.

Congress, BJP tit for tat over crime in Raj

Jaipur, Mar 28 (PTI):

A day after the BJP said it sent Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra a train ticket to meet women crime victims in Rajasthan, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot offered to send Union Home Minister Amit Shah a chartered plane to visit the state. Gehlot tweeted that he wanted Shah to see the law and order-related innovations made in Rajasthan and how well the state is fighting crime.

The tit for tat was over the alleged rape of a 15-year-old girl by the son of a ruling Congress MLA. BJP state secretary Jitendra Gothwal on Sunday challenged Gandhi to come to Jaipur, tweeting that he

has sent her a train ticket and also reminding the Congress general secretary of her "Ladki Hoon, Lad Sakti Hoon" campaign. A day later, Gehlot responded by saying, "BJP leaders repeatedly invite Priyanka Gandhi over (the situation of) crimes in Rajasthan even though she does not hold any constitutional post."

"We want to send Union Home Minister Amit Shah a chartered plane and request him to come to Rajasthan to see the law and order-related innovations made in the state and the strict action taken against crimes so that the confusion being spread by his party is cleared," the chief minister tweeted in

Hindi. The opposition BJP on Sunday demanded the arrest of Congress MLA Johari Lal Meena's son Deepak Meena accused of raping the minor, with Gothwal even asking Gandhi to visit the state.

"Congress MLA's son has raped a minor in Rajasthan. The minor girl is not able to fight against the power of the MLA. @priyankagandhi ji, I am sending a train ticket for you. Come to Jaipur immediately. There are girls in Rajasthan too and they are not able to fight," he said in a tweet in Hindi.

Gandhi had come out with the poll slogan "Ladki Hoon, Lad Sakti Hoon (I am a girl and can fight)" ahead of the Assembly elections

in Uttar Pradesh.

Gehlot said the law and order situation in Rajasthan is better than in BJP-ruled states. In the three years of the Congress government, there have been convictions in 620 cases under the POCSO Act. Of these, seven people were sentenced to death and 137 awarded life imprisonment.

"We do not do politics on crimes like the BJP," he said. Sharing NCRB data, Gehlot said, "Despite the lockdown in 2020, when crime across the country increased by 28.03 per cent compared to the previous year, Rajasthan saw a decrease of 14.46 per cent. According to the NCRB data, there has been a de-

crease in all types of crimes, including dacoity, robbery, kidnapping, rape, rioting, burglary and theft, in the state in 2020."

He claimed there was a 62.29 per cent increase in crime in Amit Shah's home state Gujarat. "In the year 2021 also, there was a decrease of 4.77 per cent in crimes in Rajasthan as compared to 2019," Gehlot said. He said the state government has made FIR registration mandatory.

"While implementing the mandatory FIR registration policy, we knew that crime figures would increase, and the opposition and media would question it, but we implemented this policy to get justice for every victim," he said.

Violence as stones hurled at former CM's convoy

Gangtok, Mar 28 (PTI):

Stones were hurled at former Sikkim chief minister Pawan Chamling's convoy in Gangtok on Monday when he was returning from the assembly, triggering clashes between supporters of the ruling SKM and the opposition SDF. A huge number of Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) supporters from all across the state had gathered in Gangtok as Chamling went to the assembly on the first day of the Budget session after hiatus of almost three years.

Tensions ran high as a large number of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) supporters also gathered in the state capital. When Chamling was returning from the assembly, which

was adjourned till Tuesday over the death of former chief minister BB Gurung, stones were hurled at his convoy in Nainital, police said.

Several cars in the cavalcade were damaged, while some SDF supporters were also injured, leading to a flare-up, they said. Later, when SDF supporters went to the Sadar police station to file a complaint about the incident, clashes broke out with SKM supporters, police said.

Several people were injured in the clashes with police managing to separate the two groups and somewhat control the situation. Both sides raised slogans against each other as the security personnel stood in between.

The injured persons were admitted to the

STNM hospital for treatment. Addressing the press, Chamling alleged that the violence was instigated by the top leadership of the SKM. He said that President's Rule should be imposed in Sikkim, and a memorandum would be submitted to the governor over the demand.

"In SKM's governance, there is no rule of law in the state," he said. Chamling, who served as the chief minister of the state for five consecutive terms from 1994 to 2019, stopped attending the assembly since June 2019 after he was heckled in the House. However, he recently announced that he will start attending the assembly to expose the "misdeeds" and "corruption" of the Prem Singh Tamang-led SKM government.

MENDHAR FEST 2022



Army personnel perform Mallakhamb during the Mendhar Fest 2022, organised by Indian Army, at Mendhar area of Poonch district, Monday.

MPs request PM

'Give immediate financial support to rare disease patients'

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

A group of MPs from the Rajya Sabha has sought urgent intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide immediate financial support to rare disease patients under government's RAN scheme to save their lives.

Rashtriya Aarogya Nidhi (RAN) was set up to provide financial assistance to patients, living below the poverty line and who are suffering from major life-threatening diseases, to receive medical treatment at any of the super speciality hospitals or institutes or other gov-

ernment hospitals. A group of Members of Parliament from the Rajya Sabha, cutting across party lines, have written to Modi, seeking an urgent meeting with him about saving the lives of several young patients, diagnosed with life-threatening rare disease conditions, classified under Group 3(a) in the National Policy for Rare Diseases.

We would like to seek a meeting with you urgently to discuss the life threatening risks that many of the young patients, primarily children, are facing and the impending loss of lives due to the lack of im-

mediate support for their treatment, the letter read.

The MPs noted that despite several pleas to extend the Umbrella Scheme of Rashtriya Aarogya Nidhi (RAN) as a special, one-time provision for treatment of these patients before March 31, 2022, these patients and their care givers have been left with no option but to wait for the inevitable.

The members expressed concern that the non-utilisation of the budgetary allocation under RAN before March 31, 2022, would not only lead to a fund lapse, but also deprive

many of these eligible patients from seeking life-saving treatment to their conditions, for which the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) approved therapies are already available in India since long. The group includes Congress MPs Vandana Chavan and Fauzia Khan and RJD MP Manoj Kumar Jha, among others.

According to the parliamentarians, even after almost a year of the crowd funding platform being set up, only a meagre amount of Rs 1.16 lakh has been raised so far, as a result of which not a single patient has been put on treatment.

MLAs engage in fisticuffs in Assembly over Birbhun killings

5 BJP MLAs suspended

Kolkata, Mar 28 (PTI): The budget session of the West Bengal Assembly ended in an exchange of fisticuffs on Monday, as legislators of the TMC and the BJP came to blows after heated arguments over the Birbhun killings, prompting the speaker to suspend five saffron party MLAs, including Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari, who was also accused of busting the nose of a rival MLA. Shortly after the House assembled at 11 am, it plunged into pandemonium as BJP MLAs trooped to the well, demanding a statement by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over the "worsening" law and order situation in the wake of the tragedy in Birbhun district, where eight people were burnt alive last week.

BJP MLA against curbs on non-Hindu traders during fairs

Belagavi, Mar 28 (PTI):

In the wake of denial of permission to non-Hindu traders and vendors to carry on business during annual temple fairs and religious events in some parts of Karnataka, BJP legislator Anil Benake on Monday said everyone can ply his or her trade and that it is for the people to decide where to buy what.

The MLA from Belagavi north cited the Constitution to drive home the point. "There is no question of imposing any restrictions during the temple fair, we will not impose, but if people do, we can't do anything. We will not allow it (im-

position of restrictions)," Benake told reporters here. Stating that it is wrong to tell people where to purchase and where not to, he said the Constitution advocates equal opportunity to all. "Everyone has the opportunity to carry out their activities, but people have to become clever. People have to decide where to buy what," he added.

Initially, banners were placed during the annual Kaup Marigudi festival in Udupi district. They said non-Hindu vendors and traders should not be allowed entry, and the temple management paid heed to the request of certain pro-Hindu organisations.

Later, similar banners were displayed at Padubidri temple festival also, and at a couple of temples in Dakshina Kannada district as well.

Some Hindu activists have submitted memoranda to officials in different parts of the State citing the Karnataka Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Act, 1997.

When the matter came up in the Legislative Assembly recently, the BJP government sought to distance itself from it by citing a rule which states that no property, including land, building near the place of worship shall be leased to non-Hindus.