



BRIEF



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inspects antiquities which have returned from Australia, in New Delhi, Monday.

Bail

■ **Chennai:** The Madras High Court on Monday granted interim bail to Dr Subbiah Shanmugam, the former national president of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), who was arrested on March 19 in connection with a case registered against him by the city police in July 2020. Justice G Jayachandran granted the interim relief, when the bail application from Dr Subbiah, the head of Oncology department in Government Stanley Hospital came up for hearing today.

Literary Meet

■ **Kolkata:** The 10th edition of Tata Steel Kolkata Literary Meet will be held from March 22 to 27 at Victoria Memorial Hall, the organisers said. On the inaugural day, Nobel Laureate Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee will address a session on “good cooking, rather than good economics”, they said. The literary meet will be inaugurated by lyricist and screenwriter Javed Akhtar.

Attack

■ **Gurugram:** A 35-year-old man was stabbed in his neck by his two friends and an unknown person, who had called him on Holi on the pretext of resolving an old dispute among them, police said on Monday. The victim, identified as Rakesh Yadav of Chakkarpur village, was attacked amid the talks for a compromise, police said.

Arrested

■ **Hailakandi:** Two persons were arrested on Monday for allegedly vandalising a fire brigade vehicle in a remote area in Assam's Hailakandi district bordering Mizoram, police said. A fire broke out on Sunday night at a market in Garmurra and at least twenty shops were gutted, they said. An irate mob damaged the fire brigade vehicle, alleging that it had reached the spot quite late.

Fire

■ **Mahoba:** A fire broke out at a branch of the the State Bank of India here on Monday which damaged documents and computers, police said. Prima facie it appears that fire broke out due to a short-circuit, said Deputy Superintendent of Police, Ram Pravesh Rai. The fire broke out around 11 am at the bank branch in Kabrai which damaged documents and computers, Rai said.

Weather	
	High 38 Low 24
MARKET	
NIFTY	57292.49 ▼
SENSEX	17171.60 ▼
BULLION	
GOLD	51,742
SILVER	68,547

Prez confers Padma awards

New Delhi, Mar 21 (PTD):

India's first Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, who died in a chopper crash last December, late Radheshyam Khemka, former chairman of Gita Press that publishes Hindu religious books, and Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad were among 54 personalities who were conferred Padma awards by President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday. While Rawat and Khemka were given Padma Vibhushan, the country's second-highest civilian award, posthumously, Azad, Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekharan, former CAG Rajiv Mehrishi, founder of Serum Institute of India that made COVID-19 vaccine Covishield Cyrus Poonawalla were among the eight honoured with Padma Bhushan, the country's third-highest civilian award, at a civil investiture ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.



President Kovind presents Padma Vibhushan to General Bipin Rawat (Posthumous) for Civil Service.

This year, no names were announced for 'Bharat Ratna', India's highest civilian award, which was last awarded in 2019 to former president Pranab Mukherjee, social reformer Nanaji Deshmukh and noted singer Bhupen Hazarika. The award for Rawat was received by his daughters while a close family member received the

award for Khemka. Many of those who received the Padma awards were “unsung heroes”, including 125-year-old yoga practitioner Swami Sivananda. Members of the audience clapped as a bare-foot Sivananda, dressed in a simple white kurta and dhoti, knelt before Prime Minister Narendra Modi who promptly got up and bowed, touching the ground as he returned the greeting.

Biren Singh sworn in as Manipur CM

Five others take oath as cabinet ministers

Imphal, Mar 21 (PTD):

BJP legislature party leader N Biren Singh was Monday sworn in as the chief minister of Manipur for the second time at the Raj Bhavan here. Singh, along with five cabinet ministers, were administered the oath by Governor La Ganesan. Union ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Kiren Rijiju had on Sunday handed over a letter to Ganesan, stating that Singh was elected unanimously as the leader of the BJP legislature party with 32 MLAs. The governor then invited Singh to form the next government in Manipur.



BJP National President JP Nadda with party leader Biren Singh during the latters swearing-in ceremony as Manipur CM.

The five cabinet ministers who took oath along with Singh were Thongam Bishwajit Singh, Yumnam Khemchand Singh,

Govindas Konthoujam, Nemcha Kipgen — all from the BJP — and Awngbow Newmai from the Naga People's Front

'Charges against Varavara Rao serious'

Mumbai: The National Investigation Agency on Monday urged the Bombay High Court to dismiss the permanent medical bail plea filed by poet-activist Varavara Rao, an accused in the Elgar Parishad Maoist links case, saying charges against him were “very, very serious,” and, if proven, could attract the death penalty. Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh, who appeared for NIA, told HC Rao (83) seemed to be suffering from “regular old age related issues,” and the probe agency was willing to give an undertaking that requisite medical aid would be provided to him in prison or in a government hospital whenever required.

Three CRPF personnel injured in Naxal firing

Sukma/Konta Mar 21:

Three Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawans were injured on Monday when Naxals opened fire at a newly set-up camp of the security forces in Sukma district, a senior official said. A group of ultras started firing around 6 am in the vicinity of the Elmagunda camp located under the Chintagufa police station limits, following which security forces stationed there retaliated, Inspector General of Police (Bastar range)



One of the injured jawans hit on head.

Sundarraaj P told PTI. This camp has been opened only a month ago.

After this sudden attack, the soldiers also retaliated. After some time the Naxalites fled from there. Sukma SP Sunil Sharma has claimed that many Naxalites have also been injured in the retaliatory action of the soldiers. It is being told that the Naxalites also attacked this new camp with UBGL, as well as fired grenade launchers, but no damage was done to the camp. The SP said that this police camp has been opened recently. During the search, blood stains were also seen at the spot.

Govt for Covid booster shots for all above 18 years

New Delhi, Mar 21 (PTI): The government is considering allowing booster dose of Covid vaccine for all those above 18 years in view of a surge in infections in parts of the world and ease difficulties faced during international travel, sources said on Monday. Currently, healthcare and frontline workers and those aged above 60 years are being administered precaution doses. All the people aged above 60 have been made eligible for the

precaution dose of Covid vaccine after the Union Health Ministry removed the comorbidity clause recently. The prioritisation and sequencing of the dose would be based on the completion of nine months to 39 weeks from the date of administration of the second dose. “The government is considering to allow booster dose of Covid vaccine to all those above 18 years in view of a surge in infections in

parts of the world and ease difficulties faced during international travel.” a source said. India began COVID-19 vaccination for children in the age group of 12-14 years from March 16 this year. The country-wide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16, 2021, with the healthcare workers getting inoculated in the first phase. Vaccination of the frontline workers started from February 2 last year. The next phase of COVID-19

vaccination commenced on March 1 last year for people over 60 years of age and those aged 45 and above with specified comorbid conditions. India launched vaccination for all people aged more than 45 years from April 1 last year. The government then decided to expand its vaccination drive by allowing everyone above 18 years of age to be inoculated against the viral disease from May 1 last year.

SC-appointed panel was against repealing three farm laws

New Delhi, Mar 21 (PTI):

The Supreme Court-appointed panel was not in favour of total repeal of the three controversial farm laws and instead had suggested leaving procurement of crops at a specified price to the states and scrapping of Essential Commodities Act, one of the three members of the panel said on Monday while releasing the committee's report. Pune-based farmer leader Anil Ghanwat said he had on three occasions written to the Supreme Court for releasing the report of the committee but in the absence of a re-

sponse, he was releasing it on his own. The other two members — economist Ashok Gulati and agri-economist Pramod Kumar Joshi — were not present at a hurriedly called press conference here. The panel had submitted its recommendations on the three farm laws, which among other things, allowed farmers to sell agri produce to private entities outside the government mandis, on March 19, 2021. The three farm laws were repealed by the Modi government in November last year, ahead of assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. Addressing the press con-

ference, Ghanwat said the committee had also suggested many changes in the laws, including giving freedom to states to make Minimum Support Price (MSP) system legal. The panel had also suggested that the open-ended procurement policy should be discontinued and a model contract agreement should be formulated. The report has no relevance now as the laws have been repealed but it would help in making policies for the agriculture sector in future, said Ghanwat, who is the President of Swatantra Bharat Party.

Chinese plane with 132 aboard crashes

Beijing, Mar 21 (PTD):

A Chinese passenger plane with 132 people on board crashed in the southern Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on Monday, the regional emergency management department said. The Boeing 737 aircraft of China Eastern Airlines, which flew from Kunming to Guangzhou, crashed in Tengxian County in the city of Wuzhou, causing a mountain fire, the department was quoted as saying by the state-run Xinhua news agency. The 132 people included 123 passengers and nine crew members, the Civil Aviation Administration of China said on its website. The



Smoke rises from a fire after a China Eastern Airlines passenger plane carrying 132 people crashed near Wuzhou city in the Guangxi region.

number of casualties is not clear yet, the report said. Rescuers have been assem-

bled and are approaching the site. Chinese President Xi Jinping has ordered all-out rescue efforts after plane crash, official media reported. The Wuzhou fire brigade has sent 117 firefighters with 23 fire trucks to the site. Further 538 firefighters from other parts of Guangxi have been dispatched to join the rescue efforts, the regional fire department said. According to news portal The Paper, a staff member at Guangzhou's Baiyun International Airport said that flight MU5735 from Kunming to Guangzhou has not arrived at its destined time, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

AAP's Rajya Sabha List: Ex Cricketer, IIT Professor, Raghav Chadha

New Delhi, Mar 21:

Ex cricketer Harbhajan Singh, IIT professor Sandeep Pathak, educationist Ashok Kumar Mittal and Delhi MLA Raghav Chadha are the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)'s nominees for Rajya Sabha or the upper house of parliament from Punjab, where the party won a gigantic victory in recent elections. Five Rajya Sabha seats will fall vacant on April 9 and names have to be submitted today for elections on March 31. Harbhajan Singh, 41, filed his nomination as an AAP candidate and was seen in a yellow turban, inspired

by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann seated next to him. “After making India Proud as a bowling legend, Mr. Turbanator is now going to raise his voice for the people of Punjab in Parliament,” AAP tweeted, sharing a video. Harbhajan Singh had met with former Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu before the elections, fuelling speculation of his debut in politics as a Congress member. But the former cricketer had denied it. AAP won 92 of Punjab's 117 assembly seats. After the Rajya Sabha election, AAP's strength in the upper house is set to increase from three to eight.

Dhami to continue as Uttarakhand CM

Dehradun, Mar 21 (PTD):

Pushkar Singh Dhami will continue as the Uttarakhand chief minister, with the BJP ending the suspense over the post on Monday, 11 days after returning to power for the second consecutive term in the state. The swearing-in ceremony of 45-year-old Dhami will be held on March 23. The BJP's dilemma on the choice of a chief minister for Uttarakhand was caused by Dhami's loss in Khatima, a seat he had been winning since the 2012 Assembly polls. Party's central observer and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced Dhami's name after a brief

Pramod Sawant to continue as Goa CM

Panaji: Pramod Sawant was on Monday unanimously elected the leader of the BJP legislature party in Goa, paving the way for him to take over as the chief minister for a second term. Sawant's name for the top post was cleared at a meeting of the newly elected BJP MLAs and senior party leaders in Panaji in the evening. The meeting was also attended by BJP central observers Narendra Singh Tomar and L Murugan, Assembly poll in-charge Devendra Fadnavis and the party's state unit president, Sadanand Shet Tanavade.

meeting of the BJP legislative party here. The meeting was attended by

Union ministers Meenakshi Lekhi and Prahlad Joshi. While Lekhi was present there as a central observer, Joshi was the party's poll incharge for the state. Making the announcement soon after the meeting at the party office here, Singh said he congratulates Dhami on being elected as the leader of the BJP legislative party. The BJP has reposed faith in Dhami once again for the post of the chief minister as he knows well how to run a government, the defence minister said. There was no name other than Dhami and all MLAs unanimously supported him, he said.

Malik's judicial custody extended till Apr 04

Mumbai, Mar 21 (PTD):

A special court here on Monday extended the judicial custody of Maharashtra minister and NCP leader Nawab Malik till April 4 and permitted him to use a bed, mattress and chair in jail. Malik was arrested on February 23 by the Enforcement Directorate in a money-laundering probe linked to fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim and his aides. The NCP leader was in ED's custody till March 7 and was later sent to judicial custody till March 21. On Monday, Malik



NCP leader and Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik being taken to court, from the Arthur Road Jail, in Mumbai, Monday.

was produced before a special court, designated to hear cases related to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), and Special Judge RN Rokade extended his judicial custody till April 4.

District Admin's initiative bears exciting results; Devendra selected in NDA

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 21: District Administration had initiated to provide free coaching to 40 children for preparation of competitive exams. This DMF funded programme has given exciting results. Risali based student Devendra Sahu has cleared the tough NDA exam, which is the biggest exam of the defense sector.

Devendra met Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure and DEO Abhay Jaiswal on Monday and thanked the district administration for providing the coaching. He credited his success to the initiative of District Administration.

Devendra stated that he was very confused while preparing for NDA. There were many books and a lot of study material as well. Fortunately, the coaching commenced where he came



to know about the topics to be prepared for this exam. Devendra added that after joining the coaching classes, the confusion in his mind was cleared and he worked hard to achieve success.

Devendra will be going to Pune for training and thereafter he will be commissioned in the Indian Navy. Devendra is only seventeen years old and is a student of Shakuntala Vidyalaya. His

father works in a private company and mother is a housewife.

It needs to be mentioned here that the coaching was started in the month of September under the guidance of Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure. Additional Collector Nupur Rashi Panna played a vital role in this initiative.

She kept on monitoring the classes regularly and also motivated the children



regularly. This coaching is being conducted in Sector 6. Devendra Sahu was also sent to Dehradun for SSB training by the district administration. At present, the second batch of NDA is getting coaching.

Durg is the first district of the state where the NDA coaching is also being given to girl students. When the Supreme Court allowed admissions to girl students in NDA, the District

Administration started NDA coaching for girls also. Due to the arrangement of NDA coaching and its continuous monitoring, the path has been opened for the candidates to fulfill their dreams in the field of defense.

At present, 15 subject experts are regularly monitoring the coaching. Through NDA exams, one can reach the highest positions in the army.

Saroj Pandey watches 'The Kashmir Files' with intellectuals and BJP workers



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 21: On Sunday, Rajya Sabha member Saroj Pandey accompanied with intellectuals, journalists and BJP workers and office bearers watched The Kashmir Files movie at a theatre.

While interacting with media persons, she said this film is inspired by truth and she was shocked to experience the massacre

of Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir 32 years ago. Saroj Pandey requested all the Indians to definitely watch this heart-wrenching truth. She added Shyama Prasad Mukherjee sacrificed his life for Kashmir and asserted that the entire Kashmir is the integral part of India. Through this movie, we came to know about the sufferings of Kashmiri Pandits. It was politically motivated brutality. When

asked about the Chief Minister's statement about this movie, Saroj said that he gave the statement with a narrow mind. As he is influenced by his leaders, he will continue to give such statements.

State Secretary Usha Taori, Chandrika Chandrakar, Sarita Mishra, journalists of Durg Bhilai and the team of Mahila Morcha, Yuva Morcha were present.

Hemchand Yadav University proposes to conduct undergraduate exams from April 18

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 21: Hemchand Yadav University, Durg has proposed to conduct all graduation level the annual examination including BA, B Com and B Sc first, second and third year regular and private students 2021-22 in 03 shifts from April 18, 2022.

Giving this information, Dr Rajmani Patel, Vice-Chancellor, Examinations of the University said that on the first day of the annual examinations of the University, it is proposed to conduct exam of BCA first, second and third year.

Intensive brainstorming is going on among the university officials on the detailed timetable of all the above examinations and very soon the complete time table will be issued.

Dr Patel informed that according to the proposed time table, regular and private examinations of B Sc first, second and third year will be held between April 18 and June 06.

This include B Sc first, second and third, from 18 April to June 06, 2022; BSc Home Science first, second and third from April 18 to May 13, 2022; BA B Ed first, second, third, and fourth from April 18

to May 23, 2022; B Sc B Ed 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th from April 18 to May 31, 2022; B Lib from April 25 to May 17, 2022; BCA 1st, 2nd and 3rd from April 16 to May 20, 2022, BA First, second and third from April 18 to June 6, 2022 and BCom is proposed to be held from April 18 to May 25, 2022.

The Vice Chancellor of the University, Dr Aruna Palta and Registrar Dr Prashant Srivastava, while wishing all the students a Happy Holi, have urged them that only one month is left for the commencement of the annual examination, so all the students should concentrate in their studies and avoid unnecessary

demonstrations in the university.

Vice Chancellor Dr Palta said that Hemchand Yadav University, Durg is a state-owned university. Therefore, it is mandatory for them to strictly follow every order of the government.

Even after the declaration of the time table of the examinations, if any fresh order is issued by the state government regarding the method of conducting the examination, then the university will follow it completely. Students should not fall under any kind of delusion and concentrate on their studies.

Retrenched workers stage demonstration at District Collectorate

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 21: On Monday, the retrenched workers of Chandulal Chandrakar Memorial Medical College staged a demonstration at the District Collectorate. They were protesting against the fresh contractual recruitments in the institution. They asserted that fresh recruitment was in contempt of court orders.

The aggrieved workers staged a sit-in for about three hours. Police force was deployed at the spot to control the law and order situation. In the meanwhile, a demonstrator Bharti was admitted to the hospital after she fell sick



due to dehydration. Later, a delegation of workers was allowed to meet the District Collector. After the meeting with the District Collector, the demonstrators returned back. A security guard, Mohan Baghel, was observing fast-unto-death for the last eight days. SDM Padmini Bhoi convinced

him to end the Anshan. The aggrieved workers Dhanush Kumar Sahu, Devraj Sahu, Anita Sahu, Sheela Sahu and Vikas informed that they were illegally retrenched after the acquisition of the college by the state government. Considering the workers' plea, the court had issued

stay orders on fresh recruitments in this institute. Now the recruitments are being made on contractual basis, which amounts to the contempt of the court. They are also demanding payment of pending wages.

The retrenched workers are demanding from the state government to provide them regular job in the institution. Sumit, Sheela, Devraj, Lomesh, Dhanush, Monika, Sheela, Bharti, Mahendra, Misi, Ruchi, Rajkumar, Anita, Kaladas Daharia and other members of Jan Swasthya Karmachari Union and Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha Mazdoor Karyakarta Samiti were present.

URM continues its winning spree, records New Highs

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 21: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Universal Rail Mill (URM) that rolls out world's longest 130 metre rail in single piece and supplies 260 metre welded rail panels to Indian Railways has once again created several records in daily production of R 260 grade and 60EI profile rails on March 16, 2022.

Universal Rail Mill crossed its rated capacity in daily prime rail production, recording highest Prime Rail Production of 3026 T on March 16, 2022, as against previous best of 2674 T on March 13, 2022.

On March 16, URM rolled highest number of 400 blooms into rails, surpassing previous best of 367 blooms rolled on March 13. The modern mill sources blooms from



the Plant's Steel Melting Shop 3.

Finished rail production at 3164 Tonnes on March 16 was the highest in any single day as against previous best of 2858 T on March 13. Highest number of 405 pieces of rails was visually inspected on March 16 as against previous best of 366 on March 13.

As many as 270 numbers of 130 metre long rails were produced on March

16 as against previous best of 253 nos of 130 m long rails rolled out on March 13. The Mill also recorded highest number of 159 numbers of 260 metre long welded rail panels, surpassing previous best of 156 recorded on Feb 26. It is worth mentioning that on March 16, URM recorded healthy prime rail acceptance of 95.67%.

ED (P&A) KK Singh and ED (Works) Anjani Kumar

personally visited Universal Rail Mill to congratulate the team of URM along with the teams of SMS 3, T&D, RCL, RITES & other associated Departments for the record breaking performances.

ED (P&A) and ED (Works) also visited Rail & Strl Mill to congratulate the RSM Team for recording highest number of 40 welded rail panels in a day

on March 16 as against previous best of 38 panels on March 15.

SAIL-BSP has been producing the exact specification based rails for the Indian Railways throughout its association of more than six decades. The R260 grade of Rails is targeted to meet the requirements of Indian Railways for higher speed and higher axle load. Specifications given by RDSO for this new grade of rails are even more stringent than the specifications of rails used in European countries.

As such the steel for this new grade of rails is cleaner and the rails have higher yield strength and better mechanical properties. SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant is producing this new grade and profile of rails from both its modern Universal Rail Mill and its older Rail & Structural Mill.

RBM's Women Wing organises get together



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 21: The women wing of Rashtriya Brahman Mahasangh (RBM) organized a get together on the eve of International Women's Day and the festival of Holi at a hotel in Supela on Sunday. Bhilai Press Club President Bhavana Pandey graced

the function as Chief Guest. In her inspirational address, she urged the women to help other women for achieving the goal of empowerment of women.

RBM State Chief Secretary Anju Tripathi and District President Renu Tripathi played vital role in making the programme a grand suc-

cess. The women and working committee members participated in exciting games and gave cultural programmes. Bindu Mishra, Asha Tripathi, Radha Mishra, Neerja Pathak, Sushma Dubey, Kavita Shukla, Anita Pandey, Neelam Tiwari, Poonam Tripathi, Meena Shukla and others were present.

Bar Rod Mill & Merchant Mill create daily production records



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 21: The determined team of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Modex unit BRM again broke its own record by rolling 1476 billets in 16 mm TMT bar and producing 3063 tonnes on March 20, 2022, the new best ever "daily production record". Earlier this record was made on February 23, 2022 by rolling 1462 billets in 16 mm TMT bar.

In this sequence, the committed team of Merchant Mill, an impor-

tant unit of SAIL-BSP, created a new record of daily production by producing a record 2029 tonnes in 65 mm angle on March 19, 2022. Earlier this record was of 1949 tonnes of production in 65 mm angle on December 12, 2021.

On the success of these departments, Director-in-Charge Anirban Dasgupta, Executive Director (Works) Anjani Kumar and top management of BSP congratulated energetic team of BRM and Merchant Mill.

JLN Hospital celebrates National Immunisation Day-2022

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 21: A programme was organised on March 16, 2022 by Department of Pediatrics & Neonatology JLN Hospital & RC under the guidance of Dr SK Issar (ED Medical & HS), Dr Ravindranath M (CMO, M & HS), Dr Pramod Binayake (CMO, M & H), Dr Subodh Kumar Saha, Dr Sambita Panda, Dr Nohar Singh Thakur to celebrate National Vaccination Day 2022.

Department of Pediatrics JLNH & RC is committed to achieve the goals set by Government of India and achieve excellence in field of vaccination as well and put a lot of efforts in 'Universal Program of Immunization'.

National Vaccination Day is observed every year on March 16 to convey the significance of vaccination as well as its role in public health. It was on this day in 1995 that the 1st dose of Oral

Polio vaccine was given in India. National Vaccination Day 2022 is observed to create awareness and to convey the message that vaccination or immunization is the most effective way of preventing highly infectious diseases. The Theme of National Vaccination Day 2022 is "Vaccines work for all". Vaccines, over the last few decades, have become an important tool to fight life-threatening diseases all over the world. According to the report by the World Health Organisation, vaccines save almost 2 to 3 million people every year.

This year, the day is all the more important because the country started its biggest COVID -19 Immunisation program in 2021 and more than 96 crore Indian citizens have received at least 1 dose & more than 81 crore Indian citizen have received both doses of COVID-19 vaccines till date (March 15,



2022). Since the COVID-19 pandemic has been prevailing all over the world, the Government of India is taking every necessary step to vaccinate every citizen of India against the disease.

National Vaccination Day 2022 initiates a talk regarding the significance of vaccines and why people must get themselves vaccinated and also their family members and children vaccinated for the protection against certain diseases.

With these new vaccines, India's UIP now provides free vaccines against 13 life threatening diseases, to 27 million children annually. Total member of Covid-19 vaccination done by JLN Hospital as on March 14,

2022 as 89436. Important vaccines apart from COVID 19, in last 3 years given by BSP's M&HS Department are - BCG - 3132, OPV (bivalent) -10184, DPT - 7052, MMR - 3643, Typhoid - 2691, Hepatitis B -8263, Hib - 5785, Hepatitis A -1892, Chicken Pox -1735, Pneumococcal -5062, Rota virus-4278, IPV- 2276, & H1N1 (swine flu)-516.

Vaccination is a team effort and requires team leader, program coordinator, expert doctors and competent vaccinators. COVID-19 vaccination program is being run at JLNH & RC under competent leadership of Dr Sambita Panda (HoD pediatrics), program coordinator Dr Subodh Kumar Saha (ACMO)

assisted by a team of expert doctors Dr NS Thakur (ACMO), Dr Sanjibani Patel (DCMO), Dr Meeta Sachdev (chief consultant), Dr Nootan Kumar Verma (Asstt CMO), Dr Koushik Kishore (chief consultant), Dr Wrunda Sakhare (Senior consultant), Dr Mala Choudhary (consultant), Dr Subhasmita Pattanayak (consultant) and Dr Ruchika Tamrakar (Sr MO).

The Officers and Staff of Statistical and Accounts namely BR Dhoke (Senior Manager C & IT Dept), Lakhani Yadav (C&IT Dept) along with Vaccination team consisting Reena Janghel, Arunika, Visakha, Lovely, Chintamani Sahu, Meenakshi offered their best services for the successful implementation of COVID 19 vaccination program and ongoing immunization programme in JLNHRC. Balvir Singh, Shahid Ahmed and the other staff of M&S have supported this endeavor immensely.

OBITUARY

V Ganeshan



Bhilai: Smriti Nagar resident V Ganeshan left for heavenly abode at the age of 93 years. Funeral procession will be taken out from his residence on March 22 and last rites of the mortal remains will be performed at Ramnagar Muktidham around 14:00 hrs. He was the father of G Venkat Raman and brother-in-law of S Swaminathan.

Panchayat Minister suspends 14 officers and CEO

On charges of irregularities in construction of culvert and Stop-Dam in Marwahi Forest div.

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 21: The Minister for Panchayat TS Singh Deo made declaration to suspend 14 Forest officers and employees and CEO District Panchayat Gajendra Thakur on charges of irregularities in construction of culvert and stop-dam in Marwahi forest division. Apart from this the action against the then acting DFO will also be taken in this context.

MLA Gulab Kamro drew attention of Panchayat and Rural Development Minister T Singh Deo towards massive irregularities under MGNREGA in construc-



tion of culvert and Stop-Dam in Forest division Marwahi. In replying to his question, TS Singh Deo said that a complaint about withdrawal of amount without getting the work done has been received. For this a four-member inquiry team has been formed and the Samiti has been asked to check 33 works. There is information about taking disciplinary action against the officers involved in the irregularities.

MLA Gulab Kamro said that even the CEO District Panchayat is also guilty

and questioned as to how many other officers and employees are guilty and when the action will be taken against them.

On this Minister TS Singh Deo informed that this complaint was received from DCC President and then inquiry was ordered into it. When the fact came forward, there were many irregularities and in this the amount for the work was withdrawn going against the rules meant for purchase of materials.

In addition to this there was violation in the works sanctioned. The 15 officers

and employees of the Forest department who have been found to be guilty and two other have been asked to submit clarification and other officers have been issued show-cause notice. For their suspension, soon the action will be taken, he added.

On this the BJP and CJC(J) MLAs and those in Congress also demanded action against the other officers involved in such irregularities and demand for declaration of their suspension in the House was raised.

Minister Singh Deo said that the decorum of the House increases adhering to rules and regulations and we are confined to rules as per the Constitution and added that if there is rules to suspend 'A' grade officers and retired officer, then I am ready to make declaration about their suspension.

TANK DEMOLITION



An old water tank in DD Nagar area of city was demolished using explosives, as it's life was over and need to be demolished to avoid any untoward incident.



No rules for payment of compensation to farmers committing suicide: Sahu

Inform House that total 570 farmers committed suicide in 2 yrs

suicide due to agricultural reasons and rest others committed suicide for some other reasons. On this MLA Bandhi pointed out that there is no provision of payment of compensation to famers and questioned as to whether any rule will be formed for its payment, saying that a farmer of UP was paid Rs 50 lakh in the form of compensation.

On this the Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu informed that so far there is no rule for payment of compensation to farmers committing suicide and denied the news about payment of Rs 50 lakh as compensation to a farmer in UP and clarified that it is CM who pays this amount as per his discretion.

On this the Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu informed the House that from Jan 2019 to 12 Feb 2022, a total of 570 farmers committed suicide. Out of these, two persons have committed

Former govt responsible for flaws in construction of Express-way: Sahu

BJP MLA raises question-hour session in the House



Raipur, Mar 21: The issue of inordinate delay in construction of Express-way from Raipur to Kendri even after 3 years was raised in the Vidhan Sabha on Monday. Replying to a question by BJP MLA Shivratan Sharma, the PWD Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu said that it was the erstwhile BJP government in the state who wanted to get the Express-way inaugurated before elections and which led to variety of low-quality construction work.

BJP MLA Shivratan Sharma during question-hour session in the House questioned about the

agency involved in construction of Raipur-Kendri Express-way and who are the officers and employees suspended on finding irregularities in its construction work? By which corporation the work was done by PWD and whether the officers involved in irregularity were from the department or working on deputation?

The PWD Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu in-

formed the House that M/s Iron Tangle Ltd Ahmedabad is the construction agency for construction of this Express-way. Six officers were suspended on finding irregularity in its construction work and out of which two have been reinstated. All these officers were working on deputation and action of their suspension was done by their parent department.

On this MLA Shivratan Sharma charged that so far the road construction work of this Express-way has not been completed and nor the contractor has been suspended. On this Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu said that it was the erstwhile government who was more in hurry to get it inaugurated early and which led to all these loopholes in construction

work. Biggest of the action was taken against the contractor and he has been asked to re-construct the damaged part of the Express-way again.

MLA Shiv Ratan Sharma said that the state government is only making big declaration and informed the House that road construction work worth Rs 600 cr is in progress and to what was done for this road in last three years? Why the two officers were reinstated and why four others were left behind. Minister for Urban Administration Shiv Kumar Daharia said that it was the former BJP government in the state who recruited these corrupt officers for this project and on this Shivratan Sharma raised a volley, as to why the existing government is trying to save them?

'Ganja' worth Rs 15 lakh seized



Central Chronicle News

Raigarh, Mar 21: The Raigarh Police got a major breakthrough in seizing large quantity of 'Ganja' worth Rs 15 lakh kept secretly inside a chamber in a pick-up Van here on Monday. The 'Ganja' smugglers are from MP and were taking it from Odisha to MP.

It was on tip from an informer that Raigarh Police was warned on Sunday night that few drug smugglers are carrying 'Ganja' from Odisha to MP and in view of this the Police de-

puted a team at Birnipali Check-post on Chhattisgarh - Odisha border. This team was keeping close eye on all the vehicles and they remained on duty till Monday morning.

It is learnt that the Policemen checked many vehicles and it was around 10-11 am in the morning they found a white pick-up Van approaching. The Police stopped this pick-up Van and when searched they found nothing at the back, but below this there was a secret chamber built with 100 packets of 'Ganja' worth Rs 15 lakhs.

NQAS certificate to 5 govt health centers of Raipur

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 21: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has awarded National Quality Assurance Standard (NQAS) certificate to 5 government hospitals in Raipur for better quality of their services. The Quality Certification Programme for Public Health Facilities has been initiated with an objective to identify well performing facilities as well as to improve the credibility of public hospitals in the community.

National Quality Assurance Standard Certificate is awarded on meeting the prescribed criteria and financial incentives are also provided. The Managing Director of National Health Mission, Government of India, Vikas Sheel has congratulated Chhattisgarh through a letter. The hospitals which



have been granted certificates include Humar Hospital Rajatalab, Humar Hospital Bhanpuri, Urban Primary Health Center Changorabhatha, Urban Primary Health Center Hirapur and Urban Primary Health Center Urla in Raipur.

These institutes were evaluated by the assessors of different states of the country between December and February. Assessments were made on service availability, patient rights, institution maintenance, avail-

ability of support services, clinical services, preventive procedures, quality management and outcomes.

According to CMHO Dr Meera Baghel it is a matter of pride for Raipur to get the National Quality Assurance Standard Certificate for the health centers run by the National Urban Health Mission. Free services are provided to the citizens of the city in all these centres, she said.

These centers provide facilities for daily vaccination, examination of preg-

nant women, eye examination, dental care, delivery services, emergency services, adolescent health, family planning, mental health, treatment of non-communicable diseases, prevention of communicable diseases. About 60 types of blood tests, covid tests and vaccinations are conducted and 121 types of free medicines are being given in the urban primary health center. Sonography facility is also being provided to pregnant women in Humar Hospital, Rajatalab.

Entries for National Voter Awareness competition till March 31

● **Competition is in five categories**

Raipur, Mar 21: According to Chhattisgarh Chief Electoral Officer entries for the National Voter Awareness Competition "My Vote is My Future - Power of One Vote" conducted by the Election Commission of India can be sent till 31st March. He has sent a letter in this regard to all the collectors and district election officers of the state.

Collector Sourabh Kumar has directed the concerned officers regarding the promotion of

National Voter Awareness Competition in compliance with the letter of the Election Commission.

The last date for sending entries in this competition organized by the commission in 5 categories was earlier fixed till March 15. Quiz, Video Making, Poster Design, Singing and slogan have been included in the competition. Interested participants can send their creativity in the above categories directly to the Election Commission of India on the e-mail id: contest@eci.gov.in by the last 31st March.

CM appeals to save the forest for environmental protection

On occasion of World Forestry Day

Raipur, Mar 21: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has greeted the people of the state on the occasion of International Forestry Day. In his message released here on Monday, he said that World Forestry Day is celebrated on March 21st to protect trees and forests around the world and to convey its importance to the people. Many animals, insects and other living creatures are in-

terdependent on the forest. This arrangement is very necessary for the protection of the environment as well as the biological coexistence. Forests are the source of various food and other useful materials along with the vital oxygen on the earth. We are seeing the effect of increasing population and changing lifestyle in the form of shrinking forest and polluted environment. The Chief Minister has appealed to the people of the state to save trees and forests for environmental protection.

Oppn members boycott questions of Food Minister

Raipur, Mar 21: In the ongoing Budget Session of the State Assembly, today was the time of questions related to Food Department of Food Minister Amarjeet Bhagat. But the members of the Opposition were annoyed over his words in the House before Holi and they all boycotted questions of Food Minister Amarjeet Bhagat. In the House here on Monday, without asking any questions and expressed their anger.

Speaker terms migration as black-spot on face of Ch'garh:

The issue of migration of labourers was also strongly raised by the Opposition in the Vidhan Sabha here on Monday. MLA Dhanendra Sahu sought answer from the Minister Dr Shiv Kumar Daharia on migration of labourers. The Minister in his reply informed the House that more than 30000 labourers have migrated from 551 villages of

Mahasamund district. On the other hand, Minister informed the House that in 2021-22, a total of 2.50 lakh labourers were provided employment and were made payment of Rs 10,819 lakh. On this Speaker State Assembly Dr Charandas Mahant held migration of labourers from Chhattisgarh black-spot on the face of Chhattisgarh and directed to form concrete work plan to avoid the same.

Action to be taken against illegal bio-diesel pumps:

MLA Anita Sharma raised the issue of sale of bio-diesel in the state and on which Food Minister Amarjeet Bhagat informed that there is no bio-diesel pump in capital city. On this MLA Anita Sharma informed that two bio-diesel pumps are functioning illegally in her VS area and on which action should be taken. On this it was decided to take action against those running illegal bio-diesel pumps in the state.

Hails from Mungeli district of Ch'garh

Raipur, Mar 21: Having created record and clean-sweep in Punjab VS polls, the National Convener of AAP is all praise for Dr Sandeep Pathak and has taken decision to send him as Rajya Sabha (RS) MP from Punjab. Dr Sandeep Pathak hails from Mungeli District of Chhattisgarh and is working as Professor in IIT Delhi and has been declared as RS MP of APP from Punjab. This news has created joyous moment for his family and celebrations in his village and Mungeli district.

Dr Sandeep Pathak S/o Shiv Kumar Pathak still lives in small village in Gram Bataha of Lormi VS area of Chhattisgarh and when the villagers came to know that their son is going to become Rajya Sabha MP, there was air of



happiness and joy among all. People of the village went to Sandeep's residence and extended greetings to his family members. Dr Sandeep Pathak is elder son of Shiv Kumar Pathak and name of his younger brother is Pradeep Pathak and sister's name is Pratibha Pathak. Born on 4 Oct 1979, completed his primary school education in the village and then completed further education from Bilaspur city and

then left for Hyderabad for higher studies. He completed his Ph.D. from Cambridge University in UK and became a Professor in IIT Delhi on his return.

Kejriwal all praise for Sandeep Pathak

It is learnt that during Delhi VS poll, Dr Sandeep Pathak worked diligently along with election strategist Prashant Kumar and for his political analysis and skills he is among one of the close con-

sultants of CM Kejriwal and is one among the top names in ensuring AAP's victory in Delhi VS polls. CM Arvind Kejriwal had given him responsibility to prepare the organisation in Punjab and after the results of Punjab polls, Kejriwal is all praise for Sandeep Pathak.

Can be given major responsibility in Ch'garh

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has now decided to contest next VS polls in Chhattisgarh and in such conditions they will try their level best to encash the image of farmer's son- Dr Sandeep Pathak. So far AAP leader Gopal Rai and Sanjay Singh have taken up the command in Chhattisgarh, but there are hopes that on Sandeep selected as RS MP from Punjab, he could be given some major responsibility of preparing party's role in Chhattisgarh for the next VS polls.

‘Rising interest towards farming among Ch’garh’s youth’

CM inaugurates Kabir Panthi Sahu Samaj Hostel

Initiative to provide student accommodation in the district

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 21: Chhattisgarh government, in its new inclusive development model, has started numerous schemes to boost the socio-economic conditions of the state's rural populace. Rural Chhattisgarh is primarily agriculture-based and with the formation of farmer friendly policies, youth's interest in farming has increased. To avail the benefits of such government-aided policies, the youth has started to shift from cities to villages, said Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel while addressing the gathering in the inauguration ceremony of Kabir Panthi Sahu



Samaaj's Hostel located in Semaria, Aarang district.

Baghel initiated the inauguration ceremony of the newly constructed hostel building by worshipping Sant Kabir Das. It is noteworthy that the Chief Minister had announced to fund Rs 40 lakh for this hostel building in the year 2019-20. As promised, a fully equipped hostel has been prepared for student accommodation. Rajya Sabha MP Chhaya Verma, Parliamentary Secretary Shakuntala Sahu, MLA Anita Sharma, State

Teleghani Board President Sandeep Sahu, District Panchayat President Domeswari Verma were also present on the occasion.

The Chief Minister further said that Sant Kabir has given an important message of connecting everyone in the society with love and kindness. The state government is extending all possible efforts and cooperation for the propagation of Sant Kabir's ideas. With the construction of this hostel building, it will be very convenient for the stu-

dents from far and remote places of the state to come here for accommodation and education.

The Chief Minister said that the farmers of the state have not faced any financial crunch even during the global pandemic. Timely funds were made available to the farmers through Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana. Along with this, employment was also provided in the village through MNREGA. He said that in the last three years, the state of Chhattisgarh has paid special attention to the needs and grievances of the farmers and has made its mark as a farmer-friendly government in the entire country.

With the state government's intervention, the confidence of farmers has increased. Every possible effort is being made to make the farmers and laborers of the state financially secure. Urban Administration and Development Minister Dr

Shivkumar Dahria said that the state government under the leadership of Chief Minister Mr. Baghel has done commendable work for the upliftment of farmers and workers. Along with this, continuous efforts are also being made to revive and promote the culture and tradition of Chhattisgarh through various schemes, programs and committees. The Chief Minister concluded the ceremony by asking the students of the district to avail the benefit of this newly constructed hostel and wished them luck for a bright future. The program was also addressed by Telghani Board President Shri Sandeep Sahu, Gram Panchayat Sarpanch Shri Manish Sarang, Society officials Shri Hanumant Sahu, Shri Kanhaiya Lal Sahu. Three-tier Panchayat representatives and a large number of society officials were present in the program.

‘BADALBO CH’GARH’



AAP party workers and leaders took out massive 'victory rally' under the title 'Badalbo Ch'garh' and it was led by Environment Minister AAP Delhi Gopal Rai and Buradi MLA Sanjeev Jha.

CM inaugurates badminton court



Raipur, Mar 21: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Saturday inaugurated the Badminton Court building in Kumbhari Municipal Council. Facility of changing room has also been made available at Badminton court campus. Landscaping has also been done in the campus. The badminton court has been developed at the cost of Rs 97 lakh. A vertical garden has also been built in the campus at a

cost of Rs 60 lakh. Moreover a garden has also been developed at a cost of Rs 59 lakh. Baghel said that his government was committed to develop sports infrastructure along with civic amenities in cities and continuous efforts were being made in this direction. Better sports infrastructure is constantly being created in the state and in the district, he said. With this Chhattisgarh will emerge very strong in the field of sports, he added. Chairman of Mineral Development Corporation Girish Devangan, Municipal Council President Rajeshwar Sonkar and other public representatives were present.

AAP to contest next VS polls in the state as people want a change: Rai

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 21: After record victory and clean sweep in Punjab, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is now targeting Chhattisgarh and the party under leadership of Arvind Kejriwal has taken a decision to contest the next VS polls in the state from tribal dominated area. As per the plans, the party's senior leader and Delhi's Environment Minister Gopal Rai arrived here on two-day tour to Chhattisgarh from Sunday and to give momentum to party's activities for the next VS polls in the state. AAP's Eastern region unit in Charge and MLA Buradi Sanjeev Jha will be accompanying Rai to Chhattisgarh. Addressing a press



conference, on asking about his objective behind state visit, Rai informed that this tour is to prepare ground work for the next VS polls in the state and through this victory rally, we want to pass on the party's message to masses. AAP's Delhi convener Rai said that the party has decided to contest next VS Polls in the state, as the people of the state wants a change, especially the youth and women and are not so happy with Congress. Speaking fur-

ther right after formation of state 15 yrs back, BJP has never fulfilled its promises and in the last VS polls in the state, the people voted Congress party for a change. He said that Congress too has not fulfilled the promises made in last three & half years of its governance. Rai said that Congress is facing internal feuds and the youth, women and tribal of state are not happy with its policies. The people here have seen both BJP and Congress rule and

now wants a change.

One of the AAP's leader said that the party is making plans for next VS polls in the state and would hold meetings with AAP leaders and party workers and would launch membership campaign for the party on a large scale. Rai would also inaugurate party's office in Raipur on Sunday. Another leader of AAP informed that Gopal Rai in order to underline the party's record victory in Punjab, he would be taking part in the victory rally to be taken out in capital city on Monday and would present AAP as an alternative party to BJP and Congress. It is notable here that in the year 2018, AAP has fielded candidates in 85 VS seats out of total 90 and could not win a single seat.

GPIL, Niro's Ispat and Axis Bank win matches



Raipur, Mar 21: Today three matches took place starting with Niro's Ispat (NI) and BOB. The captain of Bank of Baroda (BoB) won the toss and elected to bat first and in which batsman's made 108 runs losing 6 wickets. Countering NI could achieve the target and won the game at a very neck-to-neck time in the 12th over losing 7 wickets. In this match Sanjay Yadav was rewarded with the player of the match trophy for scoring 52 runs in mere 4 overs.

The 2nd game took place in between Yes Bank and GPIL. Ecopol after winning the toss Ecopol opted batting and in the 1st innings

they made 127 runs losing 8 wickets, while in the next inning's YB's batsmen could not make the target very easily and while losing all the wickets they collapsed very initially at 52 runs only. Hemant Sahu was awarded as the player of match.

In the last match between Axis Bank and Jaiswal NECO, the NECO team won the toss and elected to bat first. Their batsmen scored 62 runs on a serious damage of 9 wickets. Playing in the next innings, Axis Bank lost 4 wickets and won the match very easily. For achieving 21 runs and hitting 2 wickets the man-of-the-match award was given to Arif.

University family is a confluence of rainbow of colors : V-C



Bilaspur, Mar 21: Holi Milan ceremony was organized at the residence of Honorable Vice-Chancellor of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (Central University), Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal. The Vice-Chancellor, who is always ready to encourage the spirit of affection, coordination, harmony and cooperation in the Central University, took this initiative for the first time and organized Holi Milan ceremony with the teachers, officers and employees of the University.

In this program organized from 10 am on March 18, 2022, everyone greeted each other by applying herbal gulal made by the

students of Rural Technology Department of the university. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Chakrawal along with his entire family, attended the Holi Milan celebrations and welcomed everyone with a hug.

On the occasion of Holi, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal recited poems of fun and humor on Holi, while remembering the old days of Holi, sharing of happy moments spent with his friends and colleagues. He wished everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous life while wishing everyone a very Happy Holi.

Vice-Chancellor said that this festival expresses life in its best form where

all the colors mix with each other and scatter rainbow spectrum. Any one color does not have any existence of its own, rather it mixes with the others and shines more. Similarly, we have to establish the university as a link with each other and establish it at the national and international level.

On the occasion of Holi, special arrangements were made for snacks with the special addition of 'Gujiya'. Members of the university family presented Chhattisgarhi bhajans, songs and poetry recitations on this occasion. The program was conducted by Dr. Santosh Singh Thakur and vote of thanks was given by Prof. PK Bajpai.

Ch'garh's tribal women awarded for excellence in food processing

Raipur, Mar 21: Udan Mahila Krishak Producer Company, Self-Help Group of Chhattisgarh's tribal women has been awarded the "Women entrepreneurs Excellence Award in food product" by the Ministry of Micro, small and medium enterprises for their outstanding work in the field of food processing. The award was presented by Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, Minister of State for MSME, for the manufacture of agricultural food products and women entrepreneurship.

The award intends to provide public recognition for the outstanding performance of tribal women working in food processing units besides incorporating a sense of pride amongst the group members.

The award has been received by Mr. Siddharth Pandey, a consultant on behalf of the women's group.

The Knowledge Chamber of commerce and Industries of India have organized a \$5 trillion economy investment and business summit cum award ceremony in which various awards have been given in sectors such as food processing, agri and dairy business as these are the backbone of the Indian economy.

Ministry of small and medium enterprises is emphasizing on Agro processing as it plays a deci-



sive role on the development transformation of the Indian economy. Agriculture has an important role to play in the development of the nation and India today need a food processing revolution, which will accelerate the development of the economy. India's food ecosystem has a lot of potential and this can lead to a triple growth in retail trade.

The women of tribal-dominated kondagaon district have formed Udaan Mahila Krishak Producer Company which manufactures and sells agricultural food products under the brand name Kondanaar. There are 10 Board of Directors in the organization and more than 30 women self-help groups are involved in this.

The SHG group has been involved in a number of activities such as processing of pickles, tamarind chutney, cold pressed coconut oil, grounded species and handmade cookies. The organization comes under

National Rural Livelihood Mission in which all the directors are tribal women of Kondagaon district.

The products from start to finish are made by the tribal's, especially the women. The products are produced in small batches since they are all made manually. This helps them to remain fresh without any use of preservatives and chemicals.

Kondagaon Collector Pushpendra Meena said that regular employment has been ensured to more than 200 tribal women through this organization. Women's working here gets a minimum salary of Rs.7500 per month.

"Kondanaar is becoming a brand, not only in India but across the world. The products of Kondanaar were also displayed at the Dubai expo through virtual platform", Pushpendra Meena added further:

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel while expressing happiness on receiving the award said, "Tribal women have set an example by becoming entrepreneurs. Their dedication and perseverance has given a new identity to the traditional taste."

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who visited Raipur last month, had also tasted kondanaar food in which he praised the Tikhur milkshake.

24 Naxalites including men and women surrender



Konta, Ma 21: IG Bastar Range- Sundarraj P and Rajiv Thakur under the guidance of DIG CRPF (Operations Konta Range) in district Sukma and Sunil Sharma SP Sukma District, Jitendra Kumar Ojha, Commandant 208 Corps Cobra, Sachindra Choubey Addl. SP, Konta. Influenced by the promotion of "Rehabilitation Policy" of Chhattisgarh government and the "Puna Narkom Campaign" (New Morning, New Beginning) being run by the Sukma Police under the Naxal eradication campaign and being tired of exploitation, atrocities and discrimination by outside Naxalites and violence against the local tribals, a total of 24 Naxalite members including 10 women belonging to the banned Naxalite organization surrendered here on Monday.

They all surrendered without weapons in front of Pramod Chaudhary, TIC 208th in the new camp established under Kistaram police station on March 20, Vahini Cobra PK Sahu, 212th Corps CRPF, Kapil Beniwal, DC 208 Corps Cobra, Krishna Kumar, DC 208 Corps Cobra, Amit Pal Singh DC 204

Corps Cobra, Sunil Chinchu DC 212th Corps CRPF, Girija Shankar Sao, DSP Naxal Ops Konta.

During this, AC Ujjal Kumar of 208 Corps Cobra, AC Jitendra Kumar, AC Vishal Balu Binnar, AC. rb s. N. Singh and AC of 204 Corps Cobra. Yashbir Singh, AC. Akshay Kumar, AC. Prashastra Brijpally and ACs of 212 Corps CRPF. Virender Singh, AC. Devendra Kumar, AC. Doctor. Rohit, Bhavesh Shende were stationed in-charge Kistaram.

On the auspicious occasion of Holi Milan, a number of 100-120 villagers of village Potakpally wandered from the mainstream of the society and brought the members of the banned Naxalite organization to Camp Potkapalli and surrendered before the police, who lived in the Naxalite organization, in the police station Kistaram area. Naxalites were involved in incidents. There is an atmosphere of happiness among the local people due to the establishment of new camps in the area. Holi festival was celebrated with the surrendered Naxalites and villagers along with senior officers present in the camp.

Gauthans play an important role in strengthening rural economy: CM

● **Mopka College to be named after Late Ramnath Verma, additional arrangement for drinking water in village Tildabandha: announced Baghel**

● **CM attended the Manwa Kurmi Kshatriya Samaj's Sammelan organized in Baloda Bazar**

Central Chronicle News

Balodabazar, Mar 21: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Sunday said that Gauthans play an important role in strengthening the rural economy and are being developed as centers of rural livelihood. Various schemes are being implemented to strengthen the economic condition of the farmers in our state.

Baghel was addressing Baloda-Bazar Raj Kurmi

Kshatriya Samaj's Sammelan organized at the Balodabazar-Bhatapara district headquarters today. On this occasion, he announced to name Mopka College after Late Ramnath Verma besides making an announcement for additional arrangements for drinking water in village Tildabandha.

In the programme, he also felicitated 23 talented students on behalf of the society. He also released the book 'Chitrotapa Premdeep' written by Pushpa Verma. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Chief Minister Mr. Baghel said that Kurmi society is a progressive society. Meaningful steps are being taken to eradicate various social anomalies.

Stressing on the importance of education, Baghel said education is very important to bring change in any society. Swami Atmanand Excellent English Medium Schools have been opened in the state to provide quality education in English medium



to the children. He said that the state government is working continuously to promote and preserve the rich and unique culture of Chhattisgarh. Local festivals like 'Teej' and food are being promoted, to help build a sense of pride among citizens.

Chief Minister said that after the formation of the new government in Chhattisgarh, the quantity of paddy being purchased by the state government and the number of farmers is increasing continuously. At present, the area under cultivation has increased.

The state government's ambitious Godhan scheme has boosted employment opportunities and income. Even the unemployed ones are making profit by selling cow dung. Mr. Baghel said that the work of reviving the tradition of the village is being done by the government.

He said that the Rural Industrial Park would be built in all the Gauthans; the government is working continuously in the direction of realizing Gandhi's vision. He said that we are developing Gauthan as an important center of rural

livelihood. Along with vermicompost, local women are manufacturing many other products including incense sticks.

They are also earning additional income by growing vegetables on the vacant land. Chovaram Verma, the central president of Kurmi Samaj, presided over the programme. He said in his address that Chief Minister Mr. Baghel is taking forward Gandhi's dream of 'Gram Swaraj'.

Urban Administration Minister Dr. Shiv Kumar Dahariya, Rajya Sabha MP Chhaya Verma, Parliamentary Secretary and MLA Chandradev Rai, Shakuntala Sahu, Zila Panchayat President Rakesh Verma, Text Book Corporation Chairman Shailesh Nitin Trivedi, Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Mineral Development Corporation Girish Devangan, former MLA Janakram Verma along with a large number of locals, social workers and officials of Kurmi Samaj were present on the occasion.

CM Baghel attended the swearing-in ceremony of Sarva Brahmin Samaj

● **Polytechnic College Balodabazar to be named after former MP Late Smt. Karuna Shukla**

● **CM announced construction of a community hall for Brahmin Samaj in the name of Late Smt. Karuna Shukla**

Central Chronicle News

Balodabazar, Mar 21: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel attended the swearing-in ceremony of Sarva Brahmin Samaj organized at district headquarters Balodabazar on Sunday, as the chief guest. He garlanded the statue of Pandit Valmiki Shukla in Vipra Bhawan. He started the programme by offering prayers to the portrait of Lord Parashuram and sought His blessings.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Baghel announced to rename



Polytechnic College Balodabazar after former MP Late Smt. Karuna Shukla and to construct a community hall for Brahmin Samaj in the name of Late Smt. Karuna Shukla. Along with this, he urged the general public including Vipra society to celebrate the birth anniversary by studying about the date of birth of Mata Kaushalya. The state government will also provide all possible help in this regard. He also extended his best wishes to the newly elected President Shyam Sundar Shukla. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel mentioned the contribu-

tion of the 'Rishi' tradition of Brahmins in the society. Urban Administration Minister Dr. Shiv Kumar Dahariya, MLA Pramod Sharma, MLA Shivratna Sharma, Gau Seva Aayog President Mahant Dr. Ramsunder Das, Krishak Kalyan Parishad President Surendra Sharma, Chhattisgarh Text Book Corporation Chairman Shailesh Nitin Trivedi, Mineral Development Corporation President Girish Devangan, Vidhabhushan Shukla, Dr. Madhav Shukla along with other distinguished people of the society were present on the occasion.

Holi celebrated with festive revelry



Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Mar 21: Holi the festival of colours was celebrated here with festive revelry and brotherhood in almost every nook and corner. People gathered in large numbers played with colours till evening and splashing one another with holi colours, after a long sabatical from festive celebrations, owing to the spread of COVID 19 pandemic.

Drenched in colors

group of youths and children were seen moving from place to place applying colours on each other and passersby's.

People assembled in homes and roads and celebrated the festival with distribution of sweets and other delectables made for the festival. Trade and business also saw a leap as people openly purchased colors and other items in plenty and the increase in trade was seen both in rural as well as urban places.

● **Applying 'gula' and colours to each other**

Central Chronicle News

Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi, Mar 21: The festival of colours- 'Holi' was celebrated with great enthusiasm and fervour by people of all age-groups, especially after two years break due to corona pandemic. People were found moving around in groups and applying variety of colours on each other to celebrate the occasion.

At many a places in chowks and lanes-by-lanes, a group of youngsters were found beating the drums and singing 'Holi-songs' (Faag geet). Entire region was found submerged in hues of colour and people celebrated without any hesitation or fear from corona virus.

Therefore on this day of Holi, the Congmen from



all over the District, gathered at the Rest House and applied 'gula' to each other and extended greetings. Speaking on the occasion MLA Dr KK Dhruv said that this year Holi is being celebrated after two year's break and restrictions and this seems to continue for few more days till 'Rangpanchami'.

District Congress

President Manoj Gupta, Virendra Singh Baghel also extended greetings to all on Holi and applied variety of colours and 'gula'.

On occasion of this 'Holi-Milan', District President Manoj Gupta, Narayan Sharma, Rakesh Masih, Harish Rai, Bundkawar Singh, Virendra Singh Baghel, Rajendra Tamrakar, Malti



Vakere, Sumitra Sahu, and other Congmen were present.

Nagar Panchayat President Rakesh Jalan along with his entire team of Parishad and denizens of city took a small tour of city along with drum-beats and splashing 'gula' to celebrate the occasion.

In this series, DCC OBC District President from

Vidyanagar Pendra - Prasad Ramesh Sahu celebrated Holi along with ward residents by applying 'Gula'. In this Holi celebrations, Ravi Sahu, Prakash Sahu, Santosh Sahu, Murli Manohar Sharma, Vimala Gaud, Kamlesh Palu and other people celebrated the festival with great enthusiasm.

The members of social service Ekta group celebrated holi with flower petals and on this occasion Sharda Sahu, Sangeeta Chavariyala, Anita Singhal, Ranjana Keshari Shweta Singh, Ruby Upveja, Nidhi Shivhare, Sarita Sahu, Neha, Reeta, Rahmi Kesari, Shalu Agrawal and others were present.

Denizens celebrate Holi peacefully

DJs have replaced 'Nagadas' and 'Bhang' with liquor



Central Chronicle News

Pandaria, Mar 21: The festival of colours was celebrated with lots of enthusiasm and colourful manner by the residents of city here on Friday. It was right since morning, boys and girls carrying water guns in their hands started flashing water to passer-bys and also applied 'gula' and extended greetings on Holi. They went to their friends and neighbours along with family members and celebrated the occasion. At main chowks and triangles in city, people have arranged for 'DJ' and rain-dance in the corner and celebrated the occasion.

It was for last two years that people could not celebrate Holi due to corona pandemic and due to which this year after getting two vaccination, the people once again became active and enjoyed colours for the whole day.

But the traditional style of Holi these days is slowly fading out and it was not even visible in rural areas. 'Nagadas' have been replaced by DJ system and in the localities people were found dancing to tunes of songs on DJ. People were found moving around in groups in their lo-

cality, celebrating the festival. Every year on occasion of Holi, it is generally dry day and therefore people collected liquor bottles well in advance and due to which many turned out of control and due to which many people were found literally making nuisance and speaking in loud noise and were found lying down in state of deep slumber by the road-side.

Police security beefed up: In order to handle anti-social elements during Holi festival, the Police administration has made strict security arrangements, with barricading in sensitive places and checking those in drive-n-drunken state. Police Jawans were deployed for the whole day at the Old Bus Stand, Gandhi Chowk, New Bus Stand, Padhi Chowk, Mahamaya Chowk, Moderam Chowk, Tehsil Chowk, Mandi Chowk, Samrupara, Killapara, Durjabandpara, Balragpara, Mainpura, Rest House and at other places. In addition to these three-four searching parties were found patrolling in the urban areas and in rural areas too. Due to all such security arrangements, Holi was celebrated with peace and enthusiasm this year.

'Holika Dahan' done a day before:

It was on Thursday night that Holika-Dahan was done on auspicious occasion performing all rituals. Holika was combusted to flames at many places in city in urban and rural areas, viz. Mainpura, Bus Stand, Ghogharapara, Durjabandpara, Padhi Road, Gopiband para and other places. Apart from this few anti-social were found burning tyres at few places and then applied the paste of it in the morning the next day on Holi.

Contract workers of power department to gherao VS

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Mar 21: The contract workers engaged in power department has taken a decision to gherao Vidhan Sabha on March 23 in support of their demands. They will gather at Budha Talab dharna venue and proceed from their half naked to gherao VS.

They demanded that the present government

in its pre-election declaration assured to end the contract system but after coming to power thousands of employees are being recruited on contract basis.

It is alleged that the contract workers in the power department are deprived of any benefits like PF, gratuity and other benefits. They are not even paid salary at collector rate, alleged contract workers.

AFFIDAVIT

I Chander Arora, age 72, S/o Shri Late Tilak Raj Arora, R/o B-14, Shailendra Nagar, Raipur, (C.G.) do hereby make the following statements:

- That my name and address is as mentioned above and which is true and correct.
- That my name in the Aadhar Card No. 2479 1800 4028 has been mentioned as Chander Arora, which is true and correct.
- That the name in my passport is spelled as Mohan Chandra Arora.
- So both, Mohan Chandra Arora and Chander Arora are the names and spelling of the same person who is the deponent for which I am submitting this affidavit.
- In case of any type of controversy or objection on the same, I take up complete responsibility and for which this affidavit has been submitted.

CERTIFY

I do hereby solemnly affirm that the statements made from Sl. No. 1-5 are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and that I do stand by it.

DEPONENT

NAME CHANGE

This is to mention here that my actual and correct name is Fuleshwari Nishad and the same name is mentioned in my Aadhar Card No. 381337661400. In my other documents also viz. Ration Card, Voter ID my name is Fuleshwari Nishad, which is correct.

This is to inform that I cleared primary school certificate exam in 1997-98 from Education District Kanker and that of Class 5th as well. I cleared district-level Middle School exam in 2000-2001 and passed Class 8th exam from Education District Kanker.

In my both Class 5th and 8th Mark-sheet my name has got registered as Fulbai.

So I want to get my name changed, which got wrongly mentioned as Fulbai in my mark-sheet and wants to change and correct it to Fuleshwari Nishad, which is correct and true name.

R. No. 1199/21/02/2022
Fuleshwari Nishad
Add- W/o Dujram Nishad
H.No. 163, Bazar Para, Sanoud ward -12, Sanoud, Balod (C.G.)
Mob. No. - 87188-27509



CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate Office : 1st Floor, 'Dare House', No. 2, N. S. C. Bose Road, Chennai - 600 001
Branch Office : Shop No. 416, 4th Floor, National Corporate Park, Opposite Maruti Business Park, G. E. Road, Raipur, Chhattisgarh - 492 001

POSSESSION NOTICE
Under Rule 8 (1)

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 hereinafter called the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rules 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notices on the dates mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrowers, to repay the outstanding amount with interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers in particular and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties mortgaged with the Company described herein below on the respective dates mentioned against each account in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 9 of the Rules made there under.

The borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned herein below and any such dealings will be subject to the charge of Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited for an amount mentioned against each account along with interest and other charges.

Under section 13 [8] of the Securitisation Act, the borrowers can redeem the secured asset by payment of the entire outstanding including all costs, charges and expenses before notification of sale.

Sl. No.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF BORROWER & LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBER	DETAILS OF PROPERTY POSSESSED	A) DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE B) OUTSTANDING AMOUNT C) DATE OF POSSESSION
1.	Loan Account Nos : X0HERRH00001320281 1. Manoranjan Kumar Pandey Both are at : House No. MIDD 82, Phase -1, Near GSD, Quaterkabar Nagar, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, Pin - 492001 3. Shree Sai Industries Gyan Kartar Tower, Telghani Naka, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, Pin - 492001	All that piece and Property (i) Flat on the 1st Floor admeasuring about 835 Sq. Fts., along with One Car Parking Space on the Ground Floor, (ii) Flat on the 3rd Floor measuring about 835 Sq. Fts., and (iii) Shop Room No. 1 on the Ground Floor measuring about 140 Sq. Fts., of the building and constructed at upon the Plot of land measuring about 4 Cottahs 9 Chittaks and 13 Sq. Ft., forming part of R. S. Dag Nos. 413 & 415 Under R. S. Khatian No. 769 in Mouza - Bansroni, Under P. S. - Regent Park in the District South 24 Parganas, Presently Known and Numbered as Municipal Premises No. 82, Dinesh Pally under Municipal Ward No. 113, Kolkata - 700070.	A) 15.07.2020 B) Rs. 1,39,78,489.08 (Rupees One Crore Thirty Nine Lakhs Seventy Eight Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Nine and Paise Eight Only) as on 14.07.2020 and interest thereon C) 17.03.2022

Date : 22.03.2022
Place : Raipur, Chhattisgarh

Authorised Officer
Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

BRIEF

IED explosion

■ **New Delhi:** Delhi police has filed a charge sheet against senior DRDO scientist Bharat Bhushan Kataria before a court here in relation to the IED explosion in Rohini Court Complex in December last year. The Special Cell of Delhi Police filed the final report before Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Pankaj Sharma alleging that Kataria knowingly and deliberately placed and triggered an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) using a remote trigger on December 9, 2021 in the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Pritu Raj, Room No. 102, in Rohini Court Complex with the intention to kill his rival Amit Vashisht.

Liquor poisoning

■ **Kannauj:** Three people died and one was taken seriously ill after consuming liquor in Uttar Pradesh's Kannauj district, police said on Monday. The wife of one of the deceased accused two persons of poisoning the liquor and a youth has been taken into custody for questioning, they said. The deaths were reported from Kathahar village under Kasava outpost of Chhibramau police station area. After receiving information on Saturday, Superintendent of Police (SP) Prashant Verma reached the spot and spoke to the villagers, the police said. The villagers told police that one Amit (30) along with his father Jaskaran, uncle Rakesh and another person consumed liquor purchased from a nearby shop on Saturday, they said. Amit's condition deteriorated soon after and his family members took him to a local hospital.

STF shootout

■ **Lucknow:** An alleged criminal involved in the murders of a journalist and a manager of a private firm was shot dead in Varanasi on Monday in an encounter with Uttar Pradesh's Special Task Force, officials said here. Gangster Manish Singh Monu was injured in an encounter with an STF unit on the border of the Lohta and Jansa police stations in the district and was rushed to hospital, they said. He was declared dead in the hospital, they added. The officials said police also seized a pistol and a carbine besides many live cartridges at the site of the gunfight between the police and Monu and his accomplice, who managed to flee from there.

Cong observer

■ **Panaji:** Senior Congress leader and MP Rajani Patil will arrive in Goa on Tuesday on a two-day visit to get feedback from her party's state unit on the poor performance in the recent Assembly polls. Goa Congress' senior vice president MK Shaikh said Patil, who is the All India Congress Committee's observer, would be talking to MLAs, candidates who lost, office bearers etc on the loss. "She will meet functionaries in the North Goa district Congress office on Tuesday between 3:30pm and 6:30pm and on Wednesday will visit the party's campaign office in Panaji and the South Goa district Congress office in Margao," Shaikh informed.

Mekedatu row: TN Assembly passes unanimous resolution against K'taka

Chennai, Mar 21 (PTI)

The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Monday adopted a unanimous resolution condemning the Karnataka government for its 'unilateral' decision to proceed with the Mekedatu dam project across the Cauvery river and prevail upon the Centre to reject the proposal.

Water Resources Minister Duraimurugan who piloted the resolution accused the neighbouring state of posing problems to Tamil Nadu for decades and said Karnataka's decision to proceed with the dam (balancing reservoir) project "disrespecting" the Supreme Court verdict is reprehensible.

"Where is federalism. Here is a state that is disrespecting the apex court order and has not released the full quantum of water due for Tamil Nadu. If we

don't put up a unified struggle, then we may lose our rights and future generations will curse us," he said and appealed to political parties to support the resolution rising above party differences.

Accusing the Centre of meting out step-motherly treatment to Tamil Nadu on the issue, he claimed successive Union governments, be it the Congress or the BJP, have not prevented Karnataka from acting contrary to Tamil Nadu's interests.

The resolution, passed with the unanimous support of all the parties including the AIADMK and the BJP condemned Karnataka for going ahead with the project, allocating funds and asked the Centre not to entertain that state's plea for environmental clearance and reject its detailed project report (DPR).

Further, the central government should advise Karnataka to not take up any projects without the consent of the riparian states, it said.

"Karnataka government's action of disrespecting the final verdict of the Cauvery Tribunal on February 5, 2007 and the Supreme Court verdict on February 16, 2018, and unilaterally allocating funds for the Mekedatu dam project without consulting the states concerned or without necessary clearances from the centre, is unacceptable and this House strongly condemns the Karnataka government for this," the resolution said.

Noting that the Cauvery water issue is long drawn one and an "emotive issue for both the states," the resolution further said the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) has been constitut-

ed to implement the 2018 judgement of the Supreme Court. "The House, therefore, requests the CWMA not to consider or approve the detailed project report of the Government of Karnataka for the construction of the dam at Mekedatu, which is not mentioned in the Supreme Court order," it said and expressed complete support to all the measures taken by Tamil Nadu government to thwart Karnataka government's attempts while safeguarding the Tamil Nadu farmers' welfare.

Earlier, Leader of the Opposition AIADMK in the Assembly K Palaniswami, extended his party's support to the resolution, and recalled the several measures initiated by the AIADMK government in the past to safeguard the state's rights on the Cauvery water issue.

BISMILLAH TRIBUTE



People pay tribute at the cemetery of Bharat Ratna Ustad Bismillah Khan, on his 106th birth anniversary, in Varanasi, Monday.

Punjab Cabinet: Seven of 11 ministers face criminal cases, nine crorepatis

New Delhi, Mar 21 (PTI)

Seven of the 11 newly sworn-in ministers in Punjab have declared criminal cases against themselves, with one of them facing a murder case, poll rights group Association for Democratic Reforms said on Monday.

The 11 ministers include Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

Punjab Election Watch and the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) analysed affidavits of all 11 ministers, including the CM.

The ADR said seven ministers (64 per cent) have declared criminal cases against themselves.

Four of them (36 per cent) have declared serious criminal cases against themselves.

According to the ADR report, serious criminals cases meant those offences which carry punishment of five years or more. Mann is among the four ministers facing serious criminal cases.

The other three are Gurmeet Singh Meht Hayer, Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal and Harpal Singh Cheema.

While Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal is facing a murder case, the other three have been booked in the past for allegedly voluntarily causing hurt to deter a public servant from doing his duty. Of the 11 minis-

ters, nine are crorepatis and the average of their assets is Rs 2.87 crore.

The minister with the highest declared total assets is Bram Shanker (Jimpa) from Hoshiarpur. He has assets worth Rs. 8.56 crore. Lal Chand from Bhoha (Sc) constituency has the lowest declared total assets worth Rs 6.19 lakh. Nine ministers have declared liabilities.

The minister with the highest liabilities is Bram Shanker. He has liabilities worth Rs 1.08 crore.

The ADR said five ministers (45 per cent) have declared their educational qualification to be between Class 10 and 12 while the rest are graduate or above.

'New investments to give fillip to J&K's economic development'

Srinagar, Mar 21 (PTI)

'Know Jammu and Kashmir' is the mantra adopted by the administration of the Union Territory for the ongoing visit of a high-powered industry delegation from the Gulf, during which a strong impetus is expected for investments across various sectors including hotels and hospitals, a senior official said on Monday.

Referring to the visit of a 36-member delegation that arrived here on a four-day visit on Sunday to explore investment opportunities, Principal Secretary of Industries and Commerce Department of the Union Territory Ranjan Prakash

Thakur told PTI that the visit is a good omen for J&K focusing on some main sectors to give a fillip to investments and economic development.

"This is a very high-level delegation. Hospitals, hotels are of their keen interest, along with agro-industry, IT and horticulture," he said, adding that the government has taken various steps with a new and futuristic mindset.

Besides, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will kick-start investments worth about Rs 35,000 crore in Jammu and Kashmir during his likely visit to the Union Territory next month, the official said. "The prime minister will

do the ground-breaking of investments worth about Rs 30,000-35,000 crore during his visit here," Thakur said.

He did not get into the details of the prime minister's programme.

Thakur said that during the tenure of Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, the Union Territory administration has received investments worth about Rs 50,000 crore so far, for which detailed project reports have been submitted and money has been deposited, whereas the total investment stood below Rs 15,000 crore in last six decades.

Thakur, an officer of the Indian Railway Traffic Service of 1989 batch, said

there has been a fundamental shift in the policy, and Jammu and Kashmir has made a huge leap forward. "J&K is a high focus area now. This is our time now and J&K needs to develop for its own people. There has been a fundamental shift in the policy as well as the implementation. An ecosystem has been created and we are taking one step forward every day," he said.

Referring to the visit of the delegation from Gulf countries, the principal secretary said that the thinking has to change radically. "With the visit of the delegation, the idea is just to whet the appetite, but, I am sure, the investment will follow," he said.

ALTERNATIVE BUDGET



Farm leaders Yogendra Yadav, Kavitha Gurugunte, Badagulapura Nagendra and others inaugurate the People Alternative Budget Session conference at Freedom Park, in Bengaluru, Monday.

Oppn praise Gadkari but flag concerns over quality of roads, transparency in toll collection

New Delhi, Mar 21 (PTI)

Several Opposition leaders on Monday praised the work of Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari but flagged some concerns on issues such as quality of roads, their maintenance and alleged lack of transparency in toll collection.

Participating in the discussion on the 'demand for grants of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' for 2022-23 in Lok Sabha, most MPs, both from Opposition and treasury benches, began their address by hailing the work done by Gadkari in the road transport sector and lauded his hands-

on approach.

BJP MP from Arunachal Pradesh Tapir Gao hailed road construction under the Modi government and said top car companies, including Ferrari, Porsche, Mercedes and Lamborghini, now participate in car rallies because of good roads in the state.

"The road network has even reached Kalapani (in Uttarakhand). Like Spider-Man's web, Nitin Gadkari too is putting in place a network of road connectivity," Gao said.

A number of Opposition MPs also flagged issues of concern and called for speeding up of existing projects.

CPI(M) MP from Kerala A M Ariff thanked Gadkari for the development of national highways in Kerala in a time-bound manner.

Underlining that road transport has an important role in employment generation, Ariff alleged that this government is adopting an approach of excessively relying on the private sector for the development of roads.

He also said private companies are looting people for years and years and there is no transparency in the amount collected as tolls. "As per the agreement made by the NHAI (National Highways Authority of India) with

the private players, after the construction cost is recovered the toll rates are to be reduced to 40 per cent. But what is happening that rates are hiked every now and then on the whims and fancies of private players, and NHAI and central government remaining mute spectators," Ariff said.

"I challenge the government to come up with a white paper on the toll collected so far as part of various projects in the country to bring the facts before the people," he demanded and urged the Centre to stop collecting tolls for small projects so that people are not overburdened.

Noida, Mar 21 (PTI) BJP

legislator Dharendra Singh said health and education will be his priority in his second term as the Jewar MLA while he also plans to get locals trained for skills that could help them bag 40 per cent of the jobs at the Noida International Airport.

Singh, a key negotiator with farmers for land acquisition for the Rs 29,560 crore airport project, won the recently concluded Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls from Jewar with 1.17 lakh (or 50.53 per cent) votes polled.

The people of my constituency have done their job by electing me and now I have to prove what I will do for the constituency in the

coming days, he told PTI.

He said Jewar has certainly made a lot of progress in the past five years and it had been one of the most backward regions in the state.

This is the same place where gunshots would be fired for two inches of land but now it is becoming home to Asia's largest airport with people's consent for land acquisition, he said recalling the infamous Bhatta-Parsaul episode.

The 55-year-old MLA said Jewar is primarily an agriculture-dominated area and the process of industrialisation may pose challenges for the natives to find jobs locally when the companies come in.

But we have already

taken this situation into consideration and made arrangements for that through the local Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) so that 40 per cent of the jobs are given to the local people in any case, Singh said.

He said a memorandum of understanding (MoU) will be signed whenever land is allotted to any industrialist and that the focusing is on getting projects, like the Apparel Park, which have work opportunities for native women.

Separately, we know that an airport will give rise to several allied job requirements, which require basic level of training. I will have such skills identified and arrangement for

training of local people before the airport starts functioning so that they get work there. That's the plan, he said.

He said Jewar will have Pod Taxis, metro rail connectivity in future while plans are afoot to connect the Yamuna Expressway with the expressway to Mumbai, multiple roads to Haryana and the high-speed train (bullet train) will reduce travel time to Lucknow to just two hours.

If we leave the water ways, this airport will have an exceptional road, rail and air connectivity Jewar has potential to become aviation hub, Singh said.

He said an international airport will help the region's people and their development.

3,000 cycles to become part of Indore's public transport system in phases

Indore, Mar 21 (PTI)

Aiming to reduce air pollution in the country's cleanest city Indore, 3,000 cycles will be added to the public transport system in phases. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan virtually inaugurated the first phase of this project costing Rs 10 crore on Monday.

Officials said that this project named "Indore Public Bicycle System" will be operated on a public-private partnership (PPP) basis and state-of-the-art bicycles will be provided to the common people on rent.

"With the addition of cycles to the public

transport system of Indore, the environment will be protected, the consumption of petrol and diesel will be reduced and the people will also stay healthy," the chief minister said.

Officials said the local administration will provide 3,000 bicycles on rent to the general public at city transport bus stops and other major public places in a phased manner. He said that the lock of these cycles would open and close with the help of a mobile application and these cycles would be equipped with GPS so that the local administration would keep an eye on their movement. Officials said that

such a cycle will be available to the common people for 10 hours for just Rs 10. The monthly rent for these bicycles is Rs 349.

Chouhan also inaugurated via video link the newly-constructed building of the Sarvateb bus stand in the city.

Built at the cost of Rs 14.80 crore in an area of 7,878 square meters, the new terminal will operate 500 buses daily.

Chouhan also laid a foundation stone for two water-treatment plants, to be constructed with an estimated cost of Rs 79.33 crore. The facility will treat sewage water to make it reusable.

PERSIAN NEW YEAR



Men raise an Islamic flag during celebrations of Nowruz, the Persian new year, as Taliban soldiers stand guard at the Kart-e-Sakhi shrine in Kabul, Afghanistan, Monday.

BRIEF

Hoax calls

■ **London:** Britain is accusing the Russian state of being behind hoax calls to two government ministers by an imposter posing as the prime minister of Ukraine. Defense Secretary Ben Wallace said the hoaxter was able to speak to him on a video call Thursday. Home Secretary Priti Patel said she had received a similar call, and Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries said an unsuccessful attempt was made to speak to her. Wallace said he became suspicious and hung up after the caller posed several misleading questions. He accused Russia of dirty tricks. Prime Minister Boris Johnson's spokesman, Max Blain, said Monday that the Russian state was responsible for the hoax calls made to government ministers last week.

Riot trial

■ **Washington:** An elected official from New Mexico heads to trial Monday with a judge not a jury set to decide if he is guilty of charges that he illegally entered the U.S. Capitol grounds on the day a pro-Trump mob disrupted the certification of Joe Biden's presidential election victory. That's not the only unusual feature of the case against Otero County Commissioner Couy Griffin, whose trial in Washington, D.C., will be the second among the hundreds of people charged with federal crimes related to the Jan. 6, 2021, siege. Griffin is one of the few riot defendants who isn't accused of entering the Capitol or engaging in any violent or destructive behavior. He claims he has been selectively prosecuted for his political views.

Rohingya hate

■ **Jakarta:** A new report has found that Facebook failed to detect blatant hate speech and calls to violence against Myanmar's Rohingya Muslim minority years after such behaviour was found to have played a determining role in the genocide against them. The report shared exclusively with The Associated Press showed the rights group Global Witness submitted eight paid ads for approval to Facebook, each including different versions of hate speech against Rohingya.

Pak seeks opinion on disqualification of dissident lawmakers

Islamabad, Mar 21 (PTI)

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government on Monday filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking clarification on a constitutional point regarding disqualification of the dissident lawmakers who have threatened to vote against embattled Prime Minister Imran Khan during a no-trust motion.

Attorney General Khalid Jawed Khan submitted the move, also called a presidential reference, about interpretation of Article 63-A of the Constitution in the wake of nearly two dozen lawmakers of the ruling party threatening to vote in favour of the opposi-

tion's no-trust motion.

The article says that anyone voting against the directive of the party leader on key issues like no-trust move or money bill will be disqualified.

The law is silent on the duration of disqualification, but Prime Minister Khan has threatened lifetime disqualification for the dissidents.

A two-judge bench, comprising Pakistan Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial and Justice Munib Akhtar, will take up the matter along with a plea filed by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) seeking intervention to keep peace ahead of the no-trust vote.

The petition highlights two interpretations of disqualification under Article 63-A, including simple de-seating the member with no further curbs, and lifetime disqualification along with the zero effects of the vitiated vote.

Khan's party is trying to seek a ruling that an erring member's vote should not be counted, so that vote of its dissident lawmakers in the favour of the no-trust move should not add to the total number of votes against the Prime Minister.

These votes are crucial as the opposition needs 172 votes to remove the Prime Minister along with his cabinet.

'China considering USD 2.5 bn in loan, trade credits for Lanka'

Colombo, Mar 21 (PTI)

China is considering a USD 2.5 billion credit facility to Sri Lanka, Beijing's top diplomat in Colombo said on Monday, as the island nation is reeling under an acute economic and energy crisis triggered due to a shortage of foreign exchange.

Chinese Ambassador Qi Zhenhong's announcement came closely on the heels of last week's announcement by India to extend a USD 1 billion line of credit to Sri Lanka as part of its financial assistance to help the country deal with the economic crisis. India had extended a USD 500 million line of credit to Sri Lanka in February to help it purchase petroleum products.

Sri Lanka has asked for USD 2.5 billion that includes a USD 1.5 billion buyer's credit. It (the request) is under consideration, Qi told



Chinese ambassador to Sri Lanka Qi Zhenhong attends a media briefing in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Monday.

reporters here.

Both the countries now have to discuss how the loan and buyer's credit will be used, he added.

Buyer's credit is a short-term loan to an importer by an overseas lender for the purchase of goods or services. An export finance agency guarantees the loan, mitigating the risk for the exporter. Buyer's credit allows the buyer, or the im-

porter, to borrow at rates lower than what would be available domestically.

Qi, however, did not give any direct answer to questions on whether China would be restructuring the debt owed by Sri Lanka. During Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to Sri Lanka in January, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had requested Beijing for debt restructuring to help the country overcome the current economic woes. Qi said China will not take advantage of Sri Lanka's current situation and is always ready for help. China has extended USD 2.8 billion financial assistance, including a currency swap of USD 1.5 billion, to Sri Lanka since the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in the country in 2020. Chinese loans account for about 10 per cent of Sri Lanka's external debt.

EU slams 'war crimes' in Ukraine but new sanctions unlikely

Brussels, Mar 21 (AP)

European Union countries on Monday accused the Russian armed forces of committing war crimes in Ukraine, but appeared unlikely to impose new sanctions on Moscow despite a clamour across Europe for those responsible for attacks on civilians to be held to account.

With civilian deaths mounting in the besieged port city of Mariupol, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock highlighted the increase in Russian attacks on civilian infrastructure, including hospitals and theatres.

The courts will have to decide, but for me these are clearly war crimes", Baerbock said. Before chairing a meeting of the 27-nation bloc's foreign ministers

here, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said what's happening in Mariupol is a massive war crime. Destroying everything, bombing and killing everybody in an indiscriminate manner. This is something awful.

The encircled southern city on the Sea of Azov has seen some of the worst horrors of the war.

Multiple attempts to evacuate residents from Mariupol have failed or only partly succeeded. City officials said at least 2,300 people had died in

the siege, with some buried in mass graves. Underlining that war also has law, Borrell said the International Criminal Court in the Netherlands was gathering evidence about any possible war crimes in Ukraine, but Russia, like the US, did not recognise the tribunal's jurisdiction. Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney said his country was certainly open to other mechanisms for accountability in terms of the atrocities that are taking place in Ukraine right now.

adani Power
Raipur Energen Limited (REL)
 Regd. Office: Adani Corporate House, Shantigram, Nr. Vaishno Devi Circle, SG Highway, Khodiyar, Ahmedabad 382421, Gujarat, India.

Notification for Pond Ash disposal from Raipur Energen limited

REL intends to dispose Pond Ash generated from it's Power plant in Village : Raikhada , Block -Tilda Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India on Free of Cost basis. Interested parties are requested to submit their monthly requirement (in MT) along with their company details on below email address latest by 24.03.2022, 1700Hrs. The detailed terms & conditions we shall share based your confirmation Email IDs: piyush.vastani@adani.com; chandraprakash.kothapalli@adani.com

Ukraine rejects Russian demand for surrender in Mariupol

Lviv, Mar 21 (AP)

Ukrainian officials defiantly rejected a Russian demand that their forces in Mariupol lay down arms and raise white flags Monday in exchange for safe passage out of the besieged strategic port city.

Even as Russia intensified its attempt to bombard Mariupol into surrender, its offensive in other parts of Ukraine has floundered.

Western governments and analysts see the broader conflict grinding into a war of attrition, with Russia continuing to barrage cities.

In the capital Kyiv, Russian shelling devastated a shopping center near the city center killing at



A priest prays by the ruins of a destroyed shopping center after shelling, in Kyiv, Ukraine, Monday.

least eight people.

The encircled southern city of Mariupol on the Sea of Azov has seen some of the worst horrors of the war; under Russian pounding for more than three weeks. Strikes hit an art

school sheltering some 400 people only hours before Russia's offer to open two corridors out of the city in return for the capitulation of its defenders, according to Ukrainian officials.

Ukrainian officials re-

jected the Russian proposal for safe passage out of Mariupol even before Russia's deadline of 5 am Moscow time (0200GMT) for a response came and went. There can be no talk of any surrender, laying down of arms," Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Irina Vereshchuk told the news outlet Ukrainian Pravda. "We have already informed the Russian side about this. Mariupol Mayor Piotr Andryushchenko also dismissed the offer shortly after it was made, saying in a Facebook post he didn't need to wait until the morning deadline to respond and cursing at the Russians, according to the news agency Interfax Ukraine.

ASEAN envoy for Myanmar crisis arrives on first mission

Bangkok, Mar 21 (AP)

Cambodia's foreign minister arrived on Monday in Myanmar's capital Naypyitaw on his mission as a special regional envoy seeking to facilitate peacemaking in the fellow Southeast Asian nation, which was plunged into an extended violent political crisis after the army seized power last year.

Prak Sokhonn is representing ASEAN the Association of Southeast Asian Nations which last April reached a five-point consensus on Myanmar.

It called for the immediate cessation of violence, a dialogue among all concerned parties, mediation by an ASEAN special envoy, provision of humanitarian aid through

ASEAN channels, and a visit to Myanmar by the special envoy to meet all concerned parties.

The ruling military council of Myanmar, which is one of ASEAN's 10 members, has delayed implementation of its plan, even as the country has slipped into a situation that UN experts have characterized as a civil war.

Neither the military nor its opponents have suggested mutually acceptable compromises that could stem the violence, much less resolve the political impasse over ruling the country.

Soon after their arrival for their three-day visit, Prak Sokhonn and his party, including ASEAN Secretary-General Lim Jock Hoi, held a meeting

with Myanmar's leader, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing and other top officials, during which they discussed implementation of the five-point plan, conditions for providing humanitarian assistance and cooperation with ASEAN, said a statement from Myanmar's Information Ministry.

The statement, which described the meeting as a first step, said Min Aung Hlaing also presented his government's versions of the events leading to the army's takeover and the violence that followed it.

Myanmar's reluctance to implement the actions urged in the consensus has caused a split among the members of ASEAN, which has ostracized Myanmar by blocking its leaders from attending

major meetings of the regional grouping. Min Aung Hlaing was not invited to last October's virtual meeting of ASEAN leaders because of the disagreement.

That rebuke was issued shortly after Myanmar declined to let an ASEAN special envoy meet with its ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been in detention since the military took power in February 2021.

The army ousted Suu Kyi's elected government and then cracked down on the widespread protests against its action.

After security forces unleashed lethal force against peaceful demonstrators, some opponents of military rule took up arms.

Yoon faces obstacles in plan to ditch Blue House

Seoul, Mar 21 (AP)

South Korea's outgoing liberal government on Monday expressed its opposition to a plan by its rival and conservative President-elect Yoon Suk Yeol to relocate the presidential office by his inauguration in May, a development that could put Yoon's ambitious project in doubt and trigger a domestic po-

litical firestorm.

Yoon on Sunday said he would abandon the current mountainside presidential palace of Blue House and begin his five-year term at a new office established at the Defence Ministry compound in Seoul on May 10.

Yoon said his plan required Defence Ministry staff to move to the nearby Joint Chiefs of Staff build-

ing at the compound and JCS staff to move in phases to somewhere else in Seoul.

Yoon said his relocation plans were meant to better communicate with the public, saying the location and design of the Blue House had contributed to South Korean leaders being cut off from the public and wielding imperial power.

Raipur Energen Limited (REL)
 adani Power
 Regd. Office: Adani Corporate House, Shantigram, Nr. Vaishno Devi Circle, SG Highway, Khodiyar, Ahmedabad 382421, Gujarat, India.

E-Auction Notification (Through e-Procurement Portal of GoC)
 (Evaluation of Auction participants and E-Auction bidding)

Name of Sale: SALE OF DRY FLY ASH FROM RAIPUR ENERGEN LIMITED UNIT #2X685 MW/REL
 has already finalized H1, H2 and H3 bidders in the previous tender cum auction for lifting of dry fly ash from REL is already issuing fly ash to them after entering into contract agreements with them. Tenders are invited through e-auction from direct end-users/suppliers to end-users of fly ash from H4,H5,H6....Hn positions for lifting of dry fly ash of approximately 7.20 lakh MT per annum (2000 MT per day) on 'as available' basis for a period from finalization of this auction and issue of Letter of award up to 01.04.2024 from REL, i.e., from Raipur Energen limited -Unit # 1 & 2 of REL. Even the above three existing H1, H2 and H3 bidders can participate in this auction and have a separate contract additionally. Operation & Maintenance of Ash Handling System and Silo of REL, Unit # 1 & 2, including spares, Consumables, Housekeeping & Miscellaneous works, if any in the scope of REL. The last date for receipt of the completed bids: 17.00 Hrs on 27.03.2022. The details terms & conditions are available on our auctioneer website: <https://www.matnxt.net>.

छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य सहकारी दुग्ध महासंघ मर्यादित
 ग्राम-उरला, पो - बी.एम.वाय चरोदा,
 जिला-दुर्ग, छ.ग.

क्रमांक / 4182 / छगदुस / क्रय / 2022 दिनांक- 21 / 03 / 2022

// निविदा सूचना //

दुग्ध महासंघ द्वारा डेयरी संयंत्र, उरला एवं अधीनस्थ अन्य डेयरी संयंत्रों में भू-जल दोहन अनापत्ति प्रमाण पत्र के परिपालन में फ्लोमीटर एवं फिजोमीटर स्थापना कार्य हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा जमा किए जाने हेतु अंतिम तिथि-19.04.2022 निर्धारित है, जिसका विस्तृत विवरण दुग्ध महासंघ के वेबसाइट :- www.cgcoopdairyfed.in पर उपलब्ध है।

प्रबंध संचालक

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA DONGARGARH
NOTICE FOR FIRM REGISTRATION 2022-23

Interested and reputed firms, having TIN Number, Firm Registration Number, GST Number, PAN Number and working experience, are invited to register their firm to KV Dongargarh for the year 2022-23 for following purposes on or before 05/04/2022

Security Guards, Conservancy Service, Gardener, Supply of Manpower (Labour on daily wages: - Skilled, Semi Skilled & Unskilled), Furniture Repair & Supply of furniture items, Printing works, Laboratory (phy, chem, Bio & Maths) equipments and consumable items, Maintenance of Computer and its accessories, CCTV and accessories, Plumbing Items, Electrical fittings and supply of electrical accessories, photocopy Machine, Computer printer, Computer Networking system, LCD projector, Supply and Maintenance of PA system and accessories & Audio Visual Aids, Supply of Teaching Aids, Library Books, Supply of items related to conservancy work, Tent House Items, Catering Services, Dentling & Panting work, Supply of Hardware Items Games & sports Items, NCC Uniforms & refreshment for students, Stationary Items for office & Examination. Registration form should be download form K.V. Dongargarh Website :- www.kvdongargarh.com.

PRINCIPAL

आइआरएल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड IREL (India) Limited
 Formerly Indian Rare Earths Limited.
 (भारत सरकार का उपकरण)
 (A Government of India Undertaking)
 CIN : U15100MH1950GOI008187 Website : www.irel.co.in
 ISO 9001 : 2015, ISO 14001 : 2015 & ISO 45001 : 2018 Company

Ref: ADVT. NO.21-22/03 **TENDER NOTICE** Date : 22-03-2022

IREL, OSCOM invites request for proposal for the following items / job descriptions.

Bid No. Job / Item Description

IREL/GANJAM/21-22/ET/186 Engagement of dozer for MSP.

IREL/GANJAM/21-22/ET/190 Accumulation, loading, transportation of reject sand dumping at mined out area and levelling by dozing

IREL/GANJAM/21-22/ET/195 AMC for Instrument maintenance at REEP.

IREL/GANJAM/21-22/ET/196 FRP lining repair work at REEP.

Bidder may download tender document from <http://www.irel.co.in>, <http://www.mstcecommerce.com/procurement/irel/> / <http://gem.gov.in> / CPP website any corrigendum / extension to above tenders shall be hosted in above websites only

davp 48129/12/0001/2122 -Sd/- CGM & Head, OSCOM

विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग
University Grants Commission
 (शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
 (Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
 बहादुरशाह जफर मार्ग, नई दिल्ली - 110002
 Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110002

Advertisement No. 04/2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

Common University Entrance Test (CUET)

The Common University Entrance Test (CUET) for admission in Undergraduate programs from the academic session 2022-2023 in all UGC funded Central Universities will be conducted in 13 languages namely Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Urdu, Assamese, Bengali, Punjabi, Odia and English by the National Testing Agency (NTA). The CUET may also be adopted by the State/ Private / Deemed to be Universities.

Detailed structure of CUET UG is available on NTA website <https://nta.ac.in/>

Application for CUET UG will be available in the 1st week of April 2022.

A large number of Central Universities have also confirmed their participation in the CUET — 2022 (PG), the details of which will be available on the NTA website <https://nta.ac.in/> shortly.

All the stakeholders are requested to visit NTA website <https://nta.ac.in/> for further information.

davp - 21205/12/0025/2122 **Secretary, UGC**



CENTRAL

Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 47 No. 166

Essence of Indo-Japan ties

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced an investment target of five trillion yen (Rs 3,20,000 crore) in India over the next five years as the two sides concluded a raft of agreements and collaborations to further expand their special strategic and global partnership. Following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Kishida at the 14th India-Japan summit, the two sides inked six agreements including one that will facilitate Rs 20,400 crore loan by Japan International Cooperation Agency for development projects in India. India and Japan acknowledge the need to explore a variety of options to ensure a secure and stable supply of energy for achieving both goals of sustainable economic growth and addressing climate change. They share the view that there is no single pathway to achieve a low-carbon economy, but rather there are different paths for each country. The two nations agreed to expand the 2007 cooperation under the Japan-India Energy Dialogue to include Electric Vehicles (EV), storage systems including batteries, electric vehicle charging infrastructure (EVCI), development of solar energy including solar PV cells, wind energy and clean coal technologies. They also collaborate on green hydrogen and ammonia, LNG, biofuels and strategic oil reserves. The essence of Indo-Japan relations seems to be development of hydrogen economy in India and industrialisation of north-eastern states. Japan, India's fifth-largest investor, has contributed over USD 36.2 billion in cumulative investments since 2000, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry had said. Japan is the only country that has dedicated country-focused industrial townships across India. Resource-poor, Japan began research on hydrogen after the 1970s energy crunch.

The 2011 Fukushima nuclear plant accident and public anti-nuclear sentiment accelerated interest in hydrogen and other clean energies. Japan currently boasts the largest network of hydrogen filling stations in the world. There are 135 stations in all, heavily subsidized which symbolize the government's faith in the future of hydrogen and its effort to lead the world in the race to commercialize it. Japan has been historically connected to Northeast India for a long time, from the days of World War II when Japanese troops fought alongside troops from Subhas Chandra Bose's Indian National Army (INA). It is worth mentioning here that it was the INA which had hoisted the Indian flag for the first time at Moirang in Manipur. Cut to the present times, and Northeast India has become a major part of Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific Vision. Japan is now a major player in the infrastructure sector in Northeast India. Japan also has an initiative known as the IRIS program, which sends students from India's Northeast to Japan. Northeast India is one region of the country that is deficient in quality infrastructure and this is where Japan's role is critically important. It is worth noting here that both India and Japan have not joined the China-led Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), through which Beijing fund infrastructure development in other countries. Meanwhile, Japanese soft power has also found many takers in the region, Meghalaya has been organizing a cherry blossom festival for some time now. Japanese shows, especially anime shows, are increasing in popularity in Northeast India. Japanese development assistance to Northeast India is here to stay as it is a win-win situation for both in addition to hydrogen economy.

AAP's model on test

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has set targets for each minister in his cabinet and if that is not met, the people "can demand that the minister be removed," Aam Aadmi Party chief and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said. Bhagwant Mann has "covered a lot of ground within just three days", he said, pointing to the initial announcements by the new government. The governance in Punjab will be first large scale test of AAP governance model, touted earlier in capital territory of Delhi. In addition to economic sphere, AAP will have to show credibility of its model for law and order. In its first decision, the Punjab Cabinet had approved filling up 25,000 vacant posts in various state departments, including 10,000 in the police force. Mann announced the decision in a video message after he chaired the first meeting of his Cabinet. The new Punjab state cabinet includes two doctors (an eye surgeon and a dentist), two lawyers, a former harka (constituency) in-charge of the party, a former municipal councillor, a former civil servant, an agriculturalist, a mechanical engineer and an industrialist. The Punjab cabinet can accommodate 17 ministers, in addition to the CM, of which 10 have been inducted, while names of the remaining seven names are expected to be announced later. Mann is a breath of fresh air, and a ray of hope at many levels.

He, however, faces the challenge of running a government and sustaining a politics supposedly without any ideological outline on a platform of corruption-free governance and high-cost welfare schemes. The AAP government in Punjab will be a test for the party and, if it succeeds, a model that others might seek to copy across the country. A disillusioned voter in Punjab was desperately looking for a change and a new template of governance that could address deep-rooted corruption, patronage politics and end elite control. The Delhi Model, as has been aggressively promoted by the AAP government, comprises four crucial planks of welfare delivery including quality school education, healthcare, water and electricity at affordable rates. As a comparatively new party, AAP must be credited for fashioning a creative and credible agenda for a novel political ecosystem. Since the party was birthed by an anti-corruption movement, Kejriwal started off by providing a transparent government in Delhi. Arvind Kejriwal is now a pragmatic and practical politician. Electoral verdicts will continue to be read in different ways by different stakeholders. The lesson can be drawn from historic mandate received from the people is that people are keen for genuine engagement in matters of governance. The lesson for other state governments wanting to replicate AAP model is to give such freebies that hit the consciousness everyday rather than those that hit one time.

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.

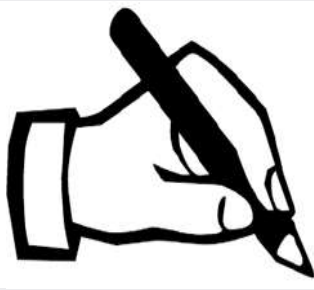
CLIMATE CHANGE AWARENESS



A girl walks over a chalk graffiti made by artists as part of a street art on climate change awareness at a shopping arcade in New Delhi.

Electoral benefits of welfare schemes

DR DUGGARAJU SRINIVASA RAO



The election results of the five states, especially the Uttar Pradesh, are being critically analysed by both the loosing political parties and the media. Many reasons are attributed to the record-breaking electoral victory of BJP in all the four states where it was in power. Overcoming the anti-incumbency itself is a great achievement these days for any party. BJP overcame that in not one state but in four states itself is a great political achievement. The Congress which lost Punjab, the only state where it was in power, attributed its defeat to its change of Chief Minister before the elections. Compared to that BJP achieved victory in Uttarakhnd despite changing the CMs not once but thrice during the last five years. This time around there is no visible Hindutva in the election campaign, especially in UP where Ayodhya which was dominant during past elections was found missing this time. The Hindutva has no value in Punjab, Goa and Manipur where Sikhs and Christians are in majority. So, the victory of BJP has to do more with the administration they gave to the people and the welfare schemes they implemented in earnest.

Welfare schemes are not exclusive for the BJP governments. The Punjab government of Congress has also implemented welfare schemes and promised many more schemes if voted to power. The SP when in power during the 2012-17 period was

not lagging in the implementation of the welfare schemes. Now it is an accepted norm in politics where the ruling party in the state makes its own beneficiaries and firming up them as its vote banks. Indira Gandhi did this for Congress during her regime. VP Singh tried to build Mandal Vote Bank through reservations. At the state level such pampering a particular vote bank is in progress. It is these welfare schemes which is keeping Naveen Patnaik in power in Odisha for the last five terms. His grip on the people through welfare is so firm that it is very difficult for opponents to dislodge him from power. Jagannathan Reddy of Andhra Pradesh is believing his nine welfare schemes, which he calls them as nine gems, to come back to power in 2024. He is sticking to the distribution of money to the voters through the welfare schemes at the cost of financial decline of the state and debt over burden on Andhra Pradesh. The Telangana CM KCR claims himself to be the innovator of welfare schemes which no other or even Modi government can ever think of. But KCR is not confident of his return to the power in 2023 unless he goes back to the Telangana sentiment and presents the neighbouring Andhra people as the villains.

Then what makes the BJP governments so special in welfare schemes and its implementation. Narendra Modi as PM has initiated both development and welfare plans in equal

measure. Since 2014 BJP government at the national level initiated social welfare schemes such as Ujjwala Yojana. PM Awas Yojana, pension scheme, direct cash transfers besides the free ration. Names may differ but similar schemes are implemented by other parties too. However, the basic difference between the BJP lead governments and the other party led governments is the way the welfare message is taken to the masses through the party cadres. The BJP party cadre was in constant touch with the beneficiaries, assisting them in case of any delivery failure, and acting as the facilitators between the welfare schemes implementing authorities and the beneficiaries. The BJP cadre saw that the welfare scheme beneficiaries are moved beyond caste and religions and formed into a government beneficiary community. The beneficiary aspirations beyond the social welfare benefits are also addressed and attended by the BJP cadre in a systematic way.

The way the BJP cadre joined the families of beneficiaries on the festive days like Deevali and shared their joys and in case of any problems faced by the family the local cadre of party are ready to share the burden. Thus, the thrust was making the marginalised and poor empowered through the schemes and through the personal touch make them part of the party. There was no distinction of caste and religion at the time of delivery of benefits and largely the woman of the family is targeted to receive and have control on the benefits. Thus, a very loyal base among voters through the social welfare schemes was built. This is contrast to the earlier governments headed by both Akhilesh Yadav and Mayavati where the beneficiaries were selected on the basis of caste and religion. Akhilesh doled out benefits largely to his own Yadav community and his supportive Muslims. Jatavs, the community to which Mayavati belongs were the large beneficiaries during the BSP regime. This

narrative was changed by adopting neutrality in extending the benefits and nullifying the influence of caste heads and also religious preachers. The promised development is there for the electorate to feel and see.

Issues which impact the largest section of society play a vital role. For example, delivery of social welfare schemes impact about eighty percent of voters. Yet, law and order doesn't impact everyone but it matters more on perception. The farmers' agitation was mostly seen in seven districts of in western UP which is ten percent of the state's geography. The new welfareism embodies a vision, both imbued with conviction and laden with calculation. The conviction is that such goods and services make a critical difference to the lives of the poor and the calculation was that 'there is rich electoral opportunity in providing tangible goods and services, which are relatively straightforward to deliver, measure and monitor. First the benefits were spelt out in poll promises, which the leaders spoke about in their election rallies and then, local level party workers translated it to voters in everyday languages. If free ration and cash transfers can overcome massive governance failures and renew the mandate for the ruling dispensation, then why would any government or the party in power waste time and energy in providing intangible essentials. Yogi Adityanadh under the guidance of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah undertook the cause of huge developmental projects in the state to create the scope for employment generation and boosting the confidence of the educated. The confidence provided on the law order front is unmistakably felt by all sections. The social welfare schemes alone wouldn't have given such a resounding, record breaking victory, but for the cadre support and active role.

(Dr Duggaraju Srinivasa Rao is political analyst and columnist based in Vijayawada.)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Touching movie

The movie 'The Kashmir Files' has become the mostly discussable topic in recent days throughout our country. The director of this movie is a prominent Bollywood movie director named Vivek Agnihotri who also directed some true event based movie like the Tashkent Files etc. This movie is based on the genocide of the Kashmiri pandits took place in 1990 in Kashmir. The movie has touched the heart of crores of netizens. Especially the marvellous acting of Anupam Kher, Mithun Chakravarty, Pallavi Joshi has flowered the whole movie. Vivek Agnihotri is trying to unfold the brutal attack on the Hindu pandits by the Kashmiri separatists. This movie is also going to make history in the box office for the tremendous supports of the people. In the other view, when I was witnessing the movie a whispering from the back seat hit me 'its softly hits the feeling of secularism in India. Some brutal scenes of the movie may disturb some people'. Overall it's a good movie indeed.

Aditya A Nath, Tezpur

Key element

A newspaper is an encyclopedia, a storehouse of knowledge with loads of news and thought-provoking articles at a cost of just a few rupees, even less than the cost of a cup of tea. It gives a kind of joy, reading a newspaper holding it in one hand and simultaneously sipping the morning brew with the other, with its fresh aroma permeating around. A writer becomes restless until he is posted with the latest news on current events. A professional waits longing for the latest information relating to his/her field. A professor or a member of the intellectual community feels out of tune with the world until he has gone through the day's newspaper. On their part, women and children look forward to the daily in order to quench their thirst for what they are interested in. Thus, a newspaper becomes a key element to all age groups at the dawn of the day. Newspapers are the eyes and ears of the world. A day is not complete without reading a newspaper. Needless to say, life without newspapers is like a garden without flowers!

Ranganathan, via email

Spare education

Since our school days, we have followed the school uniform. Whatever colour or the type of cloth the school management prescribed the students have put on without any question. Now, in Karnataka organizations like PFI and other radical groups are brainwashing female Muslim students to wear Hijab and attend the school. School is considered as temple of education and anybody indulging in polluting the system should be dealt with hard. The Constitution has given us the right to follow religion, but hardcore religious practices should be left at home when a child goes to school. School uniform gives the students a feeling of oneness, irrespective of religion, caste, creed or other things. I appeal to those misguided students to abandon those radical groups and come to school/college as students. Religious politics can be played on other turf, but not in school.

Purvi, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Junaid@Junaid_Mattu

The suffering and pain of Kashmiri Pandits is unimaginable. A Truth & Reconciliation Commission should be set up to ensure swift justice is delivered to the victims and their families and to establish a basis for sustainable inter-community reconciliation and a dignified return.

Gentle Giant@iKunaal

If you have turned bitter against someone, they WILL find out irrespective of how sweet you are on their face. So if you want to fix it, do that in your heart and the rest of the fixing will happen on its own and in the most effortless and harmonious way.



Aditi@Velvetyvirgo

Sometimes I'm so jealous of youngsters. Youthful and energetic. No kids. Unmarried. Free. To travel. Entertain. Experiment. Once you get married and have kids, you're in a set routine for 2 decades and then you're too old to do much.

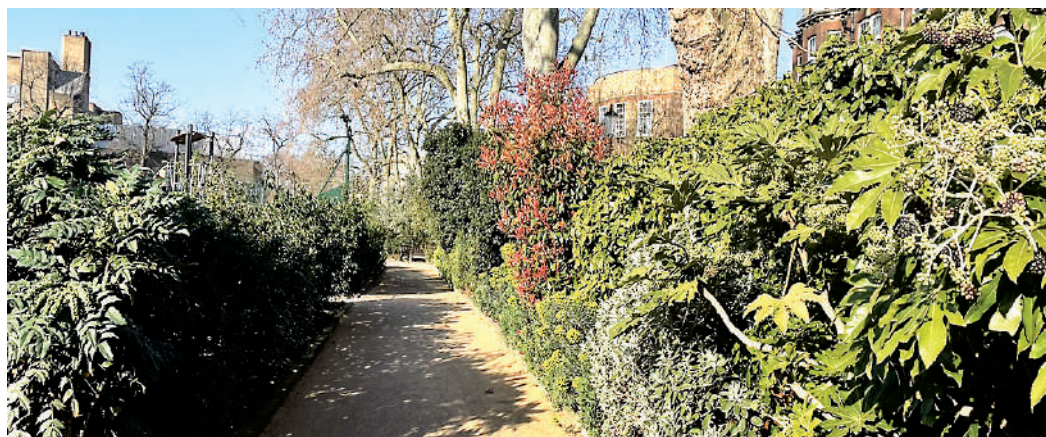
Nandita@WarriorNandita

A friend is describing her fussy husband, "He won't touch an orange unless it's been peeled and those white threads have been removed from every piece. It's a childhood habit." I'm thinking - Hope you're raising your son better!?? #Patriarchy



Mitali@MitaliLive

First run of the visit in #Londondiaries.



Brahma@Chellaney

Zelensky is an autocrat in the style of Putin, Erdogan and Orban. In the latest in a string of despotic actions to concentrate power in his hands, Zelensky bans 11 political parties. But he's a Biden administration puppet, so all is forgiven, even if heads an autocratic regime.

Shilpa@godbole_shilpa

"Who are you chatting with?" "No one" "No-one is a name of the person?" "What's your problem mummy?" "Ooh so it's not no-one, it's what's-your-problem you are chatting with then" Being a parent to a teen girl has volatile situations that can go the way of a nuclear war or peace.

BRIEF

Investment



■ **Jammu:** Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that the Union Territory is expected to attract Rs 70,000 crore worth investments in the next six months. J&K has been looking to bring in investments in diverse sectors, including tourism and hospitality, and currently a UAE delegation is visiting the Union Territory. The delegation reached Srinagar on Sunday to explore investment opportunities in the region, following an invitation by the Lt Governor at the Dubai Expo in January this year.

EPFO subscribers

■ **New Delhi:** Retirement fund body EPFO added 15.29 lakh subscribers on a net basis in January 2022, an increase of over 21 per cent compared to 12.60 lakh in December 2021, according to the latest payroll data. “The provisional payroll data of EPFO has been released today, i.e., 20th March 2022, which highlights that EPFO has added 15.29 lakh net subscribers during January 2022. Month-on-month comparison of payroll data also indicates an increase of 2.69 lakh net subscribers addition in January 2022, as compared to the net additions during the previous month of December 2021,” a labour ministry statement said on Sunday.

Code of ethics



■ **Dubai:** The code of ethics for news publishers, over-the-top (OTT) platforms and digital media has helped in bringing about “a lot of discipline” in the sector, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Joint Secretary Vikram Sahay said. The joint secretary was speaking at a roundtable on news broadcasting at the India Pavilion during the EXPO2020 Dubai here. In India, there’s no permission required to launch an OTT platform, Sahay said. “There are about 40-50 OTT platforms in India, none of them have to either register or seek prior permission.”

Israeli battery tech

■ **New Delhi:** Ola Electric on Monday said it has invested in Israeli cell technology company StoreDot, a pioneer in batteries with extreme fast charging (XFC) solutions. The investment in StoreDot is the first of several global strategic investments planned by the company as it looks to ramp up its core R&D in advanced cell chemistry and manufacturing as well as other battery technologies and new energy systems, Ola Electric said in a statement.

LIC IPO: Govt files updated draft papers with Q3 financials

New Delhi, Mar 21:

The government has filed updated draft papers with market regulator Sebi for an initial public offer of LIC, incorporating December quarter financials of the insurance behemoth, an official said on Monday.

In the run-up to the mega IPO, on February 13, the government had filed the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with the regulator giving details of financial results till September. The DRHP got Sebi approval early this month.

“Updated DRHP of LIC with December financials has been filed,” an official said, adding it was required to be done as per Sebi observations. As per the updated financials, the Life Insurance Corporation reported a net profit of Rs 235 crore in the October-December quarter. The net profit in

April-December, 2021, increased to Rs 1,671.57 crore from Rs 7.08 crore a year ago. The government is expecting to garner over Rs 60,000 crore by selling about 31.6 crore or 5 per cent stake in the life insurance firm to meet the curtailed disinvestment target of Rs 78,000 crore in the current fiscal.

The IPO was originally planned to be launched in March, but the Russia-Ukraine crisis has derailed the plans as stock markets are highly volatile. The government has time till May 12 to launch the IPO without filing fresh papers with the Securities and Exchange Board of India. LIC’s embedded value, which is a measure of the consolidated shareholders’ value in an insurance company, was pegged at about Rs 5.4 lakh crore as of September 30, 2021, by international actuarial firm Milliman Advisors.

Although the DRHP does not disclose the market valuation of LIC, as per industry standards it would be about 3 times the embedded value. At a 5 per cent stake dilution, the LIC IPO would be the biggest ever in the history of the Indian stock market and once listed its market valuation would be comparable to top companies like RIL and TCS.

So far, the amount mobilised from the IPO of Paytm in 2021 was the largest ever at Rs 18,300 crore, followed by Coal India (2010) at nearly Rs 15,500 crore and Reliance Power (2008) at Rs 11,700 crore. During the current financial year so far, Rs 12,423.67 crore has been garnered through offer for sale, employee OFS, strategic disinvestment and buy-back. The target for the full fiscal is Rs 78,000 crore. For the next fiscal, the disinvestment target has been set at Rs 65,000 crore.

Govt holding roadshows for IDBI Bank privatisation to assess investor interest

New Delhi, Mar 21: The government is holding roadshows for IDBI Bank privatisation and will come out with EoI after assessing investor interest, Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad said on Monday. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had in May last year given in-principle approval for strategic disinvestment and transfer of management control in IDBI Bank. The government and LIC together own more than 94 per cent equity of IDBI Bank. However, the exact quantum of stake dilution is yet to be decided. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Karad said it is expected that the strategic buyer will infuse funds, bring new technology and best management practices in IDBI Bank and shall generate more business without dependence on LIC and government for capital.

Indian economy better placed to deal with any challenge, says RBI governor

Mumbai, Mar 21:

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday said the RBI will continue to ensure adequate liquidity to support the economy, which is facing many headwinds in the form of soaring crude oil and key commodity prices following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Das, while addressing an industry meet organised by CII here this evening, said since the pandemic hit the economy in March 2020, the central bank has pumped in a whopping Rs 17 lakh crore into the economy and assured the industry that the RBI will continue to ensure that the economy is well oiled with funds. The governor further said banks at the system level are in better health now with the capital adequacy ratio at 16 per cent, and gross NPAs falling to a



Governor of Reserve Bank of India Shaktikanta Das during Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) interaction with businessmen, in Mumbai, on Monday.

record low of 6.5 per cent. He said despite the headwinds arising from the Russia-Ukraine war, the economy is better placed given the high forex reserves and low current account gap.

“We are comfortably placed to deal with any challenges with regard to financing the CAD, and the RBI stands committed to deal with any challenges on this front,” he said.

Markets pare early gains on boiling oil prices; Sensex tumbles over 571 points

Mumbai, Mar 21:

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty pared their early gains to close nearly 1 per cent lower on Monday as surging oil prices played spoilsport amid prolonged Russia-Ukraine war. The 30-share Sensex plunged by 571.44 points or 0.99 per cent to settle at 57,292.49. During the day, it tanked 634.85 points or 1.09 per cent to 57,229.08.

The broader NSE Nifty declined by 169.45 points or 0.98 per cent to finish at 17,117.60. Among Sensex constituents, Power Grid, Asian Paints, UltraTech Cement, Nestle, Hindustan Unilever

Limited and HCL Technologies were among the major laggards. In contrast, Sun Pharmaceutical, HDFC Bank, Maruti, Titan and NTPC were the only gainers. “With no significant improvement in the tensions between Russia and Ukraine and uncertainty in the Gulf region, crude prices surged leading to a sell-off in the domestic market after the recent rally. FIIs coming back to buying mode is a positive for domestic equities but a rise in bulk diesel prices and inflationary pressure are bending the domestic market,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Crypto mining cost not to be allowed as deduction under I-T Act: FinMin

New Delhi, Mar 21:

Infrastructure cost incurred in the mining of cryptocurrencies or any virtual digital assets will not be allowed as deduction under the income tax act, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said on Monday. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Chaudhary said the government will come out with a definition of virtual digital assets (VDA) with a view to levy 30 per cent tax on income from the transfer of such assets. He said currently cryptocurrencies are unregulated in India. The 2022-23 Budget has brought in clarity concerning the levy of income tax on crypto assets. From



April 1, a 30 per cent I-T plus cess and surcharges, will be levied on such transactions in the same manner as it treats winnings from horse races or other speculative transactions. The minister said while computing the income from transfer of VDA, no deduction in respect of any expenditure (other than the cost of ac-

quisition) or allowance is allowed. “The (Finance) Bill also proposes to define VDA. If any asset falls within the proposed definition, such virtual asset will be considered as VDA for the purposes of the Act and other provisions of the Act will apply accordingly,” he said.

He further said “infrastructure costs incurred in the mining of VDA (eg crypto assets) will not be treated as cost of acquisition as the same will be in the nature of capital expenditure”, which is not allowable as a deduction under the I-T Act. Also, loss from the transfer of VDA will not be allowed to be set off against the income arising from the transfer of another VDA.

Rupee slumps 31 paise to close at 76.15 against the US dollar

Mumbai, Mar 21:

The rupee slumped 31 paise to close at 76.15 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday as rising crude oil prices and a lacklustre trend in domestic equities weighed on investor sentiment. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 76.08 against the American currency, then lost further ground to settle at 76.15, down 31 paise from the previous close. On Thursday, the rupee spurted by 37 paise to close at 75.84 against the US dollar. The forex market was closed on Friday on account of Holi. “The dollar is in rally mode as markets expect an even more hawkish Federal Reserve moving forward. Weakness in

domestic equities and higher crude oil prices also weighed on the local unit,” said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities. Parmar further said that there are a handful of economic events this week and the focus will remain Ukraine-Russia peace talks, which will drive risk sentiments and crude oil prices. “Spot USD/INR is having strong support at 75.70 and resistance at 76.45,” Parmar noted. Amid intensifying Russia-Ukraine conflict, investors assessed diplomatic efforts to negotiate an end to the war. The US Dollar has bounced back from recent declines after Federal Reserve officials said the central bank may need to be more aggressive to deal with inflation.

Tata Motors drives in Altroz DCA; price starts at Rs 8.09 lakh

New Delhi, Mar 21:

Tata Motors on Monday said it has launched its premium hatchback Altroz with dual-clutch automatic transmission, priced between Rs 8.09 lakh and Rs 9.89 lakh (ex-showroom). Altroz DCA comes equipped with several segment-first features, such as a wet clutch with active cooling technology, machine learning, shift by wire technology, self-healing mechanism, and auto park lock.

The model is powered by a 1.2-litre petrol engine. “Since the com-



mencement of bookings for the Altroz DCA, we are witnessing an encouraging number of queries. The Altroz DCA with its segment-first features will certainly captivate the minds of prospective

buyers and provide a seamless driving experience,” Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Vice President (Sales, Marketing and Customer Care) Rajan Amba said. With more than 1.25 lakh

happy customers, Altroz has witnessed an overwhelming response from customers and set certain benchmarks in the segment, he added.

“The addition of the Altroz DCA will bolster our product portfolio, help us in expanding our market share and take our success story further to set a ‘Gold Standard’ in automatics,” Amba stated. The model comes with various features like leatherette seats, auto headlamps, 7-inch touchscreen by Harman, rear ac vents, and iRA connected car technology, among others.

Puri allays fears of short supplies, says crude import from Russia miniscule

New Delhi, Mar 21:

Oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday allayed fears of short supply of crude oil amid the Russia-Ukraine conflict and said that crude oil imports from Russia are miniscule at just 0.2 per cent of total such imports till January this fiscal. “About the increased oil import concerns...we require total of five million barrels per day. Sixty per cent of it comes from Gulf. We have imported from Russia, just 0.419 million metric tonnes...that is 0.2 per cent of total requirement (during April-January this fiscal),” Puri said in the Rajya Sabha while replying to a supplementary to a starred question. “We are monitoring the situation. As far as oil imports are concerned from Russia, contrary to



what played up in media, it is miniscule,” the minister said. According to the written reply tabled in the House, in financial year 2020-21, India imported 85 per cent of its crude oil requirements and 54 per cent of its natural gas requirement. According to Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC), India’s major sources of crude oil imports are Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Nigeria and the US. Indian

Oil & Gas Public Sector Undertakings had imported approximately less than 1 per cent of its total crude oil import from Russia in the year 2021-2022 (till January). India imported only 0.419 million metric tonnes (mmt) of crude oil from Russia, as compared to overall crude oil imports of 175,900 mmt (in April-January this fiscal). In the current situation of high volatility in global energy markets, the Government of India is closely monitoring the situation. No adverse impact on hydrocarbon energy agreements is currently foreseen, the minister stated in the written reply. He also stated that even now the total amount (of crude oil supply) contracted will be three days supply from Russia to India and that also spreads over next three to four months.

World Sleep Day sale with Amazon.in

Mumbai, Mar 21:

Enjoy quality with benefits like scheduled delivery, quality-verified selection, and no-cost EMI across popular brands such as Duroflex, The Sleep Company, Peps, Sleepyhead, and Solimo among others. For American Express Credit Card and Credit Card EMI holders, there is an additional 10% instant discount on a minimum transaction of Rs 10,000 and a maximum discount of 1,500 from 17th to 19th March 2022.

Explore up to 60% off on mattresses, beds, blankets and comforters, pillows, bedsheets, night lamps, and many more products that will help create a happy world at home. While shopping for a good night’s sleep, customers can also avail

benefits like scheduled delivery, quality-verified selection, and no-cost EMI across popular brands such as Duroflex, The Sleep Company, Peps, Sleepyhead, and Solimo among others. For American Express Credit Card and Credit Card EMI holders, there is an additional 10% instant discount on a minimum transaction of Rs 10,000 and a maximum discount of 1,500 from 17th to 19th March 2022.

The Sleep Company SmartGRID Luxe Mattress is bound to give you the most luxurious and plush feeling you will ever get when you crawl into a bed. It is The Sleep Company’s high-end plush mattress that comes in two variants -

8” and 10”. Experience the coziest sleep and cloud-like comfort with the SMART Luxe. The mattress is designed to make it feel like you are sleeping on clouds. Get this on Amazon.in starting from Rs 33,499 onwards.

Duroflex LiveIn Pressure relieving memory foam mattress is a roll-packed mattress that comes in a vacuum-packed, easy DIY box set up. This medium-firm mattress is an ideal combination of support and plush comfort. Cloudio Queen Bed Mattress products from Pepperfry offer a great sleep experience and are designed to provide exceptional support with a contemporary look.

Rs 4,300-cr Ruchi Soya FPO to open on Mar 24

Sets price band at Rs 615-650

Mumbai, Mar 21:

Patanjali Ayurved group-controlled Ruchi Soya Industries will hit the capital markets with a Rs 4,300-crore follow-on offer on March 24, making the country’s largest edible oil-maker the first to be re-listed after the bankruptcy process.

The management led by Ruchi Soya chairman Acharya Balakrishna and Baha Ramdev, non-executive director, on Monday announced the price-band for the issue at Rs 615-650. At the upper end, Patanjali, which now owns 98.9 per cent of the company, will dilute around 19 per cent and 18 per cent at the lower end of the price band. The remaining 6-7 per cent, to meet the mandatory 25

per cent public float, will be diluted before the Sebi deadline of December 2022, the company said. Ramdev said the firm will pay back Rs 3,300 crore of debt of the issuer and the rest will go for various corporate purposes. Since the takeover, they have turned Ruchi Soya from a commodities player into a branded player and is also in the process of bringing all its food products and non-food products into separate verticals.

Going forward, Ramdev said, the endeavour is to make both Ruchi and Patanjali global food brands. The group will have four business verticals under branded food, nutraceuticals, edible oils and health and wellness products.



Aishwaryaa Rajinikanth to make her debut as Bollywood director with 'Oh Saathi Chal'

Director Aishwaryaa Rajinikanth on Monday announced that she would be making her debut as a director in Bollywood with her next film titled, 'Oh Saathi Chal'. Taking to Twitter, the director, who is also the daughter of superstar Rajinikanth, said, "My week couldn't have started better. Happy and feeling blessed to announce my directorial debut in Hindi 'Oh Saathi Chal', an extraordinary true love story, produced by Meenu Aroraa. Need all your blessings and wishes." It was only last week that the filmmaker released her Tamil song 'Payani'. The song, sung by Anirudh, had music by Ankit Tiwari, and lyrics by Viveka. The music single marked Aishwaryaa's return to direction after a long gap of nine years. Producer Meenu Arora, who is best known for producing the critically-acclaimed 'Jhund', too confirmed the project. On Twitter, she said, "Elated to collaborate with the immensely talented Aishwaryaa Rajinikanth for her maiden Hindi film. 'Oh Saathi Chal' is a special film, a true love story just waiting to be told. Here's to love, all the way."

On her 44th birthday on Monday, actress Rani Mukerji opens up about her plans to handpick the best scripts going forward and how she is excited to find 'movies that are about hope and love' like 'Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway'. Rani says, "It has been an exhilarating journey in cinema so far for me and I hope that it remains the same in the years to come. I have been fortunate enough to collaborate with some of the best minds in the form of directors, producers, actors and technicians who have pushed me to excel on screen and reinvent myself every single time. "I want to continue doing that with every project because I always want to push my boundaries to see where I land. I always knew that my journey will be tough but I sailed through the last 25 years with the audience's love by my side and my hard work and perseverance." The actress adds that she has never accepted to be typecast or fit in a mould. "I have always tried to be part of meaningful films with a very strong female protagonist at the centre of the story. I wanted to a part of good films with important stories about Indian women. There have been times where I have been blessed with films that have worked and some that missed to make a mark with the audience but I think that's the best part about our industry." "You win some and lose some and that helps you to grow from strength to strength to carve a special place as an individual artiste in a cut throat industry like ours." About her next, 'Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway', Rani opens up saying, "My next project 'Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway' is a film very close to my heart. I'm happy that the story of this film will resonate with every Indian the way it did for me and my team. It's an incredible story of human resilience that will appeal to audiences across the country and across every age-group." She adds, "I'm very emotionally invested in this story as it connected with me as an actor and a mother. These are stories that need to be told!!! I really hope my next few years in cinema is studded with more such brilliant scripts. I'm hungry for them because these films not only entertain audiences but also deliver a great message to people. I want to do movies that are about hope and love."

Rani Mukerji: Hope my next few years in cinema is studded with brilliant scripts



Hungama Play announces its new original series 'Swaanng'

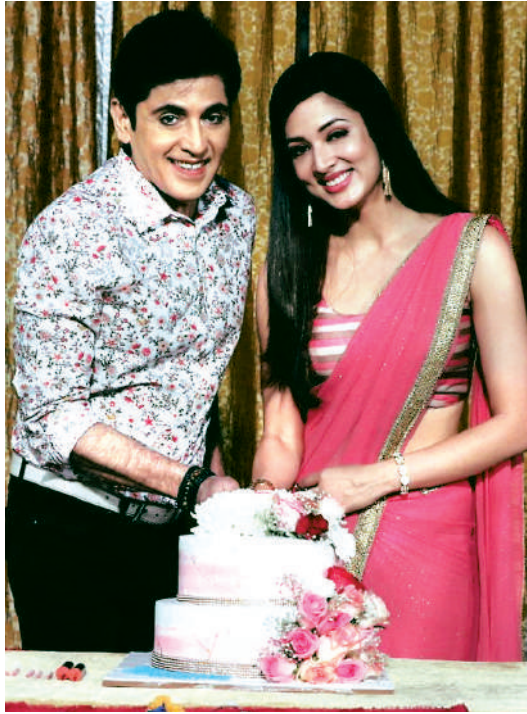
XX February 2022: Hungama Play, a leading OTT platform owned by Hungama Digital Media, has launched its latest Hindi original series Swaanng. The series is headlined by some of the biggest names from the Indian television industry such as Anushka Sen,



Hiten Tejwani, Mansi Srivastava, Anurag Sharma, and Alan Kapoor. The crime thriller revolves around the lives of two sisters who go above and beyond their age to expose a major crime. Shot in the lush landscapes of the Himalayas, Produced by ABUZS Original, the series is directed by Nitesh Singh. Added to the star-studded cast, the show features Prakash Ramchandani, Avdhesh Kushwaha, Nikhil Lulani, and Samaira Walia in pivotal roles. Muskaan (Anushka Sen) lives with her sister, Dimple in an orphanage. The discovery of a lost camera leads the sisters to explore their passion for photography but unbeknownst to them, that camera also hides shocking secrets that can tear apart their idyllic town. On the verge of finding success with ample help from Manohar Pincha (Hiten Tejwani), a local academician, and Preeti (Mansi Srivastava), an NGO worker, Muskaan's world falls apart when Dimple disappears without a trace. Her deepest fears come true when Dimple's disappearance

With Vidisha Srivastava taking the reins of essaying the pivotal and iconic role of Anita Bhabhi in &TV's Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai, the entire cast and crew welcomed her over a cake cutting ceremony. Commemorating her new beginning as Anita Bhabhi and a scrumptious cake to set the celebratory tone, the entire crew gathered around her, radiating love and support as she cut the cake.

Vidisha, sharing her excitement about the warm welcome on sets, said, "I was so overwhelmed with so much warmth, love, and affection with which I was welcomed on the sets. It truly made my day. I am grateful to Sanjay and Binaferr Ji for believing in my abilities linked with the mysterious disappearance and murders of several other young girls. Investigations led by Inspector Balram (Anurag Sharma) and news reporter, Sayan Sharma (Alan Kapoor) reveal the existence of a larger conspiracy but is Balram really a good cop or is he putting on an act for the world? Why is Sayan so interested in this case even though he is not from that town? Why does Preeti keep meeting Manohar repeatedly? And what role does Manohar play in Muskaan's life? In this beautiful sleepy town, everyone has an ugly secret to protect and no one takes off their mask. Speaking about the show, Siddhartha Roy, COO, Hungama Digital Media, said, "At



to take over such a big responsibility of fitting into the iconic character of Anita Bhabhi. It is a dream team and a wonderful opportunity to work with seasoned and experienced actors like Vibhuti Narayan Mishra (Aasif Sheikh),

Manmohan Tiwari (Rohitashv Gour) and Angoori Bhabhi (Shubhangi Atre) and the other talented cast and crew. Everyone has been so kind and supportive. It was such a beautiful gesture. I have begun shooting and now eagerly looking forward to my entry on March 22nd. I do hope the audience enjoys my performance." Adding to this,

Hungama, we've constantly endeavored to push the envelope of modern-day narratives. The crime thriller genre is very popular and Swaanng is a thriller that will delight audiences with its twists and turns. You need stellar actors to compliment such a plot and we're delighted to have some of the biggest names in the TV industry feature on the series.

Vibhuti Narayan Mishra (Aasif Sheikh) said, "A very warm welcome to Vidisha! We have started shooting together, and she has gelled with everyone so easily. I am sure the new Anita Bhabhi will add a lot of flavour to the character. Our viewers have appreciated Vibhuti and Anita Jodi a lot, and I am sure we will continue to be their favourite jodi." An excited Manmohan Tiwari (Rohitashv Gour) said, "Tiwari Ji Ka toh kya kehna woh toh apni nayi Anita Bhabhi ko dekh kar bahut khush hain! I welcome Vidisha to our Bhabhiji family, and I look forward to a start of a wonderful friendship as we work together." Adding further, Angoori Bhabhi (Shubhangi Atre) said, "Vidisha and I have started interacting recently, and we both are excited to work with each other. It will be good fun now that our reel family is complete. So, here's to you, Vidisha! Welcome to our family!" Watch Vidisha Srivastava making a splashing entry as the new 'Anita Bhabhi' starting March 22nd in &TV's Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai, which airs every Monday to Friday at 10:30 pm.

We look forward to it being appreciated amongst the viewers, especially those who love crime thrillers."

Pavitra Rishta Season 2.0 on ALTBalaji

After the super successful season 1 of Pavitra Rishta 2.0, It's never too late! Indian home-grown OTT platform - ALTBalaji is back with season 2. The love story that ruled the hearts of the Indian audiences is all set to re-create the magic on your digital screens with the Pavitra Rishta Season 2... It's never too late!

Previously, Balaji Telefilms aired Pavitra Rishta on television more than a decade ago. The show was telecasted on ZEE TV for almost 5 years with 1424 episodes. Producer Ekta R Kapoor has never left any stone unturned with the content she creates, and hence it is still the most iconic daily soap in the history of Indian television. In the last season, Archana and Manav split over the untimely death of Sachin. Set against the backdrop of the iconic title track of the show, the trailer begins with Manav and Archana having a conversation with each other filled with the same affection and love. The story starts 6 months later with both studying in the same college as strangers. We also see Asheema Vardhan playing Manav's wife (add character name) whereas Vivek Dahiya playing Archana's love interest (add name) in the trailer. It demonstrates how fate can bring two lovers together. Will the future bring



Archana and Manav together again? Will their love rekindle like they always wished for? Will their love shine through amid adversity, or will it fade away?

Sharing her excitement for the launch of the show on ALTBalaji, Ankita Lokhande shares, "Sharing her excitement for the launch of the show on ALTBalaji, Ankita Lokhande shares, "Pavitra Rishta is a show that keeps me alive. Season 1 was a huge success, and the love I received from the audience was gratifying to witness. After all these years, it's challenging to retain the essence of an iconic show that has received immense love from the viewers worldwide. Ekta Ma'am is a content czarina, and no matter what, I have always enjoyed working with her. I can play Archana for years and still feel like I am working on a new project each time."

Produced by BhairaviRaichura's 24 Frames Production and directed by Nandita Mehra the series written by Nikita Dhond, Gautam Hegde, and Ritu Bhatia. Shaheer Sheikh, Ankita Lokhande, Pooja Bhamrrah, AsheemaVardaan, Vivek Dahiya, Anant V Joshi and Usha Nadkarni playing prominent characters of the show. Pavitra Rishta 2.0 Season 2 streams on ALTBalaji from 25th March 2022!

HOROSCOPE TUESDAY MARCH 22

Aquarius: Jan 21 – Feb 18

Today, you decide not to mix business with pleasure. A wise decision, says Ganesha. Your commitment to work increases and you don't want to harm your prospects. However, you reserve the evening only for your loved ones, who are more than happy to have you with them. A fine balance, says Ganesha.

Gemini: May 22 – June 21

A lot of paperwork, perhaps involving contracts, could lead to financial gain on the job, Gemini. You could make or save some money for your employer, which could prove important. Expect some sort of acknowledgement or recognition for your efforts from superiors, which could lead to advancement or a possible raise. However, there may be some delay with regard to the latter. Don't expect it right away.

Libra: Sept 23 – Oct 23

Handling people was never so easy, points out Ganesha, as today, you do extremely well in the area of public relations. You have the answers to satisfy all, and keep them that way. So, do not be surprised if you happen to find your self assigned to some sort of a probing and demanding job at work.

Pisces: Feb 19 – Mar 20

You will need to get your priorities right if you wish to be able to successfully deal with the increased responsibilities that will be heaped on your plate today, says Ganesha. Try not to let your frustrations burst through. It will only prod your subordinates to claim that they are over-worked and hence deserving of more pay.

Cancer: June 22 – July 22

For Crabs, this day brings good tidings for job, business as well as love life. The home is where your heart is. Today, you'll get to spend quality time at your most preferred place with your beloved. Just ensure that you remain loyal to your loved ones.

Scorpio: Oct 24 – Nov 22

Your tolerance level is sky-high, and your optimism, boundless. Professionally, you are like Iron Man – heart of gold, nerves of steel (without the red and gold costume, of course). Academic pursuit in the arts will take you to new horizons. Remember the lessons of life by heart – they will help you to serve society better.

Aries: Mar 21 – Apr 20

The ruling emotion today will be passion. You will feel like chatting with your beloved the whole day. However, you will incur expenses and Ganesha advises you to remain balanced. But if you have decided already to go the whole hog, make fully sure you are in the right trapings.

Leo: July 23 – Aug 23

You may blame the weather, but it still doesn't change the fact that today, you shall be more or less in the doldrums, with little prospect of feeling strong and spirited, says Ganesha. This, coupled with other things, may lead to confrontation and quarrels with peers on the work front. Bearing the state you are in, it seems prudent to hold the launch of any new business project today.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 – Dec 21

Your role in bringing around important and influential deals will be pivotal indeed, says Ganesha. However, at work, the final result may not actually be up to the standards you expected. But a pleasant evening with your beloved will clear all such shadows and lighten your mood.

Taurus: Apr 21 – May 21

Kicking ideas around with colleagues today could lead to planning social events and bringing important people together in order to ensure cooperation on ambitious projects. You might find yourself in a number of meetings, Taurus, or spending considerable time on the phone.

Virgo: Aug 24 – Sept 22

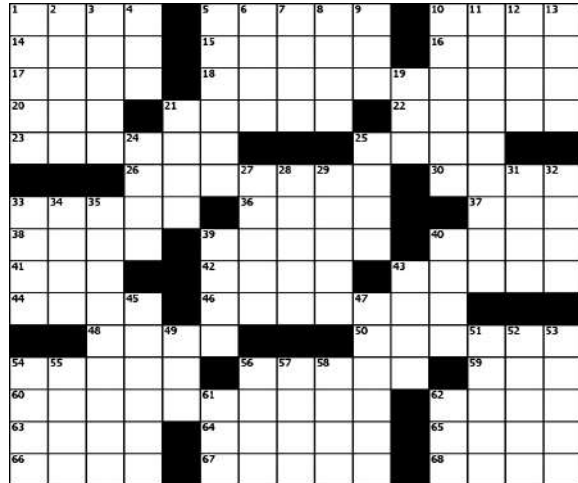
Fortune will favour you today. You will be able to pull off anything you try your hand at today, says Ganesha. In some cases, despite poor expectations, you will receive good news in the form of great results. Bend and budge when you need to, flexibility and adjustments will win you the favour of others.

Capricorn: Dec 22 – Jan 20

The day will find you in an exceedingly good mood and you will be all energetic and geared up to take on challenges as and when they come, says Ganesha. A number of business activities will command your attention, and agreements and contracts you will take hold of as a consequence may get you a fortune.

CROSSWORD

246



ACROSS

- Coated
- Fire residue
- Norse tale
- Song
- Area
- Equal
- Picnic pests
- Actor Donald _____
- Paving material
- MTV feature

- Corrects copy
- Eats away
- Object of adoration
- Said
- Fellow
- Stakes
- Appoint
- Baby's dinner attire
- Plunder
- Juan's goodbye
- Gossip
- Sixth sense (abbr.)

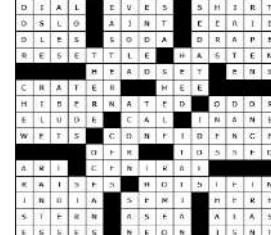
- Charge
- Malicious looks
- Relinquish
- Chirped
- Rower's needs
- Guarantee
- Light wood
- Mails
- Yule drink
- Pledge of _____
- Water whirl
- Fuel source
- Church feature
- Soak through
- Towel pronoun
- Broadway lights

DOWN

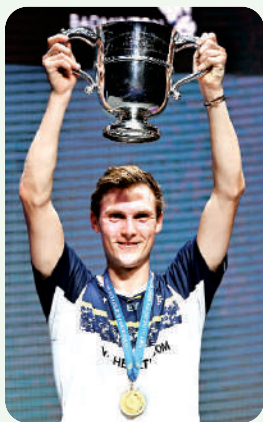
- Fair
- Of the moon
- Preface
- Moines
- Lend a hand
- Potato
- Dislike strongly
- Resound
- Observe
- Infrequently
- Ready for use
- Fellow
- Connecting words
- Apple color
- Animal docs
- Song for two
- March date

- Finance
- Rear
- Overact
- Teller of falsehoods
- Subsides
- Guinness of "Star Wars"
- Snout
- Highest price (2 wds.)
- Performs onstage
- River bottoms
- Minus
- Painters' stands
- Spuds
- Cleaning cloth
- Beneath
- Cowboys' contest
- Cairo's land
- Johann Sebastian _____
- Burn reliever
- Ashen
- Aware of
- Glance over
- Author _____ Fleming
- NY time zone

SOLUTION 245



Sen's impressive run ends in agony at All England final



Birmingham: Lakshya Sen's dream run at the All England Championships ended with a heartbreaking straight-game loss against world number one and Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen in the men's singles final, continuing India's 21-year-long agonising wait for the coveted trophy. After four days of sensational badminton, the 20-year-old Sen faltered on the cusp of history as he committed too many errors to go down 10-21 15-21 to former champion Axelsen in a lop-sided summit clash that lasted 53 minutes at the Barclaycard Arena. On Saturday, Sen had become only the fifth Indian after Prakash Nath (1947), Prakash Padukone (1980, 1981), Pullela Gopichand (2001) and Saina Nehwal (2015) to reach the final of the prestigious tournament after outwitting defending champion Lee Zii Jia in a gruelling semifinal. A week back, Sen had recorded his first win over former world champion Axelsen en route to his final appearance at the German Open but he couldn't sustain his craft on Sunday as his highly-fancied rival returned the favours, claiming his fifth overall win against the Indian. While 2020 winner Axelsen claimed the men's singles title for the second time, Japan's Akane Yamaguchi won the women's singles crown, beating South Korea's An Seyoung 21-15 21-15 in the final.

Hyderabad FC win maiden ISL Trophy



Margao: Goalkeeper Laxmikant Kattimani made three stunning saves as Hyderabad FC clinched their maiden Indian Super League title after defeating Kerala Blasters in penalty shoot-out in the summit clash here on Sunday. Hyderabad beat Kerala 3-1 in the shoot-out after the match ended 1-1 in the regulation and extra time. For Hyderabad, Joao Victor, Khassa Camara and Halicharan Narzary scored while only Ayush Adhikari found the target in the shoot-out as Kerala suffered heart-break for the third time in the finals. It was Kattimani's day as his heroics helped Kerala prevailed in the shoot-out. He saved the spot kicks from Mark Leskovic, Nishu Kumar and Jeakson Singh. As soon as Narzary's spot kick sent Kerala goalkeeper Prabhsukhan Gill the wrong way, the Hyderabad dug out and supporters at the stands erupted with joy while it was heartbreak for the passionate Kerala fans as spectators returned to the stadium to watch an ISL match after two years.

Abraham nets 2 as Roma sweeps aside Lazio 3-0 in derby



Milan: Fan favourite Tammy Abraham scored two goals as Roma swept aside Lazio 3-0 in the capital derby in Serie A. That took Abraham's tally to 15 in the league this season and nine since the start of January. In 202, only Bayern Munich's Robert

Lewandowski has scored more goals than the England international in Europe's top five leagues. Roma had its first goal on Sunday with less than a minute on the clock and was 3-0 up at halftime in a dominant performance from Jos Mourinho's side. Mourinho said Abraham had shown what he was capable of. "When you all said that Abraham is fantastic I did not agree, because I know the potential he has and I know that he is capable of what he did today," Mourinho said. "And I'm not just talking about the two goals, but I'm talking about how he played, how he pressed, how he won the ball back.

Barcelona stuns Madrid 4-0 at Bernabeu to end losing streak



Madrid: Barcelona's losing run against Real Madrid finally ended as the Catalan club enjoyed a stunning 4-0 win at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium and showed its title hopes in the Spanish league may not be over yet. Barcelona kept its recent momentum going under coach Xavi Hernandez in the last "clásico" of the season on Sunday. The win ended Barcelona's five-match losing streak to its rival and maintained an outside chance of fighting for the title after a difficult start to its first season without Lionel Messi. The victory was its first against Madrid since 2019 and came in style like a few others Barcelona enjoyed with Messi in his prime. It was Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang who thrived this time, scoring twice to continue his great streak since being signed in the final minutes of the winter transfer window. Ronald Araujo and Ferran Torres added a goal each to give Barcelona its seventh win in the last eight matches in all competitions.

ICC Women's WC

Pakistan stun West Indies by 8 wickets to record first win

Hamilton, Mar 21 (PTI):

Pakistan ended their 18-match losing streak with an eight-wicket win over the West Indies in the Women's ODI World Cup here on Monday.

Spinner Nida Dar returned with impressive figures of four for 10 to help Pakistan restrict West Indies to 89 for seven after opting to field in the rain-curtailed match which was reduced to 20-over-a-side affair because of damp outfield at Seddon Park.

Besides Dar, Omaidha Sohail (1/12), Fatima Sana (1/14) and Nashra Sandhu (1/24) picked up a wicket each as Pakistan produced an inspired bowling effort.

Opener Deandra Dottin (27) top-scored for West Indies, while Stafanie Taylor (18) and Afy Fletcher (12 not out) were the other two Caribbean batters to have managed double digit scores.

Chasing 90, Pakistan, who have so far lost all their four matches to be placed at the bottom of the eight-team standings, lost opener Sidra Ameen (8) in the sixth over with their scorecard reading 22. Muneeba Ali (37 off 43)



Nida Dar has her hands aloft after dismissing Deandra Dottin.

and skipper Bismah Maroof then shared 35 runs for the second wicket

before the former departed with Pakistan still needing 31 runs off 46

balls. Muneeba struck five boundaries during her knock. But Maroof (20 not out) played sensibly without taking any risks and in Sohail's (22 not out) company stitched unbeaten 33 runs for the third wicket to romp home with seven balls to spare.

While the win be a huge morale booster for Pakistan ahead of their remaining two league games, the defeat put West Indies' semifinal hopes at a risk. Despite the loss, West Indies still occupy the third spot with six points from six games. Pakistan still are in the last spot.

West Indies will face South Africa in their final league game on March 24, while Pakistan will play England (March 24) and New Zealand (March 26) in their final two matches.

Brief Scores

West Indies: 87 for 7 in 20 overs (Deandra Dottin 27; Nida Dar 4/10).

Pakistan: 90 for 2 in 18.5 overs (Muneeba Ali 37, Omaidha Sohail 22 not out, Bismah Maroof 20 not out; Shakera Selman 1/15).

Numbers are part of journey not final destination: Ashwin



Mumbai, Mar 21 (PTI): Premier off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who recently became India's second highest wicket-taker in Test cricket, said he never ran after numbers in his career and considers personal milestones as "just part of the journey and not final destination". Ashwin, who picked up 12 wickets at an average of 15.08 in the recent Test series against Sri Lanka, became India's second highest wicket-

taker in Test matches after he surpassed legendary Kapil Dev's tally of 434 wickets. By doing so, he also became the eighth highest overall in the history of Test cricket with a tally of 442 scalps. "The numbers are great, and it's humbling really to see what I've been able to do in terms of the numbers. The more I've played, the more it felt like the numbers are a part of the journey rather than the destination," Ashwin said in a release.

"In the past 2-3 years especially, the feeling has been great, with series' wins in Australia, comeback into the T20 team, it almost feels like how I felt when I first broke into the team, wherein a lot has been going on for me." The 35-year-old spinner, who will represent his fifth franchise in IPL after being roped in by Rajasthan Royals, said the lucrative T20 tournament has helped him develop into a better cricketer from its onset. "The IPL is a tough tournament, there are a lot of variables leading into every season which can have an impact.

Hamilton, Mar 21 (PTI):

An inconsistent India will have no room for errors when they take on a spirited Bangladesh in their must-win ICC Women's World Cup league match here on Tuesday.

India's problems have compounded over the course of their campaign, which has seen them win two games and lose three, including back-to-back defeats against England and Australia.

The heavy fluctuations in the batting performance was already a concern and with the ease Australia chased down a record 278 in the previous game, the Indian bowlers also need to step up. The bowling looked rather flat against the Aussies, who attacked and put pressure from ball one. The move to drop an extra bowling option in Deepti Sharma and bring back batter Shafali Verma also did not work. Harmanpreet Kaur, who

India can't afford anymore slip-ups in must-win game against Bangladesh



roared back to form with the bat, is yet to be used as an off-spinner in the competition.

It remains to be seen if Shafali will be persisted with for the crucial contest and Yastika Bhatia returns at the top to open alongside Smriti Mandhana. One positive

Swiss Open: Sindhu, Srikanth look to find top form; exhausted Sen opts out



Basel, Mar 21 (PTI):

All England Championships finalist Lakshya Sen will be missing in action but double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and World Championships silver winner Kidambi Srikanth will look to make a mark when the Swiss Open Super 300 begins here on Tuesday.

Sen, the 20-year-old from Almora, decided to withdraw after feeling exhausted following back-to-back final appearances at the German Open and All England Championships.

While Sen has been sensational in the last two weeks, top players Sindhu, Srikanth and Saina Nehwal failed to reach the quarterfinals at Birmingham and would eye a better show this week.

While Sindhu and Saina lost in the second round in both German Open and All England Championships, Srikanth had reached the last 8 at Muelheim an der Ruhr. Sindhu, seeded second, the 2019 World champion, will take on Denmark's

world no 32 Line H jmark Kjaersfeldt in her opening round, while Saina opens against China's seventh seed Wang Zhi Yi.

Srikanth, who has looked in good touch since his World Championships bronze, will face a qualifier in his men's singles opener. Tokyo Olympian B Sai Praneeht will meet compatriot HS Prannoy in his opening match, while former Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap will square off against a qualifier.

In women's singles, Aakarshi Kashyap has been pitted against Germany's Yvonne Li in the opening round.

Third seeded men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who had won the India Open in January, will open against Indonesian combination of Muhammad Shohibul Fikri and Bagas Maulana. MR ARjun and Dhruv Kapila, and Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala will also be in action in men's doubles.

correct against Bangladesh, who have shown a lot of promise in their maiden ODI World Cup appearance.

"The atmosphere remains positive. After a loss you do feel down but we are in good headspace ahead of the game tomorrow. We will play to win, net run rate remains secondary," said all-rounder Sneha Rana, adding that they can't afford to take Bangladesh lightly.

"Bangladesh have reached here by performing. They are always improving. There are no easy games in this World Cup," she added. Bangladesh have run most of their opponents close in the four games they have played so far and that includes a memorable win over Pakistan. Ahead of the India game, captain Nigar Sultana said the more they play at this level, the better they will become. "We never got to play a lot of ODI games in the past. We have a proper FTP now.

Fritz stops Nadal's winning streak to lift Indian Wells title

Indian Wells (US), Mar 21 (AP): Hours from playing in the biggest final of his young career, Taylor Fritz was in severe pain. The prospect of having to withdraw against Rafael Nadal nearly had him in tears.

His coach urged him not to potentially risk damaging his sore ankle further. Fritz stubbornly refused to bow out.

His faith in himself paid off. Fritz upset Nadal 6-3 7-6 (5) on Sunday to win the BNP Paribas Open and snap the 21-time major champion's 20-match winning streak this year.

"It was a complete non-issue, didn't feel it at all, didn't hinder me at all," said Fritz, who tweaked his ankle late in his semifinal win over No. 7 seed Andrey Rublev. Blue medical tape could be seen above his high sock and he had it numbed before the final. Nadal had his own health issue. He came



into the match bothered by painful breathing that he first experienced in a three-set semifinal win. He took two medical timeouts during the final. The first one came after he lost the first set. Nadal went inside with a trainer after tapping his upper left chest. He got treatment on court after falling behind 5-4 in the second set.

West Indies and England draw another test on flat pitch

Bridgetown, Mar 21 (AP):

The West Indies and England drew a second straight Test in Barbados, leaving their series to be decided in the third and final test in Grenada.

England didn't declare its second innings until during the lunch break on Sunday, when it was 185-6 and led by 281 runs at Kensington Oval.

That offered the West Indies 282 runs to win from 65 overs at more than 4 an over: That was no help to the England bowlers, and too steep for the batsmen to attack. The home side dug in on a pitch with little life in it and, after some early drama, held out for all 65 overs to finish on 135-5 at barely two runs per over. Captain Kraigg Brathwaite, who batted for nearly 12 hours in the first innings for 160, steered the side to safety in the second with another monumental effort. He batted more than four hours for 56 runs from 184 balls. England



earned some hope when it reduced West Indies to 39-3 in the 13th over. Spinner Jack Leach got John Campbell out for 10 in his first over after a review, and new fast bowler Saqib

Mahmood got edges from Shamrah Brooks and Nkrumah Bonner into the hands of Joe Root.

Jermaine Blackwood reunited with Brathwaite, and the pair which com-

bined for 183 from 69 overs in the first innings, shared 50 from 25 overs on Sunday. Then Blackwood was Leach's second wicket of the day for 27 from 84.

Leach also bagged Jason Holder for a duck as he ended up bowling 94.5 overs overall, the most by an Englishman in a test in 60 years. He took six wickets in the match.

West Indies was five down with 20 overs to go but Brathwaite, on his home ground, refused to leave.

He got to his half-century with 10 overs left. He blocked out his last 16 deliveries. Brathwaite passed Brian Lara to face the most deliveries 673 in a single test by a West Indies player.

Joshua Da Silva was a lot bolder, taking boundaries off Root, Dan Lawrence and Ben Stokes to score 30 not out from 63.

The West Indies totaled 411 and 135-5 in reply to England's declarations at 507-9 and 185-6.

CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI JAYANTI



Women play fugdi as they celebrate the birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at APMC fruit market, in Navi Mumbai, Monday.

CPI(M) seminars

Cong in Kerala bans Tharoor and Thomas

Thiruvananthapuram, Mar 21 (PTI):

Acceptance of the CPI(M)'s invitation to attend a seminar being organised as part of its Party Congress has put senior Congress leaders, Shashi Tharoor and K V Thomas, in a dilemma with KPCC chief K Sudhakaran barring them from attending the programme.

The Left party has invited Thiruvananthapuram MP, Tharoor and former Union Minister Thomas to attend various seminars ahead of its 23rd Party Congress scheduled to be held at Kannur in the state from April 6-10.

Congress' Kerala unit President K Sudhakaran has said the party had barred its leaders from attending the programme as it was strongly fighting the CPI(M)-led government over the proposed K-Rail project.

However, Tharoor told the media that the topic of the seminar, to which he was invited was not related to any issues pertaining to Kerala or K-Rail.

"The people do not like Congress leaders participating in the programme organised by the CPI(M). The Congress party members despise, loathe such leaders who associate with (Chief Minister) Pinarayi Vijayan, who is

moving forward with the K-Rail project. If he (Tharoor) wants to participate, he can. It's his wish. He can take the permission of Sonia Gandhi and do accordingly," Sudhakaran said.

Keen to attend the CPI(M) event, both Tharoor and Thomas are reportedly planning to approach the Congress high command seeking permission of party supremo Sonia Gandhi to attend the programme.

"They had invited me and I accepted. This time they have invited me to take part in a seminar as part of its Party Congress. There is nothing wrong in engaging

with political dialogues. And the topic of the seminar is not K-Rail or anything related to Kerala," Tharoor said.

Meanwhile, CPI(M) state secretary Kodiyeeri Balakrishnan has said the Left party had invited Congress leaders for various seminars but they were barred by that party's leadership.

"But they don't have any issues in joining hands with the BJP to protest against the state government," Balakrishnan has told the media, referring to the opposition parties opposing the SilverLine project. He said the Congress was taking stands favouring the BJP.

'Recruitment in Army suspended to curb Covid, not stopped'

New Delhi, Mar 21 (PTI):

Recruitment in the Indian Army has remained suspended mainly to curb the spread of COVID-19 and the government has not stopped it, Parliament was informed on Monday. "Coronavirus infections have slowed down but it is not over yet. Big crowds come for recruitment in the Indian Army. Big (recruitment) fairs are organised for the purpose.

"Therefore we have suspended (the recruitment process in Army) so that the virus does not spread. We have not stopped it," said Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt while replying to a supplementary question in Rajya Sabha. According



Ajay Bhatt

to the written reply tabled in the House, after the pandemic hit India in 2020, the recruitment in India Army remained suspended during 2020-21 and 2021-22. However, according to the reply, 2,722 persons were enrolled in the Indian Navy and 8,423 person in the Indian Air Force in 2020-21.

Similarly, 5,547 persons were enrolled in the Indian Navy and 4,609 in the IAF in 2021-22. In 2018-19, 53,431 candidates were enrolled in the Indian Army while the number was 80,572 in 2019-20. The written reply also stated, "Sufficient recruitment is undertaken to meet manpower requirements of the Indian Armed Forces."

About supplementary question on recruiting women in armed forces in combat roles, Bhatt said the provisions for recruitment of women in the armed forces are being adhered to and the other issue (combat roles) is under consideration. The supplementary question on recruiting women in combat roles was asked by NCP member Vandana Chavan.

Taj Mahotsav kicked off in Agra

Agra, Mar 20 (PTI):

Taj Mahotsav - a 10-day festival of art, craft, and culture - was inaugurated at the Shilpgram here on Sunday. The festival was inaugurated by the state Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra. Shilpgram is located about 1 km from the east gate of the Taj Mahal, where the festival will be hosted till March 29, its last day. The theme of the cultural festival is 'Azadi ke sang, Taj Mahotsav kerang'.

The Taj Mahotsav that usually being from February 18 and continues till February 27 had been rescheduled this year due to the UP assembly election. Mishra praised the festival for its showcasing of arts

and crafts, and said it will promote tourism in the state. The entry ticket per adult is Rs 50 and is free for the kids up to three years of age, Rajendra Kumar Rawat deputy director at the state tourism department said.

The entry is free for the foreigners also and to those visitors who show the same day ticket to visit the Taj Mahal, he said. The festival has works displayed by artists from Kashmir, Varanasi, West Bengal, Faridabad, Punjab, Chhattisgarh and many other states. Wood craft of Saharanpur, Terracotta of Faridabad, Silk of Varanasi, and Pashmina shawls and suits from Kashmir will be the major attractions for the visitors.

SC issues notice to Centre, EC on reduction of disqualification period of Sikkim CM

New Delhi, Mar 21 (PTI):

The Supreme Court Monday sought responses from the Centre and the Election Commission on a plea challenging the poll panel's decision to reduce the 6-year disqualification period of Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang, convicted and sentenced in a graft case, to 13 months.

A bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justice Krishna Murari also issued notices to the Chief Minister and the secretary of the state's Governor on the plea filed by J B Darnal, the vice president of Sikkim Democratic Front.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi appeared on behalf of the Chief Minister

on caveat when the plea was argued by the counsel for Darnal challenging the decision of the poll panel.

Rohatgi pointed out to the bench that the same issue has been raised before a pending case in the Delhi High Court.

Why have you chosen so many forums you will have to explain? Some legal issues are there. Because of that we are issuing the notice, the bench said and listed the plea for further hearing after six weeks. The present plea was mentioned for urgent hearing before the CJ's bench on March 10.

The Delhi High Court, in October 22, 2019, had issued notices to the Centre and others on a separate plea against the Sikkim chief minister.

Tamang, whose Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party won the state Assembly elections in April, 2019, took over as chief minister on May 27. However, he could not contest the elections due to his disqualification. He was required to contest Assembly elections within six months of becoming the Chief Minister to continue to hold the office.

He was convicted and sentenced to one year imprisonment for offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act on December 26, 2016. He completed the one year sentence on August 10, 2018. The petition in the high court was filed by one Dek Bahadur Katwal, General Secretary of Sikkim Democratic Front.

CVC to banks, govt depts

'Ensure corrupt officers are penalised'

New Delhi, Mar 21 (PTI): Citing non-implementation of penalty against corrupt officers, the Central Vigilance Commission on Monday asked public sector banks and government departments to ensure that guilty do face the punishment, and the compliance report for 2020 and 2021 should be forwarded to the CVC latest by June 30.

After completion of departmental proceedings, final orders are issued against the Charged Officer (CO) by the competent authority, imposing an appropriate penalty on him, if the charges against the CO are found to be proved, it said. The Commission and the Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) are also informed about issuance of final orders, the CVC said in an order.

unauthorized sale of 'Khadi' products'

'2,172 notices issued to entities

New Delhi, Mar 21 (PTI):

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) issued 2,172 notices to entities engaged in unauthorized sale of products in the name of 'Khadi' till January this year, according to the government.

Nearly 500 entities have apologized for unknowingly using the Khadi trade mark, and have removed them from their products and websites, Minister of State for MSMEs Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha. KVIC comes under the Ministry of MSMEs.

"Upto January 2022, KVIC had issued 2,172 notices to entities engaged in the unauthorized sale of products in the name of Khadi," he said. KVIC has so far filed as many as nine suits against different enti-



Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma

ties for the infringement of trade mark and in most of the cases got interim injunction against the infringements, he added.

Suits were filed in the Delhi High Court against Khadi Essentials, Delhi; Iwearkhadi, Uttar Pradesh; Khadi Design Council of India, Uttar Pradesh; JBMR Enterprises-Khadi Prakritik Paint, Uttar

Pradesh; Girdhar Khadi, Haryana; and Khadi by Heritage, Delhi.

The minister also informed that a suit was also filed in the Bombay High Court against Fabindia, Mumbai; India Khadi Fashion, Maharashtra; and Khadi Store, Pehna, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. Further, he said that KVIC has taken several steps to check manufacture and sale of fake Khadi products.

The steps include appointment of seven trade mark consultants, who are actively watching the trade mark infringements by third parties and issuing legal notices to the unauthorized users. Moreover, it also includes removal of online links regarding the sale of fake Khadi products from e-commerce platforms and social media on a continuous basis.

VACCINATION DRIVE



A healthworker administers a dose of COVID-19 vaccine to a student during an inoculation drive for age group 12 to 14 years, in Hyderabad, Monday.

Removal of encroachment

SC refuses to extend time for filing of application under PM Awas Yojana

New Delhi, Mar 21 (PTI):

The Supreme Court Monday refused to extend time for filing of application seeking allotment under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana' by those who have been affected by demolition action during the removal of encroachment from the Railways property in Gujarat, saying there is enough time till March 31 and these individuals cannot keep on waiting.

The apex court, which was hearing a matter pertaining to removal of encroachment from

Railways property, said the time line of March 31 is there and there is no reason to extend it. The counsel appearing for the petitioners told a bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar and A S Oka that the last date to apply for allotment under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana' is March 31 and over 1,000 affected persons have already applied. The counsel requested that if the date for filing of application for allotment can be extended by a week or two, then the around 500 people who are left can also apply.

Family donates body to medical college

Haveri (K'taka), Mar 21 (PTI):

Hundreds of people paid their last respects to Naveen Shekarappa Gyanagaudar, a medical student from the state who was killed in a Russian shelling in war-torn Ukraine three weeks ago, before his mortal remains were donated to a private medical college, as per the wishes of the family.

The 21-year-old final year student at Kharkiv National Medical University had died on March one, in the conflict zone, tragically becoming India's first casualty in the

ongoing offensive in the eastern European nation.

His mortal remains arrived at the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru in the early hours on Monday, and was later shifted to his native Chalageri village of Ranebennur taluk in this district in an ambulance.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, senior political leaders and officials, along with Gyanagaudar's family members were present at the airport to receive the body. On reaching the Chalageri village, the mortal



People attend the funeral of Naveen Shekarappa, a final year medical student who died due to Russian shelling in the Ukrainian, at his native Chalageri village, in Haveri, Monday.

remains were kept for the public to pay their last respects, which saw hundreds of people including Bommai, political and religious leaders, officials, relatives and friends of the

deceased in attendance.

His emotional parents and brothers then conducted the last rites related rituals as per the Veerashaiva Lingayat traditions. Bommai consoled

the parents and other family members.

The mortal remains were then carried in a procession across the village, before being handed over to Shamanur Shivashankarappa Institute of Medical Sciences & Research Centres at the district headquarters town of Davangere.

According to a doctor from the institute, Gyanagaudar's body was embalmed well before being transported to India and is fit for medical education related requirements. It will be further subjected to tests and anatomical embalming to be preserved for future

medical research and education, he said, while complimenting the family for donating the body.

Bommai telephoned Prime Minister Narendra Modi and thanked him for his role in getting back the mortal remains of Gyanagaudar, and fulfilling the parents' wishes to see him for one last time.

Earlier, speaking to reporters, Bommai while expressing grief over the unfortunate death of the young man, said, "it looks like the shell has not directly hit him. Maybe he got injured in the head due to shelling in the neighboring building, because of which he has died on the spot."



BRIEF



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inspects antiquities which have returned from Australia, in New Delhi, Monday.

Bail

■ **Chennai:** The Madras High Court on Monday granted interim bail to Dr Subbiah Shanmugam, the former national president of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), who was arrested on March 19 in connection with a case registered against him by the city police in July 2020. Justice G Jayachandran granted the interim relief, when the bail application from Dr Subbiah, the head of Oncology department in Government Stanley Hospital came up for hearing today.

Literary Meet

■ **Kolkata:** The 10th edition of Tata Steel Kolkata Literary Meet will be held from March 22 to 27 at Victoria Memorial Hall, the organisers said. On the inaugural day, Nobel Laureate Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee will address a session on “good cooking, rather than good economics”, they said. The literary meet will be inaugurated by lyricist and screenwriter Javed Akhtar.

Attack

■ **Gurugram:** A 35-year-old man was stabbed in his neck by his two friends and an unknown person, who had called him on Holi on the pretext of resolving an old dispute among them, police said on Monday. The victim, identified as Rakesh Yadav of Chakkarpur village, was attacked amid the talks for a compromise, police said.

Arrested

■ **Hailakandi:** Two persons were arrested on Monday for allegedly vandalising a fire brigade vehicle in a remote area in Assam's Hailakandi district bordering Mizoram, police said. A fire broke out on Sunday night at a market in Garmurra and at least twenty shops were gutted, they said. An irate mob damaged the fire brigade vehicle, alleging that it had reached the spot quite late.

Fire

■ **Mahoba:** A fire broke out at a branch of the the State Bank of India here on Monday which damaged documents and computers, police said. Prima facie it appears that fire broke out due to a short-circuit, said Deputy Superintendent of Police, Ram Pravesh Rai. The fire broke out around 11 am at the bank branch in Kabrai which damaged documents and computers, Rai said.

Weather	
	High 38 Low 24
MARKET	
NIFTY	57292.49 ▼
SENSEX	17171.60 ▼
BULLION	
GOLD	51,742
SILVER	68,547

Prez confers Padma awards

New Delhi, Mar 21 (PTD):

India's first Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, who died in a chopper crash last December, late Radheshyam Khemka, former chairman of Gita Press that publishes Hindu religious books, and Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad were among 54 personalities who were conferred Padma awards by President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday. While Rawat and Khemka were given Padma Vibhushan, the country's second-highest civilian award, posthumously, Azad, Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekharan, former CAG Rajiv Mehrishi, founder of Serum Institute of India that made COVID-19 vaccine Covishield Cyrus Poonawalla were among the eight honoured with Padma Bhushan, the country's third-highest civilian award, at a civil investi-



President Kovind presents Padma Vibhushan to General Bipin Rawat (Posthumous) for Civil Service.

ture ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan. This year, no names were announced for 'Bharat Ratna', India's highest civilian award, which was last awarded in 2019 to former president Pranab Mukherjee, social reformer Nanaji Deshmukh and noted singer Bhupen Hazarika. The award for Rawat was received by his daughters while a close family member received the

award for Khemka. Many of those who received the Padma awards were “unsung heroes”, including 125-year-old yoga practitioner Swami Sivananda. Members of the audience clapped as a bare-foot Sivananda, dressed in a simple white kurta and dhoti, knelt before Prime Minister Narendra Modi who promptly got up and bowed, touching the ground as he returned the greeting.

Biren Singh sworn in as Manipur CM

Five others take oath as cabinet ministers

Imphal, Mar 21 (PTD):

BJP legislature party leader N Biren Singh was Monday sworn in as the chief minister of Manipur for the second time at the Raj Bhavan here. Singh, along with five cabinet ministers, were administered the oath by Governor La Ganesan. Union ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Kiren Rijiju had on Sunday handed over a letter to Ganesan, stating that Singh was elected unanimously as the leader of the BJP legislature party with 32 MLAs. The governor then invited Singh to form the next government in Manipur.



BJP National President JP Nadda with party leader Biren Singh during the swearing-in ceremony as Manipur CM.

The five cabinet ministers who took oath along with Singh were Thongam Bishwajit Singh, Yumnam Khemchand Singh,

Govindas Konthoujam, Nemcha Kipgen — all from the BJP — and Awngbow Newmai from the Naga People's Front

'Charges against Varavara Rao serious'

Mumbai: The National Investigation Agency on Monday urged the Bombay High Court to dismiss the permanent medical bail plea filed by poet-activist Varavara Rao, an accused in the Elgar Parishad Maoist links case, saying charges against him were “very, very serious,” and, if proven, could attract the death penalty. Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh, who appeared for NIA, told HC Rao (83) seemed to be suffering from “regular old age related issues,” and the probe agency was willing to give an undertaking that requisite medical aid would be provided to him in prison or in a government hospital whenever required.

Three CRPF personnel injured in Naxal firing

Sukma/Konta Mar 21:

Three Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawans were injured on Monday when Naxals opened fire at a newly set-up camp of the security forces in Sukma district, a senior official said. A group of ultras started firing around 6 am in the vicinity of the Elmagunda camp located under the Chintagufa police station limits, following which security forces stationed there retaliated, Inspector General of Police (Bastar range)



One of the injured jawans hit on head.

Sundarraaj P told PTI. This camp has been opened only a month ago.

After this sudden attack, the soldiers also retaliated. After some time the Naxalites fled from there. Sukma SP Sunil Sharma has claimed that many Naxalites have also been injured in the retaliatory action of the soldiers. It is being told that the Naxalites also attacked this new camp with UBGL, as well as fired grenade launchers, but no damage was done to the camp. The SP said that this police camp has been opened recently. During the search, blood stains were also seen at the spot.

Govt for Covid booster shots for all above 18 years

New Delhi, Mar 21 (PTI): The government is considering allowing booster dose of Covid vaccine for all those above 18 years in view of a surge in infections in parts of the world and ease difficulties faced during international travel, sources said on Monday. Currently, healthcare and frontline workers and those aged above 60 years are being administered precaution doses. All the people aged above 60 have been made eligible for the

precaution dose of Covid vaccine after the Union Health Ministry removed the comorbidity clause recently. The prioritisation and sequencing of the dose would be based on the completion of nine months to 39 weeks from the date of administration of the second dose. “The government is considering to allow booster dose of Covid vaccine to all those above 18 years in view of a surge in infections in

parts of the world and ease difficulties faced during international travel.” a source said. India began COVID-19 vaccination for children in the age group of 12-14 years from March 16 this year. The country-wide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16, 2021, with the healthcare workers getting inoculated in the first phase. Vaccination of the frontline workers started from February 2 last year. The next phase of COVID-19

vaccination commenced on March 1 last year for people over 60 years of age and those aged 45 and above with specified comorbid conditions. India launched vaccination for all people aged more than 45 years from April 1 last year. The government then decided to expand its vaccination drive by allowing everyone above 18 years of age to be inoculated against the viral disease from May 1 last year.

SC-appointed panel was against repealing three farm laws

New Delhi, Mar 21 (PTI):

The Supreme Court-appointed panel was not in favour of total repeal of the three controversial farm laws and instead had suggested leaving procurement of crops at a specified price to the states and scrapping of Essential Commodities Act, one of the three members of the panel said on Monday while releasing the committee's report. Pune-based farmer leader Anil Ghanwat said he had on three occasions written to the Supreme Court for releasing the report of the committee but in the absence of a re-

sponse, he was releasing it on his own. The other two members — economist Ashok Gulati and agri-economist Pramod Kumar Joshi — were not present at a hurriedly called press conference here. The panel had submitted its recommendations on the three farm laws, which among other things, allowed farmers to sell agri produce to private entities outside the government mandis, on March 19, 2021. The three farm laws were repealed by the Modi government in November last year, ahead of assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. Addressing the press con-

ference, Ghanwat said the committee had also suggested many changes in the laws, including giving freedom to states to make Minimum Support Price (MSP) system legal. The panel had also suggested that the open-ended procurement policy should be discontinued and a model contract agreement should be formulated. The report has no relevance now as the laws have been repealed but it would help in making policies for the agriculture sector in future, said Ghanwat, who is the President of Swatantra Bharat Party.

Chinese plane with 132 aboard crashes

Beijing, Mar 21 (PTD):

A Chinese passenger plane with 132 people on board crashed in the southern Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on Monday, the regional emergency management department said. The Boeing 737 aircraft of China Eastern Airlines, which flew from Kunming to Guangzhou, crashed in Tengxian County in the city of Wuzhou, causing a mountain fire, the department was quoted as saying by the state-run Xinhua news agency. The 132 people included 123 passengers and nine crew members, the Civil Aviation Administration of China said on its website. The



Smoke rises from a fire after a China Eastern Airlines passenger plane carrying 132 people crashed near Wuzhou city in the Guangxi region.

number of casualties is not clear yet, the report said. Rescuers have been assem-

bled and are approaching the site. Chinese President Xi Jinping has ordered all-out rescue efforts after plane crash, official media reported. The Wuzhou fire brigade has sent 117 firefighters with 23 fire trucks to the site. Further 538 firefighters from other parts of Guangxi have been dispatched to join the rescue efforts, the regional fire department said. According to news portal The Paper, a staff member at Guangzhou's Baiyun International Airport said that flight MU5735 from Kunming to Guangzhou has not arrived at its destined time, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

AAP's Rajya Sabha List: Ex Cricketer, IIT Professor, Raghav Chadha

New Delhi, Mar 21:

Ex cricketer Harbhajan Singh, IIT professor Sandeep Pathak, educationist Ashok Kumar Mittal and Delhi MLA Raghav Chadha are the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)'s nominees for Rajya Sabha or the upper house of parliament from Punjab, where the party won a gigantic victory in recent elections. Five Rajya Sabha seats will fall vacant on April 9 and names have to be submitted today for elections on March 31. Harbhajan Singh, 41, filed his nomination as an AAP candidate and was seen in a yellow turban, inspired

by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann seated next to him. “After making India Proud as a bowling legend, Mr. Turbanator is now going to raise his voice for the people of Punjab in Parliament,” AAP tweeted, sharing a video. Harbhajan Singh had met with former Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu before the elections, fuelling speculation of his debut in politics as a Congress member. But the former cricketer had denied it. AAP won 92 of Punjab's 117 assembly seats. After the Rajya Sabha election, AAP's strength in the upper house is set to increase from three to eight.

Dhami to continue as Uttarakhand CM

Dehradun, Mar 21 (PTD):

Pushkar Singh Dhami will continue as the Uttarakhand chief minister, with the BJP ending the suspense over the post on Monday, 11 days after returning to power for the second consecutive term in the state. The swearing-in ceremony of 45-year-old Dhami will be held on March 23. The BJP's dilemma on the choice of a chief minister for Uttarakhand was caused by Dhami's loss in Khatima, a seat he had been winning since the 2012 Assembly polls. Party's central observer and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced Dhami's name after a brief

Pramod Sawant to continue as Goa CM

Panaji: Pramod Sawant was on Monday unanimously elected the leader of the BJP legislature party in Goa, paving the way for him to take over as the chief minister for a second term. Sawant's name for the top post was cleared at a meeting of the newly elected BJP MLAs and senior party leaders in Panaji in the evening. The meeting was also attended by BJP central observers Narendra Singh Tomar and L Murugan, Assembly poll in-charge Devendra Fadnavis and the party's state unit president, Sadanand Shet Tanavade.

meeting of the BJP legislative party here. The meeting was attended by

Union ministers Meenakshi Lekhi and Prahlad Joshi. While Lekhi was present there as a central observer, Joshi was the party's poll incharge for the state. Making the announcement soon after the meeting at the party office here, Singh said he congratulates Dhami on being elected as the leader of the BJP legislative party. The BJP has reposed faith in Dhami once again for the post of the chief minister as he knows well how to run a government, the defence minister said. There was no name other than Dhami and all MLAs unanimously supported him, he said.

Malik's judicial custody extended till Apr 04

Mumbai, Mar 21 (PTD):

A special court here on Monday extended the judicial custody of Maharashtra minister and NCP leader Nawab Malik till April 4 and permitted him to use a bed, mattress and chair in jail. Malik was arrested on February 23 by the Enforcement Directorate in a money-laundering probe linked to fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim and his aides. The NCP leader was in ED's custody till March 7 and was later sent to judicial custody till March 21. On Monday, Malik



NCP leader and Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik being taken to court, from the Arthur Road Jail, in Mumbai, Monday.

was produced before a special court, designated to hear cases related to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), and Special Judge RN Rokade extended his judicial custody till April 4.

District Admin's initiative bears exciting results; Devendra selected in NDA

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 21: District Administration had initiated to provide free coaching to 40 children for preparation of competitive exams. This DMF funded programme has given exciting results. Risali based student Devendra Sahu has cleared the tough NDA exam, which is the biggest exam of the defense sector.

Devendra met Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure and DEO Abhay Jaiswal on Monday and thanked the district administration for providing the coaching. He credited his success to the initiative of District Administration.

Devendra stated that he was very confused while preparing for NDA. There were many books and a lot of study material as well. Fortunately, the coaching commenced where he came



to know about the topics to be prepared for this exam. Devendra added that after joining the coaching classes, the confusion in his mind was cleared and he worked hard to achieve success.

Devendra will be going to Pune for training and thereafter he will be commissioned in the Indian Navy. Devendra is only seventeen years old and is a student of Shakuntala Vidyalaya. His

father works in a private company and mother is a housewife.

It needs to be mentioned here that the coaching was started in the month of September under the guidance of Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure. Additional Collector Nupur Rashi Panna played a vital role in this initiative.

She kept on monitoring the classes regularly and also motivated the children



regularly. This coaching is being conducted in Sector 6. Devendra Sahu was also sent to Dehradun for SSB training by the district administration. At present, the second batch of NDA is getting coaching.

Durg is the first district of the state where the NDA coaching is also being given to girl students. When the Supreme Court allowed admissions to girl students in NDA, the District

Administration started NDA coaching for girls also. Due to the arrangement of NDA coaching and its continuous monitoring, the path has been opened for the candidates to fulfill their dreams in the field of defense.

At present, 15 subject experts are regularly monitoring the coaching. Through NDA exams, one can reach the highest positions in the army.

Saroj Pandey watches 'The Kashmir Files' with intellectuals and BJP workers



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 21: On Sunday, Rajya Sabha member Saroj Pandey accompanied with intellectuals, journalists and BJP workers and office bearers watched The Kashmir Files movie at a theatre.

While interacting with media persons, she said this film is inspired by truth and she was shocked to experience the massacre

of Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir 32 years ago. Saroj Pandey requested all the Indians to definitely watch this heart-wrenching truth. She added Shyama Prasad Mukherjee sacrificed his life for Kashmir and asserted that the entire Kashmir is the integral part of India. Through this movie, we came to know about the sufferings of Kashmiri Pandits. It was politically motivated brutality. When

asked about the Chief Minister's statement about this movie, Saroj said that he gave the statement with a narrow mind. As he is influenced by his leaders, he will continue to give such statements.

State Secretary Usha Taori, Chandrika Chandrakar, Sarita Mishra, journalists of Durg Bhilai and the team of Mahila Morcha, Yuva Morcha were present.

Hemchand Yadav University proposes to conduct undergraduate exams from April 18

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 21: Hemchand Yadav University, Durg has proposed to conduct all graduation level the annual examination including BA, B Com and B Sc first, second and third year regular and private students 2021-22 in 03 shifts from April 18, 2022.

Giving this information, Dr Rajmani Patel, Vice-Chancellor, Examinations of the University said that on the first day of the annual examinations of the University, it is proposed to conduct exam of BCA first, second and third year.

Intensive brainstorming is going on among the university officials on the detailed timetable of all the above examinations and very soon the complete time table will be issued.

Dr Patel informed that according to the proposed time table, regular and private examinations of B Sc first, second and third year will be held between April 18 and June 06.

This include B Sc first, second and third, from 18 April to June 06, 2022; BSc Home Science first, second and third from April 18 to May 13, 2022; BA B Ed first, second, third, and fourth from April 18

to May 23, 2022; B Sc B Ed 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th from April 18 to May 31, 2022; B Lib from April 25 to May 17, 2022; BCA 1st, 2nd and 3rd from April 16 to May 20, 2022, BA First, second and third from April 18 to June 6, 2022 and BCom is proposed to be held from April 18 to May 25, 2022.

The Vice Chancellor of the University, Dr Aruna Palta and Registrar Dr Prashant Srivastava, while wishing all the students a Happy Holi, have urged them that only one month is left for the commencement of the annual examination, so all the students should concentrate in their studies and avoid unnecessary

demonstrations in the university.

Vice Chancellor Dr Palta said that Hemchand Yadav University, Durg is a state-owned university. Therefore, it is mandatory for them to strictly follow every order of the government.

Even after the declaration of the time table of the examinations, if any fresh order is issued by the state government regarding the method of conducting the examination, then the university will follow it completely. Students should not fall under any kind of delusion and concentrate on their studies.

Retrenched workers stage demonstration at District Collectorate

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 21: On Monday, the retrenched workers of Chandulal Chandrakar Memorial Medical College staged a demonstration at the District Collectorate. They were protesting against the fresh contractual recruitments in the institution. They asserted that fresh recruitment was in contempt of court orders.

The aggrieved workers staged a sit-in for about three hours. Police force was deployed at the spot to control the law and order situation. In the meanwhile, a demonstrator Bharti was admitted to the hospital after she fell sick



due to dehydration. Later, a delegation of workers was allowed to meet the District Collector. After the meeting with the District Collector, the demonstrators returned back. A security guard, Mohan Baghel, was observing fast-unto-death for the last eight days. SDM Padmini Bhoi convinced

him to end the Anshan. The aggrieved workers Dhanush Kumar Sahu, Devraj Sahu, Anita Sahu, Sheela Sahu and Vikas informed that they were illegally retrenched after the acquisition of the college by the state government. Considering the workers' plea, the court had issued

stay orders on fresh recruitments in this institute. Now the recruitments are being made on contractual basis, which amounts to the contempt of the court. They are also demanding payment of pending wages.

The retrenched workers are demanding from the state government to provide them regular job in the institution. Sumit, Sheela, Devraj, Lomesh, Dhanush, Monika, Sheela, Bharti, Mahendra, Misi, Ruchi, Rajkumar, Anita, Kaladas Daharia and other members of Jan Swasthya Karmachari Union and Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha Mazdoor Karyakarta Samiti were present.

URM continues its winning spree, records New Highs

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 21: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Universal Rail Mill (URM) that rolls out world's longest 130 metre rail in single piece and supplies 260 metre welded rail panels to Indian Railways has once again created several records in daily production of R 260 grade and 60EI profile rails on March 16, 2022.

Universal Rail Mill crossed its rated capacity in daily prime rail production, recording highest Prime Rail Production of 3026 T on March 16, 2022, as against previous best of 2674 T on March 13, 2022.

On March 16, URM rolled highest number of 400 blooms into rails, surpassing previous best of 367 blooms rolled on March 13. The modern mill sources blooms from



the Plant's Steel Melting Shop 3.

Finished rail production at 3164 Tonnes on March 16 was the highest in any single day as against previous best of 2858 T on March 13. Highest number of 405 pieces of rails was visually inspected on March 16 as against previous best of 366 on March 13.

As many as 270 numbers of 130 metre long rails were produced on March

16 as against previous best of 253 nos of 130 m long rails rolled out on March 13. The Mill also recorded highest number of 159 numbers of 260 metre long welded rail panels, surpassing previous best of 156 recorded on Feb 26. It is worth mentioning that on March 16, URM recorded healthy prime rail acceptance of 95.67%.

ED (P&A) KK Singh and ED (Works) Anjani Kumar

personally visited Universal Rail Mill to congratulate the team of URM along with the teams of SMS 3, T&D, RCL, RITES & other associated Departments for the record breaking performances.

ED (P&A) and ED (Works) also visited Rail & Strl Mill to congratulate the RSM Team for recording highest number of 40 welded rail panels in a day

on March 16 as against previous best of 38 panels on March 15.

SAIL-BSP has been producing the exact specification based rails for the Indian Railways throughout its association of more than six decades. The R260 grade of Rails is targeted to meet the requirements of Indian Railways for higher speed and higher axle load. Specifications given by RDSO for this new grade of rails are even more stringent than the specifications of rails used in European countries.

As such the steel for this new grade of rails is cleaner and the rails have higher yield strength and better mechanical properties. SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant is producing this new grade and profile of rails from both its modern Universal Rail Mill and its older Rail & Structural Mill.

RBM's Women Wing organises get together



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 21: The women wing of Rashtriya Brahman Mahasangh (RBM) organized a get together on the eve of International Women's Day and the festival of Holi at a hotel in Supela on Sunday. Bhilai Press Club President Bhavana Pandey graced

the function as Chief Guest. In her inspirational address, she urged the women to help other women for achieving the goal of empowerment of women.

RBM State Chief Secretary Anju Tripathi and District President Renu Tripathi played vital role in making the programme a grand suc-

cess. The women and working committee members participated in exciting games and gave cultural programmes. Bindu Mishra, Asha Tripathi, Radha Mishra, Neerja Pathak, Sushma Dubey, Kavita Shukla, Anita Pandey, Neelam Tiwari, Poonam Tripathi, Meena Shukla and others were present.

Bar Rod Mill & Merchant Mill create daily production records



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 21: The determined team of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Modex unit BRM again broke its own record by rolling 1476 billets in 16 mm TMT bar and producing 3063 tonnes on March 20, 2022, the new best ever "daily production record". Earlier this record was made on February 23, 2022 by rolling 1462 billets in 16 mm TMT bar.

In this sequence, the committed team of Merchant Mill, an impor-

tant unit of SAIL-BSP, created a new record of daily production by producing a record 2029 tonnes in 65 mm angle on March 19, 2022. Earlier this record was of 1949 tonnes of production in 65 mm angle on December 12, 2021.

On this success of these departments, Director-in-Charge Anirban Dasgupta, Executive Director (Works) Anjani Kumar and top management of BSP congratulated energetic team of BRM and Merchant Mill.

JLN Hospital celebrates National Immunisation Day-2022

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 21: A programme was organised on March 16, 2022 by Department of Pediatrics & Neonatology JLN Hospital & RC under the guidance of Dr SK Issar (ED Medical & HS), Dr Ravindranath M (CMO, M & HS), Dr Pramod Binayake (CMO, M & H), Dr Subodh Kumar Saha, Dr Sambita Panda, Dr Nohar Singh Thakur to celebrate National Vaccination Day 2022.

Department of Pediatrics JLNH & RC is committed to achieve the goals set by Government of India and achieve excellence in field of vaccination as well and put a lot of efforts in 'Universal Program of Immunization'.

National Vaccination Day is observed every year on March 16 to convey the significance of vaccination as well as its role in public health. It was on this day in 1995 that the 1st dose of Oral

Polio vaccine was given in India. National Vaccination Day 2022 is observed to create awareness and to convey the message that vaccination or immunization is the most effective way of preventing highly infectious diseases. The Theme of National Vaccination Day 2022 is "Vaccines work for all". Vaccines, over the last few decades, have become an important tool to fight life-threatening diseases all over the world. According to the report by the World Health Organisation, vaccines save almost 2 to 3 million people every year.

This year, the day is all the more important because the country started its biggest COVID -19 Immunisation program in 2021 and more than 96 crore Indian citizens have received at least 1 dose & more than 81 crore Indian citizen have received both doses of COVID-19 vaccines till date (March 15,



2022). Since the COVID-19 pandemic has been prevailing all over the world, the Government of India is taking every necessary step to vaccinate every citizen of India against the disease.

National Vaccination Day 2022 initiates a talk regarding the significance of vaccines and why people must get themselves vaccinated and also their family members and children vaccinated for the protection against certain diseases.

With these new vaccines, India's UIP now provides free vaccines against 13 life threatening diseases, to 27 million children annually. Total member of Covid-19 vaccination done by JLN Hospital as on March 14,

2022 as 89436. Important vaccines apart from COVID 19, in last 3 years given by BSP's M&HS Department are - BCG - 3132, OPV (bivalent) -10184, DPT - 7052, MMR - 3643, Typhoid - 2691, Hepatitis B -8263, Hib - 5785, Hepatitis A -1892, Chicken Pox -1735, Pneumococcal -5062, Rota virus-4278, IPV- 2276, & H1N1 (swine flu)-516.

Vaccination is a team effort and requires team leader, program coordinator, expert doctors and competent vaccinators. COVID-19 vaccination program is being run at JLNH & RC under competent leadership of Dr Sambita Panda (HoD pediatrics), program coordinator Dr Subodh Kumar Saha (ACMO)

assisted by a team of expert doctors Dr NS Thakur (ACMO), Dr Sanjibani Patel (DCMO), Dr Meeta Sachdev (chief consultant), Dr Nootan Kumar Verma (Asstt CMO), Dr Koushik Kishore (chief consultant), Dr Wrunda Sakhare (Senior consultant), Dr Mala Choudhary (consultant), Dr Subhasmita Pattanayak (consultant) and Dr Ruchika Tamrakar (Sr MO).

The Officers and Staff of Statistical and Accounts namely BR Dhoke (Senior Manager C & IT Dept), Lakhna Yadav (C&IT Dept) along with Vaccination team consisting Reena Janghel, Arunika, Visakha, Lovely, Chintamani Sahu, Meenakshi offered their best services for the successful implementation of COVID 19 vaccination program and ongoing immunization programme in JLNHRC. Balvir Singh, Shahid Ahmed and the other staff of M&S have supported this endeavor immensely.

OBITUARY

V Ganeshan



Bhilai: Smriti Nagar resident V Ganeshan left for heavenly abode at the age of 93 years. Funeral procession will be taken out from his residence on March 22 and last rites of the mortal remains will be performed at Ramnagar Muktidham around 14:00 hrs. He was the father of G Venkat Raman and brother-in-law of S Swaminathan.

Panchayat Minister suspends 14 officers and CEO

On charges of irregularities in construction of culvert and Stop-Dam in Marwahi Forest div.

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 21: The Minister for Panchayat TS Singh Deo made declaration to suspend 14 Forest officers and employees and CEO District Panchayat Gajendra Thakur on charges of irregularities in construction of culvert and stop-dam in Marwahi forest division. Apart from this the action against the then acting DFO will also be taken in this context.

MLA Gulab Kamro drew attention of Panchayat and Rural Development Minister T Singh Deo towards massive irregularities under MGNREGA in construc-



tion of culvert and Stop-Dam in Forest division Marwahi. In replying to his question, TS Singh Deo said that a complaint about withdrawal of amount without getting the work done has been received. For this a four-member inquiry team has been formed and the Samiti has been asked to check 33 works. There is information about taking disciplinary action against the officers involved in the irregularities.

MLA Gulab Kamro said that even the CEO District Panchayat is also guilty

and questioned as to how many other officers and employees are guilty and when the action will be taken against them.

On this Minister TS Singh Deo informed that this complaint was received from DCC President and then inquiry was ordered into it. When the fact came forward, there were many irregularities and in this the amount for the work was withdrawn going against the rules meant for purchase of materials.

In addition to this there was violation in the works sanctioned. The 15 officers

and employees of the Forest department who have been found to be guilty and two other have been asked to submit clarification and other officers have been issued show-cause notice. For their suspension, soon the action will be taken, he added.

On this the BJP and CJC(J) MLAs and those in Congress also demanded action against the other officers involved in such irregularities and demand for declaration of their suspension in the House was raised.

Minister Singh Deo said that the decorum of the House increases adhering to rules and regulations and we are confined to rules as per the Constitution and added that if there is rules to suspend 'A' grade officers and retired officer, then I am ready to make declaration about their suspension.

TANK DEMOLITION



An old water tank in DD Nagar area of city was demolished using explosives, as it's life was over and need to be demolished to avoid any untoward incident.



No rules for payment of compensation to farmers committing suicide: Sahu

Inform House that total 570 farmers committed suicide in 2 yrs

suicide due to agricultural reasons and rest others committed suicide for some other reasons. On this MLA Bandhi pointed out that there is no provision of payment of compensation to famers and questioned as to whether any rule will be formed for its payment, saying that a farmer of UP was paid Rs 50 lakh in the form of compensation.

On this the Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu informed that so far there is no rule for payment of compensation to farmers committing suicide and denied the news about payment of Rs 50 lakh as compensation to a farmer in UP and clarified that it is CM who pays this amount as per his discretion.

In reply to this Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu informed the House that from Jan 2019 to 12 Feb 2022, a total of 570 farmers committed suicide. Out of these, two persons have committed

Former govt responsible for flaws in construction of Express-way: Sahu

BJP MLA raises question-hour session in the House



Raipur, Mar 21: The issue of inordinate delay in construction of Express-way from Raipur to Kendri even after 3 years was raised in the Vidhan Sabha on Monday. Replying to a question by BJP MLA Shivratna Sharma, the PWD Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu said that it was the erstwhile BJP government in the state who wanted to get the Express-way inaugurated before elections and which led to variety of low-quality construction work.

BJP MLA Shivratna Sharma during question-hour session in the House questioned about the

agency involved in construction of Raipur-Kendri Express-way and who are the officers and employees suspended on finding irregularities in its construction work? By which corporation the work was done by PWD and whether the officers involved in irregularity were from the department or working on deputation?

The PWD Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu in-

formed the House that M/s Iron Tangle Ltd Ahmedabad is the construction agency for construction of this Express-way. Six officers were suspended on finding irregularity in its construction work and out of which two have been reinstated. All these officers were working on deputation and action of their suspension was done by their parent department.

On this MLA Shivratna Sharma charged that so far the road construction work of this Express-way has not been completed and nor the contractor has been suspended. On this Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu said that it was the erstwhile government who was more in hurry to get it inaugurated early and which led to all these loopholes in construction

work. Biggest of the action was taken against the contractor and he has been asked to re-construct the damaged part of the Express-way again.

MLA Shiv Ratan Sharma said that the state government is only making big declaration and informed the House that road construction work worth Rs 600 cr is in progress and to what was done for this road in last three years? Why the two officers were reinstated and why four others were left behind. Minister for Urban Administration Shiv Kumar Daharia said that it was the former BJP government in the state who recruited these corrupt officers for this project and on this Shivratna Sharma raised a volley, as to why the existing government is trying to save them?

'Ganja' worth Rs 15 lakh seized



Central Chronicle News

Raigarh, Mar 21: The Raigarh Police got a major breakthrough in seizing large quantity of 'Ganja' worth Rs 15 lakh kept secretly inside a chamber in a pick-up Van here on Monday. The 'Ganja' smugglers are from MP and were taking it from Odisha to MP.

It was on tip from an informer that Raigarh Police was warned on Sunday night that few drug smugglers are carrying 'Ganja' from Odisha to MP and in view of this the Police de-

puted a team at Birnipali Check-post on Chhattisgarh - Odisha border. This team was keeping close eye on all the vehicles and they remained on duty till Monday morning.

It is learnt that the Policemen checked many vehicles and it was around 10-11 am in the morning they found a white pick-up Van approaching. The Police stopped this pick-up Van and when searched they found nothing at the back, but below this there was a secret chamber built with 100 packets of 'Ganja' worth Rs 15 lakhs.

NQAS certificate to 5 govt health centers of Raipur

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 21: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has awarded National Quality Assurance Standard (NQAS) certificate to 5 government hospitals in Raipur for better quality of their services. The Quality Certification Programme for Public Health Facilities has been initiated with an objective to identify well performing facilities as well as to improve the credibility of public hospitals in the community.

National Quality Assurance Standard Certificate is awarded on meeting the prescribed criteria and financial incentives are also provided. The Managing Director of National Health Mission, Government of India, Vikas Sheel has congratulated Chhattisgarh through a letter. The hospitals which



have been granted certificates include Humar Hospital Rajatalab, Humar Hospital Bhanpuri, Urban Primary Health Center Changorabhatha, Urban Primary Health Center Hirapur and Urban Primary Health Center Urla in Raipur.

These institutes were evaluated by the assessors of different states of the country between December and February. Assessments were made on service availability, patient rights, institution maintenance, avail-

ability of support services, clinical services, preventive procedures, quality management and outcomes.

According to CMHO Dr Meera Baghel it is a matter of pride for Raipur to get the National Quality Assurance Standard Certificate for the health centers run by the National Urban Health Mission. Free services are provided to the citizens of the city in all these centres, she said.

These centers provide facilities for daily vaccination, examination of preg-

nant women, eye examination, dental care, delivery services, emergency services, adolescent health, family planning, mental health, treatment of non-communicable diseases, prevention of communicable diseases. About 60 types of blood tests, covid tests and vaccinations are conducted and 121 types of free medicines are being given in the urban primary health center. Sonography facility is also being provided to pregnant women in Humar Hospital, Rajatalab.

Entries for National Voter Awareness competition till March 31

● **Competition is in five categories**

Raipur, Mar 21: According to Chhattisgarh Chief Electoral Officer entries for the National Voter Awareness Competition "My Vote is My Future - Power of One Vote" conducted by the Election Commission of India can be sent till 31st March. He has sent a letter in this regard to all the collectors and district election officers of the state.

Collector Sourabh Kumar has directed the concerned officers regarding the promotion of

National Voter Awareness Competition in compliance with the letter of the Election Commission.

The last date for sending entries in this competition organized by the commission in 5 categories was earlier fixed till March 15. Quiz, Video Making, Poster Design, Singing and slogan have been included in the competition. Interested participants can send their creativity in the above categories directly to the Election Commission of India on the e-mail id: contest@eci.gov.in by the last 31st March.

CM appeals to save the forest for environmental protection

On occasion of World Forestry Day

Raipur, Mar 21: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has greeted the people of the state on the occasion of International Forestry Day. In his message released here on Monday, he said that World Forestry Day is celebrated on March 21st to protect trees and forests around the world and to convey its importance to the people. Many animals, insects and other living creatures are in-

terdependent on the forest. This arrangement is very necessary for the protection of the environment as well as the biological coexistence. Forests are the source of various food and other useful materials along with the vital oxygen on the earth. We are seeing the effect of increasing population and changing lifestyle in the form of shrinking forest and polluted environment. The Chief Minister has appealed to the people of the state to save trees and forests for environmental protection.

AAP decides to send Dr Sandeep as RS MP from Punjab

Hails from Mungeli district of Ch'garh

Raipur, Mar 21: Having created record and clean-sweep in Punjab VS polls, the National Convener of AAP is all praise for Dr Sandeep Pathak and has taken decision to send him as Rajya Sabha (RS) MP from Punjab. Dr Sandeep Pathak hails from Mungeli District of Chhattisgarh and is working as Professor in IIT Delhi and has been declared as RS MP of APP from Punjab. This news has created joyous moment for his family and celebrations in his village and Mungeli district.

Dr Sandeep Pathak S/o Shiv Kumar Pathak still lives in small village in Gram Bataha of Lormi VS area of Chhattisgarh and when the villagers came to know that their son is going to become Rajya Sabha MP, there was air of



happiness and joy among all. People of the village went to Sandeep's residence and extended greetings to his family members. Dr Sandeep Pathak is elder son of Shiv Kumar Pathak and name of his younger brother is Pradeep Pathak and sister's name is Pratibha Pathak. Born on 4 Oct 1979, completed his primary school education in the village and then completed further education from Bilaspur city and

then left for Hyderabad for higher studies. He completed his Ph.D. from Cambridge University in UK and became a Professor in IIT Delhi on his return.

Kejriwal all praise for Sandeep Pathak

It is learnt that during Delhi VS poll, Dr Sandeep Pathak worked diligently along with election strategist Prashant Kumar and for his political analysis and skills he is among one of the close con-

sultants of CM Kejriwal and is one among the top names in ensuring AAP's victory in Delhi VS polls. CM Arvind Kejriwal had given him responsibility to prepare the organisation in Punjab and after the results of Punjab polls, Kejriwal is all praise for Sandeep Pathak.

Can be given major responsibility in Ch'garh

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has now decided to contest next VS polls in Chhattisgarh and in such conditions they will try their level best to encash the image of farmer's son- Dr Sandeep Pathak. So far AAP leader Gopal Rai and Sanjay Singh have taken up the command in Chhattisgarh, but there are hopes that on Sandeep selected as RS MP from Punjab, he could be given some major responsibility of preparing party's role in Chhattisgarh for the next VS polls.

Oppn members boycott questions of Food Minister

Raipur, Mar 21: In the ongoing Budget Session of the State Assembly, today was the time of questions related to Food Department of Food Minister Amarjeet Bhagat. But the members of the Opposition were annoyed over his words in the House before Holi and they all boycotted questions of Food Minister Amarjeet Bhagat. In the House here on Monday, without asking any questions and expressed their anger.

Speaker terms migration as black-spot on face of Ch'garh:

The issue of migration of labourers was also strongly raised by the Opposition in the Vidhan Sabha here on Monday. MLA Dhanendra Sahu sought answer from the Minister Dr Shiv Kumar Daharia on migration of labourers. The Minister in his reply informed the House that more than 30000 labourers have migrated from 551 villages of

Mahasamund district. On the other hand, Minister informed the House that in 2021-22, a total of 2.50 lakh labourers were provided employment and were made payment of Rs 10,819 lakh. On this Speaker State Assembly Dr Charandas Mahant held migration of labourers from Chhattisgarh black-spot on the face of Chhattisgarh and directed to form concrete work plan to avoid the same.

Action to be taken against illegal bio-diesel pumps:

MLA Anita Sharma raised the issue of sale of bio-diesel in the state and on which Food Minister Amarjeet Bhagat informed that there is no bio-diesel pump in capital city. On this MLA Anita Sharma informed that two bio-diesel pumps are functioning illegally in her VS area and on which action should be taken. On this it was decided to take action against those running illegal bio-diesel pumps in the state.

‘Rising interest towards farming among Ch’garh’s youth’

CM inaugurates Kabir Panthi Sahu Samaj Hostel

Initiative to provide student accommodation in the district

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 21: Chhattisgarh government, in its new inclusive development model, has started numerous schemes to boost the socio-economic conditions of the state's rural populace. Rural Chhattisgarh is primarily agriculture-based and with the formation of farmer friendly policies, youth's interest in farming has increased. To avail the benefits of such government-aided policies, the youth has started to shift from cities to villages, said Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel while addressing the gathering in the inauguration ceremony of Kabir Panthi Sahu



Samaaj's Hostel located in Semaria, Aarang district.

Baghel initiated the inauguration ceremony of the newly constructed hostel building by worshipping Sant Kabir Das. It is noteworthy that the Chief Minister had announced to fund Rs 40 lakh for this hostel building in the year 2019-20. As promised, a fully equipped hostel has been prepared for student accommodation. Rajya Sabha MP Chhaya Verma, Parliamentary Secretary Shakuntala Sahu, MLA Anita Sharma, State

Teleghani Board President Sandeep Sahu, District Panchayat President Domeswari Verma were also present on the occasion.

The Chief Minister further said that Sant Kabir has given an important message of connecting everyone in the society with love and kindness. The state government is extending all possible efforts and cooperation for the propagation of Sant Kabir's ideas. With the construction of this hostel building, it will be very convenient for the stu-

dents from far and remote places of the state to come here for accommodation and education.

The Chief Minister said that the farmers of the state have not faced any financial crunch even during the global pandemic. Timely funds were made available to the farmers through Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana. Along with this, employment was also provided in the village through MNREGA. He said that in the last three years, the state of Chhattisgarh has paid special attention to the needs and grievances of the farmers and has made its mark as a farmer-friendly government in the entire country.

With the state government's intervention, the confidence of farmers has increased. Every possible effort is being made to make the farmers and laborers of the state financially secure. Urban Administration and Development Minister Dr

Shivkumar Dahria said that the state government under the leadership of Chief Minister Mr. Baghel has done commendable work for the upliftment of farmers and workers. Along with this, continuous efforts are also being made to revive and promote the culture and tradition of Chhattisgarh through various schemes, programs and committees. The Chief Minister concluded the ceremony by asking the students of the district to avail the benefit of this newly constructed hostel and wished them luck for a bright future. The program was also addressed by Telghani Board President Shri Sandeep Sahu, Gram Panchayat Sarpanch Shri Manish Sarang, Society officials Shri Hanumant Sahu, Shri Kanhaiya Lal Sahu. Three-tier Panchayat representatives and a large number of society officials were present in the program.

‘BADALBO CH’GARH’



AAP party workers and leaders took out massive 'victory rally' under the title 'Badalbo Ch'garh' and it was led by Environment Minister AAP Delhi Gopal Rai and Buradi MLA Sanjeev Jha.

CM inaugurates badminton court



Raipur, Mar 21: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Saturday inaugurated the Badminton Court building in Kumbhari Municipal Council. Facility of changing room has also been made available at Badminton court campus. Landscaping has also been done in the campus. The badminton court has been developed at the cost of Rs 97 lakh. A vertical garden has also been built in the campus at a

cost of Rs 60 lakh. Moreover a garden has also been developed at a cost of Rs 59 lakh. Baghel said that his government was committed to develop sports infrastructure along with civic amenities in cities and continuous efforts were being made in this direction. Better sports infrastructure is constantly being created in the state and in the district, he said. With this Chhattisgarh will emerge very strong in the field of sports, he added. Chairman of Mineral Development Corporation Girish Devangan, Municipal Council President Rajeshwar Sonkar and other public representatives were present.

AAP to contest next VS polls in the state as people want a change: Rai

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 21: After record victory and clean sweep in Punjab, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is now targeting Chhattisgarh and the party under leadership of Arvind Kejriwal has taken a decision to contest the next VS polls in the state from tribal dominated area. As per the plans, the party's senior leader and Delhi's Environment Minister Gopal Rai arrived here on two-day tour to Chhattisgarh from Sunday and to give momentum to party's activities for the next VS polls in the state. AAP's Eastern region unit in Charge and MLA Buradi Sanjeev Jha will be accompanying Rai to Chhattisgarh. Addressing a press



conference, on asking about his objective behind state visit, Rai informed that this tour is to prepare ground work for the next VS polls in the state and through this victory rally, we want to pass on the party's message to masses. AAP's Delhi convener Rai said that the party has decided to contest next VS Polls in the state, as the people of the state wants a change, especially the youth and women and are not so happy with Congress. Speaking fur-

ther right after formation of state 15 yrs back, BJP has never fulfilled its promises and in the last VS polls in the state, the people voted Congress party for a change. He said that Congress too has not fulfilled the promises made in last three & half years of its governance. Rai said that Congress is facing internal feuds and the youth, women and tribal of state are not happy with its policies. The people here have seen both BJP and Congress rule and

now wants a change.

One of the AAP's leader said that the party is making plans for next VS polls in the state and would hold meetings with AAP leaders and party workers and would launch membership campaign for the party on a large scale. Rai would also inaugurate party's office in Raipur on Sunday. Another leader of AAP informed that Gopal Rai in order to underline the party's record victory in Punjab, he would be taking part in the victory rally to be taken out in capital city on Monday and would present AAP as an alternative party to BJP and Congress. It is notable here that in the year 2018, AAP has fielded candidates in 85 VS seats out of total 90 and could not win a single seat.

GPIL, Niro's Ispat and Axis Bank win matches



Raipur, Mar 21: Today three matches took place starting with Niro's Ispat (NI) and BOB. The captain of Bank of Baroda (BoB) won the toss and elected to bat first and in which batsman's made 108 runs losing 6 wickets. Countering NI could achieve the target and won the game at a very neck-to-neck time in the 12th over losing 7 wickets. In this match Sanjay Yadav was rewarded with the player of the match trophy for scoring 52 runs in mere 4 overs.

The 2nd game took place in between Yes Bank and GPIL. Ecopel and after winning the toss Ecopel opted batting and in the 1st innings

they made 127 runs losing 8 wickets, while in the next inning's YB's batsmen could not make the target very easily and while losing all the wickets they collapsed very initially at 52 runs only. Hemant Sahu was awarded as the player of match.

In the last match between Axis Bank and Jaiswal NECO, the NECO team won the toss and elected to bat first. Their batsmen scored 62 runs on a serious damage of 9 wickets. Playing in the next innings, Axis Bank lost 4 wickets and won the match very easily. For achieving 21 runs and hitting 2 wickets the man-of-the-match award was given to Arif.

University family is a confluence of rainbow of colors : V-C



Bilaspur, Mar 21: Holi Milan ceremony was organized at the residence of Honorable Vice-Chancellor of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (Central University), Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal. The Vice-Chancellor, who is always ready to encourage the spirit of affection, coordination, harmony and cooperation in the Central University, took this initiative for the first time and organized Holi Milan ceremony with the teachers, officers and employees of the University.

In this program organized from 10 am on March 18, 2022, everyone greeted each other by applying herbal gulal made by the

students of Rural Technology Department of the university. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Chakrawal along with his entire family, attended the Holi Milan celebrations and welcomed everyone with a hug.

On the occasion of Holi, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal recited poems of fun and humor on Holi, while remembering the old days of Holi, sharing of happy moments spent with his friends and colleagues. He wished everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous life while wishing everyone a very Happy Holi.

Vice-Chancellor said that this festival expresses life in its best form where

all the colors mix with each other and scatter rainbow spectrum. Any one color does not have any existence of its own, rather it mixes with the others and shines more. Similarly, we have to establish the university as a link with each other and establish it at the national and international level.

On the occasion of Holi, special arrangements were made for snacks with the special addition of 'Gujiya'. Members of the university family presented Chhattisgarhi bhajans, songs and poetry recitations on this occasion. The program was conducted by Dr. Santosh Singh Thakur and vote of thanks was given by Prof. PK Bajpai.

Ch'garh's tribal women awarded for excellence in food processing

Raipur, Mar 21: Udan Mahila Krishak Producer Company, Self-Help Group of Chhattisgarh's tribal women has been awarded the "Women entrepreneurs Excellence Award in food product" by the Ministry of Micro, small and medium enterprises for their outstanding work in the field of food processing. The award was presented by Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, Minister of State for MSME, for the manufacture of agricultural food products and women entrepreneurship.

The award intends to provide public recognition for the outstanding performance of tribal women working in food processing units besides incorporating a sense of pride amongst the group members.

The award has been received by Mr. Siddharth Pandey, a consultant on behalf of the women's group.

The Knowledge Chamber of commerce and Industries of India have organized a \$5 trillion economy investment and business summit cum award ceremony in which various awards have been given in sectors such as food processing, agri and dairy business as these are the backbone of the Indian economy.

Ministry of small and medium enterprises is emphasizing on Agro processing as it plays a deci-



sive role on the development transformation of the Indian economy. Agriculture has an important role to play in the development of the nation and India today need a food processing revolution, which will accelerate the development of the economy. India's food ecosystem has a lot of potential and this can lead to a triple growth in retail trade.

The women of tribal-dominated kondagaon district have formed Udaan Mahila Krishak Producer Company which manufactures and sells agricultural food products under the brand name Kondanaar. There are 10 Board of Directors in the organization and more than 30 women self-help groups are involved in this.

The SHG group has been involved in a number of activities such as processing of pickles, tamarind chutney, cold pressed coconut oil, grounded species and handmade cookies. The organization comes under

National Rural Livelihood Mission in which all the directors are tribal women of Kondagaon district.

The products from start to finish are made by the tribal's, especially the women. The products are produced in small batches since they are all made manually. This helps them to remain fresh without any use of preservatives and chemicals.

Kondagaon Collector Pushpendra Meena said that regular employment has been ensured to more than 200 tribal women through this organization. Women's working here gets a minimum salary of Rs.7500 per month.

"Kondanaar is becoming a brand, not only in India but across the world. The products of Kondanaar were also displayed at the Dubai expo through virtual platform", Pushpendra Meena added further:

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel while expressing happiness on receiving the award said, "Tribal women have set an example by becoming entrepreneurs. Their dedication and perseverance has given a new identity to the traditional taste."

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who visited Raipur last month, had also tasted kondanaar food in which he praised the Tikhur milkshake.

24 Naxalites including men and women surrender



Konta, Ma 21: IG Bastar Range- Sundarraj P and Rajiv Thakur under the guidance of DIG CRPF (Operations Konta Range) in district Sukma and Sunil Sharma SP Sukma District, Jitendra Kumar Ojha, Commandant 208 Corps Cobra, Sachindra Choubey Addl. SP, Konta. Influenced by the promotion of "Rehabilitation Policy" of Chhattisgarh government and the "Puna Narkom Campaign" (New Morning, New Beginning) being run by the Sukma Police under the Naxal eradication campaign and being tired of exploitation, atrocities and discrimination by outside Naxalites and violence against the local tribals, a total of 24 Naxalite members including 10 women belonging to the banned Naxalite organization surrendered here on Monday.

They all surrendered without weapons in front of Pramod Chaudhary, TIC 208th in the new camp established under Kistaram police station on March 20, Vahini Cobra PK Sahu, 212th Corps CRPF, Kapil Beniwal, DC 208 Corps Cobra, Krishna Kumar, DC 208 Corps Cobra, Amit Pal Singh DC 204

Corps Cobra, Sunil Chinchu DC 212th Corps CRPF, Girija Shankar Sao, DSP Naxal Ops Konta.

During this, AC Ujjal Kumar of 208 Corps Cobra, AC Jitendra Kumar, AC Vishal Balu Binnar, AC. rb s. N. Singh and AC of 204 Corps Cobra. Yashbir Singh, AC. Akshay Kumar, AC. Prashastra Brijpally and ACs of 212 Corps CRPF. Virender Singh, AC. Devendra Kumar, AC. Doctor. Rohit, Bhavesh Shende were stationed in-charge Kistaram.

On the auspicious occasion of Holi Milan, a number of 100-120 villagers of village Potakpally wandered from the mainstream of the society and brought the members of the banned Naxalite organization to Camp Potkapalli and surrendered before the police, who lived in the Naxalite organization, in the police station Kistaram area. Naxalites were involved in incidents. There is an atmosphere of happiness among the local people due to the establishment of new camps in the area. Holi festival was celebrated with the surrendered Naxalites and villagers along with senior officers present in the camp.

Gauthans play an important role in strengthening rural economy: CM

- **Mopka College to be named after Late Ramnath Verma, additional arrangement for drinking water in village Tildabandha: announced Baghel**
- **CM attended the Manwa Kurmi Kshatriya Samaj's Sammelan organized in Baloda Bazar**

Central Chronicle News

Balodabazar, Mar 21: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Sunday said that Gauthans play an important role in strengthening the rural economy and are being developed as centers of rural livelihood. Various schemes are being implemented to strengthen the economic condition of the farmers in our state.

Baghel was addressing Baloda-Bazar Raj Kurmi

Kshatriya Samaj's Sammelan organized at the Balodabazar-Bhatapara district headquarters today. On this occasion, he announced to name Mopka College after Late Ramnath Verma besides making an announcement for additional arrangements for drinking water in village Tildabandha.

In the programme, he also felicitated 23 talented students on behalf of the society. He also released the book 'Chitrotapa Premdeep' written by Pushpa Verma. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Chief Minister Mr. Baghel said that Kurmi society is a progressive society. Meaningful steps are being taken to eradicate various social anomalies.

Stressing on the importance of education, Baghel said education is very important to bring change in any society. Swami Atmanand Excellent English Medium Schools have been opened in the state to provide quality education in English medium



to the children. He said that the state government is working continuously to promote and preserve the rich and unique culture of Chhattisgarh. Local festivals like 'Teej' and food are being promoted, to help build a sense of pride among citizens.

Chief Minister said that after the formation of the new government in Chhattisgarh, the quantity of paddy being purchased by the state government and the number of farmers is increasing continuously. At present, the area under cultivation has increased.

The state government's ambitious Godhan scheme has boosted employment opportunities and income. Even the unemployed ones are making profit by selling cow dung. Mr. Baghel said that the work of reviving the tradition of the village is being done by the government.

He said that the Rural Industrial Park would be built in all the Gauthans; the government is working continuously in the direction of realizing Gandhiji's vision. He said that we are developing Gauthan as an important center of rural

livelihood. Along with vermicompost, local women are manufacturing many other products including incense sticks.

They are also earning additional income by growing vegetables on the vacant land. Chovaram Verma, the central president of Kurmi Samaj, presided over the programme. He said in his address that Chief Minister Mr. Baghel is taking forward Gandhiji's dream of 'Gram Swaraj'.

Urban Administration Minister Dr. Shiv Kumar Dahariya, Rajya Sabha MP Chhaya Verma, Parliamentary Secretary and MLA Chandradev Rai, Shakuntala Sahu, Zila Panchayat President Rakesh Verma, Text Book Corporation Chairman Shailesh Nitin Trivedi, Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Mineral Development Corporation Girish Devangan, former MLA Janakram Verma along with a large number of locals, social workers and officials of Kurmi Samaj were present on the occasion.

CM Baghel attended the swearing-in ceremony of Sarva Brahmin Samaj

- **Polytechnic College Balodabazar to be named after former MP Late Smt. Karuna Shukla**
- **CM announced construction of a community hall for Brahmin Samaj in the name of Late Smt. Karuna Shukla**

Central Chronicle News

Balodabazar, Mar 21: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel attended the swearing-in ceremony of Sarva Brahmin Samaj organized at district headquarters Balodabazar on Sunday, as the chief guest. He garlanded the statue of Pandit Valmiki Shukla in Vipra Bhawan. He started the programme by offering prayers to the portrait of Lord Parashuram and sought His blessings.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Baghel announced to rename



Polytechnic College Balodabazar after former MP Late Smt. Karuna Shukla and to construct a community hall for Brahmin Samaj in the name of Late Smt. Karuna Shukla. Along with this, he urged the general public including Vipra society to celebrate the birth anniversary by studying about the date of birth of Mata Kaushalya. The state government will also provide all possible help in this regard. He also extended his best wishes to the newly elected President Shyam Sundar Shukla. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel mentioned the contribu-

tion of the 'Rishi' tradition of Brahmins in the society. Urban Administration Minister Dr. Shivkumar Dahariya, MLA Pramod Sharma, MLA Shivratan Sharma, Gau Seva Aayog President Mahant Dr. Ramsunder Das, Krishak Kalyan Parishad President Surendra Sharma, Chhattisgarh Text Book Corporation Chairman Shailesh Nitin Trivedi, Mineral Development Corporation President Girish Devangan, Vidhabhushan Shukla, Dr. Madhav Shukla along with other distinguished people of the society were present on the occasion.

Holi celebrated with festive revelry



Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Mar 21: Holi the festival of colours was celebrated here with festive revelry and brotherhood in almost every nook and corner. People gathered in large numbers played with colours till evening and splashing one another with holi colours, after a long sabbatical from festive celebrations,

owing to the spread of COVID 19 pandemic.

Drenched in colors group of youths and children were seen moving from place to place applying colours on each others and passersby's. People assembled in homes and roads and celebrated the festival with distribution of sweets and other delicacies made for the festival.

Trade and business also saw a leap as people openly purchased colors and other items in plenty and the increase in trade was seen both in rural as well as urban places. Meanwhile there was also a surge in liquor sale and people were witnessed in large numbers in queue awaiting their chance.

- **Applying 'gula' and colours to each other**

Central Chronicle News

Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi, Mar 21: The festival of colours- 'Holi' was celebrated with great enthusiasm and fervour by people of all age-groups, especially after two years break due to corona pandemic. People were found moving around in groups and applying variety of colours on each other to celebrate the occasion.

At many a places in chowks and lanes-by-lanes, a group of youngsters were found beating the drums and singing 'Holi-songs' (Faag geet). Entire region was found sub-



merged in hues of colour and people celebrated without any hesitation or fear from corona virus.

Therefore on this day of Holi, the Congmen from all over the District, gathered at the Rest House and applied 'gula' to each other and extended greetings. Speaking on the occa-

sion MLA Dr KK Dhruv said that this year Holi is being celebrated after two year's break and restrictions and this seems to continue for few more days till 'Rangpanchami'. District Congress President Manoj Gupta, Virendra Singh Baghel, Rajendra Tamrakar, Malti Vakere, Sumitra Sahu,



all on Holi and applied variety of colours and 'gula'.

On occasion of this 'Holi-Milan', District President Manoj Gupta, Narayan Sharma, Rakesh Masih, Harish Rai, Bundkavar Singh, Virendra Singh Baghel, Rajendra Tamrakar, Malti Vakere, Sumitra Sahu,

and other COngmen were present.

Nagar Panchayat President Rakesh Jalan along with his entire team of Parishad and denizens of city took a small tour of city along with drum-beats and splashing 'gula' to celebrate the occasion. In this series, DCC OBC

District President from Vidyanagar Pendra - Prasad Ramesh Sahu celebrated Holi along with ward residents by applying 'Gula'. In this Holi celebrations, Ravi Sahu, Prakash Sahu, Santosh Sahu, Murli Manohar Sharma, Vimala Gaud, Kamla Gaud, Kamlesh Paltu and other people celebrated the festival with great enthusiasm.

The members of social service Ekta group celebrated holi with flower petals and on this occasion Sharda Sahu, Sangeeta Chavariyala, Anita Singhai, Ranjana Keshari Shweta Singh, Ruby Upveja, Nidhi Shivhare, Sarita Sahu, Neha, Reeta, Rahmi Kesari, Shalu Agrawal and others were present.

Denizens celebrate Holi peacefully

DJs have replaced 'Nagadas' and 'Bhang' with liquor

Central Chronicle News

Pandaria, Mar 21: The festival of colours was celebrated with lots of enthusiasm and colourful manner by the residents of city here on Friday. It was right since morning, boys and girls carrying water guns in their hands started flashing water to passer-bys and also applied 'gula' and extended greetings on Holi.

They went to their friends and neighbours along with family members and celebrated the occasion. At main chowks and triangles in city, people have arranged for 'DJ' and rain-dance in the corner and celebrated the occasion.

It was for last two years that people could not celebrate Holi



due to corona pandemic and due to which this year after getting two vaccination, the people once again became active and enjoyed colours for the whole day.

But the traditional style of Holi these days is slowly fading out and it was not even visible in rural areas. 'Nagadas' have been replaced by DJ system and in the localities people

were found dancing to tunes of songs on DJ. People were found moving around in groups in their locality, celebrating the festival. Every year on occasion of Holi, it is generally dry day and therefore people collected liquor bottles well in advance and due to which many turned out of control and due to which many people were found literally making nuisance and

speaking in loud noise and were found lying down in state of deep slumber by the roadside.

Police security beefed up: In order to handle anti-social elements during Holi festival, the Police administration has made strict security arrangements, with barricading in sensitive places and checking those in drive-n-drunken state. Police Jawans were deployed for the whole day at the Old Bus Stand, Gandhi Chowk, New Bus Stand, Padhi Chowk, Mahamaya Chowk, Modaram Chowk, Tehsil Chowk, Mandi Chowk, Samrupara, Killapara, Durjabandpara, Bairagpara, Mainpura, Rest House and at other places. In addition to this three-four searching parties

were found patrolling in the urban areas and in rural areas too. Due to all such security arrangements, Holi was celebrated with peace and enthusiasm this year.

'Holika Dahan' done a day before:

It was on Thursday night that Holika-Dahan was done on auspicious occasion performing all rituals. Holika was combusted to flames at many places in city in urban and rural areas, viz. Mainpura, Bus Stand, Ghogharapara, Durjaband Chowk, Padhi Road, Gopiband para and other places. Apart from this few anti-social were found burning tyres at few places and then applied the paste of it in the morning the next day on Holi.

Contract workers of power department to gherao VS

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Mar 21: The contract workers engaged in power department has taken a decision to gherao Vidhan Sabha on March 23 in support of their demands. They will gather at

Budha Talab dharna venue and proceed from their half naked to gherao VS. They demanded that the present government in its pre-election declaration assured to end the contract system but after coming to power thousands of employees are

being recruited on contract basis.

It is alleged that the contract workers in the power department are deprived of any benefits like PF gratuity and other benefits. They are not even paid salary at collector rate, alleged contract workers.

Lara holds joint mock drill on CBRN disaster management

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Mar 21: For strengthening internal preparedness to defend any disaster or accident, NTPC Lara in association with CISF unit NTPC Lara and NDRF 3rd battalion holds the mock drill on CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) emergencies on 21st March 2022. To strengthen internal safety and security such mock drill was organized.

On this occasion the mock drill was demonstrated the entire process of happening a fire accident at oil tank. All the process were demonstrated as per standard operating process of disaster mitigation guideline. The



process was started with budging the siren to informing different internal and external officials and stake holders whose services are required during such incident.

After successful completion, Alok Gupta, Executive Director (NTPC Lara) congratulated the

NDRF personnel for holding such muck drill to understand the process to deal any accident at industry. P Panigrahi, Addl. Director (IB) was the observer of this operation. He examined the entire process and gave his valuable suggestion for better cooperation and coordina-

tion among different stake holders.

Among others B Kujur, Dist fire Commandant, K S Gupta, ASI, Police, Dharmendra Kumar, DCIO (IB), Vijender Singh, Asst Commandant (CISF), JSS Murty, GM (O&M) other GMs and senior officials were present.

NAME CHANGE

I Madhulika Dhirhi D/o Jai Singh Dhirhi residing at Kumharpara Jarhabhata, Bilaspur Chhattisgarh 495001. Hereby undertake that I Madhulika Dhirhi want to change my name to Ishan Dhirhi and gender as male. I Madhulika Dhirhi henceforth to be known as Ishan Dhirhi S/o Jai Singh Dhirhi.

The above statement made by me is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. If any legal issue arises in this regard at any stage I will be personally responsible for the same and the department of publication will not be liable for any consequences arising therefrom.

Place : Bilaspur

Date : 21/03/2022



भारतीय स्टेट बैंक
STATE BANK OF INDIA

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Publication of Notice regarding possession of property u/s 13(4) Of SARFAESI Act 2002
Manendragarh Branch

Address: Main Market, Manendragarh, Koriya, CG					
Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of security interest 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 9 of the security interest of (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, a demand notice was issued on the dates mentioned against each account and stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice.					
The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Act on the dates mentioned against each account.					
The Borrower 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 STATE BANK OF INDIA for an amount and interest thereon.					
Name of account/ Borrower & address	Name of Proprietor/ partners/Guarantors/ owner of property etc	Description of the property mortgaged/charged	Date of demand Notice	Date of Possession	Amount Outstanding
Ajeet Singh Raina s/o late bhagat singh raina, Residing at ward no-19, FCI godown nee piche, Manendragarh, Koriya, CG-497442	Guarantor & Owner of property- Smt Satvant kour raina W/O Shri Ajeet Singh Raina	Kh.no-184/14,3356.50 Sq.ft., Chaipur, Manendragarh in the name of Smt. Satvant Kaur Raina W/O Shri Ajeet Singh Raina, registered via sale deed dated 31.03.2010, granth 624 at Sub registrar office, Manendragarh Boundaries:- North:- Proposed road South:- Land of shyam lal East:- Gali West:- Proposed Road	11/01/2022	15/03/2022	Rs.7,16,999/- (Rupees Seven Lakh sixteen thousand nine hundred ninety nine only) as on 11.01.2022 and further interest, costs, etc. thereon.
Ramashankar Gupta S/O Matadeen Gupta address - Abhilaasha near old nagar palika manendragarh Dist. Koriya (C.G.)	Guarantor & owner of property Shri Ramashankar Gupta	Hk.no-186/9, Area- 0.015 Hecter 1635 sqft the name of Shri Ramashankar Gupta S/O Matadeen Gupta Boundaries:- North:-other land (ST) South:- Land Of Ramashankar Gupta East:- Land of Mohan West:-Land Of Ramashankar Gupta	12/01/2022	15/03/2022	Rs.28,59,749. (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh fifty nine thousand seven hundred forty nine Hntt.) as on 11/01/2022 with further interest and incidental expenses, costs.
Date: 21/03/2022 Place: manendragarh					Authorized Officer State bank of India

BRIEF

IED explosion

■ **New Delhi:** Delhi police has filed a charge sheet against senior DRDO scientist Bharat Bhushan Kataria before a court here in relation to the IED explosion in Rohini Court Complex in December last year. The Special Cell of Delhi Police filed the final report before Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Pankaj Sharma alleging that Kataria knowingly and deliberately placed and triggered an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) using a remote trigger on December 9, 2021 in the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Pritu Raj, Room No. 102, in Rohini Court Complex with the intention to kill his rival Amit Vashisht.

Liquor poisoning

■ **Kannauj:** Three people died and one was taken seriously ill after consuming liquor in Uttar Pradesh's Kannauj district, police said on Monday. The wife of one of the deceased accused two persons of poisoning the liquor and a youth has been taken into custody for questioning, they said. The deaths were reported from Kathahar village under Kasava village under Kannauj police station area. After receiving information on Saturday, Superintendent of Police (SP) Prashant Verma reached the spot and spoke to the villagers, the police said. The villagers told police that one Amit (30) along with his father Jaskaran, uncle Rakesh and another person consumed liquor purchased from a nearby shop on Saturday, they said. Amit's condition deteriorated soon after and his family members took him to a local hospital.

STF shootout

■ **Lucknow:** An alleged criminal involved in the murders of a journalist and a manager of a private firm was shot dead in Varanasi on Monday in an encounter with Uttar Pradesh's Special Task Force, officials said here. Gangster Manish Singh Monu was injured in an encounter with an STF unit on the border of the Lohta and Jansa police stations in the district and was rushed to hospital, they said. He was declared dead in the hospital, they added. The officials said police also seized a pistol and a carbine besides many live cartridges at the site of the gunfight between the police and Monu and his accomplice, who managed to flee from there.

Cong observer

■ **Panaji:** Senior Congress leader and MP Rajani Patil will arrive in Goa on Tuesday on a two-day visit to get feedback from her party's state unit on the poor performance in the recent Assembly polls. Goa Congress' senior vice president MK Shaikh said Patil, who is the All India Congress Committee's observer, would be talking to MLAs, candidates who lost, office bearers etc on the loss. "She will meet functionaries in the North Goa district Congress office on Tuesday between 3:30pm and 6:30pm and on Wednesday will visit the party's campaign office in Panaji and the South Goa district Congress office in Margao," Shaikh informed.

Mekedatu row: TN Assembly passes unanimous resolution against K'taka

Chennai, Mar 21 (PTI)

The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Monday adopted a unanimous resolution condemning the Karnataka government for its 'unilateral' decision to proceed with the Mekedatu dam project across the Cauvery river and prevail upon the Centre to reject the proposal.

Water Resources Minister Duraimurugan who piloted the resolution accused the neighbouring state of posing problems to Tamil Nadu for decades and said Karnataka's decision to proceed with the dam (balancing reservoir) project "disrespecting" the Supreme Court verdict is reprehensible.

"Where is federalism. Here is a state that is disrespecting the apex court order and has not released the full quantum of water due for Tamil Nadu. If we

don't put up a unified struggle, then we may lose our rights and future generations will curse us," he said and appealed to political parties to support the resolution rising above party differences.

Accusing the Centre of meting out step-motherly treatment to Tamil Nadu on the issue, he claimed successive Union governments, be it the Congress or the BJP, have not prevented Karnataka from acting contrary to Tamil Nadu's interests.

The resolution, passed with the unanimous support of all the parties including the AIADMK and the BJP condemned Karnataka for going ahead with the project, allocating funds and asked the Centre not to entertain that state's plea for environmental clearance and reject its detailed project report (DPR).

Further, the central government should advise Karnataka to not take up any projects without the consent of the riparian states, it said.

"Karnataka government's action of disrespecting the final verdict of the Cauvery Tribunal on February 5, 2007 and the Supreme Court verdict on February 16, 2018, and unilaterally allocating funds for the Mekedatu dam project without consulting the states concerned or without necessary clearances from the centre, is unacceptable and this House strongly condemns the Karnataka government for this," the resolution said.

Noting that the Cauvery water issue is long drawn one and an "emotive issue for both the states," the resolution further said the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) has been constitut-

ed to implement the 2018 judgement of the Supreme Court. "The House, therefore, requests the CWMA not to consider or approve the detailed project report of the Government of Karnataka for the construction of the dam at Mekedatu, which is not mentioned in the Supreme Court order," it said and expressed complete support to all the measures taken by Tamil Nadu government to thwart Karnataka government's attempts while safeguarding the Tamil Nadu farmers' welfare.

Earlier, Leader of the Opposition AIADMK in the Assembly K Palaniswami, extended his party's support to the resolution, and recalled the several measures initiated by the AIADMK government in the past to safeguard the state's rights on the Cauvery water issue.

BISMILLAH TRIBUTE



People pay tribute at the cemetery of Bharat Ratna Ustad Bismillah Khan, on his 106th birth anniversary, in Varanasi, Monday.

Punjab Cabinet: Seven of 11 ministers face criminal cases, nine crorepatis

New Delhi, Mar 21 (PTI)

Seven of the 11 newly sworn-in ministers in Punjab have declared criminal cases against themselves, with one of them facing a murder case, poll rights group Association for Democratic Reforms said on Monday.

The 11 ministers include Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

Punjab Election Watch and the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) analysed affidavits of all 11 ministers, including the CM.

The ADR said seven ministers (64 per cent) have declared criminal cases against themselves.

Four of them (36 per cent) have declared serious criminal cases against themselves.

According to the ADR report, serious criminals cases meant those offences which carry punishment of five years or more. Mann is among the four ministers facing serious criminal cases.

The other three are Gurmeet Singh Meht Hayer, Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal and Harpal Singh Cheema.

While Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal is facing a murder case, the other three have been booked in the past for allegedly voluntarily causing hurt to deter a public servant from doing his duty. Of the 11 minis-

ters, nine are crorepatis and the average of their assets is Rs 2.87 crore.

The minister with the highest declared total assets is Bram Shanker (Jimpa) from Hoshiarpur. He has assets worth Rs. 8.56 crore. Lal Chand from Bhoga (Sc) constituency has the lowest declared total assets worth Rs 6.19 lakh. Nine ministers have declared liabilities.

The minister with the highest liabilities is Bram Shanker. He has liabilities worth Rs 1.08 crore.

The ADR said five ministers (45 per cent) have declared their educational qualification to be between Class 10 and 12 while the rest are graduate or above.

'New investments to give fillip to J&K's economic development'

Srinagar, Mar 21 (PTI)

'Know Jammu and Kashmir' is the mantra adopted by the administration of the Union Territory for the ongoing visit of a high-powered industry delegation from the Gulf, during which a strong impetus is expected for investments across various sectors including hotels and hospitals, a senior official said on Monday.

Referring to the visit of a 36-member delegation that arrived here on a four-day visit on Sunday to explore investment opportunities, Principal Secretary of Industries and Commerce Department of the Union Territory Ranjan Prakash

Thakur told PTI that the visit is a good omen for J&K focusing on some main sectors to give a fillip to investments and economic development.

"This is a very high-level delegation. Hospitals, hotels are of their keen interest, along with agro-industry, IT and horticulture," he said, adding that the government has taken various steps with a new and futuristic mindset.

Besides, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will kick-start investments worth about Rs 35,000 crore in Jammu and Kashmir during his likely visit to the Union Territory next month, the official said. "The prime minister will

do the ground-breaking of investments worth about Rs 30,000-35,000 crore during his visit here," Thakur said.

He did not get into the details of the prime minister's programme.

Thakur said that during the tenure of Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, the Union Territory administration has received investments worth about Rs 50,000 crore so far, for which detailed project reports have been submitted and money has been deposited, whereas the total investment stood below Rs 15,000 crore in last six decades.

Thakur, an officer of the Indian Railway Traffic Service of 1989 batch, said

there has been a fundamental shift in the policy, and Jammu and Kashmir has made a huge leap forward. "J&K is a high focus area now. This is our time now and J&K needs to develop for its own people. There has been a fundamental shift in the policy as well as the implementation. An ecosystem has been created and we are taking one step forward every day," he said.

Referring to the visit of the delegation from Gulf countries, the principal secretary said that the thinking has to change radically. "With the visit of the delegation, the idea is just to whet the appetite, but, I am sure, the investment will follow," he said.

ALTERNATIVE BUDGET



Farm leaders Yogendra Yadav, Kavitha Gurugunte, Badagulpura Nagendra and others inaugurate the People Alternative Budget Session conference at Freedom Park, in Bengaluru, Monday.

Oppn praise Gadkari but flag concerns over quality of roads, transparency in toll collection

New Delhi, Mar 21 (PTI)

Several Opposition leaders on Monday praised the work of Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari but flagged some concerns on issues such as quality of roads, their maintenance and alleged lack of transparency in toll collection.

Participating in the discussion on the 'demand for grants of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' for 2022-23 in Lok Sabha, most MPs, both from Opposition and treasury benches, began their address by hailing the work done by Gadkari in the road transport sector and lauded his hands-

on approach.

BJP MP from Arunachal Pradesh Tapir Gao hailed road construction under the Modi government and said top car companies, including Ferrari, Porsche and Lamborghini, now participate in car rallies because of good roads in the state.

"The road network has even reached Kalapani (in Uttarakhand). Like Spider-Man's web, Nitin Gadkari too is putting in place a network of road connectivity," Gao said.

A number of Opposition MPs also flagged issues of concern and called for speeding up of existing projects.

CPI(M) MP from Kerala A M Ariff thanked Gadkari for the development of national highways in Kerala in a time-bound manner.

Underlining that road transport has an important role in employment generation, Ariff alleged that this government is adopting an approach of excessively relying on the private sector for the development of roads.

He also said private companies are looting people for years and years and there is no transparency in the amount collected as tolls. "As per the agreement made by the NHAI (National Highways Authority of India) with

the private players, after the construction cost is recovered the toll rates are to be reduced to 40 per cent. But what is happening that rates are hiked every now and then on the whims and fancies of private players, and NHAI and central government remaining mute spectators," Ariff said.

"I challenge the government to come up with a white paper on the toll collected so far as part of various projects in the country to bring the facts before the people," he demanded and urged the Centre to stop collecting tolls for small projects so that people are not overburdened.

Noida, Mar 21 (PTI) BJP

legislator Dharendra Singh said health and education will be his priority in his second term as the Jewar MLA while he also plans to get locals trained for skills that could help them bag 40 per cent of the jobs at the Noida International Airport.

Singh, a key negotiator with farmers for land acquisition for the Rs 29,560 crore airport project, won the recently concluded Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls from Jewar with 1.17 lakh (or 50.53 per cent) votes polled.

The people of my constituency have done their job by electing me and now I have to prove what I will do for the constituency in the

coming days, he told PTI.

He said Jewar has certainly made a lot of progress in the past five years and it had been one of the most backward regions in the state.

This is the same place where gunshots would be fired for two inches of land but now it is becoming home to Asia's largest airport with people's consent for land acquisition, he said recalling the infamous Bhatta-Parsaul episode.

The 55-year-old MLA said Jewar is primarily an agriculture-dominated area and the process of industrialisation may pose challenges for the natives to find jobs locally when the companies come in.

But we have already

taken this situation into consideration and made arrangements for that through the local Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) so that 40 per cent of the jobs are given to the local people in any case, Singh said.

He said a memorandum of understanding (MoU) will be signed whenever land is allotted to any industrialist and that the focusing is on getting projects, like the Apparel Park, which have work opportunities for native women.

Separately, we know that an airport will give rise to several allied job requirements, which require basic level of training. I will have such skills identified and arrangement for

3,000 cycles to become part of Indore's public transport system in phases

Indore, Mar 21 (PTI)

Aiming to reduce air pollution in the country's cleanest city Indore, 3,000 cycles will be added to the public transport system in phases. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan virtually inaugurated the first phase of this project costing Rs 10 crore on Monday.

Officials said that this project named "Indore Public Bicycle System" will be operated on a public-private partnership (PPP) basis and state-of-the-art bicycles will be provided to the common people on rent.

"With the addition of cycles to the public

transport system of Indore, the environment will be protected, the consumption of petrol and diesel will be reduced and the people will also stay healthy," the chief minister said.

Officials said the local administration will provide 3,000 bicycles on rent to the general public at city transport bus stops and other major public places in a phased manner. He said that the lock of these cycles would open and close with the help of a mobile application and these cycles would be equipped with GPS so that the local administration would keep an eye on their movement. Officials said that

such a cycle will be available to the common people for 10 hours for just Rs 10. The monthly rent for these bicycles is Rs 349.

Chouhan also inaugurated via video link the newly-constructed building of the Sarvateb bus stand in the city.

Built at the cost of Rs 14.80 crore in an area of 7,878 square meters, the new terminal will operate 500 buses daily.

Chouhan also laid a foundation stone for two water-treatment plants, to be constructed with an estimated cost of Rs 79.33 crore. The facility will treat sewage water to make it reusable.

PERSIAN NEW YEAR



Men raise an Islamic flag during celebrations of Nowruz, the Persian new year, as Taliban soldiers stand guard at the Kart-e-Sakhi shrine in Kabul, Afghanistan, Monday.

BRIEF

Hoax calls

■ **London:** Britain is accusing the Russian state of being behind hoax calls to two government ministers by an imposter posing as the prime minister of Ukraine. Defense Secretary Ben Wallace said the hoaxter was able to speak to him on a video call Thursday. Home Secretary Priti Patel said she had received a similar call, and Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries said an unsuccessful attempt was made to speak to her. Wallace said he became suspicious and hung up after the caller posed several misleading questions. He accused Russia of dirty tricks. Prime Minister Boris Johnson's spokesman, Max Blain, said Monday that the Russian state was responsible for the hoax calls made to government ministers last week.

Riot trial

■ **Washington:** An elected official from New Mexico heads to trial Monday with a judge not a jury set to decide if he is guilty of charges that he illegally entered the U.S. Capitol grounds on the day a pro-Trump mob disrupted the certification of Joe Biden's presidential election victory. That's not the only unusual feature of the case against Otero County Commissioner Couy Griffin, whose trial in Washington, D.C., will be the second among the hundreds of people charged with federal crimes related to the Jan. 6, 2021, siege. Griffin is one of the few riot defendants who isn't accused of entering the Capitol or engaging in any violent or destructive behavior. He claims he has been selectively prosecuted for his political views.

Rohingya hate

■ **Jakarta:** A new report has found that Facebook failed to detect blatant hate speech and calls to violence against Myanmar's Rohingya Muslim minority years after such behaviour was found to have played a determining role in the genocide against them. The report shared exclusively with The Associated Press showed the rights group Global Witness submitted eight paid ads for approval to Facebook, each including different versions of hate speech against Rohingya.

Pak seeks opinion on disqualification of dissident lawmakers

Islamabad, Mar 21 (PTI)

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government on Monday filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking clarification on a constitutional point regarding disqualification of the dissident lawmakers who have threatened to vote against embattled Prime Minister Imran Khan during a no-trust motion.

Attorney General Khalid Jawed Khan submitted the move, also called a presidential reference, about interpretation of Article 63-A of the Constitution in the wake of nearly two dozen lawmakers of the ruling party threatening to vote in favour of the opposi-

tion's no-trust motion.

The article says that anyone voting against the directive of the party leader on key issues like no-trust move or money bill will be disqualified.

The law is silent on the duration of disqualification, but Prime Minister Khan has threatened lifetime disqualification for the dissidents.

A two-judge bench, comprising Pakistan Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial and Justice Munib Akhtar, will take up the matter along with a plea filed by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) seeking intervention to keep peace ahead of the no-trust vote.

The petition highlights two interpretations of disqualification under Article 63-A, including simple de-seating the member with no further curbs, and lifetime disqualification along with the zero effects of the vitiated vote.

Khan's party is trying to seek a ruling that an erring member's vote should not be counted, so that vote of its dissident lawmakers in the favour of the no-trust move should not add to the total number of votes against the Prime Minister.

These votes are crucial as the opposition needs 172 votes to remove the Prime Minister along with his cabinet.

'China considering USD 2.5 bn in loan, trade credits for Lanka'

Colombo, Mar 21 (PTI)

China is considering a USD 2.5 billion credit facility to Sri Lanka, Beijing's top diplomat in Colombo said on Monday, as the island nation is reeling under an acute economic and energy crisis triggered due to a shortage of foreign exchange.

Chinese Ambassador Qi Zhenhong's announcement came closely on the heels of last week's announcement by India to extend a USD 1 billion line of credit to Sri Lanka as part of its financial assistance to help the country deal with the economic crisis. India had extended a USD 500 million line of credit to Sri Lanka in February to help it purchase petroleum products.

Sri Lanka has asked for USD 2.5 billion that includes a USD 1.5 billion buyer's credit. It (the request) is under consideration, Qi told



Chinese ambassador to Sri Lanka Qi Zhenhong attends a media briefing in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Monday.

reporters here.

Both the countries now have to discuss how the loan and buyer's credit will be used, he added.

Buyer's credit is a short-term loan to an importer by an overseas lender for the purchase of goods or services. An export finance agency guarantees the loan, mitigating the risk for the exporter. Buyer's credit allows the buyer, or the im-

porter, to borrow at rates lower than what would be available domestically.

Qi, however, did not give any direct answer to questions on whether China would be restructuring the debt owed by Sri Lanka. During Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to Sri Lanka in January, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had requested Beijing for debt restructuring to help the country overcome the current economic woes. Qi said China will not take advantage of Sri Lanka's current situation and is always ready for help. China has extended USD 2.8 billion financial assistance, including a currency swap of USD 1.5 billion, to Sri Lanka since the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in the country in 2020. Chinese loans account for about 10 per cent of Sri Lanka's external debt.

EU slams 'war crimes' in Ukraine but new sanctions unlikely

Brussels, Mar 21 (AP)

European Union countries on Monday accused the Russian armed forces of committing war crimes in Ukraine, but appeared unlikely to impose new sanctions on Moscow despite a clamour across Europe for those responsible for attacks on civilians to be held to account.

With civilian deaths mounting in the besieged port city of Mariupol, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock highlighted the increase in Russian attacks on civilian infrastructure, including hospitals and theatres.

The courts will have to decide, but for me these are clearly war crimes", Baerbock said. Before chairing a meeting of the 27-nation bloc's foreign ministers

here, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said what's happening in Mariupol is a massive war crime. Destroying everything, bombarding and killing everybody in an indiscriminate manner. This is something awful.

The encircled southern city on the Sea of Azov has seen some of the worst horrors of the war.

Multiple attempts to evacuate residents from Mariupol have failed or only partly succeeded. City officials said at least 2,300 people had died in

the siege, with some buried in mass graves. Underlining that war also has law, Borrell said the International Criminal Court in the Netherlands was gathering evidence about any possible war crimes in Ukraine, but Russia, like the US, did not recognise the tribunal's jurisdiction. Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney said his country was certainly open to other mechanisms for accountability in terms of the atrocities that are taking place in Ukraine right now.

adani Power
Raipur Energen Limited (REL)
 Regd. Office: Adani Corporate House, Shantigram, Nr. Vaishno Devi Circle, SG Highway, Khodiyar, Ahmedabad 382421, Gujarat, India.

Notification for Pond Ash disposal from Raipur Energen limited

REL intends to dispose Pond Ash generated from it's Power plant in Village : Raikhada , Block -Tilda Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India on Free of Cost basis. Interested parties are requested to submit their monthly requirement (in MT) along with their company details on below email address latest by 24.03.2022, 1700Hrs. The detailed terms & conditions we shall share based your confirmation Email IDs: piyush.vastani@adani.com; chandraprakash.kothapalli@adani.com

Ukraine rejects Russian demand for surrender in Mariupol

Lviv, Mar 21 (AP)

Ukrainian officials defiantly rejected a Russian demand that their forces in Mariupol lay down arms and raise white flags Monday in exchange for safe passage out of the besieged strategic port city.

Even as Russia intensified its attempt to bombard Mariupol into surrender, its offensive in other parts of Ukraine has floundered.

Western governments and analysts see the broader conflict grinding into a war of attrition, with Russia continuing to barrage cities.

In the capital Kyiv, Russian shelling devastated a shopping center near the city center killing at



A priest prays by the ruins of a destroyed shopping center after shelling, in Kyiv, Ukraine, Monday.

least eight people.

The encircled southern city of Mariupol on the Sea of Azov has seen some of the worst horrors of the war; under Russian pounding for more than three weeks. Strikes hit an art

school sheltering some 400 people only hours before Russia's offer to open two corridors out of the city in return for the capitulation of its defenders, according to Ukrainian officials.

Ukrainian officials re-

jected the Russian proposal for safe passage out of Mariupol even before Russia's deadline of 5 am Moscow time (0200GMT) for a response came and went. There can be no talk of any surrender, laying down of arms," Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Irina Vereshchuk told the news outlet Ukrainian Pravda. "We have already informed the Russian side about this. Mariupol Mayor Piotr Andriyushchenko also dismissed the offer shortly after it was made, saying in a Facebook post he didn't need to wait until the morning deadline to respond and cursing at the Russians, according to the news agency Interfax Ukraine.

ASEAN envoy for Myanmar crisis arrives on first mission

Bangkok, Mar 21 (AP)

Cambodia's foreign minister arrived on Monday in Myanmar's capital Naypyitaw on his mission as a special regional envoy seeking to facilitate peacemaking in the fellow Southeast Asian nation, which was plunged into an extended violent political crisis after the army seized power last year.

Prak Sokhonn is representing ASEAN the Association of Southeast Asian Nations which last April reached a five-point consensus on Myanmar.

It called for the immediate cessation of violence, a dialogue among all concerned parties, mediation by an ASEAN special envoy, provision of humanitarian aid through

ASEAN channels, and a visit to Myanmar by the special envoy to meet all concerned parties.

The ruling military council of Myanmar, which is one of ASEAN's 10 members, has delayed implementation of its plan, even as the country has slipped into a situation that UN experts have characterized as a civil war.

Neither the military nor its opponents have suggested mutually acceptable compromises that could stem the violence, much less resolve the political impasse over ruling the country.

Soon after their arrival for their three-day visit, Prak Sokhonn and his party, including ASEAN Secretary-General Lim Jock Hoi, held a meeting

with Myanmar's leader, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing and other top officials, during which they discussed implementation of the five-point plan, conditions for providing humanitarian assistance and cooperation with ASEAN, said a statement from Myanmar's Information Ministry.

The statement, which described the meeting as a first step, said Min Aung Hlaing also presented his government's versions of the events leading to the army's takeover and the violence that followed it.

Myanmar's reluctance to implement the actions urged in the consensus has caused a split among the members of ASEAN, which has ostracized Myanmar by blocking its leaders from attending

major meetings of the regional grouping. Min Aung Hlaing was not invited to last October's virtual meeting of ASEAN leaders because of the disagreement.

That rebuke was issued shortly after Myanmar declined to let an ASEAN special envoy meet with its ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been in detention since the military took power in February 2021.

The army ousted Suu Kyi's elected government and then cracked down on the widespread protests against its action.

After security forces unleashed lethal force against peaceful demonstrators, some opponents of military rule took up arms.

Yoon faces obstacles in plan to ditch Blue House

Seoul, Mar 21 (AP)

South Korea's outgoing liberal government on Monday expressed its opposition to a plan by its rival and conservative President-elect Yoon Suk Yeol to relocate the presidential office by his inauguration in May, a development that could put Yoon's ambitious project in doubt and trigger a domestic po-

litical firestorm.

Yoon on Sunday said he would abandon the current mountainside presidential palace of Blue House and begin his five-year term at a new office established at the Defence Ministry compound in Seoul on May 10.

Yoon said his plan required Defence Ministry staff to move to the nearby Joint Chiefs of Staff build-

ing at the compound and JCS staff to move in phases to somewhere else in Seoul.

Yoon said his relocation plans were meant to better communicate with the public, saying the location and design of the Blue House had contributed to South Korean leaders being cut off from the public and wielding imperial power.

adani Power
Raipur Energen Limited (REL)
 Regd. Office: Adani Corporate House, Shantigram, Nr. Vaishno Devi Circle, SG Highway, Khodiyar, Ahmedabad 382421, Gujarat, India.

E-Auction Notification (Through e-Procurement Portal of GoC)
 (Evaluation of Auction participants and Limited Unit bidding)

Name of Sale: SALE OF DRY FLY ASH FROM RAIPUR ENERGEN LIMITED UNIT #2X685 MW/REL has already finalized H1, H2 and H3 bidders in the previous tender cum auction for lifting of dry fly ash from REL is already issuing fly ash to them after entering into contract agreements with them. Tenders are invited through e-auction from direct end-users/suppliers to end-users of fly ash from H4,H5,H6....Hn positions for lifting of dry fly ash of approximately 7.20 lakh MT per annum (2000 MT per day) on 'as available' basis for a period from finalization of this auction and issue of Letter of award up to 01.04.2024 from REL, i.e., from Raipur Energen limited -Unit # 1 & 2 of REL. Even the above three existing H1, H2 and H3 bidders can participate in this auction and have a separate contract additionally. Operation & Maintenance of Ash Handling System and Silo of REL, Unit # 1 & 2, including spares, Consumables, Housekeeping & Miscellaneous works, if any is in the scope of REL. The last date for receipt of the completed bids: 17.00 Hrs on 27.03.2022. The details terms & conditions are available on our auctioneer website: <https://www.matnxt.net>.

छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य सहकारी दुग्ध महासंघ मर्यादित
 ग्राम-उरला, पो - बी.एम.वाय चरोदा,
 जिला-दुर्ग, छ.ग.

क्रमांक / 4182 / छगदुस / क्रय / 2022 दिनांक- 21 / 03 / 2022

// निविदा सूचना //

दुग्ध महासंघ द्वारा डेयरी संयंत्र, उरला एवं अधीनस्थ अन्य डेयरी संयंत्रों में भू-जल दोहन अनापत्ति प्रमाण पत्र के परिपालन में फ्लोमीटर एवं फिजोमीटर स्थापना कार्य हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा जमा किए जाने हेतु अंतिम तिथि-19.04.2022 निर्धारित है, जिसका विस्तृत विवरण दुग्ध महासंघ के वेबसाइट :- www.cgcoopdairyfed.in पर उपलब्ध है।

प्रबंध संचालक

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA DONGARGARH
NOTICE FOR FIRM REGISTRATION 2022-23

Interested and reputed firms, having TIN Number, Firm Registration Number, GST Number, PAN Number and working experience, are invited to register their firm to KV Dongargarh for the year 2022-23 for following purposes on or before 05/04/2022

Security Guards, Conservancy Service, Gardener, Supply of Manpower (Labour on daily wages: - Skilled, Semi Skilled & Unskilled), Furniture Repair & Supply of furniture items, Printing works, Laboratory (phy, chem, Bio & Maths) equipments and consumable items, Maintenance of Computer and its accessories, CCTV and accessories, Plumbing Items, Electrical fittings and supply of electrical accessories, photocopy Machine, Computer printer, Computer Networking system, LCD projector, Supply and Maintenance of PA system and accessories & Audio Visual Aids, Supply of Teaching Aids, Library Books, Supply of items related to conservancy work, Tent House Items, Catering Services, Dentling & Panting work, Supply of Hardware Items Games & sports Items, NCC Uniforms & refreshment for students, Stationary Items for office & Examination. Registration form should be download form K.V. Dongargarh Website :- www.kvdongargarh.com.

PRINCIPAL

आइआरएल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड IREL (India) Limited
 Formerly Indian Rare Earths Limited.
 (भारत सरकार का उपकरण)
 (A Government of India Undertaking)
 CIN : U15100MH1950GOI008187 Website : www.irel.co.in
 ISO 9001 : 2015, ISO 14001 : 2015 & ISO 45001 : 2018 Company

Ref: ADVT. NO.21-22/03 **TENDER NOTICE** Date : 22-03-2022

IREL, OSCOM invites request for proposal for the following items / job descriptions.

Bid No. Job / Item Description

IREL/GANJAM/21-22/ET/186 Engagement of dozer for MSP.

IREL/GANJAM/21-22/ET/190 Accumulation, loading, transportation of reject sand dumping at mined out area and levelling by dozing

IREL/GANJAM/21-22/ET/195 AMC for Instrument maintenance at REEP.

IREL/GANJAM/21-22/ET/196 FRP lining repair work at REEP.

Bidder may download tender document from <http://www.irel.co.in>, <http://www.mstcecommerce.com/procurement/irel/> or <http://gem.gov.in/> / CPP website any corrigendum / extension to above tenders shall be hosted in above websites only

davp 48129/12/0001/2122 -Sd/- CGM & Head, OSCOM

विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग
University Grants Commission
 (शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
 (Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
 बहादुरशाह जफर मार्ग, नई दिल्ली - 110002
 Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110002

Advertisement No. 04/2022

PUBLIC NOTICE
Common University Entrance Test (CUET)

The Common University Entrance Test (CUET) for admission in Undergraduate programs from the academic session 2022-2023 in all UGC funded Central Universities will be conducted in 13 languages namely Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Urdu, Assamese, Bengali, Punjabi, Odia and English by the National Testing Agency (NTA). The CUET may also be adopted by the State/ Private / Deemed to be Universities.

Detailed structure of CUET UG is available on NTA website <https://nta.ac.in/>

Application for CUET UG will be available in the 1st week of April 2022.

A large number of Central Universities have also confirmed their participation in the CUET — 2022 (PG), the details of which will be available on the NTA website <https://nta.ac.in/> shortly.

All the stakeholders are requested to visit NTA website <https://nta.ac.in/> for further information.

davp - 21205/12/0025/2122 **Secretary, UGC**



CENTRAL

Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 9 No. 348

Essence of Indo-Japan ties

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced an investment target of five trillion yen (Rs 3,20,000 crore) in India over the next five years as the two sides concluded a raft of agreements and collaborations to further expand their special strategic and global partnership. Following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Kishida at the 14th India-Japan summit, the two sides inked six agreements including one that will facilitate Rs 20,400 crore loan by Japan International Cooperation Agency for development projects in India. India and Japan acknowledge the need to explore a variety of options to ensure a secure and stable supply of energy for achieving both goals of sustainable economic growth and addressing climate change. They share the view that there is no single pathway to achieve a low-carbon economy, but rather there are different paths for each country. The two nations agreed to expand the 2007 cooperation under the Japan-India Energy Dialogue to include Electric Vehicles (EV), storage systems including batteries, electric vehicle charging infrastructure (EVCI), development of solar energy including solar PV cells, wind energy and clean coal technologies. They also collaborate on green hydrogen and ammonia, LNG, biofuels and strategic oil reserves. The essence of Indo-Japan relations seems to be development of hydrogen economy in India and industrialisation of north-eastern states. Japan, India's fifth-largest investor, has contributed over USD 36.2 billion in cumulative investments since 2000, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry had said. Japan is the only country that has dedicated country-focused industrial townships across India. Resource-poor, Japan began research on hydrogen after the 1970s energy crunch.

The 2011 Fukushima nuclear plant accident and public anti-nuclear sentiment accelerated interest in hydrogen and other clean energies. Japan currently boasts the largest network of hydrogen filling stations in the world. There are 135 stations in all, heavily subsidized which symbolize the government's faith in the future of hydrogen and its effort to lead the world in the race to commercialize it. Japan has been historically connected to Northeast India for a long time, from the days of World War II when Japanese troops fought alongside troops from Subhas Chandra Bose's Indian National Army (INA). It is worth mentioning here that it was the INA which had hoisted the Indian flag for the first time at Moirang in Manipur. Cut to the present times, and Northeast India has become a major part of Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific Vision. Japan is now a major player in the infrastructure sector in Northeast India. Japan also has an initiative known as the IRIS program, which sends students from India's Northeast to Japan. Northeast India is one region of the country that is deficient in quality infrastructure and this is where Japan's role is critically important. It is worth noting here that both India and Japan have not joined the China-led Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), through which Beijing fund infrastructure development in other countries. Meanwhile, Japanese soft power has also found many takers in the region, Meghalaya has been organizing a cherry blossom festival for some time now. Japanese shows, especially anime shows, are increasing in popularity in Northeast India. Japanese development assistance to Northeast India is here to stay as it is a win-win situation for both in addition to hydrogen economy.

AAP's model on test

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has set targets for each minister in his cabinet and if that is not met, the people "can demand that the minister be removed," Aam Aadmi Party chief and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said. Bhagwant Mann has "covered a lot of ground within just three days", he said, pointing to the initial announcements by the new government. The governance in Punjab will be first large scale test of AAP governance model, touted earlier in capital territory of Delhi. In addition to economic sphere, AAP will have to show credibility of its model for law and order. In its first decision, the Punjab Cabinet had approved filling up 25,000 vacant posts in various state departments, including 10,000 in the police force. Mann announced the decision in a video message after he chaired the first meeting of his Cabinet. The new Punjab state cabinet includes two doctors (an eye surgeon and a dentist), two lawyers, a former harka (constituency) in-charge of the party, a former municipal councillor, a former civil servant, an agriculturalist, a mechanical engineer and an industrialist. The Punjab cabinet can accommodate 17 ministers, in addition to the CM, of which 10 have been inducted, while names of the remaining seven names are expected to be announced later. Mann is a breath of fresh air, and a ray of hope at many levels.

He, however, faces the challenge of running a government and sustaining a politics supposedly without any ideological outline on a platform of corruption-free governance and high-cost welfare schemes. The AAP government in Punjab will be a test for the party and, if it succeeds, a model that others might seek to copy across the country. A disillusioned voter in Punjab was desperately looking for a change and a new template of governance that could address deep-rooted corruption, patronage politics and end elite control. The Delhi Model, as has been aggressively promoted by the AAP government, comprises four crucial planks of welfare delivery including quality school education, healthcare, water and electricity at affordable rates. As a comparatively new party, AAP must be credited for fashioning a creative and credible agenda for a novel political ecosystem. Since the party was birthed by an anti-corruption movement, Kejriwal started off by providing a transparent government in Delhi. Arvind Kejriwal is now a pragmatic and practical politician. Electoral verdicts will continue to be read in different ways by different stakeholders. The lesson can be drawn from historic mandate received from the people is that people are keen for genuine engagement in matters of governance. The lesson for other state governments wanting to replicate AAP model is to give such freebies that hit the consciousness everyday rather than those that hit one time.

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.

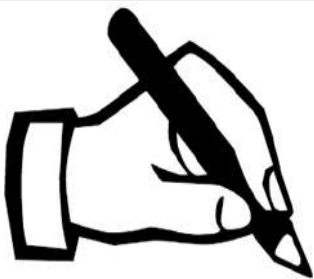
CLIMATE CHANGE AWARENESS



A girl walks over a chalk graffiti made by artists as part of a street art on climate change awareness at a shopping arcade in New Delhi.

Electoral benefits of welfare schemes

DR DUGGARAJU SRINIVASA RAO



The election results of the five states, especially the Uttar Pradesh, are being critically analysed by both the loosing political parties and the media. Many reasons are attributed to the record-breaking electoral victory of BJP in all the four states where it was in power. Overcoming the anti-incumbency itself is a great achievement these days for any party. BJP overcame that in not one state but in four states itself is a great political achievement. The Congress which lost Punjab, the only state where it was in power, attributed its defeat to its change of Chief Minister before the elections. Compared to that BJP achieved victory in Uttarakhnd despite changing the CMs not once but thrice during the last five years. This time around there is no visible Hindutva in the election campaign, especially in UP where Ayodhya which was dominant during past elections was found missing this time. The Hindutva has no value in Punjab, Goa and Manipur where Sikhs and Christians are in majority. So, the victory of BJP has to do more with the administration they gave to the people and the welfare schemes they implemented in earnest.

Welfare schemes are not exclusive for the BJP governments. The Punjab government of Congress has also implemented welfare schemes and promised many more schemes if voted to power. The SP when in power during the 2012-17 period was

not lagging in the implementation of the welfare schemes. Now it is an accepted norm in politics where the ruling party in the state makes its own beneficiaries and firming up them as its vote banks. Indira Gandhi did this for Congress during her regime. VP Singh tried to build Mandal Vote Bank through reservations. At the state level such pampering a particular vote bank is in progress. It is these welfare schemes which is keeping Naveen Patnaik in power in Odisha for the last five terms. His grip on the people through welfare is so firm that it is very difficult for opponents to dislodge him from power. Jaganmohan Reddy of Andhra Pradesh is believing his nine welfare schemes, which he calls them as nine gems, to come back to power in 2024. He is sticking to the distribution of money to the voters through the welfare schemes at the cost of financial decline of the state and debt over burden on Andhra Pradesh. The Telangana CM KCR claims himself to be the innovator of welfare schemes which no other or even Modi government can ever think of. But KCR is not confident of his return to the power in 2023 unless he goes back to the Telangana sentiment and presents the neighbouring Andhra people as the villains.

Then what makes the BJP governments so special in welfare schemes and its implementation. Narendra Modi as PM has initiated both development and welfare plans in equal

measure. Since 2014 BJP government at the national level initiated social welfare schemes such as Ujjwala Yojana. PM Awas Yojana, pension scheme, direct cash transfers besides the free ration. Names may differ but similar schemes are implemented by other parties too. However, the basic difference between the BJP lead governments and the other party led governments is the way the welfare message is taken to the masses through the party cadres. The BJP party cadre was in constant touch with the beneficiaries, assisting them in case of any delivery failure, and acting as the facilitators between the welfare schemes implementing authorities and the beneficiaries. The BJP cadre saw that the welfare scheme beneficiaries are moved beyond caste and religions and formed into a government beneficiary community. The beneficiary aspirations beyond the social welfare benefits are also addressed and attended by the BJP cadre in a systematic way.

The way the BJP cadre joined the families of beneficiaries on the festive days like Deevali and shared their joys and in case of any problems faced by the family the local cadre of party are ready to share the burden. Thus, the thrust was making the marginalised and poor empowered through the schemes and through the personal touch make them part of the party. There was no distinction of caste and religion at the time of delivery of benefits and largely the woman of the family is targeted to receive and have control on the benefits. Thus, a very loyal base among voters through the social welfare schemes was built. This is contrast to the earlier governments headed by both Akhilesh Yadav and Mayavati where the beneficiaries were selected on the basis of caste and religion. Akhilesh doled out benefits largely to his own Yadav community and his supportive Muslims. Jatavs, the community to which Mayavati belongs were the large beneficiaries during the BSP regime. This

narrative was changed by adopting neutrality in extending the benefits and nullifying the influence of caste heads and also religious preachers. The promised development is there for the electorate to feel and see.

Issues which impact the largest section of society play a vital role. For example, delivery of social welfare schemes impact about eighty percent of voters. Yet, law and order doesn't impact everyone but it matters more on perception. The farmers' agitation was mostly seen in seven districts of in western UP which is ten percent of the state's geography. The new welfareism embodies a vision, both imbued with conviction and laden with calculation. The conviction is that such goods and services make a critical difference to the lives of the poor and the calculation was that 'there is rich electoral opportunity in providing tangible goods and services, which are relatively straightforward to deliver, measure and monitor. First the benefits were spelt out in poll promises, which the leaders spoke about in their election rallies and then, local level party workers translated it to voters in everyday languages. If free ration and cash transfers can overcome massive governance failures and renew the mandate for the ruling dispensation, then why would any government or the party in power waste time and energy in providing intangible essentials. Yogi Adityanadh under the guidance of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah undertook the cause of huge developmental projects in the state to create the scope for employment generation and boosting the confidence of the educated. The confidence provided on the law order front is unmistakably felt by all sections. The social welfare schemes alone wouldn't have given such a resounding, record breaking victory, but for the cadre support and active role.

(Dr Duggaraju Srinivasa Rao is political analyst and columnist based in Vijayawada.)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Touching movie

The movie 'The Kashmir Files' has become the mostly discussable topic in recent days throughout our country. The director of this movie is a prominent Bollywood movie director named Vivek Agnihotri who also directed some true event based movie like the Tashkent Files etc. This movie is based on the genocide of the Kashmiri pandits took place in 1990 in Kashmir. The movie has touched the heart of crores of netizens. Especially the marvellous acting of Anupam Kher, Mithun Chakravarty, Pallavi Joshi has flowered the whole movie. Vivek Agnihotri is trying to unfold the brutal attack on the Hindu pandits by the Kashmiri separatists. This movie is also going to make history in the box office for the tremendous supports of the people. In the other view, when I was witnessing the movie a whispering from the back seat hit me 'its softly hits the feeling of secularism in India. Some brutal scenes of the movie may disturb some people'. Overall it's a good movie indeed.

Aditya A Nath, Tezpur

Key element

A newspaper is an encyclopedia, a storehouse of knowledge with loads of news and thought-provoking articles at a cost of just a few rupees, even less than the cost of a cup of tea. It gives a kind of joy, reading a newspaper holding it in one hand and simultaneously sipping the morning brew with the other, with its fresh aroma permeating around. A writer becomes restless until he is posted with the latest news on current events. A professional waits longing for the latest information relating to his/her field. A professor or a member of the intellectual community feels out of tune with the world until he has gone through the day's newspaper. On their part, women and children look forward to the daily in order to quench their thirst for what they are interested in. Thus, a newspaper becomes a key element to all age groups at the dawn of the day. Newspapers are the eyes and ears of the world. A day is not complete without reading a newspaper. Needless to say, life without newspapers is like a garden without flowers!

Ranganathan, via email

Spare education

Since our school days, we have followed the school uniform. Whatever colour or the type of cloth the school management prescribed the students have put on without any question. Now, in Karnataka organizations like PFI and other radical groups are brainwashing female Muslim students to wear Hijab and attend the school. School is considered as temple of education and anybody indulging in polluting the system should be dealt with hard. The Constitution has given us the right to follow religion, but hardcore religious practices should be left at home when a child goes to school. School uniform gives the students a feeling of oneness, irrespective of religion, caste, creed or other things. I appeal to those misguided students to abandon those radical groups and come to school/college as students. Religious politics can be played on other turf, but not in school.

Purvi, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Junaid@Junaid_Mattu

The suffering and pain of Kashmiri Pandits is unimaginable. A Truth & Reconciliation Commission should be set up to ensure swift justice is delivered to the victims and their families and to establish a basis for sustainable inter-community reconciliation and a dignified return.

Gentle Giant@iKunaal

If you have turned bitter against someone, they WILL find out irrespective of how sweet you are on their face. So if you want to fix it, do that in your heart and the rest of the fixing will happen on it's own and in the most effortless and harmonious way.



Aditi@Velvetyvirgo

Sometimes I'm so jealous of youngsters. Youthful and energetic. No kids. Unmarried. Free. To travel. Entertain. Experiment. Once you get married and have kids, you're in a set routine for 2 decades and then you're too old to do much.

Nandita@WarriorNandita

A friend is describing her fussy husband, "He won't touch an orange unless it's been peeled and those white threads have been removed from every piece. It's a childhood habit." I'm thinking - Hope you're raising your son better!?? #Patriarchy



Mitali@MitaliLive

First run of the visit in #Londondiaries.



Brahma@Chellaney

Zelensky is an autocrat in the style of Putin, Erdogan and Orban. In the latest in a string of despotic actions to concentrate power in his hands, Zelensky bans 11 political parties. But he's a Biden administration puppet, so all is forgiven, even if heads an autocratic regime.

Shilpa@godbole_shilpa

'Who are you chatting with?' 'No one' 'No-one is a name of the person?' 'What's your problem mummy?' 'Ooh so it's not no-one, it's what's-your-problem you are chatting with then' Being a parent to a teen girl has volatile situations that can go the way of a nuclear war or peace.

BRIEF

Investment



■ **Jammu:** Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that the Union Territory is expected to attract Rs 70,000 crore worth investments in the next six months. J&K has been looking to bring in investments in diverse sectors, including tourism and hospitality, and currently a UAE delegation is visiting the Union Territory. The delegation reached Srinagar on Sunday to explore investment opportunities in the region, following an invitation by the Lt Governor at the Dubai Expo in January this year.

EPFO subscribers

■ **New Delhi:** Retirement fund body EPFO added 15.29 lakh subscribers on a net basis in January 2022, an increase of over 21 per cent compared to 12.60 lakh in December 2021, according to the latest payroll data. “The provisional payroll data of EPFO has been released today, i.e., 20th March 2022, which highlights that EPFO has added 15.29 lakh net subscribers during January 2022. Month-on-month comparison of payroll data also indicates an increase of 2.69 lakh net subscribers addition in January 2022, as compared to the net additions during the previous month of December 2021,” a labour ministry statement said on Sunday.

Code of ethics



■ **Dubai:** The code of ethics for news publishers, over-the-top (OTT) platforms and digital media has helped in bringing about “a lot of discipline” in the sector, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Joint Secretary Vikram Sahay said. The joint secretary was speaking at a roundtable on news broadcasting at the India Pavilion during the EXPO2020 Dubai here. In India, there’s no permission required to launch an OTT platform, Sahay said. “There are about 40-50 OTT platforms in India, none of them have to either register or seek prior permission.”

Israeli battery tech

■ **New Delhi:** Ola Electric on Monday said it has invested in Israeli cell technology company StoreDot, a pioneer in batteries with extreme fast charging (XFC) solutions. The investment in StoreDot is the first of several global strategic investments planned by the company as it looks to ramp up its core R&D in advanced cell chemistry and manufacturing as well as other battery technologies and new energy systems, Ola Electric said in a statement.

LIC IPO: Govt files updated draft papers with Q3 financials

New Delhi, Mar 21:

The government has filed updated draft papers with market regulator Sebi for an initial public offer of LIC, incorporating December quarter financials of the insurance behemoth, an official said on Monday.

In the run-up to the mega IPO, on February 13, the government had filed the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with the regulator giving details of financial results till September. The DRHP got Sebi approval early this month.

“Updated DRHP of LIC with December financials has been filed,” an official said, adding it was required to be done as per Sebi observations. As per the updated financials, the Life Insurance Corporation reported a net profit of Rs 235 crore in the October-December quarter. The net profit in

April-December, 2021, increased to Rs 1,671.57 crore from Rs 7.08 crore a year ago. The government is expecting to garner over Rs 60,000 crore by selling about 31.6 crore or 5 per cent stake in the life insurance firm to meet the curtailed disinvestment target of Rs 78,000 crore in the current fiscal.

The IPO was originally planned to be launched in March, but the Russia-Ukraine crisis has derailed the plans as stock markets are highly volatile. The government has time till May 12 to launch the IPO without filing fresh papers with the Securities and Exchange Board of India. LIC’s embedded value, which is a measure of the consolidated shareholders’ value in an insurance company, was pegged at about Rs 5.4 lakh crore as of September 30, 2021, by international actuarial firm Milliman Advisors.

Although the DRHP does not disclose the market valuation of LIC, as per industry standards it would be about 3 times the embedded value. At a 5 per cent stake dilution, the LIC IPO would be the biggest ever in the history of the Indian stock market and once listed its market valuation would be comparable to top companies like RIL and TCS.

So far, the amount mobilised from the IPO of Paytm in 2021 was the largest ever at Rs 18,300 crore, followed by Coal India (2010) at nearly Rs 15,500 crore and Reliance Power (2008) at Rs 11,700 crore. During the current financial year so far, Rs 12,423.67 crore has been garnered through offer for sale, employee OFS, strategic disinvestment and buy-back. The target for the full fiscal is Rs 78,000 crore. For the next fiscal, the disinvestment target has been set at Rs 65,000 crore.

Govt holding roadshows for IDBI Bank privatisation to assess investor interest

New Delhi, Mar 21: The government is holding roadshows for IDBI Bank privatisation and will come out with EoI after assessing investor interest, Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad said on Monday. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had in May last year given in-principle approval for strategic disinvestment and transfer of management control in IDBI Bank. The government and LIC together own more than 94 per cent equity of IDBI Bank. However, the exact quantum of stake dilution is yet to be decided. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Karad said it is expected that the strategic buyer will infuse funds, bring new technology and best management practices in IDBI Bank and shall generate more business without dependence on LIC and government for capital.

Indian economy better placed to deal with any challenge, says RBI governor

Mumbai, Mar 21:

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday said the RBI will continue to ensure adequate liquidity to support the economy, which is facing many headwinds in the form of soaring crude oil and key commodity prices following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Das, while addressing an industry meet organised by CII here this evening, said since the pandemic hit the economy in March 2020, the central bank has pumped in a whopping Rs 17 lakh crore into the economy and assured the industry that the RBI will continue to ensure that the economy is well oiled with funds. The governor further said banks at the system level are in better health now with the capital adequacy ratio at 16 per cent, and gross NPAs falling to a



Governor of Reserve Bank of India Shaktikanta Das during Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) interaction with businessmen, in Mumbai, on Monday.

record low of 6.5 per cent. He said despite the headwinds arising from the Russia-Ukraine war, the economy is better placed given the high forex reserves and low current account gap.

“We are comfortably placed to deal with any challenges with regard to financing the CAD, and the RBI stands committed to deal with any challenges on this front,” he said.

Markets pare early gains on boiling oil prices; Sensex tumbles over 571 points

Mumbai, Mar 21:

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty pared their early gains to close nearly 1 per cent lower on Monday as surging oil prices played spoilsport amid prolonged Russia-Ukraine war. The 30-share Sensex plunged by 571.44 points or 0.99 per cent to settle at 57,292.49. During the day, it tanked 634.85 points or 1.09 per cent to 57,229.08.

The broader NSE Nifty declined by 169.45 points or 0.98 per cent to finish at 17,117.60. Among Sensex constituents, Power Grid, Asian Paints, UltraTech Cement, Nestle, Hindustan Unilever

Limited and HCL Technologies were among the major laggards. In contrast, Sun Pharmaceutical, HDFC Bank, Maruti, Titan and NTPC were the only gainers. “With no significant improvement in the tensions between Russia and Ukraine and uncertainty in the Gulf region, crude prices surged leading to a sell-off in the domestic market after the recent rally. FIIs coming back to buying mode is a positive for domestic equities but a rise in bulk diesel prices and inflationary pressure are bending the domestic market,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Crypto mining cost not to be allowed as deduction under I-T Act: FinMin

New Delhi, Mar 21:

Infrastructure cost incurred in the mining of cryptocurrencies or any virtual digital assets will not be allowed as deduction under the income tax act, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said on Monday. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Chaudhary said the government will come out with a definition of virtual digital assets (VDA) with a view to levy 30 per cent tax on income from the transfer of such assets. He said currently cryptocurrencies are unregulated in India. The 2022-23 Budget has brought in clarity concerning the levy of income tax on crypto assets. From



April 1, a 30 per cent I-T plus cess and surcharges, will be levied on such transactions in the same manner as it treats winnings from horse races or other speculative transactions. The minister said while computing the income from transfer of VDA, no deduction in respect of any expenditure (other than the cost of ac-

quisition) or allowance is allowed. “The (Finance) Bill also proposes to define VDA. If any asset falls within the proposed definition, such virtual asset will be considered as VDA for the purposes of the Act and other provisions of the Act will apply accordingly,” he said.

He further said “infrastructure costs incurred in the mining of VDA (eg crypto assets) will not be treated as cost of acquisition as the same will be in the nature of capital expenditure”, which is not allowable as a deduction under the I-T Act. Also, loss from the transfer of VDA will not be allowed to be set off against the income arising from the transfer of another VDA.

Rupee slumps 31 paise to close at 76.15 against the US dollar

Mumbai, Mar 21:

The rupee slumped 31 paise to close at 76.15 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday as rising crude oil prices and a lacklustre trend in domestic equities weighed on investor sentiment. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 76.08 against the American currency, then lost further ground to settle at 76.15, down 31 paise from the previous close. On Thursday, the rupee spurted by 37 paise to close at 75.84 against the US dollar. The forex market was closed on Friday on account of Holi. “The dollar is in rally mode as markets expect an even more hawkish Federal Reserve moving forward. Weakness in

domestic equities and higher crude oil prices also weighed on the local unit,” said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities. Parmar further said that there are a handful of economic events this week and the focus will remain Ukraine-Russia peace talks, which will drive risk sentiments and crude oil prices. “Spot USD/INR is having strong support at 75.70 and resistance at 76.45,” Parmar noted. Amid intensifying Russia-Ukraine conflict, investors assessed diplomatic efforts to negotiate an end to the war. The US Dollar has bounced back from recent declines after Federal Reserve officials said the central bank may need to be more aggressive to deal with inflation.

Tata Motors drives in Altroz DCA; price starts at Rs 8.09 lakh

New Delhi, Mar 21:

Tata Motors on Monday said it has launched its premium hatchback Altroz with dual-clutch automatic transmission, priced between Rs 8.09 lakh and Rs 9.89 lakh (ex-showroom). Altroz DCA comes equipped with several segment-first features, such as a wet clutch with active cooling technology, machine learning, shift by wire technology, self-healing mechanism, and auto park lock.

The model is powered by a 1.2-litre petrol engine. “Since the com-



mencement of bookings for the Altroz DCA, we are witnessing an encouraging number of queries. The Altroz DCA with its segment-first features will certainly captivate the minds of prospective

buyers and provide a seamless driving experience,” Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Vice President (Sales, Marketing and Customer Care) Rajan Amba said. With more than 1.25 lakh

happy customers, Altroz has witnessed an overwhelming response from customers and set certain benchmarks in the segment, he added.

“The addition of the Altroz DCA will bolster our product portfolio, help us in expanding our market share and take our success story further to set a ‘Gold Standard’ in automatics,” Amba stated. The model comes with various features like leatherette seats, auto headlamps, 7-inch touchscreen by Harman, rear ac vents, and iRA connected car technology, among others.

Puri allays fears of short supplies, says crude import from Russia miniscule

New Delhi, Mar 21:

Oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday allayed fears of short supply of crude oil amid the Russia-Ukraine conflict and said that crude oil imports from Russia are miniscule at just 0.2 per cent of total such imports till January this fiscal. “About the increased oil import concerns...we require total of five million barrels per day. Sixty per cent of it comes from Gulf. We have imported from Russia, just 0.419 million metric tonnes...that is 0.2 per cent of total requirement (during April-January this fiscal),” Puri said in the Rajya Sabha while replying to a supplementary to a starred question. “We are monitoring the situation. As far as oil imports are concerned from Russia, contrary to



what played up in media, it is miniscule,” the minister said. According to the written reply tabled in the House, in financial year 2020-21, India imported 85 per cent of its crude oil requirements and 54 per cent of its natural gas requirement. According to Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC), India’s major sources of crude oil imports are Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Nigeria and the US. Indian

Oil & Gas Public Sector Undertakings had imported approximately less than 1 per cent of its total crude oil import from Russia in the year 2021-2022 (till January). India imported only 0.419 million metric tonnes (mmt) of crude oil from Russia, as compared to overall crude oil imports of 175,900 mmt (in April-January this fiscal). In the current situation of high volatility in global energy markets, the Government of India is closely monitoring the situation. No adverse impact on hydrocarbon energy agreements is currently foreseen, the minister stated in the written reply. He also stated that even now the total amount (of crude oil supply) contracted will be three days supply from Russia to India and that also spreads over next three to four months.

World Sleep Day sale with Amazon.in

Mumbai, Mar 21:

Enjoy quality with benefits like scheduled delivery, quality-verified selection, and no-cost EMI across popular brands such as Duroflex, The Sleep Company, Peps, Sleepyhead, and Solimo among others. For American Express Credit Card and Credit Card EMI holders, there is an additional 10% instant discount on a minimum transaction of Rs 10,000 and a maximum discount of 1,500 from 17th to 19th March 2022.

Explore up to 60% off on mattresses, beds, blankets and comforters, pillows, bedsheets, night lamps, and many more products that will help create a happy world at home. While shopping for a good night’s sleep, customers can also avail

benefits like scheduled delivery, quality-verified selection, and no-cost EMI across popular brands such as Duroflex, The Sleep Company, Peps, Sleepyhead, and Solimo among others. For American Express Credit Card and Credit Card EMI holders, there is an additional 10% instant discount on a minimum transaction of Rs 10,000 and a maximum discount of 1,500 from 17th to 19th March 2022.

The Sleep Company SmartGRID Luxe Mattress is bound to give you the most luxurious and plush feeling you will ever get when you crawl into a bed. It is The Sleep Company’s high-end plush mattress that comes in two variants -

8” and 10”. Experience the coziest sleep and cloud-like comfort with the SMART Luxe. The mattress is designed to make it feel like you are sleeping on clouds. Get this on Amazon.in starting from Rs 33,499 onwards.

Duroflex LiveIn Pressure relieving memory foam mattress is a roll-packed mattress that comes in a vacuum-packed, easy DIY box set up. This medium-firm mattress is an ideal combination of support and plush comfort. Cloudio Queen Bed Mattress products from Pepperfry offer a great sleep experience and are designed to provide exceptional support with a contemporary look.

Rs 4,300-cr Ruchi Soya FPO to open on Mar 24

Sets price band at Rs 615-650

Mumbai, Mar 21:

Patanjali Ayurved group-controlled Ruchi Soya Industries will hit the capital markets with a Rs 4,300-crore follow-on offer on March 24, making the country’s largest edible oil-maker the first to be re-listed after the bankruptcy process.

The management led by Ruchi Soya chairman Acharya Balakrishna and Baba Ramdev, non-executive director, on Monday announced the price-band for the issue at Rs 615-650. At the upper end, Patanjali, which now owns 98.9 per cent of the company, will dilute around 19 per cent and 18 per cent at the lower end of the price band. The remaining 6-7 per cent, to meet the mandatory 25

per cent public float, will be diluted before the Sebi deadline of December 2022, the company said. Ramdev said the firm will pay back Rs 3,300 crore of debt of the issuer and the rest will go for various corporate purposes. Since the takeover, they have turned Ruchi Soya from a commodities player into a branded player and is also in the process of bringing all its food products and non-food products into separate verticals.

Going forward, Ramdev said, the endeavour is to make both Ruchi and Patanjali global food brands. The group will have four business verticals under branded food, nutraceuticals, edible oils and health and wellness products.



Aishwaryaa Rajinikanth to make her debut as Bollywood director with 'Oh Saathi Chal'

Director Aishwaryaa Rajinikanth on Monday announced that she would be making her debut as a director in Bollywood with her next film titled, 'Oh Saathi Chal'. Taking to Twitter, the director, who is also the daughter of superstar Rajinikanth, said, "My week couldn't have started better. Happy and feeling blessed to announce my directorial debut in Hindi 'Oh Saathi Chal', an extraordinary true love story, produced by Meenu Aroraa. Need all your blessings and wishes." It was only last week that the filmmaker released her Tamil song 'Payani'. The song, sung by Anirudh, had music by Ankit Tiwari, and lyrics by Viveka. The music single marked Aishwaryaa's return to direction after a long gap of nine years. Producer Meenu Arora, who is best known for producing the critically-acclaimed 'Jhund', too confirmed the project. On Twitter, she said, "Elated to collaborate with the immensely talented Aishwaryaa Rajinikanth for her maiden Hindi film. 'Oh Saathi Chal' is a special film, a true love story just waiting to be told. Here's to love, all the way."

On her 44th birthday on Monday, actress Rani Mukerji opens up about her plans to handpick the best scripts going forward and how she is excited to find 'movies that are about hope and love' like 'Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway'. Rani says, "It has been an exhilarating journey in cinema so far for me and I hope that it remains the same in the years to come. I have been fortunate enough to collaborate with some of the best minds in the form of directors, producers, actors and technicians who have pushed me to excel on screen and reinvent myself every single time. "I want to continue doing that with every project because I always want to push my boundaries to see where I land. I always knew that my journey will be tough but I sailed through the last 25 years with the audience's love by my side and my hard work and perseverance." The actress adds that she has never accepted to be typecast or fit in a mould. "I have always tried to be part of meaningful films with a very strong female protagonist at the centre of the story. I wanted to a part of good films with important stories about Indian women. There have been times where I have been blessed with films that have worked and some that missed to make a mark with the audience but I think that's the best part about our industry." "You win some and lose some and that helps you to grow from strength to strength to carve a special place as an individual artiste in a cut throat industry like ours." About her next, 'Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway', Rani opens up saying, "My next project 'Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway' is a film very close to my heart. I'm happy that the story of this film will resonate with every Indian the way it did for me and my team. It's an incredible story of human resilience that will appeal to audiences across the country and across every age-group." She adds, "I'm very emotionally invested in this story as it connected with me as an actor and a mother. These are stories that need to be told!!! I really hope my next few years in cinema is studded with more such brilliant scripts. I'm hungry for them because these films not only entertain audiences but also deliver a great message to people. I want to do movies that are about hope and love."

Rani Mukerji: Hope my next few years in cinema is studded with brilliant scripts



Hungama Play announces its new original series 'Swaanng'

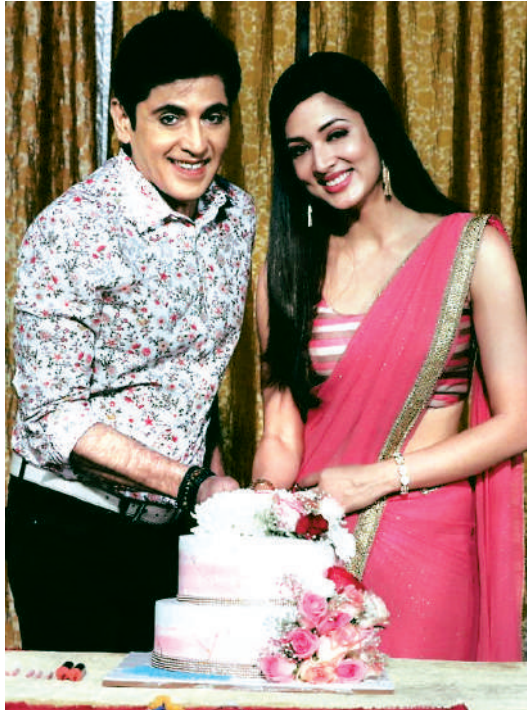
XX February 2022: Hungama Play, a leading OTT platform owned by Hungama Digital Media, has launched its latest Hindi original series Swaanng. The series is headlined by some of the biggest names from the Indian television industry such as Anushka Sen,



Hiten Tejwani, Mansi Srivastava, Anurag Sharma, and Alan Kapoor. The crime thriller revolves around the lives of two sisters who go above and beyond their age to expose a major crime. Shot in the lush landscapes of the Himalayas, Produced by ABUZS Original, the series is directed by Nitesh Singh. Added to the star-studded cast, the show features Prakash Ramchandani, Avdhesh Kushwaha, Nikhil Lulani, and Samaira Walia in pivotal roles. Muskaan (Anushka Sen) lives with her sister, Dimple in an orphanage. The discovery of a lost camera leads the sisters to explore their passion for photography but unbeknownst to them, that camera also hides shocking secrets that can tear apart their idyllic town. On the verge of finding success with ample help from Manohar Pincha (Hiten Tejwani), a local academician, and Preeti (Mansi Srivastava), an NGO worker, Muskaan's world falls apart when Dimple disappears without a trace. Her deepest fears come true when Dimple's disappearance

With Vidisha Srivastava taking the reins of essaying the pivotal and iconic role of Anita Bhabhi in &TV's Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai, the entire cast and crew welcomed her over a cake cutting ceremony. Commemorating her new beginning as Anita Bhabhi and a scrumptious cake to set the celebratory tone, the entire crew gathered around her, radiating love and support as she cut the cake.

Vidisha, sharing her excitement about the warm welcome on sets, said, "I was so overwhelmed with so much warmth, love, and affection with which I was welcomed on the sets. It truly made my day. I am grateful to Sanjay and Binaferr Ji for believing in my abilities linked with the mysterious disappearance and murders of several other young girls. Investigations led by Inspector Balram (Anurag Sharma) and news reporter, Sayan Sharma (Alan Kapoor) reveal the existence of a larger conspiracy but is Balram really a good cop or is he putting on an act for the world? Why is Sayan so interested in this case even though he is not from that town? Why does Preeti keep meeting Manohar repeatedly? And what role does Manohar play in Muskaan's life? In this beautiful sleepy town, everyone has an ugly secret to protect and no one takes off their mask. Speaking about the show, Siddhartha Roy, COO, Hungama Digital Media, said, "At



to take over such a big responsibility of fitting into the iconic character of Anita Bhabhi. It is a dream team and a wonderful opportunity to work with seasoned and experienced actors like Vibhuti Narayan Mishra (Aasif Sheikh),

Manmohan Tiwari (Rohitashv Gour) and Angoori Bhabhi (Shubhangi Atre) and the other talented cast and crew. Everyone has been so kind and supportive. It was such a beautiful gesture. I have begun shooting and now eagerly looking forward to my entry on March 22nd. I do hope the audience enjoys my performance." Adding to this,

Hungama, we've constantly endeavored to push the envelope of modern-day narratives. The crime thriller genre is very popular and Swaanng is a thriller that will delight audiences with its twists and turns. You need stellar actors to compliment such a plot and we're delighted to have some of the biggest names in the TV industry feature on the series.

Vibhuti Narayan Mishra (Aasif Sheikh) said, "A very warm welcome to Vidisha! We have started shooting together, and she has gelled with everyone so easily. I am sure the new Anita Bhabhi will add a lot of flavour to the character. Our viewers have appreciated Vibhuti and Anita Jodi a lot, and I am sure we will continue to be their favourite jodi." An excited Manmohan Tiwari (Rohitashv Gour) said, "Tiwari Ji Ka toh kya kehna woh toh apni nayi Anita Bhabhi ko dekh kar bahut khush hain! I welcome Vidisha to our Bhabhiji family, and I look forward to a start of a wonderful friendship as we work together." Adding further, Angoori Bhabhi (Shubhangi Atre) said, "Vidisha and I have started interacting recently, and we both are excited to work with each other. It will be good fun now that our reel family is complete. So, here's to you, Vidisha! Welcome to our family!" Watch Vidisha Srivastava making a splashing entry as the new 'Anita Bhabhi' starting March 22nd in &TV's Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai, which airs every Monday to Friday at 10:30 pm.

We look forward to it being appreciated amongst the viewers, especially those who love crime thrillers."

Pavitra Rishta Season 2.0 on ALTBalaji

After the super successful season 1 of Pavitra Rishta 2.0, It's never too late! Indian home-grown OTT platform - ALTBalaji is back with season 2. The love story that ruled the hearts of the Indian audiences is all set to re-create the magic on your digital screens with the Pavitra Rishta Season 2... It's never too late!

Previously, Balaji Telefilms aired Pavitra Rishta on television more than a decade ago. The show was telecasted on ZEE TV for almost 5 years with 1424 episodes. Producer Ekta R Kapoor has never left any stone unturned with the content she creates, and hence it is still the most iconic daily soap in the history of Indian television. In the last season, Archana and Manav split over the untimely death of Sachin. Set against the backdrop of the iconic title track of the show, the trailer begins with Manav and Archana having a conversation with each other filled with the same affection and love. The story starts 6 months later with both studying in the same college as strangers. We also see Asheema Vardhan playing Manav's wife (add character name) whereas Vivek Dahiya playing Archana's love interest (add name) in the trailer. It demonstrates how fate can bring two lovers together. Will the future bring



Archana and Manav together again? Will their love rekindle like they always wished for? Will their love shine through amid adversity, or will it fade away?

Sharing her excitement for the launch of the show on ALTBalaji, Ankita Lokhande shares, "Sharing her excitement for the launch of the show on ALTBalaji, Ankita Lokhande shares, "Pavitra Rishta is a show that keeps me alive. Season 1 was a huge success, and the love I received from the audience was gratifying to witness. After all these years, it's challenging to retain the essence of an iconic show that has received immense love from the viewers worldwide. Ekta Ma'am is a content czarina, and no matter what, I have always enjoyed working with her. I can play Archana for years and still feel like I am working on a new project each time."

Produced by BhairaviRaichura's 24 Frames Production and directed by Nandita Mehra the series written by Nikita Dhond, Gautam Hegde, and Ritu Bhatia. Shaheer Sheikh, Ankita Lokhande, Pooja Bhamra, Asheema Vardaan, Vivek Dahiya, Anant V Joshi and Usha Nadkarni playing prominent characters of the show. Pavitra Rishta 2.0 Season 2 streams on ALTBalaji from 25th March 2022!

HOROSCOPE TUESDAY MARCH 22

Aquarius: Jan 21 – Feb 18

Today, you decide not to mix business with pleasure. A wise decision, says Ganesha. Your commitment to work increases and you don't want to harm your prospects. However, you reserve the evening only for your loved ones, who are more than happy to have you with them. A fine balance, says Ganesha.

Gemini: May 22 – June 21

A lot of paperwork, perhaps involving contracts, could lead to financial gain on the job, Gemini. You could make or save some money for your employer, which could prove important. Expect some sort of acknowledgement or recognition for your efforts from superiors, which could lead to advancement or a possible raise. However, there may be some delay with regard to the latter. Don't expect it right away.

Libra: Sept 23 – Oct 23

Handling people was never so easy, points out Ganesha, as today, you do extremely well in the area of public relations. You have the answers to satisfy all, and keep them that way. So, do not be surprised if you happen to find yourself assigned to some sort of a probing and demanding job at work.

Pisces: Feb 19 – Mar 20

You will need to get your priorities right if you wish to be able to successfully deal with the increased responsibilities that will be heaped on your plate today, says Ganesha. Try not to let your frustrations burst through. It will only prod your subordinates to claim that they are over-worked and hence deserving of more pay.

Cancer: June 22 – July 22

For Crabs, this day brings good tidings for job, business as well as love life. The home is where your heart is. Today, you'll get to spend quality time at your most preferred place with your beloved. Just ensure that you remain loyal to your loved ones.

Scorpio: Oct 24 – Nov 22

Your tolerance level is sky-high, and your optimism, boundless. Professionally, you are like Iron Man – heart of gold, nerves of steel (without the red and gold costume, of course). Academic pursuit in the arts will take you to new horizons. Remember the lessons of life by heart – they will help you to serve society better.

Aries: Mar 21 – Apr 20

The ruling emotion today will be passion. You will feel like chatting with your beloved the whole day. However, you will incur expenses and Ganesha advises you to remain balanced. But if you have decided already to go the whole hog, make fully sure you are in the right trapings.

Leo: July 23 – Aug 23

You may blame the weather, but it still doesn't change the fact that today, you shall be more or less in the doldrums, with little prospect of feeling strong and spirited, says Ganesha. This, coupled with other things, may lead to confrontation and quarrels with peers on the work front. Bearing the state you are in, it seems prudent to hold the launch of any new business project today.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 – Dec 21

Your role in bringing around important and influential deals will be pivotal indeed, says Ganesha. However, at work, the final result may not actually be up to the standards you expected. But a pleasant evening with your beloved will clear all such shadows and lighten your mood.

Taurus: Apr 21 – May 21

Kicking ideas around with colleagues today could lead to planning social events and bringing important people together in order to ensure cooperation on ambitious projects. You might find yourself in a number of meetings, Taurus, or spending considerable time on the phone.

Virgo: Aug 24 – Sept 22

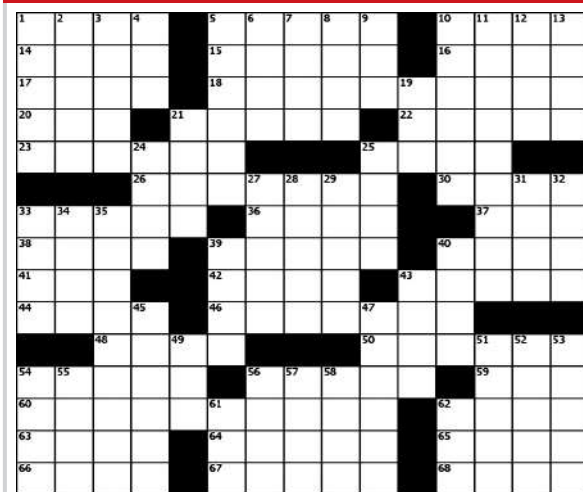
Fortune will favour you today. You will be able to pull off anything you try your hand at today, says Ganesha. In some cases, despite poor expectations, you will receive good news in the form of great results. Bend and budge when you need to, flexibility and adjustments will win you the favour of others.

Capricorn: Dec 22 – Jan 20

The day will find you in an exceedingly good mood and you will be all energetic and geared up to take on challenges as and when they come, says Ganesha. A number of business activities will command your attention, and agreements and contracts you will take hold of as a consequence may get you a fortune.

CROSSWORD

246



ACROSS

- Coated
- Fire residue
- Norse tale
- Song
- Area
- Equal
- Picnic pests
- Actor Donald _____
- Paving material
- MTV feature

- Corrects copy
- Eats away
- Object of adoration
- Said
- Fellow
- Stakes
- Appoint
- Baby's dinner attire
- Plunder
- Juan's goodbye
- Gossip
- Sixth sense (abbr.)

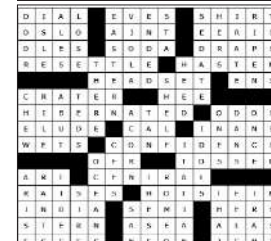
- Charge
- Malicious looks
- Relinquish
- Chirped
- Rower's needs
- Guarantee
- Light wood
- Mails
- Yule drink
- Pledge of _____
- Water whirl
- Fuel source
- Church feature
- Soak through
- Towel pronoun
- Broadway lights

DOWN

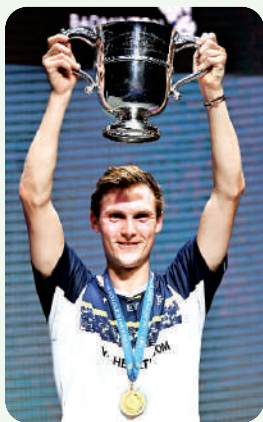
- Fair
- Of the moon
- Preface
- Moines
- Lend a hand
- Potato
- Dislike strongly
- Resound
- Observe
- Infrequently
- Ready for use
- Fellow
- Connecting words
- Apple color
- Animal docs
- Song for two
- March date

- Finance
- Rear
- Overact
- Teller of falsehoods
- Subsides
- Guinness of "Star Wars"
- Snout
- Highest price (2 wds.)
- Performs onstage
- River bottoms
- Minus
- Painters' stands
- Spuds
- Cleaning cloth
- Beneath
- Cowboys' contest
- Cairo's land
- Johann Sebastian _____
- Burn reliever
- Ashen
- Aware of
- Glance over
- Author _____ Fleming
- NY time zone

SOLUTION 245



Sen's impressive run ends in agony at All England final



Birmingham: Lakshya Sen's dream run at the All England Championships ended with a heartbreaking straight-game loss against world number one and Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen in the men's singles final, continuing India's 21-year-long agonising wait for the coveted trophy. After four days of sensational badminton, the 20-year-old Sen faltered on the cusp of history as he committed too many errors to go down 10-21 15-21 to former champion Axelsen in a lop-sided summit clash that lasted 53 minutes at the Barclaycard Arena. On Saturday, Sen had become only the fifth Indian after Prakash Nath (1947), Prakash Padukone (1980, 1981), Pullela Gopichand (2001) and Saina Nehwal (2015) to reach the final of the prestigious tournament after outwitting defending champion Lee Zii Jia in a gruelling semifinal. A week back, Sen had recorded his first win over former world champion Axelsen en route to his final appearance at the German Open but he couldn't sustain his craft on Sunday as his highly-fancied rival returned the favours, claiming his fifth overall win against the Indian. While 2020 winner Axelsen claimed the men's singles title for the second time, Japan's Akane Yamaguchi won the women's singles crown, beating South Korea's An Seyoung 21-15 21-15 in the final.

Hyderabad FC win maiden ISL Trophy



Margao: Goalkeeper Laxmikant Kattimani made three stunning saves as Hyderabad FC clinched their maiden Indian Super League title after defeating Kerala Blasters in penalty shoot-out in the summit clash here on Sunday. Hyderabad beat Kerala 3-1 in the shoot-out after the match ended 1-1 in the regulation and extra time. For Hyderabad, Joao Victor, Khassa Camara and Halicharan Narzary scored while only Ayush Adhikari found the target in the shoot-out as Kerala suffered heart-break for the third time in the finals. It was Kattimani's day as his heroics helped Kerala prevailed in the shoot-out. He saved the spot kicks from Mark Leskovic, Nishu Kumar and Jeakson Singh. As soon as Narzary's spot kick sent Kerala goalkeeper Prabhsukhan Gill the wrong way, the Hyderabad dug out and supporters at the stands erupted with joy while it was heartbreak for the passionate Kerala fans as spectators returned to the stadium to watch an ISL match after two years.

Abraham nets 2 as Roma sweeps aside Lazio 3-0 in derby



Milan: Fan favourite Tammy Abraham scored two goals as Roma swept aside Lazio 3-0 in the capital derby in Serie A. That took Abraham's tally to 15 in the league this season and nine since the start of January. In 202, only Bayern Munich's Robert

Lewandowski has scored more goals than the England international in Europe's top five leagues. Roma had its first goal on Sunday with less than a minute on the clock and was 3-0 up at halftime in a dominant performance from Jos Mourinho's side. Mourinho said Abraham had shown what he was capable of. "When you all said that Abraham is fantastic I did not agree, because I know the potential he has and I know that he is capable of what he did today," Mourinho said. "And I'm not just talking about the two goals, but I'm talking about how he played, how he pressed, how he won the ball back.

Barcelona stuns Madrid 4-0 at Bernabeu to end losing streak



Madrid: Barcelona's losing run against Real Madrid finally ended as the Catalan club enjoyed a stunning 4-0 win at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium and showed its title hopes in the Spanish league may not be over yet. Barcelona kept its recent momentum going under coach Xavi Hernandez in the last "clasi-co" of the season on Sunday. The win ended Barcelona's five-match losing streak to its rival and maintained an outside chance of fighting for the title after a difficult start to its first season without Lionel Messi. The victory was its first against Madrid since 2019 and came in style like a few others Barcelona enjoyed with Messi in his prime. It was Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang who thrived this time, scoring twice to continue his great streak since being signed in the final minutes of the winter transfer window. Ronald Araujo and Ferran Torres added a goal each to give Barcelona its seventh win in the last eight matches in all competitions.

ICC Women's WC

Pakistan stun West Indies by 8 wickets to record first win

Hamilton, Mar 21 (PTI):

Pakistan ended their 18-match losing streak with an eight-wicket win over the West Indies in the Women's ODI World Cup here on Monday.

Spinner Nida Dar returned with impressive figures of four for 10 to help Pakistan restrict West Indies to 89 for seven after opting to field in the rain-curtailed match which was reduced to 20-over-a-side affair because of damp outfield at Seddon Park.

Besides Dar, Omaima Sohail (1/12), Fatima Sana (1/14) and Nashra Sandhu (1/24) picked up a wicket each as Pakistan produced an inspired bowling effort.

Opener Deandra Dottin (27) top-scored for West Indies, while Stafanie Taylor (18) and Afy Fletcher (12 not out) were the other two Caribbean batters to have managed double digit scores.

Chasing 90, Pakistan, who have so far lost all their four matches to be placed at the bottom of the eight-team standings, lost opener Sidra Ameen (8) in the sixth over with their scorecard reading 22. Muneeba Ali (37 off 43)



Nida Dar has her hands aloft after dismissing Deandra Dottin.

and skipper Bismah Maroof then shared 35 runs for the second wicket

before the former departed with Pakistan still needing 31 runs off 46

balls. Muneeba struck five boundaries during her knock. But Maroof (20 not out) played sensibly without taking any risks and in Sohail's (22 not out) company stitched unbeaten 33 runs for the third wicket to romp home with seven balls to spare.

While the win be a huge morale booster for Pakistan ahead of their remaining two league games, the defeat put West Indies' semifinal hopes at a risk. Despite the loss, West Indies still occupy the third spot with six points from six games. Pakistan still are in the last spot.

West Indies will face South Africa in their final league game on March 24, while Pakistan will play England (March 24) and New Zealand (March 26) in their final two matches.

Brief Scores

West Indies: 87 for 7 in 20 overs (Deandra Dottin 27; Nida Dar 4/10).

Pakistan: 90 for 2 in 18.5 overs (Muneeba Ali 37, Omaima Sohail 22 not out, Bismah Maroof 20 not out; Shakera Selman 1/15).

Numbers are part of journey not final destination: Ashwin



Mumbai, Mar 21 (PTI): Premier off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who recently became India's second highest wicket-taker in Test cricket, said he never ran after numbers in his career and considers personal milestones as "just part of the journey and not final destination". Ashwin, who picked up 12 wickets at an average of 15.08 in the recent Test series against Sri Lanka, became India's second highest wicket-

taker in Test matches after he surpassed legendary Kapil Dev's tally of 434 wickets. By doing so, he also became the eighth highest overall in the history of Test cricket with a tally of 442 scalps. "The numbers are great, and it's humbling really to see what I've been able to do in terms of the numbers. The more I've played, the more it felt like the numbers are a part of the journey rather than the destination," Ashwin said in a release.

"In the past 2-3 years especially, the feeling has been great, with series' wins in Australia, comeback into the T20 team, it almost feels like how I felt when I first broke into the team, wherein a lot has been going on for me." The 35-year-old spinner, who will represent his fifth franchise in IPL after being roped in by Rajasthan Royals, said the lucrative T20 tournament has helped him develop into a better cricketer from its onset. "The IPL is a tough tournament, there are a lot of variables leading into every season which can have an impact.

Hamilton, Mar 21 (PTI):

An inconsistent India will have no room for errors when they take on a spirited Bangladesh in their must-win ICC Women's World Cup league match here on Tuesday.

India's problems have compounded over the course of their campaign, which has seen them win two games and lose three, including back-to-back defeats against England and Australia.

The heavy fluctuations in the batting performance was already a concern and with the ease Australia chased down a record 278 in the previous game, the Indian bowlers also need to step up. The bowling looked rather flat against the Aussies, who attacked and put pressure from ball one. The move to drop an extra bowling option in Deepti Sharma and bring back batter Shafali Verma also did not work. Harmanpreet Kaur, who

India can't afford anymore slip-ups in must-win game against Bangladesh



roared back to form with the bat, is yet to be used as an off-spinner in the competition.

It remains to be seen if Shafali will be persisted with for the crucial contest and Yastika Bhatia returns at the top to open alongside Smriti Mandhana. One positive

Swiss Open: Sindhu, Srikanth look to find top form; exhausted Sen opts out



Basel, Mar 21 (PTI):

All England Championships finalist Lakshya Sen will be missing in action but double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and World Championships silver winner Kidambi Srikanth will look to make a mark when the Swiss Open Super 300 begins here on Tuesday.

Sen, the 20-year-old from Almora, decided to withdraw after feeling exhausted following back-to-back final appearances at the German Open and All England Championships.

While Sen has been sensational in the last two weeks, top players Sindhu, Srikanth and Saina Nehwal failed to reach the quarterfinals at Birmingham and would eye a better show this week.

While Sindhu and Saina lost in the second round in both German Open and All England Championships, Srikanth had reached the last 8 at Muelheim an der Ruhr. Sindhu, seeded second, the 2019 World champion, will take on Denmark's

world no 32 Line H jmark Kjaersfeldt in her opening round, while Saina opens against China's seventh seed Wang Zhi Yi.

Srikanth, who has looked in good touch since his World Championships bronze, will face a qualifier in his men's singles opener. Tokyo Olympian B Sai Praneeth will meet compatriot HS Prannoy in his opening match, while former Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap will square off against a qualifier.

In women's singles, Aakarshi Kashyap has been pitted against Germany's Yvonne Li in the opening round.

Third seeded men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who had won the India Open in January, will open against Indonesian combination of Muhammad Shohibul Fikri and Bagas Maulana. MR ARjun and Dhruv Kapila, and Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala will also be in action in men's doubles.

correct against Bangladesh, who have shown a lot of promise in their maiden ODI World Cup appearance.

"The atmosphere remains positive. After a loss you do feel down but we are in good headspace ahead of the game tomorrow. We will play to win, net run rate remains secondary," said all-rounder Sneha Rana, adding that they can't afford to take Bangladesh lightly.

"Bangladesh have reached here by performing. They are always improving. There are no easy games in this World Cup," she added. Bangladesh have run most of their opponents close in the four games they have played so far and that includes a memorable win over Pakistan. Ahead of the India game, captain Nigar Sultana said the more they play at this level, the better they will become. "We never got to play a lot of ODI games in the past. We have a proper FTP now.

Fritz stops Nadal's winning streak to lift Indian Wells title

Indian Wells (US), Mar 21 (AP): Hours from playing in the biggest final of his young career, Taylor Fritz was in severe pain. The prospect of having to withdraw against Rafael Nadal nearly had him in tears.

His coach urged him not to potentially risk damaging his sore ankle further. Fritz stubbornly refused to bow out.

His faith in himself paid off. Fritz upset Nadal 6-3 7-6 (5) on Sunday to win the BNP Paribas Open and snap the 21-time major champion's 20-match winning streak this year.

"It was a complete non-issue, didn't feel it at all, didn't hinder me at all," said Fritz, who tweaked his ankle late in his semifinal win over No. 7 seed Andrey Rublev. Blue medical tape could be seen above his high sock and he had it numbed before the final. Nadal had his own health issue. He came



into the match bothered by painful breathing that he first experienced in a three-set semifinal win. He took two medical timeouts during the final. The first one came after he lost the first set. Nadal went inside with a trainer after tapping his upper left chest. He got treatment on court after falling behind 5-4 in the second set.

West Indies and England draw another test on flat pitch

Bridgetown, Mar 21 (AP):

The West Indies and England drew a second straight Test in Barbados, leaving their series to be decided in the third and final test in Grenada.

England didn't declare its second innings until during the lunch break on Sunday, when it was 185-6 and led by 281 runs at Kensington Oval.

That offered the West Indies 282 runs to win from 65 overs at more than 4 an over: That was no help to the England bowlers, and too steep for the batsmen to attack. The home side dug in on a pitch with little life in it and, after some early drama, held out for all 65 overs to finish on 135-5 at barely two runs per over. Captain Kraigg Brathwaite, who batted for nearly 12 hours in the first innings for 160, steered the side to safety in the second with another monumental effort. He batted more than four hours for 56 runs from 184 balls. England



earned some hope when it reduced West Indies to 39-3 in the 13th over. Spinner Jack Leach got John Campbell out for 10 in his first over after a review, and new fast bowler Saqib

Mahmood got edges from Shamrah Brooks and Nkrumah Bonner into the hands of Joe Root.

Jermaine Blackwood reunited with Brathwaite, and the pair which com-

bined for 183 from 69 overs in the first innings, shared 50 from 25 overs on Sunday. Then Blackwood was Leach's second wicket of the day for 27 from 84.

Leach also bagged Jason Holder for a duck as he ended up bowling 94.5 overs overall, the most by an Englishman in a test in 60 years. He took six wickets in the match.

West Indies was five down with 20 overs to go but Brathwaite, on his home ground, refused to leave.

He got to his half-century with 10 overs left. He blocked out his last 16 deliveries. Brathwaite passed Brian Lara to face the most deliveries 673 in a single test by a West Indies player.

Joshua Da Silva was a lot bolder, taking boundaries off Root, Dan Lawrence and Ben Stokes to score 30 not out from 63.

The West Indies totaled 411 and 135-5 in reply to England's declarations at 507-9 and 185-6.

CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI JAYANTI



Women play fugdi as they celebrate the birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at APMC fruit market, in Navi Mumbai, Monday.

CPI(M) seminars

Cong in Kerala bans Tharoor and Thomas

Thiruvananthapuram, Mar 21 (PTI):

Acceptance of the CPI(M)'s invitation to attend a seminar being organised as part of its Party Congress has put senior Congress leaders, Shashi Tharoor and K V Thomas, in a dilemma with KPCC chief K Sudhakaran barring them from attending the programme.

The Left party has invited Thiruvananthapuram MP, Tharoor and former Union Minister Thomas to attend various seminars ahead of its 23rd Party Congress scheduled to be held at Kannur in the state from April 6-10.

Congress' Kerala unit President K Sudhakaran has said the party had barred its leaders from attending the programme as it was strongly fighting the CPI(M)-led government over the proposed K-Rail project.

However, Tharoor told the media that the topic of the seminar, to which he was invited was not related to any issues pertaining to Kerala or K-Rail.

"The people do not like Congress leaders participating in the programme organised by the CPI(M). The Congress party members despise, loathe such leaders who associate with (Chief Minister) Pinarayi Vijayan, who is

moving forward with the K-Rail project. If he (Tharoor) wants to participate, he can. It's his wish. He can take the permission of Sonia Gandhi and do accordingly," Sudhakaran said.

Keen to attend the CPI(M) event, both Tharoor and Thomas are reportedly planning to approach the Congress high command seeking permission of party supremo Sonia Gandhi to attend the programme.

"They had invited me and I accepted. This time they have invited me to take part in a seminar as part of its Party Congress. There is nothing wrong in engaging

with political dialogues. And the topic of the seminar is not K-Rail or anything related to Kerala," Tharoor said.

Meanwhile, CPI(M) state secretary Kodiyeeri Balakrishnan has said the Left party had invited Congress leaders for various seminars but they were barred by that party's leadership.

"But they don't have any issues in joining hands with the BJP to protest against the state government," Balakrishnan has told the media, referring to the opposition parties opposing the SilverLine project. He said the Congress was taking stands favouring the BJP.

'Recruitment in Army suspended to curb Covid, not stopped'

New Delhi, Mar 21 (PTI):

Recruitment in the Indian Army has remained suspended mainly to curb the spread of COVID-19 and the government has not stopped it, Parliament was informed on Monday. "Coronavirus infections have slowed down but it is not over yet. Big crowds come for recruitment in the Indian Army. Big (recruitment) fairs are organised for the purpose.

"Therefore we have suspended (the recruitment process in Army) so that the virus does not spread. We have not stopped it," said Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt while replying to a supplementary question in Rajya Sabha. According



Ajay Bhatt

to the written reply tabled in the House, after the pandemic hit India in 2020, the recruitment in India Army remained suspended during 2020-21 and 2021-22. However, according to the reply, 2,722 persons were enrolled in the Indian Navy and 8,423 person in the Indian Air Force in 2020-21.

Similarly, 5,547 persons were enrolled in the Indian Navy and 4,609 in the IAF in 2021-22. In 2018-19, 53,431 candidates were enrolled in the Indian Army while the number was 80,572 in 2019-20. The written reply also stated, "Sufficient recruitment is undertaken to meet manpower requirements of the Indian Armed Forces."

About supplementary question on recruiting women in armed forces in combat roles, Bhatt said the provisions for recruitment of women in the armed forces are being adhered to and the other issue (combat roles) is under consideration. The supplementary question on recruiting women in combat roles was asked by NCP member Vandana Chavan.

Taj Mahotsav kicked off in Agra

Agra, Mar 20 (PTI):

Taj Mahotsav - a 10-day festival of art, craft, and culture - was inaugurated at the Shilpgram here on Sunday. The festival was inaugurated by the state Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra. Shilpgram is located about 1 km from the east gate of the Taj Mahal, where the festival will be hosted till March 29, its last day. The theme of the cultural festival is 'Azadi ke sang, Taj Mahotsav kerang'.

The Taj Mahotsav that usually being from February 18 and continues till February 27 had been rescheduled this year due to the UP assembly election. Mishra praised the festival for its showcasing of arts

and crafts, and said it will promote tourism in the state. The entry ticket per adult is Rs 50 and is free for the kids up to three years of age, Rajendra Kumar Rawat deputy director at the state tourism department said.

The entry is free for the foreigners also and to those visitors who show the same day ticket to visit the Taj Mahal, he said. The festival has works displayed by artists from Kashmir, Varanasi, West Bengal, Faridabad, Punjab, Chhattisgarh and many other states. Wood craft of Saharanpur, Terracotta of Faridabad, Silk of Varanasi, and Pashmina shawls and suits from Kashmir will be the major attractions for the visitors.

SC issues notice to Centre, EC on reduction of disqualification period of Sikkim CM

New Delhi, Mar 21 (PTI):

The Supreme Court Monday sought responses from the Centre and the Election Commission on a plea challenging the poll panel's decision to reduce the 6-year disqualification period of Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang, convicted and sentenced in a graft case, to 13 months.

A bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justice Krishna Murari also issued notices to the Chief Minister and the secretary of the state's Governor on the plea filed by J B Darnal, the vice president of Sikkim Democratic Front.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi appeared on behalf of the Chief Minister

on caveat when the plea was argued by the counsel for Darnal challenging the decision of the poll panel.

Rohatgi pointed out to the bench that the same issue has been raised before a pending case in the Delhi High Court.

Why have you chosen so many forums you will have to explain? Some legal issues are there. Because of that we are issuing the notice, the bench said and listed the plea for further hearing after six weeks. The present plea was mentioned for urgent hearing before the CJ's bench on March 10.

The Delhi High Court, in October 22, 2019, had issued notices to the Centre and others on a separate plea against the Sikkim chief minister.

Tamang, whose Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party won the state Assembly elections in April, 2019, took over as chief minister on May 27. However, he could not contest the elections due to his disqualification. He was required to contest Assembly elections within six months of becoming the Chief Minister to continue to hold the office.

He was convicted and sentenced to one year imprisonment for offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act on December 26, 2016. He completed the one year sentence on August 10, 2018. The petition in the high court was filed by one Dek Bahadur Katwal, General Secretary of Sikkim Democratic Front.

CVC to banks, govt depts

'Ensure corrupt officers are penalised'

New Delhi, Mar 21 (PTI): Citing non-implementation of penalty against corrupt officers, the Central Vigilance Commission on Monday asked public sector banks and government departments to ensure that guilty do face the punishment, and the compliance report for 2020 and 2021 should be forwarded to the CVC latest by June 30.

After completion of departmental proceedings, final orders are issued against the Charged Officer (CO) by the competent authority, imposing an appropriate penalty on him, if the charges against the CO are found to be proved, it said. The Commission and the Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) are also informed about issuance of final orders, the CVC said in an order.

unauthorized sale of 'Khadi' products'

'2,172 notices issued to entities

New Delhi, Mar 21 (PTI):

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) issued 2,172 notices to entities engaged in unauthorized sale of products in the name of 'Khadi' till January this year, according to the government.

Nearly 500 entities have apologized for unknowingly using the Khadi trade mark, and have removed them from their products and websites, Minister of State for MSMEs Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha. KVIC comes under the Ministry of MSMEs.

"Upto January 2022, KVIC had issued 2,172 notices to entities engaged in the unauthorized sale of products in the name of Khadi," he said. KVIC has so far filed as many as nine suits against different enti-



Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma

ties for the infringement of trade mark and in most of the cases got interim injunction against the infringements, he added.

Suits were filed in the Delhi High Court against Khadi Essentials, Delhi; Iwearkhadi, Uttar Pradesh; Khadi Design Council of India, Uttar Pradesh; JBMR Enterprises-Khadi Prakritik Paint, Uttar

Pradesh; Girdhar Khadi, Haryana; and Khadi by Heritage, Delhi.

The minister also informed that a suit was also filed in the Bombay High Court against Fabindia, Mumbai; India Khadi Fashion, Maharashtra; and Khadi Store, Pehna, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. Further, he said that KVIC has taken several steps to check manufacture and sale of fake Khadi products.

The steps include appointment of seven trade mark consultants, who are actively watching the trade mark infringements by third parties and issuing legal notices to the unauthorized users. Moreover, it also includes removal of online links regarding the sale of fake Khadi products from e-commerce platforms and social media on a continuous basis.

VACCINATION DRIVE



A healthworker administers a dose of COVID-19 vaccine to a student during an inoculation drive for age group 12 to 14 years, in Hyderabad, Monday.

Removal of encroachment

SC refuses to extend time for filing of application under PM Awas Yojana

New Delhi, Mar 21 (PTI):

The Supreme Court Monday refused to extend time for filing of application seeking allotment under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana' by those who have been affected by demolition action during the removal of encroachment from the Railways property in Gujarat, saying there is enough time till March 31 and these individuals cannot keep on waiting.

The apex court, which was hearing a matter pertaining to removal of encroachment from

Railways property, said the time line of March 31 is there and there is no reason to extend it. The counsel appearing for the petitioners told a bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar and A S Oka that the last date to apply for allotment under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana' is March 31 and over 1,000 affected persons have already applied. The counsel requested that if the date for filing of application for allotment can be extended by a week or two, then the around 500 people who are left can also apply.

Family donates body to medical college

Haveri (K'taka), Mar 21 (PTI):

Hundreds of people paid their last respects to Naveen Shekarappa Gyanagaudar, a medical student from the state who was killed in a Russian shelling in war-torn Ukraine three weeks ago, before his mortal remains were donated to a private medical college, as per the wishes of the family.

The 21-year-old final year student at Kharkiv National Medical University had died on March one, in the conflict zone, tragically becoming India's first casualty in the

ongoing offensive in the eastern European nation.

His mortal remains arrived at the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru in the early hours on Monday, and was later shifted to his native Chalageri village of Ranebennur taluk in this district in an ambulance.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, senior political leaders and officials, along with Gyanagaudar's family members were present at the airport to receive the body. On reaching the Chalageri village, the mor-



People attend the funeral of Naveen Shekarappa, a final year medical student who died due to Russian shelling in the Ukrainian, at his native Chalageri village, in Haveri, Monday.

tal remains were kept for the public to pay their last respects, which saw hundreds of people including Bommai, political and religious leaders, officials, relatives and friends of the

deceased in attendance.

His emotional parents and brothers then conducted the last rites related rituals as per the Veerashaiva Lingayat traditions. Bommai consoled

the parents and other family members.

The mortal remains were then carried in a procession across the village, before being handed over to Shamanur Shivashankarappa Institute of Medical Sciences & Research Center at the district headquarters town of Davangere.

According to a doctor from the institute, Gyanagaudar's body was embalmed well before being transported to India and is fit for medical education related requirements. It will be further subjected to tests and anatomical embalming to be preserved for future

medical research and education, he said, while complimenting the family for donating the body.

Bommai telephoned Prime Minister Narendra Modi and thanked him for his role in getting back the mortal remains of Gyanagaudar, and fulfilling the parents' wishes to see him for one last time.

Earlier, speaking to reporters, Bommai while expressing grief over the unfortunate death of the young man, said, "it looks like the shell has not directly hit him. Maybe he got injured in the head due to shelling in the neighboring building, because of which he has died on the spot."