



BRIEF



Padma Shri Kathak dancer Shovana Narayan performs during Spick Macay programme, at Patna Womens College, in Patna, Friday.

Truck collision

Bilaspur: Two persons were killed when a speeding truck collided with their motorcycle in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur district on Friday, police said. The accident took place at Darsagar Chowk on Ratanpur-Kenda road under Kota police station limits in the morning hours, an official said. Chandrashekhar Gandharva (23) and his relative Panchram Gandharva (25) were travelling to Saraipali village, when a truck coming from opposite direction dashed their motorcycle and dragged the duo, he said.

Children repatriated

New Delhi: Thirty-four children have been repatriated on the GHAR portal, the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development said on Friday. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has prepared a protocol for restoration and repatriation of children and the GHAR (Go Home and Reunite) portal to digitally monitor and track their return.

Policemen ill

Ranchi: As many as 35 jawans of Jharkhand Armed Police (JAP) fell ill in the early hours of Friday with complaints of headache, vomiting and were rushed to hospital, a senior official said. Seventeen of them were discharged after checkup while 18 are admitted to Sadar Hospital, a JAP official said. The condition of the 18 jawans is stable, he said. Investigations are on to ascertain the cause of the illness, the official said.

Teacher booked

Thane: An offence has been registered against a teacher of a private school for allegedly beating up a 14-year-old student in Maharashtra's Thane district, police said on Friday.

YouTuber arrested

New Delhi: A 26-year-old YouTuber was arrested on Friday for allegedly riding on top of cars with his friends on his birthday, a video of which showed up on social media, police said. Several of his friends and he were seen on top of cars, driving rashly, negligently, and dangerously on NH-24 in east Delhi's Pandav Nagar, police said. The accused, Prince Dixit, a resident of Shakarpur, has studied till Class 12. His YouTube channel has more than 2.68 lakhs followers, they said.

Weather
High 28 Low 19

MARKET
NIFTY 17,100.05
SENSEX 57,989.90

BULLION
GOLD 58,784
SILVER 67,858

Cong gives breach of privilege notice over PM's remarks on Nehru surname

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTI):

Congress leader K C Venugopal on Friday gave Rajya Sabha chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar a breach of privilege notice against Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his remarks on why former prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru's family did not use his surname. The prime minister's remarks were made during his reply to the motion of thanks on the president's address in the Rajya Sabha on February 9 during the first part of the budget session. "I hereby give a notice of question of privilege against the prime minister of India under Rule 188 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Council of States (Rajya Sabha) for having cast re-

Several oppn leaders hold 'dharma' near Gandhi statue in Parliament house complex

New Delhi: Leaders of several opposition parties on Friday staged a joint 'dharma' (protest) near the Gandhi statue in Parliament house complex over the Adani issue and raised slogans against the government. Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi, Congress president and leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Rahul Gandhi were present during the protest. The MPs of various opposition parties assembled near the Gandhi statue after both the houses were adjourned for the day. "Simple Hai Modiji, We want JPC," Kharge tweeted later. Holding placards and ban-



Leaders of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, former Congress President Sonia Gandhi and other opposition MPs during a protest over the Adani issue, at Parliament House complex in New Delhi, Friday.

reflections upon members of Parliament during his reply to the motion of thanks on the president's address on February 9, 2023," Venugopal said in his notice. He alleged that the remarks prima facie were made in a mocking manner and were not only disgraceful but also insulting and defamatory vis-a-vis members of the Nehru family, particularly Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi who are members of the Lok Sabha. Venugopal said in his notice that the very suggestion by the prime minister on why they did not take Nehru as a surname is "preposterous" by its very nature. The prime minister, he said, knows very well that the surname of the father is not taken by daughter.

Uproar after BJP demands discussion on Cong's promise to return money to victims of chit fund frauds

Raipur, Mar 17:

The Opposition BJP in Chhattisgarh on Friday accused the Congress-led government of failing to keep its promise of refunding money that investors lost to unscrupulous chit fund companies in the state. BJP MLAs sought a discussion on the issue in the state legislative Assembly through an adjournment motion notice. The chair, however, rejected the demand causing uproar in the House, following which the proceedings were adjourned for five minutes. Raising the issue in the Zero Hour, BJP legislators Shivratna Sharma and Ajay Chandrakar said several people had lost their money after investing in chit fund companies and the Congress in its poll manifesto had promised to return the invested sum to them. No sufficient action has been taken in this regard so far and the government is yet to refund the money people had lost, they said, while demanding a discus-



sion on the issue by moving an adjournment motion notice. Countering the charges, Congress MLAs said people were duped by bogus chit fund firms when the BJP was in power in the state and the Bhupesh Baghel government has started refunding investors' money. Several BJP leaders had attended the inauguration of unscrupulous chit fund companies (during the previous BJP rule), State Food and Civil Supply Minister Amarjeet Bhagat claimed. As the chair rejected the demand for discussion on the adjournment motion notice, BJP MLAs started shouting slogans against the state government and the House was adjourned for five minutes.

Delhi excise policy

Court reserves verdict on ED plea seeking extension of Sisodia's custody by 7 days

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTI)

A court here on Friday reserved its order on an Enforcement Directorate plea seeking the custody of AAP leader Manish Sisodia, who has been arrested in a money laundering case related to the Delhi excise policy, for seven more days. Sisodia was produced before special judge M K Nagpal, who will announce the order on the extension of the former Delhi deputy chief minister's custody shortly. Heavy security deployment was made inside and



outside the Rouse Avenue Court premises. The ED told the court that crucial information had come up during Sisodia's custody and he had to be confronted with other accused persons. It said voluminous data from Sisodia's email and mobile, etc. is also being forensically analysed.

Govt bats for simultaneous polls

Lists out imperatives before idea is implemented

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTI):

The government on Friday batted for holding simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and state assemblies, saying it would result in huge saving to the public exchequer, as it listed out "imperatives" such as amending the Constitution and bringing all political parties on board before carrying out the gigantic exercise. In a written reply in Lok Sabha, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said a parliamentary panel had examined the issue of simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State

Legislative Assemblies in consultation with various stakeholders, including the Election Commission. The Committee made certain recommendations in this regard. "The matter now stands referred to the Law Commission for further examination to work out a practicable road map and framework for simultaneous elections ...," Rijiju said. Simultaneous elections, he noted, would result in huge savings to the public exchequer and avoid replication of effort on part of administrative and law and order machinery in holding repeated elections. It would bring considerable savings to political parties and candidates in their election campaigns.

"Further, asynchronous Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly elections (including by-election) result in prolonged enforcement of Model Code of Conduct with its concomitant adverse impact on developmental and welfare programmes," the minister said. He also listed out "major impediments/imperatives" for synchronisation for Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly elections. He said the change would require amendments in "not less than five" articles of the Constitution -- article 83 relating to duration of Houses of Parliament, article 85 relating to dissolution of Lok Sabha by the President, article 172 relat-

ing to duration of the state legislatures, article 174 relating to dissolution of the state legislatures, and article 356 relating to the imposition of President's Rule in the states. Before the proposal is implemented, it would also require obtaining consensus of all political parties. "Having regard to the federal structure of our system of governance, it is imperative that consensus of all state governments is also obtained," the minister pointed out. He said it would also require an additional number of electronic voting machines and VVPATs (paper trail machines), "which would cost a huge amount, might be in thousands of crores (of rupees)."

'SP to keep equidistance from both Congress and BJP'

Kolkata, Mar 17 (PTI)

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Friday said that his party would maintain equidistance from both the Congress and the BJP. To defeat the saffron camp, the SP would stand firmly with Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee, he said. "In Bengal, we are with Mamata didi. Right now, our stand is we want to maintain equidistance from both the BJP and the Congress" he said while talking to reporters on the sidelines of his party's workers' meet.



BEAUTIFICATION ARTWORK



An artist gives final touches to tribal theme beautification artwork ahead of G20 meeting, in Nagpur, Friday.

Govt cites SC order in LS

'Political background by itself not been absolute bar to appoint judge'

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTI):

The government on Friday said in Lok Sabha that the Supreme Court has observed in a recent order that political background by itself has "not been an absolute bar" to appoint an otherwise suitable person as a judge. It also said "generally", it is not a practice to seek Research & Analysis Wing (RAW) reports on proposals for appointment of judges in high courts and the Supreme Court except in "extraordinary circumstances, involving issues related to national security". In a written reply, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said according to the Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of judges of high courts, the proposals

recommended by High Court Collegiums are to be considered in the light of "such other reports/inputs as may be available" to the government for assessing the suitability in respect of the names under consideration. "Accordingly, IB (Intelligence Bureau) inputs are obtained and provided to the Supreme Court Collegium for making assessment on the recommendees," he said. Responding to a question on the Supreme Court Collegium making public portions of a report filed by RAW on an advocate recommended for elevation as a judge of the Delhi High Court, he, without naming the person, said the report had mentioned the "sexuality" of the candidate.

Over 200 universities on board for CUET-UG, up from 90 last year: UGC

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTI):

Over 200 universities have opted for the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) for admission to undergraduate programmes so far, up from 90 universities last year, according to University Grants Commission officials. The deadline for application has been extended till March 30 as more universities are expected to select the test for admissions. The 206 universities include 44 central universities and 33 state universities such as Barkatullah University, Bhopal, Dr B R Ambedkar School of Economics, Karnataka, Cotton University, Guwahati, and Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha

University, Delhi. "Number of participating Universities in Common University Entrance Test (CUET-UG) crosses 200 today. It is now 206 including 33 state government universities," a senior UGC official said. The exam is scheduled to be conducted from May 21-31. The UGC in March last year announced that undergraduate admissions will be conducted in all central universities through a common entrance test and not on the basis of Class 12 marks. The undergraduate (UG) admission process in universities will be completed by July 2023 and the new academic session can begin on August 1. The debut edi-

tion of the CUET-UG was conducted in July last year and was marred by glitches, prompting the National Testing Agency to cancel the exam at multiple centres. While several students were informed about cancellation a night before the exam, many of them were turned away from centres. UGC chairperson M Jagadesh Kumar had said then the exam at certain centres have been cancelled following reports of "sabotage". With 14.9 lakh registrations, the CUET, the common gateway for undergraduate admissions in all central universities, is now the second biggest entrance exam in the country, surpassing the JEE-Main's average registration of 9 lakh.

SC notice to MP govt on bail plea of woman with PFI links arrested for filming Indore court proceedings

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Friday sought the Madhya Pradesh government's response on a bail plea of a 30-year-old woman who was arrested for filming the proceedings of a court during a hearing in Indore district. Police officials have alleged the woman has links with the banned group Popular Front of India (PFI). A bench of justices Ajay Rastogi and Bela M Trivedi issued notice to the state government on Sonu Mansuri's plea. At the outset, the bench expressed disinclination to entertain the matter and asked the lawyer appearing for the petitioners to approach the Madhya Pradesh High Court. "This business of getting everything transferred to Delhi should stop. Why don't you go to the high court," the bench said. Senior advocate Dushyant



Dave, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that the accused was in custody for over two months and no lawyer is being allowed to appear for her. Dave said the top court has a duty to intervene when the fundamental right of a citizen is violated. The apex court then issued notice in the matter and posted the case for hearing on March 20. Mansuri, who was arrested on January 28, had told the police that an advocate had asked her to make the video to be sent to the Islamic group PFI and she was given Rs 3 lakh for the work. During the hearing of a case related to Bajrang Dal leader Tanu Sharma, his advocates Amit Pandey and Sunil Vishwakarma noticed the woman shooting the video in court room no. 42 of Indore district court, police had said. Mansuri, a resident of Indore, claimed before the police that senior advocate Noorjahan Khan had given her the task of making the video to be sent across to the PFI, the official had said. The woman also told the police that she was given Rs 3 lakh for this work, the police official had said, adding the money has been recovered.

NIA files charge sheet against two IS operatives in Karnataka

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTI):

National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a charge sheet against two alleged Islamic State operatives who were found involved in over two dozen incidents of arson and sabotage, including burning of the national flag in Karnataka, an official said Friday. Maaz Muneer Ahmad (23) and Syed Yasin (22) of Shivamogga have been charged in a special court under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Explosive Substances Act and Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, a spokesperson of the federal agency said. The official said the case relates to a conspiracy hatched to further the activities of the banned Islamic State terror group by carrying out acts of

arson, sabotage and violence in Karnataka. Further investigations against six other arrested accused are in progress. The NIA took over the case in September last year after it was initially registered by the Karnataka Police after Prem Singh was at Shivamogga on August 15 allegedly by accused Zabiulla and others. "Ahmad and Yasin, both B Tech graduates, had been radicalised and motivated by an online foreign-based handler to target public and private properties, including warehouses, liquor outlets, hardware shops, vehicles and properties belonging to citizens belonging to a particular community. In furtherance of a conspiracy hatched by the Islamic State, they had committed over 25 incidents of arson and sabotage," the spokesperson said.

Vijay Baghel to lead 'Ramayana Varta Prakashan Samiti'

Ramayana Research Council's project 'Ramayana Varta' aims to promote of Sanskrit and culture

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 17: Ramayana Research Council is launching a new project to promote Sanskrit language. The Council has resolved to publish a fortnightly magazine named 'Ramayana Varta'.

For publication of this magazine, a committee 'Ramayana Varta Prakashan Samiti' has been constituted. MP Vijay Baghel has been entrusted with the responsibility to lead this committee as Chairman.

MP Vijay Baghel said that the Ramayana Varta will be published in Sanskrit language. There will be a vocabulary at the bottom of each page to make it easier for the com-

mon people to understand articles. Baghel added that through this medium the common people will be made aware of the lost folk tradition and culture of the country.

Apart from this, a campaign will be launched through this magazine to make people aware of the famous temples of the country. He said that the magazine will not only publish articles in Sanskrit language in every issue, but will also give information about how to learn or speak Sanskrit.

Member of Parliament Baghel said that a team has also been formed for this work. In the first phase it will be published from New Delhi itself, then in the next phase efforts

will be made to start its publication from every state of India. He called upon the youth of the country to join this campaign.

Baghel added that Sanskrit language is the language of God and it is the mother of all languages. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been trying for a long time to strengthen the Sanskrit language, but now the time has come to make the world aware of the impact of this language. Baghel said that he will soon meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and inform him about this subject and then work on how to spread it at international level.

Along with a special article based on Shri



Ramcharitmanas and Ramayana, the magazine

will also publish articles about the art-culture and

folk-tradition, interviews of Katha Wachaks and peo-

ple who are working for the society, nation-building and society-building. Through the articles based on Vedic knowledge, special emphasis will be given on the related aspects.

Ramayana Varta will not only be published but will also be launched on digital platforms. Member of Parliament Baghel said that on March 30, on the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami, they are going to launch the website 'ramyanavarta.com'.

He said that the articles on this website will be in Sanskrit language, but at the end of each article the meaning of key words of that article will be mentioned, so that readers can read that article without any difficulty. The Ramayana

Research Council is working towards the installation of a 251 feet tall statue at Sitamarhi (Bihar), the birthplace of Mata Sita. The process of land acquisition is underway. Council members included

President Chandrashekhar Mishra, Coordinator Dev Ratna Sharma, Vice President Jaikant Singh, General Secretary Kumar Sushant, Secretary Pitamber Mishra, Consultant Editor Shailesh Pandey, President of Ramayana Manch Naveen Kumar, Incharge of Legal Cell Awadhesh Singh, Spokesperson Jai Dixit, IT Head Subhash Jha, Corporate Cell Head Kewal Kapoor, Shashank Singh, Vikas Verma and others were present.

Tribal youth to tour J&K and Assam under TYEP Three held for involvement in online cricket betting

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 17: Under the 14th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme, Border Security Force has selected and sent tribal youth from Kanker for a tour to Jammu and Kashmir and Guwahati (Assam). 11th and 12th groups were constituted with 40 tribal youth and they were sent on tour of other cities under this programme.

They are being accompanied by two female and two male officers / personnel of Border Security Force. BSF is organising 14 such tours this year. Under this exposure visit, the tribal youth will be



able to understand the cultural ethos, language, lifestyles of the people depicting Socio-economic and Cultural Development and Development process

unity in the diversity aspect of our national life.

They will be exposed to the technological and industrial advancement that have taken place in differ-

ent states of the country with focus on various developmental activities, skill development, educational and employment opportunities available there. They will be sensitized about their rich traditional & cultural heritage. This programme will help the tribal youth to develop emotional linkages with their peer groups in other parts of the country and enhance their self esteem.

IG Indraj Singh (BSF Frontier Headquarters, Special Operations, Chhattisgarh) and DIG (Intelligence) Dinesh Murmu have extended greetings and best wishes to the selected youth.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 17: Police arrested three persons from a house in Deep Nagar of Vaishali Nagar Police Station limits for operating the illegal cricket betting through Mahadev Book App. SP Dr Abhishek Pallava informed that on March 16, they received a complaint from Bhavesh Gandharva of Ramnagar regarding the illegal and unauthorised use of his bank account by a person.

He complained that about two months ago one Shrikant Deshmukh approached him with an attractive loan scheme and got an account opened in the name of the victim's



firm "Jugnu Sports" in the Indian Bank.

Few days later, Shrikant took the passbook, atm card and cheque book from Bhavesh on the excuse of getting the bank loan approved. When Bhavesh

asked him to return the documents, he did not give them back. Later, Bhavesh discovered that his bank account was being used for money transactions of illegal cricket betting. Acting on this com-

plaint, police raided a house in Deep Nagar and rounded up three youth red handed while operating the online cricket betting through Mahadev Book. The accused are identified as Shrikant Deshmukh (30) son of Rajendra Deshmukh a resident of Ramnagar; Vivek Singh (23) son of Devi Singh a resident of Jharkhand and Niraj Kumar son of Ashok Kumar a resident of Bihar.

Eleven mobiles and one Laptop were recovered from them. The accused were booked under the provisions mentioned in sections 420, 34 of IPC and Section 4 (a) of Gambling Act.

SRJS initiates campaign 'Ek Mutthi Daan-in the name of Shri Ram'

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 17: Shri Ram Janmotsav Samiti is running a campaign "Ek mutthi daan - in the name of Shri Ram" on the auspicious occasion of Shri Ram Navami this year. Under which the youth wing president of the committee, Manish Pandey appealed to the people to donate in the name of the Lord by reaching every house in Sector-1 and Sector 06 in East and West blocks respectively.

People donated food in the name of the Lord with great joy. All the donors were invited by the committee by presenting them with saffron flag and invita-

tion letter for Bhog Prasad on Ram Navami. Committee's youth wing president Manish Pandey informed that for the last 37 years this festival of Sri Ramnavami is celebrated with great enthusiasm and grandeur by the committee.

This event in the 38th year is very special for all of us because the construction of the Shriramlala temple is nearing completion and it will be ready in the year 2024. Pandey said that every year on the occasion of Shri Ram Navami, a huge Bhandara is organ-



ized.

In this sequence, this year the campaign "Ek Mutthi Daan - in the name of Shri Ram" is being run by the committee, under

which a handful of grain donation will be collected from each house of Steel City and used in the Bhandara.

A campaign is being run

to ensure the participation of every Bhilai resident and society in this grand festival. Pandey told that from March 16 to 24, the members of the committee will reach door to door in different blocks and accept a handful of grains as donation from the people.

During this mainly Prashant Pandey, Shakuntala Sahu, Ishwari Netam, Tilakraj Yadav, Shivprakash Shibu, Rinku Sahu, Kanhaiya, Dimpy Singh, Ashish Agarwal, Avinash Pradhan, Satyendra Gupta, Kamlesh Singh, Ramu Rao, Goldie Soni, Rituraj Sharma and a large number of Ram devotees were also present.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 17: CA Branch Bhilai is organizing a National Women's Conference on March 18 at CA Bhawan Civic Center. The programme titled "Agasti - Connect, Inspire, Empower" is being organized by the Women and Young Members Empowerment Committee of Bhilai Branch under the joint aegis of CA Branch Bhilai, Raipur and Bilaspur.

The country's first woman IPS and former Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry Dr Kiran Bedi will be present as the chief guest. Giving information, CA Payal Naveen Jain,



Kiran Bedi

Chairperson of CA Bhilai Branch said that present as special guests will be Women and Young Members Empowerment Committee Chairperson CA Preeti Savla, Vice Chairperson of the Committee CA Abhay

Chhajed, Vice Chancellor of Hemchand Yadav University Dr Aruna Palta, Meenakshi Tuteja, Dr Akanksha Sharma, CA Riddhi Jain and CA Reena Jain. She added that the program is being organized in different sessions from 10:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs at CA Bhawan Civic Center.

CA Sapna Golcha, Dr Neha Batra, CA Manisha Biyani will be present as speakers in the programme. The coordinators of the program are CA Vidhi Lekhwani, CA Preya Sethia, CA Smita Thakur, CA Chandana Jain, CA Binny Agarwal, CA Khushboo Sanghvi, CA Hemlata Singh, CA Sukhwinder Saini.

Patil demands Organic Farming Research Centre in Bastar

**Central Chronicle News**

Bhilai, Mar 17: 94th annual convention of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research was held at S u b r a m a n y a Auditorium, Pusa, New Delhi on March 10. Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Tomar; Minister of Animal Husbandry and Dairy, Parshottam Khodabhai Rupala, along with Agriculture Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, NITI Aayog's Ramesh Chand; DG ICAR Himanshu Pathak, Secretary Sanjay Garg

were present. Dinesh Patil, agriculture expert from Chhattisgarh state, member ICAR, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India; also participated in the meeting. He spoke about the problems of farmers in Chhattisgarh.

He detailed the problem of loss of chilli crop due to black thrips and demanded from the ICAR to give the right solution so that the farmers do not face any further loss.

He suggested that the millet grains be included in the food distribution system and nutrition diet plan.

He added that agricultural industrial clusters should be created so that the tomatoes, onion etc produced by farmers could be utilised properly.

It is often seen that the farmers are not able to get expected returns by selling these crops in the markets. Wherever these crops are cultivated, industries should be set up keeping in mind the agriculture produce to benefit the farmers.

The transportation expenses would also be saved and pollution could be reduced. He demanded an organic farming research centre in Bastar of Chhattisgarh.

DPS Bhilai organises annual open day celebrations of Class-I

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 17: The 37th Annual Open Day of the Pre-Primary Wing Class One, was held on 16 March 2023 at the DPS Risali Campus with great enthusiasm and exuberance. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), BSP.

The programme was also graced by a plethora of dignitaries Nirja Kumari Singh, Prabir Kumar Sarkar, Pro-Vice Chairman, SMC, DPS Bhilai & CGM I/c (Services), BSP, Bhilai, Keka Sarkar, Mukesh Kumar Gupta, Member, SMC, DPS Bhilai & CGM (BRM), BSP, Babita Gupta, Sapatarishi Sengupta, Member, SMC, DPS Bhilai & GM (RSM), BSP, Jayati Sengupta, Dr KH Ramesh, Coopted Member, SMC, DPS Bhilai along with Dr Annapoorni and Renu Vashishta amongst the others.

The enchanting evening began with the presentation of sapling to the Chief Guest and other distinguished guests. The Chief



Guest lit the ceremonial lamp which led to an auspicious beginning of the function. The Pre-Primary Choir Group presented a melodious Welcome Song. The Principal Prashant Vashishta greeted the august gathering.

The Annual Report of the activities of the Class One was presented by the Headmistress, Junior Wing, Geeta Zunjani. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest congratulated everyone who all are associated with the school.

He requested the parents to believe in the teachers who give various op-

portunities to the children and kindle their talents. He emphasized on the motto of the school 'Service Before Self'.

The Cultural Carnival based on the theme "NATURE" began with a rhythmic dance performance "Dharti Ka Dil". The pulsating beat of our nature was showcased by 71 students of classes - 1 D & G. This was guided by Sonia Ulphas and Shubha Jiji Varghese.

This was followed by a dance drama "Panch Mahabhoota" portraying the five elements that help to understand laws of nature. This was presented



by 186 students of classes One - A, B, E, F & I.

The students were guided by Meenakshi Paul, Mona Tiwari, Sushmita Moitra, Renu Sharma, Purnima Sahu, Archana S Jashwant, Anita Mishra & Ashita Banerjee Munshi. Aryan Shah of class One B took the audience into a rhythmic journey of life with his amazing drumming skills. 71 students of classes One-C & H presented a foot tapping dance "Khushiyon Da Mela".

They captivated the gathering by displaying that nature has gifted a plethora of things which

brings happiness in our lives. They were trained by K Prasuna, Jyoti A Nair and Aarti Gupta.

Above all, the members of prefectorial body stunned the audience with their confident, brilliant and interesting compereing for the various events. The overall coordination of the programme was done by Sandhya Naidu, Sushmita Moitra, Adipti Chakraborty and Rashmi Anupam Kumar. The programme drew to a close with the vote of thanks proposed by Sushmita Moitra and concluded with the National Anthem.

Cabinet approves changes in anti-Naxal policy



● And also many drafts including the bill on Journalists Protection Act

Raipur, Mar 17: The Chhattisgarh government on Friday made changes in its anti-Naxalite policy related to compensation and other facilities, and also approved the draft of a bill that aims to enshrine protection of mediapersons in law. To enhance the quality of education in Chhattisgarh, the Education Department has been authorized to implement the World Bank Project- 'Chalk' worth about Rs 2500 cr and the

Finance Department has been authorized to give final approval to the loan.

These decisions were taken by the state cabinet at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel in the Assembly premises here. Informing reporters about the cabinet decisions, state urban administration minister Shivkumar Daharia said the draft of the 'Chhattisgarh Mediapersons Protection Bill 2023' was approved in the meeting and its details will be known once it is tabled in the Assembly during the ongoing Budget session.

Similarly, some provisions related to compensa-

tion and other facilities were amended by the cabinet in the state government's policy on elimination of Naxalism, he said. A key change in the policy will enable the family of a person from outside Chhattisgarh to receive compensation in case of death in Naxalite violence in the insurgency-affected state, he added.

Earlier, there was no provision for compensation to the kin of anyone who comes from other state to Chhattisgarh and gets killed in Maoist violence. But under the amended policy, provision for compensation has been made in such cases, the minister said. Other details of the

policy will be disclosed later, Daharia said.

Besides, the draft of Chhattisgarh Goods and Service Tax (Amendment) Bill 2023 and the Salary, Allowance and Pension of Members of Chhattisgarh Assembly (Amendment) Bill 2023; Chhattisgarh Land Revenue Code-1959 (Amendment) Bill 2023 and the draft of the Leasehold Rights to the Homeless People in Urban Areas of Chhattisgarh Bill 2023, were approved.

The cabinet also decided to appoint badminton player Akarshi Kashyap, a silver medalist in the 2022 Commonwealth Games and a resident of Durg district, as a Deputy Superintendent of Police (Class II Gazetted), Daharia said.

Cabinet has also decided to create a new post of Officer on Special Duty at Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Nava Raipur on a temporary basis for a period of one year.

HOLI MILAN



Members of Ch'garh Brahmin Samaj Central Samiti organised 'Holi-Milan' programme and variety of programmes were held on this occasion.

Opposition alleges embezzlement of ration materials of over 600 cr

● Whoever is found guilty will be jailed: Food Minister

Raipur, Mar 17: Alleging huge mess in the distribution of rice, jiggery, gram and sugar the opposition BJP MLAs today said in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly that food items worth more than Rs 600 crore, which were to reach the general public directly through ration shops, were embezzled. The opposition kept on repeatedly demanding an inquiry by the house committee. Food Minister claimed that the investigation into the matter will be over by March 24. Whoever is found guilty will be behind the bars, said the Food Minister. In view of continuous hue and cry over food distribution system the Speaker had to adjourn the proceedings of the House twice.

Raising the issue pertaining to PDS system in the question hour former Chief Minister Dr Raman



Singh asked whether the department made any rules for the surplus stock left in the ration shops? He said that about 68 thousand 930 metric tonnes of rice was to be in stock. This much quantity of rice could have been distributed upto four to five months, he said. There was over stock of ration material even in the gram panchayats, he said, adding that irregularities came to fore in 450 shops.

Food Minister Amarjeet Bhagat said that the department had been monitoring it from time to time. So far 161 fair price shops have been suspended while 140 shops have been cancelled, he informed.

Alleging embezzlement of rice worth more than 600 crore Dr Raman Singh

said that PDS system of the state had gone into the hands of middlemen. BJP MLA Shivratna Sharma said that there was no account of 68 thousand metric tonnes of rice. Leader of Opposition Narayan Chandel said that it was a matter of food grains worth 600 crore that had to be distributed among the poor. BJP MLAs started raising slogans demanding an inquiry by the committee of the House. Seeing the ruckus, Speaker Dr Charan Das Mahant adjourned the proceedings for 5 minutes. On the resumption of the proceedings, the opposition remained adamant on demanding an inquiry by the house committee. The Speaker quoted minister's reply that the investigation will be completed by 24th and action will be taken against whoever is found guilty. But the opposition legislators did not agree to this and started raising slogans. Seeing the ruckus the Speaker adjourned the proceedings again.

81 out of 286 applications for gun license in Raipur, Balodabazar rejected

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 17: Out of 286 applications received for gun license in Raipur and Balodabazar districts 81 were rejected, Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu said in Chhattisgarh Assembly on Friday. Raising the issue during the Question Hour, Balodabazar MLA Pramod Sharma asked about the rule for making gun/pistol license in the state. What are the rules and documents prescribed for its eligibility? He asked.

The process of applying for gun (pistol) license in the state is prescribed according to Chapter-2 Rule 05 of the Ordinance Rules, 2016 issued by the Government of India, Home Minister said. The determination of eligible and ineligible for license is done as per Rule 12 on the basis of documents submitted under Rule 11, he said. MLA Sharma asked how many people applied for gun license in Raipur and Balodabazar-

Bhatapara district from year 2020 to February 2023 and how many of them were granted license. How many applications were rejected? he asked.

The Home Minister said that 274 applications were received in Raipur district. Of them, 74 have been issued licenses while 125 applications are pending and 75 have been rejected, he said. Similarly, 12 applications were received in Balodabazar: license has been issued on one application, while 5 applications are pending and 6 applications have been rejected, he said.

MLA Sharma asked whether public representatives have also applied for license during the said period. The Home Minister said that no public representative in Raipur district applied for a license during the said period. MLA Pramod Kumar Sharma had submitted the application in Balodabazar district, which has been rejected after consideration.

Hundreds of CAKF call for one-day dharna today

All govt offices from Indravati to Surguja will remain closed

In support of their 14-point demand

Raipur, Mar 17: It was as per call by the Chhattisgarh Karamchari-Adhikar Federation (CKAF), the government officers and employees of the state will be on one-day strike tomorrow in support of their four-point demands. Regional convener CKAF Kamal Verma and state spokesman Chandrashekar Tiwari informed that in this around 5 lakh officers and employees would be on strike. In the first phase of strike on March 3, demonstrations were held at block, tehsil and district level and memorandum was submitted in the name of CM to the Collector. In tomorrow's 2nd phase, all officers and employees would stage one-day dharna at city's Budhatalab dharna venue.

Prominent among the 14 point demands of CAKF are: sorting out salary discrepancies of clerical grade staff; calculation of service that of LB grade and all Asst. Teachers from the first day of their service; pay discrepancies; all other benefits to Education Department; Health; women and

child development department; Forest department; animal Husbandry and other employees that this strike has been organised. The report by the Pingua Committee on 17 Sept 2021 would also be submitted to the state government. The other demand include pending 5% DA to the state employees and pensioners and HRA as per the 7th pay-scale to the central govt employees; four-stage promotional pay-scale to the state government employees as per the declarations in the Congress party's election manifesto; declaring Bus Stand Pandri as new dharna venue instead of 'Tuta' Naya Raipur. The court of 7th Additional Sessions Judge Vandana Deepak Dewangan, convicted a man Tikes Sahu in murder of his wife over a trivial issue in the year 2019 in Nava Raipur area. The court sentenced him to life imprisonment with a fine of Rs one thousand on Friday. In case of failure to deposit the amount of fine, he will have to undergo simple imprisonment for one month separately.

Additional Public Prosecutor Varsha Rathore said that the incident took place between 7 to 8 pm on May 18, 2019, in Kayabandha behind Dabraha pond of Mandir Hasaud police station area when Tikes Sahu (28), originally a resident of vil-

lage Borjhara of Bhakhara police station area of ??Dhamtari district, murdered his wife Rameshwari Goswami by hitting a piece of cement stone on her head. In fact, the deceased Rameshwari Goswami was living in village Navagaon (Rakhi) with Tikes Sahu. They often used to quarrel on domestic issues. Earlier in January 2019, Tikes injured Rameshwari by stabbing her in the neck with a vegetable-cutter. The complaint of this incident was lodged by the injured Rameshwari at the Rakhi police station. Furious over registration of crime Tikes often used to fight with Rameshwari over this matter. Tikes Sahu assaulted Rameshwari at Shanti Bai Kosle's hotel on the date of the incident. People present there advised him to calm down and asked him to leave the hotel. After this, Tikes Sahu took Rameshwari along with him to the pond and attacked and killed her there. Tikes remained absconding for several days after the incident. Apart from arresting him after registering a case of murder police presented the charge sheet in the court. Seventh Additional Sessions Judge Vandana Deepak Dewangan, while hearing the case, sentenced Tikes Sahu with life imprisonment and fine.

Vikash Group enters into Ch'garh, takes over Rungta Int'n'l School

● Academic session for 2023-24 starts

Raipur, Mar 17: Vikash, the renowned Educational Institutions of Odisha as well as in the eastern part of India has made its maiden entry in Chhattisgarh, taking over Rungta International School at Raipur and Aadeshwar Academy at Jagdalpur, under its banner, said D. Murali Chairman Vikash Group of Institution while addressing the mediapersons on Friday here. He said that Vikash Group of Institutions from Odisha has been serving Odisha and its adjacent states for



the last two decades imparting qualitative CBSE K-12 education in its 18 institutions having more than 15000 students across the state, with innovative pedagogical ideas and latest educational initiatives taken up by the Board. Murali said that students of Chhattisgarh have been preferring Vikash over two decades and it was long pending demand of

parents to start Vikash at Chhattisgarh. It's worth mentioning that both Rungta International School and Aadeshwar Academy are affiliated to CBSE, New Delhi up to Senior Secondary Level-K12. Besides, Rungta International School is the only school in the state providing the internationally accepted IB Curriculum to the aspir-

ing stakeholders. Olympiad, a unique programme at Vikash from Class VI onwards is offered to students to enable them to prepare competitive examinations after class-X. Besides, the Integrated programme for JEE/NEET/CPT for classes XI/XII along with CBSE Board Preparations is worth mentioning. Jawahar Suriseti, Executive Director, Rungta Group said that the highly effective Vikash Centralised Academic Programme will be implemented at both Rungta International School, Raipur and Aadeshwar Academy at Jagdalpur

with effect from this academic session 2023-24. Faculty Development and Capacity Building will be the integral part of the academic program, he said. Both the schools have well equipped Boarding House facilities for the Boys & Girls separately with all modern amenities to avail. Both the schools will have sporting facilities of international standards offering a number of sports and games activities including Cricket, Football, Badminton, Lawn Tennis, Swimming Pool and other Indoor Sports, he said. D Vivek Kumar, Director, Vikas Group was also present on the occasion.

40 MVA transformer energised



Raipur, Mar 17: Keeping in view the increasing demand of energy, Chhattisgarh State Power Transmission Company (CSPTCL) is continuously increasing its transmission capacity. In this series, a 132/33 KVA Kodatarai Power Sub-station, a 40 MVA (Mega Volt Ampere) capacity Transformer was energised in Raigarh district. MD Ujjwala Baghel

Company is increasing the power capacity of transformers right from urban to rural areas to ensure transmission of quality power supply. With hike of 40 MVA in Kodatarai power sub-station, the total transmission capacity in the state has reached to 22658 MVA.

At the energisation of high-tension transformer, ED Chandrashekar Singh, CE duo KK Bhagat, K Ghate, SE CM Vajpayee, RK Agrawal, EE Gunjan Sharma, JP Sidar, GR Jaiswal, Mohit Banjare, AE RK Rao, Mohan Paikra, Prem Uraon, Bajrang Vishwakarma, and other officers and employees were present.

Man gets life imprisonment for murdering wife

Raipur, Mar 17: The court of 7th Additional Sessions Judge Vandana Deepak Dewangan, convicted a man Tikes Sahu in murder of his wife over a trivial issue in the year 2019 in Nava Raipur area. The court sentenced him to life imprisonment with a fine of Rs one thousand on Friday. In case of failure to deposit the amount of fine, he will have to undergo simple imprisonment for one month separately.

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Raipur, Mar 17: The process of strengthening of booths of BJP started from Friday and this campaign would continue in entire state till March 27. It is notable here that this campaign of BJP has been launched all over the country.

BJP state gen. secy. and convener of Booth Strengthening Programme (BSP) Vijay Sharma informed that in this campaign, the BJP national and state party leaders and office bearers of BJP along with MPs, MLAs and other public representatives and office bearers of Mandal-level

would reach-out to every booth. During this there will be division of responsibilities to strengthen the booths among the party workers and make it more active. In this entire campaign, the short-term expansioners (Vistaraks) of the party would give 10-day full time in their booths and make this campaign a success. There are total of 4400 'Vistaraks' of the party all over the state and they along with the party leaders and office bearers would reach-out to the Booths under their command and hold discussions on their work-plan in detail.

On the first day of this campaign on Friday, President Draupadi Murmu delivered speech. The 'Vistaraks' under this campaign, would meet all the general public and apprise them about the central government's schemes and hold talks with the beneficiaries as well. During this they will also visit the residences of party workers residing in the booth area and hold talks with the senior party workers and review actual situation of the booth. BJP State President Arun Sao under the Booth Strengthening campaign, visited the

Mandals in Bilaspur city including ward no. 32 Vasant Bhai Patel Nagar; Booth No's 152 to 157 and in South Mandal booth from 91, 92, 95 and 95 and addressed the party workers and appealed them to strengthen their booth and pass on the schemes and achievements of PM Modi-led BJP government at the Centre to the masses and ensure that they avail its full benefit. During this former Minister and State spokesman BJP Rajesh Munat visited Shaheed Chudamani ward of Tatayapara Mandal; state gen. secy Kedar Kashyap at

Jagdish Mandal ward Narayanapur and Bangalapur; District Narayanapur; Vijay Sharma, Uma Vindhvysini Shakti Kendra Kwardha; State V-P Bhupendra Savanni at Bilha VS- Bilha Mandal- Mangala Shakti Kendra; Laxmi Verma of Balodabazar in Navapara and Jangada Shakti Kendra and former gen. secy. Kiran Dev in Jagdalpur's Bhagat Singh Shakti Kendra. Along with this other BJP office bearers and party workers took part in strengthening of their booths reaching out to different 'Shakti-kendras'.

Take up public welfare schemes of Centre to masses: Sao

Action on BJP workers reminds of Jallianwala Bagh: BJP

● The way tear gas shells were fired reminds of actions of Nadir Shah and Tughlaq: Sao



Raipur, Mar 17: Officials must stop acting cruelly at the behest of power, BJP state president Arun Sao said while talking to the reporters here on Thursday over yesterday's incident when BJP attempted to gherao state legislative assembly with the support of beneficiaries of PM Awas Yojana. About a dozen BJP workers and police personnel were injured in scuffle that broke out when BJP workers tried to broke bar-

those who are taking action at the behest of the government. You are a public servant, doing public duty. Torture against the public is not to do injustice', Sao warned.

Sao said that the beneficiaries of the PM Awas decided to go to the assembly on Wednesday but the government ordered to put barricades at various places and fire tear gas shells besides using lathis and water cannons. "This reminds of the actions of Nadir Shah and Tughlaq. The way the shells were thrown into the crowd reminds me of Jallianwala Bagh", Sao said.

The BJP tried to gherao assembly over PM Awas Yojana, but the police ad-

ministration stopped thousands of BJP workers 500 meters ahead of the assembly. Police had put up three layers of barricades. When BJP reached near third layer police used water canon besides releasing tear gas on them. A video of releasing tear gas shells is also going viral on social media. A police officer is seen throwing tear gas shells towards the crowd in this video. The shells exploded with sparks. Many shells were continuously thrown towards the crowd. Apart from this, another video is going viral, in which BJP leaders are seen demonstrating with sticks in hands.

There will be a holiday on Chetri Chand Mohatsav: CM

In Municipal Corporation and Municipality areas Baghel participated in the 63rd-anniv celebration of Sant Rajaram Sahib Ji at Shadani Darbar



Raipur, Mar 17: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel participated in the 63rd-anniversary celebration of Sant Rajaram Sahibji organized at Shadani Darbar Tirth in the state capital. On this occasion, Chief Minister Mr. Baghel declared a holiday across the state's Municipal Corporation and Municipality areas in honor of Chetri Chand Mohatsav. Prior to this, Chief Minister also welcomed 350 pilgrims from Pakistan's Sindh province to Chhattisgarh for the 63rd-anniversary celebrations of Sant Rajaram

Sahib at Shadani Darbar. On this occasion, Chief Minister Mr. Baghel complimented Shadani Darbar for organizing the visits of 122 women from Pakistan's Sindh province to a number of sacred sites in India. The 63rd-anniversary festival of Sant Rajaram Sahibji will be held in Shadani Darbar from March 14 to 17, 2023. Members of Shadani Darbar honored the Chief Minister by gifting him with a holy saropa. On this occasion, Chief Minister Mr. Baghel also launched the CD for the

film 'Dhuneshwar Mahadev'. Addressing the devotees present at the program, the Chief Minister stated that Sindh society is essentially a commercial society and that in Chhattisgarh, we have done many such works, such as loan waivers for farmers and purchase of paddy at support price, as a result of which the people's economic situation has improved. These initiatives have directly benefited Chhattisgarh's traders and as a result of this,

Chhattisgarh's markets are buzzing with activity as customers' pockets are filled with money. Despite the fact that the country as a whole was in recession, Chhattisgarh's marketplaces remained vibrant. President of Gau Sewa Aayog Mahant Swami Ramsunder Das and Peethadhish of Shadani Darbar Santashree Dr. Yudhishtir Lalji also addressed the program.

On this occasion, Peethadhish of Shadani Darbar Santashree Dr. Yudhishtir Lalji, Parliamentary Secretary Vikas Upadhyay, MLA and President of Chhattisgarh Housing Board, Kuldeep Juneja, Chairman of Gau Seva Aayog, Mahant Swami Ramsunder Das, President of Raipur Central Cooperative Bank, Pankaj Sharma, President of Sindh Academy Shri Ram Gidrani and other dignitaries were present.

'Rajim-Bandh' near total till afternoon hours

● Members of Advocates' Union, Vayapari Sangh stage protest, raise slogans



Pt. Sunderlal Sharma Chowk was echoing with slogans in protest of 'Tehsildar hatao-Rajim Bachao'. The advocates also staged dharna in Tehsil premises and they expressed gratitude to traders, and shopkeepers of making city band a grand success.

It is notable here that the advocates and traders are staging protest against misbehaviour and corruption of Tehsildar Rajim since Feb 22 and have submitted memorandum for removal of tehsildar for his alleged misbehaviour and corruption and took a decision to keep city closed for half-day till 1:00 pm to protest the same.

The Union and Vayapari Sangh claimed that the bandh called was near total. The heart of city at

Advocates' Union Mahesh Yadav has condemned the statement by Tehsildar that this movement is politically motivated. It is notable here that this movement by Advocates' Union has got support of all the parties, including Congress, District panchayat member, Janpad members and Mandi President and MLA Amitesh Shukla.

Yadav said that from Monday, March 20, they will enter serial hunger strike. V-P Advocates' Union Himanshu Dubey said that till the Tehsildar Rajim is not removed, their dharna and protest would continue and it would be intensified later, as we are getting support of all the organisations.

In this city bandh pro-

gramme, Ramakant Diwan, TR Sahu, Sanotsh Goswami, Anushashan Sahu, Arvind Sharma, Dashrath Nishad, KK Sharma, Avon Sahu, Jugul Kishore Sharma, Mahendra Soni, Bharat

Sahu, Bhuneshwar Goswami, Daneshwar Thakur, Gyanendra Sinha, Lokesh Sahu, Ramnarayan Sahu, Ajay Agrawal and other Advocates were present.

What Collector said On the other hand, when the correspondent contacted District Collector Prabhat Mallik said that no officer can be removed just by framing charges of corruption against him and it should be backed with ample proof and evidence and it should be presented before us in writing. I would get it investigated and on finding it true, due action will be taken. For a chance, they can even frame allegations against me, he added.

Amitesh hold talks with Ministers

MLA Amitesh Shukla reached Rajim at 8:00 pm and called the members of Advocates' Union for talks. President Advocates' Union Mahesh Yadav apprised Shukla about the entire situation and demanded removal of Tehsildar Rajim at the earliest.

On this Shukla said that he is trying to get Tehsildar Rajim removed and would hold talks with

few Ministers on reaching Raipur. It was at around 11:00 am that Shukla informed Mahesh Yadav and Ramnarayan Sahu of Union that talks with Minister has been held and he has sought 15 days time for removal of Tehsildar. Sahu informed that Shukla has held talks with Revenue Minister, Minister in-charge of the district for the above work.

Health Fair in Sagona, celebration of 'Nikshay Diwas'

● Oath administered to citizens for eradication of T.B.

Bemetara, Mar 17: Under the Ayushman Bharat and Health Wellness Center, according to the instructions of Bemetara Collector and District Magistrate Padum Singh Alma and under the guidance of Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. G.L. Tandon, Nodal Officer Dr. K.Sahu, and Nodal Officer of National Tuberculosis Eradication Program, a health fair called 'Amrit Mahotsav' was celebrated in Wellness Center Sagona.

On this occasion, it has been decided that the 14th of every month is to be celebrated as 'Nikshay Diwas'. In the event, common people

were given information regarding the symptoms and diagnosis/treatment of T.B. Additionally, under Tuberculosis Prevent Therapy (TPT), medicines are to be administered to people living with patients afflicted by T.B. at their homes so that people living near T.B. patients are protected from this disease.

It is noteworthy that if a person suffering from T.B. (sputum-positive patient) doesn't get proper treatment in time, they might infect and afflict 10 to 15 people in a year. The human being is a social animal and works for his livelihood in society, that is why one should help people suffering from T.B. by providing them information about its diagnosis, treatment, required diet, etc.

Anyone can help a person suffering from T.B. It was told at the health fair that this disease cannot be eradicated completely without the contribution of everyone in society. That is why everyone should contribute to the campaign run by the State Government in all villages for eradicating T.B.

An oath was administered to people for eliminating the T.B. disease in Chhattisgarh by the end of the year 2023. The Senior Treatment Supervisor from Saja Mr. Puran Anand, Community Health Officer Ms. Chanchal Sahu, ANM Dayawanti Nishad, Mitani sisters Mamta Thakur, Chameli Vishwakarma, villagers of Sagona, and schoolchildren were present on the occasion.

Ayush Health Awareness camp organized in Chhindiya village

● Patients were successfully treated; Free medicines were distributed

Central Chronicle News

Surajpur, Mar 17: A special Ayush health awareness camp was organized by the Community Health Center (Ayush Center team) of Ramanujnagar with the assistance of Sarpanch Mrs. Asha Singh and in the presence of B.M.O. Dr. D.K. Vishwakarma and

B.P.M. Sandeep Namdev in Chhindiya Village under Ramanujnagar development block.

In the camp, free medicines were distributed to patients after their treatment by the Ayush doctors Dr. Seema Tripathi, Dr. Priyanka Toppo, Dr. Ritu Shandilya, and Supervisors Vijay Singh, Devendra Dubey, Pharmacist Archana Pandey, Gyanendra Pandey, Manish, Tulesh Singh. Ayushman cards were issued to 25 villagers by Operator Akhilesh Thakur. In the

camp, the Ayush team and M.T. Mrs. Devi, Mitani Kavita, Phoolmati, Indu, Dashmet, Mankunwar, Surekha, Sandhya, Ramkunwar, Sushila, and Sarita spread awareness about Yoga and Ayurved amongst common people. 168 patients were treated in the camp. Mitani sisters were given 27 - stage Mitani training completion certificates. A large number of Mitani trainers, Mitani sisters, and villagers were present at the camp.

Land of Ch'garh is sacred and revered: Prof. Chakrawal

● Two-day national seminar organized on the theme of 'Shri Rama in the Folk Culture of Ch'garh'



Bilaspur, Mar 16: A two-day National Seminar on the theme 'Shri Rama in the Folk Culture of Chhattisgarh' was organized on March 13-14, jointly under the auspices of the Department of Hindi of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (a Central University) and Ayodhya Research Institute, Department of Culture, Uttar Pradesh. The inaugural program of the National Seminar started at 10.30 a.m. The Chief Guest of the program was Dr. Sanjay Alang, acclaimed writer and Divisional Commissioner of Bilaspur Division. The keynote address was delivered by honorable Vice-Chancellor of Indira Gandhi National Tribal

University, Amarkantak (M.P.), Prof. Prakash Mani Tripathi. The program was presided over by Honorable Vice-Chancellor of the University and patron of the seminar, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal.

In the presidential address, Vice-Chancellor of the University and the patron of the seminar, Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawal said, "The name of Rama is the source of India's perennial energy. We all are fortunate in this matter that in this country where a great man like Rama was born, we are all

moving forward as carriers of the same culture and civilization". Referring to Chhattisgarh, Professor Chakrawal remarked, "It is my good fortune that the land on which Rama spent so many days in exile is also my workplace. Since this very land really transformed Rama into Lord Rama, therefore the holy land of Chhattisgarh is sanctified and worthy of worship".

The Chief Guest, Dr. Sanjay Alang, senior writer and Divisional Commissioner of Bilaspur Division said in his address that Rama is adored all over India. Dr Alang observed, "Famous as the Nanihal of Maryada Purushottam Rama, this land still sees its nephew in the form of Rama while discharging that tradition". Referring to various places in the state, he said that Chhattisgarh has been witness to the days of Rama's struggle. Prof. Prakash Mani Tripathi,

Vice-Chancellor, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak (M.P.) said in his keynote address that the role of forest stay has been very important in the gaining of 'Ramaatva' for Rama. Only the forest dwellers truly understood the essence of Lord Rama. He pointed out, "The period from Chitrakoot to Amraket and from there to Panchavati led Lord Rama to attain Ramatva". Prof. Tripathi beautifully related the story of Kevat and Shabri and told that Shri Rama is the origin of consciousness and is present in every house in Chhattisgarh as an integral part of the culture.

Before this, flowers were offered before the statues of Maa Saraswati and Baba Guru Ghasidasji along with the lighting of lamp by the guests. During this, the Tarang Band gave a mesmerizing presentation of Saraswati Vandana and Kulgeet. After that, the guests on the stage were welcomed with saplings. The welcome address was delivered by the Dean of the School of Arts, Professor Brajesh Tiwari. The theme of the seminar was explicated by Dr. Gauri Tripathi, the Convenor of the seminar. The guests on the stage were honored by presenting Chhattisgarhi Gamcha, Shreefal and mementos. On this occasion, the souvenir of the seminar was released by the guests. The vote of thanks was presented by the Dean of the School of Arts, Prof. Brajesh Tiwari and the event was conducted by Mr. Murl Manohar Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of Hindi. Deans of various schools, department heads, teachers, officers, research scholars, and students were present in the program.

Delegation of Gond Samaj meets CM



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 17: A delegation of the Gond Samaj (community) hailing from Raigarh district led by Lailunga MLA Chakradhar Singh Sidar paid a courtesy visit to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel in his office room situated in the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly complex this evening. The delegation expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for the state government's ongoing efforts for the betterment of the tribal community and had a discussion with him about matters pertaining to the community's best interests. On this occasion Pathalgaon MLA Rampukar Singh, Sanjari Balod MLA Sangeeta Sinha, Ratan Pante, Vanmali Neti, Deepak Sidar, Balram, Bhuneshwar Porte, Mithu Lal, Shekhar Sidar and many members of Raigarh District Gond community were present.

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Balod, Mar 17: People in the state's urban areas are able to access health-care facilities close to their homes because of mobile medical unit under the Mukhyamantri Slum Swasthya Yojana (MSSY), which is in line with the intentions of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. People's time and money are saved since there are free health checkups, treatments, and medicines available to the general public close to their homes, minimizing the need for hospital visits. Meanwhile, Health team of the Mobile Medical Unit, which is

part of the Mukhyamantri Slum Swasthya Yojana, organized a health camp at the old age home in Shikaripara, District Headquarters Balod. After assessing and treating the residents' health, free medicines were given to them. The elders residing in the old age home praised the government's initiative, saying that it is a very nice scheme because they get free health check-ups and medicines every month, which they use on a regular basis. They stated that with the use of these medi-

Classifieds

दुकान

अम्नीडी मेन रोड एक्सिस बैंक ATM के ठीक बाजू में दुकान किराए से देना है, दुकान की साईज 550 वर्गफुट और 500fit mazzine floor संपर्क 9977635500

आवश्यकता

बी.ई. मेकेनिकल इंजीनियर युवक की औद्योगिक निर्माण उद्योग में आवश्यकता है, उम्र सीमा 25-30 वर्ष। वेतन योग्यतानुसार, अपना बायोडाटा व्हाट्सअप करें। मो.नं. - 99074-98222

RVS take out massive bike-rally

In support of some of their long-pending demands



Dalli-Rajhara, Mar 17:

Prior to the indefinite massive movement by Rajhara Vayapari Sangh (RVS) with demand for development in 'Loh-Nagri' Dalli-Rajhara, a massive bike-rally was taken out on March 15 in city. The traders started gathering at 'Atal Sadan' since 8:00 in the morning and in this protest, all exhibited their selfless participation.

It was for the first time in the history of city that bikers in such a large number took to streets. The businessman, traders under leadership of Govind Vadhvani amidst slogans to save the city from getting vacated, took out this bike-rally. The bike rally started from Atal Sadan at 10:30 am and passed through main-thoroughfares in city and covered 3 kms in about two hours time.

The President Rajhara Vayapari Sangh (RVS) Govind Vadhvani addressing the shopkeepers, traders and businessmen said that with iron ore from Rajhara, BSP has manufactured railway

lines and created record of length of railway tracks. But contrary to this the very city, whose soil and earth has been excavated are being deprived of basic amenities. He charged that people are being made to travel in standing position in trains and there is no one to give patient hearing to demands of common men.

Even at the time of division from Durg district and not taking action in favour of Dalli-Rajhara as district, instead Balod was declared a new district. Some of its departments were to be given to Dalli-Rajhara, but it was also denied. In support of all such demands the shopkeepers and traders of city are annoyed and demanded to rename the district as Dalli-Rajhara- Balod district and offices of few departments be opened in Dalli-Rajhara.

Shopkeepers charged that their city is going behind in terms of development, as the population of 1 lakh has reduced to now just 40000. Since there is no new industry or avenues for employment, the

traders and shopkeepers are winding up their business here. Trader informed that BJP is denying to provide even education, health and other facilities to denizens of Dalli-Rajhara and so far 7 BSP operated schools have closed-down and parents are forced to send their children for education to other cities. The Central School proposed in the city has not seen light of the day and the traders demanded opening of new Central School in city from the next academic session. For a 100-bedded hospital, the state government always makes provision in the budget prior to the election, but this time they have been promised about the same, but in ground -reality nothing is happening.

Prominent among some of the demands of RVS include opening of offices of Railway and that of State government in Dalli-Rajhara; survey for industrial city done and accordingly registration be simplified; central school be opened soon; by-pass construction be done early; Jal-Awardhan Yojana be completed soon and 100-bedded hospital be opened soon.

RVS would stage dharna on March 17 and take out 'mashal rally' and on March 18 would hold lockdown in city for indefinite period.

Take full care of the facilities of the patients: Collector



Bilaspur, Mar 17: District Collector Saurabh Kumar inspected the health facilities being provided to the patients by surprise inspection of the district hospital here and instructed the Chief Medical and Health Officer and Civil Surgeon to treat the patients with utmost sensitivity.

The Collector closely inspected various rooms including OPD room, ICU room, male and female patient ward, infant ward and nutritional rehabilitation center; HDU ward, eye ward, isolation ward, surgery ward, blood bank in the hospital.

The Collector interacted with the patients admitted in the wards and inquired about their well-being. He also took stock of OPD and inquired about the treatment being received from the patients. The civil surgeon on this occasion said that registration for OPD check-up can be done through the Abha App and there is no need to stand in

unnecessary queues for registering through the app. The Collector also inspected the Nutrition Rehabilitation Center, on which the Civil Surgeon informed that currently 7 children are being looked after in this nutritional rehabilitation center with a capacity of 15 children.

The Collector took information from the family members about the food given to the children according to the menu. He instructed to provide toys and other facilities in the play area for the children, so as to provide better care and environment to the children in the Nutrition Rehabilitation Center.

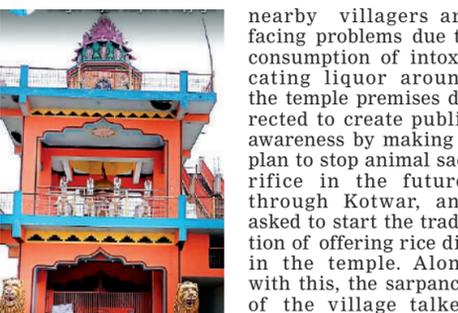
The Collector instructed the Women and Child Development Officer to identify malnourished children and get them admitted to the Nutrition Rehabilitation Center. Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. Anil Srivastava, Civil Surgeon Dr. Anil Gupta and others were present.

Discussion held with temple committee to ban animal sacrifice

In Siddhi Mata temple Berla, Mar 17:

Under the chairmanship of Collector Padum Singh Elma, a meeting of the temple committee was organized here in connection with the ritual of sacrifice being held in the historical Siddhi Mata temple of Sandi village of development block Berla. In the meeting, Superintendent of Police Kalyan Alisela, Additional Collector Dr. Anil Bajpai, Sub-Divisional Officer (R) Suruchi Singh, Deputy Collector Pinky Manhar, Tehsildar, village sarpanch secretary and members of the temple committee were present along with the CEO, and station in-charge. In the meeting, the members of the committee discussed about the sacrificial practice being held every year from Chaitra Krishna Paksha Ekam to Teras in Siddhi Mata Mandir located in the district, in which the members of the temple committee unanimously agreed to ban the practice of animal sacrifice.

They said that co-conut should be offered as a symbolic sacrifice instead of the ritual of sacrifice and



about planting trees on the side of the road leading to the temple, on which the collector agreed. Additional Collector Dr. Bajpai asked the members of the temple committee to pass a village development committee and panchayat resolution regarding not offering animal sacrifice. After the resolution is passed, if someone sacrifices an animal, fine/punitive action will be taken against him by the district administration. He said that people should be made aware through slogans and posters so that animal sacrifice can be stopped.

Committee member Dinesh Singh Thakur said that the committee members themselves want to stop this sacrificial practice, so the committee has been asked to take advice before asking for a vow to sacrifice animals in the temple premises, and in this regard a banner poster has been put up in the temple premises. Sarpanch of village Sandi said that people are creating anarchy in the land of farmers around the temple premises by consuming alcohol, due to which farmers are facing many problems in agriculture. Collector Mr. Elma said that the

Implementation of govt. schemes should be visible at the ground level: Collector

Mungeli, Mar 17:

District Collector Rahul Dev here reviewed the departmental work by taking a time-limit meeting and gave instructions to resolve the pending cases in the stipulated time. He said that the implementation of various ambitious schemes and programs of the government should be visible at the ground level and for this; all the officers should establish mutual coordination and work seriously. While reviewing the revenue cases, the Collector said that regular monitoring should be done to tighten the functioning of Patwaris and action should



also be taken against the Patwari who is late in the Patwari report. He expressed his displeasure over the non-resolving of pending cases of nomination, account division, demarcation etc. beyond the stipulated time limit. The Collector also gave strict instructions to repair all the dilapidated school buildings in the district before the school starts in the new session under the Chief

Minister's School Jatan Yojana. While reviewing the works of Jal Jeevan Mission, the Collector said that there should not be any problem related to drinking water in the district. The collector expressed his displeasure over the non-dissolving of the cases pending for more than 30 days of Jandarshan and Call Center and said that all the cases should be resolved before the time

limit. He also inquired about the regularization of unauthorized constructions. During this, it was told that 83 applications have been received under the regularization of unauthorized development in Chhattisgarh. Rs 82 lakh 77 thousand 636 has been imposed under 57 cases. Out of which Rs 15 lakh 91 thousand has been recovered so far. On this occasion Additional Superintendent of Police Pratibha Pandey, Joint Collector Namrata Anand Dongre, Naveen Bhagat, Ajit Pujari, B. R. Thakur, Deputy Collector Ajay Shatrang and officials of the concerned department were present.

Ensure speedy disposal of cases to help common men: Div.Comm

Koriya, Mar 17:

Divisional Commissioner Dr. Sanjay Alang here inspected Tehsil office along with Baikunthpur Revenue Sub-Divisional Officer along with Collector Vinay Kumar Langleh.

The Commissioner observed the working of various branches of these offices, the register maintained and their maintenance. He also observed the ongoing and resolved cases. Dr. Alang also closely inspected the functioning of revenue courts in SDM and Tehsil offices. He reached the Courts, WBN, Naib Nazir, Kanungo etc. branches



and took information from the concerned in-charge about their responsibilities and methods of working and also gave necessary guidelines. He instructed to keep WBN Vasil, rest of Navis branch updated. 'Do map correction

work by running a campaign' Koriya: Divisional Commissioner Dr. Alang also held a review meeting of revenue officers and instructed to start a special campaign regarding map improvement. He said that make

a strategy and start the work of map updation as a campaign. He said that Patwari's should do the work of map correction daily and Tehsildar should take its report. He also instructed all the SDMs for speedy disposal of cases under Section 170B and asked to inform the concerned police station after taking action on the bound over so that cooperation can be made in maintaining law and order. Deputy Commissioner Neelam Toppo, Baikunthpur SDM Ankita Som, Sonhat SDM Amit Kumar Sinha, Tehsildar and Naib Tehsildar were present on this occasion.

Holi Milan prog held in PCD



Dongargarh, Mar 17:

A Holi-Milan programme for the registered members of the Press Club of Dongargarh (PCD) was held at Achouli Rest House here on Thursday. On this occasion the Press

Club members applied 'Gulal' to each other and exchanged greetings. It is notable here that the Holi Milan programmes by PCD is organised every year on Holi.

On this occasion the members applying 'Gulal'

to each other and expressed their views to strengthen the organisation and maintain brotherhood and unity. On this occasion President PCD Uttam Samundre, Secretary Khoochand Choudhary, Treasurer Mahesh Sahare; Vilas Jambhulkar; Deepak Sakhare; Rohan Sinha; Richard John; Uttam Choure; Ashok Aambade; Pramod Shukla; Mahendra Sharma; Krishna Sahare; Sheikh Jafar; Ali Aashu; Sangkriti Nandeshwar; Sachin Jambhulkar and others were present.

PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING DUAL NAME

It is informed to general public that my client, ARVIND KESHARWANI, S/o S.K. KESHARWANI KESHARWANI W/o ARVIND KESHARWANI, Resident of Banyapara, Ward No.16, Tilda-Neora, Raipur, District Raipur (C.G.) who is known as ARVIND KUMAR KESHARWANI, S/o S.K. KESHARWANI. The names ARVIND KESHARWANI and ARVIND KUMAR KESHARWANI both are the same person. My client's children can use the name ARVIND KUMAR KESHARWANI for making any documents for any purpose.

Raipur, Dilip Jha (Advocate) Raipur, Chhattisgarh Date: 17/3/23

PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING DUAL NAME

It is informed to general public that my client, Smt. MEENA KESHARWANI W/o ARVIND KESHARWANI, Resident of Banyapara, Ward No.16, Tilda-Neora, Raipur, District Raipur (C.G.) who is known as MEENA DEVI KESHARWANI, W/o ARVIND KESHARWANI. The names MEENA KESHARWANI and MEENA DEVI KESHARWANI both are the same person. My client's children can use the name MEENA DEVI KESHARWANI for making any documents for any purpose.

Raipur, Dilip Jha (Advocate) Raipur, Chhattisgarh Date: 17/3/23

कार्यालय मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र, रायपुर (छत्तीसगढ़)

उद्योग भवन, तुलीय तल, रिंग रोड नं.- 01, रायपुर Phone No. 0771-2438450, Email ID: dtcraipur@gmail.com

आम सूचना

एतद द्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि, छत्तीसगढ़ स्टेट इन्डस्ट्रियल डेवलपमेंट कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड, रायपुर (छ.ग.) के द्वारा औद्योगिक क्षेत्र भनपुरी, जिला - रायपुर में स्क्रबा 9600 वर्गफीट भूमि का आबंटन 99 वर्ष हेतु मेसर्स युनाइटेड सर्विस स्टेशन, पार्टनर - श्री रामकिशन कलश, पिता-स्व. श्री बृधराम कलश, निवासी- सिविल लाईन, 20.7 - रायपुर (छ.ग.) को किया जाकर संबंधित भूमि के पट्टामिलेख का निष्पादन दिनांक 20.07.1984 को किया गया।

इकाई के पार्टनर-श्री रामकिशन कलश का निधन दिनांक 16.08.2021 को हो जाने के कारण उनके पुत्र- श्री योगेश कलश, पिता-स्व. श्री रामकिशन कलश द्वारा भूमि अंतरण/ हस्तान्तरण किये जाने हेतु वसीयतनामा दिनांक 21.05.2021 एवं लिखित शपथ पत्र दिनांक 22.09.2022 व 06.02.2023 संवत्करण कर आवेदन जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र, रायपुर में प्रस्तुत किया गया है, जिसके परिप्रेक्ष्य में जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र, रायपुर द्वारा छत्तीसगढ़ औद्योगिक भूमि तथा भवन प्रबंधन नियम 2015 की केंडिका 3.4.1.2 (31) के प्रावधानों के अंतर्गत आबंटि द्वारा किये गये वसीयतनामा के आधार पर रक संबंधी में पौत्र- आदित्य कलश, पिता-श्री योगेश कलश, दादाजी-स्व. श्री रामकिशन कलश के नाम पर हस्तान्तरण आदेश पारित किया जाना है। संबंध में संबंधित परिवार के किसी लेख उतराधिकारी / किसी व्यक्ति / संस्था / बैंक आदि को कोई इकाई के स्वामित्व में परिवर्तन करते हुये, उक्त संपत्ति को पौत्र- आदित्य कलश, पिता-श्री योगेश कलश, दादाजी- स्व. श्री रामकिशन कलश, मेसर्स युनाइटेड सर्विस स्टेशन, औद्योगिक क्षेत्र भनपुरी, जिला-रायपुर के नाम में लीज डीडी में संशोधन कर पट्टामिलेख का निष्पादन किया जाना है।

यदि उक्त इकाई की संपत्ति के रक संबंधी अंतरण/ हस्तान्तरण / संव्यवहार एनाम परिवर्तन के संबंध में संबंधित परिवार के किसी लेख उतराधिकारी / किसी व्यक्ति / संस्था / बैंक आदि को कोई उतर दावा या आपत्ति हो तो इस सूचना प्रकाशन के 30 दिवस के भीतर लिखित आपत्ति मय पृष्ठ दर्तावेबों सहित अधोस्तुतकारकर्ता के समक्ष प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं, निर्धारित समयावधि के पश्चात प्रस्तुत की गई आपत्ति अवैधानिक एवं शून्य होगी।

(ए.एच. यचदानी) मुख्य महाप्रबंधक दिनांक 27/02/2023

न्यायालय जिला दण्डाधिकारी रायपुर नोटिस

क्रमांक / 25 व-121/2022-23/20 रायपुर, दिनांक 20 फरवरी, 2023 प्रति.

1. किशोर कुमार मजूमदार व. कामला लक्ष्मी
2. माया मजूमदार
म. नं. 83/बी/1 कुख्या नागर, बोरिया रोड, राजेश स्टील, रायपुर

आवेक प्राधिकृत अधिकारी शुभम हाउसिंग डेवलपमेंट फायनेंस कं. शाखा कार्यालय आमपारा जी.ई. रोड रायपुर की ओर से शिला पाठक अधिवक्ता द्वारा आवेदन पत्र/ शपथ पत्र मय दर्तावेज प्रस्तुत कर, आवेदन पत्र से आपके कंपनी ने 16,56,394.00 रुपये का ऋण दिया था, और किशोर कुमार मजूमदार के स्वामित्व की अचल संपत्ति कंपनी के पक्ष में बंधक रखी गयी है। आपके द्वारा ऋण की अदायगी नहीं की जा रही है। जिसके कारण कंपनी ने आपके अधिनियम की धारा 13 के तहत नोटिस जारी किया गया कि आप ऋण की अदायगी मय ब्याज एवं अन्य शुल्क रुक्या 3,99,993.00 अदा करें, अन्यथा बंधक रखी गई संपत्ति कंपनी अपने हक में प्राप्त कर लेगी कि जाकरारी दी जाकर, कंपनी के पक्ष में आपके द्वारा लिये गये ऋण के एजमेंट में बंधक रखी संपत्ति का कब्जा दिलाये जाने का निवेदन किया है।

2) आपने प्राधिकृत अधिकारी शुभम हाउसिंग डेवलपमेंट फायनेंस कं. शाखा कार्यालय आमपारा जी.ई. रोड रायपुर से 16,56,394.00 रुपये का ऋण प्राप्त कर नौजा टिकरापारा प. ह. नं. 114 रायपुर स्थित ख. नं. 540/8 का भाग रुक्या 1500 वर्गफुट कंपनी के पक्ष में बंधक रखा है।

3) अतः आपके द्वारा लिये गये ऋण के एजमेंट में उपरोक्त बंधक रखी गई अचल संपत्ति को वित्तीय अस्थिरता का प्रतिनिधिकरण और पुनर्गठन और प्रतिभूति हित प्रवर्तन अधिनियम 2002 की धारा 14 में प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुये वकील न आदित्य कलश ने लेने की कार्यवाही की जावे। आप स्वयं अपना अपने नियुक्त अधिष्ठापक के माध्यम से ऋण से संबंधित एवं बंधक रखी गई संपत्ति से संबंधित दर्तावेज लेकर मय प्रस्तुत करने हेतु इस न्यायालय में पेशी दिनांक 27.03.2023 को ठीक 3.00 बजे उपस्थित होना सुनिश्चित करें। नियम विधि में उपस्थित नहीं होने की दशा में आपके विरुद्ध एक पक्षीय कार्यवाही की जाकर, प्रकरण में निर्णय ले लिया जायेगा।

आज दिनांक 20 फरवरी, 2023 को मेरे हस्ताक्षर एवं न्यायालय की मुहर से जारी किया गया।

जिला दण्डाधिकारी, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

AVANSE FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED

Regd. and Corporate Office address: Fulcrum Business Centre, 001 & 002, A Wing, Next to Hyatt Regency Hotel, Sahar Road Andheri (East), Mumbai-400 099 Maharashtra.

POSSESSION NOTICE

(As per Appendix-IV, Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized officer of the Avanse Financial Services Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 23rd June 2022, calling upon the Borrower(s)/Co-borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s)/Directors(s): 1) Gem Learning Services Private Limited, addressed at: NIBF Academy, NH 30, Mana Basti, Dhamtari Road, Raipur, Chhattisgarh 492001, 2) Biswajit Chatteraj, plot no- 6, Awanti Uddyan road, Maitri Kunj, Risali Bihai, Civic Centre, Bihai, Chhattisgarh- 490006, 3) Manomohan Chatteraj, Jhansi H No - 11, Shanti Vihar Colony, Behind Piccadeli Hotel, G.E. Road, Mohba Bazar, Tatibandh, Raipur, Chhattisgarh- 492099, 4) Satendra Shrivastava, 5) Shikha Shrivastava, H No - 08, Phase -02, Daldal Seoni Road, Harsh Vihar, Sardhu, Raipur, Chhattisgarh- 492007, 6) Sikshoday Education and Research Foundation, H No -08, Phase 2, Harsh Vihar, Daldal, Raipur, Chhattisgarh- 492007, 7) Soumi Chatteraj, plot no - 6, awanti uddyan road, maitri kunj, risali bihai, civic centre, bihai, chhattisgarh- 490006 all residing at, to repay the amount mentioned in the notices being Rs. 3,28,59,045/- (Rupees Three Crore Twenty Eight Lakhs Fifty Nine Thousand & Forty Five Only) as on 23rd June 2022, i.e. Rs. 2,79,10,173/- (Rupees Two Crore Seventy Nine Lakhs Ten Thousand One Hundred & Seventy Three Only) in Loan Account No. RAIE00021, Rs. 41,70,923/- (Rupees Forty One Lakhs Seventy Thousand Nine Hundred & Twenty Three Only) in Loan Account No. RAICE00167800 and Rs. 7,77,949/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Seventy Seven Thousand Nine Hundred & Forty Nine Only) in Loan Account No. RAICE00274552, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices.

The Borrower(s)/Co-borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s)/Directors(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Co-borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s)/Directors(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Physical Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on this 15th day of March, 2023.

The Borrower(s)/Co-borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s)/Directors(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Avanse Financial Services Limited for a total amount Rs. 3,28,59,045/- (Rupees Three Crore Twenty Eight Lakhs Fifty Nine Thousand & Forty Five Only) as on 23rd June 2022, i.e. Rs. 2,79,10,173/- (Rupees Two Crore Seventy Nine Lakhs Ten Thousand One Hundred & Seventy Three Only) in Loan Account No. RAIE00021, Rs. 41,70,923/- (Rupees Forty One Lakhs Seventy Thousand Nine Hundred & Twenty Three Only) in Loan Account No. RAICE00167800 and Rs. 7,77,949/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Seventy Seven Thousand Nine Hundred & Forty Nine Only) in Loan Account No. RAICE00274552 and interest thereon.

The Borrower(s)/Co-borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s)/Directors(s) attention is invited to the provision of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Plot No. I-II, comprising area 1500 Sq. Ft. or 139.40 Sq. Mt., comprised in Part of Khasra Nos. 4142, 4152, 658/1, 659/1, 669/1, 673, 674/1 & 675, situated at Mouja Kapa, P.H. No. 109, R.I.C. Raipur-1, Tahsil & District Raipur (C.G.), (hereinafter referred 'said property' forshort).

Date: 15.03.2023 Authorised Officer, Avanse Financial Services Ltd.

यूको बैंक UCO BANK

Pandri Branch (2030) H 109/110, I G V P Pandri Raipur (C.G.) 492005 Tel No. 0771 - 4037264 / 2583564 email - pandri@ucobank.co.in

APPENDIX IV POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) {RULE 8(1)}

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the UCO Bank, Pandri Branch under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002(No.54 of 2002) and in exercise of Powers conferred under Sub-Section (12) of Section 13 read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Act, 2002, issued Demand Notices as below mentioned calling upon the Borrower & Guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and interest thereon within 60 days from date of the receipt of the said notice.

The borrower / guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 said rules on this the date mentioned below. The borrower & guarantor 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 UCO Bank, Pandri Branch for amount mentioned below and interest thereon.

The borrower and / or guarantor attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sl No.	Name & Address of the Borrower & Co-Borrower	1) Date of Demand Notice 2) Possession Notice	Outstanding Amount	Description of Immovable property
1.	Borrower- Mr. Amit Lalwani S/o-Mr. Shyam Lalwani, Co-Borrower- Mrs. Mushkan Lalwani W/o-Mr. Amit Lalwani, Both of their Add- Amilidh, PH No. 114/45, New 69 Municipal, Raipur, Tehsil & Dist- Raipur, (C.G.)-492001	(1) 03.11.2022 (2) 14.03.2023	Rs. 19,63,543.14/- (as on 31.12.2022 inclusive of interest upto 31.12.2022) + other charges thereon	An area of Ready built house in Part of khasra no. 192 /30 situated at Amilidh, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Ward No.46, PH No. 114/45 new 69, within Sub-Registrar office of Raipur, Dist. Raipur (C.G.) comprising area 500 Sqft. having built up area 300 Sqft. each on Ground Floor & First floor. The above Sale Deed registered in Sub Registrar office, Raipur, vide Book No.- 1, Vol. No. 74497, Page No.126 to 148, Sale Deed Serial No. 4914 dated 28.01.2021 and bounded by North: Land of Ranjana Ben Solanki, South: Land of Prakash Kadu, East: Road, West: Land of Santosh Jain.

Date : 18.03.2023, Place : Raipur AUTHORIZED OFFICER, UCO Bank

BRIEF



President Droupadi Murmu hands over a copy of booklet 'Chuvadu' to the Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan during the silver jubilee celebrations of the Kudumbashree, in Thiruvananthapuram, Friday.

AYUSH centres

Jaipur: Rajasthan has 1,000 operational health and wellness centres under the central government's National AYUSH Mission, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Tika Ram Jolly informed the assembly on Friday. Jolly added that 914 men and 823 women had been appointed as yoga instructors on a part-time basis at these centres.

Bike collision

Bhadoli (UP): Two men were killed in Mangapatti village here after their bikes collided with each other, police said on Friday. The victims were identified as Nebulal, 38, and Anant Lal, 60, Unj Police Station SHO Chhotak Yadav said. The SHO said that after the collision, their bikes got dragged for about 25 metres, injuring the two drivers severely. Nebulal died in the district hospital where he was taken after the incident, while Anant Lal was referred to Varanasi, where he succumbed late in the night.

Mamata meet

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is likely to call on his Odisha counterpart Naveen Patnaik on March 23 during a two-day visit to the neighbouring state, a senior party leader said on Friday. The Trinamool Congress supremo will also offer pujas at the Jagannath Temple in Puri during the tour. "She (Banerjee) will meet Naveen Patnaik on March 23," senior TMC leader and Lok Sabha MP Sudip Bandyopadhyay said.

Thunderstorms

Bhopal: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday said that thunderstorms accompanied by lightning, hail and gusty winds were likely in parts of Madhya Pradesh. The alert, valid till Saturday morning, came after parts of MP received light rain in the 24 hours ending 8.30 am.

Criminal detained

Thane: A 27-year-old criminal involved in several serious crimes has been detained for a year by the police in Maharashtra's Thane district, an official said on Friday. The accused has been detained under the Maharashtra Prevention of Dangerous Activities (MPDA) Act and was sent to Nashik Central prison on Thursday, he said.

Question Hour in Assembly disrupted over death of two tribals

Congress member walks out in tears

Bhopal, Mar 17 (PTI): The Question Hour of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly witnessed chaos on Friday over the death of two tribal persons, including a woman, owing to protests by Opposition members.

As soon as the House assembled for the day's proceedings to start with the Question Hour, Opposition legislators Bala Bachchan, Kantilal Bhuria and Sajjan Singh Verma raised the issue of deaths in Mhow, some 25 kilometres from Indore.

Verma said the woman's parents and the man killed in police firing have been booked.

Following the death of the 22-year-old tribal woman earlier this week, members of her community on Wednesday protested outside a police station. During the protest, police opened fire, killing a tribal man.



Congress MLA Vijay Laxmi Sadho gets emotional while addressing the media along with party MLAs to raise the issue of the death of a tribal woman in Dongargaon, during ongoing budget session, in Bhopal, Friday.

Legislative Affairs Minister Narottam Mishra said the "short" post-mortem report of the woman suggests that she died of electrocution.

He said a first information report (FIR) has been registered against 13-17 persons on the basis of CCTV footage of the violent protest in which a po-

lice inspector sustained grave injuries to his eye.

Dissatisfied by the reply, the Opposition continued to raise the issue, prompting Speaker Girish Gautam to adjourn the entire hourlong Question Hour.

When the House re-assembled for the Zero Hour, Congress member Vijaylaxmi Sadho again raised the tribal deaths in Mhow. Mishra said the Opposition was playing politics over dead bodies.

With folded hands, Sadho requested the speaker to allow her to raise the matter. But the speaker started conducting the listed business amid the bedlam.

Sadho, in tears, along with other women members, walked out of the House.

This was the second day, the House saw din over the death of the tribal man and woman.

AP CM reiterates familiar demands with PM yet again

Amravati, Mar 17 (PTI):



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being presented a memento by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy in New Delhi, Friday.

Special category status, funds for Polavaram project, and pending state bifurcation promises are some of the many demands reiterated yet again by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy during his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday. Nine years after the bifurcation of united AP and several rounds of discussions, Reddy appealed to Modi on living up to the promise of according Special Category Status, which brings a host of benefits such as grants and tax concessions, benefiting large scale industries and the services sector among others. Likewise, he requested the Prime Minister to sanction Rs 10,000 crore in an ad hoc manner to advance Polavaram project rapidly, besides immediately approving Rs 55,548 crore for the same project as estimated by the Technical

Advisory Committee, including treating drinking water supply component as a part of it.

"I appeal that the Polavaram project flood victims be compensated as soon as possible. I would like to bring to your notice that as the delay increases, the cost of the project increases. Delays can be avoided if this assistance

is provided to flood victims in a DBT manner," the CM observed. Similarly, he urged Modi to raise the credit limit from Rs 17,923 crore which was cut down from Rs 42,472 crore post-COVID-19 pandemic as well as reimbursing the arrears of Rs 2,601 crore incurred by the state government as part of the Polavaram project.

Paper leak: TSPSC cancels three more recruitment tests

Hyderabad, Mar 17 (PTI):

Amid protests by opposition parties and students' groups over the alleged question paper leak of a recruitment test, the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) on Friday cancelled the Group-I preliminary exam and two other tests.

The Commission said in a release that the decision to cancel the Group-I exam held in October last year and the AEE and DAO tests (held this year) was taken after examining the report of the SIT of Hyderabad Police and an internal enquiry conducted by the Commission.

It was decided to conduct the Group-I

Preliminary Examination on June 11 again, the release said adding the dates for two other examinations would be notified shortly.

The Commission on March 15 had cancelled the Assistant Engineers (AE) exam held on March 5, following allegations of the question paper leak.

Nine people, including an Assistant Section Officer in the TSPSC, two candidates and a police constable were arrested on March 13 over their alleged involvement in the data breach, for stealing and leaking of TSPSC's Assistant Engineer (Civil) examination question paper. The exam was held on March 5. The prime accused in the case had ap-

peared for the Group-I preliminary examination and allegedly secured 103 marks, though he did not get the final selection.

The Congress, BJP and different students' organisations, including ABVP, SFI, have been protesting, demanding an inquiry by a sitting judge and stringent punishment to those responsible for leaking the question paper.

Telangana BJP president and party MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar and other party leaders were today prevented by police from marching towards the TSPSC office from the Telangana Martyrs Memorial in front of the state Assembly. They were taken into preventive custody and later released.

Probe agencies have no evidence against Sisodia only 'fabricated' stories: Raghav Chadha

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTI):

AAP leader Raghav Chadha on Friday claimed that central probe agencies only have "malicious and fabricated stories" against former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and have been asking him the same questions.

Sisodia has been under ED custody since March 9 over a money laundering case related to the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy. He was first arrested by CBI in the same case on February 26.

In another press conference, AAP leader Sanjay Singh alleged that Sisodia has been treated even "worse than a terrorist." Chadha said that the Enforcement Directorate officers have questioned Sisodia for only 15 hours during his 7-day remand. Addressing a press conference, Chadha claimed the CBI and the ED don't have any evidence against Sisodia and he is behind bars as a result of BJP's "politics of revenge." "The BJP is scared of AAP and has started a politics of revenge. CBI and ED don't have any evidence against Manish Sisodia. They only have concocted

stories against him. When the court said that CBI took Sisodia on remand, interrogated him and did not find anything against him, they got ED to frame more false cases against him," Chadha alleged.

"The central agencies only have malicious and fabricated stories against him. The CBI and the ED asked the same questions to Sisodia during his interrogation and the purpose of doing this was to keep Sisodia behind the bars," he alleged.

Sanjay Singh said that the extension of ED custody for Manish

Sisodia has "no context." "BJP's dictatorship will not be tolerated and the whole country is watching how the party is misusing the central agencies. A leader who sacrificed his life for transformation of Delhi's education has been targeted. Even a terrorist is not treated in such a manner," Singh said.

Sisodia has been lodged in Tihar jail in connection with a Central Bureau of Investigation case pertaining to alleged corruption in the formulation and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy for 2021-22.

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DOCTORS' STRIKE



Patients wait in a long queue to receive treatments following the doctors' day-long strike under the banner of Indian Medical Association (IMA), in Thiruvananthapuram, Friday.

Two teachers identified as masterminds of Class 10 paper leak: DGP

Guwahati, Mar 17 (PTI):

Two teachers have been identified as the masterminds of the Class 10 question paper leak, Assam Director General of Police G P Singh said on Friday.

One of them has been detained, while the other, who was absconding, surrendered before police during the day.

"We have been able to establish the chain of events leading to the leak of the question papers and circulation. We have enough physical evidence with us in the case," Singh told a press conference.

Singh said the head-teacher and centre in-charge of Luhit Khabalu High School of Majuli,

Union Minister reviews progress of Model Gram Panchayat project

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTI):

Union Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh on Friday reviewed the progress of the project that aims to create 250 model gram panchayat clusters across India.

Speaking on the occasion, Singh emphasised on a holistic development of the gram panchayats covered under 'Project for Creating 250 Model Gram Panchayat Clusters across India.'

He stressed that Young Fellows working in remote areas should set an example with community participation to ensure that more children than ever receive quality education and students do not drop out of school, according to an official statement.

Kerala Assembly adjourned for third consecutive day over UDF uproar

Thiruvananthapuram, Mar 17 (PTI):

The Kerala Assembly's proceedings were disrupted for the third consecutive day as the House was adjourned within minutes of its commencement on Friday following protests by the opposition UDF over the registration of non-bailable cases against its legislators in connection with the ruckus in front of the Speaker's office two days ago.

Uproar erupted after the Speaker A N Shamseer refused to allow Leader of the Opposition V D Satheesan to raise the issue during Question Hour. Though Satheesan was allowed to speak for some time, the Opposition alleged the mike was turned off later. Protesting the Chair's deci-

sion, the angry opposition members trooped into the well of the House amid sloganeering, forcing the Speaker to adjourn the House for the day.

The Kerala Police had registered cases against MLAs of the opposition Congress-led UDF, the ruling LDF and a few marshals in connection with the ruckus in front of the Assembly Speaker's office on Wednesday.

While speaking to reporters in the media room later, Satheesan said non-bailable cases were registered against seven opposition MLAs, while bailable sections were charged against the ruling CPI(M) legislators in the incident. He said the opposition's right to bring pressing issues

of people under Rule 50 in the House has been continuously denied as the government does not want to face questions and criticisms against it.

The LoP said no matter how evasive the Chief Minister was, questions would be asked to him continuously. Making it clear that the Congress-led opposition would not cooperate with any of the programmes organised by the government, he said they were planning to take their agitation out of the House.

Hitting back at the Opposition, CPI(M) State Secretary M V Govindan said that the large participation of people in the ruling party's ongoing march and the good work of the second Pinarayi

Vijay/an government has left the Congress and the UDF in trouble. "The reason for the crazy behaviour (in the Assembly) is the realisation that they will have to be in the opposition in the next Assembly elections as well", he told reporters here.

The Assembly complex had witnessed unprecedented scenes on Wednesday when a section of UDF legislators who marched to the office of Speaker Shamseer, accusing him of being biased in the House, got into a scuffle with the House Marshals.

At least four Opposition MLAs and seven watch-and-ward staff who were injured in the exchange have sought treatment at various hospitals here, sources had said.

China appeals for fair treatment after latest TikTok bans

Beijing, Mar 17 (AP):

China appealed on Friday to other governments to treat its companies fairly after Britain and New Zealand joined the United States in restricting use of TikTok due to fears the Chinese-owned short video service might be a security risk. Governments are worried TikTok's owner, ByteDance, might give browsing history or other data about users to China's government or promote propaganda and disinformation. "We call on the countries concerned to recog-

nise the objective facts, effectively respect the market economy" and provide "a non-discriminatory environment" for all companies, said foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin. TikTok is one focus of conflicts between China and other governments over technology and security that are disrupting processor chip, smartphone and other industries. Legislators and employees in New Zealand's Parliament will be prohibited from having TikTok's app on phones, the government said on Friday. Britain announced a ban

on Thursday on TikTok on all government phones. In February, the White House told federal agencies to delete TikTok from government-issued mobile devices within 30 days. Congress, the US armed forces and more than half of American state governments prohibit use of the app by their employees. India has banned TikTok and dozens of other Chinese apps, including the WeChat message service, on security and privacy grounds. The United States also has imposed restrictions on access by Chinese companies to processor chip

and other technology on security and human rights grounds. The Chinese government accused Washington of spreading false information about TikTok following a report by The Wall Street Journal that US authorities were considering a ban if ByteDance doesn't sell the company. The ruling Communist Party blocks most internet users in China from seeing TikTok and thousands of social media and other websites. ByteDance operates a sister short-video service, Douyin, that can be seen in China.

ICBM launch was response to rivals' drills: North Korea

Seoul, Mar 17 (AP):

North Korea said Friday it fired an intercontinental ballistic missile to "strike fear into the enemies" as South Korea and Japan agreed at a summit to work closely on regional security with the United States and staged military exercises around the region. The missile was launched Thursday morning hours before South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol met with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida at a summit partly aimed at rebuilding security ties between the U.S. allies in the face of North Korean nuclear threats. With four missile displays in about a week, North Korea has ratcheted up its tit-for-tat response to ongoing U.S.-South Korean



An intercontinental ballistic missile in a launching drill at the Sunan international airport in Pyongyang, North Korea.

military drills that are the biggest of their kind in years. The Biden administration wants better South Korea-Japan ties, which declined over historical issues in recent years, as it pushes to strengthen its alliance network in Asia to counter the North Korean nuclear threat and China's

rising influence. Aside from their combined exercises that began Monday and run through March 23, the United States and South Korea are also participating in anti-submarine warfare drills, along with Japan, Canada and India, that began Wednesday. North

Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said leader Kim Jong Un supervised the test-firing of the Hwasong-17 missile and stressed the need to "strike fear into the enemies" over what it called the "open hostility" shown to the North by the U.S.-South Korea exercises. Launched at a high angle to avoid the territory of North Korea's neighbors, the missile reached a maximum altitude of 6,045 kilometers (3,756 miles) and traveled 1,000 kilometers (621 miles) before landing in waters off the country's eastern coast, KCNA said. The South Korean and Japanese militaries assessed the flight similarly, indicating the the U.S. mainland is within the missile's range.

Russia to award pilots involved in US drone incident

Moscow, Mar 17 (AP):

Russian fighter pilots involved in an incident with a US drone that resulted in its crash while given state awards, the Defence Ministry announced Friday. The move appears to signal Moscow's intention to adopt a more aggressive stance toward future US surveillance flights. The US military said it ditched the Air Force MQ-9 Reaper in the Black Sea on Tuesday after a pair of Russian fighter jets dumped fuel on the surveillance drone and then one of them struck its propeller while it was fly-

ing in international airspace. Moscow has denied that its warplanes hit the drone, alleging that it crashed while making a sharp maneuver. It said that its warplanes reacted to a violation of a no-flight zone Russia has established in the area near Crimea amid the fighting in Ukraine. On Friday, Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu lauded the pilots for preventing the drone from flying into the area that Moscow has banned for flights. The Defence Ministry said the ban was "in line with international norms." Moscow's an-

ouncement comes a day after the US military released a declassified 42-second colour footage showing a Russian Su-27 fighter jet approaching the back of the US drone and releasing fuel as it passes in what appeared to be aimed at blinding the drone's optical instruments to drive it from the area. On a second approach, either the same jet or another Russian Su-27 that had been shadowing the MQ-9 struck the drone's propeller, damaging a blade, according to the US military, which said it then ditched the aircraft in the sea.

10 killed in fire in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province

Peshawar, Mar 17 (PTD):

At least 10 people of a family were killed and three injured when the roof of their house collapsed after catching fire in the mountainous district of northwest Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province on Friday, rescue authorities said. The fire occurred due to short-circuiting, officials in the Seri Pattan area of the lower Kohistan district said. The dead and injured belong to the same

family, rescue officials from lower Kohistan and Shangla districts said. Three persons were rescued during the search and rescue operation. The injured and dead bodies have been shifted to the district hospital. The majority of the houses in mountainous districts of the province are made of wooden materials. Governor KPK Haji Ghulam Ali and caretaker chief minister Muhammad Azam Khan expressed their grief and sorrow over the tragic incident.

HYDROGEN TRAIN



A hydrogen train has left the station of Wehrheim near Frankfurt, Germany, Friday, March 17.

Digital, legal services to benefit from UK-India FTA: London Lord Mayor

London, Mar 17 (PTD):

Ahead of the next round of free trade agreement (FTA) talks set to take place later this month between the UK and Indian government representatives, the Lord Mayor of London will arrive in Mumbai on Saturday for a five-day visit to India to explore bilateral investment opportunities. Alderman Nicholas Lyons, the 694th Lord Mayor who represents the financial hub of London globally, said the prospect of greater cooperation in the field of digital and legal services is among the expected outcomes of an FTA. The UK and India have been in discussions for an

FTA since January last year and, according to official estimates, the bilateral trading relationship worth GBP 34 billion in 2022 is expected to get a significant boost with such a deal. "While free trade agreements are negotiated by government representatives, my role as Lord Mayor of the City of London is really around financial and professional services and the city can see particular interest in three areas: investment, digital and legal services," the Lord Mayor said on the eve of his India visit. "I think it's fair to say that in the aftermath of Brexit, we are stepping up significantly our engagement with some of our

most important allies and trading partners, and India, of course, is very much one of those," he said. During his two-city visit to Mumbai and Delhi, Lyons would be meeting senior government and business leaders, with a particular focus on the financial services sector and India's successful Aadhaar card rollout. "One thing that I have particularly asked to have some insights into is the way that India has responded to the problem of many Indians failing to have access to financial services. The brilliant initiative taken several years ago to use digital identification, rather than a lot of paperwork, opening up financial services to over

300 million Indians is really a brilliant example of financial inclusion," said Lyons. "And I would like us in the UK to learn from that because there is probably between 10 and 20 per cent of our population in the UK that does not have access to legacy financial services. So clearly, the solutions are ones of FinTech and digital. And I'm very interested to know more about that," he said. Besides such two-way exchanges, the Lord Mayor's visit is expected to cover growth areas of green and clean tech finance and also to highlight London's role as the hub for tracking the world's climate action ambitions.

Xi to visit Russia for talks with Putin to boost ties

Beijing/Moscow, Mar 17 (PTD):

Chinese President Xi Jinping will travel to Moscow on a state visit on Monday for crucial talks with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin during which he is expected to pitch for peace talks to end the raging Ukraine conflict. Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying, in a brief announcement, said on Friday that "at the invitation of President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation, President Xi Jinping will pay a state visit to Russia from March 20 to 22". Later, answering a spate of questions about whether Xi will promote peace talks between Russia and Ukraine to end



the war, another Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told the media: "We always believe political dialogue is the only way to resolve conflicts and disputes". Xi's visit to Russia comes days after China clinched the Iran-Saudi Arabia peace deal, regarded as a diplomatic coup, aimed at expanding Beijing's role in world hotspots to end con-

flicts. Beijing has not condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine and continues to maintain close political, trade, and military ties with Moscow. Referring to a 12-point position paper issued by China earlier to end the Ukraine conflict, Wang said the document "fully lays out China's fair and objective position on the Ukraine issue". "Fanning flames during the fight and imposing unilateral sanctions will make matters worse," he said, in a veiled dig at the US and EU's firm backing of Ukraine. Asked whether Xi will speak to Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy about the peace deal, Wang said:

"China will uphold an objective and fair position on the Ukraine crisis and play a role in promoting talks for peace". "China's position is consistent and clear. We maintain communication with all parties," he said. This will be Xi's first visit abroad after getting endorsed for an unprecedented third five-year term as President and head of the military early this month by the National People's Congress (NPC), China's Parliament. Wang also sought to play down US warnings to China not to supply weapons to Russia, saying "China-Russia cooperation is completely above board and shall be free from disruption or coercion from any third party".

Anger spreads in France over Macron's retirement bill push



Protesters stand in a cloud of teargas after a demonstration in Paris, Thursday, March 16, 2023. French President Emmanuel Macron has shunned parliament and imposed a highly unpopular change to the nation's pension system, raising the retirement age from 62 to 64.

Paris, Mar 17 (AP):

Protesters disrupted traffic in Paris on Friday as angry critics, political opponents and labour unions around France blasted President Emmanuel Macron's decision to force a bill raising the retirement age from 62 to 64 through parliament without a vote. Opposition parties were expected to start procedures later Friday for a no-confidence vote on the government led by Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne. The vote would likely take place early next week. Macron ordered Borne on Thursday to wield a special constitutional power to

push the highly unpopular pension bill through without a vote in the National Assembly, France's lower house of parliament. His calculated risk infuriated opposition lawmakers, many citizens and unions. Thousands gathered in protest Thursday at the Place de la Concorde, which faces the National Assembly building. As night fell, police officers charged the demonstrators in waves to clear the Place. Small groups then moved through nearby streets in the chic Champs-Elysees neighborhood setting street fires. Similar scenes repeated themselves in numerous

other cities, from Rennes and Nantes in eastern France to Lyon and the southern port city of Marseille, where shop windows and bank fronts were smashed, according to French media. French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin told radio station RTL on Friday that 310 people were arrested overnight. Most of the arrests, 258, were made in Paris, according to Darmanin. The trade unions that had organised strikes and marches against a higher retirement age said more rallies and protest marches would take place in the days ahead. "This retirement reform is brutal, unjust, unjustified for the world of workers," they declared. Macron has made the proposed pension changes the key priority of his second term, arguing that reform is needed to keep the pension system from diving into deficit as France, like many richer nations, faces lower birth rates and longer life expectancy. Macron decided to invoke the special power during a Cabinet meeting

a few minutes before a scheduled vote in the National Assembly, where the legislation had no guarantee of securing majority support. The Senate adopted the bill earlier Thursday. Opposition lawmakers demanded the government to step down.

Lahore HC grants protective bail to Imran Khan in seven cases



Lahore, Mar 17: The Lahore High Court has granted protective bail

to former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan in seven cases. Khan appeared before the court seeking protective bail in nine cases hours after another top

court suspended non-bailable arrest warrants against the ousted premier till March 18. Khan has been resisting arrest in the Toshakhana case and is holed up inside his

Zaman Park residence in Lahore surrounded by hundreds of his supporters, who have fought pitched battles with the police over the past few days.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, CIRCLE NO-1 RAIPUR (C.G.)

Tender Notice (1st Call)

Online tenders are invited in Form C Online from Manufacturer or authorized dealer for the Following Works :-

NIT No./ System Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable amount of contract
184/126889	Purchase of Universal Testing Machine 1000kn Capacity for Steel Testing & Automatic Modified Marshall Apparatus & Mastic Asphalt Tester for Bitumen Testing Lab of Central Quality & Research Laboratory of Public Works Department Raipur	Rs. 40.26 Lakh

Last date of tender Download Date up to 29.03.2023 Time 17:30 PM

Note :- All eligible/interested contractors are mandated to get enrolled on the e Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Superintending Engineer P.W.D. Raipur Circle No-1 Raipur (C.G.)

G-99356/1

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India

Bank of India - Champa Branch, Opposite Trimurti Talkies, Korvapara, Champa District Janjgir Champa, Chhattisgarh. Pin-495671. e-mail:Champa.raipur@bankofindia.co.in, Tel No. 07819245800

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act)

A notice is hereby given that the following Borrower(s) (Borrower), and guarantor have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notices were issued to them under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known addresses, now they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

Name of the Borrower / Guarantor & Address	Details of Properties/ Address of Secured Assets to be Enforced	Date of Notice (As on the date of notice)	Amount outstanding + Int. + Other Charges since
Borrower- M/s Mohan General Stores, Proprietor Mr Radheysham Chetani S/o Shri Narayan Das, Near Jaiswal Bahawan, Barrier Chowk, Champa Tehsil, Janjgir Champa, Chhattisgarh-495671. Guarantor:-Mr. Manoj Virani S/o. Gopiram Virani Kadam Chowk, Santoshi Mandir, Champa, Tehsil Champa, District Janjgir Champa, C.G.-495671	1. Hypothecation of Stocks of General Items, Beauty Products, Cosmetic items etc. 2. All the Piece of Land of Residential House Property situated at Khasra No. 510/2, Da. Part of Kh. No. 511/2 Da. Area 1140 Sft, PH No. 4, Sonapara Ward, Ward No. 6, Tehsil Champa, District Janjgir Champa, Chhattisgarh 495671 in the name of Shri Radheysham S/o. Late Shri Narayan Das Chetani. Boundaries:- North-House of Vinod Kumar, South-House of Smt Lata Dhamecha, East-Road, West-Land of Sharma Maharaj, East-Raasta, West-Land of Dakula.	28.09.2022	₹ 19,67,114.46/- + Int. + Other Charges since 21.08.2021
Borrower:-M/s New Sai Mobile, Proprietor Shri Pawan Yadav S/o Shri Dhanraj Yadav 8, Near Dewangan Dharamsala Thana Para, Champa, Chhattisgarh-495671	1. Hypothecation of Stocks of Mobiles, Mobile Accessories, recharge coupons, laptops etc. 2. All the piece of Land situated at Khasra No 102/1Kha, PH No 21, Mouza Jagdalla, Nagar Palika Parishad Champa, Ward No 21, Gurughasidas Ward, Block Baloda, RNM Champa, District Janjgir, Champa, Chhattisgarh, admeasuring 0.05 Acre/0.020 Hectare/202.6 Sqmtr in the name of Manohar Yadav S/o Shri Dayaram Yadav Boundaries:- North-Land of Anand, South-Land of Sharma Maharaj, East-Raasta, West-Land of Dakula.	28.09.2022	₹ 19,67,114.46/- + Int. + Other Charges since 21.08.2021
Borrower:- Mr Manohar Yadav S/o Shri Dayaram Yadav, Nayapara, Near Santoshi Chowk, Blaspur, Chhattisgarh	1. Hypothecation of Stocks of Mobiles, Mobile Accessories, recharge coupons, laptops etc. 2. All the piece of Land situated at Khasra No 102/1Kha, PH No 21, Mouza Jagdalla, Nagar Palika Parishad Champa Ward No 21, Gurughasidas Ward Block Baloda, RNM Champa, District Janjgir Champa, Chhattisgarh, admeasuring 0.05 Acre/0.020 Hectare/202.6 Sqmtr in the name of Manohar Yadav S/o Shri Dayaram Yadav. Boundaries:- North-Land of Anand, South-Land of Sharma Maharaj, East-Raasta, West-Land of Dakula.	28.09.2022	₹ 6,25,084.37/- + Int. + Other Charges since 21.06.2019

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above Borrower(s) and for their Guarantor(s) (whenever applicable) are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : 18.03.2023, Place: Champa Authorised Officer, Bank of India



CENTRAL Chronicle

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Hyperinflationary Catastrophe

A Perilous Ordeal for Emerging Markets

India's economy is experiencing an inflation crisis, with the country's retail inflation breaching the Reserve Bank of India's tolerance limit in January 2023, and accelerating to 6.52 per cent. Rising food prices, particularly of cereals and protein items, have played a significant role in driving inflation upwards. However, inflation is not just a problem for India, as many developing economies in Asia are also facing the same challenge. The global economy is currently facing downside risks due to several factors, such as high unemployment, subdued growth, and renewed stress in the euro area periphery. While some emerging economies are experiencing buoyant activity, inflation pressures are emerging, and there are signs of overheating. The International Monetary Fund has warned that the global economy could be in jeopardy unless wealthy countries show more resolve in attacking debt problems, and emerging powerhouses keep their simmering economies from boiling over. Inflation has become a serious issue in several emerging markets, requiring policymakers to try to slow the flow of capital rushing into their economies. However, steps that could sharply curb growth and demand for commodities if they are not implemented carefully. Furthermore, many countries' freelance experiments with capital controls have included efforts to keep their currencies from further appreciating, reinforcing an obstacle in the way of a balanced global economy. The production of fruits and vegetables in India may fall by around 30 per cent this season as farmers report damages to their crop due to high temperatures. Rising food costs show that inflation would hardly rebound in the coming months, indicating that inflationary pressure, at best, could be temporary. The ongoing situation has raised concerns that a probable economic slowdown could lead to retrenchments. Although some quarters suggest that more toughness is necessary, too much tightness could hurt the growth rate. The European Central Bank chief Jean-Claude Trichet has called for more action among monetary authorities worldwide, stating that all central banks, in periods like this where inflationary threats that are coming from commodities, have to be very careful that there are no second-round effects on domestic prices. The foremost question for central banks is whether raising rates would tame inflation. If some degree of inflation is imported, the regulator may not do much to prevent the prices for imported food and fuel from rising. The possible effects of the rise in the tax also have to be a factor that could bring in a one-off event that probably skews the inflation figures. It is better not to forget that necessary shifts in demand around the globe are happening steadily, as are efforts to bolster banks' abilities to withstand economic shocks. Developing economies such as India are facing an inflation crisis that policymakers must take measures to address. However, steps to curb inflation should be implemented carefully to avoid a sharp curbing in growth and demand for commodities. Central banks must also consider whether raising rates would be an effective solution to the inflation crisis, given that some degree of inflation is imported. Finally, there is a need for financial reform in advanced economies, action on the euro zone, and policies to keep inflation in check in key emerging economies to address the downside risks to the global economy.

UNIVERSAL INTERNET ACCESS BY 2030

Dr Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

It is true that achieving sustainable development is considered as being dependent on having widespread access to the internet because it is commonly known that the internet is a crucial tool for improving social, economic, and political conditions. The United Nations has set a goal of achieving universal internet access by 2030 as part of its Sustainable Development Goals. In general, gaining universal internet access is critical for promoting equity, education, and economic growth as well as being necessary for creating a more connected and inclusive society. The number of people who use the internet continues to increase as well; according to the most recent data, the number of people who were online increased by around 100 million people in the year leading up to January 2023. By the end of 2023, two-thirds of the world's population should be online, according to current trends. But still, a 2021 report from the International Telecommunication Union claims that 4.7 billion people, or about half of the world's population, lack access to the internet (ITU). People in developing nations, rural areas, and underprivileged groups are disproportionately impacted by lack of internet access. There are several initiatives underway to increase internet access and bridge the digital divide. Several technologies are being investigated to increase internet access, including mesh networks and low-earth orbit (LEO) satellites. Fiber-optic internet that can provide internet connection to remote areas using decentralised, community-owned infrastructure. Broadly speaking, the goal of universal internet access is to provide everyone the chance to participate fully in the digital age and to create a more just and inclusive world.

Central Chronicle invites articles, write-ups, and comments on a wide range of issues for our editorial page. Submissions should be between 800-900 words in length. In addition, we welcome letters to the editor for this page. While letters may be edited for clarity, we aim to preserve the integrity of the original message, and ask that they be kept to around 50-60 words. Submissions can be sent via email to editor@centralchronicle@gmail.com.

EXHIBITION



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and others at an exhibition, 'Geoffrey Bawa: It is Essential to be There' after its inauguration, in New Delhi, Friday, March 17.

Unlocking Chhattisgarh's Export Potential

MKN, RAIPUR



Chhattisgarh has immense potential for exports due to its rich mineral resources and the state government's initiatives to promote industrial growth and attract investments. The Industrial Policy 2019-24 aims to further boost Chhattisgarh's export potential by implementing various policies and initiatives. As of September 2021, Chhattisgarh's exports were primarily dominated by the iron and steel sector, followed by ores and minerals, aluminum, and power. The state's exports have shown steady growth in recent years, with total exports increasing from US\$2.85 billion in 2015-16 to US\$3.77 billion in 2020-21. However, compared to other states in India, Chhattisgarh's exports are relatively small. As of 2021-22, Chhattisgarh ranked 17th among Indian states in terms of total exports. The top exporting states in India are Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Telangana, which collectively account for more than 60% of India's total exports.

The Chhattisgarh government has been making efforts to boost its export potential and has significant potential for exports due to its rich mineral resources. The recent Export Outreach programme held in Nava Raipur saw the active participation of government officials, representatives from various industries, and exporters, who discussed the preparations required to increase exports from the state. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Government of India, is conducting such programs in 75 districts of the country with potential for exports.

Chhattisgarh has two districts, Raipur and Durg, selected for this program, with the aim of developing these districts as export hubs. The program provided information about exportable products from Chhattisgarh and the government facilities available for exporters. According to the Collector of Raipur district, Dr. Sarveshwar Bhure, there has been an average increase of more than 22 percent in exports from the state in the last five years, thanks to government policies and facilities.

The Collector also emphasized the potential for exports of wire, rods, bars, coils, TMT bars, crude steel, and forest produce like tamarind, mahua, lac, and small grain millets Kodo Kutki Ragi, among other products. The state government has set up export promotion councils, which provide a platform for exporters to interact with government officials and discuss export-related issues. The councils also provide exporters with information about export markets, export regulations, and export-related incentives. The government also provides various incentives to exporters, such as exemption of 5% in mandi fees, and formation of promotion committees to support and promote the exporting industry. Chhattisgarh has two operational inland container depots (ICDs), located in Raipur and Durg, and plans to set up more in the near future. The ICDs play a crucial role in facilitating the movement of export cargo from the production centers to the ports, enabling exporters to save time and reduce transportation costs.

Chhattisgarh's strategic location, with borders to six other states and proximity to major ports, makes it an ideal gateway for exports to neighboring countries. The state government should explore new markets, such as Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan, and facilitate the establishment of trade agreements to enhance exports to these markets. To maximize Chhattisgarh's export potential, the government needs to diversify its export basket and promote the development

of export-oriented industries in other sectors, such as textiles, agro-based products, and pharmaceuticals.

Chhattisgarh has several industrial areas, including Bilaspur, Raipur, Korba, Bastar, Durg and Mahasamund. The predominant industries in these regions are mining and agriculture and steel. Mining is a major industry in Chhattisgarh because of the rich mineral resources that the state has. The state is acknowledged as a power surplus state and ensures an uninterrupted 24x7 power supply across the state. Korba district in Chhattisgarh is known as the "Power Capital of India" due to the presence of several thermal power plants. The state government is also working on developing infrastructure, such as roads, rail networks, and ports, to enhance the state's connectivity and facilitate exports. Chhattisgarh has a well-connected network of roads and railroads, which makes it an ideal location for exports. Major highways, including National Highways 6, 30, 43, and 53, pass through the state, connecting it to major cities and ports. The state government has also proposed the construction of 12 new national highways and the expansion of 14 existing highways to further improve connectivity.

Railway is a popular mode of transport in Chhattisgarh, with several major railway stations located in the state, including Bilaspur, Raipur, Durg, and Korba. The state is also home to several major railway lines, including the Howrah-Nagpur-Mumbai line, the Bilaspur-Katni line, and the Bilaspur-Nagpur line. The state government is working on expanding the railway network by constructing new railway lines, upgrading existing ones, and improving railway stations. Chhattisgarh has several airports, including Swami Vivekananda Airport in Raipur, which is the primary airport in the state, as well as other regional airports in Jagdalpur, Bilaspur, and Ambikapur. In terms of air connectivity for exports, Raipur is the main district

with air cargo facilities. Swami Vivekananda Airport in Raipur has dedicated cargo terminals for the handling of air cargo. The airport has direct cargo flights to major cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, and Kolkata, making it a convenient location for exporters in the state. In addition to Raipur, Bilaspur and Jagdalpur also have airports with domestic connectivity, but they may not have dedicated cargo facilities.

However, the state government has been taking steps to improve air connectivity and infrastructure in the state to promote exports, including the development of new airports and upgrading existing ones. The upcoming greenfield airport in Rajnandgaon is expected to further boost air connectivity and cargo handling in the state. While Chhattisgarh has significant potential for exports due to its rich mineral resources and government initiatives, it faces some challenges such as poor logistics infrastructure and a lack of diversification in its export basket. The state is heavily dependent on a few sectors for its exports, primarily iron and steel, which account for a significant proportion of the state's total exports.

To address these challenges, the government needs to diversify its export basket and promote the development of export-oriented industries in other sectors, such as textiles, agro-based products, and pharmaceuticals. The government should also focus on developing the logistics infrastructure, such as roads, rail networks, and ports, to reduce transportation costs and enable exporters to reach their markets more efficiently. Chhattisgarh's potential as an exporting hub is undeniable, and the state government's efforts to support and promote exports are commendable. However, there is a need to address the concerns raised by exporters and explore new markets to maximize the state's export potential. With continued government support and collective efforts from stakeholders, Chhattisgarh can become a major player in the exporting world.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Russia-US hostility

The hostility between Russia and the US is not a new phenomenon. The tension between the two nations has been there for a long time, whether it was the Ukraine war or World War II. Even during the Second World War, there was tension between the Soviet Union and the US, and two opposing camps were formed in the world. The underlying issue is a battle for supremacy. It has been over a year since the Russia-Ukraine war began, and neither country has shown any signs of ending it. The US's support for Ukraine is also a significant factor contributing to the ongoing conflict. Unfortunately, the world is suffering due to the enmity between these two nations. The ongoing hostility between Russia and the US has a detrimental effect on global peace and security. The world cannot afford to have these two powerful nations engaged in a perpetual state of conflict. It is imperative that both sides find a way to resolve their differences and work towards creating a peaceful and stable world.

Manoj Kumar, Raipur

Discuss basic issues

The current state of affairs in Parliament is pathetic. The elected representatives of the nation have a responsibility to discuss and resolve the issues being faced by the citizens. Unfortunately, the functioning of Parliament has come to a standstill for the past three days due to the ego clashes among parliamentarians. The recent controversy over Rahul Gandhi's London remarks and the Opposition's demand for a probe into the Adani scam has resulted in a complete stalemate in Parliament. Both the ruling party and the Opposition seem to have taken a stance with scant respect for the citizens of the nation. The average cost of running Parliament is Rs 2.5 lakh per minute, and many valuable hours are wasted due to these unnecessary disruptions. It is disheartening to see that important issues like price rise and unemployment are being ignored due to the ongoing political drama. The ruckus in Parliament must stop, and our elected representatives must focus on the basic issues that are affecting the citizens of the nation.

Shiv Kumar Mishra, Raipur

EC appointments

The recent Supreme Court verdict on EC appointments will address the conflict of interest inherent in the current selection process and maintain transparency in the appointment of Election Commissioners. The Election Commission of India (ECI) is a critical constitutional body that is responsible for overseeing the conduct of elections. The commission's impartiality and credibility are essential for a free and fair electoral process. However, in the past, allegations of partisanship have been leveled against the EC due to the way the commissioners were appointed. The Supreme Court's verdict will help in maintaining the EC's credibility by ensuring that the appointment process is transparent and impartial. It is a significant step towards restoring public faith in the electoral process.

Mona Singh, by mail

HISTORY CAN NEVER BE REWINDED

Kajal Chatterjee

Rightly has the Supreme Court underscored India's secular nature with the assertion that India can't afford to be a prisoner of the past. After all, no sane society cares to exhaust precious time and energy to undo "wrongs" of the much distant past because history cannot be rewinded. If each and every ethnic/religious/caste/color group or nation starts revisiting the history books (real or imaginary), then the international community will have to abandon all work for the present and future and get fully engaged in "correcting" the past.

Despite the constant rhetoric of India's "liberalism", the fact remains that infinite cases of social atrocities have been committed upon the "untouchables"

and women folk in this "great" land in the name of caste and religious rituals since centuries. Are the self-declared guardians of Hindus and India ready to express apology to it? Will Maharashtra agree to say sorry to West Bengal and Bangladesh for the atrocities committed on undivided Bengal by the Maratha Bargis in the 18th century? When will the Hindutva brigade beg the pardon of Muslims for the pogrom in Gujarat (2002) with its perpetrators handed adequate punishment? Who will express apology to the Muslims for demolishing Babri Masjid or to the Christians for burning churches at Kandhamal, Orissa? Will Maharashtra or Shiv Sena ask the Tamils to pardon them for the atrocities on the latter in Mumbai in the sixth decade of the earlier century? Why don't

the rabidly patriotic Indians set up their own house in order to make the country a better place to live in instead of "amending" historical "wrongs"? Billions of Indians are languishing in abject poverty, hunger, malnutrition, joblessness and dying like mice and rats without receiving minimum medical service.

Millions of Indians have to venture to war-scarred countries of West Asia, North/Central Africa to act as labourers/nurses in slave-like conditions by mortgaging/selling their only piece of land just to escape drastic poverty back home. Less said about the plight of the army of child labourers the better. Yet, far from solving such Himalayan problems plaguing the nation so as to put a modicum of balm on vulnerable souls; we are witnessing how precious mone-

etary resources, energy and time are being recklessly squandered in the name of epic heroes, temples, Ramayana museum or "discovering" the Saraswati river. The sane humanitarian elements among Indians feel disgusted and ashamed on witnessing such Hindutva extravaganza when billions of our own fellow citizens are simply gasping for breath in an ocean of adversities. However "scandalised" might the Bhakts feel on witnessing structures bearing Islamic legacy in India (just like Dharhara/ Gyanvapi/ Razia Sultan Masjid in Varanasi); they will either have to bear with it as history cannot be rewinded (unless that dark episode of 6th December 1992 gets repeated). Rather true Indians of secular vintage feel proud of multi-religious multi-

cultural Varanasi/ India and wish the same Hindu-Muslim syncretic culture rule the roost throughout this democratic land of diversities forever with the intolerant communal lot getting consigned to the dustbin of history.

Though the Supreme Court has rightly rejected a plea to set up a "renaming commission" on historical, cultural and religious places; but can the institution prevent "Hindu-isation" of Islamic places if passed by any state Assembly by virtue of brute majority as Uttar Pradesh has already done to "purify" Mughalsarai and Allahabad. Lastly it's a wonder how do the "nationalists" afford to tolerate the Independence Day lecture of the Prime minister from the ramparts of that specimen of "bondage"-Red Fort.

(Views are personal)

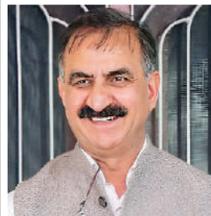
BRIEF

Elected chairman



Chennai: President and managing director of auto-major Volvo Group India Kamal Bali was on Friday elected chairman of the Confederation of Indian Industry, Southern Region for the period 2023-24. Managing director of Tamil Nadu based Chandra Textiles Pvt Ltd R Nandini was elected deputy chairperson. Bali, a member of the CII National council, earlier served CII Southern Region as its deputy chairman and was the past chairman of CII Karnataka in 2017-18, a press release said.

Budget presentation



Shimla: Himachal Pradesh chief minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Friday presented the first annual budget in his tenure for the financial year 2023-24 in the state assembly. The chief minister announced that Himachal Pradesh will be made the model state for adopting electrical vehicles in the state's public transport. A total of 1,500 diesel buses will be replaced at a cost of Rs 1,000 crore, he said. In order to boost tourism, Sukhu said that Kangra district will be developed as the tourist capital and all 12 districts will be connected with heliport facility in the next one year.

Customer deliveries

Mumbai: K Krithivasan, chief executive officer-designate of the country's largest software services major TCS, on Friday said the company doesn't have a culture of making radical strategic changes when it gets a new chief and sounded sanguine about doubling down on customer deliveries. The USD 25-billion software giant in a surprise announcement on Thursday said Rajesh Gopinathan, its CEO for more than six years with over four years left to his second five-year term, has decided to move on from September 15.

Appointment



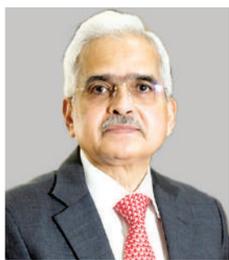
New Delhi: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance on Thursday named ICICI Bank veteran Anup Bagchi as its MD & CEO with effect from June 19. Bagchi will take over as the chief executive of ICICI Prudential Life from N S Kannan, who will superannuate on June 18, 2023.

RBI gov Das cautions banks against any build-up of asset-liability mismatches

Mumbai, Mar 17:

Reserve Bank governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday cautioned banks against any build-up of asset-liability mismatches, saying both are detrimental to financial stability and hinted that the ongoing crisis in the US banking system seems to have emanated from such mismatches.

Delivering the annual KP Hormis (Federal Bank founder) commemorative lecture in Kochi this evening, the governor was quick to acknowledge and assure that the domestic financial sector is stable and the worst of inflation is behind us. Amid the continuing volatility in exchange rates, especially due to the excessive appreciation of the US dollar, and its impact on the external debt servicing ability of nations, Das said,



"We have nothing to fear as our external debt is manageable and thus appreciation of the greenback does not pose any problem to us".

The governor focused most of the speech on India's G20 presidency and in this context, he called for more coordinated attempts by the group of the world's 20 largest economies to help those countries with high external debt risks due to the US dollar rise. He also said the grouping must provide

climate change financing to most affected countries on a war footing. On the US banking crisis where two mid-sized banks (Silicon Valley Bank and First Republic Bank) with over USD 200 billion in balance sheets each went belly up last week, he said the ongoing crisis drives home the importance of robust regulations that focus on sustainable growth and not excessive build-up either on the asset side or liability side. Das, without naming the US bank, said that on the face of it, one of them had unmanageable deposits in excess of their assets side business.

Das, who has been an open critic of private digital currencies, said the ongoing US banking crisis also clearly shows the risks of private cryptocurrencies to the financial system.

Markets extend gains in see-saw trade; metal, banking stocks sparkle

Mumbai, Mar 17:

Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty overcame bouts of volatility to settle in the green for the second straight session on Friday, propped up by robust demand for the metal, banking and financial stocks amid a firm trend in global equities. Besides, a strengthening rupee and lower crude prices in the international markets also influenced sentiments here, traders said. In a volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose 355.06 points or 0.62 per cent to settle at 57,989.90. During the day, it hit a high of 58,178.94 and a low of 57,503.90. The broader NSE Nifty gained



114.45 points or 0.67 per cent to end at 17,100.05. "The Nifty witnessed a volatile day of trade today. It witnessed sharp swings

in both directions and ultimately closed in the green for the second consecutive day... We believe that the pullback rally has

Petrol, diesel sales drop after February fireworks

New Delhi, Mar 17:

India's fuel demand fell in the first half of March after posting a record growth in the previous month, preliminary industry data showed on Thursday. Fuel sales soared to the highest levels in February on the back of robust demand from the agriculture sector as well as transport picking up after the winter lull. March saw the seasonal slowdown kicking in with rise in temperatures. Petrol sales decreased by 1.4 per cent to 1.22 million tonnes in the first half of March when compared with the same period of last year. Sales fell 0.5 per cent month-on-month, the data showed. Diesel, the most consumed fuel in the

country, saw demand slip 10.2 per cent to 3.18 million tonnes during March 1 to 15 when compared with 3.54 million tonnes sales in the same period a year back.

Month-on-month the demand was down 4.6 per cent. During the first half of February, petrol consumption had jumped by almost 18 per cent year-on-year while diesel sales were up nearly 25 per cent. The consumption of petrol in the first half of March was 16.4 per cent more than Covid-marred first half of March 2021 and almost 23 per cent more than in the same period of 2020. Diesel consumption was up 11.5 per cent over the first half of March 2021 and 20.2 per cent higher than 2020.

No proposal to reduce subsidy on fertilisers: Govt

New Delhi, Mar 17:

The government on Friday said that there is no proposal to reduce subsidies on fertilisers in the country. Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers Bhagwanth Khuba, in his written reply to the Lok Sabha, said, "No such study to understand the impact of reducing fertiliser subsidy on farmers has been conducted so far." In a separate reply, the minister said the government at present has no plan to control the rates of P&K fertilisers under the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) scheme.

The government provides subsidy on both urea and non-urea fertilisers to

MOU SIGNING CEREMONY



Union Minister of Steel and Civil Aviation, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia releases a Brochure on 'Pellets Industry in India' prepared by PMAI at MoU signing ceremony between Ministry of Steel and Steel companies under PLI scheme for specialty Steel, at Vigyan Bhawan, in New Delhi, Friday, March 17.

Cement cos likely to invest Rs 1.2 lakh cr to add 145-155 MT capacity by FY27: Report

Mumbai, Mar 17:

The continuing demand for housing, accounting for 60-65 per cent of cement demand, and aggressive government investments in infrastructure will drive demand, nudging cement-makers to add

145-155 MT in fresh capacity at an investment of Rs 1.2 lakh crore by FY27, according to a report. With 570 million tonne (mt) of installed capacity, India is the world's second-largest cement producer after China. Between FY12 and FY23, the installed capaci-

ty grew by a whopping 61 per cent to 570 MT from 353 MT in FY12 — a net addition of 217 MT from 2013 to 2022 — and FY22 saw the highest capacity addition of 34 MT. Cement companies are expected to go on an expansion spree, and add 145-155 MT capacity

between FY 2023 and 2027. That translates to a 4-5 per cent compound annual growth rate on a high base. A robust 6-7 per cent CAGR expected in demand over these five fiscals will encourage the growth in supply, Crisil said in a note.

Govt plans to introduce PLI 2.0 for specialty steel: Scindia

New Delhi, Mar 17:

The government is planning to introduce the second edition of the PLI scheme for specialty steel to boost production of value-added steel in the country. Union Minister of Steel Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Friday. The minister was speaking at the PLI Scheme for Specialty Steel MoU signing event in the national capital. It was attended by the companies selected to invest under the Rs 6,322-crore scheme. "Today is an important day in the history and future of the steel industry. PLI 1.0 is not a full stop, it is the beginning of the journey. Our ministry is already looking at PLI 2.0," he informed the partici-



pants of the first edition of PLI for specialty steel. The minister further asked the industry stakeholders to share their suggestions and feedback so the next PLI Scheme for specialty steel can be prepared at the earliest. As many as 27 steel companies signed 57 memorandums of agreements (MoUs) with the Ministry of Steel at the event to produce coated/plated steel prod-

ucts, high strength/wear-resistant steel, specialty rails, alloy steel products, steel wires and electrical steel. This will see an additional investment of Rs 30,000 crore in the domestic steel sector, leading to a capacity addition of 25 million tonne per annum and creating 55,000 new job opportunities. Minister of State (MoS) for Steel Fagga Singh Kulaste said the scheme has received tremendous response from interested parties and will prove to be a "game changer" for the industry.

The country is moving towards the increased output of value-added steel and usage of new-age technologies in the sector, he added.

Vedanta appoints Omar Davis as its President-Strategy

New Delhi, Mar 17:

Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta on Thursday announced the appointment of Omar Davis as its President Strategy. Davis will work closely with Vedanta chairman Agarwal to lead the Group's strategic initiatives and will be based out of the group's London office.

A seasoned natural resources banker, Davis has an experience of 25 years in the industry, Vedanta said in a statement. Most recently, prior to his appointment, he worked with Bank of America as the bank's global head of metals and mining for corporate and investment banking. "We welcome Omar to our company... His lead-

ership skills and strategic acumen will be of immense value in driving Vedanta's growth vision," Agarwal said.

Davis will lead engagement with globally recognised and leading financial partners and drive synergies as the company progresses with its vision to unlock value across its asset base.

"I am excited to work with the talented team to develop and execute strategies that will drive growth and create value for all our stakeholders," Davis said. Vedanta Group has significant operations in oil and gas, zinc, lead, silver, copper and iron ore among others and is foraying into semiconductors business.

Trouble in Credit Suisse unlikely to impact India's banking system: Experts

New Delhi, Mar 17:

India's banking system is expected to remain unscathed from the troubles in Credit Suisse as it has a very small presence in the country, experts said. Although Credit Suisse is more relevant to India's financial system than Silicon Valley Bank (SVB), it has very limited operations, according to a report by Jefferies India. The Switzerland-based bank, the report said, "has less than Rs 20,000 crore in assets (12th among foreign banks), presence in the derivatives market and funded 60 per cent of assets from borrowings, of which 96 per cent are up to two months. Still, it's small for the banking sector with 0.1 per cent share of assets." Zurich-head-

quartered Credit Suisse operates in India with just 1 branch. "Given the relevance of Credit Suisse to India's banking sector, we see softer adjustments in assessment of counterparty risks, especially in the derivative market," it said. Meanwhile, the RBI is keeping a close tab on the evolving situation caused due to shuttering of a few banks and stress in other global lenders, sources said. "We expect RBI to keep close watch on liquidity issues, counterparty exposures and intervene as necessary. This may also lead to institutional deposits moving more towards larger-quality banks," the report said. According to veteran banker Uday Kotak, who also managing director of

Kotak Mahindra Bank, India's macroeconomic factors are turning better and it can stand out in this global financial turmoil. "Even as the global turmoil continues in financial markets, the macro factors are turning better for India. Current account deficit looks below 2.5% FY 23, and going below 2% in FY 24. Lower oil helps. If we walk our talk and navigate well, India can stand out in this turbulence," Kotak said in a tweet. Foreign banks have a relatively smaller presence in India with 6 per cent share in total assets, 4 per cent in loans and 5 per cent in deposits. They are more active in the derivative markets (forex and interest rates) where they have 50 per cent share. Most of

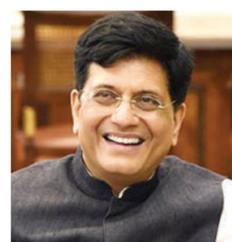


them are present as branches of the parent bank with only a few present as wholly-owned subsidiaries. However, Swiss National Bank (SNB) came to the rescue of Credit Suisse with a USD 54-billion lifeline to shore up its liquidity. In its statement on Thursday, Credit Suisse said it would exercise an option to borrow from the central bank up to 50 billion Swiss francs (\$54 billion). Credit Suisse is the first major global bank to be given an emergency lifeline since the 2008 global meltdown and its problems have raised doubts over whether central banks will be able to sustain their fight against inflation with aggressive interest rate hikes.

Need to provide quality products, services to consumers at affordable prices: Goyal

New Delhi, Mar 17:

Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal stressed the need to provide quality products and services to consumers at affordable prices. Addressing an event to mark World Consumer Rights Day 2023, the minister said that the "consumer is at the centre and core of all our activities". "The very purpose of our activities should be a satisfied customer... We have gathered here to celebrate consumers' rights. We want to give confidence to consumers and want to win their trust," he added. Goyal emphasised that it is the duty of the government, consumer courts and industries to protect the consumers' interests.



Customer service, customer awareness and customer redressal should be the focus, he noted. Goyal added that there is also a need to guide customers on the path of a sustainable future, as the entire world talks about green growth. The minister said the Prime Minister keeps consumers at the centre of all the government's programmes. The govern-

ment has focused a lot on the quality of products and services, he noted. Stating that consumers are no longer happy with the sub-standard products, Goyal said the consumers are now aware, and demand quality products and services in the field of all sectors be it healthcare, education or food. The World Consumer Right Day 2023 is a day of celebration and an opportunity to reinforce our commitment to protect the rights of consumers by providing quality products and services, he noted. Goyal said efforts should be made to attract customers' demand towards quality as low-quality goods are dangerous for customers and also the economy.



Aditi Shetty: Want to play roles that challenge me as an actor

TV actor and model Aditi Shetty, who has been part of shows such as 'Bhagyaxmi' and 'Naagin 6', is currently seen in 'Dharampatni' and the actress says that she loves exploring different roles on TV. The actress adds that her character in her show 'Dharampatni' is undergoing a transition, and she loves it.

"As an actor, I just aim to play different roles. I want to play roles that challenge me as an actor and help me grow and learn every single day. Kavya's character from 'Dharampatni' has been such an amazing journey for me, I have taken so much as an artist and it's been a rewarding experience for me. I am nothing like Kavya in real life and I am getting to live an entirely different life when I play Kavya. I feel so lucky to get this role and being able to do justice to it is my aim. Having said that, I am looking forward to stronger positive roles as well in the main lead space as I feel ready and confident as an actor to

take it up and do justice to it," she says.

Talking about the kind of reality shows she wants to be part of, she adds: "I started my career with modelling and at that time, I was very interested in doing a show related to that. That's why I was a part of India's Next Top Model. I feel that a show where I get to showcase my personality will be exciting. Maybe 'Bigg Boss' will be nice to test me on how I react to certain situations."

The biggest plus about being a TV actor is the love that you get, she says, adding: "It's very overwhelming how the audience gives you so much love. I am so fortunate for all the love the audience gives me."

She says: "Acting is my passion. To be able to wake up and do what you love is the best feeling in the world. I absolutely love being in front of the camera and performing. To just get such amazing opportunities with the best in the industry motivates me. My family and friends love to watch my work and seeing them happy and entertaining my audience is my ultimate motivation to do better every day."

Aastha's life is in danger in 'Dil Diyaan Gallaan'

Sony SAB's Dil Diyaan Gallaan, with its emotional migration story of a family torn apart by misunderstood circumstances, hurt emotions, and inherent beliefs, has struck the right chord with the audiences. It showcases how unspoken words lead to differences between three generations. In the upcoming episodes, the viewers will witness Aastha (Reema Wohra) disagreeing with Mandeep's (Sandeep Baswana) decision to leave the Pind and go to Amritsar.

Mandeep is enduring immense pain as he witnesses his father Dilpreet (Pankaj Berry) agreeing to do his last rites due to the villagers' pressure despite being alive and fit. The situation deeply hurts him, which finally leads him to leave the Pind. To his surprise, Aastha doesn't agree with Mandeep's decision and decides to stay back in the Pind, shocking everyone. On one hand, Aastha does the Grihpravesha rituals and enters the house, while on the other hand, money lenders come to Dilpreet's house to get money. In a tiff, Nimrit (Kanika Maheswari) irritates the goons, and they kidnap Aastha. However, the worst is yet to happen. The place where Aastha is kept after kidnapping catches fire.

What will happen to Aastha? Who will come to rescue her?

Keep watching Dil Diyaan Gallaan every Monday to Saturday at 7:30 PM only on Sony SAB.



Rani recalls how Aamir continued to shoot even after high fever for 'Ghulam'

Bollywood actress Rani Mukerji remembered the shooting of the movie 'Ghulam' and how even after having high fever her co-star Aamir Khan continued to work without taking any break and this became an inspiration for her to give importance to work.

When Rani listened to 'Indian Idol 13' contestant Senjuti Das's rendition of 'Jadoo Hai Tera' from Vikram Bhatt's 1998 film 'Ghulam', she recollected her shooting days with Aamir in Manali, Himachal Pradesh.

Rani told Senjuti: "When you started singing the song from 'Ghulam', I had flashbacks because when I started filming for 'Ghulam', I was only 17 years old. Aamir Khan, who is one of India's biggest stars, was opposite me. I very well remember that we were shooting in Manali for the song and Aamir was down with a high fever. Around that time, I witnessed the dedication of an artist who con-



tinued to work even with a fever."

She went on to say: "So for me as a newcomer, it was an admirable quality about my co-star, and following his footsteps, I kept growing in life. When it comes to work, there can be no excuses. Work is most

important. I have also heard how independent you are, you also take care of your parents and you have come this far on your own. I pray that all your hard work gets fulfilled by winning the trophy."

While appreciating the contestant for her range and the way she sang two different tracks 'Jadoo Hai Tera' from 'Ghulam' and 'Aga Bai' from her 2012 film, 'Aiyya' perfectly, Rani added: "I would only say that Senjuti, you have an excellent range in your voice. Both, 'Jadoo Hai Tera' and 'Aga Bai' are different in their own way, and I'd like to add that the composition of one song was done by Jatin-Lalit and the other by Amit Trivedi. Both the albums, 'Ghulam' and 'Aiyya' are my favorite albums."

"But the way you started singing 'Aga Bai' which is a very difficult song is just amazing. I am very sure you are going to be a playback singer. You have a very strong and clear voice," concluded Rani.

Suniel Shetty with Norwegian dance group on 'Aankhon Mein Base Ho Tum'



A video of Suniel Shetty shaking a leg with a Norwegian dance group called Quick Style on the Bollywood actor's song 'Aankhon Mein Base Ho Tum' is doing the rounds on social media.

Quick Style took to Instagram, where they shared the video. In the clip, the group is seen dancing around in their signature hip-hop style and then Suniel is seen joining them in a white

shirt paired with blue jeans. "Felt like we have known him for years, Suniel Shetty," the clip was captioned.

The track is from the 1995 film 'Takkar' and is originally picturised on Suniel and actress Sonali Bendre. On the work front, Suniel is all set to share screen space with actors Akshay Kumar and Paresh Rawal for the third instalment of the 'Hera Pheri' franchise.

Uorfi Javed: 'Dooriyan' is a beautiful song, will touch everyone's heart



'Bigg Boss OTT' fame and social media influencer Uorfi Javed spoke about her latest track 'Dooriyan' and her working experience with producer Mohsin Khan.

Uorfi, who often makes headlines for her unique dressing, and recently her song 'Haye Haye Yeh Majboori' became a hit with over 21 million views, shared her experience of being part of the song and said: "'Dooriyan' is going to touch everyone's heart, it is a beautiful song."

&TV shows spreading happiness

International Day of Happiness is celebrated every year on March 20th to make people worldwide realize the importance of happiness in their lives. Spreading this very happiness into audiences' life &TV has these two popular comedy shows Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hai and Happu Ki Ultan Paltan. The lead artists from these shows talk about the importance of happiness and how these shows have spread joy and laughter into people's lives. These include Yogesh Tripathi (Daroga Happu Singh) and Kamna Pathak (Rajesh) from Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, Vidisha Srivastava (Anita Bhabi), and Aasif Sheikh (Vibhuti Narayan Mishra) from Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hai.

Vidisha Srivastava, essaying Anita Bhabi in Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hai, says, "If you have the power to make someone happy, do it. The world needs more of that. People are so engrossed with



work and stressed that they forget to live in the moment and stay happy. But as an actor, I feel responsible for making them happy and comfortable watching our show Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hai. It feels wonderful and fulfilling when your character or show makes even a minor difference in their lives, such as making them smile when they are sad. And I am glad Anita, as a character, has been doing it for the last one year.

Aayush wraps the Azerbaijan schedule of his film 'AS04'

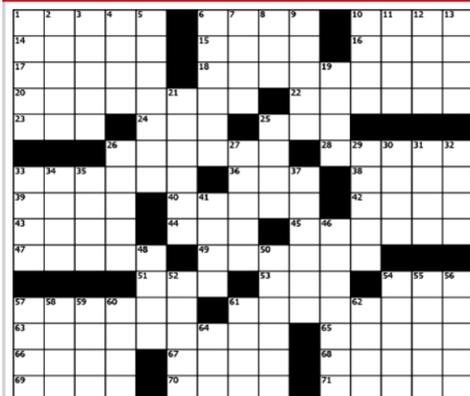


Ayush Sharma who had been shooting for his fourth film AS04, has wrapped the Azerbaijan schedule. The actor shared a picture with his co-actor and debutante Sushri Mishra announcing the wrap for the film slated for release this year. Creating a huge interest in the audience across quarters, the actor has been delving into the masses for the masala action entertainer. Aayush opened up about shooting in the cold weathers of Baku, Azerbaijan saying, "Kadake ke thand mein humne kiya kadak shoot... Three cheers to Team #AS04... it's a schedule wrap for us in Azerbaijan". Ever since the announcement of the yet untitled AS04 on Aayush Sharma's birthday last year, the action entertainer has been creating buzz with regular insights into the shoot and schedules of the film. Piquing the interest of the audience

with his swagger personality and stylised action in the teaser, Aayush Sharma has further elevated the level of action post the critical appreciation and love from audience for his last release Antim: The Final Truth. Creating waves with not just the engaging content but also the interesting style of announcement, Aayush Sharma has introduced the prevailing pattern of untitled name to films in South Indian Film Industry by opting for his initials along with the chronological number of the film. Undergoing a remarkable physical transformation to feature washboard abs and toned muscles, Aayush Sharma has time and again shared glimpses from his rigorous training for the film. Sustaining injuring during filming the action sequences, the actor has been proving his versatility, dedication and commitment.

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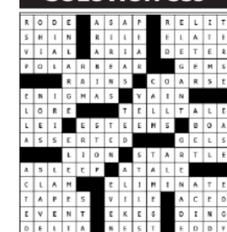
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Treesa-Gayatri enter All England semis

Birmingham, Mar 17 (PTD):

Indian pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand continued their impressive run, dishing out another superlative performance to advance to their second successive semifinals at the All England Championships here on Friday.

The World number 17 Indian pair looked solid in their defence and relentless in attack, claiming 21-14 18-21 21-12 win over the newly-formed Chinese pair of Li Wen Mei and Liu Xuan Xuan in a 64-minute quarterfinals.

The only Indians in the fray, Gayatri and Treesa will face either Indonesian combination of either seeded Apriyani Rahayu and Siti Fadia Silva Ramadhanti or Korea's Baek Ha Na and Lee So Hee next. Gayatri and Treesa had reached the semi-finals in the last edition as well when they were handed a spot in the main draw at the last moment.

But this time they entered the draw with a fair amount of experience, having claimed the Commonwealth Games bronze last year and notching up wins over higher-ranked pairs such as world No. 7 Tan Pearly and Thinnah Muralitharan at



Gayatri Gopichand Pullela (left) and Treesa Jolly in action against China's Li Wen Mei and Liu Xuan Xuan (not pictured) during day four of the YONEX All England Open Badminton Championships at the Utilita Arena Birmingham.

the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship in February. The Indian duo had shocked seventh seeded Thais Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Ravindra Prajongjai and former world No. 1 pair from Japan Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota in the previous rounds.

In the quarterfinals, Gayatri, 20, and Treesa, 19, were up against Li, who has been World No 9 in the past, and Liu, a former World No 16.

Taking on the world number 52 pair, Gayatri stood solid at the net while Treesa came up with delectable smashes and drops

from the back to dominate the proceedings in the rallies. With coach Mathias Boe and Arun Vishnu constantly chirping from the sidelines, the Indian pair displayed their aggressive intent right from the word go and moved to 6-2 early on. The Chinese pair clawed back at 6-6 but the Indian soon entered the mid-game interval with a healthy 11-8 advantage.

Gayatri and Treesa got a measure of their opponent quickly and constructed the points well to move to 18-12 before taking the first game comfortably.

The Indian pair kept a firm grip on the rallies to

lead 5-1 and 10-6 at one stage after the change of sides but Li and Liu soon found their bearing and chipped away at the lead.

Eventually, a couple of tight serves from Liu helped them cap five straight points and take a 11-10 lead.

It was a down-the-line smash from Gayatri that broke the run of points. Gayatri seemed more alert near the court, changing defence to attack.

Few flat exchanges ensued next with Treesa's wild forehand landing out and Gayatri rushing onto a shot as the Chinese pair again grabbed the lead.

Li and Liu tried to produce acute angles as Treesa found the net. A couple of errors from the Indians put the Chinese pair three points from levelling the scores. Li soon set up four game points with a precise on-the-line return. India saved two game points before Li unleashed a smash to take the match to the decider. In the third game, it was a one-way traffic as the Indian pair reeled off six points on the trot to gallop to 8-1. The Indian duo was charged up as their shot selection and on court judgements were spot on.

The Chinese tried to slow down the pace but Treesa's relentless attack from the back took the Indian pair to 11-4 at the midgame interval. Treesa was always aiming for the lines and her precision was rewarded again as they moved to 13-5. Gayatri too complemented her partner, charging towards net to gain another point. Another delightful net play saw India reach 15-8. The Chinese tried everything but couldn't sustain the pressure as Treesa unleashed another booming smash to reach 18-10.

Another forehand smash from Gayatri set up a massive eight match point advantage and the Indian pair sealed it when the Chinese pair went long.

Rahul, Jadeja stay cool to seal tough chase of 189

Mumbai, Mar 17 (PTD):

KL Rahul scored a fine 75 under pressure to star in India's five-wicket victory over Australia in the first ODI, here on Friday. India lead the three-match series 1-0. Chasing a target of 189, India were 16/3 and subsequently 39/4 but Rahul held his nerves during a 91-ball knock that had seven fours and a six. He added 108 for the unbroken sixth wicket stand alongside Ravindra Jadeja (45 not out). Stand-in skipper Hardik Pandya won the toss and elected to field first and his bowling unit, led by Mohammed Shami (3/17), fired at the Wankhede Stadium to finish off Australia's innings in just 35.4 overs. Mohammed Siraj also got three wickets. Opening in place of the injured David Warner, Mitchell Marsh top-scored for Australia with a 65-ball 81, but the rest, including skipper Steve Smith, failed to make any worthwhile contribution.

Earlier, Mohammad Shami and Mohammed Siraj shared three wickets apiece as India bowled out hapless Australia for a mere 188 in 35.4 overs.

The collapse was an inexplicable one as Australia lost last six wickets for only 19 runs in a space of 7.5 overs as Hardik Pandya's decision to bring in Shami for a quick second spell turned out to be decisive.

The delivery to Cameron Green



India's KL Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja run between the wickets.

Brief scores

Australia: 188 all out in 35.4 overs (Mitchell Marsh 81; Mohammed Shami 3/17, Mohammed Siraj 3/29).
India: 191/5 in 39.5 overs (KL Rahul 75 not out, Ravindra Jadeja 45 not out, Mitchell Starc 3/49).

that sent the off-stump cartwheeling was a real peach. It pitched on line of off-stump and Green had to commit but there was shade late movement that beat the batter and knocked back the off-stump. The veteran pacer helped India pull things back in control after an attacking 65-ball 81 from Mitchell Marsh set Australia on the course of a competitive total, as his second spell of 3-2-8-3 broke the back of

Australia's resistance after a sparkling start. Shami finished with brilliant figures of 6-2-17-3. On the other hand, Siraj, who provided an early wicket in the second over, also enjoyed success in his second spell to return with 5.4-1-29-3, snaffling the last two wickets in the Australian innings. Marsh provided Australia with a rollicking start, cracking 10 fours and five sixes in his first-ever innings as an opener in ODIs, on his comeback to international cricket after a three-month layoff following an ankle surgery. Marsh's charge in the first half of the game ensured Australia kept moving briskly towards a big total, but India kept making inroads at regular intervals and eventually bundled them out for a below-par score.

Arshdeep Singh joins Kent to play five first-class games

Kent, Mar 17 (PTD):

Talented Indian left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh will play five first-class matches for Kent during the upcoming English County season in order to hone his red-ball skills. The Kent County made the announcement on their website.

"Kent Cricket is delighted to announce that India international bowler Arshdeep Singh will be available to play for the county in five LV=Insurance County Championship matches between June & July, subject to regulatory approval," the press release stated. On signing for Kent for two months this summer, Singh said, "I am excited to play red-ball cricket in England and continue to improve my skills in the first-class game. I look forward to performing in front of Kent's Members and supporters; Rahul Dravid has already told me it



is a Club with a great history."

As the Indian team leaves for the UK post IPL, Arshdeep also will spend the entire month of June and July honing his red-ball skills. Arshdeep made his ODI debut in New Zealand

last November and has made 29 international appearances for India till date, including a standout ICC T20 World Cup in Australia in 2022. In his seven career first-class matches so far, he has taken 25 wickets at an average of 23.84 and economy of 2.92. He will become the fourth Indian player to wear the White Horse competitively after Kanwar Shumshere Singh, current India men's fead coach Rahul Dravid and 2022 overseas bowler, Navdeep Saini.

Kent's Director of Cricket, Paul Downton, said, "We are delighted to have a player of Arshdeep's potential join us for five matches this summer. He has demonstrated that he has world-class skills with the white ball, and I am very confident he will be able to put those skills to good use with the red ball in the County Championship."

Former Australia test cricket captain Tim Paine retires



Hobart, Mar 17 (AP):

Former Australia test cricket captain Tim Paine has announced his retirement following the conclusion of Tasmania's Sheffield Shield first-class match against Queensland on Friday. Wicketkeeper Paine captained Australia in 23 tests between early 2018 and 2021, playing 35 tests overall. He became Australia's 46th test skipper after Steve Smith had his captaincy stripped in the wake of the ball-tampering scandal on Australia's 2018 tour of South Africa. Paine stood down from the captaincy in late 2021 after it was revealed he had sent explicit text messages to a former Cricket Tasmania employee.

Hardik and Savita win Hockey India men's and women's Player of Year awards

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTD):

Midfielder Hardik Singh and goalkeeper Savita Punia were on Friday conferred with the men's and women's Indian Hockey Player of the Year awards at a glittering ceremony here.

The 24-year-old Hardik beat his illustrious senior players like Manpreet Singh and Harmanpreet Singh to win the coveted award for 2022 named after hockey legend Balbir Singh senior at the fifth Hockey India Annual Awards. Hardik was the most impressive player for India in the FIH World Cup held in Odisha in January before he was ruled out of the tournament due to a hamstring injury he suffered during the second group match against England. He had scored a goal in India's 2-0 win over Spain in the first match. India had made a shock exit from the World after losing to Spain in the pre-quarterfinals. Savita had led India to



the FIH Women's Nations Cup title in December last to book a berth in the Women's Pro League.

Both Hardik and Savita received Rs 25 lakh each, along with a trophy. The total prize money for the awards was in excess of Rs 2.7 crore.

"It's been a fantastic year; and it feels great to be recognised for my efforts," Hardik said. "I believe we had a roller coaster year as a team, and there are players who have done exceptionally well this year as well. I honestly feel that I am accepting this honour on behalf of the entire team." "To be honest, I

am speechless; this is a tremendous honour. We performed admirably as a team, and winning the inaugural FIH Women's Nations Cup was a watershed moment for all of us," Savita said.

Hockey India also gave away awards for 2021 as it could not be held due to post COVID-19 difficulties.

Member of 1964 Olympics gold winning team. Gurbox Singh won the prestigious Hockey India Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award for 2022 for his outstanding contribution to the sport of hockey. The award carries Rs 30 lakh and a trophy.

India's T20 squad to take on Ireland in 3-match series

Dublin, Mar 17 (PTD):

The Indian T20 team will take on Ireland in a three-match T20 series in August this year, Cricket Ireland said in a statement on Friday.

"Irish cricket fans will be able to enjoy watching the world's number one T20 International side, India, when the Asian juggernauts return to Malahide for a three-match T20I series this August," Cricket Ireland said in its statement.

Hardik Pandya, the new T20 captain, had led the team during the two-match series at the same venue last year. However, with the 50-over World Cup in sight one wonders if the BCCI would risk playing Hardik in a series that will offer little or no context to India's preparation for the ODI World Cup in India. But the series, which is scheduled to be played from August 18 to 23, does mean a lot for the Irish board as the broadcast revenues generated through the rubber will make them more stable financially.

This champion is going to rise again, says Yuvraj after meeting Pant



New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTD):

This champion is going to rise again, flamboyant former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh said after meeting the wicketkeeper-batter, who is recovering from the multiple injuries he suffered during a horrific road accident.

Having made one of the greatest comebacks in the history of the sport, Yuvraj knows a thing or two about what it takes to come back from the brink. Soon after his exploits in

the 2011 World Cup, Yuvraj was diagnosed with cancer, for which he took treatment in the US before making a comeback to Indian team.

"Onto baby steps!!! This champion is going to rise again. Was good catching up and having a laugh. What a guy positive and always funny!! More power to you @rishabpant," Yuvraj posted on his Twitter handle. Yuvraj was discharged from the hospital after his third and final chemotherapy in March 2012. He had what's called mediastinal seminoma cancer.

Swiatek, Rybakina reach semifinals at Indian Wells



Iga Swiatek of Poland returns a shot to Sorana Cirstea of Romania during the BNP Paribas Open at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden in Indian Wells, California.

Indian Wells, Mar 17 (AP):

Top-ranked Iga Swiatek breezed past Sorana Cirstea 6-2, 6-3 to reach the semifinals of the BNP Paribas Open.

Swiatek, the defending champion, took a 4-0 lead in the second set and converted her second match point to close it out on Thursday.

"I'm happy that I played so intense that I could

start both sets well," Swiatek said.

"I'm feeling like I'm handling things pretty well and just playing my game."

Next up for Swiatek is No. 10 seed Elena Rybakina, who outlasted Karolina Muchova 7-6 (4), 2-6, 6-4. It will be a rematch from the Australian Open in January, when Rybakina won 6-4, 6-4 in the quarterfinals.

Rybakina became the first woman from Kazakhstan to earn a semifinal berth at Indian Wells.

She dropped her first set of the tournament in the second, but turned it up in the third. The 2022 Wimbledon champion won 15 of 16 first-serve points and never faced a break point in the set.

"I served much better in the third," Rybakina said on court.

"I didn't start that well in the beginning of the match, I was a bit slower than usual and here the conditions are not that easy for me. In the end, in the important moments I played well."

Rybakina and Swiatek are 1-1 against each other in their careers.

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Rahul has become permanent part of 'anti-India toolkit', must apologise

SC seeks response from Andhra Pradesh on convict's plea to verify juvenility claim

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTI):

BJP president JP Nadda led his party's attack on Rahul Gandhi on Friday over the Congress leader's recent comments made in the UK on the state of Indian democracy, charging him with becoming a "permanent part of the anti-India toolkit" that seeks a weak government here so as to exploit it for its benefits.

In a statement, Nadda accused Gandhi of speaking the language of "anti-India" George Soros, a billionaire financier, and alleged that the Congress and the "so-called Left liberals" have become a part of the "deep state" conspiracy involving foreign forces against the country. "Anti-national" Congress leaders have been speaking the language of Pakistan, he added. Gandhi will have to apologise to the



JP Nadda

people of India for his "sin" of seeking the "interference" of foreign powers in the country's internal affairs, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president said. He accused the former Congress chief of joining hands with foreign conspirators against India to encircle the country economically and strategically. Never before in independent India any leader has done

Those anti-nationals themselves must not preach patriotism: Kharage slams Nadda

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTI): Hitting back at BJP chief JP Nadda for his criticism of Rahul Gandhi's remarks made in the UK, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday said those who are "anti-nationals" themselves must not preach his party about patriotism and must learn from it instead. Kharge's attack came after Nadda slammed Gandhi over his recent comments made in the United Kingdom on the state of Indian democracy, charging him with becoming a "permanent part of the toolkit" working against India. Kharge said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is making such allegations to hide and divert attention from the "horrible unemployment, backbreaking price rise and the scam of its 'best friend'". Asked about Nadda calling Gandhi "anti-national", Kharge told reporters, "They are anti-nationals from before. Even at the time of independence, they (BJP people) did not participate in the movement to get freedom for the country. Those who are anti-nationals themselves are calling others anti-national." In a series of tweets, Kharge said those who did not contribute even an iota in the freedom struggle are the real "anti-nationals". "Modi ji himself has gone to six-seven countries and said on foreign soil that 'people of India are saying that what sin did we commit that we were born in India'. Such a person is calling us anti-national?" he asked in a tweet.

what Gandhi has done on foreign soil, he said.

"This is a most serious matter," Nadda said, adding that what the Congress leader has done has hurt every patriotic MP as well as the people of the country. Those working against India want a weak government working under the compulsions of an alliance for their benefits, he said. The BJP president said

anti-India forces have always had problems with a strong India, its robust democracy and decisive government. By criticising the state of democracy in India and seeking the intervention of the United States and Europe on foreign soil, Gandhi has attacked the country's sovereignty, he added.

"Rejected repeatedly by people, Rahul Gandhi has

become a permanent part of the anti-India toolkit," Nadda said. He accused the former Congress chief of insulting India, its Parliament, its democratically-elected government and people in Britain, a country that ruled over India for long. What Gandhi has done amounts to strengthening those working against India, the BJP president said.

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTI):

The Supreme Court Friday sought a response from the Andhra Pradesh government on a plea filed by a convict undergoing life sentence in a 2011 murder case, seeking a direction to the state to verify his claim of juvenility.

The petitioner, confined in central prison Hyderabad and whose conviction and sentence were upheld by the high court concerned in November last year, has claimed that going by the school certificate, his date of birth is recorded as August 10, 1994, and he was almost 17-year-old at the time of the offence in December 2011.

The matter came up for hearing before a bench comprising Justice S K Kaul and Justice Aravind

Kumar. Advocate Rishi Malhotra, appearing for the petitioner, said the petitioner has already undergone more than 11 years in custody and as per the certificate of school which he had first attended, he was a juvenile at the time of the offence.

"Have you raised this issue before the high court? You have filed an Article 32 petition here. You are saying that plea of juvenility can be raised at any stage," the bench observed.

Malhotra said the petitioner has undergone custody of over 11 years though the maximum sentence prescribed under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, is only three years. "Issue notice," the bench said.

In his plea, the petition-

er said it has been filed solely on the ground of juvenility and he does not intend to challenge his conviction under section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code.

The plea said it is only confined to a limited prayer that if upon due enquiry, it is found that the petitioner was indeed a juvenile at the time of the incident, then the sentence awarding life imprisonment needs to be set aside and he deserves to be released forthwith.

"In the instant case, the date of the incident is December 12, 2011, and as per the school certificate (first attended), the date of birth of the petitioner was recorded as August 10, 1994. Meaning thereby, the petitioner was almost 17 years as on the date of incident and thus, was a juvenile," the plea said.

FARMERS MARCH



Farmers, who started a march from Nashik to Mumbai, arrive at Vasind village of Thane district, Friday.

'Will shut all madrasas in Assam'

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma calls Cong 'new Mughals'

Belagavi (K'taka), Mar 17 (PTI):

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who is visiting Karnataka, said he intended to shut all the madrasas (Muslim religious schools) in his state, as they were not needed in "New India".

Addressing an event here on Thursday night, Sarma said what Assam needed were schools, colleges and universities to produce doctors, engineers and other professionals to serve the state and the country, and not madrasas.

"I come from Assam, where everyday people arrive from Bangladesh. There is a threat to our culture and traditions," the Chief Minister said. "Recently in a TV interview in Delhi, I was asked

what my intention was in having shut down 600 madrasas. I said that I have shut 600, but my intention is to shut all madrasas," he added.

Going on a tirade against opposition parties, Sarma accused the Congress and Communists of having distorted history and misrepresented facts. He also labelled the Congress "new Mughals".

"There is no need of madrasas in this 'New India'," he asserted, adding, "We have to move forward in this direction, we have to transform our education system; time has come to rewrite our history in a new way as it was distorted earlier."

The Assam Chief Minister was addressing a large gathering here after

inaugurating a light and sound show on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Noting that Abhay Patil, a local BJP MLA, had planned the light and sound show six years ago, Sarma again made accusations against the Congress. "The Congress government then did not extend any help. Why did Congress help," he asked, adding, "Congress will never help. Congress will think about Babar, but not Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj."

"With this light and sound show, he (MLA) has ensured that the ideals of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj will be followed in this country and that in the future too Sanatana (dharma) will be followed, and that Sanatana ideals

will become stronger in this country," he said.

Pointing out that there are a large number of people in this country, who claim with pride that they are Muslims or Christians, the Assam CM said, "I have no objections, but we want people who will with pride say, 'I'm a Hindu'."

Sarma then went on to claim that the 17th century Mughal ruler Aurangzeb had allegedly tried to destroy Hinduism, while insisting that his contemporary Shivaji worked to protect Sanatana Dharma and its traditions. "Till today India is Sanatani and Hindu, and until the sun and moon exist India will go forward on the basis of its traditions," he declared.

Ex-minister murder case

T'gana HC dismisses YSRCP MP's pleas

Hyderabad, Mar 17 (PTI):

The Telangana High Court on Friday dismissed pleas of YSR Congress Party Lok Sabha member Y S Avinash Reddy that sought a direction from the court to restrain the CBI from taking coercive steps against him, and to stay his further examination in the case pertaining to the murder of former Andhra Pradesh Minister Y S Vivekananda Reddy. The High Court said it was not inclined to stay the examination of the petitioner under Section 161 of the CrPC (examination of witnesses by investigating agencies). The court had reserved its orders on Monday in the applications filed by Avinash Reddy.

The CBI shall continue the investigation and may summon the petitioner under Section 160 of the CrPC (police's power to require attendance of witnesses), if required, and the examination of the petitioner shall be audio-video record-

ed, the court said. "This court is not inclined to grant relief as sought by the petitioner i.e., a direction not to take any coercive steps, since such a blanket order is impermissible," it said. The petitioner had failed to establish a prima facie case, the court said, adding that the balance of convenience was in favour of the investigation being continued into the alleged offence committed four years ago.

"Further, continuation of investigation does not cause any irreparable loss to the petitioner as he is still not named as an accused," the court said, adding that while the advocate of the petitioner could not be permitted to accompany him into the room where he is examined, he could, however, be examined within the sight of his advocate. After being issued summons by the CBI, Avinash Reddy, who is an MP from Kadapa in Andhra Pradesh, has appeared four times before the agency which is investigating the murder case.

Sambhal/Lucknow, Mar 17 (PTI):

The death toll in a roof collapse incident at a cold storage in Sambhal district climbed to 14 on Friday and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath formed a committee to probe the reasons behind it. These 10 were among the 21 pulled out from the rubble at the cold storage located on Indira Road under Chandausi police station limits, according to police.

Twenty-one people have been rescued so far and 10 of them have died. There are also reports that at least three people are severely injured, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police Shalabh Mathur said. The rescue operation is still underway, he added.

A government spokesperson in Lucknow said Chief Minister Adityanath has announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased, Rs



50,000 for those critically injured and free treatment for all those who sustained injuries in the incident. The chief minister has also constituted a probe committee led by the divisional commis-

sioner and the DIG of Moradabad to probe the reasons behind the roof collapse. The committee has been asked to submit its report at the earliest, the spokesperson said.

Adityanath also expressed grief over the loss of lives in the incident and directed the concerned officials to ensure proper treatment of the injured, according to the spokesperson. Sambhal District Magistrate Manish Bansal said five people are undergoing treatment at a Moradabad hospital, while six have been discharged.

The rescue operation, in which the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) are also involved, continued through the night, he said. Searchlights have been installed in the area to facilitate the rescue operation. JCB machines have been pressed into service to remove the debris.

3 members of Lawrence Bishnoi gang held

Jaipur, Mar 17 (PTI):

Three members of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang were arrested following an encounter in Rajasthan's Sriganganagar district, police said Friday.

The accused, identified as Sonu, Sachin and Harish, all residents of Punjab, were arrested

on Thursday, they said. According to police, the gang was trying to extort money from businessman Harakhchand Malpani. Malpani, in his complaint, alleged that the accused were trying to extort money from him in the name of Anmol Bishnoi, Lawrence's brother.

SC adjourns hearing on Atiq Ahmed's plea seeking protection

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Friday adjourned the hearing on a plea of jailed former Samajwadi Party MP and gangster Atiq Ahmed seeking protection, claiming he and his family have been falsely "roped in" as accused in the Umesh Pal murder

case in Prayagraj. A bench of justices Ajay Rastogi and Bela M Trivedi deferred the matter after Atiq's counsel sought time to file some additional documents containing statements.

"The matter was listed after urgent mentioning by the counsel for the applicant before the Chief Justice. Today, when the matter has come on board,

the counsel has expressed inability to argue. List after one week," the bench said.

In his plea, Ahmed, who is currently lodged at the Ahmedabad central jail in Gujarat, has referred to the statement made by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on the floor of the assembly to "completely ruin and destroy" him and

claimed there is a "genuine and perceptible threat" to his and his family members' lives.

He said the Uttar Pradesh Police in all likelihood will seek his transit remand and also police remand to take him from Ahmedabad to Prayagraj and he "genuinely apprehends that he may be eliminated during this transit period".

Ahmed has also sought directions to ensure that no physical or bodily injury or harm is done to him in any manner during police custody or interrogation.

He further sought a direction restraining Uttar Pradesh government and others from taking him from the Ahmedabad jail to Prayagraj or any other part of Uttar Pradesh.

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Ajay Advt.



BRIEF



Padma Shri Kathak dancer Shovana Narayan performs during Spick Macay programme, at Patna Womens College, in Patna, Friday.

Truck collision

Bilaspur: Two persons were killed when a speeding truck collided with their motorcycle in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur district on Friday, police said. The accident took place at Darsagar Chowk on Ratanpur-Kenda road under Kota police station limits in the morning hours, an official said. Chandrashekhar Gandharva (23) and his relative Panchram Gandharva (25) were travelling to Saraipali village, when a truck coming from opposite direction dashed their motorcycle and dragged the duo, he said.

Children repatriated

New Delhi: Thirty-four children have been repatriated on the GHAR portal, the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development said on Friday. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has prepared a protocol for restoration and repatriation of children and the GHAR (Go Home and Reunite) portal to digitally monitor and track their return.

Policemen ill

Ranchi: As many as 35 jawans of Jharkhand Armed Police (JAP) fell ill in the early hours of Friday with complaints of headache, vomiting and were rushed to hospital, a senior official said. Seventeen of them were discharged after checkup while 18 are admitted to Sadar Hospital, a JAP official said. The condition of the 18 jawans is stable, he said. Investigations are on to ascertain the cause of the illness, the official said.

Teacher booked

Thane: An offence has been registered against a teacher of a private school for allegedly beating up a 14-year-old student in Maharashtra's Thane district, police said on Friday.

YouTuber arrested

New Delhi: A 26-year-old YouTuber was arrested on Friday for allegedly riding on top of cars with his friends on his birthday, a video of which showed up on social media, police said. Several of his friends and he were seen on top of cars, driving rashly, negligently, and dangerously on NH-24 in east Delhi's Pandav Nagar, police said. The accused, Prince Dixit, a resident of Shakarpur, has studied till Class 12. His YouTube channel has more than 2.68 lakhs followers, they said.

Weather
High 28 Low 19

MARKET
NIFTY 17,100.05
SENSEX 57,989.90

BULLION
GOLD 58,784
SILVER 67,858

Cong gives breach of privilege notice over PM's remarks on Nehru surname

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTI):

Congress leader K C Venugopal on Friday gave Rajya Sabha chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar a breach of privilege notice against Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his remarks on why former prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru's family did not use his surname. The prime minister's remarks were made during his reply to the motion of thanks on the president's address in the Rajya Sabha on February 9 during the first part of the budget session. "I hereby give a notice of question of privilege against the prime minister of India under Rule 188 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Council of States (Rajya Sabha) for having cast re-

Several oppn leaders hold 'dharma' near Gandhi statue in Parliament house complex

New Delhi: Leaders of several opposition parties on Friday staged a joint 'dharma' (protest) near the Gandhi statue in Parliament house complex over the Adani issue and raised slogans against the government. Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi, Congress president and leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Rahul Gandhi were present during the protest. The MPs of various opposition parties assembled near the Gandhi statue after both the houses were adjourned for the day. "Simple Hai Modiji, We want JPC," Kharge tweeted later. Holding placards and ban-



Leaders of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, former Congress President Sonia Gandhi and other opposition MPs during a protest over the Adani issue, at Parliament House complex in New Delhi, Friday.

Delhi excise policy

Court reserves verdict on ED plea seeking extension of Sisodia's custody by 7 days

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTI)

A court here on Friday reserved its order on an Enforcement Directorate plea seeking the custody of AAP leader Manish Sisodia, who has been arrested in a money laundering case related to the Delhi excise policy, for seven more days. Sisodia was produced before special judge M K Nagpal, who will announce the order on the extension of the former Delhi deputy chief minister's custody shortly. Heavy security deployment was made inside and



Manish Sisodia, AAP leader, who has been arrested in a money laundering case related to the Delhi excise policy, for seven more days.

Govt bats for simultaneous polls

Lists out imperatives before idea is implemented

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTI):

The government on Friday batted for holding simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and state assemblies, saying it would result in huge saving to the public exchequer, as it listed out "imperatives" such as amending the Constitution and bringing all political parties on board before carrying out the gigantic exercise. In a written reply in Lok Sabha, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said a parliamentary panel had examined the issue of simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State

Legislative Assemblies in consultation with various stakeholders, including the Election Commission. The Committee made certain recommendations in this regard. "The matter now stands referred to the Law Commission for further examination to work out a practicable road map and framework for simultaneous elections ...," Rijiju said. Simultaneous elections, he noted, would result in huge savings to the public exchequer and avoid replication of effort on part of administrative and law and order machinery in holding repeated elections. It would bring considerable savings to political parties and candidates in their election campaigns.

"Further, asynchronous Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly elections (including by-election) result in prolonged enforcement of Model Code of Conduct with its concomitant adverse impact on developmental and welfare programmes," the minister said. He also listed out "major impediments/imperatives" for synchronisation for Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly elections. He said the change would require amendments in "not less than five" articles of the Constitution -- article 83 relating to duration of Houses of Parliament, article 85 relating to dissolution of Lok Sabha by the President, article 172 relat-

ing to duration of the state legislatures, article 174 relating to dissolution of the state legislatures, and article 356 relating to the imposition of President's Rule in the states. Before the proposal is implemented, it would also require obtaining consensus of all political parties. "Having regard to the federal structure of our system of governance, it is imperative that consensus of all state governments is also obtained," the minister pointed out. He said it would also require an additional number of electronic voting machines and VVPATs (paper trail machines), "which would cost a huge amount, might be in thousands of crores (of rupees)."

BEAUTIFICATION ARTWORK



An artist gives final touches to tribal theme beautification artwork ahead of G20 meeting, in Nagpur, Friday.

Govt cites SC order in LS

'Political background by itself not been absolute bar to appoint judge'

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTI):

The government on Friday said in Lok Sabha that the Supreme Court has observed in a recent order that political background by itself has "not been an absolute bar" to appoint an otherwise suitable person as a judge. It also said "generally", it is not a practice to seek Research & Analysis Wing (RAW) reports on proposals for appointment of judges in high courts and the Supreme Court except in "extraordinary circumstances, involving issues related to national security". In a written reply, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said according to the Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of judges of high courts, the proposals

recommended by High Court Collegiums are to be considered in the light of "such other reports/inputs as may be available" to the government for assessing the suitability in respect of the names under consideration. "Accordingly, IB (Intelligence Bureau) inputs are obtained and provided to the Supreme Court Collegium for making assessment on the recommendees," he said. Responding to a question on the Supreme Court Collegium making public portions of a report filed by RAW on an advocate recommended for elevation as a judge of the Delhi High Court, he, without naming the person, said the report had mentioned the "sexuality" of the candidate.

Over 200 universities on board for CUET-UG, up from 90 last year: UGC

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTI):

Over 200 universities have opted for the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) for admission to undergraduate programmes so far, up from 90 universities last year, according to University Grants Commission officials. The deadline for application has been extended till March 30 as more universities are expected to select the test for admissions. The 206 universities include 44 central universities and 33 state universities such as Barkatullah University, Bhopal, Dr B R Ambedkar School of Economics, Karnataka, Cotton University, Guwahati, and Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha

University, Delhi. "Number of participating Universities in Common University Entrance Test (CUET-UG) crosses 200 today. It is now 206 including 33 state government universities," a senior UGC official said. The exam is scheduled to be conducted from May 21-31. The UGC in March last year announced that undergraduate admissions will be conducted in all central universities through a common entrance test and not on the basis of Class 12 marks. The undergraduate (UG) admission process in universities will be completed by July 2023 and the new academic session can begin on August 1. The debut edi-

tion of the CUET-UG was conducted in July last year and was marred by glitches, prompting the National Testing Agency to cancel the exam at multiple centres. While several students were informed about cancellation a night before the exam, many of them were turned away from centres. UGC chairperson M Jagadeesh Kumar had said then the exam at certain centres have been cancelled following reports of "sabotage". With 14.9 lakh registrations, the CUET, the common gateway for undergraduate admissions in all central universities, is now the second biggest entrance exam in the country, surpassing the JEE-Main's average registration of 9 lakh.

Uproar after BJP demands discussion on Cong's promise to return money to victims of chit fund frauds

Raipur, Mar 17:

The Opposition BJP in Chhattisgarh on Friday accused the Congress-led government of failing to keep its promise of refunding money that investors lost to unscrupulous chit fund companies in the state. BJP MLAs sought a discussion on the issue in the state legislative Assembly through an adjournment motion notice. The chair, however, rejected the demand causing uproar in the House, following which the proceedings were adjourned for five minutes. Raising the issue in the Zero Hour, BJP legislators Shivratna Sharma and Ajay Chandrakar said several people had lost their money after investing in chit fund companies and the Congress in its poll manifesto had promised to return the invested sum to them. No sufficient action has been taken in this regard so far and the government is yet to refund the money people had lost, they said, while demanding a discus-



Several BJP leaders had attended the inauguration of unscrupulous chit fund companies (during the previous BJP rule), State Food and Civil Supply Minister Amarjeet Bhagat claimed. As the chair rejected the demand for discussion on the adjournment motion notice, BJP MLAs started shouting slogans against the state government and the House was adjourned for five minutes.

'SP to keep equidistance from both Congress and BJP'

Kolkata, Mar 17 (PTI)

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Friday said that his party would maintain equidistance from both the Congress and the BJP. To defeat the saffron camp, the SP would stand firmly with Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee, he said. "In Bengal, we are with Mamata didi. Right now, our stand is we want to maintain equidistance from both the BJP and the Congress" he said while talking to reporters on the sidelines of his party's workers' meet.



SC notice to MP govt on bail plea of woman with PFI links arrested for filming Indore court proceedings

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Friday sought the Madhya Pradesh government's response on a bail plea of a 30-year-old woman who was arrested for filming the proceedings of a court during a hearing in Indore district. Police officials have alleged the woman has links with the banned group Popular Front of India (PFI). A bench of justices Ajay Rastogi and Bela M Trivedi issued notice to the state government on Sonu Mansuri's plea. At the outset, the bench



expressed disinclination to entertain the matter and asked the lawyer appearing for the petitioners to approach the Madhya Pradesh High Court. "This business of getting everything transferred to Delhi should stop. Why don't you go to the high court," the bench said. Senior advocate Dushyant

Dave, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that the accused was in custody for over two months and no lawyer is being allowed to appear for her. Dave said the top court has a duty to intervene when the fundamental right of a citizen is violated. The apex court then issued notice in the matter and posted the case for hearing on March 20. Mansuri, who was arrested on January 28, had told the police that an advocate had asked her to make the video to be sent to the Islamic group PFI and she was given Rs 3 lakh for the

work. During the hearing of a case related to Bajrang Dal leader Tanu Sharma, his advocates Amit Pandey and Sunil Vishwakarma noticed the woman shooting the video in court room no. 42 of Indore district court, police had said. Mansuri, a resident of Indore, claimed before the police that senior advocate Noorjahan Khan had given her the task of making the video to be sent across to the PFI, the official had said. The woman also told the police that she was given Rs 3 lakh for this work, the police official had said, adding the money has been recovered.

NIA files charge sheet against two IS operatives in Karnataka

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTI):

National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a charge sheet against two alleged Islamic State operatives who were found involved in over two dozen incidents of arson and sabotage, including burning of the national flag in Karnataka, an official said Friday. Maaz Muneer Ahmad (23) and Syed Yasin (22) of Shivamogga have been charged in a special court under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Explosive Substances Act and Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, a spokesperson of the federal agency said. The official said the case relates to a conspiracy hatched to further the activities of the banned Islamic State terror group by carrying out acts of

arson, sabotage and violence in Karnataka. Further investigations against six other arrested accused are in progress. The NIA took over the case in September last year after it was initially registered by the Karnataka Police after Prem Singh was at Shivamogga on August 15 allegedly by accused Zabiulla and others. "Ahmad and Yasin, both B Tech graduates, had been radicalised and motivated by an online foreign-based handler to target public and private properties, including warehouses, liquor outlets, hardware shops, vehicles and properties belonging to citizens belonging to a particular community. In furtherance of a conspiracy hatched by the Islamic State, they had committed over 25 incidents of arson and sabotage," the spokesperson said.

Vijay Baghel to lead 'Ramayana Varta Prakashan Samiti'

Ramayana Research Council's project 'Ramayana Varta' aims to promote of Sanskrit and culture

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 17: Ramayana Research Council is launching a new project to promote Sanskrit language. The Council has resolved to publish a fortnightly magazine named 'Ramayana Varta'.

For publication of this magazine, a committee 'Ramayana Varta Prakashan Samiti' has been constituted. MP Vijay Baghel has been entrusted with the responsibility to lead this committee as Chairman.

MP Vijay Baghel said that the Ramayana Varta will be published in Sanskrit language. There will be a vocabulary at the bottom of each page to make it easier for the com-

mon people to understand articles. Baghel added that through this medium the common people will be made aware of the lost folk tradition and culture of the country.

Apart from this, a campaign will be launched through this magazine to make people aware of the famous temples of the country. He said that the magazine will not only publish articles in Sanskrit language in every issue, but will also give information about how to learn or speak Sanskrit.

Member of Parliament Baghel said that a team has also been formed for this work. In the first phase it will be published from New Delhi itself, then in the next phase efforts

will be made to start its publication from every state of India. He called upon the youth of the country to join this campaign.

Baghel added that Sanskrit language is the language of God and it is the mother of all languages. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been trying for a long time to strengthen the Sanskrit language, but now the time has come to make the world aware of the impact of this language. Baghel said that he will soon meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and inform him about this subject and then work on how to spread it at international level.

Along with a special article based on Shri



Ramcharitmanas and Ramayana, the magazine

will also publish articles about the art-culture and

folk-tradition, interviews of Katha Wachaks and peo-

ple who are working for the society, nation-building and society-building. Through the articles based on Vedic knowledge, special emphasis will be given on the related aspects.

Ramayana Varta will not only be published but will also be launched on digital platforms. Member of Parliament Baghel said that on March 30, on the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami, they are going to launch the website 'ramayanavarta.com'.

He said that the articles on this website will be in Sanskrit language, but at the end of each article the meaning of key words of that article will be mentioned, so that readers can read that article without any difficulty. The Ramayana

Research Council is working towards the installation of a 251 feet tall statue at Sitamarhi (Bihar), the birthplace of Mata Sita. The process of land acquisition is underway. Council members included

President Chandrashekhar Mishra, Coordinator Dev Ratna Sharma, Vice President Jaikant Singh, General Secretary Kumar Sushant, Secretary Pitamber Mishra, Consultant Editor Shailesh Pandey, President of Ramayana Manch Naveen Kumar, Incharge of Legal Cell Awadhesh Singh, Spokesperson Jai Dixit, IT Head Subhash Jha, Corporate Cell Head Kewal Kapoor, Shashank Singh, Vikas Verma and others were present.

Tribal youth to tour J&K and Assam under TYEP Three held for involvement in online cricket betting

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 17: Under the 14th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme, Border Security Force has selected and sent tribal youth from Kanker for a tour to Jammu and Kashmir and Guwahati (Assam). 11th and 12th groups were constituted with 40 tribal youth and they were sent on tour of other cities under this programme.

They are being accompanied by two female and two male officers / personnel of Border Security Force. BSF is organising 14 such tours this year. Under this exposure visit, the tribal youth will be



able to understand the cultural ethos, language, lifestyles of the people depicting Socio-economic and Cultural Development and Development process

unity in the diversity aspect of our national life.

They will be exposed to the technological and industrial advancement that have taken place in differ-

ent states of the country with focus on various developmental activities, skill development, educational and employment opportunities available there. They will be sensitized about their rich traditional & cultural heritage. This programme will help the tribal youth to develop emotional linkages with their peer groups in other parts of the country and enhance their self esteem.

IG Indraj Singh (BSF Frontier Headquarters, Special Operations, Chhattisgarh) and DIG (Intelligence) Dinesh Murmu have extended greetings and best wishes to the selected youth.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 17: Police arrested three persons from a house in Deep Nagar of Vaishali Nagar Police Station limits for operating the illegal cricket betting through Mahadev Book App. SP Dr Abhishek Pallava informed that on March 16, they received a complaint from Bhavesh Gandharva of Ramnagar regarding the illegal and unauthorised use of his bank account by a person.

He complained that about two months ago one Shrikant Deshmukh approached him with an attractive loan scheme and got an account opened in the name of the victim's



firm "Jugnu Sports" in the Indian Bank.

Few days later, Shrikant took the passbook, atm card and cheque book from Bhavesh on the excuse of getting the bank loan approved. When Bhavesh

asked him to return the documents, he did not give them back. Later, Bhavesh discovered that his bank account was being used for money transactions of illegal cricket betting. Acting on this com-

plaint, police raided a house in Deep Nagar and rounded up three youth red handed while operating the online cricket betting through Mahadev Book. The accused are identified as Shrikant Deshmukh (30) son of Rajendra Deshmukh a resident of Ramnagar; Vivek Singh (23) son of Devi Singh a resident of Jharkhand and Niraj Kumar son of Ashok Kumar a resident of Bihar.

Eleven mobiles and one Laptop were recovered from them. The accused were booked under the provisions mentioned in sections 420, 34 of IPC and Section 4 (a) of Gambling Act.

SRJS initiates campaign 'Ek Mutthi Daan-in the name of Shri Ram'

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 17: Shri Ram Janmotsav Samiti is running a campaign "Ek mutthi daan - in the name of Shri Ram" on the auspicious occasion of Shri Ram Navami this year. Under which the youth wing president of the committee, Manish Pandey appealed to the people to donate in the name of the Lord by reaching every house in Sector-1 and Sector 06 in East and West blocks respectively.

People donated food in the name of the Lord with great joy. All the donors were invited by the committee by presenting them with saffron flag and invita-

tion letter for Bhog Prasad on Ram Navami. Committee's youth wing president Manish Pandey informed that for the last 37 years this festival of Sri Ramnavami is celebrated with great enthusiasm and grandeur by the committee.

This event in the 38th year is very special for all of us because the construction of the Shriramlala temple is nearing completion and it will be ready in the year 2024. Pandey said that every year on the occasion of Shri Ram Navami, a huge Bhandara is organ-



ized.

In this sequence, this year the campaign "Ek Mutthi Daan - in the name of Shri Ram" is being run by the committee, under

which a handful of grain donation will be collected from each house of Steel City and used in the Bhandara.

A campaign is being run

to ensure the participation of every Bhilai resident and society in this grand festival. Pandey told that from March 16 to 24, the members of the committee will reach door to door in different blocks and accept a handful of grains as donation from the people.

During this mainly Prashant Pandey, Shakuntala Sahu, Ishwari Netam, Tilakraj Yadav, Shivprakash Shibu, Rinku Sahu, Kanhaiya, Dimpny Singh, Ashish Agarwal, Avinash Pradhan, Satyendra Gupta, Kamlesh Singh, Ramu Rao, Goldie Soni, Rituraj Sharma and a large number of Ram devotees were also present.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 17: CA Branch Bhilai is organizing a National Women's Conference on March 18 at CA Bhawan Civic Center. The programme titled "Agasti - Connect, Inspire, Empower" is being organized by the Women and Young Members Empowerment Committee of Bhilai Branch under the joint aegis of CA Branch Bhilai, Raipur and Bilaspur.

The country's first woman IPS and former Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry Dr Kiran Bedi will be present as the chief guest. Giving information, CA Payal Naveen Jain,



Kiran Bedi

Chairperson of CA Bhilai Branch said that present as special guests will be Women and Young Members Empowerment Committee Chairperson CA Preeti Savla, Vice Chairperson of the Committee CA Abhay

Chhajed, Vice Chancellor of Hemchand Yadav University Dr Aruna Palta, Meenakshi Tuteja, Dr Akanksha Sharma, CA Riddhi Jain and CA Reena Jain. She added that the program is being organized in different sessions from 10:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs at CA Bhawan Civic Center.

CA Sapna Golcha, Dr Neha Batra, CA Manisha Biyani will be present as speakers in the programme. The coordinators of the program are CA Vidhi Lekhwani, CA Preya Sethia, CA Smita Thakur, CA Chandana Jain, CA Binny Agarwal, CA Khushboo Sanghvi, CA Hemlata Singh, CA Sukhwinder Saini.

Patil demands Organic Farming Research Centre in Bastar

**Central Chronicle News**

Bhilai, Mar 17: 94th annual convention of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research was held at S u b r a m a n y a m Auditorium, Pusa, New Delhi on March 10. Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Tomar; Minister of Animal Husbandry and Dairy, Parshottam Khodabhai Rupala, along with Agriculture Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, NITI Aayog's Ramesh Chand; DG ICAR Himanshu Pathak, Secretary Sanjay Garg

were present.

Dinesh Patil, agriculture expert from Chhattisgarh state, member ICAR, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India; also participated in the meeting. He spoke about the problems of farmers in Chhattisgarh.

He detailed the problem of loss of chilli crop due to black thrips and demanded from the ICAR to give the right solution so that the farmers do not face any further loss.

He suggested that the millet grains be included in the food distribution system and nutrition diet plan.

He added that agricultural industrial clusters should be created so that the tomatoes, onion etc produced by farmers could be utilised properly.

It is often seen that the farmers are not able to get expected returns by selling these crops in the markets. Wherever these crops are cultivated, industries should be set up keeping in mind the agriculture produce to benefit the farmers.

The transportation expenses would also be saved and pollution could be reduced. He demanded an organic farming research centre in Bastar of Chhattisgarh.

DPS Bhilai organises annual open day celebrations of Class-I

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 17: The 37th Annual Open Day of the Pre-Primary Wing Class One, was held on 16 March 2023 at the DPS Risali Campus with great enthusiasm and exuberance. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), BSP.

The programme was also graced by a plethora of dignitaries Nirja Kumari Singh, Prabir Kumar Sarkar, Pro-Vice Chairman, SMC, DPS Bhilai & CGM I/c (Services), BSP, Bhilai, Keka Sarkar, Mukesh Kumar Gupta, Member, SMC, DPS Bhilai & CGM (BRM), BSP, Babita Gupta, Sapatarishi Sengupta, Member, SMC, DPS Bhilai & GM (RSM), BSP, Jayati Sengupta, Dr KH Ramesh, Coopted Member, SMC, DPS Bhilai along with Dr Annapoorni and Renu Vashishta amongst the others.

The enchanting evening began with the presentation of sapling to the Chief Guest and other distinguished guests. The Chief



Guest lit the ceremonial lamp which led to an auspicious beginning of the function. The Pre-Primary Choir Group presented a melodious Welcome Song. The Principal Prashant Vashishta greeted the august gathering.

The Annual Report of the activities of the Class One was presented by the Headmistress, Junior Wing, Geeta Zunjani. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest congratulated everyone who are associated with the school.

He requested the parents to believe in the teachers who give various op-

portunities to the children and kindle their talents. He emphasized on the motto of the school 'Service Before Self'.

The Cultural Carnival based on the theme "NATURE" began with a rhythmic dance performance "Dharti Ka Dil". The pulsating beat of our nature was showcased by 71 students of classes - 1 D & G. This was guided by Sonia Ulphas and Shubha Jiji Varghese.

This was followed by a dance drama "Panch Mahabhoota" portraying the five elements that help to understand laws of nature. This was presented



by 186 students of classes One - A, B, E, F & I.

The students were guided by Meenakshi Paul, Mona Tiwari, Sushmita Moitra, Renu Sharma, Purnima Sahu, Archana S Jashwant, Anita Mishra & Ashita Banerjee Munshi. Aryan Shah of class One B took the audience into a rhythmic journey of life with his amazing drumming skills. 71 students of classes One-C & H presented a foot tapping dance "Khushiyon Da Mela".

They captivated the gathering by displaying that nature has gifted a plethora of things which

brings happiness in our lives. They were trained by K Prasuna, Jyoti A Nair and Aarti Gupta.

Above all, the members of prefectorial body stunned the audience with their confident, brilliant and interesting compereing for the various events. The overall coordination of the programme was done by Sandhya Naidu, Sushmita Moitra, Adipti Chakraborty and Rashmi Anupam Kumar. The programme drew to a close with the vote of thanks proposed by Sushmita Moitra and concluded with the National Anthem.

Cabinet approves changes in anti-Naxal policy



● And also many drafts including the bill on Journalists Protection Act

Raipur, Mar 17: The Chhattisgarh government on Friday made changes in its anti-Naxalite policy related to compensation and other facilities, and also approved the draft of a bill that aims to enshrine protection of mediapersons in law. To enhance the quality of education in Chhattisgarh, the Education Department has been authorized to implement the World Bank Project- 'Chalk' worth about Rs 2500 cr and the

Finance Department has been authorized to give final approval to the loan. These decisions were taken by the state cabinet at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel in the Assembly premises here. Informing reporters about the cabinet decisions, state urban administration minister Shivkumar Daharia said the draft of the 'Chhattisgarh Mediapersons Protection Bill 2023' was approved in the meeting and its details will be known once it is tabled in the Assembly during the ongoing Budget session. Similarly, some provisions related to compensa-

tion and other facilities were amended by the cabinet in the state government's policy on elimination of Naxalism, he said. A key change in the policy will enable the family of a person from outside Chhattisgarh to receive compensation in case of death in Naxalite violence in the insurgency-affected state, he added. Earlier, there was no provision for compensation to the kin of anyone who comes from other state to Chhattisgarh and gets killed in Maoist violence. But under the amended policy, provision for compensation has been made in such cases, the minister said. Other details of the

policy will be disclosed later, Daharia said. Besides, the draft of Chhattisgarh Goods and Service Tax (Amendment) Bill 2023 and the Salary, Allowance and Pension of Members of Chhattisgarh Assembly (Amendment) Bill 2023; Chhattisgarh Land Revenue Code-1959 (Amendment) Bill 2023 and the draft of the Leasehold Rights to the Homeless People in Urban Areas of Chhattisgarh Bill 2023, were approved. The cabinet also decided to appoint badminton player Akarshi Kashyap, a silver medalist in the 2022 Commonwealth Games and a resident of Durg district, as a Deputy Superintendent of Police (Class II Gazetted), Daharia said. Cabinet has also decided to create a new post of Officer on Special Duty at Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Nava Raipur on a temporary basis for a period of one year.

HOLI MILAN



Members of Ch'garh Brahmin Samaj Central Samiti organised 'Holi-Milan' programme and variety of programmes were held on this occasion.

Opposition alleges embezzlement of ration materials of over 600 cr

● Whoever is found guilty will be jailed: Food Minister

Raipur, Mar 17: Alleging huge mess in the distribution of rice, jiggery, gram and sugar the opposition BJP MLAs today said in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly that food items worth more than Rs 600 crore, which were to reach the general public directly through ration shops, were embezzled. The opposition kept on repeatedly demanding an inquiry by the house committee. Food Minister claimed that the investigation into the matter will be over by March 24. Whoever is found guilty will be behind the bars, said the Food Minister. In view of continuous hue and cry over food distribution system the Speaker had to adjourn the proceedings of the House twice. Raising the issue pertaining to PDS system in the question hour former Chief Minister Dr Raman



Singh asked whether the department made any rules for the surplus stock left in the ration shops? He said that about 68 thousand 930 metric tonnes of rice was to be in stock. This much quantity of rice could have been distributed upto four to five months, he said. There was over stock of ration material even in the gram panchayats, he said, adding that irregularities came to fore in 450 shops. Food Minister Amarjeet Bhagat said that the department had been monitoring it from time to time. So far 161 fair price shops have been suspended while 140 shops have been cancelled, he informed. Alleging embezzlement of rice worth more than 600 crore Dr Raman Singh

said that PDS system of the state had gone into the hands of middlemen. BJP MLA Shivratna Sharma said that there was no account of 68 thousand metric tonnes of rice. Leader of Opposition Narayan Chandel said that it was a matter of food grains worth 600 crore that had to be distributed among the poor. BJP MLAs started raising slogans demanding an inquiry by the committee of the House. Seeing the ruckus, Speaker Dr Charan Das Mahant adjourned the proceedings for 5 minutes. On the resumption of the proceedings, the opposition remained adamant on demanding an inquiry by the house committee. The Speaker quoted minister's reply that the investigation will be completed by 24th and action will be taken against whoever is found guilty. But the opposition legislators did not agree to this and started raising slogans. Seeing the ruckus the Speaker adjourned the proceedings again.

81 out of 286 applications for gun license in Raipur, Balodabazar rejected

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 17: Out of 286 applications received for gun license in Raipur and Balodabazar districts 81 were rejected, Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu said in Chhattisgarh Assembly on Friday. Raising the issue during the Question Hour, Balodabazar MLA Pramod Sharma asked about the rule for making gun/pistol license in the state. What are the rules and documents prescribed for its eligibility? He asked. The process of applying for gun (pistol) license in the state is prescribed according to Chapter-2 Rule 05 of the Ordinance Rules, 2016 issued by the Government of India, Home Minister said. The determination of eligible and ineligible for license is done as per Rule 12 on the basis of documents submitted under Rule 11, he said. MLA Sharma asked how many people applied for gun license in Raipur and Balodabazar-

Bhatapara district from year 2020 to February 2023 and how many of them were granted license. How many applications were rejected? he asked. The Home Minister said that 274 applications were received in Raipur district. Of them, 74 have been issued licenses while 125 applications are pending and 75 have been rejected, he said. Similarly, 12 applications were received in Balodabazar: license has been issued on one application, while 5 applications are pending and 6 applications have been rejected, he said. MLA Sharma asked whether public representatives have also applied for license during the said period. The Home Minister said that no public representative in Raipur district applied for a license during the said period. MLA Pramod Kumar Sharma had submitted the application in Balodabazar district, which has been rejected after consideration.

Hundreds of CAKF call for one-day dharna today

All govt offices from Indravati to Surguja will remain closed In support of their 14-point demand

Raipur, Mar 17: It was as per call by the Chhattisgarh Karamchari-Adhikar Federation (CKAF), the government officers and employees of the state will be on one-day strike tomorrow in support of their four-point demands. Regional convener CKAF Kamal Verma and state spokesman Chandrashekar Tiwari informed that in this around 5 lakh officers and employees would be on strike. In the first phase of strike on March 3, demonstrations were held at block, tehsil and district level and memorandum was submitted in the name of CM to the Collector. In tomorrow's 2nd phase, all officers and employees would stage one-day dharna at city's Budhatalab dharna venue. Prominent among the 14 point demands of CAKF are: sorting out salary discrepancies of clerical grade staff; calculation of service that of LB grade and all Asst. Teachers from the first day of their service; pay discrepancies; all other benefits to Education Department; Health; women and

child development department; Forest department; animal Husbandry and other employees that this strike has been organised. The report by the Pingua Committee on 17 Sept 2021 would also be submitted to the state government. The other demand include pending 5% DA to the state employees and pensioners and HRA as per the 7th pay-scale to the central govt employees; four-stage promotional pay-scale to the state government employees as per the declarations in the Congress party's election manifesto; declaring Bus Stand Pandri as new dharna venue instead of 'Tuta' Naya Raipur. The court of 7th Additional Sessions Judge Vandana Deepak Dewangan, convicted a man Tikes Sahu in murder of his wife over a trivial issue in the year 2019 in Nava Raipur area. The court sentenced him to life imprisonment with a fine of Rs one thousand on Friday. In case of failure to deposit the amount of fine, he will have to undergo simple imprisonment for one month separately. Additional Public Prosecutor Varsha Rathore said that the incident took place between 7 to 8 pm on May 18, 2019, in Kayabandha behind Dabaha pond of Mandir Hasaud police station area when Tikes Sahu (28), originally a resident of vil-

Vikash Group enters into Ch'garh, takes over Rungta Int'l School

● Academic session for 2023-24 starts

Raipur, Mar 17: Vikash, the renowned Educational Institutions of Odisha as well as in the eastern part of India has made its maiden entry in Chhattisgarh, taking over Rungta International School at Raipur and Aadeshwar Academy at Jagdalpur, under its banner, said D. Murali Chairman Vikash Group of Institution while addressing the mediapersons on Friday here. He said that Vikash Group of Institutions from Odisha has been serving Odisha and its adjacent states for



the last two decades imparting qualitative CBSE K-12 education in its 18 institutions having more than 15000 students across the state, with innovative pedagogical ideas and latest educational initiatives taken up by the Board. Murali said that students of Chhattisgarh have been preferring Vikash over two decades and it was long pending demand of

parents to start Vikash at Chhattisgarh. It's worth mentioning that both Rungta International School and Aadeshwar Academy are affiliated to CBSE, New Delhi up to Senior Secondary Level-K12. Besides, Rungta International School is the only school in the state providing the internationally accepted IB Curriculum to the aspir-

ing stakeholders. Olympiad, a unique programme at Vikash from Class VI onwards is offered to students to enable them to prepare competitive examinations after class-X. Besides, the Integrated programme for JEE/NEET/CPT for classes XI/XII along with CBSE Board Preparations is worth mentioning. Jawahar Suriseti, Executive Director, Rungta Group said that the highly effective Vikash Centralised Academic Programme will be implemented at both Rungta International School, Raipur and Aadeshwar Academy at Jagdalpur

with effect from this academic session 2023-24. Faculty Development and Capacity Building will be the integral part of the academic program, he said. Both the schools have well equipped Boarding House facilities for the Boys & Girls separately with all modern amenities to avail. Both the schools will have sporting facilities of international standards offering a number of sports and games activities including Cricket, Football, Badminton, Lawn Tennis, Swimming Pool and other Indoor Sports, he said. D Vivek Kumar, Director, Vikas Group was also present on the occasion.

40 MVA transformer energised



Raipur, Mar 17: Keeping in view the increasing demand of energy, Chhattisgarh State Power Transmission Company (CSPTCL) is continuously increasing its transmission capacity. In this series, a 132/33 KVA Kodatarai Power Sub-station, a 40 MVA (Mega Volt Ampere) capacity Transformer was energised in Raigarh district. MD Ujjwala Baghel

on this achievement has extended greetings to the officers and employees of CSPTCL. With increasing in the capacity of this power sub-station at the cost of around Rs 4 crore, a total of more than 200 villages of the district will get quality power supply. This will benefit not only the farmers, but the general villagers as well. It is notable here that the Power Company is increasing the power capacity of transformers right from urban to rural areas to ensure transmission of quality power supply. With hike of 40 MVA in Kodatarai power sub-station, the total transmission capacity in the state has reached to 22658 MVA. At the energisation of high-tension transformer, ED Chandrashekar Singh, CE duo KK Bhagat, K Ghate, SE CM Vajpayee, RK Agrawal, EE Gunjan Sharma, JP Sidar, GR Jaiswal, Mohit Banjare, AE RK Rao, Mohan Paikra, Prem Uraon, Bajrang Vishwakarma, and other officers and employees were present.

Man gets life imprisonment for murdering wife

Raipur, Mar 17: The court of 7th Additional Sessions Judge Vandana Deepak Dewangan, convicted a man Tikes Sahu in murder of his wife over a trivial issue in the year 2019 in Nava Raipur area. The court sentenced him to life imprisonment with a fine of Rs one thousand on Friday. In case of failure to deposit the amount of fine, he will have to undergo simple imprisonment for one month separately. Additional Public Prosecutor Varsha Rathore said that the incident took place between 7 to 8 pm on May 18, 2019, in Kayabandha behind Dabaha pond of Mandir Hasaud police station area when Tikes Sahu

(28), originally a resident of village Borjhara of Bhakhara police station area of Dhamtari district, murdered his wife Rameshwari Goswami by hitting a piece of cement stone on her head. In fact, the deceased Rameshwari Goswami was living in village Navagaon (Rakhi) with Tikes Sahu. They often used to quarrel on domestic issues. Earlier in January 2019, Tikes injured Rameshwari by stabbing her in the neck with a vegetable-cutter. The complaint of this incident was lodged by the injured Rameshwari at the Rakhi police station. Furious over registration of crime Tikes often used to fight with Rameshwari over this

matter. Tikes Sahu assaulted Rameshwari at Shanti Bai Kosle's hotel on the date of the incident. People present there advised him to calm down and asked him to leave the hotel. After this, Tikes Sahu took Rameshwari along with him to the pond and attacked and killed her there. Tikes remained absconding for several days after the incident. Apart from arresting him after registering a case of murder police presented the charge sheet in the court. Seventh Additional Sessions Judge Vandana Deepak Dewangan, while hearing the case, sentenced Tikes Sahu with life imprisonment and fine.

Take up public welfare schemes of Centre to masses: Sao

Raipur, Mar 17: The process of strengthening of booths of BJP started from Friday and this campaign would continue in entire state till March 27. It is notable here that this campaign of BJP has been launched all over the country. BJP state gen. secy. and convener of Booth Strengthening Programme (BSP) Vijay Sharma informed that in this campaign, the BJP national and state party leaders and office bearers of BJP along with MPs, MLAs and other public representatives and office bearers of Mandal-level

would reach-out to every booth. During this there will be division of responsibilities to strengthen the booths among the party workers and make it more active. In this entire campaign, the short-term expansioners (Vistaraks) of the party would give 10-day full time in their booths and make this campaign a success. There are total of 4400 'Vistaraks' of the party all over the state and they along with the party leaders and office bearers would reach-out to the Booths under their command and hold discussions on their work-plan in detail.

On the first day of this campaign on Friday, President Draupadi Murmu delivered speech. The 'Vistaraks' under this campaign, would meet all the general public and apprise them about the central government's schemes and hold talks with the beneficiaries as well. During this they will also visit the residences of party workers residing in the booth area and hold talks with the senior party workers and review actual situation of the booth. BJP State President Arun Sao under the Booth Strengthening campaign, visited the

Mandals in Bilaspur city including ward no. 32 Vasant Bhai Patel Nagar; Booth No's 152 to 157 and in South Mandal booth from 91, 92, 95 and 95 and addressed the party workers and appealed them to strengthen their booth and pass on the schemes and achievements of PM Modi-led BJP government at the Centre to the masses and ensure that they avail its full benefit. During this former Minister and State spokesman BJP Rajesh Munat visited Shaheed Chudamani ward of Tatayapara Mandal; state gen. secy Kedar Kashyap at

Jagdish Mandal ward Narayanapur and Bangalapur; District Narayanapur; Vijay Sharma, Uma Vindhvayasi Shakti Kendra Kwardha; State V-P Bhupendra Savanni at Bilha VS- Bilha Mandal- Mangala Shakti Kendra; Laxmi Verma of Balodabazar in Navapara and Jangada Shakti Kendra and former gen. secy. Kiran Dev in Jagdalpur's Bhagat Singh Shakti Kendra. Along with this other BJP office bearers and party workers took part in strengthening of their booths reaching out to different 'Shakti-kendras'.

Action on BJP workers reminds of Jallianwala Bagh: BJP

The way tear gas shells were fired reminds of actions of Nadir Shah and Tughlaq: Sao



Officials must stop acting cruelly at the behest of power, BJP state president Arun Sao said while talking to the reporters here on Thursday over yesterday's incident when BJP attempted to gherao state legislative assembly with the support of beneficiaries of PM Awas Yojana. About a dozen BJP workers and police personnel were injured in scuffle that broke out when BJP workers tried to broke bar-

those who are taking action at the behest of the government. You are a public servant, doing public duty. Torture against the public is not to do injustice', Sao warned. Sao said that the beneficiaries of the PM Awas decided to go to the assembly on Wednesday but the government ordered to put barricades at various places and fire tear gas shells besides using lathis and water cannons. "This reminds of the actions of Nadir Shah and Tughlaq. The way the shells were thrown into the crowd reminds me of Jallianwala Bagh", Sao said. The BJP tried to gherao assembly over PM Awas Yojana, but the police ad-

ministration stopped thousands of BJP workers 500 meters ahead of the assembly. Police had put up three layers of barricades. When BJP reached near third layer after breaking two layers police used water canon besides releasing tear gas on them. A video of releasing tear gas shells is also going viral on social media. A police officer is seen throwing tear gas shells towards the crowd in this video. The shells exploded with sparks. Many shells were continuously thrown towards the crowd. Apart from this, another video is going viral, in which BJP leaders are seen demonstrating with sticks in hands.

There will be a holiday on Chetri Chand Mohatsav: CM

In Municipal Corporation and Municipality areas Baghel participated in the 63rd-anniv celebration of Sant Rajaram Sahib Ji at Shadani Darbar



Raipur, Mar 17: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel participated in the 63rd-anniversary celebration of Sant Rajaram Sahibji organized at Shadani Darbar Tirth in the state capital. On this occasion, Chief Minister Mr. Baghel declared a holiday across the state's Municipal Corporation and Municipality areas in honor of Chetri Chand Mohatsav. Prior to this, Chief Minister also welcomed 350 pilgrims from Pakistan's Sindh province to Chhattisgarh for the 63rd-anniversary celebrations of Sant Rajaram

Sahib at Shadani Darbar. On this occasion, Chief Minister Mr. Baghel complimented Shadani Darbar for organizing the visits of 122 women from Pakistan's Sindh province to a number of sacred sites in India. The 63rd-anniversary festival of Sant Rajaram Sahibji will be held in Shadani Darbar from March 14 to 17, 2023. Members of Shadani Darbar honored the Chief Minister by gifting him with a holy saropa. On this occasion, Chief Minister Mr. Baghel also launched the CD for the

film 'Dhuneshwar Mahadev'. Addressing the devotees present at the program, the Chief Minister stated that Sindh society is essentially a commercial society and that in Chhattisgarh, we have done many such works, such as loan waivers for farmers and purchase of paddy at support price, as a result of which the people's economic situation has improved. These initiatives have directly benefited Chhattisgarh's traders and as a result of this,

Chhattisgarh's markets are buzzing with activity as customers' pockets are filled with money. Despite the fact that the country as a whole was in recession, Chhattisgarh's marketplaces remained vibrant. President of Gau Sewa Aayog Mahant Swami Ramsunder Das and Peethadhish of Shadani Darbar Santashree Dr. Yudhishtirraji also addressed the program. On this occasion, Peethadhish of Shadani Darbar Santashree Dr. Yudhishtirraji, Parliamentary Secretary Vikas Upadhyay, MLA and President of Chhattisgarh Housing Board, Kuldeep Juneja, Chairman of Gau Seva Aayog, Mahant Swami Ramsunder Das, President of Raipur Central Cooperative Bank, Pankaj Sharma, President of Sindh Academy Shri Ram Gidani and other dignitaries were present.

'Rajim-Bandh' near total till afternoon hours

Members of Advocates' Union, Vayapari Sangh stage protest, raise slogans



Rajim, Mar 17: The members of Advocates Union in association with Vayapari Sangh observed Rajim-bandh till afternoon hours upto 1:00 pm. The Advocates' Union right since morning at 7:00 am went around all the market area appealing people to keep their shops closed and to which they responded positively. For this one day earlier on Thursday evening also an announcement was made for 'shahar bandh'. It is notable here that Advocates' Union convened a meeting of all the 'Krishak' and trading institutions in city on Thursday and in which all supported the Union's decision for removal of Tehsildar Rajim for his alleged misbehaviour and corruption and took a decision to keep city closed for half-day till 1:00 pm to protest the same. The Union and Vayapari Sangh claimed that the bandh called was near total. The heart of city at

Pt. Sunderlal Sharma Chowk was echoing with slogans in protest of 'Tehsildar hatao-Rajim Bachao'. The advocates also staged dharna in Tehsil premises and they expressed gratitude to traders, and shopkeepers of making city band a grand success. It is notable here that the advocates and traders are staging protest against misbehaviour and corruption of Tehsildar Rajim since Feb 22 and have submitted memorandum for removal of tehsildar for Collector Gariyaband; SDM Rajim and MLA Amitesh Shukla. Prior to this the advocates have burnt an effigy of district administration and organised a 'Yagna' as well. The president

Advocates' Union Mahesh Yadav has condemned the statement by Tehsildar that this movement is politically motivated. It is notable here that this movement by Advocates' Union has got support of all the parties, including Congress, District panchayat member, Janpad members and Mandi President and MLA Amitesh Shukla. Yadav said that from Monday, March 20, they will enter serial hunger strike. V-P Advocates' Union Himanshu Dubey said that till the Tehsildar Rajim is not removed, their dharna and protest would continue and it would be intensified later, as we are getting support of all the organisations. In this city bandh pro-

gramme, Ramakant Diwan, TR Sahu, Sanotsh Goswami, Anushashan Sahu, Arvind Sharma, Dashrath Nishad, KK Sharma, Avon Sahu, Jugul Kishore Sharma, Mahendra Soni, Bharat

Sahu, Bhuneshwar Goswami, Daneshwar Thakur, Gyanendra Sinha, Lokesh Sahu, Ramnarayan Sahu, Ajay Agrawal and other Advocates were present. What Collector said On the other hand, when the correspondent contacted District Collector Prabhat Mallik said that no officer can be removed just by framing charges of corruption against him and it should be backed with ample proof and evidence and it should be presented before us in writing. I would get it investigated and on finding it true, due action will be taken. For a chance, they can even frame allegations against me, he added.

Amitesh hold talks with Ministers

MLA Amitesh Shukla reached Rajim at 8:00 pm and called the members of Advocates' Union for talks. President Advocates' Union Mahesh Yadav apprised Shukla about the entire situation and demanded removal of Tehsildar Rajim at the earliest. On this Shukla said that he is trying to get Tehsildar Rajim removed and would hold talks with

few Ministers on reaching Raipur. It was at around 11:00 am that Shukla informed Mahesh Yadav and Ramnarayan Sahu of Union that talks with Minister has been held and he has sought 15 days time for removal of Tehsildar. Sahu informed that Shukla has held talks with Revenue Minister, Minister in-charge of the district for the above work.

Health Fair in Sagona, celebration of 'Nikshay Diwas'

Oath administered to citizens for eradication of T.B.

Bemetara, Mar 17: Under the Ayushman Bharat and Health Wellness Center, according to the instructions of Bemetara Collector and District Magistrate Padum Singh Alma and under the guidance of Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. G.L. Tandon, Nodal Officer Dr. K.Sahu, and Nodal Officer of National Tuberculosis Eradication Program, a health fair called 'Amrit Mahotsav' was celebrated in Wellness Center Sagona. On this occasion, it has been decided that the 14th of every month is to be celebrated as 'Nikshay Diwas'. In the event, common people

were given information regarding the symptoms and diagnosis/treatment of T.B. Additionally, under Tuberculosis Prevent Therapy (TPT), medicines are to be administered to people living with patients afflicted by T.B. at their homes so that people living near T.B. patients are protected from this disease. It is noteworthy that if a person suffering from T.B. (sputum-positive patient) doesn't get proper treatment in time, they might infect and afflict 10 to 15 people in a year. The human being is a social animal and works for his livelihood in society, that is why one should help people suffering from T.B. by providing them information about its diagnosis, treatment, required diet, etc.

Anyone can help a person suffering from T.B. It was told at the health fair that this disease cannot be eradicated completely without the contribution of everyone in society. That is why everyone should contribute to the campaign run by the State Government in all villages for eradicating T.B. An oath was administered to people for eliminating the T.B. disease in Chhattisgarh by the end of the year 2023. The Senior Treatment Supervisor from Saja Mr. Puran Anand, Community Health Officer Ms. Chanchal Sahu, ANM Dayawanti Nishad, Mitani sisters Mamta Thakur, Chameli Vishwakarma, villagers of Sagona, and schoolchildren were present on the occasion.

Land of Ch'garh is sacred and revered: Prof. Chakrawal

Two-day national seminar organized on the theme of 'Shri Rama in the Folk Culture of Ch'garh'



Bilaspur, Mar 16: A two-day National Seminar on the theme 'Shri Rama in the Folk Culture of Chhattisgarh' was organized on March 13-14, jointly under the auspices of the Department of Hindi of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (a Central University) and Ayodhya Research Institute, Department of Culture, Uttar Pradesh. The inaugural program of the National Seminar started at 10.30 a.m. The Chief Guest of the program was Dr. Sanjay Alang, acclaimed writer and Divisional Commissioner of Bilaspur Division. The keynote address was delivered by honorable Vice-Chancellor of Indira Gandhi National Tribal

University, Amarkantak (M.P.), Prof. Prakash Mani Tripathi. The program was presided over by Honorable Vice-Chancellor of the University and patron of the seminar, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal. In the presidential address, Vice-Chancellor of the University and the patron of the seminar, Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawal said, "The name of Rama is the source of India's perennial energy. We all are fortunate in this matter that in this country where a great man like Rama was born, we are all

moving forward as carriers of the same culture and civilization". Referring to Chhattisgarh, Professor Chakrawal remarked, "It is my good fortune that the land on which Rama spent so many days in exile is also my workplace. Since this very land really transformed Rama into Lord Rama, therefore the holy land of Chhattisgarh is sanctified and worthy of worship". The Chief Guest, Dr. Sanjay Alang, senior writer and Divisional Commissioner of Bilaspur Division said in his address that Rama is adored all over India. Dr Alang observed, "Famous as the Nanihal of Maryada Purushottam Rama, this land still sees its nephew in the form of Rama while discharging that tradition". Referring to various places in the state, he said that Chhattisgarh has been witness to the days of Rama's struggle. Prof. Prakash Mani Tripathi,

Vice-Chancellor, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak (M.P.) said in his keynote address that the role of forest stay has been very important in the gaining of 'Ramaatva' for Rama. Only the forest dwellers truly understood the essence of Lord Rama. He pointed out, "The period from Chitrakoot to Amrakot and from there to Panchavati led Lord Rama to attain Ramatva". Prof. Tripathi beautifully related the story of Kevat and Shabri and told that Shri Rama is the origin of consciousness and is present in every house in Chhattisgarh as an integral part of the culture. Before this, flowers were offered before the statues of Maa Saraswati and Baba Guru Ghasidasji along with the lighting of lamp by the guests. During this, the Tarang Band gave a mesmerizing presentation of

Saraswati Vandana and Kulgeet. After that, the guests on the stage were welcomed with saplings. The welcome address was delivered by the Dean of the School of Arts, Professor Brajesh Tiwari. The theme of the seminar was explicated by Dr. Gauri Tripathi, the Convenor of the seminar. The guests on the stage were honored by presenting Chhattisgarhi Gamcha, Shreefal and mementos. On this occasion, the souvenir of the seminar was released by the guests. The vote of thanks was presented by the Dean of the School of Arts, Prof. Brajesh Tiwari and the event was conducted by Mr. Murlu Manohar Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of Hindi. Deans of various schools, department heads, teachers, officers, research scholars, and students were present in the program.

Ayush Health Awareness camp organized in Chhindiya village

Patients were successfully treated; Free medicines were distributed

Central Chronicle News Surajpur, Mar 17: A special Ayush health awareness camp was organized by the Community Health Center (Ayush Center team) of Ramanujnagar with the assistance of Sarpanch Mrs. Asha Singh and in the presence of B.M.O. Dr. D.K. Vishwakarma and

B.P.M. Sandeep Namdev in Chhindiya Village under Ramanujnagar development block. In the camp, free medicines were distributed to patients after their treatment by the Ayush doctors Dr. Seema Tripathi, Dr. Priyanka Toppo, Dr. Ritu Shandilya, and Supervisors Vijay Singh, Devendra Dubey, Pharmacist Archana Pandey, Gyanendra Pandey, Manish, Tulesh Singh. Ayushman cards were issued to 25 villagers by Operator Akhilesh Thakur. In the

camp, the Ayush team and M.T. Mrs. Devi, Mitani Kavita, Phoolmati, Indu, Dashmet, Mankunwar, Surekha, Sandhya, Ramkunwar, Sushila, and Sarita spread awareness about Yoga and Ayurved amongst common people. 168 patients were treated in the camp. Mitani were given 27 - stage Mitani training completion certificates. A large number of Mitani trainers, Mitani sisters, and villagers were present at the camp.

'Mobile medical units benefits people living in old age homes'



Balod, Mar 17: People in the state's urban areas are able to access health-care facilities close to their homes because of mobile medical unit under the Mukhyamantri Slum Swasthya Yojana (MSSY), which is in line with the intentions of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. People's time and money are saved since there are free health checkups, treatments, and medicines available to the general public close to their homes, minimizing the need for hospital visits. Meanwhile, Health team of the Mobile Medical Unit, which is

part of the Mukhyamantri Slum Swasthya Yojana, organized a health camp at the old age home in Shikaripara, District Headquarters Balod. After assessing and treating the residents' health, free medicines were given to them. The elders residing in the old age home praised the government's initiative, saying that it is a very nice scheme because they get free health check-ups and medicines every month, which they use on a regular basis. They stated that with the use of these medi-

cines and the physical problem could quickly be diagnosed and cured. They no longer have to visit the hospital on a regular basis. This hospital vehicle is proving to be really beneficial to them.

Delegation of Gond Samaj meets CM



Raipur, Mar 17: A delegation of the Gond Samaj (community) hailing from Raigarh district led by Lailunga MLA Chakradhar Singh Sidar paid a courtesy visit to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel in his office room situated in the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly complex this evening. The delegation expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for the state government's ongoing

ing efforts for the betterment of the tribal community and had a discussion with him about matters pertaining to the community's best interests. On this occasion Pathalgaon MLA Rampukar Singh, Sanjari Balod MLA Sangeeta Sinha, Ratan Porte, Vanmali Neti, Deepak Sidar, Balram, Bhuneshwar Porte, Mithu Lal, Shekhar Sidar and many members of Raigarh District Gond community were present.

Classifieds

दुकान

अम्नीडी मेन रोड एक्सिस बैंक ATM के ठीक बाजू में दुकान किराए से देना है, दुकान की साईज 550 वर्गफुट और 500fit mazzine floor संपर्क 9977635500

आवश्यकता

बी.ई. मेकेनिकल इंजीनियर युवक की औद्योगिक निर्माण उद्योग में आवश्यकता है, उम्र सीमा 25-30 वर्ष। वेतन योग्यतानुसार, अपना बायोडाटा व्हाट्सअप करें। मो.नं. - 99074-98222

RVS take out massive bike-rally

In support of some of their long-pending demands



Dalli-Rajhara, Mar 17:

Prior to the indefinite massive movement by Rajhara Vayapari Sangh (RVS) with demand for development in 'Loh-Nagri' Dalli-Rajhara, a massive bike-rally was taken out on March 15 in city. The traders started gathering at 'Atal Sadan' since 8:00 in the morning and in this protest, all exhibited their selfless participation.

It was for the first time in the history of city that bikers in such a large number took to streets. The businessman, traders under leadership of Govind Vadhvani amidst slogans to save the city from getting vacated, took out this bike-rally. The bike rally started from Atal Sadan at 10:30 am and passed through main-thoroughfares in city and covered 3 kms in about two hours time.

The President Rajhara Vayapari Sangh (RVS) Govind Vadhvani addressing the shopkeepers, traders and businessmen said that with iron ore from Rajhara, BSP has manufactured railway

lines and created record of length of railway tracks. But contrary to this the very city, whose soil and earth has been excavated are being deprived of basic amenities. He charged that people are being made to travel in standing position in trains and there is no one to give patient hearing to demands of common men.

Even at the time of division from Durg district and not taking action in favour of Dalli-Rajhara as district, instead Balod was declared a new district. Some of its departments were to be given to Dalli-Rajhara, but it was also denied. In support of all such demands the shopkeepers and traders of city are annoyed and demanded to rename the district as Dalli-Rajhara- Balod district and offices of few departments be opened in Dalli-Rajhara.

Shopkeepers charged that their city is going behind in terms of development, as the population of 1 lakh has reduced to now just 40000. Since there is no new industry or avenues for employment, the

traders and shopkeepers are winding up their business here. Trader informed that BJP is denying to provide even education, health and other facilities to denizens of Dalli-Rajhara and so far 7 BSP operated schools have closed-down and parents are forced to send their children for education to other cities. The Central School proposed in the city has not seen light of the day and the traders demanded opening of new Central School in city from the next academic session. For a 100-bedded hospital, the state government always makes provision in the budget prior to the election, but this time they have been promised about the same, but in ground -reality nothing is happening.

Prominent among some of the demands of RVS include opening of offices of Railway and that of State government in Dalli-Rajhara; survey for industrial city done and accordingly registration be simplified; central school be opened soon; by-pass construction be done early; Jal-Awardhan Yojana be completed soon and 100-bedded hospital be opened soon.

RVS would stage dharna on March 17 and take out 'mashal rally' and on March 18 would hold lockdown in city for indefinite period.

Take full care of the facilities of the patients: Collector



Bilaspur, Mar 17: District Collector Saurabh Kumar inspected the health facilities being provided to the patients by surprise inspection of the district hospital here and instructed the Chief Medical and Health Officer and Civil Surgeon to treat the patients with utmost sensitivity.

The Collector closely inspected various rooms including OPD room, ICU room, male and female patient ward, infant ward and nutritional rehabilitation center; HDU ward, eye ward, isolation ward, surgery ward, blood bank in the hospital.

The Collector interacted with the patients admitted in the wards and inquired about their well-being. He also took stock of OPD and inquired about the treatment being received from the patients. The civil surgeon on this occasion said that registration for OPD check-up can be done through the Abha App and there is no need to stand in

unnecessary queues for registering through the app. The Collector also inspected the Nutrition Rehabilitation Center; on which the Civil Surgeon informed that currently 7 children are being looked after in this nutritional rehabilitation center with a capacity of 15 children.

The Collector took information from the family members about the food given to the children according to the menu. He instructed to provide toys and other facilities in the play area for the children, so as to provide better care and environment to the children in the Nutrition Rehabilitation Center.

The Collector instructed the Women and Child Development Officer to identify malnourished children and get them admitted to the Nutrition Rehabilitation Center. Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. Anil Srivastava, Civil Surgeon Dr. Anil Gupta and others were present.

Discussion held with temple committee to ban animal sacrifice

In Siddhi Mata temple

Berla, Mar 17:

Under the chairmanship of Collector Padum Singh Elma, a meeting of the temple committee was organized here in connection with the ritual of sacrifice being held in the historical Siddhi Mata temple of Sandi village of development block Berla. In the meeting, Superintendent of Police Kalyan Alisela, Additional Collector Dr. Anil Bajpai, Sub-Divisional Officer (R) Suruchi Singh, Deputy Collector Pinky Manhar, Tehsildar, village sarpanch secretary and members of the temple committee were present along with the CEO, and station in-charge. In the meeting, the members of the committee discussed about the sacrificial practice being held every year from Chaitra Krishna Paksha Ekam to Teras in Siddhi Mata Mandir located in the district, in which the members of the temple committee unanimously agreed to ban the practice of animal sacrifice.

They said that coconut should be offered as a symbolic sacrifice instead of the ritual of sacrifice and Committee member Dinesh Singh Thakur said that the committee members



themselves want to stop this sacrificial practice, so the committee has been asked to take advice before asking for a vow to sacrifice animals in the temple premises, and in this regard a banner poster has been put up in the temple premises. Sarpanch of village Sandi said that people are creating anarchy in the land of farmers around the temple premises, the temple premises by consuming alcohol, due to which farmers are facing many problems in agriculture.

Collector Mr. Elma said that the nearby villagers are facing problems due

to consumption of intoxicating liquor around the temple premises directed to create public awareness by making a plan to stop animal sacrifice in the future, through Kotwar, and asked to start the tradition of offering rice dip in the temple. Along with this, the sarpanch of the village talked about planting

trees on the side of the road leading to the temple, on which the collector agreed. Additional Collector Dr. Bajpai asked the members of the temple committee to pass a village development committee and panchayat resolution regarding not offering animal sacrifice. After the resolution is passed, if someone sacrifices an animal, fine/punitive action will be taken against him by the district administration. He said that people should be made aware through slogans and posters so that animal sacrifice can be stopped.

Implementation of govt. schemes should be visible at the ground level: Collector

Mungeli, Mar 17:

District Collector Rahul Dev here reviewed the departmental work by taking a time-limit meeting and gave instructions to resolve the pending cases in the stipulated time. He said that the implementation of various ambitious schemes and programs of the government should be visible at the ground level and for this; all the officers should establish mutual coordination and work seriously. While reviewing the revenue cases, the Collector said that regular monitoring should be done to tighten the functioning of Patwaris and action should



also be taken against the Patwari who is late in the Patwari report. He expressed his displeasure over the non-resolving of pending cases of nomination, account division, demarcation etc. beyond the stipulated time limit. The Collector also gave strict instructions to repair all the dilapidated school buildings in the district before the school starts in the new session under the Chief

Minister's School Jatan Yojana. While reviewing the works of Jal Jeevan Mission, the Collector said that there should not be any problem related to drinking water in the district. The collector expressed his displeasure over the non-dissolving of the cases pending for more than 30 days of Jandarshan and Call Center and said that all the cases should be resolved before the time

limit. He also inquired about the regularization of unauthorized constructions. During this, it was told that 83 applications have been received under the regularization of unauthorized development in Chhattisgarh. Rs 82 lakh 77 thousand 636 has been imposed under 57 cases. Out of which Rs 15 lakh 91 thousand has been recovered so far. On this occasion Additional Superintendent of Police Pratibha Pandey, Joint Collector Namrata Anand Dongre, Naveen Bhagat, Ajit Pujari, B. R. Thakur, Deputy Collector Ajay Shatranj and officials of the concerned department were present.

Mahasamund, Mar 17: District Collector Niteshkumar Kshirsagar here made a surprise inspection of the construction works of the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Industrial Park under construction at Birkon and Kampa of Mahasamund development block and Godbahal of Pithora development block. The Collector also took information regarding the progress of the construction works from the concerned officials and gave instructions to complete the construction works with quality in the stipulated time. On this occasion, Chief Executive

Collector conducts surprise inspection of RIPA construction works



Officer of District Panchayat S. Alok was present. The Collector said that Mahatma Gandhi Rural Industrial Park is one of the ambitious plans of the government and in order to conduct various livelihood-oriented activities in RIPA, instructions were given to set up the machine unit installation

work as per the prescribed guidelines, to ensure arrangements for drinking water, toilets, electrification at the earliest. He also instructed to provide better training to selected women for conducting various activities in RIPA.

The Collector also announced the establishment of RIPA in two

gothans of each development block and 10 Gothans of 05 development blocks of the district have been selected for setting up Mahatma Gandhi Rural Industrial Industrial Park, and in all the 10 selected Gothans, construction work is being done at a rapid pace under RIPA, due to which youth and women of self-help groups will get employment opportunity on a large scale in rural areas. Through these activities, the government intends to provide employment and income opportunities to a large number of self-help group women and rural youth, the Collector said.

Ensure speedy disposal of cases to help common men: Div.Comm

Koriya, Mar 17:

Divisional Commissioner Dr. Sanjay Alang here inspected Tehsil office along with Baikunthpur Revenue Sub-Divisional Officer along with Collector Vinay Kumar Langleh.

The Commissioner observed the working of various branches of these offices, the register maintained and their maintenance. He also observed the ongoing and resolved cases. Dr. Alang also closely inspected the functioning of revenue courts in SDM and Tehsil offices. He reached the Courts, WBN, Naib Nazir, Kanungo etc. branches



and took information from the concerned in-charge about their responsibilities and methods of working and also gave necessary guidelines. He instructed to keep WBN Vasil, rest of Navis branch updated. 'Do map correction

work by running a campaign' Koriya: Divisional Commissioner Dr. Alang also held a review meeting of revenue officers and instructed to start a special campaign regarding map improvement. He said that make

a strategy and start the work of map updation as a campaign. He said that Patwari's should do the work of map correction daily and Tehsildar should take its report. He also instructed all the SDMs for speedy disposal of cases under Section 170B and asked to inform the concerned police station after taking action on the bound over so that cooperation can be made in maintaining law and order. Deputy Commissioner Neelam Toppo, Baikunthpur SDM Ankita Som, Sonhat SDM Amit Kumar Sinha, Tehsildar and Naib Tehsildar were present on this occasion.

Teacher thrashes class 8th student in Gunderdehi School

Teacher Asaram Sahu is the culprit

Fingeshwar, Mar 17:

A middle school teacher thrashing a grade 8 student has come to the fore in Gram Panchayat Gunderdehi and the brutality of the beating is such that the student was deprived of sleep for a week to go. The scars left after the thrashing seen by the student's father opened the incident further and the father complained about the same to the BEO who further did investigation on the matter.

As per information received Asaram Sahu, the culprit posted in the for-



mer school of Gram Panchayat Gunderdehi, slapped Harshit Kumar Son of Dayaram Sahu, a student of Class VIII, 15-17 times on the back in the afternoon of March 15, due to which the student got injuries. Block Education Officer Ramendra Joshi



also reached Gunderdehi

School after getting information about the incident of assault by the teacher. Father Dayaram Sahu gave all the information about the incident to the members of the Public Participation Committee and the BEO has assured action by sending the matter to higher officials.

Holi Milan prog held in PCD



Dongargarh, Mar 17:

A Holi-Milan programme for the registered members of the Press Club of Dongargarh (PCD) was held at Achouli Rest House here on Thursday. On this occasion the Press

Club members applied 'Gulal' to each other and exchanged greetings. It is notable here that the Holi Milan programmes by PCD is organised every year on Holi.

On this occasion the members applying 'Gulal'

to each other and expressed their views to strengthen the organisation and maintain brotherhood and unity. On this occasion President PCD Uttam Samundre, Secretary Khoobchand Choudhary, Treasurer-Mahesh Sahare; Vilas Jambhulkar; Deepak Sakhare; Rohan Sinha; Richard John; Uttam Choure; Ashok Aambade; Pramod Shukla; Mahendra Sharma; Krishna Sahare; Sheikh Jafar; Ali Aashu; Sangkriti Nandeshwar; Sachin Jambhulkar and others were present.

Sports officer accused of financial irregularities

Gourela-Pendra-Marwahi, Mar 17:

As on one hand, the state government is running all kinds of schemes to promote sports from the village level itself, but on the intention of the government, only the officers sitting in the district are creating sabotage. In fact, the case pertains to district Gourela-Pendra-Marwahi, where 2.80 lakh was redistributed to Seema David through the District Education Officer for organizing the Chhattisgarh Sports Youth Festival 2022. Which was spent by the then posted DSO Seema David without the consent and coordination of higher officials, which is against the civil service conduct rule. In view of the seriousness of the matter, prima facie it was

found by the then Collector that Seema David had embezzled government funds, for which a show-cause notice was issued to her and also has been re-designated as District Sports Officer. The then Collector had given instructions to take immediate action in the matter, after which the Collector was transferred and along with the transfer all the charges were also dismissed. It is to be noted that prior to this order, the concerned charge was given to the Deputy Collector and the intention of giving him the charge was also that quality work would be done, but suddenly removing the Deputy Collector and giving charge to others have given rise to many doubts.

Notice

This is to inform all the concerned peoples that M/s Vazron Industries Private Limited has accorded Environmental Clearance by State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority Ministry of Environment & Forest, Government of India vide its File No.: OL/EC/MIN/Raigarh/1421 and EC Identification No.: EC23B08CG143761 dated: 24.02.2023 for establishment of Steel Plant consisting of Sponge Iron Kilns Capacity [62,700 Tons/Year], Induction Furnaces Capacity [198000 Tons/Year], Rolling Mill Capacity [192000 Tons/Year], WHRB based Power Plant Capacity [5 MW] and FBC based Power Plant [15 MW] at Villages: Chiraipani and Pali, Tehsil and District: Raigarh (C.G.). The aforesaid Environment Clearance letter is available on website of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (Issued by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) Chhattisgarh) Government of India (MoEF&CC) [pnrivish.nic.in] and copies are also available at Head Office of Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board, Paryavas Bhawan, North Block, Sector - 19, Nava Raipur Atal Nagar, District Raipur and Regional Office, Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board, TV Tower Road, Raigarh (C.G.). For, M/s Vazron Industries Private Limited; [Director] Dated - 01.03.2023

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LOCKER BREAK OPEN PUBLIC NOTICE

The following persons who has availed locker facility has not paid the locker rent for more than 3 years in spite of our demand notice. Therefore please take notice that if the locker rent is not paid on or before 28/03/2023, the Bank will be constrained to break open the locker on date mentioned there in at 4.00 pm in the branch premises mentioned below subject to rules & regulations of the Bank. The Bank reserves the right to cancel/postpone the break open to any other convenient date, without further notice and assigning the reasons therefor.

Sr. No.	Locker No.	Date on which locker availed	Name of the Locker Holder	Balance of locker rent in Rs.	Place and Date of break open and contact number
1	77	08/12/2009	Mr. Sharad H Rawal	Rs. 10575/- From period 2017 to 2023	Karnataka Bank Ltd. Ground Floor, Mangal Bhavan, Link Road, Bilaspur Chhattisgarh 495001.
2	68	23/04/2009	Mr. Arun Kumar Agrawal	Rs. 23318/- From period 2015 to 2023.	
3	102	05/01/2010	Mr. Irshad Khan	Rs. 35400/- From period 2017 to 2023.	
4	97	14/12/2009	Mr. Ankit Gumber	Rs. 20650/- From period 2016 to 2023.	
5	94	08/01/2010	Mr. Prashant Divedi	Rs. 7080/- From period 2019 to 2023.	
6	170	12/03/2011	Mr. Raju Singh	Rs. 7080/- From period 2019 to 2023.	
7	72	21/08/2014	Mr. Ramashray Singh Yadav	Rs. 35400/- From period 2017 to 2023.	
8	103	14/12/2009	Mr. Ankit Gumber	Rs. 41300/- From period 2016 to 2023.	
9	290	16/08/2016	Mrs. Rashmi Anosh Prakash	Rs. 11800/- From period 2019 to 2023.	
10	58	10/07/2009	Mr. Manoranjan Kumar Singh	Rs. 13291/- From period 2015 to 2023.	

Place: Bilaspur Date: 18.03.2023 sdf: Branch Manager Karnataka Bank Ltd, Bilaspur Chhattisgarh

BRIEF



President Droupadi Murmu hands over a copy of booklet 'Chuvadu' to the Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan during the silver jubilee celebrations of the Kudumbashree, in Thiruvananthapuram, Friday.

AYUSH centres

■ Jaipur: Rajasthan has 1,000 operational health and wellness centres under the central government's National AYUSH Mission, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Tika Ram Jolly informed the assembly on Friday. Jolly added that 914 men and 823 women had been appointed as yoga instructors on a part-time basis at these centres.

Bike collision

■ Bhadohi (UP): Two men were killed in Mangapatti village here after their bikes collided with each other, police said on Friday. The victims were identified as Nebulal, 38, and Anant Lal, 60, Unj Police Station SHO Chhotak Yadav said. The SHO said that after the collision, their bikes got dragged for about 25 metres, injuring the two drivers severely. Nebulal died in the district hospital where he was taken after the incident, while Anant Lal was referred to Varanasi, where he succumbed late in the night.

Mamata meet

■ Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is likely to call on his Odisha counterpart Naveen Patnaik on March 23 during a two-day visit to the neighbouring state, a senior party leader said on Friday. The Trinamool Congress supremo will also offer pujas at the Jagannath Temple in Puri during the tour. "She (Banerjee) will meet Naveen Patnaik on March 23," senior TMC leader and Lok Sabha MP Sudip Bandyopadhyay said.

Thunderstorms

■ Bhopal: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday said that thunderstorms accompanied by lightning, hail and gusty winds were likely in parts of Madhya Pradesh. The alert, valid till Saturday morning, came after parts of MP received light rain in the 24 hours ending 8.30 am.

Criminal detained

■ Thane: A 27-year-old criminal involved in several serious crimes has been detained for a year by the police in Maharashtra's Thane district, an official said on Friday. The accused has been detained under the Maharashtra Prevention of Dangerous Activities (MPDA) Act and was sent to Nashik Central prison on Thursday, he said.

Question Hour in Assembly disrupted over death of two tribals

Congress member walks out in tears

Bhopal, Mar 17 (PTI): The Question Hour of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly witnessed chaos on Friday over the death of two tribal persons, including a woman, owing to protests by Opposition members.

As soon as the House assembled for the day's proceedings to start with the Question Hour, Opposition legislators Bala Bachchan, Kantilal Bhuria and Sajjan Singh Verma raised the issue of deaths in Mhow, some 25 kilometres from Indore.

Verma said the woman's parents and the man killed in police firing have been booked.

Following the death of the 22-year-old tribal woman earlier this week, members of her community on Wednesday protested outside a police station. During the protest, police opened fire, killing a tribal man.



Congress MLA Vijay Laxmi Sadho gets emotional while addressing the media along with party MLAs to raise the issue of the death of a tribal woman in Dongargaon, during ongoing budget session, in Bhopal, Friday.

Legislative Affairs Minister Narottam Mishra said the "short" post-mortem report of the woman suggests that she died of electrocution.

He said a first information report (FIR) has been registered against 13-17 persons on the basis of CCTV footage of the violent protest in which a police inspector sustained grave injuries to his eye.

Dissatisfied by the reply, the Opposition continued to raise the issue, prompting Speaker Girish Gautam to adjourn the entire hourlong Question Hour.

When the House re-assembled for the Zero Hour, Congress member Vijaylaxmi Sadho again raised the tribal deaths in Mhow. Mishra said the Opposition was playing politics over dead bodies.

With folded hands, Sadho requested the speaker to allow her to raise the matter. But the speaker started conducting the listed business amid the bedlam.

Sadho, in tears, along with other women members, walked out of the House.

This was the second day, the House saw din over the death of the tribal man and woman.

AP CM reiterates familiar demands with PM yet again

Amravati, Mar 17 (PTI):



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being presented a memento by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy in New Delhi, Friday.

Special category status, funds for Polavaram project, and pending state bifurcation promises are some of the many demands reiterated yet again by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy during his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday. Nine years after the bifurcation of united AP and several rounds of discussions, Reddy appealed to Modi on living up to the promise of according Special Category Status, which brings a host of benefits such as grants and tax concessions, benefiting large scale industries and the services sector among others. Likewise, he requested the Prime Minister to sanction Rs 10,000 crore in an ad hoc manner to advance Polavaram project rapidly, besides immediately approving Rs 55,548 crore for the same project as estimated by the Technical

Advisory Committee, including treating drinking water supply component as a part of it.

"I appeal that the Polavaram project flood victims be compensated as soon as possible. I would like to bring to your notice that as the delay increases, the cost of the project increases. Delays can be avoided if this assistance

is provided to flood victims in a DBT manner," the CM observed. Similarly, he urged Modi to raise the credit limit from Rs 17,923 crore which was cut down from Rs 42,472 crore post-COVID-19 pandemic as well as reimbursing the arrears of Rs 2,601 crore incurred by the state government as part of the Polavaram project.

Paper leak: TSPSC cancels three more recruitment tests

Hyderabad, Mar 17 (PTI):

Amid protests by opposition parties and students' groups over the alleged question paper leak of a recruitment test, the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) on Friday cancelled the Group-I preliminary exam and two other tests.

The Commission said in a release that the decision to cancel the Group-I exam held in October last year and the AEE and DAO tests (held this year) was taken after examining the report of the SIT of Hyderabad Police and an internal enquiry conducted by the Commission.

It was decided to conduct the Group-I

Preliminary Examination on June 11 again, the release said adding the dates for two other examinations would be notified shortly.

The Commission on March 15 had cancelled the Assistant Engineers (AE) exam held on March 5, following allegations of the question paper leak.

Nine people, including an Assistant Section Officer in the TSPSC, two candidates and a police constable were arrested on March 13 over their alleged involvement in the data breach, for stealing and leaking of TSPSC's Assistant Engineer (Civil) examination question paper. The exam was held on March 5. The prime accused in the case had ap-

peared for the Group-I preliminary examination and allegedly secured 103 marks, though he did not get the final selection.

The Congress, BJP and different students' organisations, including ABVP, SFI, have been protesting, demanding an inquiry by a sitting judge and stringent punishment to those responsible for leaking the question paper.

Telangana BJP president and party MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar and other party leaders were today prevented by police from marching towards the TSPSC office from the Telangana Martyrs Memorial in front of the state Assembly. They were taken into preventive custody and later released.

Probe agencies have no evidence against Sisodia only 'fabricated' stories: Raghav Chadha

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTI):

AAP leader Raghav Chadha on Friday claimed that central probe agencies only have "malicious and fabricated stories" against former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and have been asking him the same questions.

Sisodia has been under ED custody since March 9 over a money laundering case related to the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy. He was first arrested by CBI in the same case on February 26.

In another press conference, AAP leader Sanjay Singh alleged that Sisodia has been treated even "worse than a terrorist."

Chadha said that the Enforcement Directorate officers have questioned Sisodia for only 15 hours during his 7-day remand.

Addressing a press conference, Chadha claimed the CBI and the ED don't have any evidence against Sisodia and he is behind bars as a result of BJP's "politics of revenge."

"The BJP is scared of AAP and has started a politics of revenge. CBI and ED don't have any evidence against Manish Sisodia. They only have concocted

stories against him. When the court said that CBI took Sisodia on remand, interrogated him and did not find anything against him, they got ED to frame more false cases against him," Chadha alleged.

"The central agencies only have malicious and fabricated stories against him.

The CBI and the ED asked the same questions to Sisodia during his interrogation and the purpose of doing this was to keep Sisodia behind the bars," he alleged.

Sanjay Singh said that the extension of ED custody for Manish

Sisodia has "no context." "BJP's dictatorship will not be tolerated and the whole country is watching how the party is misusing the central agencies.

A leader who sacrificed his life for transformation of Delhi's education has been targeted. Even a terrorist is not treated in such a manner," Singh said.

Sisodia has been lodged in Tihar jail in connection with a Central Bureau of Investigation case pertaining to alleged corruption in the formulation and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy for 2021-22.

DOCTORS' STRIKE



Patients wait in a long queue to receive treatments following the doctors' day-long strike under the banner of Indian Medical Association (IMA), in Thiruvananthapuram, Friday.

Two teachers identified as masterminds of Class 10 paper leak: DGP

Guwahati, Mar 17 (PTI):

Two teachers have been identified as the masterminds of the Class 10 question paper leak, Assam Director General of Police G P Singh said on Friday.

One of them has been detained, while the other, who was absconding, surrendered before police during the day.

"We have been able to establish the chain of events leading to the leak of the question papers and circulation. We have enough physical evidence with us in the case," Singh told a press conference.

Singh said the head-teacher and centre in-charge of Luhit Khabalu High School of Majuli,

Union Minister reviews progress of Model Gram Panchayat project

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTI):

Union Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh on Friday reviewed the progress of the project that aims to create 250 model gram panchayat clusters across India.

Speaking on the occasion, Singh emphasised on a holistic development of the gram panchayats covered under 'Project for Creating 250 Model Gram Panchayat Clusters across India.'

He stressed that Young Fellows working in remote areas should set an example with community participation to ensure that more children than ever receive quality education and students do not drop out of school, according to an official statement.

Kerala Assembly adjourned for third consecutive day over UDF uproar

Thiruvananthapuram, Mar 17 (PTI):

The Kerala Assembly's proceedings were disrupted for the third consecutive day as the House was adjourned within minutes of its commencement on Friday following protests by the opposition UDF over the registration of non-bailable cases against its legislators in connection with the ruckus in front of the Speaker's office two days ago.

Uproar erupted after the Speaker A N Shamseer refused to allow Leader of the Opposition V D Satheesan to raise the issue during Question Hour. Though Satheesan was allowed to speak for some time, the Opposition alleged the mike was turned off later. Protesting the Chair's deci-

sion, the angry opposition members trooped into the well of the House amid sloganeering, forcing the Speaker to adjourn the House for the day.

The Kerala Police had registered cases against MLAs of the opposition Congress-led UDF, the ruling LDF and a few marshals in connection with the ruckus in front of the Assembly Speaker's office on Wednesday.

While speaking to reporters in the media room later, Satheesan said non-bailable cases were registered against seven opposition MLAs, while bailable sections were charged against the ruling CPI(M) legislators in the incident. He said the opposition's right to bring pressing issues

of people under Rule 50 in the House has been continuously denied as the government does not want to face questions and criticisms against it.

The LoP said no matter how evasive the Chief Minister was, questions would be asked to him continuously. Making it clear that the Congress-led opposition would not cooperate with any of the programmes organised by the government, he said they were planning to take their agitation out of the House.

Hitting back at the Opposition, CPI(M) State Secretary M V Govindan said that the large participation of people in the ruling party's ongoing march and the good work of the second Pinarayi

Vijay/an government has left the Congress and the UDF in trouble. "The reason for the crazy behaviour (in the Assembly) is the realisation that they will have to be in the opposition in the next Assembly elections as well", he told reporters here.

The Assembly complex had witnessed unprecedented scenes on Wednesday when a section of UDF legislators who marched to the office of Speaker Shamseer, accusing him of being biased in the House, got into a scuffle with the House Marshals.

At least four Opposition MLAs and seven watch-and-ward staff who were injured in the exchange have sought treatment at various hospitals here, sources had said.

China appeals for fair treatment after latest TikTok bans

Beijing, Mar 17 (AP):

China appealed on Friday to other governments to treat its companies fairly after Britain and New Zealand joined the United States in restricting use of TikTok due to fears the Chinese-owned short video service might be a security risk.

Governments are worried TikTok's owner, ByteDance, might give browsing history or other data about users to China's government or promote propaganda and disinformation.

"We call on the countries concerned to recog-

nise the objective facts, effectively respect the market economy" and provide "a non-discriminatory environment" for all companies, said foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin. TikTok is one focus of conflicts between China and other governments over technology and security that are disrupting processor chip, smartphone and other industries.

Legislators and employees in New Zealand's Parliament will be prohibited from having TikTok's app on phones, the government said on Friday. Britain announced a ban

on Thursday on TikTok on all government phones.

In February, the White House told federal agencies to delete TikTok from government-issued mobile devices within 30 days. Congress, the US armed forces and more than half of American state governments prohibit use of the app by their employees.

India has banned TikTok and dozens of other Chinese apps, including the WeChat message service, on security and privacy grounds.

The United States also has imposed restrictions on access by Chinese companies to processor chip

and other technology on security and human rights grounds.

The Chinese government accused Washington of spreading false information about TikTok following a report by The Wall Street Journal that US authorities were considering a ban if ByteDance doesn't sell the company.

The ruling Communist Party blocks most internet users in China from seeing TikTok and thousands of social media and other websites. ByteDance operates a sister short-video service, Douyin, that can be seen in China.

ICBM launch was response to rivals' drills: North Korea

Seoul, Mar 17 (AP):

North Korea said Friday it fired an intercontinental ballistic missile to "strike fear into the enemies" as South Korea and Japan agreed at a summit to work closely on regional security with the United States and staged military exercises around the region. The missile was launched Thursday morning hours before South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol met with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida at a summit partly aimed at rebuilding security ties between the U.S. allies in the face of North Korean nuclear threats.

With four missile displays in about a week, North Korea has ratcheted up its tit-for-tat response to ongoing U.S.-South Korean

**An intercontinental ballistic missile in a launching drill at the Sunan international airport in Pyongyang, North Korea.**

military drills that are the biggest of their kind in years. The Biden administration wants better South Korea-Japan ties, which declined over historical issues in recent years, as it pushes to strengthen its alliance network in Asia to counter the North Korean nuclear threat and China's

rising influence. Aside from their combined exercises that began Monday and run through March 23, the United States and South Korea are also participating in anti-submarine warfare drills, along with Japan, Canada and India, that began Wednesday. North

Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said leader Kim Jong Un supervised the test-firing of the Hwasong-17 missile and stressed the need to "strike fear into the enemies" over what it called the "open hostility" shown to the North by the U.S.-South Korea exercises. Launched at a high angle to avoid the territory of North Korea's neighbors, the missile reached a maximum altitude of 6,045 kilometers (3,756 miles) and traveled 1,000 kilometers (621 miles) before landing in waters off the country's eastern coast, KCNA said.

The South Korean and Japanese militaries assessed the flight similarly, indicating the the U.S. mainland is within the missile's range.

Russia to award pilots involved in US drone incident

Moscow, Mar 17 (AP):

Russian fighter pilots involved in an incident with a US drone that resulted in its crash while given state awards, the Defence Ministry announced Friday. The move appears to signal Moscow's intention to adopt a more aggressive stance toward future US surveillance flights.

The US military said it ditched the Air Force MQ-9 Reaper in the Black Sea on Tuesday after a pair of Russian fighter jets dumped fuel on the surveillance drone and then one of them struck its propeller while it was fly-

ing in international airspace.

Moscow has denied that its warplanes hit the drone, alleging that it crashed while making a sharp maneuver. It said that its warplanes reacted to a violation of a no-flight zone Russia has established in the area near Crimea amid the fighting in Ukraine.

On Friday, Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu lauded the pilots for preventing the drone from flying into the area that Moscow has banned for flights. The Defence Ministry said the ban was "in line with international norms." Moscow's an-

ouncement comes a day after the US military released a declassified 42-second colour footage showing a Russian Su-27 fighter jet approaching the back of the US drone and releasing fuel as it passes in what appeared to be aimed at blinding the drone's optical instruments to drive it from the area.

On a second approach, either the same jet or another Russian Su-27 that had been shadowing the MQ-9 struck the drone's propeller, damaging a blade, according to the US military, which said it then ditched the aircraft in the sea.

10 killed in fire in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province

Peshawar, Mar 17 (PTD):

At least 10 people of a family were killed and three injured when the roof of their house collapsed after catching fire in the mountainous district of northwest Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province on Friday, rescue authorities said.

The fire occurred due to short-circuiting, officials in the Seri Pattan area of the lower Kohistan district said.

The dead and injured belong to the same

family, rescue officials from lower Kohistan and Shangla districts said. Three persons were rescued during the search and rescue operation.

The injured and dead bodies have been shifted to the district hospital.

The majority of the houses in mountainous districts of the province are made of wooden materials.

Governor KPK Haji Ghulam Ali and caretaker chief minister Muhammad Azam Khan expressed their grief and sorrow over the tragic incident.

HYDROGEN TRAIN

**A hydrogen train has left the station of Wehrheim near Frankfurt, Germany, Friday, March 17.**

Digital, legal services to benefit from UK-India FTA: London Lord Mayor

London, Mar 17 (PTD):

Ahead of the next round of free trade agreement (FTA) talks set to take place later this month between the UK and Indian government representatives, the Lord Mayor of London will arrive in Mumbai on Saturday for a five-day visit to India to explore bilateral investment opportunities.

Alderman Nicholas Lyons, the 694th Lord Mayor who represents the financial hub of London globally, said the prospect of greater cooperation in the field of digital and legal services is among the expected outcomes of an FTA.

The UK and India have been in discussions for an

FTA since January last year and, according to official estimates, the bilateral trading relationship worth GBP 34 billion in 2022 is expected to get a significant boost with such a deal.

"While free trade agreements are negotiated by government representatives, my role as Lord Mayor of the City of London is really around financial and professional services and the city can see particular interest in three areas: investment, digital and legal services," the Lord Mayor said on the eve of his India visit.

"I think it's fair to say that in the aftermath of Brexit, we are stepping up significantly our engagement with some of our

most important allies and trading partners, and India, of course, is very much one of those," he said. During his two-city visit to Mumbai and Delhi, Lyons would be meeting senior government and business leaders, with a particular focus on the financial services sector and India's successful Aadhaar card rollout.

"One thing that I have particularly asked to have some insights into is the way that India has responded to the problem of many Indians failing to have access to financial services. The brilliant initiative taken several years ago to use digital identification, rather than a lot of paperwork, opening up financial services to over

300 million Indians is really a brilliant example of financial inclusion," said Lyons.

"And I would like us in the UK to learn from that because there is probably between 10 and 20 per cent of our population in the UK that does not have access to legacy financial services. So clearly, the solutions are ones of FinTech and digital. And I'm very interested to know more about that," he said. Besides such two-way exchanges, the Lord Mayor's visit is expected to cover growth areas of green and clean tech finance and also to highlight London's role as the hub for tracking the world's climate action ambitions.

Xi to visit Russia for talks with Putin to boost ties

Beijing/Moscow, Mar 17 (PTD):

Chinese President Xi Jinping will travel to Moscow on a state visit on Monday for crucial talks with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin during which he is expected to pitch for peace talks to end the raging Ukraine conflict. Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying, in a brief announcement, said on Friday that "at the invitation of President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation, President Xi Jinping will pay a state visit to Russia from March 20 to 22". Later, answering a spate of questions about whether Xi will promote peace talks between Russia and Ukraine to end



the war, another Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told the media: "We always believe political dialogue is the only way to resolve conflicts and disputes".

Xi's visit to Russia comes days after China clinched the Iran-Saudi Arabia peace deal, regarded as a diplomatic coup, aimed at expanding Beijing's role in world hotspots to end con-

flicts.

Beijing has not condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine and continues to maintain close political, trade, and military ties with Moscow.

Referring to a 12-point position paper issued by China earlier to end the Ukraine conflict, Wang said the document "fully lays out China's fair and objective position on the Ukraine issue".

"Fanning flames during the fight and imposing unilateral sanctions will make matters worse," he said, in a veiled dig at the US and EU's firm backing of Ukraine.

Asked whether Xi will speak to Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy about the peace deal, Wang said:

"China will uphold an objective and fair position on the Ukraine crisis and play a role in promoting talks for peace". "China's position is consistent and clear. We maintain communication with all parties," he said.

This will be Xi's first visit abroad after getting endorsed for an unprecedented third five-year term as President and head of the military early this month by the National People's Congress (NPC), China's Parliament.

Wang also sought to play down US warnings to China not to supply weapons to Russia, saying "China-Russia cooperation is completely above board and shall be free from disruption or coercion from any third party".

Anger spreads in France over Macron's retirement bill push

**Protesters stand in a cloud of teargas after a demonstration in Paris, Thursday, March 16, 2023. French President Emmanuel Macron has shunned parliament and imposed a highly unpopular change to the nation's pension system, raising the retirement age from 62 to 64.****Paris, Mar 17 (AP):**

Protesters disrupted traffic in Paris on Friday as angry critics, political opponents and labour unions around France blasted President Emmanuel Macron's decision to force a bill raising the retirement age from 62 to 64 through parliament without a vote.

Opposition parties were expected to start procedures later Friday for a no-confidence vote on the government led by Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne. The vote would likely take place early next week.

Macron ordered Borne on Thursday to wield a special constitutional power to

push the highly unpopular pension bill through without a vote in the National Assembly, France's lower house of parliament.

His calculated risk infuriated opposition lawmakers, many citizens and unions. Thousands gathered in protest Thursday at the Place de la Concorde, which faces the National Assembly building.

As night fell, police officers charged the demonstrators in waves to clear the Place. Small groups then moved through narrow streets in the chic Champs-Elysees neighborhood setting street fires. Similar scenes repeated themselves in numerous

other cities, from Rennes and Nantes in eastern France to Lyon and the southern port city of Marseille, where shop windows and bank fronts were smashed, according to French media. French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin told radio station RTL on Friday that 310 people were arrested overnight. Most of the arrests, 258, were made in Paris, according to Darmanin. The trade unions that had organised strikes and marches against a higher retirement age said more rallies and protest marches would take place in the days ahead. "This retirement reform is brutal, unjust, unjustified for the world of workers," they declared.

Macron has made the proposed pension changes the key priority of his second term, arguing that reform is needed to keep the pension system from diving into deficit as France, like many richer nations, faces lower birth rates and longer life expectancy. Macron decided to invoke the special power during a Cabinet meeting

a few minutes before a scheduled vote in the National Assembly, where the legislation had no guarantee of securing majority support. The Senate adopted the bill earlier Thursday. Opposition lawmakers demanded the government to step down.

Lahore HC grants protective bail to Imran Khan in seven cases

**Lahore, Mar 17: The Lahore High Court has granted protective bail**

to former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan in seven cases. Khan appeared before the court seeking protective bail in nine cases hours after another top

court suspended non-bailable arrest warrants against the ousted premier till March 18. Khan has been resisting arrest in the Toshakhana case and is holed up inside his

Zaman Park residence in Lahore surrounded by hundreds of his supporters, who have fought pitched battles with the police over the past few days.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, CIRCLE NO-1 RAIPUR (C.G.)

Tender Notice (1st Call)

Online tenders are invited in Form C Online from Manufacturer or authorized dealer for the Following Works :-

NIT No./ System Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable amount of contract
1	2	3
184/126889	Purchase of Universal Testing Machine 1000kn Capacity for Steel Testing & Automatic Modified Marshall Apparatus & Mastic Asphalt Tester for Bitumen Testing Lab of Central Quality & Research Laboratory of Public Works Department Raipur	Rs. 40.26 Lakh

Last date of tender Download Date up to 29.03.2023 Time 17:30 PM

Note :- All eligible/interested contractors are mandated to get enrolled on the e Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Superintending Engineer P.W.D. Raipur Circle No-1 Raipur (C.G.)

G-99356/1

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Bank of India - Champa Branch, Opposite Trimurti Talkies, Korvapara, Champa District Janjgir Champa, Chhattisgarh. Pin-495671. e-mail:Champa.raipur@bankofindia.co.in, Tel No. 07819245800

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act)

A notice is hereby given that the following Borrower(s) (Borrower), and guarantor have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notices were issued to them under Section 13(2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known addresses, now they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

Name of the Borrower / Guarantor & Address	Details of Properties/ Address of Secured Assets to be Enforced	Date of Notice (As on the date of notice)	Amount outstanding + Int. + Other Charges since
Borrower- M/s Mohan General Stores, Proprietor Mr Radheysham Chetani S/o Shri Narayan Das, Near Jaiswal Bahawan, Barrier Chowk, Champa Tehsil, Janjgir Champa, Chhattisgarh-495671. Guarantor:-Mr. Manoj Virani S/o. Gopiram Virani Kadam Chowk, Santoshi Mandir, Champa, Tehsil Champa, District Janjgir Champa, C.G.-495671	1. Hypothecation of Stocks of General Items, Beauty Products, Cosmetic items etc. 2. All the Piece of Land of Residential House Property situated at Khasra No. 510/2, Da. Part of Kh. No. 511/2 Da. Area 1140 Sft, PH No. 4, Sonapara Ward, Ward No. 6, Tehsil Champa, District Janjgir Champa, Chhattisgarh 495671 in the name of Shri Radheysham S/o. Late Shri Narayan Das Chetani. Boundaries:- North-House of Vinod Kumar, South-House of Smt Lata Dhamecha, East-Road, West-Land of Dakula.	28.09.2022 20.09.2021	₹ 19,67,114.46/- + Int. + Other Charges since 21.08.2021
Borrower:-M/s New Sai Mobile, Proprietor Shri Pawan Yadav S/o Shri Dhanraj Yadav 8, Near Dewangan Dharamsala Thana Para, Champa, Chhattisgarh-495671	1. Hypothecation of Stocks of Mobiles, Mobile Accessories, recharge coupons, laptops etc. 2. All the piece of Land situated at Khasra No 102/1Kha, PH No 21, Mouza Jagdalla, Nagar Palika Parishad Champa, Ward No 2, Gurughasidas Ward, Block Baloda, RNM Champa, District Janjgir, Champa, Chhattisgarh, admeasuring 0.05 Acre/0.020 Hectare/202.6 Sqmtr in the name of Manohar Yadav S/o Shri Dayaram Yadav Boundaries:- North-Land of Anand, South-Land of Sharma Maharaj, East-Raasta, West-Land of Dakula.	28.09.2022 30.09.2019	₹ 19,67,114.46/- + Int. + Other Charges since 21.08.2021
Borrower:- Mr Manohar Yadav S/o Shri Dayaram Yadav, Nayapara, Near Santoshi Chowk, Blaspur, Chhattisgarh	1. Hypothecation of Stocks of Mobiles, Mobile Accessories, recharge coupons, laptops etc. 2. All the piece of Land situated at Khasra No 102/1Kha, PH No 2, Mouza Jagdalla, Nagar Palika Parishad Champa Ward No 21, Gurughasidas Ward Block Baloda, RNM Champa, District Janjgir Champa, Chhattisgarh, admeasuring 0.05 Acre/0.020 Hectare/202.6 Sqmtr in the name of Manohar Yadav S/o Shri Dayaram Yadav Boundaries:- North-Land of Anand, South-Land of Sharma Maharaj, East-Raasta, West-Land of Dakula.	28.09.2022 30.09.2019	₹ 6,25,084.37/- + Int. + Other Charges since 21.06.2019

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above Borrower(s) and for their Guarantor(s) (whenever applicable) are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : 18.03.2023, Place: Champa Authorised Officer, Bank of India



CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 10 No. 344

Hyperinflationary Catastrophe

A Perilous Ordeal for Emerging Markets

India's economy is experiencing an inflation crisis, with the country's retail inflation breaching the Reserve Bank of India's tolerance limit in January 2023, and accelerating to 6.52 per cent. Rising food prices, particularly of cereals and protein items, have played a significant role in driving inflation upwards. However, inflation is not just a problem for India, as many developing economies in Asia are also facing the same challenge. The global economy is currently facing downside risks due to several factors, such as high unemployment, subdued growth, and renewed stress in the euro area periphery. While some emerging economies are experiencing buoyant activity, inflation pressures are emerging, and there are signs of overheating. The International Monetary Fund has warned that the global economy could be in jeopardy unless wealthy countries show more resolve in attacking debt problems, and emerging powerhouses keep their simmering economies from boiling over. Inflation has become a serious issue in several emerging markets, requiring policymakers to try to slow the flow of capital rushing into their economies. However, steps that could sharply curb growth and demand for commodities if they are not implemented carefully. Furthermore, many countries' freelance experiments with capital controls have included efforts to keep their currencies from further appreciating, reinforcing an obstacle in the way of a balanced global economy. The production of fruits and vegetables in India may fall by around 30 per cent this season as farmers report damages to their crop due to high temperatures. Rising food costs show that inflation would hardly rebound in the coming months, indicating that inflationary pressure, at best, could be temporary. The ongoing situation has raised concerns that a probable economic slowdown could lead to retrenchments. Although some quarters suggest that more toughness is necessary, too much tightness could hurt the growth rate. The European Central Bank chief Jean-Claude Trichet has called for more action among monetary authorities worldwide, stating that all central banks, in periods like this where inflationary threats that are coming from commodities, have to be very careful that there are no second-round effects on domestic prices. The foremost question for central banks is whether raising rates would tame inflation. If some degree of inflation is imported, the regulator may not do much to prevent the prices for imported food and fuel from rising. The possible effects of the rise in the tax also have to be a factor that could bring in a one-off event that probably skews the inflation figures. It is better not to forget that necessary shifts in demand around the globe are happening steadily, as are efforts to bolster banks' abilities to withstand economic shocks. Developing economies such as India are facing an inflation crisis that policymakers must take measures to address. However, steps to curb inflation should be implemented carefully to avoid a sharp curbing in growth and demand for commodities. Central banks must also consider whether raising rates would be an effective solution to the inflation crisis, given that some degree of inflation is imported. Finally, there is a need for financial reform in advanced economies, action on the euro zone, and policies to keep inflation in check in key emerging economies to address the downside risks to the global economy.

UNIVERSAL INTERNET ACCESS BY 2030

Dr Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

It is true that achieving sustainable development is considered as being dependent on having widespread access to the internet because it is commonly known that the internet is a crucial tool for improving social, economic, and political conditions. The United Nations has set a goal of achieving universal internet access by 2030 as part of its Sustainable Development Goals. In general, gaining universal internet access is critical for promoting equity, education, and economic growth as well as being necessary for creating a more connected and inclusive society. The number of people who use the internet continues to increase as well; according to the most recent data, the number of people who were online increased by around 100 million people in the year leading up to January 2023. By the end of 2023, two-thirds of the world's population should be online, according to current trends. But still, a 2021 report from the International Telecommunication Union claims that 4.7 billion people, or about half of the world's population, lack access to the internet (ITU). People in developing nations, rural areas, and underprivileged groups are disproportionately impacted by lack of internet access. There are several initiatives underway to increase internet access and bridge the digital divide. Several technologies are being investigated to increase internet access, including mesh networks and low-earth orbit (LEO) satellites. Fiber-optic internet that can provide internet connection to remote areas using decentralised, community-owned infrastructure. Broadly speaking, the goal of universal internet access is to provide everyone the chance to participate fully in the digital age and to create a more just and inclusive world.

Central Chronicle invites articles, write-ups, and comments on a wide range of issues for our editorial page. Submissions should be between 800-900 words in length. In addition, we welcome letters to the editor for this page. While letters may be edited for clarity, we aim to preserve the integrity of the original message, and ask that they be kept to around 50-60 words. Submissions can be sent via email to editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com.

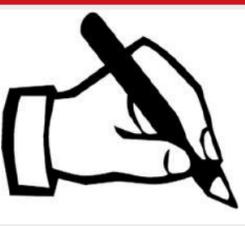
EXHIBITION



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and others at an exhibition, 'Geoffrey Bawa: It is Essential to be There' after its inauguration, in New Delhi, Friday, March 17.

Unlocking Chhattisgarh's Export Potential

MKN, RAIPUR



Chhattisgarh has immense potential for exports due to its rich mineral resources and the state government's initiatives to promote industrial growth and attract investments. The Industrial Policy 2019-24 aims to further boost Chhattisgarh's export potential by implementing various policies and initiatives. As of September 2021, Chhattisgarh's exports were primarily dominated by the iron and steel sector, followed by ores and minerals, aluminum, and power. The state's exports have shown steady growth in recent years, with total exports increasing from US\$2.85 billion in 2015-16 to US\$3.77 billion in 2020-21. However, compared to other states in India, Chhattisgarh's exports are relatively small. As of 2021-22, Chhattisgarh ranked 17th among Indian states in terms of total exports. The top exporting states in India are Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Telangana, which collectively account for more than 60% of India's total exports.

The Chhattisgarh government has been making efforts to boost its export potential and has significant potential for exports due to its rich mineral resources. The recent Export Outreach programme held in Nava Raipur saw the active participation of government officials, representatives from various industries, and exporters, who discussed the preparations required to increase exports from the state. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Government of India, is conducting such programs in 75 districts of the country with potential for exports.

Chhattisgarh has two districts, Raipur and Durg, selected for this program, with the aim of developing these districts as export hubs. The program provided information about exportable products from Chhattisgarh and the government facilities available for exporters. According to the Collector of Raipur district, Dr. Sarveshwar Bhure, there has been an average increase of more than 22 percent in exports from the state in the last five years, thanks to government policies and facilities.

The Collector also emphasized the potential for exports of wire, rods, bars, coils, TMT bars, crude steel, and forest produce like tamarind, mahua, lac, and small grain millets Kodo Kutki Ragi, among other products. The state government has set up export promotion councils, which provide a platform for exporters to interact with government officials and discuss export-related issues. The councils also provide exporters with information about export markets, export regulations, and export-related incentives. The government also provides various incentives to exporters, such as exemption of 5% in mandi fees, and formation of promotion committees to support and promote the exporting industry. Chhattisgarh has two operational inland container depots (ICDs), located in Raipur and Durg, and plans to set up more in the near future. The ICDs play a crucial role in facilitating the movement of export cargo from the production centers to the ports, enabling exporters to save time and reduce transportation costs.

Chhattisgarh's strategic location, with borders to six other states and proximity to major ports, makes it an ideal gateway for exports to neighboring countries. The state government should explore new markets, such as Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan, and facilitate the establishment of trade agreements to enhance exports to these markets. To maximize Chhattisgarh's export potential, the government needs to diversify its export basket and promote the development

of export-oriented industries in other sectors, such as textiles, agro-based products, and pharmaceuticals.

Chhattisgarh has several industrial areas, including Bilaspur, Raipur, Korba, Bastar, Durg and Mahasamund. The predominant industries in these regions are mining and agriculture and steel. Mining is a major industry in Chhattisgarh because of the rich mineral resources that the state has. The state is acknowledged as a power surplus state and ensures an uninterrupted 24x7 power supply across the state. Korba district in Chhattisgarh is known as the "Power Capital of India" due to the presence of several thermal power plants. The state government is also working on developing infrastructure, such as roads, rail networks, and ports, to enhance the state's connectivity and facilitate exports. Chhattisgarh has a well-connected network of roads and railroads, which makes it an ideal location for exports. Major highways, including National Highways 6, 30, 43, and 53, pass through the state, connecting it to major cities and ports. The state government has also proposed the construction of 12 new national highways and the expansion of 14 existing highways to further improve connectivity.

Railway is a popular mode of transport in Chhattisgarh, with several major railway stations located in the state, including Bilaspur, Raipur, Durg, and Korba. The state is also home to several major railway lines, including the Howrah-Nagpur-Mumbai line, the Bilaspur-Katni line, and the Bilaspur-Nagpur line. The state government is working on expanding the railway network by constructing new railway lines, upgrading existing ones, and improving railway stations. Chhattisgarh has several airports, including Swami Vivekananda Airport in Raipur, which is the primary airport in the state, as well as other regional airports in Jagdalpur, Bilaspur, and Ambikapur. In terms of air connectivity for exports, Raipur is the main district

with air cargo facilities. Swami Vivekananda Airport in Raipur has dedicated cargo terminals for the handling of air cargo. The airport has direct cargo flights to major cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, and Kolkata, making it a convenient location for exporters in the state. In addition to Raipur, Bilaspur and Jagdalpur also have airports with domestic connectivity, but they may not have dedicated cargo facilities.

However, the state government has been taking steps to improve air connectivity and infrastructure in the state to promote exports, including the development of new airports and upgrading existing ones. The upcoming greenfield airport in Rajnandgaon is expected to further boost air connectivity and cargo handling in the state. While Chhattisgarh has significant potential for exports due to its rich mineral resources and government initiatives, it faces some challenges such as poor logistics infrastructure and a lack of diversification in its export basket. The state is heavily dependent on a few sectors for its exports, primarily iron and steel, which account for a significant proportion of the state's total exports.

To address these challenges, the government needs to diversify its export basket and promote the development of export-oriented industries in other sectors, such as textiles, agro-based products, and pharmaceuticals. The government should also focus on developing the logistics infrastructure, such as roads, rail networks, and ports, to reduce transportation costs and enable exporters to reach their markets more efficiently. Chhattisgarh's potential as an exporting hub is undeniable, and the state government's efforts to support and promote exports are commendable. However, there is a need to address the concerns raised by exporters and explore new markets to maximize the state's export potential. With continued government support and collective efforts from stakeholders, Chhattisgarh can become a major player in the exporting world.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Russia-US hostility

The hostility between Russia and the US is not a new phenomenon. The tension between the two nations has been there for a long time, whether it was the Ukraine war or World War II. Even during the Second World War, there was tension between the Soviet Union and the US, and two opposing camps were formed in the world. The underlying issue is a battle for supremacy. It has been over a year since the Russia-Ukraine war began, and neither country has shown any signs of ending it. The US's support for Ukraine is also a significant factor contributing to the ongoing conflict. Unfortunately, the world is suffering due to the enmity between these two nations. The ongoing hostility between Russia and the US has a detrimental effect on global peace and security. The world cannot afford to have these two powerful nations engaged in a perpetual state of conflict. It is imperative that both sides find a way to resolve their differences and work towards creating a peaceful and stable world.

Manoj Kumar, Raipur

Discuss basic issues

The current state of affairs in Parliament is pathetic. The elected representatives of the nation have a responsibility to discuss and resolve the issues being faced by the citizens. Unfortunately, the functioning of Parliament has come to a standstill for the past three days due to the ego clashes among parliamentarians. The recent controversy over Rahul Gandhi's London remarks and the Opposition's demand for a probe into the Adani scam has resulted in a complete stalemate in Parliament. Both the ruling party and the Opposition seem to have taken a stance with scant respect for the citizens of the nation. The average cost of running Parliament is Rs 2.5 lakh per minute, and many valuable hours are wasted due to these unnecessary disruptions. It is disheartening to see that important issues like price rise and unemployment are being ignored due to the ongoing political drama. The ruckus in Parliament must stop, and our elected representatives must focus on the basic issues that are affecting the citizens of the nation.

Shiv Kumar Mishra, Raipur

EC appointments

The recent Supreme Court verdict on EC appointments will address the conflict of interest inherent in the current selection process and maintain transparency in the appointment of Election Commissioners. The Election Commission of India (ECI) is a critical constitutional body that is responsible for overseeing the conduct of elections. The commission's impartiality and credibility are essential for a free and fair electoral process. However, in the past, allegations of partisanship have been leveled against the EC due to the way the commissioners were appointed. The Supreme Court's verdict will help in maintaining the EC's credibility by ensuring that the appointment process is transparent and impartial. It is a significant step towards restoring public faith in the electoral process.

Mona Singh, by mail

HISTORY CAN NEVER BE REWINDED

Kajal Chatterjee

Rightly has the Supreme Court underscored India's secular nature with the assertion that India can't afford to be a prisoner of the past. After all, no sane society cares to exhaust precious time and energy to undo "wrongs" of the much distant past because history cannot be rewinded. If each and every ethnic/religious/caste/color group or nation starts revisiting the history books (real or imaginary), then the international community will have to abandon all work for the present and get fully engaged in "correcting" the past.

Despite the constant rhetoric of India's "liberalism", the fact remains that infinite cases of social atrocities have been committed upon the "untouchables"

and women folk in this "great" land in the name of caste and religious rituals since centuries. Are the self-declared guardians of Hindus and India ready to express apology for it? Will Maharashtra agree to say sorry to West Bengal and Bangladesh for the atrocities committed on undivided Bengal by the Maratha Bargis in the 18th century? When will the Hindutva brigade beg the pardon of Muslims for the pogrom in Gujarat (2002) with its perpetrators handed adequate punishment? Who will express apology to the Muslims for demolishing Babri Masjid or to the Christians for burning churches at Kandhamal, Orissa? Will Maharashtra or Shiv Sena ask the Tamils to pardon them for the atrocities on the latter in Mumbai in the sixth decade of the earlier century? Why don't

the rabidly patriotic Indians set up their own house in order to make the country a better place to live in instead of "amending" historical "wrongs"? Billions of Indians are languishing in abject poverty, hunger, malnutrition, joblessness and dying like mice and rats without receiving minimum medical service.

Millions of Indians have to venture to war-scarred countries of West Asia, North/Central Africa to act as labourers/nurses in slave-like conditions by mortgaging/selling their only piece of land just to escape drastic poverty back home. Less said about the plight of the army of child labourers the better. Yet, far from solving such Himalayan problems plaguing the nation so as to put a modicum of balm on vulnerable souls; we are witnessing how precious mone-

etary resources, energy and time are being recklessly squandered in the name of epic heroes, temples, Ramayana museum or "discovering" the Saraswati river. The same humanitarian elements among Indians feel disgusted and ashamed on witnessing such Hindutva extravaganza when billions of our own fellow citizens are simply gasping for breath in an ocean of adversities. However "scandalised" might the Bhakts feel on witnessing structures bearing Islamic legacy in India (just like Dharhara/ Gyanvapi/ Razia Sultan Masjid in Varanasi); they will either have to bear with it as history cannot be rewinded (unless that dark episode of 6th December 1992 gets repeated). Rather true Indians of secular vintage feel proud of multi-religious multi-

cultural Varanasi/ India and wish the same Hindu-Muslim syncretic culture rule the roost throughout this democratic land of diversities forever with the intolerant communal lot getting consigned to the dustbin of history.

Though the Supreme Court has rightly rejected a plea to set up a "renaming commission" on historical, cultural and religious places; but can the institution prevent "Hindu-isation" of Islamic places if passed by any state Assembly by virtue of brute majority as Uttar Pradesh has already done to "purify" Mughalsarai and Allahabad. Lastly, it's a wonder how do the "nationalists" afford to tolerate the Independence Day lecture of the Prime minister from the ramparts of that specimen of "bondage"-Red Fort.

(Views are personal)

BRIEF

Elected chairman



Chennai: President and managing director of auto-major Volvo Group India Kamal Bali was on Friday elected chairman of the Confederation of Indian Industry, Southern Region for the period 2023-24. Managing director of Tamil Nadu based Chandra Textiles Pvt Ltd R Nandini was elected deputy chairperson. Bali, a member of the CII National council, earlier served CII Southern Region as its deputy chairman and was the past chairman of CII Karnataka in 2017-18, a press release said.

Budget presentation



Shimla: Himachal Pradesh chief minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Friday presented the first annual budget in his tenure for the financial year 2023-24 in the state assembly. The chief minister announced that Himachal Pradesh will be made the model state for adopting electrical vehicles in the state's public transport. A total of 1,500 diesel buses will be replaced at a cost of Rs 1,000 crore, he said. In order to boost tourism, Sukhu said that Kangra district will be developed as the tourist capital and all 12 districts will be connected with heliport facility in the next one year.

Customer deliveries

Mumbai: K Krithivasan, chief executive officer-designate of the country's largest software services major TCS, on Friday said the company doesn't have a culture of making radical strategic changes when it gets a new chief and sounded sanguine about doubling down on customer deliveries. The USD 25-billion software giant in a surprise announcement on Thursday said Rajesh Gopinathan, its CEO for more than six years with over four years left to his second five-year term, has decided to move on from September 15.

Appointment



New Delhi: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance on Thursday named ICICI Bank veteran Anup Bagchi as its MD & CEO with effect from June 19. Bagchi will take over as the chief executive of ICICI Prudential Life from N S Kannan, who will superannuate on June 18, 2023.

RBI gov Das cautions banks against any build-up of asset-liability mismatches

Mumbai, Mar 17:

Reserve Bank governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday cautioned banks against any build-up of asset-liability mismatches, saying both are detrimental to financial stability and hinted that the ongoing crisis in the US banking system seems to have emanated from such mismatches.

Delivering the annual KP Hormis (Federal Bank founder) commemorative lecture in Kochi this evening, the governor was quick to acknowledge and assure that the domestic financial sector is stable and the worst of inflation is behind us. Amid the continuing volatility in exchange rates, especially due to the excessive appreciation of the US dollar, and its impact on the external debt servicing ability of nations, Das said,



"We have nothing to fear as our external debt is manageable and thus appreciation of the greenback does not pose any problem to us".

The governor focused most of the speech on India's G20 presidency and in this context, he called for more coordinated attempts by the group of the world's 20 largest economies to help those countries with high external debt risks due to the US dollar rise. He also said the grouping must provide

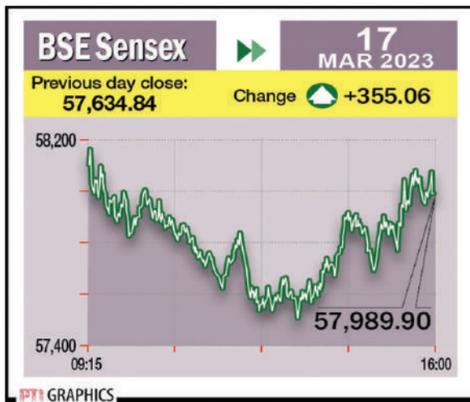
climate change financing to most affected countries on a war footing. On the US banking crisis where two mid-sized banks (Silicon Valley Bank and First Republic Bank) with over USD 200 billion in balance sheets each went belly up last week, he said the ongoing crisis drives home the importance of robust regulations that focus on sustainable growth and not excessive build-up either on the asset side or liability side. Das, without naming the US bank, said that on the face of it, one of them had unmanageable deposits in excess of their assets side business.

Das, who has been an open critic of private digital currencies, said the ongoing US banking crisis also clearly shows the risks of private cryptocurrencies to the financial system.

Markets extend gains in see-saw trade; metal, banking stocks sparkle

Mumbai, Mar 17:

Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty overcame bouts of volatility to settle in the green for the second straight session on Friday, propped up by robust demand for the metal, banking and financial stocks amid a firm trend in global equities. Besides, a strengthening rupee and lower crude prices in the international markets also influenced sentiments here, traders said. In a volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose 355.06 points or 0.62 per cent to settle at 57,989.90. During the day, it hit a high of 58,178.94 and a low of 57,503.90. The broader NSE Nifty gained



114.45 points or 0.67 per cent to end at 17,100.05. "The Nifty witnessed a volatile day of trade today. It witnessed sharp swings

in both directions and ultimately closed in the green for the second consecutive day... We believe that the pullback rally has

Petrol, diesel sales drop after February fireworks

New Delhi, Mar 17:

India's fuel demand fell in the first half of March after posting a record growth in the previous month, preliminary industry data showed on Thursday. Fuel sales soared to the highest levels in February on the back of robust demand from the agriculture sector as well as transport picking up after the winter lull. March saw the seasonal slowdown kicking in with rise in temperatures. Petrol sales decreased by 1.4 per cent to 1.22 million tonnes in the first half of March when compared with the same period of last year. Sales fell 0.5 per cent month-on-month, the data showed. Diesel, the most consumed fuel in the

country, saw demand slip 10.2 per cent to 3.18 million tonnes during March 1 to 15 when compared with 3.54 million tonnes sales in the same period a year back.

Month-on-month the demand was down 4.6 per cent. During the first half of February, petrol consumption had jumped by almost 18 per cent year-on-year while diesel sales were up nearly 25 per cent. The consumption of petrol in the first half of March was 16.4 per cent more than Covid-marred first half of March 2021 and almost 23 per cent more than in the same period of 2020. Diesel consumption was up 11.5 per cent over the first half of March 2021 and 20.2 per cent higher than 2020.

No proposal to reduce subsidy on fertilisers: Govt

New Delhi, Mar 17:

The government on Friday said that there is no proposal to reduce subsidies on fertilisers in the country. Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers Bhagwanth Khuba, in his written reply to the Lok Sabha, said, "No such study to understand the impact of reducing fertiliser subsidy on farmers has been conducted so far." In a separate reply, the minister said the government at present has no plan to control the rates of P&K fertilisers under the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) scheme.

The government provides subsidy on both urea and non-urea fertilisers to

MOU SIGNING CEREMONY



Union Minister of Steel and Civil Aviation, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia releases a Brochure on 'Pellets Industry in India' prepared by PMAI at MoU signing ceremony between Ministry of Steel and Steel companies under PLI scheme for specialty Steel, at Vigyan Bhawan, in New Delhi, Friday, March 17.

Cement cos likely to invest Rs 1.2 lakh cr to add 145-155 MT capacity by FY27: Report

Mumbai, Mar 17:

The continuing demand for housing, accounting for 60-65 per cent of cement demand, and aggressive government investments in infrastructure will drive demand, nudging cement-makers to add

145-155 MT in fresh capacity at an investment of Rs 1.2 lakh crore by FY27, according to a report. With 570 million tonne (mt) of installed capacity, India is the world's second-largest cement producer after China. Between FY12 and FY23, the installed capaci-

ty grew by a whopping 61 per cent to 570 MT from 353 MT in FY12 — a net addition of 217 MT from 2013 to 2022 — and FY22 saw the highest capacity addition of 34 MT. Cement companies are expected to go on an expansion spree, and add 145-155 MT capacity

between FY 2023 and 2027. That translates to a 4-5 per cent compound annual growth rate on a high base. A robust 6-7 per cent CAGR expected in demand over these five fiscals will encourage the growth in supply, Crisil said in a note.

Govt plans to introduce PLI 2.0 for specialty steel: Scindia

New Delhi, Mar 17:

The government is planning to introduce the second edition of the PLI scheme for specialty steel to boost production of value-added steel in the country. Union Minister of Steel Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Friday. The minister was speaking at the PLI Scheme for Specialty Steel MoU signing event in the national capital. It was attended by the companies selected to invest under the Rs 6,322-crore scheme. "Today is an important day in the history and future of the steel industry. PLI 1.0 is not a full stop, it is the beginning of the journey. Our ministry is already looking at PLI 2.0," he informed the partici-



pants of the first edition of PLI for specialty steel. The minister further asked the industry stakeholders to share their suggestions and feedback so the next PLI Scheme for specialty steel can be prepared at the earliest. As many as 27 steel companies signed 57 memorandum of agreements (MoUs) with the Ministry of Steel at the event to produce coated/plated steel prod-

ucts, high strength/wear-resistant steel, specialty rails, alloy steel products, steel wires and electrical steel. This will see an additional investment of Rs 30,000 crore in the domestic steel sector, leading to a capacity addition of 25 million tonne per annum and creating 55,000 new job opportunities. Minister of State (MoS) for Steel Fagga Singh Kulaste said the scheme has received tremendous response from interested parties and will prove to be a "game changer" for the industry.

The country is moving towards the increased output of value-added steel and usage of new-age technologies in the sector, he added.

Vedanta appoints Omar Davis as its President-Strategy

New Delhi, Mar 17:

Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta on Thursday announced the appointment of Omar Davis as its President Strategy. Davis will work closely with Vedanta chairman Agarwal to lead the Group's strategic initiatives and will be based out of the group's London office.

A seasoned natural resources banker, Davis has an experience of 25 years in the industry, Vedanta said in a statement. Most recently, prior to his appointment, he worked with Bank of America as the bank's global head of metals and mining for corporate and investment banking. "We welcome Omar to our company... His lead-

ership skills and strategic acumen will be of immense value in driving Vedanta's growth vision," Agarwal said.

Davis will lead engagement with globally recognised and leading financial partners and drive synergies as the company progresses with its vision to unlock value across its asset base.

"I am excited to work with the talented team to develop and execute strategies that will drive growth and create value for all our stakeholders," Davis said. Vedanta Group has significant operations in oil and gas, zinc, lead, silver, copper and iron ore among others and is foraying into semiconductors business.

Trouble in Credit Suisse unlikely to impact India's banking system: Experts

New Delhi, Mar 17:

India's banking system is expected to remain unscathed from the troubles in Credit Suisse as it has a very small presence in the country, experts said. Although Credit Suisse is more relevant to India's financial system than Silicon Valley Bank (SVB), it has very limited operations, according to a report by Jefferies India. The Switzerland-based bank, the report said, "has less than Rs 20,000 crore in assets (12th among foreign banks), presence in the derivatives market and funded 60 per cent of assets from borrowings, of which 96 per cent are up to two months. Still, it's small for the banking sector with 0.1 per cent share of assets." Zurich-head-

quartered Credit Suisse operates in India with just 1 branch. "Given the relevance of Credit Suisse to India's banking sector, we see softer adjustments in assessment of counterparty risks, especially in the derivative market," it said. Meanwhile, the RBI is keeping a close tab on the evolving situation caused due to shuttering of a few banks and stress in other global lenders, sources said. "We expect RBI to keep close watch on liquidity issues, counterparty exposures and intervene as necessary. This may also lead to institutional deposits moving more towards larger-quality banks," the report said. According to veteran banker Uday Kotak, who also managing director of

Kotak Mahindra Bank, India's macroeconomic factors are turning better and it can stand out in this global financial turmoil. "Even as the global turmoil continues in financial markets, the macro factors are turning better for India. Current account deficit looks below 2.5% FY 23, and going below 2% in FY 24. Lower oil helps. If we walk our talk and navigate well, India can stand out in this turbulence," Kotak said in a tweet. Foreign banks have a relatively smaller presence in India with 6 per cent share in total assets, 4 per cent in loans and 5 per cent in deposits. They are more active in the derivative markets (forex and interest rates) where they have 50 per cent share. Most of

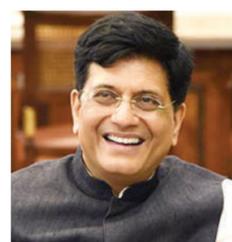


them are present as branches of the parent bank with only a few present as wholly-owned subsidiaries. However, Swiss National Bank (SNB) came to the rescue of Credit Suisse with a USD 54-billion lifeline to shore up its liquidity. In its statement on Thursday, Credit Suisse said it would exercise an option to borrow from the central bank up to 50 billion Swiss francs (\$54 billion). Credit Suisse is the first major global bank to be given an emergency lifeline since the 2008 global meltdown and its problems have raised doubts over whether central banks will be able to sustain their fight against inflation with aggressive interest rate hikes.

Need to provide quality products, services to consumers at affordable prices: Goyal

New Delhi, Mar 17:

Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal stressed the need to provide quality products and services to consumers at affordable prices. Addressing an event to mark World Consumer Rights Day 2023, the minister said that the "consumer is at the centre and core of all our activities". "The very purpose of our activities should be a satisfied customer... We have gathered here to celebrate consumers' rights. We want to give confidence to consumers and want to win their trust," he added. Goyal emphasised that it is the duty of the government, consumer courts and industries to protect the consumers' interests.



Customer service, customer awareness and customer redressal should be the focus, he noted. Goyal added that there is also a need to guide customers on the path of a sustainable future, as the entire world talks about green growth. The minister said the Prime Minister keeps consumers at the centre of all the government's programmes. The govern-

ment has focused a lot on the quality of products and services, he noted. Stating that consumers are no longer happy with the sub-standard products, Goyal said the consumers are now aware, and demand quality products and services in the field of all sectors be it healthcare, education or food. The World Consumer Right Day 2023 is a day of celebration and an opportunity to reinforce our commitment to protect the rights of consumers by providing quality products and services, he noted. Goyal said efforts should be made to attract customers' demand towards quality as low-quality goods are dangerous for customers and also the economy.



Aditi Shetty: Want to play roles that challenge me as an actor

TV actor and model Aditi Shetty, who has been part of shows such as 'Bhagyalaxmi' and 'Naagin 6', is currently seen in 'Dharampatni' and the actress says that she loves exploring different roles on TV. The actress adds that her character in her show 'Dharampatni' is undergoing a transition, and she loves it.

"As an actor, I just aim to play different roles. I want to play roles that challenge me as an actor and help me grow and learn every single day. Kavya's character from 'Dharampatni' has been such an amazing journey for me, I have taken so much as an artist and it's been a rewarding experience for me. I am nothing like Kavya in real life and I am getting to live an entirely different life when I play Kavya. I feel so lucky to get this role and being able to do justice to it is my aim. Having said that, I am looking forward to stronger positive roles as well in the main lead space as I feel ready and confident as an actor to

take it up and do justice to it," she says.

Talking about the kind of reality shows she wants to be part of, she adds: "I started my career with modelling and at that time, I was very interested in doing a show related to that. That's why I was a part of India's Next Top Model. I feel that a show where I get to showcase my personality will be exciting. Maybe 'Bigg Boss' will be nice to test me on how I react to certain situations."

The biggest plus about being a TV actor is the love that you get, she says, adding: "It's very overwhelming how the audience gives you so much love. I am so fortunate for all the love the audience gives me."

She says: "Acting is my passion. To be able to wake up and do what you love is the best feeling in the world. I absolutely love being in front of the camera and performing. To just get such amazing opportunities with the best in the industry motivates me. My family and friends love to watch my work and seeing them happy and entertaining my audience is my ultimate motivation to do better every day."

Aastha's life is in danger in 'Dil Diyaan Gallaan'

Sony SAB's Dil Diyaan Gallaan, with its emotional migration story of a family torn apart by misunderstood circumstances, hurt emotions, and inherent beliefs, has struck the right chord with the audiences. It showcases how unspoken words lead to differences between three generations. In the upcoming episodes, the viewers will witness Aastha (Reema Wohra) disagreeing with Mandeep's (Sandeep Baswana) decision to leave the Pind and go to Amritsar.

Mandeep is enduring immense pain as he witnesses his father Dilpreet (Pankaj Berry) agreeing to do his last rites due to the villagers' pressure despite being alive and fit. The situation deeply hurts him, which finally leads him to leave the Pind. To his surprise, Aastha doesn't agree with Mandeep's decision and decides to stay back in the Pind, shocking everyone. On one hand, Aastha does the Grihpravesha rituals and enters the house, while on the other hand, money lenders come to Dilpreet's house to get money. In a tiff, Nimrit (Kanika Maheswari) irritates the goons, and they kidnap Aastha. However, the worst is yet to happen. The place where Aastha is kept after kidnapping catches fire.

What will happen to Aastha? Who will come to rescue her?

Keep watching Dil Diyaan Gallaan every Monday to Saturday at 7:30 PM only on Sony SAB.



Rani recalls how Aamir continued to shoot even after high fever for 'Ghulam'

Bollywood actress Rani Mukerji remembered the shooting of the movie 'Ghulam' and how even after having high fever her co-star Aamir Khan continued to work without taking any break and this became an inspiration for her to give importance to work.

When Rani listened to 'Indian Idol 13' contestant Senjuti Das's rendition of 'Jadoo Hai Tera' from Vikram Bhatt's 1998 film 'Ghulam', she recollected her shooting days with Aamir in Manali, Himachal Pradesh.

Rani told Senjuti: "When you started singing the song from 'Ghulam', I had flashbacks because when I started filming for 'Ghulam', I was only 17 years old. Aamir Khan, who is one of India's biggest stars, was opposite me. I very well remember that we were shooting in Manali for the song and Aamir was down with a high fever. Around that time, I witnessed the dedication of an artist who con-



tinued to work even with a fever."

She went on to say: "So for me as a newcomer, it was an admirable quality about my co-star, and following his footsteps, I kept growing in life. When it comes to work, there can be no excuses. Work is most

important. I have also heard how independent you are, you also take care of your parents and you have come this far on your own. I pray that all your hard work gets fulfilled by winning the trophy."

While appreciating the contestant for her range and the way she sang two different tracks 'Jadoo Hai Tera' from 'Ghulam' and 'Aga Bai' from her 2012 film, 'Aiyya' perfectly, Rani added: "I would only say that Senjuti, you have an excellent range in your voice. Both, 'Jadoo Hai Tera' and 'Aga Bai' are different in their own way, and I'd like to add that the composition of one song was done by Jatin-Lalit and the other by Amit Trivedi. Both the albums, 'Ghulam' and 'Aiyya' are my favorite albums."

"But the way you started singing 'Aga Bai' which is a very difficult song is just amazing. I am very sure you are going to be a playback singer. You have a very strong and clear voice," concluded Rani.

Suniel Shetty with Norwegian dance group on 'Aankhon Mein Base Ho Tum'



A video of Suniel Shetty shaking a leg with a Norwegian dance group called Quick Style on the Bollywood actor's song 'Aankhon Mein Base Ho Tum' is doing the rounds on social media.

Quick Style took to Instagram, where they shared the video. In the clip, the group is seen dancing around in their signature hip-hop style and then Suniel is seen joining them in a white

shirt paired with blue jeans. "Felt like we have known him for years, Suniel Shetty," the clip was captioned.

The track is from the 1995 film 'Takkar' and is originally picturised on Suniel and actress Sonali Bendre. On the work front, Suniel is all set to share screen space with actors Akshay Kumar and Paresh Rawal for the third instalment of the 'Hera Pheri' franchise.

Uorfi Javed: 'Dooriyan' is a beautiful song, will touch everyone's heart



'Bigg Boss OTT' fame and social media influencer Uorfi Javed spoke about her latest track 'Dooriyan' and her working experience with producer Mohsin Khan.

Uorfi, who often makes headlines for her unique dressing, and recently her song 'Haye Haye Yeh Majboori' became a hit with over 21 million views, shared her experience of being part of the song and said: "'Dooriyan' is going to touch everyone's heart, it is a beautiful song."

&TV shows spreading happiness

International Day of Happiness is celebrated every year on March 20th to make people worldwide realize the importance of happiness in their lives. Spreading this very happiness into audiences' life &TV has these two popular comedy shows Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hai and Happu Ki Ultan Paltan. The lead artists from these shows talk about the importance of happiness and how these shows have spread joy and laughter into people's lives. These include Yogesh Tripathi (Daroga Happu Singh) and Kamna Pathak (Rajesh) from Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, Vidisha Srivastava (Anita Bhabi), and Aasif Sheikh (Vibhuti Narayan Mishra) from Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hai.

Vidisha Srivastava, essaying Anita Bhabi in Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hai, says, "If you have the power to make someone happy, do it. The world needs more of that. People are so engrossed with



work and stressed that they forget to live in the moment and stay happy. But as an actor, I feel responsible for making them happy and comfortable watching our show Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hai. It feels wonderful and fulfilling when your character or show makes even a minor difference in their lives, such as making them smile when they are sad. And I am glad Anita, as a character, has been doing it for the last one year.

Aayush wraps the Azerbaijan schedule of his film 'AS04'

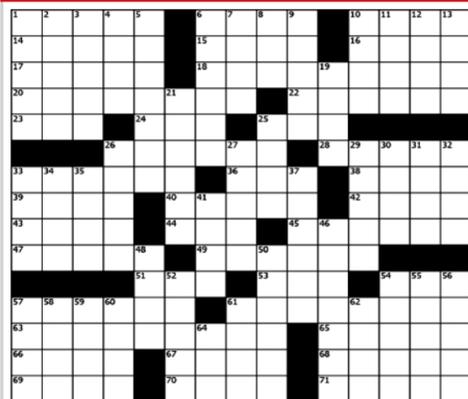


Aayush Sharma who had been shooting for his fourth film AS04, has wrapped the Azerbaijan schedule. The actor shared a picture with his co-actor and debutante Sushri Mishra announcing the wrap for the film slated for release this year. Creating a huge interest in the audience across quarters, the actor has been delving into the masses for the masala action entertainer. Aayush opened up about shooting in the cold weathers of Baku, Azerbaijan saying, "Kadake ke thand mein humne kiya kadak shoot... Three cheers to Team #AS04... it's a schedule wrap for us in Azerbaijan". Ever since the announcement of the yet untitled AS04 on Aayush Sharma's birthday last year, the action entertainer has been creating buzz with regular insights into the shoot and schedules of the film. Piquing the interest of the audience

with his swagger personality and stylised action in the teaser, Aayush Sharma has further elevated the level of action post the critical appreciation and love from audience for his last release Antim: The Final Truth. Creating waves with not just the engaging content but also the interesting style of announcement, Aayush Sharma has introduced the prevailing pattern of untitled name to films in South Indian Film Industry by opting for his initials along with the chronological number of the film. Undergoing a remarkable physical transformation to feature washboard abs and toned muscles, Aayush Sharma has time and again shared glimpses from his rigorous training for the film. Sustaining injuring during filming the action sequences, the actor has been proving his versatility, dedication and commitment.

CROSSWORD

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- Food plan
- Clock info
- Incessant
- Jakarta's country
- Able to read
- Wanderers
- Confederate general

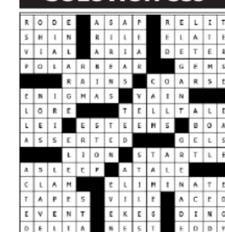
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- Was a copycat
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- To the point
- Fall flower
- Unclothed
- Greedy
- Melody
- Aspect
- Arctic transport
- Petition
- London's Big

SOLUTION 589



Treesa-Gayatri enter All England semis

Birmingham, Mar 17 (PTD):

Indian pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand continued their impressive run, dishing out another superlative performance to advance to their second successive semifinals at the All England Championships here on Friday.

The World number 17 Indian pair looked solid in their defence and relentless in attack, claiming 21-14 18-21 21-12 win over the newly-formed Chinese pair of Li Wen Mei and Liu Xuan Xuan in a 64-minute quarterfinals.

The only Indians in the fray, Gayatri and Treesa will face either Indonesian combination of either seeded Apriyani Rahayu and Siti Fadia Silva Ramadhanti or Korea's Baek Ha Na and Lee So Hee next. Gayatri and Treesa had reached the semi-finals in the last edition as well when they were handed a spot in the main draw at the last moment.

But this time they entered the draw with a fair amount of experience, having claimed the Commonwealth Games bronze last year and notching up wins over higher-ranked pairs such as world No. 7 Tan Pearly and Thinnah Muralitharan at



Gayatri Gopichand Pullela (left) and Treesa Jolly in action against China's Li Wen Mei and Liu Xuan Xuan (not pictured) during day four of the YONEX All England Open Badminton Championships at the Utilita Arena Birmingham.

the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship in February. The Indian duo had shocked seventh seeded Thais Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Ravindra Prajongjai and former world No. 1 pair from Japan Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota in the previous rounds.

In the quarterfinals, Gayatri, 20, and Treesa, 19, were up against Li, who has been World No 9 in the past, and Liu, a former World No 16.

Taking on the world number 52 pair, Gayatri stood solid at the net while Treesa came up with delectable smashes and drops

from the back to dominate the proceedings in the rallies. With coach Mathias Boe and Arun Vishnu constantly chirping from the sidelines, the Indian pair displayed their aggressive intent right from the word go and moved to 6-2 early on. The Chinese pair clawed back at 6-6 but the Indian soon entered the mid-game interval with a healthy 11-8 advantage.

Gayatri and Treesa got a measure of their opponent quickly and constructed the points well to move to 18-12 before taking the first game comfortably.

The Indian pair kept a firm grip on the rallies to

lead 5-1 and 10-6 at one stage after the change of sides but Li and Liu soon found their bearing and chipped away at the lead.

Eventually, a couple of tight serves from Liu helped them cap five straight points and take a 11-10 lead.

It was a down-the-line smash from Gayatri that broke the run of points. Gayatri seemed more alert near the court, changing defence to attack.

Few flat exchanges ensued next with Treesa's wild forehand landing out and Gayatri rushing onto a shot as the Chinese pair again grabbed the lead.

Li and Liu tried to produce acute angles as Treesa found the net. A couple of errors from the Indians put the Chinese pair three points from levelling the scores. Li soon set up four game points with a precise on-the-line return. India saved two game points before Li unleashed a smash to take the match to the decider. In the third game, it was a one-way traffic as the Indian pair reeled off six points on the trot to gallop to 8-1. The Indian duo was charged up as their shot selection and on court judgements were spot on.

The Chinese tried to slow down the pace but Treesa's relentless attack from the back took the Indian pair to 11-4 at the midgame interval. Treesa was always aiming for the lines and her precision was rewarded again as they moved to 13-5. Gayatri too complemented her partner, charging towards net to gain another point. Another delightful net play saw India reach 15-8. The Chinese tried everything but couldn't sustain the pressure as Treesa unleashed another booming smash to reach 18-10.

Another forehand smash from Gayatri set up a massive eight match point advantage and the Indian pair sealed it when the Chinese pair went long.

Rahul, Jadeja stay cool to seal tough chase of 189

Mumbai, Mar 17 (PTD):

KL Rahul scored a fine 75 under pressure to star in India's five-wicket victory over Australia in the first ODI, here on Friday. India lead the three-match series 1-0. Chasing a target of 189, India were 16/3 and subsequently 39/4 but Rahul held his nerves during a 91-ball knock that had seven fours and a six. He added 108 for the unbroken sixth wicket stand alongside Ravindra Jadeja (45 not out). Stand-in skipper Hardik Pandya won the toss and elected to field first and his bowling unit, led by Mohammed Shami (3/17), fired at the Wankhede Stadium to finish off Australia's innings in just 35.4 overs. Mohammed Siraj also got three wickets. Opening in place of the injured David Warner, Mitchell Marsh top-scored for Australia with a 65-ball 81, but the rest, including skipper Steve Smith, failed to make any worthwhile contribution.

Earlier, Mohammad Shami and Mohammed Siraj shared three wickets apiece as India bowled out hapless Australia for a mere 188 in 35.4 overs.

The collapse was an inexplicable one as Australia lost last six wickets for only 19 runs in a space of 7.5 overs as Hardik Pandya's decision to bring in Shami for a quick second spell turned out to be decisive.

The delivery to Cameron Green



India's KL Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja run between the wickets.

Brief scores

Australia: 188 all out in 35.4 overs (Mitchell Marsh 81; Mohammed Shami 3/17, Mohammed Siraj 3/29).
India: 191/5 in 39.5 overs (KL Rahul 75 not out, Ravindra Jadeja 45 not out, Mitchell Starc 3/49).

that sent the off-stump cartwheeling was a real peach. It pitched on line of off-stump and Green had to commit but there was shade late movement that beat the batter and knocked back the off-stump.

The veteran pacer helped India pull things back in control after an attacking 65-ball 81 from Mitchell Marsh set Australia on the course of a competitive total, as his second spell of 3-2-8-3 broke the back of

Australia's resistance after a sparkling start. Shami finished with brilliant figures of 6-2-17-3. On the other hand, Siraj, who provided an early wicket in the second over, also enjoyed success in his second spell to return with 5.4-1-29-3, snaffling the last two wickets in the Australian innings.

Marsh provided Australia with a rollicking start, cracking 10 fours and five sixes in his first-ever innings as an opener in ODIs, on his comeback to international cricket after a three-month layoff following an ankle surgery. Marsh's charge in the first half of the game ensured Australia kept moving briskly towards a big total, but India kept making inroads at regular intervals and eventually bundled them out for a below-par score.

Arshdeep Singh joins Kent to play five first-class games

Kent, Mar 17 (PTD):

Talented Indian left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh will play five first-class matches for Kent during the upcoming English County season in order to hone his red-ball skills. The Kent County made the announcement on their website.

"Kent Cricket is delighted to announce that India international bowler Arshdeep Singh will be available to play for the county in five LV=Insurance County Championship matches between June & July, subject to regulatory approval," the press release stated. On signing for Kent for two months this summer, Singh said, "I am excited to play red-ball cricket in England and continue to improve my skills in the first-class game. I look forward to performing in front of Kent's Members and supporters; Rahul Dravid has already told me it



is a Club with a great history."

As the Indian team leaves for the UK post IPL, Arshdeep also will spend the entire month of June and July honing his red-ball skills. Arshdeep made his ODI debut in New Zealand

last November and has made 29 international appearances for India till date, including a standout ICC T20 World Cup in Australia in 2022. In his seven career first-class matches so far, he has taken 25 wickets at an average of 23.84 and economy of 2.92. He will become the fourth Indian player to wear the White Horse competitively after Kanwar Shumshere Singh, current India men's fead coach Rahul Dravid and 2022 overseas bowler, Navdeep Saini.

Kent's Director of Cricket, Paul Downton, said, "We are delighted to have a player of Arshdeep's potential join us for five matches this summer. He has demonstrated that he has world-class skills with the white ball, and I am very confident he will be able to put those skills to good use with the red ball in the County Championship."

Former Australia test cricket captain Tim Paine retires



Hobart, Mar 17 (AP):

Former Australia test cricket captain Tim Paine has announced his retirement following the conclusion of Tasmania's Sheffield Shield first-class match against Queensland on Friday. Wicketkeeper Paine captained Australia in 23 tests between early 2018 and 2021, playing 35 tests overall. He became Australia's 46th test skipper after Steve Smith had his captaincy stripped in the wake of the ball-tampering scandal on Australia's 2018 tour of South Africa. Paine stood down from the captaincy in late 2021 after it was revealed he had sent explicit text messages to a former Cricket Tasmania employee.

Hardik and Savita win Hockey India men's and women's Player of Year awards

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTD):

Midfielder Hardik Singh and goalkeeper Savita Punia were on Friday conferred with the men's and women's Indian Hockey Player of the Year awards at a glittering ceremony here.

The 24-year-old Hardik beat his illustrious senior players like Manpreet Singh and Harmanpreet Singh to win the coveted award for 2022 named after hockey legend Balbir Singh senior at the fifth Hockey India Annual Awards. Hardik was the most impressive player for India in the FIH World Cup held in Odisha in January before he was ruled out of the tournament due to a hamstring injury he suffered during the second group match against England. He had scored a goal in India's 2-0 win over Spain in the first match. India had made a shock exit from the World after losing to Spain in the pre-quarterfinals. Savita had led India to



the FIH Women's Nations Cup title in December last to book a berth in the Women's Pro League.

Both Hardik and Savita received Rs 25 lakh each, along with a trophy. The total prize money for the awards was in excess of Rs 2.7 crore.

"It's been a fantastic year; and it feels great to be recognised for my efforts," Hardik said. "I believe we had a roller coaster year as a team, and there are players who have done exceptionally well this year as well. I honestly feel that I am accepting this honour on behalf of the entire team." "To be honest, I

am speechless; this is a tremendous honour. We performed admirably as a team, and winning the inaugural FIH Women's Nations Cup was a watershed moment for all of us," Savita said.

Hockey India also gave away awards for 2021 as it could not be held due to post COVID-19 difficulties.

Member of 1964 Olympics gold winning team. Gurbox Singh won the prestigious Hockey India Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award for 2022 for his outstanding contribution to the sport of hockey. The award carries Rs 30 lakh and a trophy.

India's T20 squad to take on Ireland in 3-match series

Dublin, Mar 17 (PTD):

The Indian T20 team will take on Ireland in a three-match T20 series in August this year, Cricket Ireland said in a statement on Friday.

"Irish cricket fans will be able to enjoy watching the world's number one T20 International side, India, when the Asian juggernauts return to Malahide for a three-match T20I series this August," Cricket Ireland said in its statement.

Hardik Pandya, the new T20 captain, had led the team during the two-match series at the same venue last year. However, with the 50-over World Cup in sight one wonders if the BCCI would risk playing Hardik in a series that will offer little or no context to India's preparation for the ODI World Cup in India. But the series, which is scheduled to be played from August 18 to 23, does mean a lot for the Irish board as the broadcast revenues generated through the rubber will make them more stable financially.

This champion is going to rise again, says Yuvraj after meeting Pant



New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTD):

This champion is going to rise again, flamboyant former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh said after meeting the wicketkeeper-batter, who is recovering from the multiple injuries he suffered during a horrific road accident.

Having made one of the greatest comebacks in the history of the sport, Yuvraj knows a thing or two about what it takes to come back from the brink.

Soon after his exploits in the 2011 World Cup, Yuvraj was diagnosed with cancer, for which he took treatment in the US before making a comeback to Indian team.

"Onto baby steps!!! This champion is going to rise again. Was good catching up and having a laugh. What a guy positive and always funny!! More power to you @rishabhant," Yuvraj posted on his Twitter handle. Yuvraj was discharged from the hospital after his third and final chemotherapy in March 2012. He had what's called mediastinal seminoma cancer.

Swiatek, Rybakina reach semifinals at Indian Wells



Iga Swiatek of Poland returns a shot to Sorana Cirstea of Romania during the BNP Paribas Open at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden in Indian Wells, California.

Indian Wells, Mar 17 (AP):

Top-ranked Iga Swiatek breezed past Sorana Cirstea 6-2, 6-3 to reach the semifinals of the BNP Paribas Open.

Swiatek, the defending champion, took a 4-0 lead in the second set and converted her second match point to close it out on Thursday.

"I'm happy that I played so intense that I could

start both sets well," Swiatek said.

"I'm feeling like I'm handling things pretty well and just playing my game."

Next up for Swiatek is No. 10 seed Elena Rybakina, who outlasted Karolina Muchova 7-6 (4), 2-6, 6-4. It will be a rematch from the Australian Open in January, when Rybakina won 6-4, 6-4 in the quarterfinals.

Rybakina became the first woman from Kazakhstan to earn a semifinal berth at Indian Wells.

She dropped her first set of the tournament in the second, but turned it up in the third. The 2022 Wimbledon champion won 15 of 16 first-serve points and never faced a break point in the set.

"I served much better in the third," Rybakina said on court.

"I didn't start that well in the beginning of the match, I was a bit slower than usual and here the conditions are not that easy for me. In the end, in the important moments I played well."

Rybakina and Swiatek are 1-1 against each other in their careers.

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Rahul has become permanent part of 'anti-India toolkit', must apologise

SC seeks response from Andhra Pradesh on convict's plea to verify juvenility claim

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTI):

BJP president JP Nadda led his party's attack on Rahul Gandhi on Friday over the Congress leader's recent comments made in the UK on the state of Indian democracy, charging him with becoming a "permanent part of the anti-India toolkit" that seeks a weak government here so as to exploit it for its benefits.

In a statement, Nadda accused Gandhi of speaking the language of "anti-India" George Soros, a billionaire financier, and alleged that the Congress and the "so-called Left liberals" have become a part of the "deep state" conspiracy involving foreign forces against the country. "Anti-national" Congress leaders have been speaking the language of Pakistan, he added. Gandhi will have to apologise to the



JP Nadda

people of India for his "sin" of seeking the "interference" of foreign powers in the country's internal affairs, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president said. He accused the former Congress chief of joining hands with foreign conspirators against India to encircle the country economically and strategically. Never before in independent India any leader has done

Those anti-nationals themselves must not preach patriotism: Kharge slams Nadda

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTI): Hitting back at BJP chief JP Nadda for his criticism of Rahul Gandhi's remarks made in the UK, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday said those who are "anti-nationals" themselves must not preach his party about patriotism and must learn from it instead. Kharge's attack came after Nadda slammed Gandhi over his recent comments made in the United Kingdom on the state of Indian democracy, charging him with becoming a "permanent part of the toolkit" working against India. Kharge said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is making such allegations to hide and divert attention from the "horrible unemployment, backbreaking price rise and the scam of its 'best friend'". Asked about Nadda calling Gandhi "anti-national", Kharge told reporters, "They are anti-nationals from before. Even at the time of independence, they (BJP people) did not participate in the movement to get freedom for the country. Those who are anti-nationals themselves are calling others anti-national." In a series of tweets, Kharge said those who did not contribute even an iota in the freedom struggle are the real "anti-nationals". "Modi ji himself has gone to six-seven countries and said on foreign soil that 'people of India are saying that what sin did we commit that we were born in India'. Such a person is calling us anti-national?" he asked in a tweet.

what Gandhi has done on foreign soil, he said.

"This is a most serious matter," Nadda said, adding that what the Congress leader has done has hurt every patriotic MP as well as the people of the country. Those working against India want a weak government working under the compulsions of an alliance for their benefits, he said. The BJP president said

anti-India forces have always had problems with a strong India, its robust democracy and decisive government. By criticising the state of democracy in India and seeking the intervention of the United States and Europe on foreign soil, Gandhi has attacked the country's sovereignty, he added.

"Rejected repeatedly by people, Rahul Gandhi has

become a permanent part of the anti-India toolkit," Nadda said. He accused the former Congress chief of insulting India, its Parliament, its democratically-elected government and people in Britain, a country that ruled over India for long. What Gandhi has done amounts to strengthening those working against India, the BJP president said.

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTI):

The Supreme Court Friday sought a response from the Andhra Pradesh government on a plea filed by a convict undergoing life sentence in a 2011 murder case, seeking a direction to the state to verify his claim of juvenility.

The petitioner, confined in central prison Hyderabad and whose conviction and sentence were upheld by the high court concerned in November last year, has claimed that going by the school certificate, his date of birth is recorded as August 10, 1994, and he was almost 17-year-old at the time of the offence in December 2011.

The matter came up for hearing before a bench comprising Justice S K Kaul and Justice Aravind

Kumar. Advocate Rishi Malhotra, appearing for the petitioner, said the petitioner has already undergone more than 11 years in custody and as per the certificate of school which he had first attended, he was a juvenile at the time of the offence.

"Have you raised this issue before the high court? You have filed an Article 32 petition here. You are saying that plea of juvenility can be raised at any stage," the bench observed.

Malhotra said the petitioner has undergone custody of over 11 years though the maximum sentence prescribed under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, is only three years. "Issue notice," the bench said.

In his plea, the petition-

er said it has been filed solely on the ground of juvenility and he does not intend to challenge his conviction under section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code.

The plea said it is only confined to a limited prayer that if upon due enquiry, it is found that the petitioner was indeed a juvenile at the time of the incident, then the sentence awarding life imprisonment needs to be set aside and he deserves to be released forthwith.

"In the instant case, the date of the incident is December 12, 2011, and as per the school certificate (first attended), the date of birth of the petitioner was recorded as August 10, 1994. Meaning thereby, the petitioner was almost 17 years as on the date of incident and thus, was a juvenile," the plea said.

FARMERS MARCH



Farmers, who started a march from Nashik to Mumbai, arrive at Vasind village of Thane district, Friday.

'Will shut all madrasas in Assam'

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma calls Cong 'new Mughals'

Belagavi (K'taka), Mar 17 (PTI):

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who is visiting Karnataka, said he intended to shut all the madrasas (Muslim religious schools) in his state, as they were not needed in "New India".

Addressing an event here on Thursday night, Sarma said what Assam needed were schools, colleges and universities to produce doctors, engineers and other professionals to serve the state and the country, and not madrasas.

"I come from Assam, where everyday people arrive from Bangladesh. There is a threat to our culture and traditions," the Chief Minister said. "Recently in a TV interview in Delhi, I was asked

what my intention was in having shut down 600 madrasas. I said that I have shut 600, but my intention is to shut all madrasas," he added.

Going on a tirade against opposition parties, Sarma accused the Congress and Communists of having distorted history and misrepresented facts. He also labelled the Congress "new Mughals".

"There is no need of madrasas in this 'New India'," he asserted, adding, "We have to move forward in this direction, we have to transform our education system; time has come to rewrite our history in a new way as it was distorted earlier."

The Assam Chief Minister was addressing a large gathering here after

inaugurating a light and sound show on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Noting that Abhay Patil, a local BJP MLA, had planned the light and sound show six years ago, Sarma again made accusations against the Congress. "The Congress government then did not extend any help. Why did Congress help," he asked, adding, "Congress will never help. Congress will think about Babar, but not Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj."

"With this light and sound show, he (MLA) has ensured that the ideals of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj will be followed in this country and that in the future too Sanatana (dharma) will be followed, and that Sanatana ideals

will become stronger in this country," he said.

Pointing out that there are a large number of people in this country, who claim with pride that they are Muslims or Christians, the Assam CM said, "I have no objections, but we want people who will with pride say, 'I'm a Hindu'."

Sarma then went on to claim that the 17th century Mughal ruler Aurangzeb had allegedly tried to destroy Hinduism, while insisting that his contemporary Shivaji worked to protect Sanatana Dharma and its traditions. "Till today India is Sanatani and Hindu, and until the sun and moon exist India will go forward on the basis of its traditions," he declared.

Ex-minister murder case

T'gana HC dismisses YSRCP MP's pleas

Hyderabad, Mar 17 (PTI):

The Telangana High Court on Friday dismissed pleas of YSR Congress Party Lok Sabha member Y S Avinash Reddy that sought a direction from the court to restrain the CBI from taking coercive steps against him, and to stay his further examination in the case pertaining to the murder of former Andhra Pradesh Minister Y S Vivekananda Reddy. The High Court said it was not inclined to stay the examination of the petitioner under Section 161 of the CrPC (examination of witnesses by investigating agencies). The court had reserved its orders on Monday in the applications filed by Avinash Reddy.

The CBI shall continue the investigation and may summon the petitioner under Section 160 of the CrPC (police's power to require attendance of witnesses), if required, and the examination of the petitioner shall be audio-video recorded,

the court said. "This court is not inclined to grant relief as sought by the petitioner i.e., a direction not to take any coercive steps, since such a blanket order is impermissible," it said. The petitioner had failed to establish a prima facie case, the court said, adding that the balance of convenience was in favour of the investigation being continued into the alleged offence committed four years ago.

"Further, continuation of investigation does not cause any irreparable loss to the petitioner as he is still not named as an accused," the court said, adding that while the advocate of the petitioner could not be permitted to accompany him into the room where he is examined, he could, however, be examined within the sight of his advocate. After being issued summons by the CBI, Avinash Reddy, who is an MP from Kadapa in Andhra Pradesh, has appeared four times before the agency which is investigating the murder case.

Sambhal/Lucknow, Mar 17 (PTI):

The death toll in a roof collapse incident at a cold storage in Sambhal district climbed to 14 on Friday and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath formed a committee to probe the reasons behind it. These 10 were among the 21 pulled out from the rubble at the cold storage located on Indira Road under Chandausi police station limits, according to police.

Twenty-one people have been rescued so far and 10 of them have died. There are also reports that at least three people are severely injured, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police Shalabh Mathur said. The rescue operation is still underway, he added.

A government spokesperson in Lucknow said Chief Minister Adityanath has announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased, Rs



50,000 for those critically injured and free treatment for all those who sustained injuries in the incident. The chief minister has also constituted a probe committee led by the divisional commis-

sioner and the DIG of Moradabad to probe the reasons behind the roof collapse. The committee has been asked to submit its report at the earliest, the spokesperson said.

Adityanath also expressed grief over the loss of lives in the incident and directed the concerned officials to ensure proper treatment of the injured, according to the spokesperson. Sambhal District Magistrate Manish Bansal said five people are undergoing treatment at a Moradabad hospital, while six have been discharged.

The rescue operation, in which the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) are also involved, continued through the night, he said. Searchlights have been installed in the area to facilitate the rescue operation. JCB machines have been pressed into service to remove the debris.

3 members of Lawrence Bishnoi gang held

Jaipur, Mar 17 (PTI):

Three members of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang were arrested following an encounter in Rajasthan's Sriganganagar district, police said Friday.

The accused, identified as Sonu, Sachin and Harish, all residents of Punjab, were arrested

on Thursday, they said. According to police, the gang was trying to extort money from businessman Harakhchand Malpani. Malpani, in his complaint, alleged that the accused were trying to extort money from him in the name of Anmol Bishnoi, Lawrence's brother.

SC adjourns hearing on Atiq Ahmed's plea seeking protection

New Delhi, Mar 17 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Friday adjourned the hearing on a plea of jailed former Samajwadi Party MP and gangster Atiq Ahmed seeking protection, claiming he and his family have been falsely "roped in" as accused in the Umesh Pal murder

case in Prayagraj. A bench of justices Ajay Rastogi and Bela M Trivedi deferred the matter after Atiq's counsel sought time to file some additional documents containing statements.

"The matter was listed after urgent mentioning by the counsel for the applicant before the Chief Justice. Today, when the matter has come on board,

the counsel has expressed inability to argue. List after one week," the bench said.

In his plea, Ahmed, who is currently lodged at the Ahmedabad central jail in Gujarat, has referred to the statement made by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on the floor of the assembly to "completely ruin and destroy" him and

claimed there is a "genuine and perceptible threat" to his and his family members' lives.

He said the Uttar Pradesh Police in all likelihood will seek his transit remand and also police remand to take him from Ahmedabad to Prayagraj and he "genuinely apprehends that he may be eliminated during this transit period".

Ahmed has also sought directions to ensure that no physical or bodily injury or harm is done to him in any manner during police custody or interrogation.

He further sought a direction restraining Uttar Pradesh government and others from taking him from the Ahmedabad jail to Prayagraj or any other part of Uttar Pradesh.

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