



BRIEF



Tennis star Sania Mirza during her farewell at the Lal Bahadur Stadium, in Hyderabad, Sunday. Sania announced her retirement from professional tennis earlier this month at the Dubai Tennis Championships.

Earthquakes jolt

■ **Uttarkashi:** A 2.5-magnitude earthquake followed by two consecutive tremors shook Uttarkashi in the early hours of Sunday, a district disaster management official said. The epicentre of the first quake, which occurred at 12.45 am, was in Siror forest in Bhatwari area of the district, the district disaster management officer Devendra Patwal said. The two other tremors followed soon but were too mild to be recorded locally, he said.

Man held

■ **Mumbai:** A man was arrested allegedly with e-cigarettes worth Rs 66 lakh after his car was stopped for checking at a police road block (naka-bander) in Masjid Bunder area of south Mumbai, an official said on Sunday. Ten boxes, each containing 300 e-cigarettes, were found in the car, after which a case was registered at Dongri police station, he added.

Unseasonal rains

■ **Palghar:** Unseasonal rains lashed parts of Maharashtra's Palghar district damaging standing crops in the region, an official said on Sunday. Rains accompanied by thunder hit Jawhar, Vikramgad and Mokhada talukas of the district on Saturday, he said. The unseasonal showers damaged standing crops and affected mango and cashew orchards said Prakash Nikam, president of the Palghar Zilla Parishad.

Soldier injured

■ **Poonch:** An army personnel was injured Sunday in a landmine explosion near the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said. Naik Rajeev Kumar was injured when a landmine went off during patrolling of a forward area in the Mankote sector this afternoon, they said. The injured soldier was immediately given medical aid and was later airlifted to a military hospital in Jammu for specialised treatment, the officials said.

Fire breaks out

■ **Mumbai:** A massive fire broke out at Shri Ram College of Science and Commerce on Sunday morning in Mumbai's Bhandup area, said the fire department officials. According to the officials, upon receiving the information, four fire tenders rushed to the spot and firefighting efforts were taken up. So far, no one has been reportedly injured in the incident.

Weather
High 36 Low 20

Kejriwal accuses BJP & Cong of looting Ch'garh for last 23 years

■ **Calls for AAP to bring change**

Raipur, M9ar 05 (PTI):

Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress of looting Chhattisgarh for the last 23 years and appealed people to give a chance to his party in the state to rid it of corruption and 'mafia raj'. Sounding the poll bugle for the Assembly elections scheduled in Chhattisgarh this year-end, he also asked people to keep their children's future in mind before casting their votes. He was addressing a rally of AAP workers at Jora ground on the outskirts of the capital Raipur. Kejriwal hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said he loves industrialist Gautam Adani



like his 'muh-bola' brother and is handing over everything in the country to him. Calling Manish Sisodia, who was recently arrested in Delhi excise policy case, a 'sant' (saint) and 'mahatma' (great soul), he said PM Modi will face the curse of students and poor people in Delhi for putting him in

jail. 'Chhattisgarh is a mineral-rich state, but people in the state are struggling with poverty despite being talented and hard-working...Of the last 23 years (after Chhattisgarh was carved out of Madhya Pradesh in 2000), BJP ruled for 15 years, while Congress governed it for the remain-

ing period. They did nothing except looting the state. If any of them again come to power the loot will continue," he said. He appealed to people to give a chance to the AAP in this year's Assembly elections in Chhattisgarh to get rid of corruption and 'mafia raj'.

Opposition leaders write to PM on misuse of central agencies

Hyderabad, Mar 05 (PTI):

Leaders of nine opposition parties, including Chief Ministers Mamata Banerjee, Arvind Kejriwal, K Chandrasekhar Rao, have written a joint letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi alleging "blatant misuse" of central agencies against members of the opposition. The other signatories of the letter are Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Tejashwi Yadav (RJD), Sharad Pawar (NCP), Farooq Abdullah (Jammu & Kashmir National Conference), Uddhav

Thackeray (Shiv Sena, UBT) and Akhilesh Yadav of Samajwadi Party. "The blatant misuse of central agencies against the members of the opposition appears to suggest that we have transitioned from being a democracy to an autocracy the misuse of central agencies and constitutional offices like that of the Governor - to settle scores outside of the electoral battlefield is strongly condemnable as it does not bode well for our democracy," the letter said. Highlighting Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's arrest by

the CBI in connection with the irregularities in Delhi Liquor Policy, the leaders said the charges against the AAP leader were "outrightly baseless and smack of a political conspiracy". His arrest has enraged people across the country. Sisodia is recognised globally for transforming Delhi's school education. His arrest will be cited worldwide as an example of a political witch-hunt and further confirm that the world was only suspecting - that India's democratic values stand threatened under an authoritarian BJP regime, they alleged.

Lokayukta raid case: Karnataka BJP MLA remains elusive

Bengaluru, Mar 05 (PTI):

Karnataka BJP MLA Madal Virupakshappa remained elusive on Sunday, three days after Lokayukta police caught his son Prashanth Kumar M V for allegedly taking a bribe for a government contract. According to official sources, Lokayukta police are making all efforts to trace the Channagiri legislator, who is the prime accused in the case. Officials had earlier said, they will be issuing him a notice for questioning, in connection with the corruption scandal that has rocked the State ahead of the Assembly polls. Lokayukta police seized Rs 8.02 crore in cash belonging to Kumar, this include Rs 6.1 crore from his residence in Bengaluru on Friday and Rs 2.02 crore from his private office on Thursday. Of the Rs 2.02 crore, Rs 40 lakh was allegedly the bribe that

Kumar had received from the head of a private company that had won a contract to supply raw materials to the Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Ltd (KSDL), of which his father Virupakshappa was the Chairman, the post from which he resigned on Friday. Lokayukta police have also seized another Rs 16.47 lakh from Virupakshappa's residence in Davangere district. Meanwhile, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai today said no decision has been taken regarding seeking Virupakshappa's resignation, and fair probe is on by the Lokayukta in the case. Accusing Congress of "shutting down" the Lokayukta, while in power, to close cases against its leaders, he said, 59 cases of the grand old party's tenure under Siddaramaiah, have been referred to the Lokayukta and the truth will come out.

BJP makes BSY its key mascot for assembly polls

Bengaluru, Mar 05 (PTI):

The BJP seems to be falling back on its seasoned oarsman B S Yediyurappa making him a key poll mascot, along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as it shores up campaign in poll-bound Karnataka. The octogenarian, who has already announced his retirement from electoral politics, is sought to be put on the pedestal by the governing party's central leaders. The reasons are not far to seek as to why Yediyurappa has been pushed to the top of the campaign plank, the four-time Chief Minister, who built the party from grassroots level, has a mass ap-



peal and connect - particularly the political influential Lingayat community - that no other party leader in the State commands. It's now quite evident from the BJP's campaign narrative that the party is banking on the "Yediyurappa factor" and

putting him up as the "poster boy" by leveraging his clout to the hilt. The BJP central leadership - Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, party President J P Nadda and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh - have been lavish in their praise of Yediyurappa, during their public meetings in the State in recent days. It's not often that in PM's programme, someone else hogs the limelight, but on one such occasion on February 27, at a public meeting in Shivamogga, it appeared that Modi himself was giving the Karnataka BJP strongman a "pride of place" in his "Karma Bhoomi".

Amshipura fake encounter: Life term for army captain

Jammu, Mar 05:

Completing general court-martial proceedings in less than a year, an army court has recommended life imprisonment for a captain in connection with the killing of three men in a "staged" encounter in Amshipura in south Kashmir in July 2020, officials said in New Delhi on Sunday. Captain Bhoopendra Singh was subjected to court martial after a court of inquiry and summary of evidence found that troops had "exceeded" powers vested under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, they said. The life sentence is subject to confirmation by higher army authorities, the officials said. Declining to comment, the army sources said the process involved in such matters is still on. The three men hailing from Rajouri district of Jammu region - Imtiyaz Ahmed, Abrar Ahmed and Mohammed Ibrar - were killed in a remote hilly village in Shopian district on July 18, 2020 and labelled as "terrorists". However, as doubts were raised on social media over the killings, the army promptly constituted a Court of Inquiry which found prima facie evidence that the troops had "exceeded" powers vested under AFSPA.

Bhupesh Baghel to present 2023 budget of Trust today

Raipur, Mar 05:

Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Bhupesh Baghel, will present the state's budget for 2023 on Monday. He assures the public that it will be a budget of trust, one that focuses on uplifting all sections of society, including farmers, women, and youths. The Chief Minister notes that the principles of Mahatma Gandhi's Gram Swaraj and policies of justice have guided the state's development since its formation, leading to Chhattisgarh's emergence as a 'Nav Chhattisgarh' or a new Chhattisgarh. Despite facing many challenges, including the global pandemic, Chhattisgarh has become one of the best economically managed states in the country. Thanks to the people's trust, Chhattisgarh's markets are thriving, with the lowest unemployment rate



in the state. The state has also broken records in rice procurement, and new schemes have reached indigenous people in remote areas. Chhattisgarh's health and education models have been adopted by governments across the country. The Chief Minister promises that the budget will focus on creating a self-reliant Chhattisgarh, developing infrastructure and education, and improving the health sector, especially in rural areas. The government is committed to providing the best possible facilities to its citizens and ensuring their welfare.

Drugs money returns to Pak for J-K terror acts: DGP

Jammu, Mar 05 (PTI):

Money generated from the narcotics trade is returned to Pakistan and subsequently used to fund terror activities in Jammu and Kashmir, Director-General of Police Dilbag Singh on Sunday. Singh's comment comes close on the heels of a large stockpile of drugs, cash and weapons being recovered near the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch. "We are faced with a new challenge where the drugs and weapons are smuggled from Pakistan together. While the



weapons are delivered to the terrorists, the major part of the drug proceeds are returned to handlers (across the border) and the rest shared by the peddlers. "The proceeds (from the drugs trade) are being utilised to keep terrorism alive (in Jammu and Kashmir)," the police chief

told reporters here on the sidelines of the Jammu Marathon. The 'Run for Fun' Jammu Marathon was organised by the police here as part of its civic action programme and drew hundreds of participants from all walks of life at Gulshan Ground. Responding to a question on the seizure of seven kilogramme of heroin, over Rs 2.30 crore in cash and some arms and ammunition from the home of a notorious drug peddler in Mandi sector on March 3, Singh said a dozen major peddling rackets had been busted in the recent past. "The

probes unearthed interstate connections of drug trafficking, especially connected to Punjab, and raids were conducted. We are also roping in the Narcotics Control Bureau and, like in the past, investigated various cases together. "In this (Poonch) case, the entire module involved in the drug trafficking will be unveiled and stern action taken against those found involved," he said. This was the second time such a huge recovery of cash was made near the Line of Control following the earlier seizure of Rs 1.50 crore in Poonch.

Indian Navy successfully test-fires BrahMos missile

New Delhi, Mar 05 (PTI):

The Indian Navy on Sunday successfully test-fired in the Arabian Sea the ship-launched version of the BrahMos supersonic missile. The missile that was tested had the indigenous "seeker and booster", officials said. "The Indian Navy carried out a successful precision strike in the Arabian Sea by ship launched BrahMos missile with DRDO-designed indigenous seeker and booster, reinforcing our commitment towards Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance) in defence," said a senior military official. BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd, an India-Russian joint venture, produces super-



sonic cruise missiles that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or land platforms. BrahMos missile flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound. The anti-ship version of the supersonic cruise missile was successfully test-

Imran Khan dodges arrest

■ **After Islamabad Police show up at his residence**

Lahore, Mar 05 (PTI):

A team of Islamabad police on Sunday reached Lahore residence of ousted prime minister Imran Khan to arrest him in the Toshakhana case, but returned after assurance from his legal team that he will appear before the court on March 7. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) vice chairman and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said there is no mention of "arrest" in the warrants as an Islamabad sessions court has asked him to appear before it on March 7 in the Toshakhana case. The 70-year-old cricket-turned politician, who has been recovering from a gunshot injury from an assassina-

tion attempt in Wazirabad last year, has thrice skipped indictment hearings in the case. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief has been in the crosshairs for buying gifts, including an expensive Graff wristwatch he had received as the premier at a discounted price from the state depository called Toshakhana and selling them for profit. The court issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against Khan last week and adjourned the hearing till March 7 for his repeated failure to appear before the court. Meanwhile, Lahore police have closed the main road leading to the Zaman Park residence of Khan by placing containers. Riot police and water cannons are currently present near Khan's residence. His party fears that police may raid Khan's house anytime. However, it said the party workers will foil any such attempt.

China hikes defence budget by 7.2 per cent

Beijing, Mar 05 (PTI):

China on Sunday hiked its defence budget by 7.2 per cent, marginally higher than last year, to 1.55 trillion yuan (about USD 225 billion), marking the eighth consecutive year of increase in its military spending. China, last year, pegged its defence budget at 1.45 trillion yuan, a 7.1 per cent increase. This year the defence spending is increased to 1.55 trillion yuan. However, in view of the appreciation of the dollar against the yuan, this year's defence spending of China totalled, according to the state-run China Daily, about USD 225 billion.

Structures of India's democracy under 'brutal attack': Rahul Gandhi

London, Mar 05 (PTI):

Stepping up his attack on the BJP government, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has alleged that the structures of Indian democracy are under "brutal attack" and there is a full-scale assault on the institutions of the country. The Opposition leader, who is in London as part of a UK tour, told reporters here that there are conversations ongoing within the Opposition to unite around an alternative vision for the country and act upon an "undercurrent of anger" over pressing issues such as unemployment, price rise, the concentration of wealth and violence against women.



The 52-year-old former Congress president referred to the income tax department's recent survey action against the BBC offices in New Delhi and Mumbai as an example of the "suppression of

voice across the country", a motivating factor behind his 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' which he described as an expression of voice against the ruling BJP's attempt to silence the country. "The reason the yatra became necessary is because the structures of our democracy are under brutal attack," Gandhi told reporters at an India Insights event organised by the Indian Journalists' Association (IJA) on Saturday evening. "The media, the institutional frameworks, judiciary, Parliament is all under attack and we were finding it very difficult to put the voice of the people through the normal channels," he alleged.

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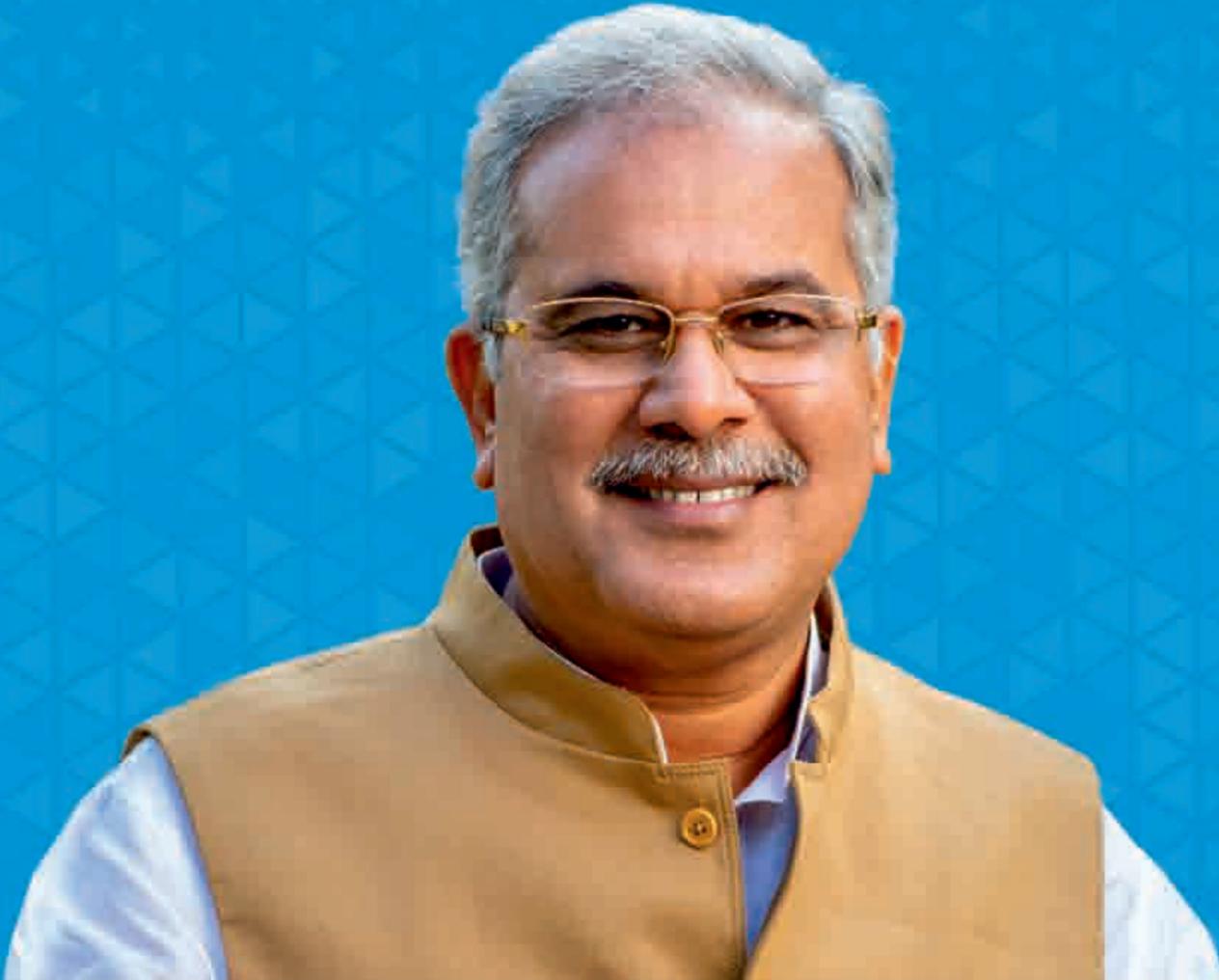
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•LIVE देखें



Ch'garh is now one of the best economically managed states: Baghel

Raipur, Mar 05: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will present the Chhattisgarh government's budget for the year 2023 on March 6. In his message to the people of the state on the eve of the budget, Baghel assured that this will be a budget of 'trust' that gave Chhattisgarh the strength to become 'Nava Chhattisgarh'. 'This is the same trust that you have expressed on our manifesto, on our working style and on the public welfare thinking of our government', he added.



'We had started giving shape to Mahatma Gandhi's resolution of Gram Swaraj and the policy of justice as soon as the government was formed. We have come out facing all these challenges and at present we are one of the best economically managed states', said the Chief Minister. According to him markets of Chhattisgarh remained bright even after the recession in the country because of 'confidence' of people of the state. Chhattisgarh has the lowest unemployment rate and has also broken records in paddy procurement across the country, he said, adding that new schemes have reached the tribals of remote areas in the state. Moreover governments across the country are adopting the Chhattisgarh model of health and education, he said. Baghel said that earlier people used to remember Chhattisgarh only for the incidents of

Naxalite violence and there used to be question marks regarding Chhattisgarh in the mind of the tourists. Suddenly so much has changed that the people of the country are now eager to come to Chhattisgarh, he said and added that Bollywood actors too were continuously coming to the state for shooting of films and web series. He said that there had been a tremendous increase in the number of tourists. All this has been possible with public participation, he added. 'Our state is now showing the way to the country. People's perspective has changed. Today times have changed. There have been 2 big season cricket matches like road safety in Chhattisgarh, for the first time an international match has increased the pride of all of us. Celebrity Cricket League has also been completed recently', said Baghel.

Baghel's jibe Kejriwal and Mann

Raipur, Mar 05: Taking a jibe at the election meeting of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Chhattisgarh the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that AAP had contested elections last time also but its candidates forfeited their deposits. Baghel's reaction comes after Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann held their first election meeting here on Sunday. Election is coming so

many party people will come, Baghel said, adding that Congress invited Kejriwal and Mann to see the work of Chhattisgarh. Sushil Anand Shukla, Pradesh Congress communication chief, said that Arvind Kejriwal should look at the Swami Atmanand schools of the government in Chhattisgarh.

According to him Kejriwal is trying to garner accolades for schools in Delhi by spending

crores of rupees. Chhattisgarh government's Dai-Dada clinic should be seen, Shukla said. He alleged that Kejriwal only worked for false praise for his two schemes.

While Kejriwal calls AAP India's 'Kattar Imandar' (most honest) party, but it is the only party in this country whose more than half of ministers are behind bars, Shukla said over AAP's honest leadership.

Maximum number of hospitals be certified under Maternity Health Prog: Singhdeo



Raipur, Mar 05: Health and Family Welfare Minister TS Singhdeo reviewed departmental works and plans by holding a marathon meeting with senior departmental officers, chief medical and health officers of all districts and district program managers at New Circuit House here on Saturday. He gave instructions for Lakshya (Lakshya) certification of maximum number of hospitals under the Maternity Health Programme. He asked to conduct power and fire audit in district hospitals from time to time. District-wise review of various schemes and programmes run by the Health Department was done in the meeting and necessary instructions and suggestions were given for their

effective implementation. Singhdeo directed to get the target certification of maximum government hospitals under the Maternity Health Program and to fill the data related to all schemes and programmes in the portal itself. He asked to pay the amount provided to the beneficiaries of Janani Suraksha Yojana at the earliest along with special check-up and regular follow-up of high-risk pregnant women. He instructed the districts to dispose of the applications received under the Nursing Home Act at the earliest. Health Department Secretary Prasanna R, Director Health Services Bhim Singh, Director National Health Mission Bhoskar Vilas Sandipan, Managing Director CGMSC

Chandrakant Verma and Director Epidemic Control Dr Subhash Mishra were also present in the meeting. Field officers were directed to solve the problems related to the Village Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHND) programme at the earliest. Instructions were given to increase vaccination of children, to send details of meetings held under PCP-NDT programme to the state PCPNDT branch, and to give wide publicity to the free dialysis service being provided in district hospitals. The works of Child Health, Family Welfare, Tuberculosis (TB) Eradication Programme, Leprosy Eradication Programme, Rabies Control Programme, Urban Health Programme and IDSP were also reviewed in the meeting.

Health Secy conducts surprise inspection of forensic department



Raipur, Mar 05: Secretary, Health Department, Prasanna R conducted a surprise inspection of the autopsy room operated under the Forensic Department of Pt Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College and Associated Hospital and gave necessary instructions to further strengthen the system of post-mortem examination. The Health Secretary in-

structed the doctors of the Forensic Department to prepare a well-planned plan to give the report prepared after the post-mortem to be done in the medico-legal case without any delay so that the PM report of the deceased could be received by the concerned police station soon. Apart from repairing the waiting area for the family members to sit outside the autopsy room,

instructions were given to make better arrangements for drinking water, wash-room and cleanliness for the family members.

He made a proposal regarding the requirements of the autopsy room and asked to send it to the government through the head of the department and the superintendent. He instructed to set up a help desk outside the mortuary so that the relatives can get the necessary help on time. During the inspection, Superintendent of Ambedkar Hospital, Dr SBS Netam, Dr Vivek Patre of the Department of Radiology, Dr RK Singh of Forensic Department, Dr Shivnarayan Manjhi and Dr Nagendra Sonwani were present.

AIIMS Raipur to award degrees to 850 students

In 1st Convocation on 7th March

Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar, Minister of State, MoHFW, GoI to be Chief Guest

Alumni Meet for five batches on March 6



Raipur, Mar 05: Around 850 medical, nursing and PG students of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Raipur will be conferred their degrees and 10 gold medals will be awarded to meritorious students of the institute in its first convocation to be here on 7th March 2023. Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar, Minister of State, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, will be the Chief Guest at the function at AIIMS Auditorium. Guests of Honor will be MP Sunil Soni (Raipur), Ms. Saroj Pandey (Rajya Sabha) and

Arun Sao (Bilaspur). AIIMS Raipur will also organize the first Alumni Meet on 06th March for the previous batches. While addressing a Press Conference, Prof. (Dr.) Nitin M. Nagarkar, Director, said that a total of 425 medical graduates from five batches (2012 to 2016 Batches), 292 students from B.Sc. (Nursing) (2013-17 Batches), 120 MD/MS/MDS students, 8 M.Sc. (Nursing) students and five Master of Public Health students would be awarded degrees. Dean (Academics) Prof.

Alok Chandra Agrawal said that AIIMS Raipur inducted the first medical students batch in 2012 with a total intake of 50 students. It later increased to 125 students every year.

The Institute started MD/MS and MDS courses which currently offer 157 seats. AIIMS-R also offers specialized courses in super specialty branches, including DM, MCh, and

18 new seats from July session

Raipur: AIIMS Raipur will add 18 new seats in four courses from the July 2023 session. It will include MCh (CTVS), PDCC in Hospital Infection Control, DM/MCh (Anaesthesiology, Endocrinology & Metabolism, Neonatology) and MSc (Nursing) (Cardiovascular and Thoracic, Pediatric and Obstetrical and Gynaecological).

MPH, with a total intake of 41 seats. There are 37 seats in paramedical courses and also offering M.Sc. (Nursing), MPH and PhD in different streams. The convocation ceremony will commence at 9 AM with a procession and will conclude by 1.30 PM. AIIMS Raipur Deputy Director (Administration) Anshuman Gupta and Registrar Dr Atul Jindal were also present at the press conference.

Knowledge Innovation Center with IIT Bhilai

Raipur: Prof. Nagarkar said that two Institutes of National Importance-AIIMS and IIT Bhilai collaborate in Medical Technology. Consultants from AIIMS-R are conveying their medical needs in technology and equipment to IIT engineers and are working to provide solutions for them. 'Both have MoU for research and innovation. I hope that it will pave the way for novel solutions for patients in the coming days, he said.

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Two ruffians arrested with brown sugar worth Rs 25 lakhs

Man arrested for consumer durable loan fraud

Central Chronicle News



Bhilai, Mar 05: Supela police arrested a fraudster who cheated the people in pretext of consumer durable (mobile phone) loans. He cheated the victims by getting mobile loans sanctioned in their names and selling the mobile phones to other people. Police had received complaints regarding fraud in mobile phone loans with the people specially of lower classes. SP Durg Dr Abhishek Pallava instructed the cops to trace the thugs.

His accomplice were involved in such frauds. They used to get the mobile phones financed in the name of some person and sold the mobile to some other person. The suspect Bhanu Pratap Bhagat was taken into custody and during interrogation, he confessed to have cheated the people in pretext of mobile finance loans. He collected the Aadhaar card, bank passbook, voter ID card and other documents from his targets and purchased the phones with the help of consumer durable loan. Later, he used to sell the mobile phone to some other person. The accused had cheated Om

Under the guidance of Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Sanjay Dhruv and City Superintendent of Police (Bhilai Nagar) Nikhil Rakhecha, Inspector Durgesh Sharma (SHO, Supela) constituted a separate team of his police station. The team kept a constant watch on the suspects. During investigation, police discovered that one Bhanu Pratap Bhagat and

Prakash, S Abhishek, D Joshi, Sandy and many others in the same way. He got five iPhone financed in the name of victims and sold them to other people for Rs 4 lakh.

The accused Bhanu Pratap Bhagat (29) son of Bandhana Ram Bhagat a resident of Chandni Chowk, Ram Nagar was duly arrested under section 420, 34 of IPC and sent to judicial remand. Inspector Durgesh Kumar Sharma (SHO, Supela), ASI Neelkum Bhaduria, Constables Junaid Siddiqui, Vivek Singh and Upendra Singh played a vital role in arresting the accused.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 05: Police arrested two ruffians on charges of smuggling and peddling of narcotic drugs. 25.54 grams of brown sugar packed in 240 sachets were recovered from the accused. The value of the seized drugs is around Rs 25 lakhs. It was a joint operation of the Anti-Crime and Cyber Unit (ACCU) and City Kotwali Durg.

While addressing media persons here at the Police Control Room on Sunday, SP Dr Abhishek Pallava informed that they are conducting a special campaign against the people involved in smuggling and illegal trade of liquor, drugs and other psychotropic and intoxicating substances.

A d d i t i o n a l Superintendent of Police (City) Sanjay Dhruv, City Superintendent of Police



(Durg) Vaibhav Banker (IPS) and Deputy Superintendent of Police (Crime) Prabhat Kumar (IPS) are supervising the campaign. A joint team of ACCU and Durg City Kotwali has been formed under the leadership of ACCU in-charge Inspector Santosh Mishra and Inspector SN Singh (SHO, Durg).

The team was constantly keeping an eye on the

drug peddlers. The network of informers was also activated for the purpose. People who were earlier involved in such illegal activities and offenders released from jail were being monitored.

Meanwhile, the ACCU team received a tip off regarding a person of Shivpara who was earlier involved in drug dealing.

The team was constantly keeping an eye on the

drug peddlers. The network of informers was also activated for the purpose. People who were earlier involved in such illegal activities and offenders released from jail were being monitored.

Meanwhile, the ACCU team received a tip off regarding a person of Shivpara who was earlier involved in drug dealing.

Kanshi Nishad reportedly possessed a large quantity of brown sugar and were peddling it in Shivpara.

Acting on this tip off, the team laid a trap and caught Lucky Mahar and Kanshi Nishad in Shivpara. 140 sachets of brown sugar weighing 15.55 grams were recovered from the possession of accused Lucky Mahar while 100 sachets of brown sugar weighing

about 9.99 grams were recovered from Kashi Nishad. Total weight of brown sugar was about 25.540 grams and its value is about Rs 25 lakh. Legal action was taken against the accused on the spot.

Further action is being taken under NDPS Act by Durg City Kotwali against the accused Lucky Mahar (29) son of Sohan Mahar a resident of Shivpara Durg and Kanshi Nishad (24) son of Santu Nishad a resident of Shivpara Durg.

Sub-Inspector Devadas Bharti from Police Station Durg and ASI Shamit Mishra, Head Constable Chandrashekhar Banjeer, Constable Pradeep Singh, Jagjit Singh, Sheikh Farooq, Tuleshwar Rathore, Keshav Sahu, Chitrasen Sahu, Khurram Baksh, Narendra Sahare and Dharendra Yadav played a vital role in arresting the accused.

Durg Police launches week long campaign on IWD

Over 500 women partake in Pink Marathon



Superintendent of Police (IUCAW) Meeta Pawar and Deputy Superintendent of Police (IUCAW) Shilpa Sahu.

In this campaign, Deputy Superintendent of Police (IUCAW) Shilpa Sahu detailed the students and teachers about legal rights, protection from sexual exploitation, cybercrime and social media crime. Children and teachers were informed about the Abhivyakti App by SI Sangeeta Mishra.

They were guided to download and use the Abhivyakti App on their mobile phones. Self-defense tricks were taught to girl students. They learned to protect themselves by using the common objects. The cops answered the queries on self defense, cyber crime, etc.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 05: On Friday, Durg Police launched a special awareness week on the occasion of International Women's Day. Through this campaign, the idea of gender equality will be promoted. People will be encouraged to provide equal status to the women at workplace and society.

They will be explained that due to gender inequality, women have to struggle more to achieve success in any sector. The women will

also be made aware about their rights. On the first day of Abhivyakti Women's Awareness Week, a program was organized at Bhilai Maitri College, Risali.

As per the intentions of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Durg Police is organising this event under the directions of Superintendent of Police Dr Abhishek Pallava and supervision of Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Sanjay Kumar Dhruv, Additional



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 05: On the eve of International Women's Day, an event was organized for women under the banner of "Hunar Bhilai Ka" group. Hundreds of women and girls of Durg-Bhilai participated enthusiastically in the program "Hunar Nari Shakti Ka". The event began with a warm up with Zumba. Later, the Chief Guest SP Dr

Abhishek Pallava flagged off the Pink Marathon.

Around 500 women had registered for the marathon. First 50 participants of the Pink Marathon were honored with medals. Holi of flowers was played after the marathon. Refreshments were arranged by the committee for all the participants. Senior Corporator Vashishtha Narayan Mishra and former Corporator Lalit Mohan

had organised this programme.

SP Dr Abhishek Pallava attended the program as the chief guest. ASP Meeta Pawar, DSP Shilpa Sahu, Traffic DSP Satish Thakur, DSP Nilesh Dwivedi, Inspector C Tirkey, Inspector Navi Pandey, Raksha Deep, Sonali Chakraborty, Dr Mansi Gulati, Dr Sanjay Goyal, Rani Nandini were present. Shivali Bhonsle and Jiya Farishta conduct-

ed the programme.

Senior Corporator Vashishtha Narayan Mishra said that the festival of holi is falling on March 8 this year. Due to this reason only, it is difficult to organise an International Women's Day programme that day. Considering the situation, the Pink Marathon was organized on March 5 in honor of Mahila Shakti. This marathon started from Sector 1 BSNL

Chowk and took a u-turn from Sector 4 to return back to its origin.

The organisers distributed pink T-shirts free of cost to all the participants. Girls from 10 years old to women of 55-60 years participated in the race. During the event, children along with women performed stunts in skating. Dr Abhishek Pallava extended greetings to all the women on International Women's Day.

BSP-OA organises 'Steel Women Run 2023' on IWD

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 05: A huge crowd of women officers working in Bhilai Steel Plant gathered at Pragati Bhawan of BSP Officers Association on Sunday morning. A new zeal and passion was visible on the faces of these women. The occasion was "Steel Women Run 2023" organized by the Officers Association of BSP.

The International Women's Day celebration was organized for the first time by the BSP Officers' Association. A series of programs are being organized by OA for women officers of BSP. On Sunday, a 02

km "Steel Women Run 2023" was organized in which serving women officers participated enthusiastically.

First of all, the women officers were welcomed by SEFI Chairman and OA President Narendra Kumar Banchore. Underlining the importance of women power in his address, he said that for the first time OA is organising IWD events and all the woman officers made it successful by participating in this program.

He congratulated all the women on behalf of the entire OA community. Highlighting the purpose of this event, Banchore said



that there was a need to provide such a platform for women empowerment in the steel fraternity and to strengthen their cooperation.

OA made this opportunity available to all women officers. He assured that BSP-

OA will continue to organize various events for the empowerment of women with the cooperation of all the women officers.

Warm up Zumba session was held before the run. Vandana Sahu and Manju Parganiha conducted the

warm up session. Narendra Kumar Banchore, Chairman of SEFI and President of OA flagged off the run.

The run began amidst huge applause. People queued up on both sides of the road cheered them with

claps. Arrangements for first-aid and doctors were also made. In view of the increasing participation of women in this race, OA President Banchore announced an increase in the number of prizes.

The first place in this

race was won by Philomina Ekka, second place by Shabnam Shweta and third place by Gitanjali Sahu. Apart from this, other prize winners were Dr Priya Sahu, B Usha Valli, Shadma Khan, Aparna Chandra, Anamika, Vinita Verma and Alka Tare.

All the participants who participated in this run were honored with gifts by the Officers' Association. Women doctors of BSP Hospital, women officers of Ispat Bhavan and women officers of Plant and Education Department played an important role in making this program successful.

The program was coordinated by Satyavan Nayak. Anirudh and his team contributed significantly in ensuring smooth conduct of the race. At the end of the program, the vote of thanks was proposed by OA General Secretary Parvinder Singh.

On this occasion, President of Officers Association Narendra Kumar Banchore, General Secretary Parvinder Singh, Treasurer Ankur Mishra, SEFI Nominee Ajay Kumar, Vice President GP Soni, Secretary Akhilesh Mishra, Vice President (Mines) Venugopal Dewangan and zonal representatives were present.

Vansh Bahadur Singh nominated JCSSI member

Department of Journalism & Mass Communication organises Career Guidance Webinar

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 05: INTUC General Secretary Vansh Bahadur Singh from Bhilai Steel Plant has been nominated as member of JCSSI (Joint Committee on Safety, Health and Environment in the Steel Industry). JCSSI is a national level bipartite forum of management and trade union representatives from both the public and private sector steel companies. Its activities have primarily concentrated in addressing the cause of safety, health and environment in the steel industry.

BN Choubey, Harjeet Singh, Rajshakar Mantri and Vansh Bahadur Singh have been made members from the INTUC union.



Vansh Bahadur Singh

This committee discusses the impact on the safety and health of employees as well as the environment in the country's steel industry and makes future plans accordingly. JCSSI Committee's 74th meeting and Annual Award function will be organized on March 22 and 23 in Ranchi.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 05: The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication of St Thomas College organised a webinar on "Beyond Journalism: Exploring Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs for Students" with alumnus Mohammed Shahid, a research fellow in the School of Water at Cranfield University, UK.

Students were given valuable guidance on the future career pathways after completing under graduation in journalism and mass communication. Shahid emphasized the dire need for factual, impartial, and rational jour-



nalism in present times. Shahid asked the students to primarily cultivate strong moral values and to adhere to constitutional values when they practice

ethical journalism. Shahid told the students that under graduation grants them foundational knowledge of journalism but after that, it is their responsibility to specialize and refine their knowledge in a particular discipline.

He introduced the students to the diverse disciplines such as public policy, rural journalism, climate reporting, gender studies, and more. Lastly, he offered the students his complete support in building a remarkable career and asked them to seek the best of education in renowned institutes. Afterward, the students' queries on various topics were answered in detail by

Shahid. The Principal, Dr MG Roymon, congratulated the alumnus and asked the students to always aim for excellence. The HOD, Dr Reema Dewangan, expressed her gratitude for his efforts in enlightening the students.

The webinar was hosted by Yashraj Yadav, President of Student Association, with the guidance of Convenor and HOD Dr Reema Dewangan, and organising committee members Mohammed Zakir Hussain, Amitabh Sharma and Chhavi Kiran Sahu. The insightful webinar concluded with a vote of thanks by Chhavi Kiran Sahu, Assistant Professor.

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OBITUARY

Babulal Gupta



Bhilai: Retired BSP employee and Kasauddhan Vaishya Samaj Patron Babulal Gupta left for heavenly abode at the age of 83 years. Funeral procession will be taken out from his residence situated at 83/B, Sundar Nagar on March 06 around 10:30 hrs and last rites of the mortal remains will be performed at Ramnagar Muktidham. He was the father of Brijendra Gupta, Narendra Gupta and Santosh Gupta.

City all set to celebrate the Festival of Colours

Rajim, Mar 05:

As the date of Holi is getting closer, the atmosphere of Holi is clearly visible and the city of Prayag has its own unique way of celebrating, just like the way Holi of Vrindavan, Mathura, Barsana is world famous all over the world, in the same way people reach from far and wide to play Holi in the city of Lord Rajivlochan.

Here it takes a mention that Rajim's Holi is very famous in Chhattisgarh and the best of colours to pichkaris are available here at this point of time, and to add to the season's charm, this season cylinder Gulal has come, which is sealed in a box, and to blow it you have to give pressure by hand, after a light touch. Faces are also available in different types, in addition to the monsters, modern designs are



made keeping in mind the cartoon characters. Apart from the chemical-rich gulal coming in the market, herbal gulal will also be sold this time, mostly manufactured by women's group. Two decades ago, drums used to start playing as soon as Phagun started, but now the trend towards them has decreased, on the other hand, people like to sing Holi songs through other means now. Women and

men dance a lot. In the earlier picture, people used to collect wood to burn Holi, from different sources giving it a desi look, but now wood is directly called from the wood stall and Holi is lit. The preparations for the festival of Holi, which shows mutual brotherhood, goodwill and love, seem to be going well this time as the work of cleaning and painting the houses is going on at a fast pace.

Holika Dahan on 7th, Rang Gulal will be played on 8th

Rajim: According to the information, the auspicious time of Holika Dahan will be on March 7 and Holi will be played on March 8. The full moon date will start at 4:17 PM on March 6 and end at 6:09 PM on March 7. The auspicious time for Holika Dahan will be from 6:24 pm to 8:51 pm on Tuesday, March 7. The time of Bhadra Kaal will start at 4:48 pm on March 6 and end at 5:14 am on March 7. According to religious beliefs, it is said that it is most auspicious if Holika Dahan takes place during Pradosh Kaal on the full moon day, during this time it is auspicious to donate Holi at night by sacrificing Bhadra Mukh.

Administrative action against road widening intensifies

Dongargaon, Mar 05:

Administrative action against road widening has intensified and thereby road construction and widening has been speeded up. In its first episode, notices have been issued to 35 roadside shopkeepers, who will be affected for a short time, in which all the documents of their occupied land have been called for. Along with this, information about illegal occupation of government land has been sought within 3 days. According to the notice issued on February 23, almost most of the shopkeepers who will be affected on the roadside of the city have also submitted their land related documents to the Patwari office, in which most of the documents are registry papers. On the one hand, the affected shopkeepers fear that their shops will be demolished; on the other hand, most of the city dwellers are in favor of road widening



and construction of traffic points at the intersections with systematic footpaths, drains, parking lots. According to the information received from sources, the affected shopkeepers are preparing to meet the MLA a day before in the night to find a solution to the problem. However, it is discussed that the entire construction of the road will be uniform and no compromise will be made of any kind. The townspeople including the officials believe that the biggest traffic problem is from the old bus stand to

the fountain square and in this area, adequate widening of the road is essential. In such a situation, if any compromise is made in the construction of the road, then the problem will remain as it is and there will be no justification.

No arrangement for parking in the city

Permanent parking has not yet been arranged in Dongargaon city and especially during festivals; shopkeepers on the road do business by putting up pandals in front of their shops. On the one hand, the road is as narrow as it is, after

that the condition of the traffic becomes even worse due to the installation of the pandal and the situation of jam is created on the road.

Many five-year programs are prepared for the people's representatives and many administrative officers have gone to the city after giving their services, but till date, parking has not been arranged anywhere in the city. The focus of the urban administration team is only on recovery from the shopkeepers, but their facilities are never taken care of.

NTPC Lara provides financial assistance



For improvement of educational infrastructure to district admn. Raigarh

Lara, Mar 05: Taking a big step for the development of education in Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh NTPC Lara has provided financial assistance for development of infrastructure of Swamy Atmanand School in Raigarh district under community development initiative. In this connection the cheque of first installment of Rs. 6 cr 36 lakh provided by Diwakar Kaushik, Executive Director (NTPC Lara) to Taran Prakash Sinha, IAS, Collector, Raigarh on

March 3. Total 15 cr will be provided by NTPC for renovation of all Atmanand schools in Raigarh district. Atmanand school is the flagship education programme of the Govt of Chhattisgarh, to provide quality education to the children. It is noteworthy to mention that, NTPC Lara has been taking various initiatives for development of education in Chhattisgarh. Some big-ticket works are construction of IIIT at Raipur, development of Raigarh medical college and Kirodimal Institute of Technology in Raigarh. On this occasion Kanheya Das, AGM (HR) and Rajendra Kumar Behera, DGM (R&R) was present.

219 CRPF Battalion distributed need materials to villagers

- Including Syntax Water Tanks, Tin sheets etc
- Under Civic Action Programme

Konta, Mar 05:

Sunit Kumar Rai, DIG CRPF under the guidance of Police Force, Konta Range and Nitin Kumar, Commandant 219th CRPF Battalion organised a Civic Action Program at Kotacheru Camp and E/219V Vahini at Gorkha Camp under the direction of police force.

Under the Civic Action Programme organized in Kottacheru and Gorkha camp, keeping in view the needs of the villagers and the scorching heat, Sarpanch Para, Kurtipara, Patelpara of village Kottacheru and the villagers of Dudhipara, Kosipara, Patelpara of village Gorkha for collecting water in the scorching heat, CPRF distributed Syntax water tanks. In



Kottacheru - Tin sheets were provided to poor and destitute families around Gorkha camps whose roofs got damaged. A large number of elders and other people from nearby villages were present in the civic action program organized. Villagers suffering from any health problem were given first aid and medicines were also distributed.

Commandant of 219th CRPF Battalion at Kottacheru Camp, while addressing the villagers

present in the event, gave them advice/remedies to beat the scorching heat. Along with this, it was told that there is a shortage of water during summer, so conserve clean water in your homes.

Drinking contaminated water can lead to many health related diseases. Use only clean water for cooking/preparing food so that diseases can be avoided. Along with this, the people were also informed about the various development schemes being run

by the Government of India and the State Government and their benefits. In this CAP by 219th CRPF Battalion villagers around the camp were benefitted including Sarpanchpara, Kurtipara, Patelpara of village Kottacheru and Dudhipara, Kosipara, Patelpara of village Gorkha.

On this occasion, Ramswaroop Yadav (Asst. Comm.), Jalam Singh (Asst. Comm.), subordinate officers and other personnel of 219 CRPF Battalion were present. All the nearby villagers took part in this event in large numbers.

In the villagers of this area, the faith of people towards the government and CRPF and Police force is increasing. Good relations are being established between the common citizens and the security forces. The people of this area are moving away from Naxalite ideology and joining the mainstream of development.

Seven drunkards arrested while consuming alcohol



Jagdalpur, Mar 05:

Police of Bastar district has taken action against alcoholics who are consuming liquor illegally in public places in the city in view of Holi festival on March 8. Police had received information that liquor is being consumed illegally by some youths in public places. On this information, under the leadership of station in-charge Kotwali Eman Sahu, police station staff sub-inspector Ranesh Sethia, assistant sub-inspector Nilabar Nag, constables Thanendra Sinha, Santu Banjare, Vinod and Sahdev Markam were formed and sent for action.

The said team laid siege at different places and took action against seven people. In action, Ram Yadav, Rohan Panigrahi, Anil Kashyap, Chandra Prakash Yadav and Manoj Surya resident of Dongaghat Bijabhata, Santosh Thakur resident of Dongriguda, Kudalgaon and Sagar Thakur resident of Lalbagh Lal Bahadur administrative ward Jagdalpur have been caught drinking alcohol with English liquor. On which the offense of section 36 (f) of the Excise Act was registered against the accused in police station Kotwali, the accused were arrested after being taken into investigation.

Anshuman Basantia feted at award ceremony

Surendra Nath Mishra Memorial Award



Dhamnagar, Mar 04:

Surendra Nath Mishra Memorial Award ceremony was celebrated in Korua Govindpur High School, Dhamnagar, Bhadrak. The award is being given every year in the memory of Late Surendra Nath Mishra to the elite student, who secures highest marks in the Annual HSC examination from the school.

The award ceremony started after the lighting of the lamp and offering flowers to Lord Jagannath followed by Veda Mantra. Shri Ramakanta Mallick, Headmaster of the school presided over the meeting. Shri Prahalad Charan Sahoo, Retired Headmaster narrated about the deed of the contribution of Late Surendra Nath Mishra towards education and his populariza-

tion in the society. Other invited guests Banshidhar Sahu, Niranjan Mishra, Subash Chandra Nayak, Nirakar Mishra, Santosh Kumar Das, Hrushikesh Jena, Rajendra Prasad Parida, Narayan Chandra Pati, Nihar Mishra, Mamata Jena, Aparajita Barik, were also spoke on this occasion. In their speeches they praised the all-round social development of the

late Surendra Nath Mishra. The award is organized by Nihar Ranjan Mishra son of Late Surendra Nath Mishra to encourage and inspire the meritorious student. Master Anshuman Basantia has been awarded a Trophy, Certificate and cash award for securing highest marks in HSC examination in Korua Govindpur High School. In the end Ramakanta Mallick, Headmaster of the school in his speech has said that such type of activities will encourage and inculcate healthy competition among the students. He also extended a vote of thanks to all the teachers, large numbers of students and ex. students and participants.

Two yr old child dies due to Hyena attack



Jagdalpur, Mar 05: Hyena attacked a 2-year-old child as her victim while playing in the courtyard of his own house in Gram Panchayat Nainnar of Tokapal development block on Saturday evening. Meanwhile, the Hyena came out of the bushes and grabbed the child and was running towards the forest. When the child's mother caught sight of the Hyena and she saw that she was carrying her child. Screaming for help, the child's mother ran after the Hyena and tried her best to rescue the child. Hearing the sound of screaming, the villagers also ran after the hyena to save the child. The Hyena carried the child in her jaws for about 2 to 3 kms. After the hard work of the villagers, they were definitely successful in rescuing the child from the jaws of Hyena, but by then it was too late. The injured child was immediately admitted to Bastar's biggest Dimrapal Medical College Hospital and the child died during treatment. According

to the information received, a 2-year-old child was playing in the courtyard of his own house in Gram Panchayat Nainnar of Tokapal development block on Saturday evening. Meanwhile, the Hyena came out of the bushes and grabbed the child and was running towards the forest. When the child's mother caught sight of the Hyena and she saw that she was carrying her child. Screaming for help, the child's mother ran after the Hyena and tried her best to rescue the child. Hearing the sound of screaming, the villagers also ran after the hyena to save the child. The Hyena carried the child in her jaws for about 2 to 3 kms. After the hard work of the villagers, they were definitely successful in rescuing the child from the jaws of Hyena, but by then it was too late. The injured child was immediately admitted to Bastar's biggest Dimrapal Medical College Hospital and the child died during treatment.

SUMAN HATCHERIES LIMITED
(CIN: U09112CT2000PLC014113)
"DHANSHREE ESTATE" BEHIND CHAIR FACTORY, DEVPURI, RAIPUR - 492015 (CHHATTISGARH) Email ID: sumanhatcheriesltd@gmail.com

Form No. INC.25A

Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for conversion of Public Company into a Private Company Before the Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs North Western Region, Ahmedabad in the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 14 read with Rule 41 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 AND

In the matter of SUMAN HATCHERIES LIMITED having its registered office at "DHANSHREE ESTATE" BEHIND CHAIR FACTORY, DEVPURI, RAIPUR - 492015 (CHHATTISGARH), Applicant.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the company intending to make an application to the Central Government under Section 14 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with aforesaid rules and is desirous of converting into a private limited company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 03rd March, 2023 to enable the company to give effect for such conversion.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change/status of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his interest and grounds of opposition to the concerned Regional Director (NORTH WESTERN REGION) at ROC Bhavan, Opp. Rupal Park Society, Behind Ankur Bus Stop, Naranpura, Ahmedabad-380013, Gujarat, India, within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below: "DHANSHREE ESTATE" BEHIND CHAIR FACTORY, DEVPURI, RAIPUR - 492015 (CHHATTISGARH)

For and on behalf of the Applicant
SUMAN HATCHERIES LIMITED
SD/-
SANJAY BRAHMANKAR
Director, DIN-01970484

Date: 06/03/2023
Place: Raipur

Collector reviews schemes and works of Tribal Development Department



Koriya, Mar 05: District Collector Vinay Kumar Langeh reviewed the departmental plans and works of the Tribal Development Department in the Collectorate meeting hall here and gave instructions about the item-wise allocation and utilization of funds under the department. The Collector, discussing the incomplete works for a long time, gave strict instructions to complete all the works in the next 1 month.

The Collector directed the Assistant Commissioner Tribal Development Department in the meeting and said that after examining the applications received for individual, community forest and community forest resource rights as per the rules, and they should be presented before the district level committee soon. He said that the beneficiaries who have received forest rights should be connected

with works under MN NREGA so that they can get benefits. The Collector also reviewed all departmental schemes cases under Prevention of Atrocities Act, cases under Adigram Portal, approved infrastructure construction work under Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan Special Central Assistance, Pt. Jawaharilal Nehru Utakarsh Yojana, Deoguri Upgradation, new admission in Prayas residential school. Joint Collector Anil Sidar, Assistant Commissioner Tribal Development Department DD Tigga and departmental officers-employees were present in the meeting.

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

Regional Office : First Floor, Zonal Market, Sector-10, Bhilai- (Chhattisgarh) - 490006
Ph. : 0788-2261056, Website : www.bankofbaroda.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable/Movable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) & 6(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" for recovery of below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower(s) / Mortgagor(s) / Guarantor(s) / Secured Asset(s) / Dues / Reserve Price / e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below:-

Sr / Lot No	Name & Address Of Borrower(S) / Guarantor(S) / Mortgagor(S)	Short Description Of The Immovable Property With Known Encumbrances, If Any	Total Dues	Date & Time Of E-Auction	Reserve Price, Emd Amount, Bid Increase Amount	Status of Possession (Symbolic / Physical)	Property Inspection Date & Time
1	M/s Mahaiaxmi Enterprises Prop. Mayank Rojindar S/O Diwakar Rojindar (Borrower) Office Address : Shed No 6, Industrial Estate Bhilai, Dist Durg (CG), Mrs. Manjusha Rojindar w/o Diwakar Rojindar (Guarantor) & Mr. Diwakar Rojindar (Guarantor) Residential Address: 25/14, Nehru nagar west, Bhilai, Dist Durg CG	Flat No 321, 2nd Floor, Block Tulip 3, Parthivi Pacific Apartments, Dumar Talab, Ph No 104, Tatibandh Within Tahsil And District Raipur In The Name Of Mr Diwakar Rojindar Admeasuring 893 Sq Feet. Bounded As: North : Open To Sky, South : Open To Sky, East : Tulip 4 Apartment, West : Passage	Rs. 41,88,253.22 + unapplied interest and charges	21-03-2023 02:00 PM TO 06:00 PM	Rs. 26,73,000/- Rs. 2,67,300/- Rs. 10,000/-	PHYSICAL	17-03-2023 11:00 AM TO 02:00 PM
2	M/s Adamant Weld Arc Industries, Prop. Mr Vishal Shyamkumar (Borrower) Business Add :- Khasra No. 1266/3, Vill :- Joratarai, Post :- Mangatta, Rajnandgaon PIN-491441	Hypothecation of Plant & Machinery Extrusion plant EP 50 consisting of wire feeder, wire straightening and cutting machine etc.	Rs. 98,05,893.11 + unapplied interest and charges	21-03-2023 02:00 PM TO 06:00 PM	Rs. 20,00,700/- Rs. 2,00,070/- Rs. 10,000/-	PHYSICAL	17-03-2023 11:00 AM TO 02:00 PM

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm and https://ibapi.in. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer on Mobile 7723024982
Date : 06.03.2023. Place : BHILAI

Authorized Officer Bank of Baroda

BRIEF

Bail granted

Thane: Television actor Sheezan Khan, in jail since December 25 last year for allegedly abetting the suicide of co-actor Tunisha Sharma, on Sunday walked out of jail after a court in Vasai in Maharashtra's Palghar district gave him bail. Sharma allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself on December 24, 2022, on the sets of a TV serial near Valiv in Palghar. Khan (28) was arrested the next day for abetment of suicide on a complaint lodged by Sharma's mother. He was granted bail on Saturday by a court, which said there was no need to keep him in jail since the probe was complete and chargesheet filed.

Suicide

Bhaderwah/Jammu: A 35-year-old man allegedly shot himself dead with his brother's rifle in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Sunday, a police officer said. Sub-Divisional Police Officer (Bhaderwah) Waseem Ahmad told PTI that Arvind Kumar shot himself dead at his house in Sindra village of Bhalla tehsil around 8 am. He said Kumar's elder brother is a village defence guard (VDG) member who is allotted a rifle. Kumar reportedly used the weapon to kill himself, the officer said. The motive behind him taking such an extreme step was not known immediately, he said, adding police have registered a case and further investigation is on.

'Ladli Behna'

Bhopal: MP will see polls later this year, with both the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress wooing women. The number of women voters in Madhya Pradesh is 2,60,23,733, and in at least 18 of the 230 Assembly segments in MP, they outnumber male voters. These include tribal-dominated Balaghat, Mandla, Dindori, Alirajpur and Jabua districts. The number of new women voters has gone up by 2.79 per cent, while it is 2.30 per cent for male voters, officials said. Of the 13.39 lakh new voters, 7.07 lakh are women. Taking to Twitter, Nath said people would vote for the Congress in the Assembly polls, after which women will get Rs 18,000 per year as part of the "world's biggest women empowerment scheme".

Health university

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Sunday announced the establishment of a health university in the state on the occasion of the 107th birth anniversary of legendary politician Biju Patnaik. All the medical and allied health science colleges and institutions will stand affiliated to the Odisha University of Health Sciences from the 2023-24 academic session, a notification issued by the Health and Family Welfare Department said. The announcement comes on the birth anniversary of Biju Patnaik who served as Odisha chief minister twice.

Ready for talks with BJP on constitutional rights: Tipra Motha chief

Of Tripura's indigenous people

Agartala, Mar 05:

The Tipra Motha on Sunday said that it was ready to sit with the BJP for a "face-to-face meeting" to find a "constitutional solution" to Tiprasa people's problems, a day after Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma stated that the party's concerns should be addressed through dialogue. Taking to Facebook, former royal scion Pradyot Manikya Debbbarman, who helms the regional outfit, also gave assurance that his party will not let down people who had voted for him. "If we are respectfully invited for talks on constitutional rights - economic, political, language — we will participate. We are sons of the soil. We are ready for talks to find a constitutional solution to



the problems of indigenous people. And, the talks cannot be about ministerial posts or individual benefits," he said in a video posted on the networking platform. Debbbarman warned that any party that seeks to rule Tripura by ignoring its indigenous people will find it difficult to run the state smoothly in the future. Notably, he did not talk about his party's demand for Greater Tripaland in the video, the poll plank that helped the outfit emerge

as the second largest part in the state, having clinched 13 ST-reserved seats in the recently concluded Assembly elections.

The party, however, failed to bag any of the 22 general seats that it contested. Sarma had on Saturday said that the BJP is ready to work with the Tipra Motha to address the issues raised by the regional party, but the saffron camp is against the division of the northeastern state.

In another post, the Tipra Motha chairman said, "Majority of the Tiprasa voted for Motha. Majority of the Muslims voted for CPI(M) and majority of the general areas voted for BJP - yet the general area leaders from the opposition blame us for them not getting support of their own communities!"

PM to address post-budget webinar on 'Health and Medical Research' today



New Delhi, Mar 05:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a post-budget webinar on 'Health and Medical Research' on March 6 via video conferencing. It is part of a series of 12 post-budget webinars being organised by the Union Government to pool insights, ideas and suggestions for effective

implementation of the initiatives announced in its budget. The Union budget 2023-24 is underpinned by seven priorities that complement each other and act as the 'Saptarishi' guiding through the Amrit Kaal, an official statement said.

One of the priorities of the government is inclusive development that includes the establishment of 157 new nursing colleges, encouraging public and private medical research in ICMR labs and pharma innovation and multidisciplinary courses for medical devices, the statement said. The webinar will have three simultaneous breakout sessions covering the health and pharma sectors.

Delhi Police asks officials to tighten grip on stunt bikers on Shab-e-Barat, Holika Dahan

New Delhi, Mar 05:

Delhi Police has asked its officials to take steps to put a tight leash on stunt bikers and keep a vigil in sensitive areas to ensure there is no communal tension during Shab-e-Barat and Holika Dahan, both of which will be observed on the same night this year.

In an advisory issued to all the 15 police districts, the special branch directed them to take the help of religious leaders and local volunteers to prevent stunt biking during the night of March 7-8. It cited past events when young men from areas such as Jafrabad, Seelampur, Welcome, Trilokpuri, Okhla and Jamia Nagar visited India Gate, Connaught Place and

other areas in New Delhi district and perform dangerous stunts on two-wheelers and even on three and four wheelers. In 2019, during the night of Shab-e-Barat, some people had broken mirrors and glasses of vehicles and houses in Dabri, Khajoori Khas and Janakpuri, leading to the registration of cases, the advisory said. "In order to prevent stunts, bikers (from) coming to the New Delhi area, religious leaders should be roped in to appeal to the masses in this regard as was done in the past," said the advisory seen by PTI. The junior staff have been asked to immediately brief their seniors on incidents that may have a potential bearing on law and order situations, particularly in

mixed-population areas. "Watch should be kept on social media and action to be taken against rumour-mongers," the advisory said. "All PCR calls concerning different communities should be dealt promptly and firmly as even minor issues should not remain unattended given the sensitive nature of events," it added. On Shab-e-Barat night, Muslims offer prayers in large numbers in mosques. On Holika Dahan, Hindus light a bonfire after sunset. "Holika Dahan would be celebrated in the evening of March 7 and hence there is every possibility that the devotees of both communities may come on the same route or place at a particular time," the advisory said.

G-20 meeting in Amritsar will be held on schedule: AAP



Chandigarh, Mar 05:

The ruling AAP in Punjab Sunday said the G-20 meeting slated in Amritsar later this month will be held on schedule after some opposition leaders raised fears that the Centre could shift the event over law-and-order concerns following the Ajnala incident. "G-20 is taking place (in Amritsar) according to the schedule. These are just rumours. Attempts are being made by some opposition leaders to

defame Punjab," the chief spokesperson of the Aam Aadmi Party's Punjab unit Malvinder Singh Kang told PTI over the phone. Asked to comment on the opposition's fears, Amritsar's Deputy Commissioner Harpreet Singh Sudan said, "We have no confirmation, no official communication on this (that the meeting was being shifted out of Amritsar)." Opposition parties, including the Congress and BJP, have been targeting the Bhagwant Mann government over the law-and-order situation in the state. They have sharpened their attack after last month's Ajnala incident in which the supporters of self-styled Sikh preacher and Khalistani sympathiser Amritpal Singh stormed a police station with swords and guns and demanded the release of his aide Lovepreet Singh 'Toofan'.

Brahmapuram fire under control, no need for concern: Kerala govt

Kochi, Mar 05:

The fire at Brahmapuram waste plant in Kochi is presently under control and would hopefully be extinguished by evening, the Kerala government said on Sunday and assured the public that the smoke due to the blaze was not a matter of concern.

State Industries Minister P Rajeev and Health Minister Veena George, after a high-level meeting at the Ernakulam District Collectorate, told reporters here that people need not stay indoors as recommended on Saturday and can move out by taking precautions, like wearing N95 masks.

However, those with breathing problems, like asthma, the elderly, children and pregnant women should try and avoid getting exposed to the smoke and should wear masks if going out, the ministers said. George also said hospital records of the city do not indicate any medical cases due to the smoke. Nevertheless, arrangements, like dedicated beds for those affected by the smoke generated due to the fire, have been made in all government hospitals and medical colleges in the city. Besides, two oxygen parlours and a round the clock medical team of doctors have been put in place in Brahmapuram. Regarding

the decisions taken in the meeting, Rajeev said that all stakeholders were of the view that there needs to be a coordinated effort to deal with such situations.

In lieu of that, it was decided to put in place a system comprising a coordination committee of representatives from the Kochi corporation, fire services, police, health services, electricity board and fire safety officials of Bharat Petroleum and CIAL.

Also, it was decided in the meeting that a panel comprising officials of the corporation and the panchayat, where the waste plant is set up, and including the District Collector

and the local MLA will meet every three months to discuss problems in that area.

After the prevailing issue is resolved, the corporation will also take urgent steps to ensure proper road connectivity to the area — another decision taken in the meeting according to Rajeev.

The minister further said as a result of the more than 3-day long fire, waste collection in Kochi has come to a standstill and therefore, in the meeting it was resolved that the corporation and the District Collector would take steps to put in place a temporary arrangement for removing garbage from the city.

BJP legislators to meet to build consensus on next Tripura CM

Agartala, Mar 05:

BJP's chief troubleshooter in the Northeast, Himanta Biswa Sarma, was believed to have been sent to Tripura to end "factionalism" within the local unit of the party to enable a consensus candidate for the chief minister's post. While Manik Saha, the outgoing chief minister, is favoured by one section, another, which includes former CM Biplab Deb's supporters, is believed to have plumed for Union minister Pratima Bhowmik, according to party sources.

A meeting of the newly elected BJP MLAs to select the legislative party leader will be held but the date is

yet to be fixed, a senior party leader said. The BJP has secured a clear majority, winning 32 seats in the 60-member assembly, while its ally IPFT bagged one constituency. The polls were held on February 16 and the results were declared on March 2. Party insiders said Saha is possibly favoured by the central leadership as he has proven non-controversial and is expected to deliver the healing touch needed to pacify tribal areas, which have voted en masse for Tipra Motha over its Greater Tripaland statehood demand. The party leaders will soon meet to finalise the preparations for the oath-taking ceremony on March 8, in

which Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J P Nadda are scheduled to participate. Bhowmik, the Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, has been elected from Dhanpur assembly seat by a comfortable margin. When Saha was made the CM on March 14 last year after replacing Deb, a group of BJP legislators led by minister Ram Prasad Paul had vented ire during a meeting of the party MLAs. Political analyst and senior journalist Sekhar Dutta opined that Bhowmik may be made the deputy chief minister as a compromise.

Intricacies of Rahul's remarks were lost on BJP: Cong

New Delhi, Mar 05:

The Congress on Sunday said that the intricacies of Rahul Gandhi's remarks in his Cambridge University lecture were lost on the BJP and noted that he had defined key differences between a state-controlled corporation system of China and the pressing need for democratic nations like India to ramp up production mechanisms. The opposition party's reaction came after the BJP accused Gandhi of maligning India on foreign soil while praising China. Tagging a short video of Gandhi's remarks at the university, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said on Twitter, "Rahul Gandhi clearly defines in his Cambridge lecture the key differences be-

tween a state-controlled corporation system as there is in China and the pressing need for democratic nations like India to ramp up production mechanisms the intricacies of which are lost on the BJP." "Whereas PM Modi simply gushes over his 'close friendship' with the Chinese," Ramesh said, tagging a video montage of Modi talking about ties with China. Gandhi's remarks at the university that Indian democracy is under attack and several politicians, including himself, are under surveillance, has triggered a political slugfest with the BJP accusing him of denigrating India and asking if Gandhi was working as an agent on the payroll of an agency to bring down the country.

Health Minister Mandaviya makes surprise visit to NEET-PG exam centre in Patiala

New Delhi/Chandigarh, Mar 05:

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Sunday made a surprise visit to review the security arrangements at a NEET-PG exam centre in Patiala. He also interacted with the candidates' parents during his visit. This is the first time that the Union Health minister has visited a National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) exam centre during an examination, a ministry statement said. "Visited NEET-PG exam centre in Patiala, Punjab, and took stock of the arrangements," he said in a tweet in Hindi. He appeared satisfied with the arrangements and extended his best wishes to the students appearing for the



National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)-PG exams. "I had the opportunity to interact with parents of students during my visit at the Patiala exam centre. I wish them all the best for the exam today," Mandaviya said.

Mandaviya also paid obeisance at the Shri Kali Devi Mandir and Gurudwara Shri Dukhniwaran Sahib in Patiala. The NBEMS con-

ducted NEET-PG, 2023, on a computer-based platform for 2,08,898 candidates at 902 examination centres in 277 cities. As a part of NBEMS's zero-tolerance policy against unfair means, strict vigilance is being observed at all the examination centres, including but not limited to biometric verification, CCTV surveillance, document verification, mobile phone jammers..., the Union Health ministry statement said.

NBEMS chief Dr Abhijat Sheth monitored the conduct of the exam from the command centre in Ahmedabad. A command centre was also set up at NBEMS's Dwarka office to monitor the examination and resolve the issues of candidates.

AIADMK leaders, MLAs will appear only during elections: Udhayanidhi Stalin

Coimbatore (TN), Mar 05:

Tamil Nadu Youth Welfare and Sports Development Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on Sunday accused AIADMK MLAs and leaders of neglecting the voters and appearing only during elections to garner votes.

Unlike DMK, who always think about the welfare of the people, the AIADMK and BJP leaders disappear after getting elected and do not come to the constituencies to know about the problems of the people, Udhayanidhi said here after conducting free marriages to 81 couples, as part of the 70th birthday of Chief Minister MK Stalin. Stating that the voters of Coimbatore district had



rejected DMK in the last Assembly elections without giving a single seat, he said the party has bounced back in the civic polls gaining more than 90 per cent seats in Panchayats, Municipalities and Corporations. Udhayanidhi asked whether the voters had seen the legislators and leaders from AIADMK or BJP after the elections.

China sets 5 per cent growth target as President Xi begins new five-year term

Beijing, Mar 05:

China on Sunday set a five per cent growth target for 2023 as the country's rubber-stamp Parliament commenced its annual session which also heralded a new era for Xi Jinping's presidency as he began an unprecedented third five-year term. Premier Li Keqiang, 67, the No 2 ranked leader after Xi and is widely regarded as far less powerful than his predecessors, signed off his 10-year stint by presenting his last work report to the National People's Congress (NPC) in which China, the world's second-largest economy, set a five per cent growth target for 2023, lowest in decades.

He also firmly warned of "escalating" external attempts to "suppress, and contain" China. "The term of this government is about to come to a close," said Li, as he began his 39-page address



From left, Li Zhanhu, Chinese President Xi Jinping, and Premier Li Keqiang attend the opening session of China's National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Sunday, March 5.

to NPC, the national legislature, outlining the decade-old achievement of his administration which included seismic changes in China and its relations with the world.

The NPC during the session will herald new official appointments at the top expected to be packed with Xi's loyalists many of whom were elected along with him at the last October's once-in-a-five-year Congress of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC). The session formally her-

alded the beginning of the unprecedented" third five-year term for Xi. The Congress, besides electing Xi, 69, for an unprecedented third term also chose most of his loyalists for key bodies consolidating his power at all levels. Li, an economist and a contender for the post of General Secretary of the CPC in 2012 along with Xi, settled for a number two position after his mentor and former president Hu Jintao backed Xi at the last minute, enabling him to emerge as the most

powerful leader heading the party, the military and the Presidency. As Xi became more powerful, Li mostly confined himself to managing the economy, unlike his predecessors who enjoyed more power in running the government. Li is widely expected to be succeeded by Li Qiang, a Xi loyalist and the former party boss of Shanghai, to head the new administration to grapple with China's external and internal challenges under Xi's leadership.

Indonesia fuel depot fire kills 19; 3 still missing

Jakarta, Mar 05:

Indonesian rescuers and firefighters on Sunday searched for three people who were still missing after a large fire spread from a fuel storage depot in the capital and killed at least 19 people. The Plumpang fuel storage station, operated by state-run oil and gas company Pertamina and is near a densely populated area in the Tanah Merah neighborhood in North Jakarta. It supplies 25% of Indonesia's fuel needs. At least 260 firefighters and 52 fire engines extinguished the blaze just before midnight on Friday after it tore through the neighborhood for more than two hours, fire officials said. Footage showed hundreds of people running in panic as thick plumes of black smoke and orange flames filled the sky. Indonesian President Joko Widodo visited the fire-hit areas on Sunday morning to reassure people that the government would help those in need. Widodo said he has ordered the minister of state-owned enterpris-



A woman weeps at a neighborhood affected by a fuel depot fire in Jakarta, Indonesia, Saturday, March 4, 2023. A large fire broke out at the fuel storage depot in Indonesia's capital Friday, killing multiple people, injuring dozens of others and forcing the evacuation of thousands of nearby residents after spreading to their neighborhood, officials said.

es and the Jakarta governor to immediately find a way to relocate residents away from the fuel storage area or to move the depot away from the neighborhood. "Not only in here, but all state-owned vital objects must be audited and re-evaluated to determine a safe buffer zone for the community, because

this involves human life," Widodo told reporters after visiting a temporary shelter for displaced people in North Jakarta's Koja neighborhood. National police chief Gen. Listyo Sigit Prabowo said a preliminary investigation showed the fire was caused by a technical problem involving excess

pressure as the depot received fuel from Pertamina's Balongan Refinery in West Java province. "It was found that a fire occurred during a filling of Pertamina fuel," Listyo told a news conference late Saturday, referring to a type of fuel oil produced by Pertamina.

India, Sri Lanka mulling over using Indian Rupee for economic transactions

Colombo, Mar 05:

India and Sri Lanka are exploring the possibility of using the Indian Rupee for economic transactions and have discussed the initiative that will help in building a stronger and closer partnership through trade and investment-led measures between the two countries. The High Commission of India here organised a discussion on the use of the Indian Rupee (INR) for transactions between India and Sri Lanka on Thursday.

"Representatives from the Bank of Ceylon, State Bank of India and the Indian Bank shared their experiences and informed the audience that they had started carrying out INR-denominated trade transactions through respective Vostro/Nostrro accounts

after the creation of enabling framework by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) in 2022," the High Commission said in a statement. The participating banks also outlined the benefits of settlements denominated in INR which includes shorter timelines, lower exchange costs and easier availability of trade credits. The beneficial impact of this initiative on the tourism and hospitality industry was also highlighted including its role in helping increase collections which could be utilised by other sectors.

High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka Gopal Baglay highlighted the positive impact that the initiative will have in the joint efforts for building a stronger and closer eco-

nomical partnership between the two countries through trade and investment-led measures. Sri Lanka's finance minister Shehan Semasinghe appreciated the close economic relationship between the two countries and the financial and humanitarian support extended by India over the past year, including the strong financing assistance provided by New Delhi, in the context of the IMF support programme for Sri Lanka. India extended assistance worth over USD 3.8 billion to Sri Lanka last year to help it deal with the economic crisis. Governor of the CBSL, Dr. P. Nandlal Weerasinghe, highlighted the strong desire among Indian and Sri Lankan business communities for enabling trade settlements in INR.

Secular religions of race, sex and climate have put US in chokehold: Vivek Ramaswamy

Washington, Mar 05:

Three secular religions — race, sex and climate — have put the US in a chokehold today, Republican presidential aspirant Vivek Ramaswamy has said. Addressing his fellow conservative Republicans, he also proposed disruptive ideas of dismantling the Department of Education along with the FBI and banning American companies from doing business with China if he is elected as the president of the country in 2024. "The Declaration of Independence of today is our declaration of independence from China. If Thomas Jefferson were alive today, that is the Declaration of



Vivek Ramaswamy speaks at the Conservative Political Action Conference, CPAC 2023, at National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Md.

Independence he would sign. That is the Declaration of Independence I will sign if I am elected as your next president," Ramaswamy, 37, said. Jefferson was an American statesman,

diplomat, lawyer, architect, philosopher, and one of the Founding Fathers of the US. He served as the third president of the US from 1801 to 1809 and was the primary author of the Declaration of

Independence. Ramaswamy, who announced his decision to enter the 2024 race to the White House last week, noted that he was inspired by former president Donald Trump, 76, and his "America first" vision. It is time to identify the issues and work aggressively towards them, Ramaswamy said during his address to the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) — the top annual event of the Republican Party and its support base — on Saturday. It was his first major address from the national stage of the CPAC. In his 18-minute speech, Ramaswamy said "three secular religions have America in a chokehold

today". The first of them is this "woke racial religion" that says someone's identity is based on his skin colour. "That if you are black, you are inherently disadvantaged. That if you are white, you are inherently privileged no matter your economic background or your upbringing. That your race determines who you are and what you can achieve in life," he said.

This has created "this new culture of fear in America", combined with the "second secular religion" that says the "sex of the person you are attracted to has to be hard-wired on the day you were born" but your "own biological sex is completely fluid over the course of your lifetime".

Nikki Haley slams last 2 Republican presidents for adding USD 10 trillion to national debt

Washington, Mar 05:

Republican presidential aspirant Nikki Haley has hit out at two former US presidents from her party — George W Bush and Donald Trump — for massive spending and adding USD 10 trillion to America's national debt. She also slammed President Joe Biden, a Democrat, for his record-breaking spending, which she said would add USD 20 trillion to the national debt in 10 years. Haley said when she was elected governor of North Carolina in 2010, the national debt stood at USD 13 trillion. "Thirteen years later, we are at more than USD 31



Republican presidential candidate, former ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley speaks at the Conservative Political Action Conference, CPAC 2023, at National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Md. CPAC 2023.

trillion. And because of Joe Biden, we will add USD 20 trillion more to the national debt in the next 10

years," said the former governor, who on February 14 declared her decision to enter the race

to the White House. Haley was addressing the Club for Growth, a conservative donor group, at a private retreat in Miami, Florida on Saturday. Haley went on to criticise the two previous Republican presidents — Bush and Trump — without naming them. "Lots of Republican politicians love spending and wasting taxpayer money almost as much as Democrats," she said. "The last two Republican presidents added more than USD 10 trillion to the national debt. Think about that. A third of our debt happened under just two Republicans," she said. Bush served as the 43rd president of the US from

2001 to 2009 while Trump was the 45th president of the country from 2017 to 2021. Haley also alleged that Biden's platform for 2024 can basically be summed up as "spend even more, tax even more and let the children figure out how to deal with it". "The only thing Joe Biden should be allowed to spend is more time in retirement. Every dollar we take out of the economy makes our people poorer," she said. The Congress is not far behind, she noted. "Republicans got the ball rolling on the trillion-dollar pandemic blowouts, with all the bailouts and fraud and abuse that followed.

Ukraine ally Kallas fights for reelection in Estonia vote

Tallinn (Estonia), Mar 05:

Polling stations have opened in Estonia for a general election that the center-right Reform Party of Prime Minister Kaja Kallas, one of Europe's most outspoken supporters of Ukraine, is a favourite to win. She faces a challenge from the populist opposition EKRE party that is seeking to limit the Baltic nation's exposure to the Ukraine crisis and is blaming the government for citizens' economic misery. Over 900,000 people are eligible to cast ballots Sunday to pick representatives to

Estonia's 101-seat Parliament, or Riigikogu, from a range of nine political parties. National security in the wake of neighboring Russia's assault of Ukraine and social-economic issues, particularly the rising cost of living, have been the main themes of the election. Kallas, 45, has emerged in the past year of war as one of Europe's most outspoken supporters of Ukraine. Holding the country's top post since 2021, she's seeking a second term, with her standing enhanced by her international appeals to impose sanctions on Moscow. A Baltic

nation of 1.3 million people that borders Russia to the east, Estonia broke away from the Soviet Union in 1991 and has taken a clear Western course, joining NATO and the European Union. Polls indicate Kallas' center-right liberal Reform Party is likely to win more votes than any other party. Her main challenger is Martin Helme, head of the nationalist far-right EKRE party, which faults Kallas for the country's inflation rate of 18.6% one of the EU's highest and accuses her of undermining Estonia's defenses by giving weapons to Ukraine.

US military commander in Syria briefed on anti-IS operations

Beirut, Mar 05:

The top US military commander on Saturday visited northeast Syria where American troops and their allies are launching a campaign against the Islamic State group, a US military official said. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley met commanders and troops who updated him on the ongoing operations against IS, said Colonel Dave Butler, spokesman for Milley.

Butler did not say whether Milley met with commanders of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces that have been the main ally of US forces in Syria in the fight

against IS. Milley's visit came a day after the US Central Command said American troops and their allies carried more than a dozen joint operations in northeast Syria in February during which five IS operatives were killed and 11 detained. "While there, he received updates on the counter-IS mission, inspected force protection measures and assessed repatriation efforts for the al-Hol refugee camp," Butler said referring to a camp housing tens of thousands of mostly IS-linked women and children. At al-Hol, tens of thousands of Syrians and Iraqis are crowded into tents in the fenced-in camp. Nearly 20,000

of them are children, most of the rest are women, wives and widows of IS fighters. In a separate, heavily-guarded section of the camp known as the annex are an additional 10,000 people: 2,000 women from 57 other countries — they are considered the most die-hard IS supporters — along with about 8,000 of their children. Over the past few months, several countries, including France, Spain and Iraq, repatriated scores of women and children from al-Hol. Kurdish authorities currently operate more than two dozen detention facilities scattered across northeastern Syria, holding about 10,000 IS fighters. Among the detainees are

some 2,000 foreigners whose home countries have refused to repatriate them, including about 800 Europeans. There are currently about 900 US forces on the ground in northeast Syria, according to Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence Dana Stroul. Despite their defeat in March 2019 during which IS lost the last sliver of land it once controlled, the extremist sleeper cells still carry out deadly attacks in Syria and neighboring Iraq. In February, IS sleeper cells attacked workers collecting truffles near the central town of Sukhna, killing at least 53 people, mostly workers but also some Syrian government security forces.

India offers remarkable opportunities for entrepreneurs: CTS co-founder Frank D'Souza

Washington, Mar 05:

India, which has evolved from a USD 300 billion economy to a USD 3.5 trillion economy in three decades, offers remarkable opportunities for entrepreneurs and companies over the next few decades, especially in two areas — India for India and India for the world — a top Indian American entrepreneur has said. "The opportunity (in India) is remarkable and that is an incredible testament to the incredible work that the (Indian) government, the public sector, the private sector and the not-for-profit sector in India have done together. There is an incredible upside in India," said Indian American Frank



D'Souza, co-founder and former CEO of Cognizant Technology Solutions. In a fireside chat with Suresh Kumar, professor and director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Programmes at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, at a TIE New Jersey event wherein he was presented with the inaugural Excelsior Award for Lifetime Achievement

and Contribution to Entrepreneurship, D'Souza said there are two big opportunities for entrepreneurs and companies in India. "One is India for India, I think doing all sorts of things in India for consumption in India is a large opportunity. And then of course, I think given everything that is going on in the world, the India for the rest of the world opportunity, which is, the world that I played at Cognizant, but not just IT, I think India is going to have the opportunity to export all sorts of things over the next two decades," he said. "So both India for India and India for the rest of the world are remarkable in the next few years," D'Souza

told an eminent group of Indian-origin entrepreneurs at the TIE New Jersey gala this past week. The next decade, he said, is going to be the one when finally, India produces real IP software-based companies for the world. "I think that is going to happen now. For years we have been talking about it. And for years it has been happening in small pockets and we have started to see more and more," he said, referring to the fact that India is now producing one unicorn every nine days. "I think that is where it is going to come from. You might see the next, the next Oracle, the next Google, the next Microsoft coming from India. That is what excites me.



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China's Military Build-up

A Wake-up Call for India to Strengthen Its Defence Capabilities

China's decision to increase defence spending by 7.2% this year, as announced by Premier Li Keqiang, has raised concerns among neighbouring countries and the United States. The national budget revealed that 1.55 trillion yuan (\$224 billion) has been allocated to military spending. This hike in defence spending marks the eighth consecutive single-digit increase. As in previous years, no breakdown of the spending was given, only the overall amount and the rate of increase. The defence budget will be closely watched, especially by China's neighbours and the United States, who are concerned about Beijing's strategic intentions and development of its military, particularly as tensions have spiked in recent years over Taiwan. China staged war games near Taiwan last August to express anger at the visit to Taipei of then-U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Li Mingjiang, an associate professor at S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore, said defence spending outpacing the economic growth forecast showed China anticipates facing greater pressures in its external security environment, especially from the United States and on the Taiwan issue. China has long argued that it needs to close the gap with the United States. For example, China has three aircraft carriers compared to 11 in active service for the United States. However, Beijing says its military spending for defensive purposes is a comparatively low percentage of its GDP, and that critics want to demonise it as a threat to world peace. According to Takashi Kawakami, a professor at Tokyo's Takushoku University, China is likely to prioritize its nuclear capabilities and use its increased defense budget to enhance its cyber and space capabilities, as well as its submarine forces, to target undersea cables, as it strengthens its new area of cognitive warfare over Taiwan. While China's reported defense budget in 2023 is around one quarter of the proposed US spending, many experts believe Beijing under-reports the actual number. The US defense budget for fiscal 2023 authorizes \$858 billion in military spending, including funding for weapons, ships, aircraft, and support for Taiwan and Ukraine. China has long argued that it needs to close the gap with the United States, which has 11 active aircraft carriers compared to China's three. Some elements in China's military-industrial complex have called for an increase in the defense budget following the Ukraine war and surges in defense spending from NATO member-states. In an article published last October, the official journal of the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence, a central government ministry responsible for wartime logistics, recommended an increase in the military budget for defending national security, not for participating in the international arms race. Considering China's increasing military spending and intentions to enhance its military capabilities, India needs to be cautious and adequately prepared to respond to any potential security threats. India should consider increasing its own defense spending and strengthening its military capabilities, especially in areas such as cyber, space, and submarine warfare. Additionally, India should continue to strengthen its alliances and partnerships with other countries, including the United States and other regional powers, to build a stronger security network and deter any aggression from China. Finally, India should engage in diplomatic efforts to resolve any disputes with China peacefully and maintain stable relations to prevent any potential escalation of tensions.

Momentous Week For Indian Democracy

The Supreme Court of India had a momentous week, with several landmark decisions that aimed to improve democracy, freedom, liberty, and corporate governance. The most significant decision was to change the procedure for the appointment of election commissioners. Previously, the ruling party abused this privilege, but now, election commissioners will be appointed by the President of India on the advice of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and the Chief Justice of India. If there is no official leader of opposition, the leader of the largest opposition party in parliament will fill the position. The court emphasized that democracy is intertwined with power to the people, and the Election Commission needs to perform independently. In another milestone decision in the week, the Supreme Court ordered the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to examine if the Adani group had manipulated the stock price of its group companies as also other possible violations by the group, which has hit a bottom in stock market valuations following the publication of the research by US investment firm Hindenburg, which exposed several malpractices by Adani in financial reporting. The court also set up an experts committee headed by former Supreme Court judge Abhay Manohar Sapre to investigate the factors that led to investors losing crores of rupees worth wealth due to the volatility in the securities market following Hindenburg report. The committee is tasked with the responsibility to produce a report within two months to help the court take an informed view about the whole Hindenburg episode. The week also saw Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud announce the constitution of a three-member bench to consider the plea by Muslim students from Karnataka to allow them to wear hijabs in government-run colleges in the state. The urgency has been necessitated by the fact that exams are slated to begin in the second week of March. A bench of the apex court had in October delivered a split verdict on a batch of petitions challenging the Karnataka High Court order to uphold the government's ban on wearing hijab in educational institutions, which resulted in the case ending up before the Chief Justice.

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

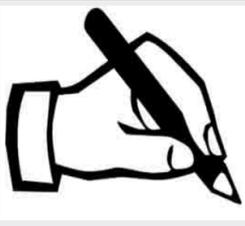
SOIL EROSION



Dibrugarh: Repair work underway after heavy soil erosion by river Brahmaputra, in Dibrugarh, Sunday, March 5

Atrocities on dalits in Tamil Nadu

DR. DUGGARAJU SRINIVASA RAO



The Tamil Nadu governor R.N. Ravi has exposed the current social structural fault lines in his state, when he said that "there is much talk of social justice in the state, yet atrocities against the Dalits are prevalent in Tamil Nadu". This is happening in state where the Dravidian movement and ruling by Dravidian parties espoused "social justice". The statements of the current CM M.K. Stalin and his actions show that Dravidian parties treating the Dalit as vote bank for their political cause while showing awful response when Dalit were ill-treated, humiliated, exploited or even physically assaulted. The governor's speech can't be brushed aside as the one delivered by the Delhi agent, as is being done by CM Stalin and his ministerial colleagues, since governor Ravi has quoted latest incidents on record.

The New Year saw a series of incidents in Tamil Nadu victimizing Dalits. The video posted in the social media showed a Dalit family in Toothukkodi district, denied access for the burial ground through the main road, was

carrying their dead through the lush paddy fields has not touched the conscious of CM Stalin. In another incidents the human fecal matter was thrown in to the water tank used by the Dalit families leading to the hospitalization of girls. The Dalit activists claim that these are not isolated incidents but frequent happenings in at least 10 districts of Tamil Nadu. Surprisingly the local media is not bringing out those incidents out nor questioning the inaction on the part of DMK government headed by M.K. Stalin.

As per the information obtained through RTI, the number of villages per state practicing untouchability is highest in Tamil Nadu. The union Home ministry date identified Tamil Nadu as the state "where the most of the Dalits and Scheduled Tribes are subjected to various kinds of violence. The same report identified 37 villages in Tamil Nadu, out of couple of hundred villages across the country, in 2020, as 'atrocities prone' villages. The 'atrocities prone' villages are those villages where the Dalit communities are living in vulnerable social atmosphere, being threatened and discriminated and their safety is suspect. Despite such a specific input from the centre the DMK government is not doing much to act on the perpetrators of atrocities on Dalits.

The question that arises is why the Dravidian movement which claims to be the builder of social equality platform is tolerating such atrocities on Dalit. It is a fact that the village structure has undergone a change after the Dravidian equality movement. Basically

the Dravidian movement is anti-Brahmin movement. Till that movement was initiated by Periyar Ramaswamy every field was dominated by the Brahmins in Tamil areas of Madras province. It was against this domination of a single caste that the Dravidian movement got mobilised the other castes, especially the second rung castes and built up hate against Brahmin community, successfully. This social movement turned into political movement by DMK and captured power in 1967. Despite many splits in DMK, the Dravidian parties hold continued either as DMK or AIADMK. The political power from the assembly to the village panchayat level is with the middle castes and these caste people are now perpetrators of atrocities against the Dalit. These middle castes replaced the Brahmins in perpetuating the caste supremacy. Barring those Brahmins, who are dedicated to the temple priests' profession, the villages across Tamil Nadu are devoid of Brahmin families. The Tamil Brahmins, to save themselves from the wrath of the DMK, first migrated to metro cities of India and from there to abroad in search of livelihood. Having thrown out the upper caste Brahmins from the Tamil land, the middle castes, who are ardent supporters of Dravidian politics and parties are using their social and political power to subjugate the Dalit. It is because of this proximity with those in power the current crop perpetrators of atrocities against the Dalit are going scot free. Whether the Dalit are allowed to vote freely is also doubtful.

In some sections it is reported that the Dalit vote moving away from the DMK is the cause for increased tension in the country side. Dalit intellectual groups are becoming assertive on their rights and demanding share in the political power which is not to the liking of DMK as they wish to have their selected leaders to represent the Dalits in the politics and not the independent minded from those communities. It is this political interest of DMK which is allowing those middle level party leader to flex their muscles against the Dalit castes without fear. The Laws made to protect the rights of Dalits are also not helping those oppressed communities in the absence of political will to punish the offenders. Another point is that the cases filed on the Prevention of atrocities against SC/ST communities are not immediately taken up by the police in Tamil Nadu. Huge number of cases are kept pending by the police, obviously under political instruction, in the name of verification of the caste of the complainant. That verification of caste is a ploy to drag the issue as such verification has to be done by the revenue authorities which work directly under the government. The pendency of such cases in Tamil Nadu is very and there were cases which were pending since 1992. In the absence of action on their complaints the Dalits are left to suffer. If this is the fate of Dalit in a state where the 'social equality' was claimed to have achieved under Dravidian social movement.

(Views are all personal).

Sobs of hard work, copycat mafia, and political crutches



Priyanka Saurabh

The anti-copying law is a good initiative by the government, but one more amendment should be included in it that the leader or his close relative whose name is in the paper leak should be banned from contesting elections for 10 years, and the whole game will end. Frequent paper leaks destroy the credibility of the examination system in the country. The "Anti-Copying Act" is a much-awaited step by the Government of Uttarakhand to protect the rights of the hardworking youth, who work hard day and night. Other States/UTs who are facing similar threats should follow suit.

The country's strictest "anti-copying law" has come into force in Uttarakhand. Governor Lt Gen Gurmeet Singh has approved the Uttarakhand Competitive Examinations (Prevention and Measures for Prevention of Unfair

Mean in Recruitment) Ordinance 2023. Under the 'Anti-Copying Act', candidates caught cheating will be punished and imprisoned for 10 years Ban will be imposed. There is a provision to impose a fine of 10 crores on the copying mafia with life imprisonment or 10 years in jail. Apart from this, there is also a provision to attach the property of the copying mafia. This comes after the UKPSC paper leak, due to which the exam of around 1.4 lakh government job aspirants was canceled. The Tea-Copying Act, of 1992 was an Indian law enacted in 1992 by the Government of Uttar Pradesh headed by Kalyan Singh of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Rajnath Singh, although he was the education minister in the Singh government at the time, credited the idea to Chief Minister Kalyan Singh himself. The law aims to stop the practice of rampant copying in school and university examinations in the state. The Act made the use of unfair means in examinations a cognizable offense and was non-bailable and allegedly allowed the police to enter the examination premises to conduct investigations. However, the Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party government led by Mulayam Singh Yadav, which came to power in 1993, repealed it the following year. The country's most stringent anti-copying law has come into force in Uttarakhand to conduct fair and

copy-free recruitment exams. This comes after the UKPSC paper leak, due to which the exam of around 1.4 lakh government job aspirants was canceled. The law is meant to prevent offenses related to obstructing the sanctity of examinations, use of unfair means, leakage of question papers, and other irregularities. Under the 'Anti-Copying Law', candidates indulging in cheating will be punished with three years imprisonment and a minimum fine of Rs 5 lakh. If the fine is not paid, the candidate will have to undergo additional imprisonment of nine months. Second-time offenders will be punished with a minimum jail term of 10 years and a fine of Rs 10 lakh. There is a provision to impose a fine of Rs 10 crore. Life imprisonment or 10 years in jail for the copycat mafia. Apart from this, there is also a provision to attach the property of the copying mafia. Anti-copying law has been made in Uttarakhand and under it, the first case has been registered against a student and a news portal because they said that the paper in the patwari exam held yesterday was not sealed. However, the commission said in the clarification that this happened because there are many pits in the mountains and this must have happened due to tremors. The police fiercely pushed that explanation. No one thought even for a moment that where every paper leak, every post rigged, and

every exam question has been raised, hundreds are already in jails, it is necessary to clear the doubts of the students. The administration hastily filed a case against the student itself. Reading his explanation reminded me of my cylinder delivery guy. Even if the cylinder seal is broken, I am a cook and cook, but even being alone, the cylinder may not have run for a month, but he never accepted that there was something wrong with it. Every time its compulsion has been sinful stomach and marketing. The next step for the Uttarakhand government is the implementation of the law. Strict guidelines and SOPs have to be adopted through which the law can be implemented. These guidelines are to be followed by various agencies including the police involved in conducting the examination. Online examination is conducted on a computer without physical question paper. Online examinations are gaining popularity with many universities, institutes, and competitive examination bodies switching from pen and paper-based tests. The online test, also known as CBT (Computer Based Test), is considered safe and reliable and has minimal risks on the security and fraud front. These exams are conducted in centers with adequate infrastructure like computers, stable internet connectivity, etc. The chances of any kind of cheating or cheating in online exams are

negligible, and if any interference takes place it can be easily detected and the guilty can be punished. Online examinations also reduce the time for checking answer sheets and preparing results. Many state governments are rapidly switching from offline to online modes of examinations due to their benefits, for example, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, State National Testing Agency, etc. It is an autonomous and self-sustaining testing agency set up by the Human Resource Department to examine it aims to conduct efficient, transparent, and international standard tests to assess the aptitude of candidates for admission and recruitment purposes. Conducts many important exams through online mode like IIT, JE exam, (Central University Entrance Exam), etc. Frequent paper leaks destroy the credibility of the examination system in the country. The "Anti-Copying Act" is a much-awaited step by the Government of Uttarakhand to protect the rights of the hardworking youth, who work hard day and night. Other States/UTs who are facing similar threats should follow suit. Also, there is a need for strict guidelines and SOPs to implement the law in letter and spirit.

(Writer is Research Scholar in Political Science, Poetess, freelance journalist, and columnist.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rahul again speaks

I am writing to express my concern about Rahul Gandhi's recent speech in the UK, in which he criticized the Indian government's foreign policy. This is not the first time that Mr. Gandhi has spoken out against the government on foreign soil, and I believe that such behavior is inappropriate and unproductive. As a citizen of India, I expect our leaders to represent our country's interests on the international stage, and to work towards building positive relationships with other nations. I believe that Mr. Gandhi should learn from the example set by our first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, who founded the Non-Aligned Movement and established India's foreign policy. Today, our current Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, is continuing in the same tradition of international diplomacy, and his efforts have been widely praised by world leaders. From Putin to Biden to Macron, leaders from around the world have spoken in favour of Modi's foreign policy. India has also demonstrated its commitment to independent foreign policy by purchasing oil from Russia during the Ukraine crisis, and by refusing to send troops to Afghanistan despite pressure from other nations. In addition, India is a member of two QUADs and is likely to enter the G7 countries, which is a major accomplishment for our foreign policy. Therefore, I believe that Mr. Gandhi should refrain from criticizing the government on foreign soil, and instead participate in parliamentary discussions to voice his concerns. This would be a more productive way to engage in the democratic process and work towards a better future for our country.

Yash pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

Merit, not pliability

The recent Supreme Court order directing the President to appoint a new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) was a necessary step towards restoring the credibility and independence of the Election Commission (EC). In the past, the EC has been accused by opposition parties of giving in to pressure from the ruling party, which undermines the essential principles of free and fair elections in a democracy. It is crucial that the EC remains insulated from political influence and pressure to uphold its integrity and ensure impartiality in its functioning. TN Seshan's tenure as the CEC is still remembered fondly because of his visionary leadership and commitment to upholding the independence of the commission. The appointment of officials to such positions should be based on meritocracy rather than pliability, to ensure that institutional integrity is not compromised. In cases where autonomous bodies deviate from their statutory role, it is the responsibility of the Supreme Court to intervene and correct the course through appropriate judgments. By prioritizing meritocracy and institutional integrity, we can ensure that the democratic process remains transparent, fair, and trustworthy.

K Kumar, Panchkula

BRIEF

Seed traceability



New Delhi: Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said the government will soon launch a seed traceability system to ensure the availability of good quality seeds to the farmers. "This will curb the pilferage in the seed trade sector," Tomar said addressing a two-day Indian Seed Congress organized by the National Seed Association of India here in the national capital. Farmers will benefit from its launch and the people doing good work in the seeds sector will also get help, an official statement quoted Tomar having said at the event. The government is concerned about obstacles faced in the seeds sector. The suggestions have been received from the stakeholders on the seed traceability system, he added. Taking into account the rising population and the challenge of climate change, Tomar said everyone engaged in the farm sector should be ready to meet the future needs of India and the world.

Investment pledges



Visakhapatnam: The Andhra Pradesh government will form a monitoring committee consisting of the Chief Secretary to ensure that investment pledges announced at the Global Investors' Summit translate into real action, Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy said on Saturday. After signing agreements worth Rs 11.8 lakh crore on the inaugural day on Friday, the Andhra Pradesh secured investments worth around 1.2 lakh crore on the concluding day of the summit today, totalling more than Rs 13 lakh crore with the potential to create more than six lakh jobs.

River systems



New Delhi: As many as 23 river systems will be developed for cargo and passenger vessel movement, as the government's focus is on increasing the movement through river systems, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has said. The aim is to utilise inland waterways to improve cargo and passenger vessels movement at cheap transportation cost, the Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways told PTI in an interview.

India is 'dangerously close' to Hindu rate of growth: Raghuram Rajan

New Delhi, Mar 05:

Sounding a note of caution, former Reserve Bank Governor Raghuram Rajan has said that India is "dangerously close" to the Hindu rate of growth in view of subdued private sector investment, high interest rates and slowing global growth. Rajan said that sequential slowdown in the quarterly growth, as revealed by the latest estimate of national income released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) last month, was worrying. Hindu rate of growth is a term describing low Indian economic growth rates from the 1950s to the 1980s, which averaged around 4 per cent. The term was coined by Raj Krishna, an Indian econo-



mist, in 1978 to describe the slow growth. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the third quarter (October-December) of the current fiscal slowed to 4.4 per cent from 6.3 per cent in the second quarter (July-September) and 13.2 per cent in the first quarter (April-June). The growth in the third quarter of the previous financial year was 5.2 per cent. "Of course, the optimists

will point to the upward revisions in past GDP numbers, but I am worried about the sequential slowdown. With the private sector unwilling to invest, the RBI still hiking rates, and global growth likely to slow later in the year, I am not sure where we find additional growth momentum," Rajan said in an email interview to PTI. Recently, Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran had attributed the subdued quarterly growth to the upward revision of estimates of national income for the past years. The key question is what Indian growth will be in fiscal 2023-24, Rajan said, adding "I am worried that earlier we would be lucky if we hit 5 per cent growth."

Sale of gold jewellery and gold artefacts hallmarked without six-digit code to be banned from Apr 1

New Delhi, Mar 05:

Sale of gold jewellery and gold artefacts hallmarked without six-digit alphanumeric HUID — unique identification number — shall not be permitted from April 1, the government on Friday said. Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday chaired a meeting to review the activities of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). To promote quality culture in the micro scale units, it has been decided that the BIS will provide 80 per cent concession on the certification/minimum marking fee across various product certification schemes. Gold hallmarking is a purity certification of the precious metal. It was voluntary in nature till June 16, 2021. After that, the gov-

ernment decided to implement mandatory gold hallmarking in a phased manner. In the first phase, it was made mandatory in 256 districts and 32 more districts were added in the second stage, taking the total number to 288 districts. 51 more districts are being added. "Starting from 1st April 2023, the sale of only gold jewellery with HUID shall be permitted," an official statement said.

Nidhi Khare, additional secretary in the department of consumer affairs, said that "in consumers interest, it has been decided that after March 31st, sale of gold jewellery and gold artefacts hallmarked without HUID will not be permitted." At present, she said four digits as well as six-digit HUID are being used currently.

Centre saved USD 27 bn in schemes using DBT method, says Economic Affairs Secy

Hyderabad, Mar 05:

India saved over USD 27 billion in key central government schemes through direct benefit transfer as it is swift and eliminates corruption, Ajay Seth, Secretary of Department of Economic Affairs said here on Sunday.

Delivering his keynote address at the second meeting of the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion, Seth said Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), created by India is inherently scalable, interoperable, innovation-friendly, and inclusive and has completely transformed government to people, people to people and people to business interactions.

"And since the transfers are all direct, end to end,



Union Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences (I/C), Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Jitendra Singh with Foreign Minister of Mexico, Marcelo Ebrard witnesses the signing of MoU between the two countries on research, technology and innovation collaborations at Science Centre, Lodhi Road, in New Delhi.

MOU SIGNING

Govt to come up with 58 quality control orders in next 6 months

To stop imports of sub-standard goods

New Delhi, Mar 05: The government will come up with as many as 58 quality control orders (QCOs) for products such as aluminium, copper items and household electrical appliances in the next six months, in a move aimed at containing import of the sub-standard goods and boost domestic industry, a senior government official said. The department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) is working hard to promote manufacturing of high quality products in the country. "Since 1987, only 34 QCOs have been issued. But now we are coming up with 58 QCOs in the next six months. The main objective is to stop import of sub-standard goods. These mandatory norms will be

for domestic and foreign players," Joint Secretary in the DPIIT Sanjiv told PTI. There will be 315 product standards under these orders. The items, under these orders, cannot be produced, sold/traded, imported and stocked unless they bear the BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) mark. "These QCOs will be notified within a year after following due process," he added. He said that the move would also help in providing global markets for domestic goods. In order to facilitate smooth implementation of these orders, particularly for micro and small industries, provisions for additional time periods to get BIS licences and upgrade their testing facilities are being contemplated, he added.



and swift, there is little scope for corruption and leakages and removal of duplicate/ fake beneficiaries. In our own experience, DBT has entailed a saving of more than USD 27 billion just across key central government schemes," the official said. In India, DPI enabled DBT emerged as a boon in providing succour and relief to millions of citizens whose livelihood was im-

packed. The government was able to help millions by delivering vaccines and providing social protection services through DPI, Seth noted.

In recent years, the G20 has helped the world navigate through multiple shocks and continues to provide guidance on global economic coordination. India intends to further build upon it to make it even more relevant, especially for the Global South. "India's G-20 Presidency is thus an opportunity as well as a responsibility to encourage collective solutions and rebuild trust in multilateralism," Seth opined. India stands ready to share its technical capabilities and knowledge resources for empowering the people of the Global South, he added.

Govt not in 'crazy rush' to sell everything: FM Sitharaman

New Delhi, Mar 05:

The government is not in a "crazy rush" to sell everything and it will continue to have a presence in four strategic sectors, including telecom, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday.

In strategic sectors, a bare minimum presence of the existing public sector commercial enterprises at the holding company level will be retained under government control. The remaining enterprises in a strategic sector will be considered for privatisation or merger with another PSE or for closure. Speaking at the Raisina Dialogue, the minister said that the country will have government-owned professionally run companies in four broad strategic sectors. According to the PSE Policy, the four broad



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaks during a conversation with Ashok Malik (Unseen), The Asia Group Partner and Chair (India), at the Raisina Dialogue 2023, in New Delhi.

strategic sectors are - atomic energy, space and defence; transport and telecommunication; Power, Petroleum, Coal and other minerals; and Banking, Insurance and Financial Services. The policy, she added, "is not a crazy rushing out to sell everything..nor it is saying

that the government will run the business of producing pins to crops to everything. So where the government doesn't have to be, it won't. But where because of strategic interests you have to be, it will be there like telecom for instance. "There will be a telecom company which

will be government owned and it will be run professionally." Explaining the minimum presence of government in those core sectors, she said, "We mean that institutions which are big enough to run on their own steam will be there but if there are others who are very small or unsustainable or not scalable, if there is a possibility, we will try to blend them so that bigger unit, sustainable unit, a unit which can on its own take care of its needs."

The government will blend them and create a larger entity which can continue to be there, she said. Sitharaman in the latest Budget announced that the government will raise Rs 51,000 crore by selling stakes in various state-run companies in FY24. This is marginally higher than the current year ending on March 31, 2023.

Britannia looks to raise its women workforce to 50 per cent by 2024

Madurai (TN), Mar 05:

FMCG major Britannia Industries is aiming to increase its women workforce to 50 per cent from the present 41 per cent by 2024, a senior company official said on Sunday.

With 15 company-owned manufacturing plants and 35 contract and franchisee units across India having a workforce of over one lakh people, Britannia currently has 41 per cent women employees and would increase the strength to 50 per cent by the end of 2024, Head of Manufacturing, Owned Factories, Indranil Gupta said. The company has about 1,400 workers in its Madurai unit of which 65 per cent comprise women, Gupta said. The female workforce in the plant will be increased to 70 per cent



by 2024, since it produced 190 tonnes of various food products per day, the senior official told journalists. When asked about the reason behind pushing for more women employees, Gupta said: "They are more hygienic, and more suitable for these type of jobs, which is an important requirement in food making facilities and disciplined compared to male workers." Having a higher representation of women has benefitted the plant operations by increasing

efficiency and productivity while it has also helped in reducing attrition, he said. Diversity is an important pillar of Britannia's sustainability framework to become a responsible global food company. Regional Manufacturing Head, South, C S Guruprasad said. He added that women are confident to continue in the unit since majority of them belong to agricultural background and also supported their families during the worst period of the Covid pandemic when their husbands or parents were out of jobs.

Besides, the company has the best working environment in addition to pay and social security measures with transport facilities as the workers have five to 20 years experience, the official added.

Global trends, FPIs trading activity to drive markets in holiday-shortened week: Analysts

New Delhi, Mar 05:

Equity markets would be mainly driven by global trends and foreign fund trading activity in the holiday-shortened week, analysts said. The BSE and the National Stock Exchange have listed March 7 (Tuesday) as a holiday on account of Holi. However, stock brokers' association ANMI has urged the government, exchanges and Sebi to shift the holiday to March 8 from March 7.

"Indian stock markets may remain volatile amid fear that the US FED will keep raising interest rates to control inflation. Rising US bond yields and macroeconomic numbers will keep the market mood subdued in the near-term. "Investments by FIIs, who

are turning out to be small net buyers at the margin, and DIIs will be monitored," Pravesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst, Swastika Investmart Ltd, said.

On the global front, the Bank of Japan will decide on interest rates and the US macroeconomic data (US nonfarm payrolls and unemployment rate) will be scheduled for release on March 10, while on the domestic front, India's industrial production data will also be unveiled on March 10, Gour added. Industrial production data for the month of January will be released post-market hours on Friday.

Market investors will also keep track of the movement of the rupee against the US dollar and Brent crude oil.

Maruti Suzuki expects chip shortage to continue for few more quarters

New Delhi, Mar 05:

Maruti Suzuki India expects semiconductor shortage to continue for the next few quarters leading to further increase in order backlog of certain models, according to a senior company official. The country's largest carmaker has seen its pending bookings stretch to 3.69 lakh units with Ertiga leading the pack with close to 94,000 bookings. Other models like Grand Vitara and Brezza have an order backlog of around 37,000 and 61,500 units, respectively. Further, the company has received around 22,000 and 12,000 bookings, respectively, for Jimny and Fronx. Due to the chip shortage, Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) has already witnessed a production loss of close to



46,000 units in October-December period and is expecting some impact on the production in the ongoing quarter as well. "The semiconductor shortage still continues. Last quarter we lost 46,000 units due to this issue and this quarter also the problem continues for a few models," Maruti Suzuki India Senior Executive Officer (Marketing and Sales) Shashank Srivastava told PTI in an interaction. The company expects the

shortage to continue for a few more quarters, he noted. "It is difficult to predict exact timelines when it will become normal because the visibility is not there," Srivastava said. Commenting on the overall PV industry, he noted that the sports utility vehicle continues to lead with a share of 42.6 per cent and hatchbacks accounting for 35 per cent. "So far the passenger vehicle industry this fiscal year has witnessed sales of 35.5 lakh units.

It seems the industry will end the year with 38.8 lakh units mark, the highest ever number till date," he said. Last fiscal, the number stood at 30.7 lakh units, so the sales are expected to go up by around 26 per cent this financial year.

'Women borrowers less risky than men'

Mumbai, Mar 05:

Women borrowers are better than men from a credit risk perspective, a credit information company (CIC) has said. The credit scores of 57 per cent of women borrowers make them fall under the "prime" category as against 51 per cent for men, data shared by Transunion Cibil, a CIC, said. It can be noted that retail credit is generally considered as a much safer bet by lenders because a bulk of it is secured against assets like a house.

The company said consumption-led credit products like personal loans and consumer durable loans are also gaining popularity among women borrowers. "As more women borrowers enter the workforce and become financially independent, they are seeking credit opportunities to fulfil their life goals and aspirations," it explained. Women are

also seeking more business loans, and the share of women in over all business loan portfolio has increased to 32 per cent here, as per the annual data release by the CIC.

It said the overall share of women borrowers currently stands at 28 per cent and those who are new to credit constitute 34 per cent. There are approximately 454 million adult women, of which only about 63 million are active borrowers as of 2022, the company said.

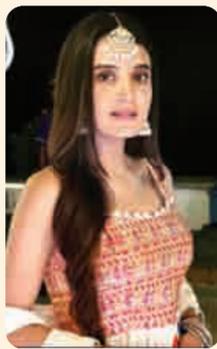
A study on new-to-credit (NTC) borrowers shows that highest proportion of women borrowers have availed agricultural loans and consumer durable loans as their first credit facility in 2022, it said. The number of credit applications by women borrowers stood at 80.6 million in 2022, while 72.7 million loans were disbursed to women in the same year.

Ayushi, Rachna and Vibhav all set to celebrate Holi this year

Shraddha Kapoor expresses her gratitude to Mohit Suri

Holi is the festival of positivity, love and togetherness! Celebrating this most revered festival with much galore this Sunday is Sony Entertainment Television's prestigious singing reality show, Indian Idol 13. The most rangeen on-screen couple of Bollywood - Ranbir Kapoor and Shraddha Kapoor, will make this episode even more special as they promote their film 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar'. Acclaimed singer, Javed Ali will be joining the judge panel as the guest judge while the Superstar Singer 2 kids will be performing with the Idol contestants and making the evening even more delightful. But a beautiful moment to watch out for will be when contestant Sonakshi Kar from Kolkata performs the song 'Teri Gallyan' from the film Ek Villian and Sun Saathiyi from the film 'ABCD- Anybody Can Dance' which will leave everyone in awe on the show. Extremely impressed by Sonakshi's performance, Shraddha Kapoor will go on the stage to praise Sonakshi for her beautiful voice. She said, "Mere man ho raha tha ki mein meri aankhein bandh karke sirf aapki aawaz sunu. I was just lost in your performance. I got goosebumps throughout the performance because of Sonakshi's beautiful voice." Not only that but Javed Ali will be seen asking Shraddha Kapoor to sing two lines from the song 'Teri Gallyaan' on stage; her performance will leave everyone mesmerized.

The vibrant festival of colors Holi in India is celebrated with great fanfare while the actors are usually busy with their hectic schedule. Ayushi Khurana, Rachna Mistry and Vibhav Roy from Star Bharat speak their heart out on the occasion of Holi and share their colorful memories and plans for festival this year. Ayushi Khurana aka Ajooni from Ajooni says, "I have many special memories of the Holi festival from my childhood where we celebrated by eating sweets and sharing them with family and friends as well as playing with vibrant colors and enjoying the festival to the fullest. I also recall one memory from Holi where my neighborhood aunty used to prepare Gujiya and feed us during my childhood days, so



this year, I took an initiative to make Gujiya for my family and friends and also will share it with my crew on the sets of Ajooni to celebrate Holi. Along with that, I have plans to celebrate Holi with my friends, where I will make sure to play it safely with organic colors and flowers rather than using artificial powders



though the preparation has already begun." Rachna Mistry aka Vidhi from Na Umra Ki Seema Ho says, "Holi is a lovely festival of colors, and I'm reminded of some memorable times spent celebrating with family and friends while dousing ourselves in color and partaking in the traditional Indian



foods of jalebi and fadfa. I still remember the good old days when we used to play Holi and get thoroughly stained in colors our teachers would scold us for the same reason. This year I will be mostly busy with shooting, though we might celebrate Holi on the sets but then if there will be no shooting then I'll catch up

with my pals and make plans." Vibhav Roy aka Som from 'Meri Saas Bhoot Hai' says, "Festive seasons are like celebrating pleasure and happiness, and Holi is one of them when you get to eat different sorts of foods like Gujiya and sweets, even though I am diet and fitness concerned, sweets lure me. We recently shot the marriage sequence in which my character Som and Kajal Chauhan's character Gaura were drenched while shooting Haldi where we just felt like playing Holi though we enjoyed it a lot. And also we will plan something special if I will be shooting on the same day on the sets of 'Meri Saas Bhoot Hai'." Stay tuned for more amazing updates, every Monday to Saturday only on Star Bharat.

Lily Collins dishes on her obsession with interior design

Actress Lily Collins has recently become obsessed with interior design. The 33-year-old 'Emily in Paris' actress, who is the daughter of musician Phil Collins and his second wife, Jill Tavelman, has revealed that she loves looking for interior design inspiration on Instagram, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Asked about the last "Instagram rabbit hole" she went down, Lily, who is married to director Charlie McDowell, told Glamour magazine: "Interior design." Looking at lamps and chairs because we're re-designing a space right now. And then you start clicking on these amazing homes, and then you're looking at tile colours and wall colours and rugs."

"It's so funny because as a kid, I remember my mom always talking about interior design, and I was more interested in clothing and pop bands and stuff. And then she's like, 'One day you're going to care more about interiors and antiques and designs.' I was like, 'No, I'm not.' And now it's literally what I want to spend my money on," she continued.

Lily previously admitted to being inspired by the "boldness" of her "Emily in Paris" character. The brunette beauty plays Emily Cooper in the hit Netflix series, and



Lily confessed to loving her character's sense of style. She shared: "I think Emily's boldness of choice and not being afraid of mixing things has rubbed off on me." Lily has always been passionate about fashion. However, starring in the show has made her more courageous than ever. She explained: "I always loved fashion growing up, so I've never been afraid of it, but I've just not always thought it would work on me. Throwing in those little influences here and there - Emily encourages me to do it more."

I don't mindlessly follow trends, select clothing appropriate for me: Charrul Malik

TV anchor and actress Charrul Malik talked about her style statement, and fashion icon, and also gave tips on what one should keep in mind while choosing their wardrobe. She said: "Denim is my all-time favourite since they go with everything. I do, however, enjoy wearing short skirts since they make me feel light and comfortable. In my show, 'Happu Ki Ultan Paltan', I sport all the western outfits which make me look stylish, sultry, and comfortable at the same time." When asked what she keeps in mind while wearing a dress or sari, she replied: "I don't mindlessly follow trends. Instead, I select clothing that is appropriate for me. When wearing a dress, it's important to remember that it's always in good form. Also, if you're wearing a bodycon dress, make sure you're wearing the proper inners, so you don't feel uncomfortable." "Again, it's critical to select the proper fabric for your body shape when wearing a saree. However, I believe that wearing heels with a saree is necessary because it gives you a curvaceous look and improves your body posture. I believe we should avoid wearing too much bling when it comes to wearing sarees during the daytime," the actress added.



Aarushi Nishank spills beans on her next film 'Tarini'

Actress, producer, and dancer, Aarushi Nishank, who rose to fame from her music videos 'Wafa Na Raas Aayee' opposite Himansh Kohli and 'Teri Gallyan Se' opposite Gurmeet Chaudhary, will soon be seen in the upcoming film 'Tarini'.



The film is about the crew of an Indian Navy sailing vessel and their 254-day expedition.

Aarushi said: "The all-women crew of the Indian Navy's sailing vessel Tarini did not just charter a new course into history, but also conquered their own fears and learned to rise above petty issues to steer towards a common goal as a well-oiled team. The six members of Navika Sagar Parikrama, during their 254-day expedition, covered 22,000 nautical

miles, facing rough seas, scorching sun, and biting cold and freezing winds with an unrelenting spirit."

She added: "Talking about my role is yet to be a matter of discussion but I am working hard on my look as it demands being fit and athletic, so nowadays I spend most of my time in yoga sessions and in the Gym." Aarushi is also produc-

ing the film.

Talking about what got her on board, she said: "I am a big supporter of Women's Empowerment, 'Tarini' is all about the strength and determination of 6 Naval officers and this historic expedition starts the craving in me to push myself more to present this subject in front of my audience. From the initial permission from the Defence ministry to working on the story with Prasoon Joshi Ji and the team, I am an integral part of every single inch and bit of this film."

The film will be shot in multiple locations.

"As a producer, I have to see most of the content coming out. I try to watch as many films of different genres, Hollywood, Bollywood, even Tollywood," Aarushi said.

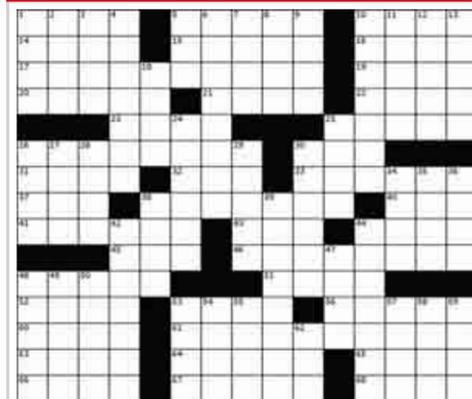


'Pishachini' actress Rutuja Sawant shared how she once encountered the casting couch in the initial years of her career and called it one of the scariest incidents of her life. Rutuja said: "It's an ordinary thing for a struggling actor to audition a lot, so at the age of 20 when I was looking for work, one day I got a call from an agent who asked me to come to his office for a meeting. The agent, instead of discussing the work, tried to get close to me and grab me. I got so scared that I ran away from that place." She said: "That incident gave me a lesson to be more careful when I meet people whom I don't know. I stopped going to any meetings alone after that incident, I always used to take a friend along to meetings. Even today, I usually cross-check the details of the person I am going to meet regarding work." "Unfortunately, many new actors had to face such bad experiences and newcomers easily fell victim to it. But I believe that there are good and bad people everywhere, you just have to play safe and keep yourself a priority," Rutuja concluded. Rutuja Sawant is known for her roles in shows like 'Mehndi Hai Rachne Waali' and 'Choti Saardarni'.

Rutuja Sawant reveals her dreadful casting couch experience

CROSSWORD

581



ACROSS

1. Companions
5. Fertile desert spot
10. Thin
14. Very many (2 wds.)
15. Male bee
16. Diarist ____ Frank
17. Go downhill
19. Assess
20. Range
21. Greek god
22. Like summertime tea

DOWN

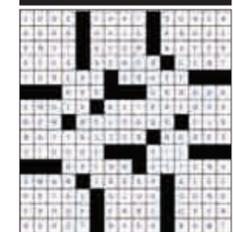
23. Hardens
25. Sucker
26. Spanish girl
30. Received
31. Paradise
32. Eternally, in poems
33. Take for granted
37. Gone by
38. Neat
40. Watery expanse
41. Retile
43. Keanu Reeves role

44. English beverages
45. Jar cover
46. Aloft
48. Swindle
51. Advance upon
52. 500 sheets
53. Circle parts
56. Not fitting
60. Besides
61. Delicious
63. Arctic transport
64. Love dearly
65. Feat
66. Cavity
67. Slogan
68. Gambling term

DOWN

1. Tablets
2. Actor ____ Baldwin
3. Corporate symbol
4. New spouse's boy
5. Keats work
6. Took into custody
7. Skyrocket
8. Get ____ trouble
9. Notices
10. Cowboys' ropes
11. Legislate
12. Stakes
13. Poor
18. ____do-well
24. Having rows
25. Flower
26. Burn
27. Margin
28. Broadway sign

SOLUTION 580



Shafali, Lanning set up Delhi Capitals' massive win

Mumbai, Mar 05 (PTI):

Shafali Verma and Meg Lanning slammed attacking fifties, while left-arm pace bowler Tara Norris grabbed a five-wicket haul as Delhi Capitals thrashed Royal Challengers Bangalore by 60 runs in their Women's Premier League opener, here on Sunday.

Norris destroyed the RCB lineup, returning figures of 5/29 after Delhi Capitals had put up an imposing 223 for two at the Brabourne Stadium.

Chasing the mammoth 224, the Smriti Mandhana-led side were restricted to 163 for eight in 20 overs.

Earlier, thanks to opener Shafali and Australian skipper Lanning's fine knocks of 84 and 72 runs respectively, DC posted WPL's second successive 200-plus score. Mumbai Indians notched 207 for five before bowling Gujarat Giants out for 64 in the inaugural WPL fixture on Saturday.

While the young India opener played some breathtaking power-packed strokes in her 84-run knock, which came off



Delhi Capitals Meg Lanning and Shafali Verma run between the wickets during the 2023 Women's Premier League (WPL) Twenty20 cricket match between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Delhi Capitals at The Brabourne Stadium, in Mumbai, Sunday, March 5.

Brief scores

Delhi Capitals 223/2 in 20 overs (Meg Lanning 72, Shafali Verma 84, Marizanne Kapp 40 not out, Jemimah Rodrigues 22 not out; Heather Knight 2/40). Royal Challengers Bangalore (Ellyse Perry 31; Tara Norris 5/29).

just 45 deliveries (10 fours, and four sixes), Australia skipper Lanning was more clinical in her shots, smashing 72 off 43 balls (14 fours) as the duo destroyed left RCB bowling in a tail-spin.

The duo's 162-run partnership ended in an equally dramatic manner, with both getting dismissed in the 15th over, with England off-spinner Heather Knight accounting for the two off the third and fifth deliveries of her second over.

Their departure off the third and fifth ball of the 15th over though did not slow the scoring rate, with Marizanne Kapp (39 not out) and young India player Jemimah Rodrigues (22 not out) helping the side cross the 200-run mark.

Mbappe becomes PSG's all-time top scorer

Paris, Mar 05 (AP):

Kylian Mbappe became Paris Saint-Germain's all-time leading scorer when he netted in added time of the 4-2 win over Nantes in the French league.

Producing the sixth and last goal of the match gave Mbappe his 201st goal for PSG and eclipsed Edinson Cavani's record.

The third consecutive win moved PSG 11 points clear at the top of the standings, but it was marred by the replacement of Marquinhos late in the match.

Marquinhos was substituted with 15 minutes left, clutching his back in pain at the Parc des Princes. He's a doubt for when PSG travels to Bayern Munich on Wednesday for the second leg of their Champions League round-of-16 tie. Bayern leads 1-0 from the first leg.

Mbappe missed several chances for the milestone goal in the last five minutes. Then he collected a pass from Timothee Pembele, quickly turned toward the goal and fired home with a left-footed shot. PSG fans chanted Mbappe's name amid fireworks and he was later presented with a trophy marking the achievement.

"I was still a young player when I arrived here. I've learned a lot here,"



Mbappe said after his 247th game with PSG.

"I play to write history, and I always said that I want to do it here, in France, in its capital city. . . It's a personal achievement but I also came here for collective achievements." PSG led 2-0 after 16 minutes and looked set for a comfortable evening, but for the second time in a row at home, Christophe Galtier's players wasted a two-goal lead before they prevailed.

Following a 3-0 win at second-placed Marseille last weekend, PSG returned home full of confi-

dence against Nantes and quickly took control with a fluid passing game.

Lionel Messi broke the deadlock with a low shot in the 11th minute after connecting with a cross from Nuno Mendes that took a deflection. PSG doubled the lead when Jaouen Hadjam, under pressure from Nordi Mukiele, beat his own goalkeeper with a poor clearance attempt.

Nantes needed an individual moment of brilliance from Ludovic Blas to pull one back. After being set up down the left, the attacking midfielder took Gianluigi

Donnarumma by surprise with a shot from a tight angle as the Italy goalkeeper expected a cross and was a bit slow to react in the 30th. Ignatius Ganago leveled in the 37th after a corner when the ball went in off his back.

Nantes defended well and played boldly after the interval. There were space and chances for both teams and PSG found an edge at the hour mark. Danilo Pereira headed home from Mbappe's cross, then the France striker beat Cavani's record to seize the lime-light.

Harmanpreet says captaincy brings out her best



Navi Mumbai, Mar 05 (PTI):

Mumbai Indians captain Harmanpreet Kaur said leadership brings the best out of her, after the right-handed batter lit up the opening match of the Women's Premier League with a scintillating 65-run knock here. Kaur's onslaught and her 89-run stand for the fourth wicket with Amelia Kerr powered Mumbai Indians to a massive total of 207/5, and their bowlers outlasted Gujarat Giants by dismissing them for just 64 to record a 143-run win at the DY Patil Stadium on Saturday. Kaur told the media after the game that adapting quickly to the pitch was key to her team's win. "You never enter a game thinking it will be a one-sided contest," she said.

"You always come in with the mindset that you cannot take the opposition lightly. What our bowling department did today was something worth appreciating. I think we got a good start and when that happens you can continue with it. "Almost all deliveries were spot on when we were batting we were able to figure out which areas to bowl. Our bowlers adapted quickly and (that's why) it looked like a one-sided game," Kaur added. The right-handed batter accepted that captaincy brings out the best from her. She said, "I have been captaining teams from about the time I started playing cricket, it does not bring any extra pressure on me but makes me feel more involved. I get into a zone which helps me bring out good performances."

Rest of India crush MP by 238 runs to retain Irani Cup

Gwalior, Mar 05 (PTI):

Rest of India's bowling unit performed like a well-oiled machine as the team thrashed Madhya Pradesh by 238 runs to retain the prestigious Irani Cup here on Sunday.

Chasing a near-impossible 437 for victory, MP were bowled out for 198 in 58.4 overs as the match ended during the opening session of the fifth day.

With the so-called result-oriented and under-prepared pitches for the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy receiving a lot of flak, the Gwalior track was a throwback to the days when there used to be help for every department of the game.

There were four tons scored in the match, 40 wickets fell and pacers and spinners had equal say during the course of the game. A case in point is the MP second innings where the pacers and spinners shared five wickets apiece.

Seamers Mukesh Kumar (2/34), Atit Sheth (2/37) and Navdeep Saini (1/34) blew away the MP top-order while off spinner Pulkit



Narang (2/27) and left-arm spinner Saurabh Kumar (3/60) took advantage of the deteriorating surface to mop up the lower middle-order and tail.

In the morning, MP skipper Himanshu Mantri (51) got a raw deal from umpire Rohan Pandit, who raised his finger when the batter hadn't actually nicked one behind the stumps.

MP lost wickets at regular intervals as first-innings centurion Yash Dubey got a lethal in cutter

from Mukesh Kumar and was cleaned up in the process.

There was no let-up in intensity from Rest of India bowlers and MP didn't even have the remotest chance to make a match of it.

For the RoI team, made up of mainly India A players, Yashviji Jaiswal with 357 runs across two innings (213 and 144) was the show-stopper.

"If I would have remained not out (on Day 1) I would have gotten a 300 and

that would have been better," Jaiswal said after the match.

He praised opener Abhimanyu Easwaran (154), with whom he shared a triple hundred plus stand.

"I had an experienced partner in Easwaran and it was amazing to bat alongside him," the southpaw said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

Another good news was Navdeep Saini bowling 29 overs across two innings at a brisk pace.

Sadom, Gunn along with Asia's premier golfers confirm participation at DGC Open

New Delhi, Mar 05 (PTI):

Some of Asia's best and brightest young stars will return in the second DGC Open golf tournament scheduled here from March 16-19.

This will be the strongest Asian Tour full-field event ever witnessed in India and will offer a massive prize purse of USD 750,000.

The field includes five among the current Top-10 of the Asian Tour Order, seven players who have won in the last few seasons including defending champion Nitithorn Thippong and upcoming youngsters.

The current crop of highly talented stars include

Sadom Kaewkanjana, currently third on the Asian Tour Order of Merit, besides Gunn Charoenkul (4th), Berry Henson (5th), Suradit Yongcharoenchai (6th) and Phachara Khongwatmai (10th).

In addition, there are four others in Top-20 and 11 more, including the defending champion Nitithorn, in the Top-50. The star-studded list

will be supplemented by as many as eight foreign players who have previously won in India.

Further, almost 10 Indians, who have won Asian Tour events at home, many of them at this very course, will tee up. Several legends of the game, including Thaworn Wiratchant (twice), Jyoti Randhawa and Scott Hend, who have won Asian Tour Order of Merit, will be present alongside the likes of Chapchai Nirat, who set a Tour record of 32-under in a 72-hole tournament in India in 2009.

The home challenge will be spearheaded by Gaganjeet Bhullar, who in late 2022 became the first Indian to win 10 Asian Tour titles when he won the Mandiri Indonesia Open. The emergence of youth stars like Yuvraj Sandhu, Veer Ahlawat, Honey Baisoya, Viraj Madappa, Karandeep Kochhar and S Chikkarangappa besides proven winners like SSP Chawrasia and Shiv Kapur will get strong home support.

Karnataka crowned Santosh Trophy champions after 54 years

Riyadh, Mar 05 (PTI):

Karnataka were on Saturday crowned champions of the Santosh Trophy after a gap of 54 years with Robin Yadav's stunning first-half free-kick being the highlight of their dominating 3-2 win over Meghalaya in the summit clash here.

M Sunil Kumar (third minute), Bekey Oram (20th) and Robin Yadav (44th) scored for Karnataka while Meghalaya found the target through Brolington Warlarph (eighth) and Sheen Sohktung (60th) at the King Fahd International Stadium.

This was Karnataka's first title after 1968-69 and fifth overall, counting their four earlier triumphs as Mysore, their previous name before 1973. They had last finished runners-up in 1975-76.

For Meghalaya, it was their maiden entry in the



final. The final was basically between two leagues at the two state capitals. Almost all the Karnataka players were from Bangalore Super Division League while a majority of the Meghalaya players were playing their trade at Shillong Premier League. Meghalaya also had four players playing in the Bangalore Super Division

League. The two sides played with similar style, keeping the ball and building up with short and ground passes. But the attackers of Karnataka, who had made it to the final after beating Services in the semifinals, were able to breach the Meghalaya defence several times.

Meghalaya, who were victorious against Punjab

in the semifinals, also did a lot of attacking but they lost the ball in the final third a lot of time.

Karnataka took the lead in the third minute which began from a throw in. Captain Karthik Swamy headed down inside the box and M Sunil Kumar's right footer deflected from a Meghalaya defender to go into the net.

Sania ends her career at place where it began

Hyderabad, Mar 05 (PTI):

With "happy tears", Indian tennis legend Sania Mirza on Sunday ended her path-breaking journey as a player at the place where it all began.

By playing in exhibition matches featuring Rohan Bopanna, Yuvraj Singh and her 'best friend' Bethanie Mattek Sands, Sania finally said goodbye to her illustrious career at the Lal Bahadur Tennis Stadium, the venue where she signalled her arrival on the big stage with a historic WTA singles title triumph nearly two decades ago. The exhibition games were watched by eminent personalities, including union law minister Kiren Rijiju and former India cricket team captain Mohammed Azharuddin.

Having arrived at the venue in a swanky red car, the 36-year-old Sania was greeted by cheering fans that also included prominent personalities.

Sania, who turned emo-



Tennis star Sania Mirza poses for selfie with players Rohan Bopanna, Cara Black, Bethanie Mattek and others during her farewell at the Lal Bahadur Stadium, in Hyderabad, Sunday, March 5.

tional while giving her farewell speech, said the greatest honour for her has been to play for the country for 20 years.

On the occasion, the six-

time Grand Slam winner (three in women's doubles and as many in mixed doubles) played two mixed doubles exhibition matches and won both of them.

The venue, where she had won some memorable titles, wore a festive look with banners like 'Celebrating The Legacy of Sania Mirza' put up.

India's per capita income doubles since 2014-15

New Delhi, Mar 05:

India's per capita income in nominal terms doubled to Rs 1,72,000 since 2014-15 when the Narendra Modi-led NDA came to power but uneven income distribution remains a challenge. As per the National Statistical Office (NSO), the annual per capita (net national income) at current prices is estimated at Rs 1,72,000 in 2022-23, up from Rs 86,647 in 2014-15, suggesting an increase of about 99 per cent.

In real terms (constant prices), the per capita income has increased by about 35 per cent from Rs 72,805 in 2014-15 to Rs 98,118 in 2022-23. "You are looking at GDP in current prices, but if you account for inflation, the increase is much less," said noted development economist Jayati

Ghosh on doubling of per capita income in nominal terms. She further said distribution is critical. "Most of this increase has accrued to the top 10 per cent of the population. By contrast, median wages are falling, and possibly even lower in real terms," said the former JNU professor. As per the NSO data, the per capita income dipped during the Covid period, both in real and nominal terms. However, it has picked up in 2021-22 and 2022-23.

Former director of premier economic research institute NIPFP Pinaki Chakraborty said as per the World Development Indicator data base, average growth of India's per-capita income in real term for the period from 2014 to 2019 was 5.6 per cent per annum. "This growth is significant.

**A vendor arranges different kind of masks ahead of Holi celebrations, in Nadia, Sunday, March 5.**

We have seen improvements in outcome related to health, education, and economic and social mobility. Covid impacted us badly. However, we have seen significant economic recovery after Covid. "Sustaining per-capita income growth at 5 to 6 per cent per annum with appropriate redistributive policies will help sustain this momentum. We also

have to factor in unevenness in growth within the country.

Balanced regional development will act as a catalyst for higher growth," he said. The Modi government has taken several pro-poor initiatives, and is trying to ensure benefits of government schemes reach the needy people directly. The measures include a mega fi-

nanacial inclusion drive like opening Jandhan accounts and MUDRA loan scheme; focus on digitisation; and free distribution of ration under Right to Food programme.

Nagesh Kumar, Director, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), said per capita incomes have increased in real terms and they do reflect rising prosperity. "However, the point to be noted is that per capita income is an average income of Indians. The averages mask the rising inequalities. Rising concentration of incomes at the high end means incomes of those at the lower rung of the income ladder may not be changing much," he said. Kumar further said India continues to be the bright spot in the world economy.

HOLI CELEBRATIONS

**A vendor arranges different kind of masks ahead of Holi celebrations, in Nadia, Sunday, March 5.**

Rajnath Singh to address top naval commanders onboard INS Vikrant

New Delhi, Mar 05:

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and top commanders of the Indian Navy will on Monday carry out a comprehensive review of India's maritime security challenges at a key conclave onboard indigenously built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant on the high seas.

It is for the first time that the biannual commanders' conference is taking place onboard an aircraft carrier, a move seen as a symbolic reflection of India's priority to the maritime sphere amid

**India's first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant. Rajnath Singh to address top naval commanders onboard INS Vikrant.**

China's increasing presence in the Indian Ocean region.

A senior Navy official said the conference will carry its own significance and relevance in view of

the prevailing geostrategic situation in the region. Defence Minister Singh will address the naval commanders onboard the indigenous aircraft carrier on Monday as part of

the first phase of the conference.

The conference serves as a platform for naval commanders to discuss important security issues at the military-strategic level as well as interact with senior government functionaries under an institutionalised framework.

"The novelty of this year's conference lies in the fact that the first phase of the commanders' conference is being held at sea, and for the first-time, onboard India's first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant," the Navy said.

Villagers near LoC in J-K ecstatic as Indo-Pak ceasefire enters third year

Rajouri/Jammu, Mar 05:

Mohammad Yousof Kohli is constructing a new house for his family of six in a forward village near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, a dream which he says is fulfilled only because of the ceasefire between India and Pakistan that entered its third year last month.

The border villagers are enjoying peace along the borders by going for normal activities like tending their land and grazing their cattle without the fear of cross-border shelling. The

villagers said they are praying for continuation of the agreement so that the schooling of their children is not affected and benefits of developmental activities reach the last village on the border. On February 25, 2021, India and Pakistan announced implementation of renewed ceasefire along the borders in Jammu and Kashmir, which came as a major relief to the people living along the LoC and the International Border.

India and Pakistan had initially signed a ceasefire agreement in 2003, but Pakistan frequently violated the agreement with over

5,000 violations reported in 2020 the highest in a single year. "For the last four years, my family was thinking of constructing a new house but we were not able to do this as ceasefire violation was a regular scene in our village," Kohli's elder son Ibrar Ahmad, a college student, told PTI at the construction site in his Niaka village which is close to the LoC.

He said even repairing houses damaged due to shelling was a distant dream as venturing out of the house was like going into the death trap.

"No mason or labourer used to come for work in our village.

मुंह का ना खुलना
 पान, तंबाकू सेवन के कारण मुंह का ना खुलना एक्सिडेंट में चोट या अन्य कारणों से मुंह का ना खुलना

कालड़ा बर्न एवं
 प्लास्टिक कंस्ट्रिक्टिफ साइरी सेक्टर
 आयु. के. पी. डी. बालको, पीपीए प्रकल्पों एवं पापकोट्टी
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