



BRIEF



Devotees offer prayers to the rising sun while taking holy dip in Ganga river on the first day of 'Chaitra Navratri' festival, in Patna, Wednesday.

Booked

Mumbai: A former driver of singer Sonu Nigam's 76-year-old father has been booked for allegedly stealing Rs 72 lakh from the senior citizen's home in Mumbai, an official said on Wednesday. The singer's father Agamkumar Nigam lives at Windsor Grand building in Oshiwara, Andheri west, and the alleged theft took place between March 19 and March 20, he said.

Watery grave

Barwani: Four young men, including three from Gujarat, drowned in river Narmada in Madhya Pradesh's Barwani district on Wednesday, a police official said. The youths were part of a religious group and reached Dhar district's Mirzapur village where 11 of them went for a bath in Narmada around 10 am, the official said.

Benefit

Guwahati: Distributing a one-time retirement benefit to Anganwadi workers on Wednesday, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma described them as the cornerstone of the healthcare system. The state government has taken several schemes for the welfare of retired persons and "we have also taken a decision to provide the same to Anganwadi workers", he said at a programme here.

Action

Jaipur: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot Wednesday said effective action has been taken against criminals under a special campaign conducted in several areas of the state by police. No criminal will be spared and police will catch them in order to maintain peace and the rule of the law in the state, he told reporters after a programme at the Rajasthan Police Academy.

NIA custody

New Delhi: A court here on Wednesday granted the National Investigation Agency (NIA) 10 days' custody of a person arrested by the agency from Srinagar in connection with an ongoing investigation into an NGO terror funding case. Irfan Mehraj, a resident of Srinagar, is the first accused arrested following investigations into the NGO terror funding case registered in October 2020, the NIA said.

Weather
High 32 Low 20

MARKET
NIFTY 17,151.90
SENSEX 58,214.59

BULLION
GOLD 58,591
SILVER 68,907

President confers 106 Padma awards

New Delhi, Mar 22 (PTI):

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday conferred Padma awards to former Karnataka chief minister S M Krishna, noted industrialist Kumar Mangalam Birla and famous playback singer Suman Kalyanpur at a ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhawan. Besides them, billionaire stock market investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, who had passed away last year, was given the honour posthumously along with several unsung heroes. The president had approved the conferment of 106 Padma awards, including three duo cases (in a duo case, the award is counted as one), on the eve of this year's Republic Day. Of these, over 50 people were awarded Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri on Wednesday. Krishna, who was external affairs minister in the Congress-led UPA government and had later joined the BJP, was awarded the Padma Vibhushan. Noted architect Balkrishna Doshi (posthumously) was also given the Padma Vibhushan, the country's second highest civilian honour. Birla, Delhi-based professor Kapil Kapoor, who is widely known for his books on Indian grammatical theories and models, spiritual leader



President Droupadi Murmu confers Padma Bhushan on industrialist Kumar Mangalam Birla during Padma Awards 2023 ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

Two from Chh'garh receive Padma Shri

Jodhaiya Bai Baiga, a prominent artist of Baiga painting and Usha Barle, performer of Pandwani and Panthi art forms of Chhattisgarh, were given the Padma Shri.

Kamlesh D Patel and Kalyanpur were conferred the Padma Bhushan, the country's third highest civilian award. Jhunjhunwala was conferred with the Padma Shri. Padma awards are conferred in three categories — Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.

India's top civilian award Bharat Ratna has not been given to anyone since 2019. The awards are given in various disciplines and fields of activities vis-a-vis art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports and civil service, among others.

2.7 magnitude quake strikes Delhi

New Delhi, Mar 22 (PTI): A 2.7 magnitude earthquake struck the national capital on Wednesday, the National Centre for Seismology said. The quake occurred at 4:42 pm. The epicentre was in west Delhi and the

depth was five kilometres, it said. A powerful earthquake of 6.8-magnitude had jolted the city on Tuesday night and its epicentre was in Afghanistan's Hindu Kush region, while its depth was 156 kilometres.

'Awareness programmes to minimise earthquake damage'

As strong tremors jolted Delhi-NCR and other parts of northern India, officials on Wednesday said awareness programmes and mock drills are some of the measures being taken by the government to minimise earthquake damage. O P Mishra, the director at the Ministry of Earth Sciences' National Centre for Seismology (NCS), said earthquake risk mitigation awareness programmes are being held and mock drills are also being conducted in order to educate people about the dos and don'ts during an earthquake. "Earthquake cannot be stopped but its impact can be minimised by various measures. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is the nodal agency to conduct the mock drills in coordination with other institutes and such drills are conducted at regular intervals," Mishra told PTI. Mishra said that the Centre has tried using the new building design code for earthquake risk resilience in which seismic microzonation is done.

Amritpal's mentor Papalpreet helped escape police dragnet

Chandigarh: The brains behind pro-Khalistan fugitive Amritpal Singh's escape from the police dragnet was 38-year-old Papalpreet Singh, who was in close contact with Pakistan's ISI and was taking instructions from it, officials said on Wednesday.

They said Papalpreet Singh is considered one of Amritpal Singh's mentors who had been advising him on various issues. Papalpreet had been working with Amritpal closely since he returned to India last year and took over the reins of 'Waris Punjab De', an organisation founded by actor Deep Sidhu, who died in a road accident in 2021. Papalpreet was seen driving a motorcycle with Amritpal riding pillion. The two-wheeler was found deserted at Phillaur in Jalandhar.

EMOTIONAL BOND Doting parents place QR code on son's tomb to keep his memories alive

Thrissur (Kerala), Mar 22 (PTI): A QR code placed on a tombstone at a church in Kerala's Thrissur helps one to relive and reminisce on the creative work rendered by a doctor, who died young at just 26.

The parents of Dr Ivin Francis decided to place the QR code on the tomb of the youngster at St Joseph Church, Kuriyachira in the central Kerala district to give people a glimpse into his world as they can watch videos of his performances by scanning the code. His family from Kuriyachira has designed a web page containing all the works of Ivin and linked it with the QR code.

Son of Francis, an officer with a private company in Oman, and Leena, principal of the Indian School in Oman, Ivin was well-versed in music and

sports, and found time to indulge in his passion along with his medical course. He was popular among the community with his performances.

Ivin's unfortunate death came in 2021 when he collapsed and died while playing badminton.

"We wanted his life to be a motivation for everyone and that is how we thought of placing a QR code on his tomb," Francis said.

Ivin had created profiles of people using QR codes and his parents also decided to do the same. "He also used to send me a lot of QR codes for information. I could scan the QR code and could download the information I was seeking," the father said.

He said the idea of placing a QR code was of Ivin's sister Evelyn Francis. "My daughter told me that just writing something about Ivin on the tomb will not

be sufficient to portray what all he did. We thought he may not be satisfied with just that. So, she said we can have a QR code linked to his profile and place it on the tomb. So, people who scan the code will know what was he and what all he could do. She created the site and QR code in 10 days," Francis said.

The doting father said his daughter had asked him not to inscribe anything on the tomb when he ordered it. "She created the site and QR code and asked me whether that could be printed on the marble tomb. So I asked the maker, and he said it can be printed," Francis said.

He said when the tomb is placed in a cemetery and people see Ivin's grave, there will not be anyone available to tell them about his son.

CONG ON PARL LOGJAM

'Will talk only after Rahul is allowed to speak'

New Delhi, Mar 22 (PTI): The Congress on Wednesday claimed that the government wants the party to take back its demand for a JPC on the Adani issue and in return it would drop the call for an apology over Rahul Gandhi's remarks in the UK, asserting there was no question of any such compromise.

Addressing a press conference, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said efforts are being made since the last few days that a "formula" or middle path is found with both the Opposition and the government

relenting. "This is unacceptable to us, these two things are completely unconnected. One is a reality. The questions we are asking are fundamental questions, this has happened. The BJP's demand of apology is just baseless, it is on false allegations. So to say that you take back your demand then we will take back the demand for an apology, we are not ready for any such bargain," he told reporters, noting that while no one from the government has talked directly to the opposition this is only being known unofficially.

RISE IN COVID CASES

PM holds high-level review meet

New Delhi, Mar 22 (PTI):

Amid a spike in influenza and COVID-19 cases in the country in the past two weeks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting and directed officials to enhance genome sequencing while also emphasizing on Covid-appropriate behaviour.

India has recorded 1,134 new coronavirus cases, while the active cases increased to 7,026, according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday. The death toll climbed to 5,30,813 with five deaths. One death each has been reported in Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat and Maharashtra



PM Narendra Modi chairs a high-level meeting to review the COVID situation amid rise in cases in the country and to take stock of the public health preparedness, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

while one fatality was recorded by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated. Modi chaired the meeting to assess the COVID-19 and influenza situation in the country in terms of preparedness of health in-

frastructure and logistics, status of the vaccination campaign, emergence of new COVID-19 variants and influenza types and their public health implications for the country, a statement issued by the

PM's advice to authorities

Modi directed officials to enhance whole genome sequencing of positive samples with the designated INSACOG genome sequencing laboratories. This will support tracking of newer variants, if any, and timely response, the PMO said. The prime minister emphasized Covid-appropriate behaviour including wearing of masks in hospital premises by both patients, health professionals and health workers.

Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

This high-level review meeting comes in the backdrop of a spike in influenza cases in the country and rise of Covid cases in the past two weeks.

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Women Bikers of CRPF rallying from Delhi to Jagdalpur welcomed in city



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 22: Under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, 75 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Women Bikers riding on Royal Enfield motorcycles are on a 1848 km long bike expedition.

Having commenced their

journey from India Gate, New Delhi on Thursday, March 09, the women bikers are on their way to their destination, Jagdalpur in a hilly region of Chhattisgarh, showcasing the resilience and strength of women power and spreading the message of women empowerment during their



17-day journey.

The women's bike rally will culminate on March 25 at Jagdalpur where they would participate in the 84th CRPF Day Commemoration Parade on Saturday, March 25, 2023. Aligned to the spirit of Women Empowerment and charged with the feel-

ing of pride for the Nation, the CRPF Women Braveheart Bikers Squad reached Chhattisgarh, winding their way through the states of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. The Bike Expedition passed through Bhilai on Wednesday,

March 22, 2023 at around 12:30 hrs. In Bhilai, the Bikers Expedition was welcomed by the senior officials of Bhilai Steel Plant including women officers at Equipment Square near Bhilai Steel Plant Main Gate. Among the senior officers who welcomed the women Bikers were Nisha Soni, CGM (HRD & BE), Sushmita Dey, CGM (Marketing), Shubha Banchor, GM (Marketing) and Jacob Kurian, GM (LA & PR).

The women bikers were felicitated with women officers putting Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav badges on some of them. Women officers and employees of CISF were also present when the women bikers were welcomed.

Labour leader PK Moitra passed away

Bhilai, Mar 22: PK Moitra, a well-known trade union and Communist leader of Bhilai, passed away in Kolkata on the intervening night of Wednesday.



PK Moitra

He was a member of the State Secretariat of undivided Madhya Pradesh of the Marxist Communist Party. He was the party's candidate in Durg Lok Sabha in 1984 and Bhilai Nagar assembly elections in 1985.

He was former General Secretary of Hindustan Steel Employees Union, Bhilai (CITU) and former Vice President of Madhya Pradesh CITU. During the workers' movement, he was arrested and jailed for almost a year. CPI (M) deeply mourned his death and the party said that his invaluable contribution to the working class movement and the trade union movement will always be remembered.

Bhilai girl brings laurels, secures AIR 63 in GATE-2023

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 22: Bhilai girl, Anjali Dewangan brought laurels to the city by securing All India 63 rank in the Metallurgical Engineering Branch in Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE), 2023.

A B Tech final year student of National Institute of Technology (NIT), Raipur, Anjali has been a meritorious student and has always pursued studies as her passion.

Her father Ankush Dewangan is an employee of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant and a renowned sculptor, currently posted in the Public Health Department as Junior Health Inspector.

Her mother Dr Sarita



Anjali Dewangan

Dewangan is a Lecturer in Government High School, Gondpendri. AK Jha, Assistant General Manager, Public Health Department, Senior Managers RK Gupta, AK Banjara and other members of the department congratulated Anjali on her success.

Chopra Auto Centre unsealed on court's order

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 22: In compliance with High Court Order and Estate Court order, the Enforcement Department of Bhilai Steel

locked by the Enforcement Department of BSP on March 15 as per the orders of Estate Court over the issue of non-renewal of land lease.

payment of premium to get the lease renewed.

The High Court gave relief to the IOCL and directed the BSP to unseal and unlock the petrol pump immediately for a



Plant unsealed and unlocked the IOCL Petrol Pump - "Chopra Auto Centre" in Sector 10 on Wednesday evening.

Executive Magistrate Kshama Yadu and Police officers were present during the proceedings. The entire premise has been unlocked and unsealed and handed over to the IOCL authorised dealer.

It could be recollected here that Chopra Auto Centre was sealed and

The aggrieved IOCL Dealer had approached High Court where the IOCL sought time to make final decision for

period till April 05, 2023. In compliance with the High Court order, the fuel station premise has been unlocked and unsealed.

Preparations begin to establish Urban Industrial Parks

- More than 1500 people will get employment through garment factory and BPO
- Administration to encourage young entrepreneurs for startups

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 22: As per the intentions of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, RIPAs are being established by the district administration to provide employment to the maximum number of young entrepreneurs. RIPA infrastructure has been prepared in rural areas and land is being identified for this project in urban areas also.

In rural areas, 12 RIPAs have been prepared and allotments have commenced.



Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena reviewed the enterprises taking place in RIPAs.

He said that youth in both urban and rural areas are interested in startups. They have courage and fresh ideas. All they need is infrastructure and counselling. Collector asked the officials to make it available to the youth through RIPA and Urban Industrial Park. Garment factory and two BPOs will come up in Bhilai. In this regard, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas informed the Collector in detail about the preparations made so far.

He said that the land has

been identified for the garment factory. Five hundred people will get employment in this factory. Along with this, two BPOs will also be started through which entrepreneurs would be able to take advantage of the huge outsourcing market. About five hundred youth will get employment through BPOs.

Similarly, a garment factory will be established in Durg. The administration will contact youth to make them aware about RIPA. District Panchayat CEO Ashwini Dewangan and Durg Municipal Corporation Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar were also

present during the meeting.

The Collector said that under the Chhattisgarh Unauthorized Development Regularization Bill 2022, people having illegal constructions can apply for regularization. He asked the officials to contact such people and get the work of regularization done. Along with this, he instructed to issue notices on illegal constructions and take action against citizens who do not remove it or apply for regularization under the Act.

One Rajul Dewangan had complained in Jandarshan last week. He had made a fixed deposit in

a branch of Gramin Bank but lost the original certificate. He complained that he has been demanding a duplicate certificate from the bank management is not providing the same.

The Collector instructed the Lead Bank Manager to investigate the matter and provide relief to Dewangan. In the related case, the lead bank officer said that discussions have been held with the bank management and it has been agreed to provide the amount. The Collector said that notice would be given to the concerned bank manager for the delay in services.

The parks in the city will soon be renovated. The scope of greenery and children's play activities will increase through the parks. For this, the experts will give their suggestions and accordingly a decision will be taken regarding their landscaping.

Union leaders discuss important issues with CGM (P&A)

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 22: On Monday, a delegation of Hind Mazdoor Sabha met Chief General Manager (Personnel and Administration) of Bhilai Steel Plant, Sandeep Mathur. Union leader Devendra Singh demanded to remove the shortage of doctors, nursing and paramedical staff in the Sector 9 hospital.

He also demanded white washing of the hospital building. Mathur replied that the process of recruitment of PG doctors is almost complete. Mathur urged the union leaders to enthusiastically contribute in taking

the plant forward. Extending greetings on World Happiness Day, Devendra Singh said that the management should make some meaningful efforts in this direction so that the employees also feel happy. He said that there must be good clubs like Steel Club and Bhilai Club. He also demanded proper arrangements of coolers in all canteens.

Acting President Pem Singh Chandel said that the tenure of SEWA had ended and there is a need to constitute a new executive body which shall work in the interest of the employees with new energy. Due to certain decisions, there is disap-



pointment and anger among the employees.

During the Corona period, the insurance of 10 lakhs was sufficient but it has been increased to 50 lakhs without taking the consent of the employees. All the employ-

ees are shocked by this decision. They are worried that the present body should be dissolved immediately and a new committee should be formed through election or nomination.

Prem Singh Chandel

further said that the offline form of EPFO Higher Pension has been cancelled and the new online form has to be filled by all till 03/05/2023. He demanded that the form should be loaded after discussion so that everyone can take advantage of it in time.

Raising the issue of delay in the welcome scheme, Vishal Kumar said that officers and employees are not getting the benefit of the welcome scheme on the new allotment. Vishal Kumar requested that either the work should be completed at the earliest or money shall be reimbursed after getting the work done.

Vishal Kumar assured that the youth group of employees is ready to face every challenge and join hands with the management to make Bhilai Steel Plant the pinnacle of SAIL again. There is a need to move forward by considering the issue of respectful designation.

Chief General Manager (Personnel and Administration) Sandeep Mathur assured of making efforts to solve all the issues as soon as possible. Senior Manager RK Maharana along with acting president of Bhilai Shramik Sabha Prem Singh Chandel, Devendra Singh, VK Patel and Vishal Kumar were present.

Two firemen suffer injuries after falling from height

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 22: Two firemen of Bhilai Steel Plant's Fire Brigade were injured during a drill exercise on Wednesday. According to information, a fireman fell from a ladder from a height of almost 30 feet. He fell on two other firemen, who were midway on this ladder.

Two of the firemen identified as Deepak Khadge and Santosh Sahu (Trainee) suffered injuries in this mishap. They were rushed to the Main Medical Post and



thereafter to JLN Hospital, Sector 9. Their condition was reported to be out of danger.

Bhilai Steel Plant organises free health camp in village Karanja

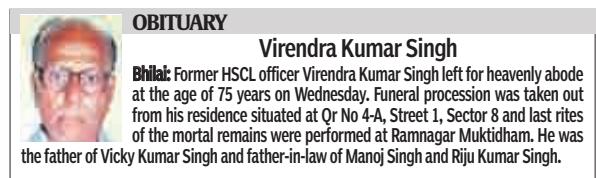


Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 22: SAIL- Bhilai Steel Plant has been organising free health camps on regular basis in peripheral villages as well as in villages near its Mines including Roughat Mines project for the benefit of villagers.

On March 20, 2023, a one-day

free Health Camp was organized by the Plant's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Dept for the benefit of villagers of Karanja in Durg district. A total of 27 individuals including men, women and children benefited from the free consultation and treatment. The health-care team comprised of medical practitioners from Bhilai Steel Plant.



OBITUARY

Virendra Kumar Singh

Bhilai: Former HSCL officer Virendra Kumar Singh left for heavenly abode at the age of 75 years on Wednesday. Funeral procession was taken out from his residence situated at Qr No 4-A, Street 1, Sector 8 and last rites of the mortal remains were performed at Ramnagar Muktidham. He was the father of Vicky Kumar Singh and father-in-law of Manoj Singh and Riju Kumar Singh.

Police foils interstate gang's bid to break ATM

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 22: With the arrest of three persons including two juveniles, police claimed to have busted an inter-state gang involved in breaking ATMs and banks to steal cash. They used gas cutters to break the ATMs. Durg Police foiled their bid to break an ATM machine at Kumhari and managed to arrest them. They were caught red handed by the night patrolling party of Kumhari Police Station.

All the three members of this gang hail from Balaghat (Madhya Pradesh). They used an expensive motorcycle to reach their target spot and escape. Inspector General of Police (Durg Range) announced Rs 10000/- cash prize for the police team. Police team saved almost Rs 11.48 lakh from HDFC Bank's ATM.



While addressing media persons here at the Police Control Room on Wednesday, SP Dr Abhishek Pallava, informed that Durg Police was intensively checking the banks, ATMs and other commercial premises located in the district every day and night.

Under the supervision of ASP (City) Sanjay Dhruv and CSP (Chhawani)

Ashish Banchole, daily briefing of patrolling parties is conducted by the gazetted officers after which they are sent for morning and night patrolling.

On the intervening night of Wednesday, three youth carrying gas cutters, iron rods and other tools came from Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh on a bike and



reached the ATM Kiosk of HDFC Bank located on GE Road in Kumhari.

They entered the ATM kiosk and were trying to break the ATM machine with the help of a gas cutter to steal Rs 11 lakh 48 thousand 500 rupees cash from the machine. Meanwhile, a patrolling party of Kumhari Police Station reached the spot and man-

aged to arrest the accused red handed while trying to break the ATM.

During preliminary interrogation, the accused confessed to having committed several other thefts in the past. The accused are being intensively interrogated. The accused are identified as Honey Shiva (19) son of Mukesh Shiva a resident of village Ukwa,

Post Sonpuri Baihar, District Balaghat (Madhya Pradesh) and two juveniles.

Inspector Sudhanshu Baghel (SHO, Police Station Kumhari), ASI Mansingh Sonwani, ASI Ajay Singh, Constable Rajkumar Singh, Constable Devprakash Verma and Driver Constable Yashwant Sahu played a vital role in arresting the accused.

DE to be conducted against Belghana DFO: Minister

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 22: Forest Minister Md Akbar on Wednesday announced that inquiry would be conducted against Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) on the issue of irregularities in Belghana Circle of Bilaspur.

Replying to a question raised by the senior Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Dharmal Kaushik from BJP, the Minister informed that state government has already suspended four employees on the charges of irregularities and added that role of DFO would also be probed on the basis of the initial reports. He said that probe committee

report had found the then Circle in-charge Vijay Kumar Sahu, Circle Officer Sewakram Baiga, Md Shamim, Hit Kumar Dhruv and Mulesh Kumar Joshi, Forest Conservator and subsequently they were suspended.

Similarly while replying to another question raised by the MLA Lakheshwar Baghel from Congress, the Minister said that probe would be conducted on the reported irregularities in CAMPA work in Bastar Region.

MLA Baghel urged the Minister to ensure that the works are completed and added that just release of funds should not be considered as completion of work.

Action being taken on regularization of employees as per procedure: CM

● **Committee formed under chairmanship of Chief Secretary**

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 22: The issue of regularization of daily wage employees and contractual employees was raised in the Vidhan Sabha by MLA Punnal Mohile. CM in his reply informed the House for regularization of such employees due action is being taken as per the government procedure. He informed that the state government has formed a committee under chairmanship of Chief



Secretary of the state.

CM informed the House that as per order No. 12-1/2019/1-3 dated 11/12/2019, the General Administration Department (GAD) has formed a Committee for regularization of daily

wage an contractual employees is that of Principal Secretary Commerce and Industry deptt, and the Committee formed under Public Sector department Secretary- Principal Secretary Law & Legal Deptt, Secretary Finance

BJP stages walkout alleging corruption in coal transportation

Raipur, Mar 22: Former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh on Wednesday gheraoed the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel who also holds the Energy Department portfolio, over the coal transportation in Raigarh Power Plant.

Raising the issue related to coal transportation during Question-Hour in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly, former CM Raman Singh alleged that the tendering process of coal transportation was not comply properly. Moreover, the former CM alleged massive corruption in the coal transportation. Refuting the charges, CM Bhupesh Baghel responded that the tendering

process was followed properly and transportation is being carried out as per the rule.

Alleging massive corruption in transportation of coal from mines in Raigarh district, the main opposition staged a walkout during Question Hour. Moreover, the former CM demanded a probe into the matter by constituting a committee of MLAs. As the CM said that there is no need of probe, the opposition members staged a walkout.

Both the sides had verbal exchange during the Question Hour session which resulted in ruckus as proceedings were stalled.

BJP stages walkout over corruption in JJM works

● **Dissatisfied with Minister's reply**

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 22: The issue of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was raised in the Vidhan Sabha through call-attention motion in Vidhan Sabha and in this the Opposition members asked as to why this project could not be completed on time and for this digging in the roads of entire city has been done and the people are still not getting water. Dissatisfied with the reply to this question by the Urban Administration Minister Dr Shiv Kumar Daharia, the BJP MLAs staged walkout.

BJP MLA Brijmohan Agrawal raising the issue through call attention motion asked the Minister for Urban Development Dr Shiv Kumar Daharia as to how much amount has been received from the central government for Jal Jeevan Mission and how much work has been completed and how many houses have got water supply? Brijmohan also gheraoed the Minister over the digging of roads for this project in the city and its half-hearted repair work and came down heavily against the Minister in-charge.

The Minister for Urban Administration and Development Shiv Kumar Daharia in his reply informed the House that water connection to more

than 61000 houses has been provided and construction of few water tanks is yet to be completed and on its completion, entire population will get drinking water at home. During the discussion, MLA from ruling party Kuldeep Juneja and Arun Vora too raised the issue of incomplete tarring or cementing work on roads with digging for laying of water pipeline. BJP MLA Brijmohan Agrawal charged of massive corruption in this project and demanded action on the contractor after investigation into the case. But the Departmental minister denied the same. Dissatisfied with the Minister's reply, the BJP Opposition members staged walkout.

Truck-bus collide, 12 injured



Kawardha, Mar 22: In a head-on collision between a speedy truck and a passenger bus, 12 passengers got injured and this include children as well. The police has reached the site of incident and taken all injured to nearby hospital for treatment.

The accident took place at Gram Harinchapara, near the Sugar factory on National Highway (NH). On getting information about

the accident the police reached the site and sent the injured to hospital for treatment and got the damaged truck and bus removed from the main road to allow smooth flow of traffic. Addl. SP Manisha Rawate informed that the passenger bus was coming from Pandaria and the truck was going towards Jagdalpur and both met with head-on collision, leaving 12 injured.

BJP slams govt for not ensuring good price for tendu leaves

Raipur, Mar 22: The Chhattisgarh Assembly on Wednesday saw noisy scenes as Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLAs accused the Congress government in the state of failing to provide good price to the tribals for tendu leaves collected from forest areas.

The chair rejected BJP MLAs' adjournment motion notice for discussion on the issue. Amid the ruckus, the proceedings were adjourned for five minutes.

Raising the issue in the Zero Hour, former chief minister Raman Singh and other BJP MLAs accused the Congress of being "anti-tribal".

The government, after coming to power in 2018,

stopped the Charan Paduka scheme for tendu leaves collectors started by the previous BJP government, they alleged.

In 2017, when the BJP was in power, 17.10 lakh sacks of tendu leaves (mainly used for 'beedi' or leaf cigarette manufacturing) were collected and after auctioning, the forest committees received Rs 1,358 crore, the BJP claimed.

But the collection declined to 13 lakh sacks in 2021 and the forest committees got only Rs 704 crore, the opposition party's MLAs claimed.

The Congress government hiked the price of tendu leaves from Rs 2,500 per sack to Rs 4,000, but the

forest-dwellers have been getting less money compared to what they earned during the BJP rule, they said.

The state government neither rolled out any scheme for the forest dwellers nor provided them the right price for tendu leaves collection, BJP MLAs alleged.

It led to further ruckus in the House as Congress MLAs countered the charges.

As the chair rejected the demand for discussion on the issue, BJP members started shouting slogans against the state government which led to an adjournment of proceedings for five minutes.

RADA to organise 7th Auto Expo from March 24th to 27th

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to inaugurate the event at Science College grounds

Exhibition and sale at one place, new launches will done every day



famous bands and dance groups and celebrities will present spectacular programs every evening, said Vivek Garg, President, Raipur Automobile Dealers Association (RADA) while speaking to the scribes here.

RADA Vice President Ravindra Bhasin, Secretary Kailash Khemani and Treasurer Vivek Agarwal said that companies and dealers will also give discounts and offers on expo on spot booking. The facility of spot finance will also be available at the expo. This time the expo will be seen in an expanded format as vehicle companies in all four segments are participating with

around 200 stalls of dealers and spare parts associations. Tyre tube, battery, lubricants parts companies will also be there in the expo. The special attraction of the first day of the launch will be the new E-C3 electric. Those arriving at the expo will also be provided the facility of making licenses by the RTO.

CM to inaugurate the Auto Expo
Former President of RADA and Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries, President, Amar Parwani informed that Auto Expo 2023 will be inaugurated by Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel on March 24 at 6 pm. The event will be

presided over by the Minister of Forests, Housing and Environment and Transport Mohammad Akbar. Entertainment will also be special at the Auto Expo. Famous bands and dance groups and celebrities will present a spectacular show. Bollywood actress Shajan Padamsee will give her program on the inauguration day. Apart from this, fashion show, stunt show, quiz contest, fire show and food court will also be major attractions. On the occasion FADA Chairperson Manishraj Singhania, former RADA President Shashank Shah, Anil Aggarwal, Jayesh Pithalia, Prashant Mandhan, Basant Baid, Naresh Patel, Neeraj Agarwal, Rishiraj Singhania, Sunil Dhuppad, Surendra Ahuja, respected members of RADA and Raipur Merchant Association President Sudhir Agrawal was present.

Hybrid pre-ventricular VSD devise closure done on 1 year-old child

● **An exemplary team-work by cardiac sciences team at NH MMI**

Raipur, Mar 22: A one-year-old girl, with severe malnutrition, was evaluated at a pediatric cardiology camp in Odisha. She was weighing 5 kg (expected-9 kg) found to have very large (14mm) VSD (ventricular septal defect) with very high PA pressure (pressure of lungs). VSD is an opening or hole (defect) in the wall (septum) separating the two lower chambers of the heart (ventricles). Addressing the scribes here, Senior Cardiologist Dr Sumanta Shekhar Padhi said that she was brought to our hospital for further treatment. At our hospital, she was evaluated, and the diagnosis was confirmed. She needed closure of the VSD. However, since the child was severely malnourished, it carried very high risk of death or prolonged hospital stay after open heart surgery. So, all efforts were made to reduce



the risk. Device closure was a good option, but since the VSD (hole/opening in heart) was very large, it required proportionately very large device and its delivery system. The veins of the child were too small to insert the device delivery system into the heart and hence percutaneous closure was not a suitable option in such a small child with VSD. Hence the cardiac sciences team at NH MMI planned a novel technique. The chest was opened by the cardiac surgeon and the device closure was done by directly puncturing one of the walls of heart (right ventricle free wall) by the cardiologist. After the device was deployed the puncture was closed by the surgeon. The entire procedure was guided by trans-oesophageal echocardiography (TEE). TEE is

a kind of echocardiography done by inserting a probe with a transducer down the esophagus. This provides a clearer image of the heart and device placement in real time.

The entire procedure was completed within 45- 50 min. The child had a smooth post operative course, and could be discharged on 7th day after the procedure. Such a procedure from planning, execution and post operative care needs extreme degree of coordination among the team members- the cardiac surgeon (Dr Hari Kumar, Dr Sumit), Cardiac Anaesthetist (Dr Arun Andapan, Dr Rakesh Chand, Dr Dharmesh) and the Cardiologist (Dr Sumanta Shekhar Padhi, Dr Kinjal Bakshi). This case is of one of the youngest children to under-



go such a rare procedure in the state. We at NH MMI Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Raipur are proud to have such an excellent team to help the most deserving child like this. Mr. Tapani Ghosh (Facility Director - NH MMI Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Raipur) supported the success of the procedure and praised the entire cardiac care team of NH MMI Narayana Superspeciality Hospital.

Symposium on Indian Innovation's and Scientists on March 26

Raipur, Mar 22: National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur's Innovation Cell (I-Cell) will conduct its annual event "Avinya" on 26th March 2023. The event will be coordinated at DDU Auditorium. The main theme of Avinya is "Indian Innovation's and Scientists" and the program aims to focus on instilling and displaying innovation in various forms while providing guidance and a space of network. The program will be conducted under the expert guidance of Dr. Saurabh Gupta, Professor In-Charge, I-Cell.

Avinya will include four major events including,

the Speaker-sessions, the Pitching event, the Innovation Expo and Open Day. The Speaker-sessions will have four eminent speakers, Sandeep Jain, Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Geeks for Geeks, Bina Trivedi, Managing Partner, IL & FS Investment Managers Ltd., Pranjal Kamra, Co-founder at Finology Ventures Pvt. Ltd., and Mandar Joshi, Angel Investor, Media Producer, Theatre Actor. These powerful personalities from various unicorns and emerging start-ups will give a real-world example of the path to success.

The Pitching event, this technical event organized by I-Cell gives students the stage to present their creative ideas and experience how to present ideas in the best way possible to attract industry experts and capture the public's attention. The audience will bid on the ideas using an application created by I-Cell containing digital currency. The pitchers who manage to get the most profits will be awarded by getting a chance to be incubated by the Incubation Cell, NIT Raipur Foundation for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (NITR-FIE), and receive mentorship and funds to lead

their ideas to success. The Innovation Expo gives an opportunity to students all over central India to showcase their innovative projects and get funding support in the form of seed grants. The students will get to explore the potential of emerging technologies and innovations. The Open day is all about bringing deep intense research work and innovations from labs to the public. In the Open day event, all the Research & Innovation of NIT Raipur will be displayed to the general public to motivate and bring awareness about the current trends in technology.

General holiday declared on occasion of 'Chetri Chandra'

Only in Municipal Corporations and Municipality areas

Raipur, Mar 22: As per the announcement of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, there will be a general holiday in the municipal corporations and the municipality areas of the state on the occasion of Chetrichand (Chautichand) festival on Thursday, March 23, 2023. A notification regarding this holiday has been issued by the General Administration Department, Government of Chhattisgarh.

On March 23, all the banks and other government financial institutions, treasuries, sub-treasuries, co-operative banks etc. will remain open in the state. Also, all the government offices located in Naya Raipur and also those located in the rural areas of the state will remain open.

Road safety lessons will be taught to school students on 'Bag-Free Day'

● New system to be implemented from the new academic session

Raipur, Mar 22: Road safety lessons will be taught to students in government schools every Saturday on the day of Bag Free Day. For this, the training of teachers through master trainers has started in 146 block clusters of the state by the traffic department. From the new academic session, school students will be given practical training along with bookish knowledge regarding traffic safety. Traffic department officials said that this information received every Saturday will be important for the students as well as reduce the number of casualties of school students due to road accidents. During the training of teachers in different packages of the state, information is being given on how to avoid road accidents, first aid after an accident, rules related to traffic safety, etc. Now the questions related to traffic will be asked in the board exam also. In Chhattisgarh, the



number of black spots due to accidents has increased from 104 to 118 in the last one year. This number has increased from seven to 24 in Raipur. Black spots have been identified on the basis of the survey conducted in January-February this year. This report has also been sent to the government. Officials of the traffic department said that along with reducing black spots, the work of marking new black spots is also going on. That's why an increase in numbers is being recorded. If you look at the statistics of the traffic department, there have been 15 thousand deaths in the past years, while

more than 30 thousand have been injured. Such routes where more than seven accidents or more than five deaths or more than 10 accidents are happening within a radius of 500 meters. With the survey of these roads, it is included in the black spot. AIG Traffic Sanjay Sharma said, the traffic and education department has planned to sensitize the students on traffic and road safety in the schools of the state. Under this, training of teachers by master trainers has been started in 146 cluster blocks of the state. Road safety information will be given to the students on the day of Bag Free Day.

Distribution of sewing machines to Self Help Groups

● By Empower Her Committee of Union Bank of India

Raipur, Mar 21: Under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), a program was organised on March 21 by the Empower Her Committee of Union Bank of India, Regional Office Raipur under the guidance of Area Head Mrs. Kavita Srivastava in which Financial assistance was provided to the women entrepreneurs group of Jai Laxmi Self Help of village Tendua and Jai Chhattisgarh self help groups in which sewing machines were distributed. Zonal Head and Area General Manager Mr. Roop Lal Meena was mainly present on this occasion. Union Bank Zonal



Head Mr. Meena said that that at present commendable steps are being taken by the Union Bank in the direction of increasing women empowerment and providing new opportunities for labour employment to women. Area head Mrs. Kavita Srivastava emphasized on increasing the participation of women in social activities and workplaces, as well as highlighting the

loan facilities provided by the bank.

She informed that the bank is approving loans at an attractive rate of interest under Union Nari Shakti Yojana for the development of women entrepreneurs. On this occasion, the women members of the Empower Her Committee Raipur area and the branch managers under regional office Raipur were also present.

Registry offices will remain open till March 31

Bemetara, Mar 22: As per the instructions of the Office of the Director General of Registration and Superintendent of Stamps, Raipur, a letter has been issued regarding continuation of government transactions even on holidays till March 31, 2023. It has been said in the letter issued that the Registration and Stamp Department, through the subordinate registration offices, is registering the documents, under the provisions of the Indian Stamp Act and the Registration Act, in the form of stamp and registration fee, to earn government revenue for the state.

Since it is an important department and there are only a few days left for the completion of the last month of the financial year 2022-23, which includes a total of three days of government

holidays on Saturday 25 March 2023, Sunday 26 March 2023 and Thursday 30 March 2023 (Ram Navami) respectively. Due to the closure of the registry office on these holidays, the registry work of the documents will be affected, due to which it is natural that the revenue earning of the government will also be affected.

Keeping in view the public convenience and government revenue collection, the registration work will be done regularly by keeping the registration office open even on the said holiday. Necessary instructions were given to the district registrar, treasury officer and State Bank of India officials to open the registration office for registration of documents, maintain supply of stamps, and continue official transactions in banks till March 31, 2023.

BJYM team welcomed after victory in Youth Parliament

Raipur, Mar 22: Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) team under the leadership of Chhattisgarh BJYM President Ravi Bhagat were accorded warm welcome on their arrival here after securing 2nd spot in the Youth Parliament held at Chennai in Tamil Nadu on the issues of Tribal Welfare.

Providing the above information in a statement issued here, the BJYM Media in-charge Vikas Mittal said that apart from BJYM Chief Ravi



Bhagat, Bhupendra Nag, Piyush Thakur, Gauri Gupta, Khushboo Banjare and Gagan Mittal had participated in the Youth Parliament. They were ac-

corded warm welcome on their arrival here by Ritesh Mohire, Rohit Maheshwari, Upkar Chandrakar, Govind Gupta and others.

Pranavananda Academy observe World Water Day



Raipur, Mar 22: On the occasion of World Water Day Bharat Sewa Ashram Sangh Pranavananda Academy organised an awareness programme about water conservation. The programme was attended by Dr Anil as chief guest while school secretary Swami Shivarupanand Maharaj,

Dhirendra Mishra, School Principal Mrs Anindita Ghosh and school manager Mahadev Mahato were present as special guests. Dr Anil in his speech wishing all on the occasion of New Year shared his experiences of water conservation. School Manager Mahadev Mahato proposed vote of thanks at the end.

More than 37 lakh trees are being planted in the district

● Under Mukhyamantri Van Sampada Yojana

Jagdalpur, Mar 22: On the occasion of World Forestry Day, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated the Chief Minister Van Sampada Yojana through virtual medium. A target has been set to plant 37 lakh 14 thousand 36 plants on 4694 acres of land by 2083 beneficiaries for the year 2023 through Van Sampada Yojana in Bastar district. In a program organized near Dharampura Dalpat Sagar in Jagdalpur city, 1500 saplings were planted in the land of beneficiary T Kondal Rao. On this occasion former Minister Arvind Netam, Mayor Safira Sahu, Chairman of Fishermen Welfare Board MR Nishad, Vice Chairman of Indravati River Basin Development Authority Rajeev Sharma, CCF



Mohammad Shahid, Collector Chandan Kumar, Divisional Forest Officer DP Sahu,

Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dinesh Nag and Environment including Members

of the committee related to conservation and the beneficiaries of the scheme were present.

On the occasion of World Forestry Day, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel launched the "Mukhya Mantri Vriksha Sampada Yojana" at 42 places in 33 districts through virtual means. On the occasion of the launch of Vriksha Sampada Yojana, the Chief Minister inaugurated the mobile app and online facility of NTPS (Transport Permission) to track the process of issuing Community Forest Resource Rights. In the program, the Chief Minister transferred a total amount of Rs 22 crore to the accounts of 1458 beneficiaries of the state under the Shaheed Mahendra Karma Social Security Scheme. Checks were distributed to 05 beneficiaries in Bastar district by the guests present.

Free medical camp organized by 219 CRPF Battalion



Konta, Mar 22: Under the guidance of Sunit Kumar Rai, DIG CRPF Konta Range and under the direction of Nitin Kumar, Commandant 219th CRPF Battalion, a free medical camp was organized. Through this camp Dr. Adil Aziz (Medical Officer) provided primary care to the villagers suffering from diseases like cold, cough, fever, wounds, joint pain, dengue, malaria, blood pressure, typhoid etc. Medicines were distributed after treatment. Along with this, the prevention and treatment of diseases that arise with the change of season were also explained.

Villagers and school children of Bheji, Pentabheji, Anderpara etc. were benefited in the free check-up camp. Volleyball was distributed to the school children present in the medical camp to increase their enthusiasm towards the game. Apart from this, it was also informed

that 219 CRPF Battalion is always standing with them for the security / cooperation of the villagers in the highly Naxalite affected area like Bheji.

The villagers were informed about the different types of health related schemes being run by the Central and State Government and their benefits. Villagers and children were also informed that if there is any kind of health related disease, then field hospital is always open for free treatment. In the end, food was also provided to all the villagers and children. In the above programme, Neeraj Kumar Singh (Second Commanding Officer), Rehan Ali Khan (Assistant Com.), Uttam Pratap Singh (DSP Bheji), Dr. Adil Aziz (Medical Officer), Devendra Thakur (SHO) subordinate officers and other personnel of 219th CRPF Battalion were present.

Encroachment outside shops removed in Sadar Bazar

Bemetara, Mar 22: The municipality and the revenue team today took action to remove the encroachment made in Sadar Bazar of Bemetara on Monday. The action lasted for about three-four hours. Police forces were also present in terms of security. However, no dispute arose during the removal of the encroachment.

Due to the encroachment on the roadside, the beauty of the city was also getting affected and people were also facing traffic related problems. Complaints were being made about this for a long time back. Taking this into

cognizance under the leadership of Sub-Divisional Officer (R) Suruchi Singh, with the help of about 100 women commandos, the goods were arranged to organize the traffic facilities by keeping the goods back in the shop from the streets outside the shops in Sadar Bazar. Revenue Department issued challan with the joint team of municipality and police department. During the action, Deputy Collector Pinky Manhar, Municipal Officer Bemetra Bhupendra Upadhyay, In-charge Tehsildar Roshan Sahu, Naib Tehsildar Neelam Pinda and revenue staff were present.

BJP's six member committee reaches Bhejripadar

Jagdalpur, Mar 22: BJP State President Arun Sao constituted a 6-member inquiry committee regarding the dispute in Bhejripadar village of Bastar district. In which former Minister Nankiram Kanwar, National Treasurer Ajja Dinesh Kashyap, Kiran Dev, Rajaram Todem and Shivnaraya Pandey have been included. On Tuesday, the members of the BJP committee and other BJP

leaders left for village Bhejripadar, but the police had blocked the way. After which the BJP leader reached village Bhejripadar on foot from another route where a large number of villagers were present. The villagers kept their point before the 6-member inquiry committee of BJP.

The villagers informed BJP's 6-member inquiry committee that on the night of March 19, the converted

woman, Mate Beko of Bhejripadar village had died. When her relatives started the procedure for burial of the dead body of the woman in the crematorium located in the village, the villagers blocked their way and protested against the burial of the dead body. The villagers said that only after coming back to the original religion, after the process of caste purification, the dead body would be

allowed to be cremated. After which the dispute with the Christian missionary members deepened. Meanwhile, the matter of fighting between the two sides also came to the fore. In this fight, along with Sirha of the village, Dugru's S/o Gagaru, Maso's S/o Laxman, Umesh's S/o Hadmo, Khaim's S/o Pandru and Raju's S/o Boda were injured.

All India Steel Conclave to be held from March 25-26



President Sanjay Tripathi, General Secretary Banke Bihari Agarwal said that new technology, quality, control, networking, sharing as well as green steel will be discussed in this conclave. This will include manufacturers as well as suppliers.

They informed that Chhattisgarh is the

third largest steel producing state in the country. Along with the problems faced by steel industries, there will also be a discussion on the diagnosis of those problems. Along with this, cultural programs will also be held here on the evening of March 25. Along with this, Bollywood actor

Anupam Kher will appear in the concluding session on March 26. They informed that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will be the chief guest at the inauguration ceremony. Along with this, Union Ministers Jyotiraditya Scindia and Nitin Gadkari have also been invited.

OBITUARY

Dinesh Fumda

Raipur: Dinesh Fumda, R/o Shankar Nagar, breathed his last here on Tuesday. The final journey will leave from his residence on March 22 at 11:00 am to Marwari Crematorium. He was close relative of Shailesh, Manish, Pankaj Chandak.

● 700 representatives from 15 states to participate

Raipur, Mar 22: All India Steel Conclave is being organized by Chhattisgarh Steel Re Rollers. This conclave

will be held on March 25 and 26 at Mayfair Lake Resort, Nava Raipur. About 700 delegates from 15 states across the country will participate in it. For the first time such a big national level event is being organized in secondary steel sector

Chhattisgarh Steel Re Rollers Association

Four from Govt Primary School get berth in JUY

From Bahana Kadi in Arang Block

Central Chronicle News

Mandir Hasoud, Mar 22: On selection of students from Gram Bahana Kadi, which is a small village about 16 kms from capital city on Raipur-Chandkhuri road, offered sweets to entire teaching staff on their selection in Jawahar Utkarsh Yojana. Few days back on completion of golden jubilee of the School, all the teachers were felicitated along with that of villagers.

It was out of total 5 seats under Jawahar Utkarsh Yojana (JUY) in Raiur district for ST category, four seats were secured by students from Bahana Kadi and gave a big gift to people of the village and is in itself a big achievement.

On the other hand, the Naveen Khadan para school in Bahana Kadi is facing teachers shortage and it is the sheer hard-work of the teachers that the school is achieving new records and from where so far around 40 students have got selected for Navodaya Vidyalaya and JNY.

It is under leadership of Sarpanch Bahana Kadi - Ashok Banjare and with assistance from the state government, all the basic amenities are available in the Government School like attractive painting; swings; garden, digital black-board; computer music; all musical instruments and others.

At the same time, the students of the school are proving their mettle in the studies and the selection of 4 out of five seats in JNY from ST category stands testimony to it.



The Tribal Welfare Department organised Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru Jawahar Utkarsh Yojana 23-24 in Salem English Medium School in Raipur and in this there were 7 seats reserved (5 for SC and 2 for ST). The merit list was declared on Friday last.

Last year also 4 students from Bahana Kadi of Arang block got place

among top ranks in the merit list and in this the first place went to Satish Sonwani S/o Suresh Sonwani with 94% marks; second to Yash Bharti S/o Parmeshwar Bharti with 90.5% marks (both from Govt Primary School, Bahana Kadi) and Sandhya Narang D/o Santu Ram Narang got 85.25% marks; Mayank Banjare, S/o Ashok

Banjare got 83.75% marks and both from Govt Naveen Primary School, Khadan para Bahana Kadi. This has brought air of happiness among all the residents of the village and among teaching staff comprising- Karuna Verma, Head Mistress; teacher- Archana Das, Bhawana Dhruv, Ranu and from Naveen Primary School Khadanpara - Laxmi Narayan Barle; Anita Tiwar; Sunit Verma, Vimala Narang, Sona Dhritlahare. All children were offered sweets and they all wished all the best to them in their future endeavours.

On this occasion Sarpanch Ashok Banjare, Anita Banjare- President Shala Vikas Samiti; Dilip Narang, Suresh Kurre, Santu Ram Narang, Suresh Sonwani, Parmeshwar Bharti and others were present.

Collector directs to ensure strict compliance

Of PC-PNDT Act in all Health Institutions



Central Chronicle News

Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur, Mar 22: The meeting of District-level Consultative Committee was held under the chairmanship of the Collector cum authorise officer in-charge PC-PNDT Act PS Dhruv. In teh meeting, Collector held discussions

on the correspondence received for the health institutions under the Act and gave necessary directions.

During this he took information about the registered Sonography centre, licence validity and others. He said that it is an important Act. He gave instructions to conduct regular inspection in

such centres and ensure strict compliance of PC-PNDT Act. He said that to provide better health services is our top priority. Discussions were held on providing of documents under PC-PNDT Act from the registered institutions. In the meeting the members of the Samiti put forth their views.

Police intensifies day-night patrolling Science Model competition held in GRPEEMS

In view of 'Navratri festival'

Central Chronicle News

Balod, Mar 22: The Balod police is conducting day and night patrolling on foot on daily basis and police jawans have been deployed in chowks and triangles in view of traffic for the forthcoming 'Navratri' festival beginning from tomorrow.

As per instructions from SP Dr JK Yadav, and under guidance of Adl. SP Harish Rathore and under supervision of all the gazetted police officers and all TIs and Check-post in-charges night and day patrolling in the chowks,



market, 'haat', temple premises has been started in view of 'Navratri festival'. The common public is being apprised about safety and security to be taken. The movement of Balod

city police has increased in the market and roads and police force has been deployed at important places in the city and they all are keeping close eye on the anti-social elements

during 'Navratri'. In case of any problems, people have been asked to get in touch with the nearest police station and do not take law in their hands.

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Mar 22: The Science and Maths Club of Government Rambhishal Pandey Excellent English Medium School (GR-PEEMS) in city organised Science Model competition. It was under the guidance of Club in-charge Lecturer Samiksha Gaikwad that Science Club keeps organising variety of activities in the School.

Under this competitions in quiz, poster-making and fancy dress were organised earlier in the School. In the same series, a Science Model Competition was organised by Science and Maths Club and in this students



of Primary and Higher Secondary took part with great enthusiasm and also exhibited their talent.

Principal Sanjay Ekka hailed the participation of the students who made variety of attractive Science models. As judges

Lecturer/ NCC officer Sagar Sharma, Lecturer Kamal Sonkar, Gopal Dewangan, Pranti Chandrakar, Yogita Dewangan, Monica Malviya, Narayan Sahu, Neha Singh, Upasana Bhagat, Kanchan Chandrakar, Jitendra Sahu were present.

At primary level in the Science Model- Sidhant Gende of Class V came first; second place was won by Jigyasa Sonkar, Daksha Sahu and Sakshi Dewangan of Class V. At middle school level-Devpriyar Sahu of Class VII came first; second place was won by- Shreyya Sahu, Diksha Sahu and Mahi Sahu (group) all from Class VII.

In this programme, Neeta Yadav, Kailash Sahu, Sakshi Jape, Pinki Tarak, Praniti Chandrakar, Yogita Dewangan, Monica Malviya, Narayan Sahu, Neha Singh, Upasana Bhagat, Kanchan Chandrakar, Jitendra Sahu were present.

Villagers meet Collector on deepening water crisis

In Gram Chichbod of Gunderdehi block

Say that water from some private borewells is being used for agriculture purpose; resulting in water shortage

Central Chronicle News

Balod, Mar 22: The drinking water problem in Gram Chichbod of Gunderdehi block of Balod district has started. The villagers on reaching Collectorate informed the Collector that few persons in the name of drinking water connection are supplying water in the farms and are taking power connection from the power available in the village. Due to this the water-level in the village has come down drastically and here the private borewells, are being used for agriculture



works and it needs to be stopped.

Water level reducing: Villager Tikam Singh Sen informed that the

water-level in the village has reduced considerably and it is just the start of summer season that drinking water crisis has

emerged in the village. They said that therefore they have come to the local administration to put forth their problems.

They informed that it is promoted in the region not to take paddy crop during summer season, but despite this some person on private basis the borewells are dug in the name of party and then entire water from it is used for farming and agriculture works. Due to which the water-level in village has reduced drastically.

Connection be snapped off:

Some persons of Gram Chichbod taking connection from main line and using borewell from their houses are using the water for agriculture works. Due to this the villagers are facing electricity problem. The villagers said that if no timely action is taken, then they will land in trouble, as all the water resources have started drying-up and people will be forced to fetch water from far-flung areas.

Rohit Sahu gifts transformer on demand of villagers

Central Chronicle News

Fingeshwar, Mar 22: The villagers of Fingeshwar, dependent Village Binori, Purena were facing the problem of low voltage and electricity connection for the last 4 years and due to which even the fan was not working properly in summer. Apart from this, the motor pumps were responding, many problems were happening continuously.

Regarding this, the people of the village kept demanding from the public representatives to the departmental officers, but all of them used to give assurances and give assurances. People of Binauri village reached in large numbers to member Rohit Sahu and shared their grief, on which he assured to complete it soon and talked to



the officials of the electricity department to get the work done, after which he took immediate action and 63 HP transformer was installed and electricity was supplied to their homes by pulling the wire.

The villagers were happy because of the timely availability of electricity and good voltage as at present, the board exams of school students are going on. In this regard, District Panchayat member Rohit Sahu told that the problem of the village

is our problem; it is our endeavor to ensure that there is no problem of low voltage anywhere. This was a long awaited demand of the people of the village, which I am also happy to fulfill, he said.

A large number of villagers, including Sarpanch Kejaw Ram Nishad, Panch Neelkanth, Tikam Vishwanath, Sheetal, Paras, Chhavi, Dhruv, Babulal, Hiralal, Khoju, Agesar, Premlal, Santosh, Kishan were present.

Meeting of SBS and Women's Forum concludes

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Mar 22: The organizational meeting of Sarva Brahmin Samaj district and Rajim Fingeshwar area youth forum was held there in which State and national president of the society, Lalit Mishra, presided over the meeting. District President of Mahila Manch Chhaya Rahi, Rajim Fingeshwar Area Mahila Manch President Seema Sharma, State Secretary of Mahila Manch Padma Dubey, State Minister Tanu Mishra, State General Secretary of the Society Manish Dubey, Sagar Sharma, Subhash Sharma.

The Manch's Gariaband district and Rajim Fingeshwar area office bearers were unanimously formed legally. In the welcome speech, Sagar Sharma said that by adding the



youth of Rajim Gariaband to the main stream of the country and the state, along with youth personality development, their constructive utilization in the interest of the society is the priority of the meeting. National President Lalit Mishra propounded the important role of youth in the society. Manish Dubey called upon the youth that the onus is on the youth to empower the society with full force with deafening chants of Lord Parshuram. The program was conducted by Pandit Dikeshwar Sharma and Rakesh Shukla and the vote of thanks was done by Organization

Secretary Hemant Sharma. Officials declared by consensus in the meeting Yuva Manch, Vice President in District Officers- Gaurav Mishra Chhura, Gautam Sharma Panduka, General Secretary Pt. Dikeshwar Sharma, Secretary Rakesh Shukla, Joint Secretary Ashish Sharma, Organization Secretary Hemant Sharma, Publicity Secretary Ayush Sharma, Media Incharge Anuj Dubey, Publicity Minister Vineet Dubey And Sapan Sharma, Saurabh Mishra, District President of the branch Purohit Manch of Sarva Brahmin Samaj, Rajim Area President



Yatharth Sharma Kirwai, Yuvamanch Rajim City Officer- President Pt Vijay Sharma, Vice President Satish Malviya and Sudhir Sharma, Secretary Pankaj Dubey, Joint Secretary Jai Sharma, Organization Ministers Neeraj Dubey and Sumit Dubey, Organization Secretaries Amit Sharma and Yogesh Sharma, Publicity Minister Ayush Sharma, Media Incharge Sanskar Mishra Fingeshwar Block Yuva Manch President - Saurabh Rohan Sharma Artery, Vice President Mayank Sharma, Secretary Shesh Kumar Sharma Board, State Officer in State General

Secretary Manish Dubey, State Secretary Subhash Sharma, Mahila Manch State Secretary Padma Dubey, State Minister Tanu Mishra, State Executive Members Preeti Pandey, Mahila Manch District Executive Member Laxmi Dubey, District cum Media Incharge Dev Means Pandey, District Joint Secretary Manisha Sharma was made in the meeting mainly Pushpa Sharma, Ashok Sharma, Arvind Sharma, Vimal Sharma, Vinita Sharma, Amit Sharma, Ram Sharma, Vikash Sharma, Pandit Pradyuman Pandey Shastri are included.

NAME CHANGE	NAME CHANGE	CHANGE MY DATE OF BIRTH
It is informed to The General Public That I, Neeru Lunia W/o Vinod Jain Resident of H. No. 26, South Avenue, Kamla Niwas, Choubey Colony, Raipur (C.G.) Pincode-492001. Have Changed My old Name Neeru Lunia W/o Vinod Jain so in Future I Should be Recognised by My New Name that is Neeru Jain W/o Vinod Jain in all Government and other documents Neeru Jain H. No. 26, South Avenue, Kamla Niwas, Choubey Colony, Raipur C.G.) Pincode-492001	It is informed to The General Public That I, Vinod Lunia S/o Akheraj Lunia Resident of H. No. 26, South Avenue, Kamla Niwas, Choubey Colony, Raipur (C.G.) Pincode-492001. Have Changed My old Name Vinod Lunia S/o Akheraj Lunia so in Future I Should be Recognised by My New Name that is Vinod Jain S/o Akheraj Lunia in all Government and other documents Vinod Jain H. No. 26, South Avenue, Kamla Niwas, Choubey Colony, Raipur C.G.) Pincode-492001	I ANJLI DEVI Spouse of Jc. 422333A Sub. maj. KULDIP SINGH, Res. vill- Nandhan, Po. Town Bharari, Teh. Bhoranj, Dist.- Hamirpur (H.P.) Pin-176041 have Changed my Date of Birth Form 25 Aug 1981 to 25 Aug 1982, Vide Affidavit Date- 21 March 2023 Raipur (C.G.).

BRIEF



People dressed in traditional attire look at a procession celebrating the Marathi New Year, 'Gudi Padwa', at Girgaon in Mumbai, Wednesday.

Celebrations

■ **Hyderabad:** Ugadi, the Telugu New Year, was celebrated with traditional fervour across Telangana on Wednesday. The new year is known as 'Sobakrut'. People consumed the traditional Ugadi 'pachadi' (chutney) made of raw mango, tamarind, neem flowers, jaggery, salt and black pepper powder which symbolises that life is a mixture of all emotions.

Dedicated

■ **Latur:** The Maharashtra government has given approval for a 75-foot tall 'Statue of Knowledge' dedicated to Dr B. R. Ambedkar in Latur city, local MP Sudhakar Shrangare said on Wednesday. He had submitted a proposal in this regard, he said. On Tuesday, the state government issued an order regarding the statue and also the beautification of the Ambedkar Park in the city, the BJP MP said, adding that Rs 10 crore have been sanctioned for the entire project.

e-buses

■ **Thane:** The Thane Municipal Corporation in Maharashtra plans to replace its public transport buses in the city, adjoining Mumbai, and has so far introduced 11 e-buses, including a few air-conditioned ones.

Run over

■ **Sultanpur:** Three persons were killed and one other was seriously injured after a four-wheeler allegedly ran over them near Arjo Ishipur village on Chanda-Kadipur road on Wednesday, police said. The incident took place in the Chanda Kotwali area of this Uttar Pradesh district in which the vehicle hit four pedestrians, killing two women on the spot, they said.

Mishap

■ **Kancheepuram:** Seven workers are feared dead in an accident at a firecracker unit near here on Wednesday and at least nine others suffered injuries, police said. The cause of the accident at the firecracker manufacturing unit, which also has a storage facility, is not clear and a probe is on.

AI art fest in Bengaluru to address climate change

Bengaluru, Mar 22 (PTI):

A three-day festival here spanning the physical and virtual worlds will witness artworks, performances, gaming and installations created in collaboration between artists across India and the UK using Artificial Intelligence that convey the urgency of the climate emergency.

FutureFantastic, conceptualised by Jaaga's BeFantastic of Bengaluru in collaboration with FutureEverything of Manchester will be hosted at the Bangalore International Centre from March 24 to 26. It is part of the India/UK Together, Season of Culture that brings together artists from the two countries to address shared global challenges such as climate change, environment sustainability, equality and gender among others.

The audience will get a chance to interact with innovative, AI-powered interactive artworks, as well as to investigate the role of art and technology

through panel discussions and workshops led by experts in technology, arts, and climate action, the organisers said.

The focus of the festival is to find potential creative solutions to the climate crisis by asking questions of how AI Art can create a personal and emotional connection to the impacts of climate change and how it can help in envisioning a climate-positive future.

It will feature home-grown and international artworks and performances, including works by Madhu Natraj, Nicole Seiler, Jake Elwes, and BeFantastic Within.

It will also offer conversations between experts and enthusiasts in the fields of art, technology, and climate which will explore how AI Art can best help generate public awareness around environmental issues. TechArt workshops will aim to debunk myths about AI technology, art, and climate change, and offer simple yet effective methods for understanding and re-

sponding to the climate emergency, a statement said.

The festival includes curated artworks by internationally recognised artists, as well as nine commissioned pieces created by collaborative artist groups from the BeFantastic Fellowship programmes.

The headline performance by Madhu Natraj, an Indian contemporary dance choreographer; Jia-Yu Liu, a UK-based media artist; and Bjoern Lengers, a German CreaTech artist, Give me a Sign, will trigger stories about the fears of a rapidly changing climate, the statement said. Asthir Gehrayee (Unstable Depth) is an audiovisual artwork inspired by the ocean and its more-than-human inhabitants, it added. According to Jonathan Kennedy, director arts - India at British Council, "Climate change is the most urgent global challenge of our time. The FutureFantastic festival is perhaps the world's first AI and Arts festival with artists in CreaTec and per-

forming arts from Bengaluru and Manchester, and around the world collaborating to create innovative new pieces of art, games and immersive digital and live performance experiences addressing water conservation, a torrent of waste and endangered habitats." Kamy Ramachandran, founder director of Be Fantastic, said, "This is a moment to mark within the city where a techart festival triggers conversation around two complex concepts like Artificial Intelligence and climate change. "After three years of enabling artists and creative technologists to come together online from various time zones, for a sincere exchange of knowledge, ideas and viewpoints, we are excited to present artworks and performances, workshops, and artist sharings with layers of AI and are delighted to have the support of partners like British Council and Rohini and Nandan Nilekani Philanthropies."

TEMPLE INAUGURATED



Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation Amit Shah inaugurates Maa Sharda Devi temple at Kupwara in Jammu and Kashmir, via video conferencing, Wednesday.

CU of Kerala to confer honorary doctorate on P T Usha

Kasaragod (Kerala), Mar 22 (PTI):

The Central University of Kerala on Wednesday said it would confer an honorary doctorate on legendary track and field athlete P T Usha in recognition of her immense contributions to the field of sports.

Usha is a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha and the president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

This will be the first honorary doctorate awarded by the Central University of Kerala, an

official statement said.

Representing India, Usha has won 33 medals, including 19 golds, in the Asian Games and Asian Championship.

She was the first Indian athlete to win medals in four consecutive Asian Games and also six medals, including five gold, in the Jakarta Asian Athletic Meet in 1985. "Usha is the star who has given many moments that have made the country proud," the university said.

The former athlete heads the Usha School of

Athletics in Kinaloor, which has produced numerous successful athletes, who over 20 years have won 79 international medals for India so far.

"She is widely regarded as the genius who paved a strong athletic culture in the country," the university said.

University Vice Chancellor Prof H Venkateshwarlu said it was the duty of the university to honour those who are role models for the nation. "The life and achievements of P T Usha inspire students."

Man in skirt breaks gender stereotypes with Insta reel of ramp walk

Mumbai, Mar 22 (PTI):

A man in a stunning black skirt doing a ramp walk in a local train compartment of males made heads turn, garnering him more than 73,000 likes and 1,800 comments on Instagram. In the video, Shivam Bhardwaj, who goes by the Instagram handle "theguyinaskirt", is seen in a black ensemble walking across the compartment as commuters look on stunned, some of them amused.

"When I was editing my reel, I saw people's reactions to my ramp walk in the local train and it was shocking. Some people were left with their mouths wide open, but there was also a man who came up to me and asked if I am an artist and that made me happy that there are people who understand," the 24-year-old told PTI. Shivam, who is a part of the LGBTQ community, identifies himself as a gay man who sup-

ports gender neutrality. The lad from Uttar Pradesh's Meerut believes make-up and clothing such as skirts should not be restricted to any gender. "Men can wear skirts too. Because it hasn't been seen in Indian society, it is very shocking for people around and they don't want to believe that a boy is wearing a skirt. However, I do believe times are changing," Shivam said.

"When women can wear a pantsuit, men can also wear a skirt and it won't affect their manhood, if you're a man you will stay a man even if you wear a skirt," he reasoned.

Shivam knew that he always wanted to do something in fashion, but his parents' acceptance and approval did not come easily. Shivam was asked to leave his home when he was 19 as he was making fashion content which was against the wishes of his father who wanted his son to be a chartered accountant.

'Barring married individuals from applying for JAG in army reasonable'

New Delhi, Mar 22 (PTI):

The Centre on Wednesday defended before the Delhi High Court the policy barring married individuals from applying for Judge Advocate General (JAG), the legal officer in the army, and said considering the "effects of marriage", the bar is a "reasonable restriction placed in public interest and the interest of national security".

In an additional affidavit filed in response to a petition challenging the embargo, the Central government said the condition of being unmarried for grant of commission to cadets aged 21-27 years is "restricted only for the period of recruitment and pre-commissioned training" which involves a high amount of stress and rigours of military training and the restriction on marriage before successful commission is in the interest of the candidates as well as organisation.

CENTRE TO HC

A bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Sachin Datta granted time to petitioner Kush Kalra to file his response to the Centre's stand.

Last year, the high court had asked the Centre to explain the reason behind the policy on an affidavit while remarking that the policy barring married individuals from applying for the post "does not make any sense". The Centre, in its earlier affidavit filed in March 2019, said that right to marry cannot be a right to life under the Constitution and there was no discrimination on the basis of marital status of the candidates. The authorities have sought dismissal of the PIL saying the Constitution does not stipulate right to marry as a fundamental right.

In the latest affidavit, the Centre submitted that in the Indian Army, both males

and females are treated equally and all army personnel have similar qualification requirements for basic military training and in all types of entries, "unmarried clause" is common.

It explained that once the unmarried cadets complete their training and are granted commission, there is no bar on marriage or its "natural consequences" like pregnancy and several service benefits are also given, but during conduct of basic military training that lasts for minimum one year, such provisions are not possible. "Since pregnancy and giving birth to a child is considered as natural right for a woman and she cannot be deprived of that, while formulating the rules such precautionary conditions have been laid down in the interest of women candidates themselves," the reply said.

"With regard to male officers the answering respon-

dents, without prejudice, respectfully submit that the rigour of training and initial years of service do not permit an officer to get married during training or to address certain requirements of married life to include situations of emergency," it added.

The Centre informed the court that an absence of more than three weeks during training leads to the cadets losing a term and being relegated to a junior term and further absence leads to discharge. "Having regard to the effects of marriage, the bar of marriage is a reasonable restriction placed in public interest and national security... due to such thought of policy governing the entry of males and females in Indian Army, either men or women officers, do not require them to resign or give up their service due to marriage or marriage related natural consequences if they get married after completion of training and are

granted commission," the additional affidavit said.

"Thus, the prohibition of marriage during training period and before successful commission is felt to be a reasonable restriction put in the interest of the candidates as well as organisation," asserted the document. The court was also informed that married cadets are permitted to undergo pre-commission training in three entries, which are "in-service entries" and provide career opportunities to serving soldiers. The eligible age bracket for these entries is "comparatively higher" and most have already undergone basic military training at the relevant time, the additional affidavit added.

In the PIL, petitioner Kush Kalra, a lawyer who was represented by advocate Charu Wali Khanna, has termed as "institutionalised discrimination" the restriction on married individuals from being considered for JAG.

PRAYERS TO SUN



Young devotees offer prayers to the rising sun on the occasion of Hindu New Year, at Shankaracharya Ghat in Varanasi, Wednesday.

BJP alleges corruption behind landfill fire

In Kochi

New Delhi, Mar 22 (PTI):

The BJP claimed on Wednesday that corruption involving kin of the Left and Congress functionaries in Kerala led to the absence of a waste-management plan and a consequent fire at a landfill in Kochi, and demanded a CBI probe into the matter.

BJP leader Prakash Javadekar, who is in the charge of his party's affairs in the state, alleged involvement of son-in-law of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan besides sons-in-law of a former Left Democratic Front

(LDF) and a Congress leader in the "monumental" corruption which caused the man-made disaster recently.

"There are three sons-in-law, two companies and a big scam. The LDF and the UDF have come together in looting Kerala," he said, claiming that the companies assigned to deal with waste management in the city are linked to the kin of politicians.

There was no immediate reaction from the Left and the Congress to the charge levelled by the former Union minister at a BJP press conference here. Kerala BJP leaders, including Union minister V Muraliedharan and former Union minister K J

Alphons, were part of the presser.

"I am directly saying that the chief minister has taken interest," Javadekar said.

Noting that the high court in the state has taken up the matter on its own, he expressed hope that it will order a CBI probe into the issue.

While the Left is in power in Kerala, the Congress is the main opposition party. Both are now together in looting the state, Javadekar alleged.

He noted that the landfill caught fire on March 2 and it continued for nearly 15 days, causing medical complications to a large number of people as

thousands were forced to leave the smoking zone. Answering a question, he said the Centre will also act over the issue.

While the solid management rules were notified by the Centre in 2016, the Kerala government never followed them, leading to a complete "mismanagement" of waste all over the state, he said. Javadekar was the Union environment minister then. He said the firm chosen for the waste management in Kochi received a Rs 54 crore-contract and it in turn subcontracted the task to other firms for over Rs 22 crore. "Rs 32 crore went straight into its pocket," the BJP leader claimed.

Lone West Bengal Congress MLA takes oath

Kolkata, Mar 22 (PTI):

Bayron Biswas, the lone Congress MLA of the West Bengal Assembly took oath as a member of the House on Wednesday, 20 days after he won a bye-election.

Speaker Biman Banerjee administered oath to Biswas who said he would strive to fight for the people's issues on the floor of the House.

The Congress which drew a blank in the 2021

assembly election in the state secured a seat as Biswas wrested the minority-dominated Sagardighi constituency from the ruling Trinamool Congress in a by-poll held last month. He was supported by the CPI(M)-led Left Front.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Sandhya Rani Tudu was the lone TMC legislator who was present at the oath-taking ceremony. A few BJP MLAs and senior

Congress leaders were also there.

Speaking over the delay in the oath-taking ceremony, Biswas said he had been a TMC legislator; his oath-taking ceremony would have been completed within a week.

"Just because I am a Congress MLA; it took 20 days to organise my oath-taking ceremony," he said.

The result of the by-poll to Sagardighi in Murshidabad district was announced on March 2.

"The people of Sagardighi have allowed me to serve them and the people of the state. I will fight for the people's issues on the floor of the House. I would aim to uphold my party's views and fight the corrupt TMC regime and divisive forces," he told reporters.

Biswas's victory from Sagardighi has kicked off a war of words, with Chief Minister and TMC supreme Mamata Banerjee accusing the Congress of

having a tacit understanding with the BJP in the state.

The TMC recently also announced that it will maintain equidistance from the BJP and the Congress and would try to align with regional parties to fight the saffron camp in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Meanwhile, hours before the oath-taking ceremony of Biswas, TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh demanded his ar-

rest accusing him of abusing TMC leader Sanjay Jain and his mother over the phone.

Ghosh released an audio clip in which the Congress MLA allegedly used abusive words against Jain, a TMC leader of Dhuliyan in Murshidabad district and his mother.

"In a civilised society, this is not acceptable. We demand that the police initiate legal action against him," Ghosh said.

PTI could not independ-

ently verify the authenticity of the audio clip.

Reacting to Ghosh's allegation, Biswas dubbed it as baseless and politically motivated.

"These are being fabricated as the TMC is yet to digest its defeat in the Sagardighi by-poll," he said. In the 2021 assembly elections, the Congress and the Left Front failed to open their account in the West Bengal Assembly for the first time since independence.

Barricades, Cops at Indian Mission in London shortly after India's move

London, Mar 22:

More policemen and barricades were installed outside the Indian High Commission in London on Wednesday ahead of a planned protest, in an apparent effort to prevent a repeat of the vandalism seen three days ago.

The step came shortly after the police in New Delhi removed traffic barricades outside the British High Commission, in a move interpreted by some as a demonstration of India's displeasure with the breach in London.

Police officers, liaison officers, and patrol officers were seen on duty outside



the building known as India Place in central London, where a giant Indian flag remained strung between windows following Sunday's incident. India had summoned a

senior British diplomat in Delhi after the demonstration at the High Commission in Aldwych where windows were broken, and the Indian flag was taken down from the first-floor balcony of the building by a protester before it was rescued by an official. The Ministry of External Affairs issued a statement saying the senior diplomat had been asked to explain "the complete absence of British security" as the crowd targeted the building, waving yellow "Khalistan" banners. The protest had been called over a massive

manhunt in India for Amritpal Singh, a supporter of the Khalistan movement who has been on the run since Saturday. Followed by hundreds of armed supporters, he had stormed a police station last month. Commenting on the removal of barricades outside the British High Commission, a senior police officer in Delhi told news agency PTI, "The security arrangements... are intact. However, barricades placed on the pathway towards the Commission that created hurdles for commutation have been removed."

Afghan Taliban raid in Kabul kills 3 Islamic State members

Islamabad, Mar 22 (AP):

An overnight raid by Taliban forces in Afghanistan's capital killed three members of the extremist Islamic State group, a Taliban spokesman said on Wednesday.

The regional affiliate of the Islamic State group known as the Islamic State in Khorasan Province has been the key rival of the Taliban since their takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021.

The militant group has increased its attacks, targeting both Taliban patrols and members of

Afghanistan's Shiite minority.

According to Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban government spokesman, the operation on Tuesday targeted an IS hideout in Kabul and killed three prominent members of the militant group who were plotting attacks during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, which starts at sundown on Wednesday.

"The IS members used the hideout to carry out attacks in Kabul city and planned to target religious places and civilians during the upcoming month of Ramadan," Mujahid said.

**भारत सरकार
GOVT. OF INDIA**
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य प्रशिक्षण केंद्र
Rural Health Training Centre
नजफगढ़, नई दिल्ली-43
Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043

F.No. 2-7(MO)/2023-RTC/5310 Dated: 07.03.2023

Walk-in-Interview

The Director, Rural Health Training Centre, Najafgarh, New Delhi-43 invites applications for engagement of the posts of Specialist Doctors (Medical Specialist-2, Surgery Specialist-2, Obstetrics & Gynaecology Specialist-2, Paediatrician-1, Anaesthetist (Regular Trained)-2, ENT Surgeon-1, Orthopaedics-1) and General Duty Doctors-6, Dental Surgeon-1, Ayush Physician-1 on the basis of walk-in-interview. The prescribed format for applying along with the details of posts, eligibility criteria, remuneration, date of walk-in-interview and the other terms & conditions will be available on the websites of Directorate General of Health Services and Rural Health Training Centre (www.dghs.gov.in & www.rhtcnajafgarh.in). Applications may be submitted to the Director, RHTC by post or at email: hundredbeddedhospital@gmail.com, within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice. Candidates are advised to visit these websites at regular intervals for all further notifications.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
RURAL HEALTH TRAINING CENTRE
NAJAFGARH, NEW DELHI-110043

CBC 17133/12/0002/2223

CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER GENERATION COMPANY LIMITED
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (S&P-Gen) 5th Floor,
Vidya Sewa Bhawan, Danganiya, Raipur - Pin 492013
Phone: 071-2574451/61 Fax: 071-2574488 e-mail: esop.cgstate.cpsc.co.in web site: www.esop.co.in

No. 03-03/TN-648/22-23/6067 Raipur, Dtd. 21 / 03/2023

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. TN-648/22-23

Online bids are invited by the undersigned through CSPCL e-bidding system (SAP SRM) from experienced & reputed contractors for Supply/works as mentioned below:-

Sr. No.	Tender Specification	Description	Due date & time for bid submission
1.	EW-742/22-23 [Rf. No. 8100030417] (With RLA)	Preventive/routine maintenance of mechanical equipment/machine installed in CHP/INT at 1x500MW, HTPS, Korba (West)	Up to 17.04.2023 15:00 Hrs
2.	HW-743/22-23 [Rf. No. 8100030422] (Without RLA)	COH of Ducts & Dumpers of 210MW ABL make Boiler of U # 3 of HTPS, Korba (West)	Up to 17.04.2023 15:00 Hrs
3.	HW-744/22-23 [Rf. No. 8100030423] (With RLA)	COH of Tubular Air Heaters of 210MW ABL make Boiler of Unit # 3 of HTPS, Korba (West)	Up to 17.04.2023 15:00 Hrs
4.	HW-745/22-23 [Rf. No. 8100030425] (With RLA)	Daily cleaning work of T.G. House and Ash. Building of Unit No. 1 to 4, HTPS, CSPGCL, Korba (West) for a period of 730 days.	Up to 17.04.2023 15:00 Hrs
5.	IP-746/22-23 [Rf. No. 8100030431] (With RLA)	Supply of Essential and Emergent medicines with Generic name for HTPS, CSPGCL, Hospital, Korba West.	Up to 17.04.2023 15:00 Hrs
6.	IP-747/22-23 [Rf. No. 8100030432] (Without RLA)	Supply of Modified AH frames, Material - AISI 304 for tubular air heater for 2x210MW, HTPS, CSPGCL, Korba (West)	Up to 17.04.2023 15:00 Hrs

The details of NIT can be viewed from our website www.cspcl.co.in. The Tender Documents can be viewed and downloaded online from our e-bidding portal: - <https://ebidding.cspcl.co.in:50724/irj/portal> Any amendment/ corrigendum, including bid submission & opening date, if required, will be displayed on our website only.

-SD-
Executive Director (S&P-Gen)
CSPGCL, Raipur

"SAVE ELECTRICITY" S-36033/1

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
KELO PROJECT SURVEY DIVISION RAIGARH
DISTT. - RAIGARH (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(FIRST-CALL)

System Tender No. 127547/NIT No.: 02/SAC/2022-23
Dated : 20.03.2023

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 10.04.2023 at 17.30 Hours

Name of Work - PROTECTION WORK OF KELO MAIN CANAL RIGHT FLANK BETWEEN RD 1627.50 M. TO RD 1777.50 M., RD 3560 M. TO RD 3600 M. & LEFT FLANK RD 3555 M. TO RD 3575 M. OF KELO PROJECT.

Probable Amount of Contract :- Rs. 580.75 Lakhs
(Probable Amount of Contract is based on SOR 22.08.2022)

The details can be viewed & downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 27.03.2023 at 17.31 Hours (IST) onwards.

Note: All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the integrated e-Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under centralized contractor/ supplier registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
KELO PROJECT SURVEY DIVISION
RAIGARH (C.G.)

G-99471/2

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
EXAMINATION SECTION

ADMISSION NOTICE NO. 46/2023

F.No. AIIMS/7-10/Exam.Sec./(B.Sc-M.Sc-2023)/2023 **09.02.2023**

Admission Notice for B.Sc. (H) Nursing/B.Sc. Nursing (Post-Basic)/B.Sc. (Paramedical Courses) and M.Sc Nursing/ M.Sc. courses/M. Biotechnology for session August-2023 at AIIMS New Delhi & other AIIMS

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi invites online applications (Basic Registration followed by Generation of Code and Final Registration) for Entrance Examinations leading to admission for subject cited above courses in below mentioned schedule :-

SCHEDULE FOR UNDER-GRADUATE COURSES	
Basic Registration (PAAR) for B.Sc. (H) Nursing/B.Sc. Nursing (Post-Basic)/B.Sc. (Paramedical Courses) - 2023	Start Date : 15.02.2023 Closing Date : 20.04.2023 (05.00 PM)
Generation of Code for Final Registration for B.Sc. (H) Nursing/B.Sc. Nursing (Post-Basic)/B.Sc. (Paramedical Courses) - 2023 only for those whose Basic Registration is accepted.	Start Date : 01.03.2023 Closing Date : 28.04.2023 (05.00 PM)
Final Registration (Payment of fees and city choice) only for those who have Generated Code for Final Registration.	Start Date : 01.03.2023 Closing Date : 28.04.2023 (05.00 PM)
SCHEDULE FOR POST-GRADUATE COURSES	
Basic Registration (PAAR) for M.Sc. Nursing/M. Biotechnology/M.Sc Courses - 2023	Start Date : 15.02.2023 Closing Date : 20.04.2023 (05.00 PM)
Generation of Code for Final Registration for M.Sc. Nursing/M. Biotechnology/M.Sc Courses - 2023 only for those whose Basic Registration is accepted.	Start Date : 03.03.2023 Closing Date : 28.04.2023 (05.00 PM)
Final Registration (Payment of fees and city choice) only for those who have Generated Code for Final Registration.	Start Date : 03.03.2023 Closing Date : 28.04.2023 (05.00 PM)

All applicants are required to visit the website www.aiimsexams.ac.in regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum/Updates will only be uploaded on the website.

ASSISTANT CONTROLLER (EXAMS.)

CBC 17112/12/0042/2223

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
ANSARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI - 110 608
EXAMINATION SECTION

ADMISSION NOTICE NO. 44/2023

Ref. No.F. AIIMS/Exam.Sec./Advt./4-5/(INI-CET-PG-JULY-23)/2023 **07.03.2023**

Institute of National Importance Combined Entrance Test (INI-CET) for admission to PG Courses for July 2023 session

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi invites online applications for Institute of National Importance Combined Entrance Test (INI-CET) July 2023 for admission to PG courses [MD/MS/M.Ch.(6years)/ DM(6years)/MDS] of AIIMS, New Delhi, JIPMER Puducherry, NIMHANS Bengaluru, PGIMER Chandigarh & SCTIMST Trivandrum and other AIIMS (Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur, Nagpur, Patna, Raipur, Rishikesh, Bibinagar, Bathinda, Deoghar, Mangalagiri, Raebareilly, Kalyani and Bilaspur etc.) for July 2023 session as per following schedule: -

Date of uploading Prospectus Part-A including eligibility criteria: 07.03.2023		
Online Registration for application	Start date	Closing Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> #Registration and Basic information [All applicants who have applied earlier and whose Basic Registration have been ACCEPTED for July 2019, January 2020, July 2020, January 2021, July 2021 session, January 2022, July 2022 and January 2023 are not required to complete Registration and Basic information again. They will have to complete application form only after Generation of Examination Unique Code (EUC Code)] Editing of Registration and Basic information (after last date of editing, editing of Registration and Basic information will not be allowed) 	07.03.2023	25.03.2023 (by 5:00 pm)
Status of Registration and Basic information and last date of correction of rejected Images	28.03.2023	31.03.2023 (by 5:00 pm)
Final Status of Accepted Registration and Basic information	03.04.2023	(by 5:00 pm)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generation of Examination Unique Code (EUC) [only for Accepted Registration and Basic information - Previous EUC code not valid for July 2023 session] Completion of Application form (only for the candidates those have generated EUC code) Editing of completion of Application form (Change of category will not be allowed after payment of registration fee in any circumstance) Uploading of valid Certificate/Card: SC/ST/OBC(NCL)/EWS/PwBD certificate and OCI Card 	04.03.2023 (5:00 pm)	10.04.2023 (5:00 pm)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Date(s) of valid OBC(NCL) certificate: The OBC (-NCL) certificates should have been issued between 08.05.2022 to 07.05.2023 (date of Exam) both dates inclusive. b) Date(s) of valid EWS certificate: The EWS certificate must be valid for financial year 2023-2024 and issued between 01.04.2023 to 07.05.2023 (on or before date of Exam), both date inclusive based on income of year 2022-2023. 	24.03.2023 (5:00 pm)	07.05.2023 (5:00 pm)
Date(s) of checking status of Completion of application form & Last date of submission of required documents.	14.04.2023 (11.00 am)	15.04.2023 (5:00 pm)
Final Status of online Registration and uploading of admit card on AIIMS website	01.05.2023 (Monday)	
Date of Examination	07th May, 2023 (Sunday)	
Examination Centers	Cities all over India	

Important: For Prospectus, detailed information etc. please visit the website www.aiimsexams.ac.in All applicants are required to visit the website regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum/ Updates will only be uploaded on the website. Registration and Basic information is mandatory. Only those with accepted Registration & Basic information can proceed for Generation of EUC for completion of application form.

Correction/edit of Registration: For candidates requiring correction in Registration & Basic candidate information OR Completion of application form, the edit panel will be available as per schedule only. It may kindly be noted that the editing shall be done only by the candidate. Candidate will be responsible for all corrections. No corrections allowed after closing date of editing. Applicants may note that further correspondence will NOT be entertained in this regard.

Note: All applicant for which fees not paid will be summarily rejected and no correspondence will be entertained in this regard.

PAAR

CBC 17112/12/0045/2223 **ASSTT. CONTROLLER (EXAMS)**

BUREAU OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY
(A Statutory body under Ministry of Power, Government of India)
4th Floor, Sewa Bhawan, R. K. Puram, New Delhi - 110066
Website: www.beeindia.gov.in, Ph: 011-26766700

KIND ATTENTION : ENERGY USERS IN 14 NOTIFIED SECTORS

Submission of Report on the Status of Energy Consumption under Energy Conservation Act 2001 (52 of 2001)

All users/class of users of energy in the following energy intensive sectors having Annual Energy Consumption of and above the specified limit shown against the following energy intensive sectors are notified as designated consumers vide S.O. 394 (E) dated the 12th March, 2007, S.O. 3542 (E) dated 29th Dec. 2015, S.O. 1388(E) dated 02nd May, 2017 and S.O. 2147 (E) Dated 17th June, 2020, S.O. 3445 (E) dated 28th September, 2020, S.O. 4165(E) dated 07th September, 2022 under clause (e) of section 14 of the Energy Conservation Act (52 of 2001).

S. No.	Notified Sector	Threshold Energy Consumption in metric tonne of oil equivalent (mtoe) per year
1.	Aluminium	7,500
2.	Cement	
	(a) Integrated Cement Unit	30,000
	(b) Cement Grinding Unit	10,000
3.	Commercial Buildings or Establishments	
	(a) Hotels	500
	(b) Airports	500
4.	Chlor-Alkali	12,000
5.	Electricity Distribution Companies (DISCOMs)	All licensed distribution companies by SERC/IERC
6.	Fertilizer	30,000
7.	Iron & Steel	20,000
8.	Pulp & Paper	20,000
9.	Petroleum Refineries	90,000
10.	Petrochemical units having gas crackers or naphtha crackers or both.	1,00,000
11.	Railways	
	(a) All Zonal Railways (Traction)	70,000
	(b) Workshops	750
	(c) 8 Production Factories of Railways namely ICF, RCF, CLW, BLW, PLW, RWF, MCF & RWP	-
12.	Textile	3,000
13.	Thermal Power Stations	30,000
14.	Petrochemical Manufacturing units.	
	(1) Fibre Intermediates	50,000
	(2) Polymers	10,000
	(3) Detergent Intermediates	9,000
	(4) Performance Plastics	3,000
	(5) Other Petrochemical products	6,000
	(6) Synthetic Rubbers	15,000
	(7) Aromatics	20,000

All units/establishment consuming more than the listed threshold energy consumption under respective sectors, notified by the Central Government under S.O. 1409(E) dated 28th March, 2018, S.O. 1473(E) dated 29th March, 2019, S.O. 1254(E) dated 13th April, 2020, S.O. 4491 (E) dated 26th October, 2021, S.O. 4552 (E) dated 26th September, 2022, are requested to submit to the concerned designated agency, with a copy to the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, a report on the status of Annual Energy Consumption, together with their annual production, for the last two years, namely, 2021-22 and 2022-23 in Form 1 notified under clause (f) of Section 14 of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 (52 of 2001), duly authenticated by the Energy Manager/Chief Executive Officer.

A copy of the required sector applicable Pro-forma or Form-I could be downloaded from BEE website: <https://beeindia.gov.in/content/pat-performa>.

If any person fails to submit a report on the status of annual consumption etc by 30th June, 2023, he shall be liable to a penalty under clause 26 of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

For more information/query please contact us on 011-26766700 or send mail on newcdc@beeindia.gov.in.

Mission Director, NMEEE

CBC - 34106/12/0024/2223



CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 48 No. 166

Revival of Khalistan Movement

The threat of Khalistan terror is looming over Punjab, as Pakistan has once again resorted to its familiar strategy of reviving terror activity in the state. The anti-India lobbies abroad, led by Pakistan, have instigated the Sikhs for Justice movement and revived the Bhindranwale cult. Amritpal Singh, a self-styled Khalistan protagonist based in Dubai, has been tasked with launching a militant movement to demand a separate homeland for Sikhs. He recently stormed Ajnala Police Station near Amritsar with a large number of armed supporters to force the release of an associate. The Punjab police have started canceling arms licenses of his followers, and his social media handler was arrested at Amritsar International Airport, confirming the external links guiding the Khalistan movement. Pakistan's ISI is planning initial steps to gradually create an environment for militancy in Punjab, using drones to drop arms and drugs in the border districts to exploit the vulnerability of Sikh youth. Stray incidents of terror are beginning to occur in which enemy agents are using grenades and IEDs to target police and foment public scare. The state authorities should be vigilant against any activity designed to create a Hindu-Sikh schism, as the targeting of Hindu passengers in buses and terror attacks on Hindu leaders became pronounced during the days of Khalistan terrorism in Punjab in the 1980s. The concerned agencies of the Centre and the state have to work in a co-ordinated way to tackle the menace of drugs firmly without letting it create any communal ripples. The state of unemployment in Punjab makes the youth vulnerable to subversive propaganda, and a strategic measure would be to place Punjab in the care of a national security professional who had past experience serving the state in difficult times, as Governor for a few years. Against the backdrop of the narrative of authoritarianism and intolerance built by anti-India lobbies against the Modi government, inter-community goodwill must be maintained in the border state, and a service-oriented administration must be provided to the people in general. The emerging scene of militancy being restarted in Punjab in the name of Khalistan, by some elements manoeuvred by Pakistan, needs to be taken cognizance of and analysed. The security of the border state must be kept above domestic politics, and Hindus and Sikhs must show unity against the forces that seek to shatter communal harmony and serve the narrow agenda of Khalistan.

Reforming Parliament for Effective Functioning

The current state of Parliament is one of chaos and stalemate, with both the government and opposition unwilling to compromise on issues. While political differences are a natural part of a democracy, it is essential to find ways to ensure that Parliament functions effectively. There is an urgent need for reforms to make the legislative process more transparent and outcome-oriented. The Parliament spends less time on legislative business, resulting in lawmakers spending less time on law-making. The former chief justice N.V. Ramana recently lamented how Parliament passed laws without deliberation and debate. The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution recommended that Lok Sabha should have at least 120 and Rajya Sabha 100 sittings. A single minute in Parliament leads to an expenditure of Rs. 2.5 lakhs approx to the exchequer. Another area for improvement is the conduct of members. Both the government and opposition are guilty of resorting to disruptive tactics such as walk-outs, running to the well of the House with placards, shouting slogans, etc., which could attract public and media attention. Instead, political parties must replace disorder, disruption, and delay in legislation with debate, discussion, and decision in a democracy. The adage is while the Opposition should have its say, the Government should have its right. There is also a need to make parliamentary committees more effective. Currently, the parliamentary committees have gradually decreased their number of sittings. The Government also only refers some pieces of legislation to the committee. A healthy democracy needs a fit functioning Parliament. Indian democracy has matured over the years, and it is time to make some necessary corrective issues. To achieve effective functioning of Parliament, the rules must be revamped to make clearing legislation and discussion on issues open, transparent, and outcome-oriented. Political parties should choose eminent men and women as members, and new members should be given adequate time to participate in the proceedings. Party leaders should focus more on Parliament's functioning as they are also stakeholders. Presiding officers should be given more teeth, and new members should be trained to understand the House's rules and regulations. The cancellation of Zero Hour and Question Hour indicates that parliamentary reforms are urgently needed. The Question hour is when the Government answers many questions, and it should not be disturbed. Accommodation and negotiations should be part of the conduct of the House. The current state of Parliament highlights the need for reforms to make the legislative process more transparent and outcome-oriented. A fit functioning Parliament is essential for a healthy democracy. It is time to implement some necessary corrective measures to ensure that Parliament functions effectively.

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

'GUDI PADWA'

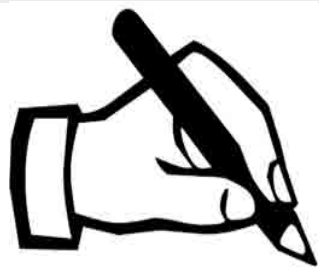


Women in traditional attire take part in a procession to celebrate the Marathi New Year, 'Gudi Padwa', at Girgaon in Mumbai, Wednesday, March 22.

Self Defence Training : A necessity for school girls



ER. PRABHAT KISHORE



Proneness to women atrocities is not a recent phenomenon in the society. Women have been traditionally considered as preys to male chauvinism and aggression from the time immemorial. A typical Indian girl from a middle-class or affluent family is raised chaperoned and over-protected. After independence, in last few decades, guardians as well as society have come forward in extension of education for girls. Various other reforms have been evolved at State and national levels. Girls has crossed the closed doors and performed well in every walk of life. They have become more strengthened to protest against the attitude and act of violence of their male counterparts. Although rarely does she learn how to protect herself or react in a situation where she is attacked.

At this backdrop the school going girl students are the worst sufferers and they have every chance of being affected. Sometimes, the girls have to travel a long way to reach a Secondary or Higher Secondary school either on foot or by bicycle, sometimes even alone. The parents habitually stoop to this apprehension and restrain the girls' children to attend schools regularly, which

often results in chances of drop outs and discontinuation of their education and aspiration.

In this context, self defence training programme for girls studying in elementary as well as higher classes is must, so that they can build up in themselves certain self defence skills including life skill for self protection and self-development. Self Defence Training to girls in government institutions helps them become psychologically, intellectually, physically and spiritually strong to protect themselves in time of distress. They are trained to leverage daily usable articles like keychains, dupattas etc. for their protection.

In erstwhile centrally sponsored schemes namely National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGL), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), the training programme for self defence have been imparted to school girls at elementary as well as secondary level in some sectors. Such activities helped to instill confidence in girls as well as ensuring attendance and reducing absenteeism & drop outs.

Under "Samagra Shiksha" programme, which has been launched

on 1st April 2018, provision of self defence training for elementary (upto class VIII) as well as secondary (upto class X or XII) level have been made with unit cost @ Rs 3000/- per month (to be enhanced @ Rs 5000/- in next extension of SS scheme) for 3 months per school. Martial Arts training are imparted various techniques namely; Karate, Taekwondo, Wushu, Boxing (Mushti-yuddha), Silambam (Lathi-yuddha), Judo etc. There is also provision of self defence training to enrolled girls of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya sanctioned with unit cost @ Rs 10000/- per vidyalaya per annum.

Objective :-

- To reduce irregular attendance of girl students,
- To equip the girls with some life skills and defence skills so that they can avert any kind of untoward situation at least at the first instances,
- To spread a message to the violence-maker that girls are being ready for counter-defence and awareness is being developed among the girls in this regards, (iv) To make the Physical Education teacher of each school aware of these skills for future practice of them as a part of school curriculum.

Strategy :-

The broad aim of the programme is to extend the Martial Arts training to all girls studying in schools upto class XII.

The States have their own strategy and schedule for implementation of this programme. The states like Bihar has extended the programme through a 36-day training schedule

in schools by black belt master trainers. After completion of the training, the girls will be graded & certified stepwise in various types of belt through recognized Martial Arts institutions. Finally, after getting black belt, class XII pass-out girls will have option to engage themselves as master trainer in Martial Arts and become "Atmanirbhar".

In Telangana, the Physical Education Teachers (PET) of Government schools are trained by experts, who in turn train girls in their respective schools. It is a 3 month course during which 24 vital techniques are taught to the students studying in classes VI to X. These techniques are taught in 36 sessions thrice in a week.

In Jammu & Kashmir, basic techniques of Judo & Taekwondo have been provided to girls under "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" programme. Earlier Army had also organized four week martial arts course for school girls in remote areas.

Expected Outcome :-

- Girls became physically robust & psychologically empowered and their self confidence increases,
- Increase in enrolment and retention because of increased awareness among community,
- Girls participation in school activities has increased traditional roles.

The Self defence training programmes to girls will pave the way to ensure secured atmosphere not only in schools & colleges but in every walk of life, which will be fruitful for all round development of the country in long run.

(The Author is a technocrat and educationist)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Methanol economy may create wonders

Methanol is a low-carbon, hydrogen-carrying fuel made from high-stash coal agricultural residue, CO2 from thermal power plants, and natural gas. It is the best way for India to meet its commitment to COP 21. The 'Methanol Economy' programme of the NITI Aayog on implementation leads, to reduce India's oil import bill, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and the conversion of coal reserves and municipal solid waste into methanol. Despite having a slightly lower energy content than gasoline, methanol can be used in transportation (road, rail, and marine), energy (DG sets, boilers, process heating modules, tractors, and commercial vehicles), and retail cooking (replacing LPG kerosene and wood charcoal). Blending 15% methanol into gasoline can result in a 15% reduction in crude oil imports. Furthermore, this would reduce GHG emissions by 20% in terms of particulate matter, NOx, and SOx, improving urban air quality. Methanol Economy will also generate nearly 5 million jobs via methanol production/application and distribution services. Additionally, blending 20% DME (Di-methyl Ether, a methanol derivative) in LPG can save Rs 6000 crore per year. This will save the consumer between Rs 50 and Rs100 per cylinder as per NITI Aayog speculation.

Vijay Kumar H K, Raichur

Hypocrisy of the West

It is disheartening to witness the double standards of the UK and US governments when it comes to taking action against Khalistan sympathizers. The recent attacks on the Indian High Commission in London and Indian Consulate in San Francisco have exposed the blatant laxity shown by these nations in cracking down on such anti-India elements. It is disappointing to see how these nations, who claim to be our friends, ignore the Vienna Convention rules and turn a blind eye to the violent attacks on Indian government offices and buildings. One cannot help but wonder how the UK and US would have reacted had a similar attack taken place on their government offices and buildings. We hope that these powerful nations will take necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of Indian officials and citizens abroad.

Manoj Kumar, Raipur

Act swiftly and arrest Amritpal Singh

Punjab Police launched a major crackdown against the radical preacher, Amritpal Singh, and members of his outfit Waris Punjab De. While it is commendable that the government is taking strict action against criminals, I believe it is too early for them to pat their back until Amritpal is arrested. Despite the efforts made by the police, Amritpal continues to evade arrest, which raises concerns about the effectiveness of the crackdown. It is crucial for the government to act swiftly and bring Amritpal to justice, as he is a threat to the safety and security of the people of Punjab. The government must ensure that no stone is left unturned in their efforts to apprehend Amritpal and bring him to justice. Only then can we truly say that the government has succeeded in its efforts to curb criminal activities.

Nawal Kishore, Raipur

Seven tips for finding happiness at work

By Cary Cooper

Professor of Organisational Psychology and Health, University of Manchester Work, it's something most of us do though it isn't always enjoyable. Whether it's long hours, gruelling tasks or just the repetitive nature of a day-to-day routine, work can sometimes be something we have to do rather than something we want to do. But given that the average person will spend 90,000 hours at work over a lifetime it makes sense to try and enjoy it if you can. So what can you do to be happier at work and reduce stress? I was the lead scientist in a government project that looked at how our wellbeing and emotional resilience can change over a lifetime. As part of this project, the team, with help from think-tank the New Economics Foundation, identified several things that can reduce stress and enhance wellbeing and happiness all of which can be applied to the workplace. So what helps?

1. Be active

Exercise and other physical activities won't make your problems or stress disappear, but they will reduce your emotional intensity and give you mental space to sort out problems as well as keep you physically fit. Research shows time and



time again the positive benefits of exercise, so why not bookend your working day with some physical activity. Walking to and from work is a great way to create separation from the working day. If that's not possible you could get off the bus a stop early, make your lunchtimes active or maybe find an exercise class to do before you start work for the day.

2. Connect with people

If you examine most of the happiness scales, relationships with others come near the top of these lists. During the pandemic, many people found their wellbeing suffered due

to a lack of social contact. Indeed, a good support network of friends and family can minimise your work troubles and help you see things differently.

It's also worth getting to know your colleagues. The more you invest in your relationships at work, the more enjoyable you may find your day.

Helping work colleagues and others in your life, can also enhance your self-esteem and give you a sense of purpose, which is essential to your wellbeing and contentment.

3. Learn new skills

Keeping "cognitively active" is

critical to your psychological and mental wellbeing and can provide you with new opportunities in terms of your career development. So try to keep learning take a course, develop some new skills or learn a new hobby, it all adds up.

Having things going on in your life outside of work is also important for your emotional and mental wellbeing. In the UK we work some of the longest hours in Europe, meaning we often don't spend enough time doing the things we really enjoy. Don't work excessive hours. And ensure you make time for socialising, exercise, along with activities you find fun.

4. Stay present

This is all about "being in the moment" rather than in the past or looking too far forward. Enjoy the present and you will appreciate it more. Indeed, there is plenty of research on the positive aspects of mindfulness and how it can help with mental health.

You don't have to sit down for hours meditating either. Being in the moment is more about bringing your brain back to the now. A more mindful approach to life is something you can practice at any time of the day, it's just about being aware, noticing your surroundings the sights, sounds, smells. You can do this while you're walking, in a

meeting or making a cup of tea.

5. Recognise the positives

Staying present also helps you to recognise the positives in your life allowing you to be a glass half full rather than a glass half empty person. Accept there are things at work or in life you can't change and concentrate on the things you have control over. Remind yourself to feel grateful for the positives in your life.

6. Avoid unhealthy habits

Given what we know about their long-term consequences, using excessive alcohol or coffee consumption or smoking as a coping strategy for work stress is ultimately likely to have a negative impact on your happiness, even if they seem to provide a quick pick-me-up.

7. Work smarter, not longer

Prioritise your workload during working hours and you will have more disposable time to do the things you enjoy. Accept that your in-tray will always be full, so concentrate on the important things first. The more you take control of your work life and get the balance you need, the more likely you will be happier at work. Indeed, given that in the UK stress-related illness accounts for nearly 60% of all long-term sickness you must prioritise your wellbeing and try to reduce work stress where possible.

BRIEF

Brand ambassador



Ahmedabad: Clear, a quality and value-based premium packaged drinking water company, is embarking on a new journey by roping Hindi film superstar and icon Hrithik Roshan as their brand ambassador. With its superior and sustainable range of bottles, Clear is committed to expanding its reach and encouraging people to Make A Clear Choice. By joining hands with Hrithik Roshan, the brand aims to draw parallels between the superstar's versatility and commitment to excellence with that of its products. Hrithik Roshan is not only one of the most popular and biggest stars in the Indian Film Industry but an icon with a larger-than-life persona and millions of fans in India and globally.

Appointment



New Delhi: Auto components major Bosch Ltd on Wednesday announced leadership changes with Guruprasad Mudlapur appointed as its Managing Director, and President of the Bosch Group in India with effect from July 1, 2023. He will succeed Soumitra Bhattacharya who will be retiring from Bosch India effective June 30, 2023, after 28 years of service in various capacities, the company said in a regulatory filing. Further, Bosch said from July 1, 2023, Sandeep Nalamangala, currently, Executive Director at Bosch Ltd and Executive Vice-President, Mobility Solutions at Bosch India, will be appointed as Joint Managing Director of Bosch Ltd.

Budget presentation



New Delhi: Finance minister Kailash Gahlot on Wednesday presented a Rs 78,800-crore budget in the Delhi assembly for the financial year 2023-24, which majorly focuses on transport and infrastructure as part of the G-20 summit preparations. The Delhi government's budget size for 2022-23 was Rs 75,800 crore and Rs 69,000 crore in the preceding year. This was the first time that Gahlot presented the budget after taking charge of the finance department following the resignation of deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia who was arrested by the CBI in connection with the Delhi excise policy scam case.

Govt sees no shortage of fertilisers in Kharif: Mandaviya

New Delhi, Mar 22:

Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday asserted that there will be no shortage of fertilisers in the upcoming kharif sowing season as the domestic production and stocks-in-hand will be sufficient to meet the local demand for soil nutrients. The minister said the country might not require to import urea from the spot market to meet Kharif (summer-sown) demand. Urea being imported under long-term supply agreements will come. However, he said, there will be some import of DAP (Di-Ammonium Phosphate) to meet the local demand. "There will be no shortage of fertilisers in the upcoming kharif season. The stocks that we will have at the start of next month and estimated domestic production be-



tween April and September of next fiscal will be sufficient to meet the projected requirement during Kharif season," Mandaviya told reporters here. He said the country will not need to import urea and NPK from spot markets. Mandaviya informed that the planning for fertiliser demand and supply for the upcoming Kharif season has already been done by the ministry. The sowing of crops in the Kharif season starts with the onset of the monsoon. Paddy and cotton, pulses and soyabean are the major crops. Giving de-

tails, Mandaviya said the estimated requirement of urea for the kharif season is 179 lakh tonnes, while the total availability will be 194.31 lakh tonnes, which includes an opening stock of 55 lakh tonnes as of April 1 and production of 139.31 lakh tonnes during the next six months. Similarly, the opening stock of DAP is 25 lakh tonnes and production is estimated at 20 lakh tonnes, taking the total availability to 45 lakh tonnes for the Kharif season. The requirement for DAP for Kharif is estimated at 58.82 lakh tonnes, he said, adding that the gap would be filled through imports. For NPKS, the total requirement for Kharif is 63.72 lakh tonnes while the total availability will be 77.15 lakh tonnes, including an opening stock of 28 lakh tonnes and estimated production of 49.15 lakh tonnes.

Vedanta Aluminium launches 'Employee Wellness and Lifestyle Program'

New Delhi, Mar 22:

On World Happiness Day, Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, launches Umang, an Employee Wellness & Lifestyle Program to improve the wellbeing and happiness quotient of employees and their families. The company announced its partnership with MantraCare, one of India's top health technology companies working in the realm of holistic health management. Vedanta Aluminium is one of the world's largest aluminium producers with expansive operations in Odisha and Chhattisgarh which are run by a vibrant & diverse

workforce. The employees work in a highly competitive environment, striving for excellence and pushing the boundaries on innovation. Vedanta Aluminium has world-class townships, well-equipped with gyms, sports complexes, swimming pools, playing grounds and more, for employees to be able to maintain a high-level of physical fitness.

While the company has been conducting sessions on various facets of health, it has now gone a step further to create a structured round-the-year programme with the firm belief that holistic wellbeing can help employees and their families improve their physical health, boost

Markets climb for 2nd day amid firm global trend; healthcare, financial stocks rise

Mumbai, Mar 22:

Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty extended their gains for the second straight session on Wednesday, mainly due to buying in healthcare, financial and commodity stocks amid a firm trend in global equities. However, sustained foreign fund outflows from the domestic equity markets capped the rise, traders said. In a largely range-bound session, the 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 139.91 points or 0.24 per cent to settle at 58,214.59, with 18 of its constituents posting gains. During the day, the index witnessed a high of 58,418.78 and a low of 58,063.50. The broader NSE Nifty climbed 44.40 points or 0.26 per cent to end at

6G initiative shows India's confidence: PM

New Delhi, Mar 22:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday unveiled the 6G vision document of the country and said initiatives around 6G within six months of the 5G rollout show India's confidence. He said from being a mere consumer of telecom technology, India is now moving fast to become a big exporter of that technology. "Within six months of the 5G rollout, today we are talking about 6G. This shows the confidence of India.

Today we have brought the vision document to the fore. This will become a big base for the rollout of 6G," Modi said. The vision document released by Department of Telecom states that while 5G technology promises a speed of 40-1,100 Mbps with the potential to hit maximum speed of 10,000 Mbps, 6G will offer ultra-low latency with speeds up to 1 terabit per second — which is 1,000 times more than the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with International Telecommunication Union Secretary-General Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Union Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar releases 'Bharat 6G Vision' document, during the inauguration of ITU Area office & Innovation Centre, in New Delhi.

top speed of 5G. The prime minister at the event inaugurated the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Area Office and Innovation Centre, which has been set up in the Centre for Telematics (C-DoT) campus. It will be fully funded by India. He said the ITU office in India will help create the right environment for 6G in the country.

"Before 4G, India was only a user of telecom technology, but now India is moving fast to become a big exporter of telecom technology," he said. The prime minister said that technology that has been successfully developed indigenously is getting attention from across the world. He said India has two main powers- "Trust and Scale". "Without trust and scale we cannot take technology to every nook and

corner. I will say that trust is a prefix to present day technology. With 100 crore mobile phones, India is the most connected democracy of the world. Cheap smartphones and cheap data has transformed India," Modi said. He said digital inclusion has taken place at a large scale in India with digital payments, direct benefit transfer, JanDhan, Aadhaar, rapid rollout of broadband services etc.

Realme unveils C55 with 64MP camera

New Delhi, Mar 22:

Realme, the most trusted technology brand in India, unveiled its latest offering in the C-Series, the realme C55, the new benchmark for an entry-level champion with a 64MP camera and 33W charging. Packed with cutting-edge features, a sleek design, and powerful performance, the realme C55 is set to attract users who seek a smartphone that seamlessly blends style and functionality.

Commenting on the occasion of the launch, Mr. Madhav Sheth, CEO realme India, VP, realme, and President, realme International Business Group said "As a brand, realme is committed to empowering their users with the latest technology that fits their



lifestyle. With brand new strategic upgrades, the new range of C Series smartphones will lead the segment with leap-forward technology and will democratize the technology in four key areas: camera, storage, charging, and design. Committed to

the same, we are thrilled to introduce the realme C55, our latest offering that packs a powerful punch at an amazing price point. With its sleek design, impressive performance, and outstanding features, the realme C55 is the perfect choice

for those who demand more from their smartphones." realme C55, setting a new benchmark in the entry-level segment comes with a 64MP camera, which is unprecedented for this segment and enables users to capture stunningly detailed photos with ease. Additionally, it features an 8MP selfie camera and a range of photography functions, including the exclusive street photography mode, which is a first in realme C series. The realme C55 democratizes large storage as it comes with a massive 8GB of RAM, effectively increasing the device storage capacity. Realme C55 is available in two stunning colors - Sunshower and Rainy Night and comes in three storage variants.

Hero MotoCorp to hike prices by up to 2 pc from April

New Delhi, Mar 22:

Hero MotoCorp on Wednesday said it will increase prices of its model range by around 2 per cent from next month in order to offset the impact of rise in production cost in order to conform to stricter emission norms. The company will make an upward revision in the ex-showroom prices of its select motorcycles and scooters, effective from April 1, 2023, the country's leading two-wheeler maker said in a statement. The price revision will be around 2 per cent and the exact quantum of increase will vary by specific models and markets, it added. The price revision has been ne-



cessitated mainly due to cost increases on account of OBD 2 (on-board diagnostics) transition, the company said.

Hero MotoCorp will continue to provide innovative financing solutions in order to cushion the impact on the customers, it added. The Indian automobile industry is currently working to make their products meet the second phase of BSVI.

Housing sector seeing biggest boom in last 15 years: Vipul Roongta

New Delhi, Mar 22:

India's housing sector is witnessing probably the "biggest boom" in the last one and half decade driven by various factors such as affordability and customers aspiration to own homes, HDFC Capital Advisors Managing Director and CEO Vipul Roongta said on Tuesday. Addressing a real estate summit organised by FICCI, he noted that the residential real estate segment has revived strongly after going through a lot of pain due to new realty law RERA and demonetisation. "In the last one and half decade, I think this is probably the biggest boom I am personally seeing as an organisation on the residential segment, whether it is afford-

able mid-income and premium housing properties," said Roongta, who is also Co-Chairman, FICCI Real Estate Committee. He said the real estate developers have been made accountable under the RERA for completion of projects and they would be behind bars in case of default. Post-Covid pandemic, Roongta said the customers are upgrading their homes, in terms of quality as well as size. He said the housing demand is mainly centred around affordable and mid-income in the country. When asked about the reasons for the boom, Roongta said, on the sidelines of the event, the demand is driven by "aspiration and affordability" besides demand-supply mismatch. He said this is the right time to de-

velop housing projects in affordable and mid-income categories. Roongta said the demand is buoyant despite an increase in the mortgage rate in the last one year. HDFC Capital Advisors has launched USD 3.2 billion real estate fund for affordable housing, Roongta said, adding that 85 per cent of the capital has already been committed. Addressing the event, Kuldeep Narayan, Joint Secretary, Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, said the size of the urban sector will double in the next 25 years. He said the requirements for facilities, residential spaces, commercial spaces, and urban infrastructure would double, adding, "we have a lot of catching up to do in infrastructure".

Smart Bazaar expands its presence

Mumbai, Mar 22:

Smart Bazaar, the large format supermarket from Reliance Retail has launched its new store in Raigarh. The store provides one-stop shopping experience by offering a wide range of products under one roof, ranging from Grocery, Fruits & Vegetables, Dairy to Kitchenware, Homeware, Apparel, Consumer Electronics etc. With the launch of this store, Smart Bazaar now has a presence of two stores in Raigarh.

Built over 15,000 sqft of sprawling shopping space, Smart Bazaar is designed to provide customers with bigger savings and a better shopping experience. It offers customers a wide variety of

products, ranging from daily essentials such as groceries, dairy products, fruits and vegetables, to special items and utilities such as homeware, kitchenware, footwear, apparels and consumer electronics, all under one roof. It also provides customers great saving opportunities through the year with discounts of up to 5% on MRP and special seasonal offers.

The store has line-up of plethora of brands across categories such as processed foods and beverages, personal care, healthcare, hygiene, fabric, homeware and home décor available on attractive offers. Special benefit of shopping at Smart Bazaar is that bigger purchases always fetch greater savings.

Adani Airports following investments as per plans submitted to govt: CEO

New Delhi, Mar 22:

Adani Airports on Wednesday said there is no rethink on the pace of expansion and it was following the investments as per plans submitted to the government, amid the parent group facing certain challenges in recent times. The comments from company's CEO Arun Bansal come against the backdrop of Adani Group facing challenges in the wake of a report by US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research.

In January, the short-seller had accused the conglomerate of using offshore shell companies to inflate its listed companies' stock prices as well as of accounting fraud. It had also flagged concerns

about Adani Group's Rs 2.3 lakh crore debt in the report. Adani Group has denied the allegations. Adani Airports is a part of the group's flagship Adani Enterprises Ltd. To a query on whether there is any rethinking in terms of pace of expansion or investments for airports business in the context of the challenges faced by the group, Bansal replied in the negative.

"No. We have committed, submitted our plans to the government. Whatever plans we have submitted, we are following our investments," he said. When asked whether there is any slowdown in the pace of funding for airports business, Bansal said, "we are continuing with the plans

we have submitted to the government. What we have submitted to the government is public document". He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the CAPA India aviation summit in the national capital.

Currently, Adani Airports is operating seven airports, including at Mumbai, and is also developing the Navi Mumbai airport in Maharashtra. About business plans, Bansal said it will selectively look at opportunities where it makes financial sense.

"Right now, we are focusing on India". He also said India has the geographical advantage to become one of the world's biggest aviation hubs.

Classifieds

PLLOT

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Hindi TV premiere of 'Never Back Down: Revolt' on &pictures today

Imagine being caught up in uncertain events where the only way to get out is to fight for your freedom!

Experience this thrilling martial arts crime drama Never Back Down: Revolt, starring Nitu Chandra Srivastava, hindi television premiere on &pictures this March 23, at 10 pm. Directed by Kellie Madison, the film also features Olivia Popica, Michael Bisping, and Brooke Johnston in lead roles. With powerful and talented actors, the film is sure to give you a spine-chilling experience.

The film revolves around a sibling duo who have immigrated from Chechnya to live in London. While the brother aims to become an MMA Champion someday, the sister does odd jobs and takes care of the house. When she is invit-



ed to Rome to participate in a by-invitation underground fight, she realizes things are not as easy as they sound. As she gets entrapped into the dirty world of kidnapping and sex trafficking, the only way to step out is to battle her way to freedom.

The powerhouse of energy and martial arts specialist Nitu Chandra Srivastava who plays the role of Jaya leaves no stone unturned with her immense talent and power-packed action stunts.

her Hollywood debut, all of which have been performed by herself without using any body double. Nitu adds, "I have trained in different forms of martial arts and so I was confident about this role. I was prepared for the hardcore action sequences and chose to do them myself without body doubles. I have given my best to sink into the skin of the character. The role was a dream come true and I have worked very hard to ace every minute detail. Now with its hindi television premiere on &pictures, I am glad it will reach a wider audience and people will enjoy the film."

Tune in to &pictures on 23rd March, 10pm, to witness the elite world of underground and experience an edge-of-seat action performance!

Ajay Devgn: In 'Bholaa', the only one crazier than the villains is the hero

Actor-filmmaker Ajay Devgn says that in his upcoming film 'Bholaa' the hero is crazier than the villains. The villains in the film are a mixed bunch riding and clashing fast and fearlessly. They also have some talked-about dress codes. Ajay wanted a deadly bunch and he went about selecting them systematically. The biker gangs have stylish hoods, face masks and helmets. There are others in more desi attire. The character of 'Bholaa' is not someone who scares easily because he knows how to play the game of death. He's ready for any kind of deadly challenge. Speaking of how he got stylist Radhika Mehra to dress his villains up distinctively and differently, Ajay adds: "I wanted the menace to travel deep. The objective was to carefully construct different identities for the various baddies who show up in Bholaa's path." "In the world of Bholaa the only one who is crazier than the villains is Bholaa himself..". Of course, while the villains are all deadly and create life-threatening obstacles for Bholaa, Ajay plays a hero who will shake up each one of the villains beyond imagination.



'Bholaa' will release on March 30.



Niti Taylor: Hiten Tejwani is my favourite person off-screen

'Bade Achhe Lagte Hain 2' actress Niti Taylor talked about her co-actor Hiten Tejwani and said that although in the show he is a father-like figure onscreen but off-screen, he is her best friend.

She said: "Although Hiten sir is my father figure on-screen, off-screen he is my favourite person on set. We enjoy each

other's company a lot, there's so much to learn from him and it honestly helps me a lot when I perform. Typically, we have a lot of emotional scenes where Prachi (Niti) tries to be a perfect daughter and never disappoints him, but behind the cameras, we keep humming songs and enjoy dancing to songs that he plays from his

collection." Niti, who is known for working in 'Ghulaam', 'Ishqbaaz', 'Laal Ishq' and also for participating in the dance reality show 'Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 10' and for appearing as a guest on 'Bigg Boss 16', called him a great friend who always gives good advice when needed and listens to all her problems. Niti added: "He listens to my problems and

Rashmika Mandanna reveals why she won't dance to 'Saami Saami' anymore



Actress Rashmika Mandanna has said that she will not be dancing to the popular number 'Saami Saami' from 'Pushpa: The Rise' anymore. Rashmika interacted with her fans in a question and answer session. When a fan told her that he wants to groove with her to her famous Saami Saami song, Rashmika said she's danced 'too many times' to the song. She wrote back: "I've done saami saami step toooooo many times.. that now I feel like I'll have issues with my back when I get older.. why do you do this to me re.. ?? let's do something else when we meet." She was also asked if she would be working with Thalapathy Vijay, to which Rashmika replied that she is manifesting that. One even asked her if she likes Malayalam cinema, to which Rashmika replied: "Are you kidding.. loveeeeeee Malayalam cinema.. Malayalam films are just so pure and people are fullllll love." The actress also told a fan, who enquired about her performing Lavani at an award event, that she will speak Marathi "little little". "It was surreal.... Learnt some new Marathi phrases well.. soon I'll manage to speak like little little.. ?? hopefully!," Rashmika said. Rashmika is now looking forward to the release of 'Pushpa: The rule' starring Allu Arjun.



Kiara joins Ram Charan to resume the shoot of RC-15

Kiara Advani is all set to resume the shoot for S Shankar directorial RC-15 in Hyderabad for a song shoot schedule, joining Ram Charan after the glorious win of Natu Natu from RRR at the Oscars. Kiara flew down to Hyderabad on Saturday, 18th March,

for the next schedule of RC-15, directed by S Shankar. Ram Charan, on the other hand, is also returning to the sets from LA after representing India with Natu Natu at the Oscars.

All eyes on the duo, as they prepare for their next film together

er which is mounted on a large scale and has everyone excited ever since the announcement.

Looking forward to an interesting line up of films with RC-15 and Satyaprem Ki Katha, Kiara Advani has got everyone glued to her next moves.

Karan Khanna joins 'Kyunkii Tum Hi Ho'

Shemaroo Umang's popular family drama "Kyunkii Tum Hi Ho" is set to introduce a new character, Kunal Pratap Singh, portrayed by the talented Karan Khanna. The show has been capturing the hearts of the audience, and Karan's entry is sure to add a new dimension of excitement to the already thrilling storyline.

Karan Khanna, who is known for his quirky acting skills and charming persona, is thrilled to be a part of "Kyunkii Tum Hi Ho." He says, "As I step into the shoes of Kunal Pratap Singh, I am excited to bring to life a character that I have always been eager to portray. Although he has shades of grey, his intentions are not wrong, and his heart is pure and soft. He respects women and seems like a tough character on the



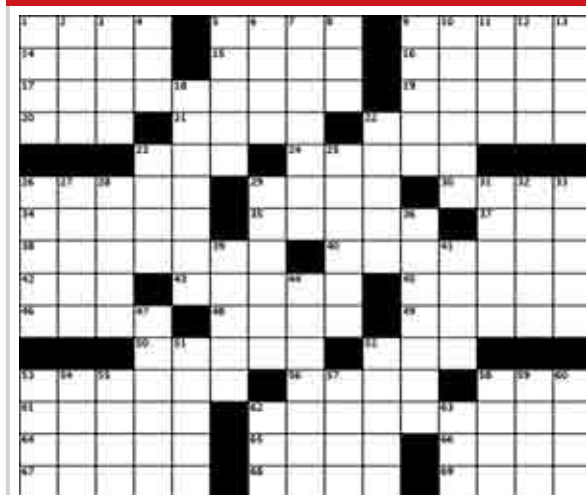
outside, but he has a hidden motive as he enters the Pratap Singh household."

Kunal's arrival is sure to shake things up in the Pratap Singh household, and the audience can expect a lot of twists and turns in the upcoming episodes. Karan is eager for the viewers to tune in and discover what lies beneath the surface of Kunal. He adds, "Kavya's life is bound to take a new turn with my entry. I aspire to elevate the show to even greater heights, and I hope to receive the same love and support from the audience that the show has been receiving."

Keep an eye out for more updates and make sure you don't miss a moment of the drama! Watch Kyunkii Tum Hi Ho on Shemaroo Umang every Monday to Saturday at 9 PM.

CROSSWORD

595



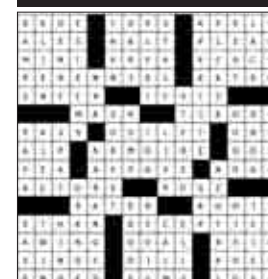
- 45. Firm
- 46. Besides that
- 48. Guns an engine
- 49. Future flowers
- 50. Window blind
- 52. Bro's sib
- 53. U.S. ___ Service
- 56. Racetrack fence
- 58. "Snakes ___ Plane" (2 wds.)
- 61. Felix's roommate
- 62. Plane patron
- 64. List of candidates
- 65. Spanish cheers
- 66. Rock's ___ Clapton
- 67. ___ pole
- 68. Stage drama
- 69. Lampreys
- 27. Danger
- 28. Poker stakes
- 29. Pressed
- 31. Name
- 32. Dodge
- 33. Cares for
- 36. Projectile
- 39. Reef material
- 41. Nays
- 44. Comprehensive
- 47. Real
- 51. Sheikh's wives
- 52. Coward
- 53. Mail
- 54. Norway's capital
- 55. Shoof
- 57. Between continents
- 58. Fairy tale monster
- 59. Astronaut ___ Armstrong
- 60. Circle parts
- 62. Soda
- 63. Born

- DOWN**
- 1. Roberto's house
 - 2. Lamenting cry
 - 3. Chicken noodle, e.g.
 - 4. Knockout count
 - 5. Critic Roger ___
 - 6. Risk
 - 7. Small bomb
 - 8. Stop
 - 9. Basil sauce
 - 10. Modifies
 - 11. Big Dipper component
 - 12. Ripped
 - 13. Industrious insects
 - 18. Chirped
 - 22. Tiny
 - 23. Raised, as animals
 - 25. Responds
 - 26. Not fresh

ACROSS

- 1. Play personnel
- 5. Margin
- 9. Spaghetti, e.g.
- 14. Burn reliever
- 15. Horse's home
- 16. Musician ___ John
- 17. Walked leisurely
- 19. Begin
- 20. Venomous viper
- 21. Small songbird
- 22. Ships' rear
- 23. Wager
- 24. Protective gear
- 26. Extra tire
- 29. Bright thought
- 30. Right now!
- 34. Principle
- 35. Kingdom
- 37. "___ Lost You"
- 38. 1930s design style (2 wds.)
- 40. Hillary Rodham ___
- 42. False statement
- 43. "___ disturb" (2 wds.)

SOLUTION 594



Nitu, Saweety cruise into semis, assure India of medals

Women's Boxing World C'ships

New Delhi, Mar 22 (PTI):

Commonwealth Games champion Nitu Ghanghas (48kg) and the seasoned Saweety Boora (81kg) assured India of two medals at the ongoing Women's Boxing World Championships after reaching the semifinals here on Wednesday.

The first Indian to take the ring, 22-year-old Nitu notched a second-round RSC (referee stops contest) win over Madoka Wada of Japan in her quarterfinal bout to assure herself and India of at least a bronze medal. Saweety, playing her first bout of the tournament, lived up to her top seeding to dispatch 2018 bronze-medal winner Viktoriya Kebikava of Belarus 5-0 to confirm her second world championship medal. She had won the silver in 2014. Sakshi Choudhary (52kg) and last edition's bronze



India's Nitu (blue) lands a punch on Japan's Madoka Wada during the 45-48kg category quarterfinals match at the 2023 IBA Women's Boxing World Championships, in New Delhi, Wednesday, March 22.

medallist Manisha Moun (57kg), however, failed to reach the last-four stage.

While Sakshi lost to Yu Wu of China 0-5, Manisha was outplayed by a 1-4 margin by Amina Zidani of France. Nitu looked a bit tentative at first but as the seconds ticked, she gained confidence to go ahead and attack. Halfway through the first round, Nitu, the 2022 Strandja

Memorial gold medallist, moved forward and threw a combination of clean, accurate punches to force the referee to give Wada her first standing count.

Another set of combination punches by Nitu in the second round compelled the referee to stop the contest and rule in the home boxer's favour. Nitu has won all her three bouts in the tournament

so far by RSC verdicts. "I had to be careful and couldn't be aggressive because she (Wada) was also a southpaw like me, but then towards the end (of the contest) I thought I could attack," Nitu said after the bout. "The advantage of winning all my three bouts by RSC is that in the coming bouts, my opponents will be under pressure," she said.

2023 World Cup likely to start on Oct 5, final in Ahmedabad

New Delhi, Mar 22:

The 2023 ODI World Cup is likely to start on October 5 and end on November 19. BCCI, the host for the 10-team marquee event, has shortlisted at least a dozen venues, with the final scheduled to be at the world's largest cricket stadium in Ahmedabad.

Ahmedabad aside, the shortlist comprises Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Dharamsala, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Indore, Rajkot and Mumbai. In all the tournament will comprise 48 matches including three knockouts across the 46-day period.

The title bout aside, the BCCI has not specified venues for any games as yet, or the two or three cities where teams will play the warm-ups. The delay in finalising the venues is due to the complications posed by the monsoon season receding at different points in different parts of India. Usually the ICC announces World



A general view of the Narendra Modi Stadium, where the World Cup final is likely to be held.

Cup schedules at least a year in advance, but this time it has also been waiting for the BCCI to get the necessary clearances from the Indian government. This includes two key issues: getting a tax exemption for the tournament, and visa clearance for the Pakistan team, which has not played in India except at ICC events since early 2013.

At the ICC's quarterly meetings last weekend, held in Dubai, the BCCI is learned to have assured the global body that visas for the Pakistan contingent will be cleared by the Indian government.

As for the tax exemption issue, the BCCI is expected to update the ICC soon on the exact position of the Indian government. The tax exemption has been part of the host's agreement the BCCI signed with the ICC in 2014, when three men's events were awarded to India: the 2016 T20 World Cup, the 2018 Champions Trophy (later changed to 2021 T20 World Cup, which was moved to the UAE and Oman due to the pandemic) and the 2023 ODI World Cup. As per the agreement, the BCCI was "obligated" to help the ICC (and all its commercial partners involved in the

tournament) secure tax waivers. Last year the ICC was informed by the Indian tax authorities that it would be charged a 20% tax order (excluding surcharges) for its broadcast revenue from the 2023 World Cup. In a note distributed to its members - state associations - the BCCI pointed out that any tax "incurred" by ICC would be "adjusted" against the Indian board's revenues from ICC's central revenue pool. In the note, the BCCI listed the ICC's estimated broadcasting income from the 2023 World Cup at USD 533.29 million. It said the "financial impact" it would suffer for a 10.92% tax order on that would be around USD 58.23 million (the BCCI's note listed the figure as USD 52.23 million, which appears to be an error given the percentages listed). That would more than double to roughly USD 116.47 million if the tax component were to be 21.84%, as desired by the Indian tax authorities.

Mohammed Siraj slips from top spot to third in ICC rankings for bowlers in ODIs

Dubai, Mar 22 (PTI):

Pacer Mohammed Siraj was on Wednesday dethroned from the top spot by Australia's Josh Hazlewood in the latest ICC rankings for ODI bowlers, as the Indian slipped to third place.

Another Australian pacer, Mitchell Starc, who impressed during the first two ODIs of the three-match series in India, also moved up to join Siraj at joint third. Siraj, who returned with impressive figures of 3/29 to help India win the first ODI against Australia, was expensive in the second ODI giving away 37 runs in three overs and consequently lost his position as the top-ranked bowler.

The right-arm pacer had covered the brunt of the attack by Mitchell Marsh and Travis Head during the second ODI in Visakhapatnam. Siraj, who has had a successful run across formats in recent past, was crowned as the world No. 1 bowler in ODIs in January this year. Starc claimed three wickets in Mumbai to stage



Australia's fightback

while his 5/53 in the second ODI in Visakhapatnam powered the visitors to a 10-wicket win. Hazlewood, who missed the entire tour of India consisting of four Tests and three ODIs, became world No. 1 bowler in ODIs for the first time ever.

"Hazlewood, whose career-best second position was attained for the first time in June 2017 and which he had kept since August 2022, is No. 1 in ODIs for the first time," the ICC said.

Mohammad Shami, who produced a match-winning spell in Mumbai, also moved five spots up to reach 28th in the list.

KL Rahul's unbeaten 75, which helped India recover from a poor start and win the first ODI by five wickets, helped him move up three places to get to the 39th spot.

In the ODI ranking among batters, India's Shubman Gill — who made marginal progress — and Virat Kohli remained fifth and seventh respectively, while captain Rohit Sharma moved up one place to ninth.

Fleming to be Texas Super Kings coach

In Major League Cricket in US as CSK announces partnership

Dallas (US), Mar 22 (PTI):

Former New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming will be the coach of Dallas-based Major League Cricket (MLC) club Texas Super Kings (TSK), which announced its partnership with IPL side Chennai Super Kings (CSK). Four-time IPL champions, CSK had recently said that they would make a "major announcement" with regard to their association with the new T20 tournament in the US. TSK said in a statement that CSK will bring "operational expertise" and help "Texas compete on the field".

"The (Texas Super Kings) team will be led by coach Stephen Fleming. Fleming is a former captain of the New Zealand national cricket team and head coach of Indian Premier League team Chennai Super Kings. He played in the first-ever Twenty20 international to be staged as



captain of the New Zealand team in 2005," said a TSK statement. Fleming is a long-serving CSK head coach and has guided the Chennai franchise to four IPL titles.

CSK join Delhi Capitals and Mumbai Indians as the third IPL side to get associated with the six-team MLC, scheduled to begin on July 13. The six MLC teams are San Francisco Unicorns, Lost Angeles, MI New York, Seattle Orcas, Texas Super Kings and Washington DC. Delhi Capitals, co-owned by GMR Group, are partnering with Seattle Orcas to "help build and operate a world-class cricket team", while Mumbai Indians have joined the US cricket revolution by acquiring the New York franchise.

Sarabjot clinches men's air pistol gold

Women shooters falter in ISSF World Cup

Bhopal, Mar 22 (PTI):

Sarabjot Singh shot down a gold in men's air pistol while Varun Tomar clinched a bronze in the same event as India opened their ISSF Pistol/Rifle World Cup campaign with two medals here on Wednesday.

In a double delight for India as teenage shooter Varun Tomar also bagged a bronze. The Indian women air pistol shooters though couldn't make it to the medal bracket, with Manu Bhaker, Divya Subbaraju and Rhythm Sangwan failing to come good on the inaugural day of competitions here.

Sarabjot, the 2021 junior world champion in the team and mixed team categories, defeated Azerbaijan's Ruslan Lunev 16-0 in the gold-medal match in the first final of the World Cup. The 21-year-old Sarabjot was in awesome form all through as he emerged leader at the end of the qualification round with 585 points. Sarabjot was hitting the bulls eye every time he took aim, with his scores of 98, 97, 99, 97, 97, 97 in the six qualification series suggesting he



would be hard to beat. China's Liu Jinyao was a close second at 584. Six other shooters — Jason Solari (Switzerland, 583 points), Vladimir Svechinko (Uzbekistan, 582), Frederik Larsen (Denmark, 580), Zhang Jie (China, 580), Ruslan Lunev (Azerbaijan, 579) and Varun Tomar (India, 579) — completed the list of eight marksmen who made it to the ranking round. In the ranking round, Sarabjot continued to excel, while 19-year-old Varun also began superbly after qualifying eighth and last for the ranking round.

Treesa and Gayatri exit from Swiss Open women's doubles in first round



Basel, Mar 22 (PTI):

All England Championships semifinalists, Indian women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand made an early exit from the Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament here as they lost their first-round match.

The Treesa-Gayatri duo lost to second-seeded Indonesian pair of Apriyani Rahayu and Siti Fadia Silva 14-21, 14-21 in 41 minutes in the opening

round on Tuesday night. Treesa and Gayatri had made a sensational run in the All England Championships women's doubles last week before losing in the semifinals.

Meanwhile, Malvika Bansod qualified for the main draw of the women's singles after beating USA's Lauren Lam 21-17, 21-7 in the qualifying round.

The women's doubles pair of Sikki Reddy and Arathi Sara Sunil also made it to the main draw after beating Paula Lynn

Cao Hok and Lauren Lam 21-15, 15-21, 21-18.

The mixed doubles pair of Rohan Kapoor and Sikki Reddy notched up a 21-17, 15-21, 21-18 win over Germany's Patrick Scheiel and Franziska Volkman to book a berth in main draw.

However, Meiraba Luwang Maisnam and Priyanshu Rajawat couldn't qualify for the main draw. Rohan Kapoor and B Sumeeth Reddy also lost in the first round of men's doubles qualification.

New IPL Rule: Captains allowed to name playing XI after toss



New Delhi, Mar 22 (PTI):

The captains of IPL teams can name their playing eleven after the toss instead of handing over team sheets before the spin of the coin, stated the new playing conditions issued by the BCCI. According to playing conditions clause 1.2.1: "Each captain shall nominate 11 players plus a maximum of 5 substitute fielders in writing to the IPL Match Referee after the toss."

"Other than set out in Clause 1.2.9 no player (member of the playing eleven) may be changed after the nomination and prior to the start of play without the consent of the opposing captain."

This effectively means that after the toss, if a skipper feels that he needs to change his eleven as per demands of the situation, he is free to do that till the match starts.

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CHAITRA NAVRATRI CELEBRATION



Devotees offer prayers at Alopi Devi temple on the first day of 'Chaitra Navratri' festival, in Prayagraj, Wednesday.

11.5 cr households now have tap water connections

1.5 lakh villages potable water supply

New Delhi, Mar 22 (PTI):

As many as 11.49 crore households now have tap water connections and over 1.53 lakh villages have potable water supply as the government doubles down on its efforts to make drinking water available to all, according to latest official data.

The data as of March 21 showed massive jumps in piped water supply to schools, anganwadi centres and aspirational districts after the government allocated Rs 70,000 crore for the purpose in

the current financial year ending March 31, (2022-23). This was 12 times more than the Rs 5,500 crore allotted in 2018-19. The statistics came on a day that is marked as World Water Day with the UN World Water Development Report 2023 saying 26 per cent of the world's population do not have access to safe drinking water and 46 per cent lack access to basic sanitation.

The government is implementing various schemes including Jal Jeevan Mission, Atal Bhujal Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Namami Gange and National Aquifer Mapping and Managing programme for water conservation and for raising the level of ground water.

Under Jal Jeevan Mission that targets to make provision of potable tap water supply to every rural household at the service level of 55 litre per capita per day by 2024, over 11.49 crore households have been provided tap water connections and over 1.53 lakh villages have become Har Ghar Jal as of March 21, according to the data. Piped water supply to anganwadi centres has in-

creased 37 times to 9.34 lakh in less than three years. Similarly, piped water supply to schools has jumped 18 times to 9.02 lakh, and six times to aspirational districts. Atal Bhujal Yojana, with an outlay of Rs 6,000 crore, is being implemented in 8,220 water-stressed gram panchayats in 80 districts of seven states of Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh for a period of 5 years for sustainable groundwater management.

'ISRO discussing mission to moon with Japanese agency'

Ahmedabad, Mar 22 (PTI): Indian Space Research Organisation chairman S Somanath on Wednesday said ISRO has successfully done significant collaborations on its space missions and is also discussing a possible mission to the moon with Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency.



somnath

Somanath also said there is a good opportunity to launch a mission to explore planet Venus by 2028. He was delivering the inaugural talk on "Indian Capabilities for Space and Planetary Exploration" at the 4th Indian Planetary Science Conference organised at Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) here. The ISRO chief said it was important to have a connection between scientific institutions across the world and ISRO in building complex missions. He cited the example of the TRISHNA mission, designed to observe the earth's surface in the thermal infrared domain, which has been developed by ISRO and its French counterpart CNES. "We are also discussing a possible mission to the moon with JASA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) where the land rover will be built by them and they will launch it using a Japanese rocket," said Somanath, who is also Secretary of the Department of Space.

Prez Murmu opens Rashtrapati Nilayam in Secunderabad to the public

New Delhi/Hyderabad, Mar 22 (PTI):

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday opened Rashtrapati Nilayam, one of the three presidential retreats, in Secunderabad to the public, an official statement said. This is the first time that the heritage building is being opened to the general public. Earlier, people could visit only the gardens around it once a year for a limited time period, the statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan said.

"During the tour of the Nilayam, one can see the building from inside, including the Presidential wing, and dining area; and



President Droupadi Murmu attends the opening of Rashtrapati Nilayam for visitors through video conferencing, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

can enjoy traditional cheriyal paintings of Telangana strolling through the underground tunnel connecting the Nilayam kitchen to the dining hall," it said. Visitors can learn about the history of the Rashtrapati Bhavan

and Rashtrapati Nilayam, know about the Constitution and get a glimpse of the role and responsibilities of the President of India in the 'Knowledge Gallery' which was earlier used as stables, it said. In the Knowledge

Gallery's courtyard, visitors can take selfies with the buggy and the President's limousine. Visitors can also explore the Jai Hind Ramp and Flag Post point as well as the Nature Trail on the premises of Rashtrapati Nilayam, the statement added.

Various sections of the garden of the Nilayam such as Rock Garden, Herbal Garden, and Butterfly and Nakshatra Gardens will remain open to the public, it said, adding that one can obtain information about fruits, trees and flowers by scanning the QR codes placed there.

Governor Bais presents Tata Mumbai Marathon Philanthropy Awards



Mumbai, Mar 22:

Non Governmental organisations and individuals who raised maximum funds for various social causes through the platform of the Tata Mumbai Marathon 2023 were felicitated at the hands of

Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais at the 'TMM Philanthropy Awards Nite' in Mumbai on Tue (21 Mar). Speaker of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rahul Narwekar, Minister of School Education Deepak Kesarkar, MLA Ashish

Shelar, spouse of Dy CM - Smt Amruta Fadnavis, Brand Custodian of Tata Sons Harish Bhatt and MD of Procram International Anil Singh and Jt MD Vivek Singh were present. The Governor felicitated the top 3 fundraising organisations, namely Shrimad Rajchandra Love and Care, United Way Mumbai and Central Chimmay Mission Trust. He also felicitated Change Legends, individuals who raised in excess of Rs One Crore. Shyam Jasani, Manisha Khemlani, Sadashiv Rao and Navya and Gagan Banga were among those felicitated.

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