

BRIEF



Cricketer Kapil Dev and veteran Bollywood actor Ranjeet Bedi during the announcement of a reality show 'Driving with the Legends', in Mumbai.

Heritage Site tag

Bhubaneswar: Known as an Ayurvedic paradise with abundant flora and fauna, the Gandhamardan hills spread over in Bolangir-Bargarh districts, has now been designated a Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS). Odisha's Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department which has issued a notification to this effect, said the Gandhamardan hill, spread over nearly 190 square kms, will now have the 'biodiversity heritage site' tag under the Odisha Biodiversity Rules - 2012 to protect its fragile ecosystem.

Appointment

New Delhi: The BJP on Thursday named four new state presidents, including Lok Sabha MP C P Joshi in Rajasthan and OBC leader and MLC Samrat Choudhary in Bihar, as the party moves to tone up its organisational machinery with an eye on consolidating its support base in the run up to crucial state and national polls. BJP president J P Nadda also appointed Manmohan Samal, a former state minister, as the head of the party's Odisha unit, while Delhi working president Virendra Sachdeva was elevated as its chief.

Joint exercise

New Delhi: The Indian Army and the Indian Air force conducted a multi-domain air-land exercise 'Vayu Prahar' in the eastern theatre to validate plans to execute synergised operations, sources said on Thursday. The exercise was held in the second week of March.

Suspended

Ranchi: Six policemen have been suspended and an FIR lodged was against them following the death of an infant, who was allegedly crushed under police boots during a raid in Jharkhand's Giridih district, an official said on Thursday. The policemen were suspended after an initial inquiry, and the FIR was registered against them based on a complaint by the newborn's family members, he said.

Lifted

New Delhi: The moratorium on opening of new engineering and technical colleges will be lifted from the 2023-24 academic session, the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) announced on Thursday.

Weather
High 33 Low 21

MARKET
NIFTY 17,076.90
SENSEX 57,925.28

BULLION
GOLD 59,290
SILVER 70,111

MODI SURNAME REMARKS CASE

Court convicts Rahul Gandhi

Cites his earlier apology in SC

Surat, Mar 23 (PTI):

A court in Surat in Gujarat on Thursday sentenced Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to two years in jail in a 2019 criminal defamation case filed against him over his "why all thieves have Modi surname" remarks.

Gandhi, who was present in the court when the verdict was pronounced, reacted later by quoting Mahatma Gandhi in a tweet in Hindi about truth and non-violence.

The court of Chief Judicial Magistrate HH Varma, which held Gandhi guilty under Indian Penal Code sections 499 and 500, also granted him bail and suspended the sentence for 30 days to allow him to appeal in a higher court, the Congress leader's lawyer Babu Mangukiyaa said.

As per the Representation of the



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi arrives at IGI Airport in New Delhi, Thursday.

'You will be in more trouble'

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday asserted that the law will take its course if Rahul Gandhi abuses people and slammed the Congress over its criticism of his conviction in a defamation case, asking whether the opposition party wants "complete freedom" for him to "abuse" others. Addressing a press conference, BJP leader and former law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad also cautioned Gandhi against making defamatory remarks, saying the Congress leader will find himself facing "more troubles" if he doesn't refrain from doing so.

People Act, a person sentenced to imprisonment of two years or more shall be disqualified "from the date of such conviction" and remain disqualified for an

other six years after serving time. In its order, the court said the accused was a Member of Parliament and whatever he delivers as his speech to the public

Will appeal: Cong

The Congress said Gandhi will file an appeal against the Gujarat court verdict, with a host of its leaders, including party president Mallikarjun Kharge and general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, speaking out angrily on the matter. In his first reaction to the Surat court's verdict, Gandhi quoted Mahatma Gandhi in a tweet in Hindi about truth and non-violence. "My religion is based on truth and non-violence. Truth is my God, non-violence the means to get it. -- Mahatma Gandhi," the Congress leader tweeted.

'BJP leaders against Gandhis'

Raipur: Reacting to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's conviction in a criminal defamation case regarding his "Modi surname" remark, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Thursday spoke of the barbs such as "Mir Jafar" used by Bharatiya Janata Party leaders for Gandhi. Talking to reporters on the Assembly premises here, he also accused the BJP-led Centre of attempting to "threaten" and "suppress" constitutional institutions. "The court's decision is before everyone and bail has also been granted. The fight will continue further," Baghel said.

makes a wide impact, which increases the seriousness of his crime.

"And if the accused is given less punishment, then it sends a wrong message to the public and the purpose of defamation is not fulfilled and anybody will easily slander someone," the court observed.

The court also said the Supreme Court had in the past asked the accused to

remain alert in the future after he apologised in a case (SLP 46/2018) for his 'chowkidar chor hai' remark.

"Despite the Supreme Court alerting the accused, there appears to be no change in his conduct. The accused is a MP, and addressing the public as an MP is serious because it makes a wide impact on the public," it said.

'Ghazwa-e-Hind' Terror Module Case

NIA searches locations in 3 states

New Delhi, Mar 23 (PTI):

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday carried out raids in three states as part of its probe into the 'Ghazwa-e-Hind' terror module that was busted in Bihar last year.

The houses of eight suspects located in Nagpur in Maharashtra, Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh, and Valsad, Surat and Botad districts in Gujarat were searched and "incriminating" material, including digital devices (mobile phones and memory cards) and documents, seized, the federal agency said in a statement.

The case stems from a

July 2022 FIR registered by the Bihar Police at the Phulwari Sharif police station in Patna against members of the 'Ghazwa-e-Hind' module that was being "operated and controlled" from Pakistan.

Marghoob Ahmad Danish alias Tahir, administrator of a WhatsApp Group 'Ghazwa-e-Hind', launched by a Pakistani national, was arrested in the case, the NIA said. The agency had filed a chargesheet against him in January.

Danish, the agency said, had created 'Ghazwa-e-Hind' groups on different social media platforms, including WhatsApp, Telegram and BiP

Messenger. "He had also created a dedicated WhatsApp group for Bangladeshi nationals, with the title 'BDGhazwa E HindBD'," it said.

"Marghoob had added many persons from India as well as from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Yemen, in these groups," the agency said. The module aimed to "radicalise" impressionable Indian youngsters with the ultimate objective of conquest of India - 'Ghazwa-e-Hind', the NIA said.

The members of this group were being radicalised with the aim to convert them into "sleepers" for carrying out terrorist activities, it alleged.

Five Naxalites held after gunfight

With security forces

Sukma, Mar 23 (PTI):

Five Naxalites were arrested following a gunfight with security forces in Sukma district on Thursday, a senior police official said.

The face-off took place around 11.30 am in the forest of Kottalendra village under Errabor police station limits, he said. Acting on a specific input about the presence of Naxalites in Kottalendra in a bid to carry out a major attack on National Highway-30 (connecting Sukma town to Konta), a joint team of personnel from Konta and Errabor police stations and District Reserve Guard (DRG) was dispatched in the area. When the patrolling team was cordoning off the forest area near Kottalendra, an exchange of fire broke out between the two sides. Five Naxalites were apprehended from the spot while trying to flee.

About the incident

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escaped from the spot, he said. "Five Naxalites were apprehended from the spot while trying to flee," Sharma added.

Four-five Naxalites sustained injuries in the encounter but their colleagues managed to drag them inside the forest, he said. The search operation was still underway in the area, he added.

2008 MALEGAON BLAST CASE

Another witness turns hostile, 30 so far

Mumbai, Mar 23 (PTI):

A real estate agent on Thursday became the 30th witness to turn hostile in the 2008 Malegaon blast case in which Bharatiya Janata Party MP Pragna Thakur is among the accused.

The witness had been recruited as secret informer by Lt Colonel Prasad Purohit, one of the accused in the case. As per the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), which initially probed the case, the witness had given it a statement in 2008. But during the deposition before the court, the witness said he did not recollect giving any statement to the probe agency,

following which the court declared him as hostile. As per the prosecution, he is the 30th witness to turn hostile in the case.

The prosecution had claimed that the witness had told the ATS that he met Purohit through a common acquaintance and they kept in touch. Later, Purohit recruited him for gathering information for the military intelligence and also gave him an identity card, as per the ATS. Purohit spoke about spreading the Hindutva ideology and told him that he was working on building an organization on those lines, the ATS had quoted the witness as saying.

PRIDE OF CHHATTISGARH



Padma Shri awardee Usha Barle during a visit to the 'Amrit Udyan', in New Delhi, Thursday.

'Booster jab can protect future Covid strains'

New Delhi, Mar 23 (PTI):

The Covid vaccines in use in India are providing cover for the original Wuhan strain but if the need for another booster dose is felt as new variants emerge, it should be able to provide protection against all circulating as well as future strains, according to former AIIMS director Randeep Guleria.

During an interview to PTL, he stressed on the need for two data sets - first to ascertain whether the degree of immunity is waning and secondly if the vaccines need to be tweaked when asked if it is time for another precaution dose almost a year after the first one amid



Randeep Guleria

the recent uptick in Covid cases. "Currently the vaccines that we have in India are covering for what was originally the Wuhan strain. After that we had so many variants. And therefore if we have to have a new vaccine, it should provide cover for the circulating strains like we do for influenza," he said.

'Amritpal was building private militia'

Targeting rogue ex-servicemen, youngsters

Chandigarh, Mar 23 (PTI):

Fugitive radical preacher and Khalistan sympathiser Amritpal Singh had been targeting drug addicts and rogue ex-servicemen to help him build a gang that could be easily transformed into a terrorist outfit, officials here said on Thursday.

Giving details of his journey and plans that he was likely to execute at the behest of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), they said Amritpal Singh, upon his return from Dubai, started a drug de-addiction centre at his village Jallapur Kehra in Punjab's



Amritsar district.

In a simultaneous operation, he along with his men started looking for ex-servicemen who had been retired from the Army for bad behaviour so that they could be used for imparting arms training, the officials said.

Immediately after his return last year and he taking over the 'Waris Punjab De'

outfit after the death of actor-activist Deep Sidhu, Amritpal Singh had a cover of two private security officers, and by early this year, the number had gone up to 16. The surprising part was that seven of his personal security officers were youngsters, who had joined his drug de-addiction centre for rehabilitation, the officials said, adding that during their stay there for treatment they had been imparted training.

The youngsters, admitted at the de-addiction centre, were brainwashed and pushed towards gun culture and also incited to choose the path of slain terrorist Dilawar Singh, who blew himself up and killed former Punjab chief minister Beant Singh, they said.

Ruckus in Odisha Assly over Mahanadi water row with Chh'garh

Bhubaneswar, Mar 23 (PTI):

The Odisha Assembly was adjourned till 4 pm on Thursday amid ruckus over the demand of Opposition BJP and Congress MLAs for a discussion on the Mahanadi water row with Chhattisgarh through a special motion.

BJD leaders had on multiple occasions alleged that the construction of check dams on the upper catchment area by the previous BJP government in Chhattisgarh have caused problems for Odisha, "as the neighbouring state releases excess water during monsoons, leading to floods, and stops water flow in the summers, resulting

in hardship for people" The issue was raised in the Assembly as soon as the House assembled for the Question Hour.

Congress MLAs initially trooped into the Well of the Assembly while the BJP legislators later joined in pitching for a discussion relating to the Mahanadi water row through a special motion by suspending the Question Hour. Though Speaker B K Arukha urged the agitating members to return to their seats, it went unheeded.

The Speaker also said that a discussion through a special motion could not be conducted in the House unless the Appropriation Bill was passed.

Devendra inspects progress of development work in Hudco

Sports ground being constructed at a cost of Rs 1.48 cr



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 23: A big sports ground with state of the art facilities will be made in Hudco area of Bhilai Municipal Corporation. This sports facility is being brought up in the ground that was lying vacant since long. Bhilai Nagar MLA Devendra Yadav reached the spot on Thursday morning to inspect the construction work being carried out to give shape to the stadium.

During the inspection, Devendra took minute book details from the engi-

neers and concerned contractors of the corporation who were also present. MLA gave strict instructions to them to pay special attention to the quality of construction work. Any kind of negligence will not be tolerated and he insisted to complete the work in the stipulated time frame mentioned under the terms of the tender. There should not be any delay he stated. During the inspection Hudco councillor Siju Anthony, block president Dhaneshwari Sahu, Kunti Sahu, RBK Rao and ward residents were present.

Here it needs a mention that a grand stadium with all facilities is being constructed here. This stadium is being built at an estimated cost of about 1 crore 48 lakhs.

This construction was started on the initiative of Devendra Yadav to use the vacant ground for providing better sports facilities to the future players of the area. Seeing the demand of the youth and players of the area, MLA Devendra Yadav had taken the initiative.

The engineers informed that the stadium will not only be state of the art, but also have facilities like separate toilets for Ladies, gents and Divyang. A modern gym with all facilities will also be built here. The best feature of the stadium will be the corporate grass being planted here. It will also have 4 flood lights which will provide enough light in the playground even at night.



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 23: Even as the financial year 2022-23 is coming to a close, several new records of production were set by SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant on March 22, 2023.

The Plant's finishing mills including Universal Rail Mill, Rail & Structural Mill, Merchant Mill, Wire Rod Mill, Bar & Rod Mill

and Plate Mill together set a new day record in production of finished steel for the second consecutive day.

On March 22, the Plant produced 17,354 Tonnes of finished products from its finishing mills, surpassing previous best of 17,049 Tonnes produced a day earlier on March 21, 2023.

Another day record was set by Merchant Mill that produces TMT Bars, an-

gles and channels. On March 22, Merchant Mill produced 3125 Tonnes of TMT 32 Bars, surpassing previous best of 3105 Tonnes on March 19, 2023. Merchant Mill also set a new shift record of 1155 Tonnes of TMT 32 bars on March 22, surpassing previous best shift record of 1118 Tonnes on January 26, 2023.

With nine days to go be-

fore the current fiscal year ends, Plate Mill that rolls out a wide variety of plates for different applications has already surpassed its best ever record of cumulative direct despatches in any financial year.

On March 22, 2023, the Mill recorded cumulative despatches of 5,70,000 Tonnes plates directly to customers in current financial year, surpassing

total direct despatches of 5,67,000 Tonnes recorded in 2021-22, which was the best ever in any financial year so far.

The Plant's Sinter Plant 3 too has surpassed its best ever financial year record of 52,65,400 Tonnes of sinter produced in 2021-2022 by recording cumulative production of 52,71,691 T of sinter in current financial year till March 22, 2023.

Programme on 'Reproductive health management of dairy animals' held

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 23: Dau Shri Vasudev Chandrakar Kamdhenu University, Durg organised a two-day capacity building programme for Assistant Veterinary Field Officers posted in the Department of Livestock Development. The event was organised in the auditorium of Krishi Vigyan Kendra by Director Extension Education on the topic "Reproductive Health Management of Dairy Animals" on 21 and 22 March 2023.

This program was organized with the financial support of Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. Vice Chancellor Dr (Col) NP Dakshinkar, Director



Extension Education Dr Sanjay Shakya, Deputy Director of Livestock Development Department, Durg Dr Rajeev Deoras, University Public Relations Officer Dr Dilip Chowdhary, Subject Specialist Dr Nisha Sharma, Dr Roshan Sahu, Archana Khobragade and others were present.

Dr SRK Singh, Director Attari, addressing in the inaugural session said that the number of livestock is high in the region. By training the manpower on the subject of vaccination, artificial insemination, animal nutrition etc, the income of livestock owners can be increased by making them aware of the lat-

est technology. Vice-Chancellor Dr (Col) NP Dakshinkar, while welcoming and congratulating everyone, spoke about the significance of knowledge.

He said that by adopting new techniques and under proper guidance, farmers and animal owners can bring changes in their economic situation.

Reproduction in animals is related to its nutrition and in humans it is related to its emotions. Taking advantage of the technical knowledge, the trainees should work to reach the last person of the society.

Deputy Director Dr Rajeev Deoras threw light on the problems related to conception in animals and

solving the problems faced in animal husbandry. Prof Dr Mohan Singh spoke about the breeding program for genetic improvement of dairy animals in Chhattisgarh; Dr RP Tiwari detailed about the causes and treatment of anestrus and repeat breeding in animals, Dr MK Awasthi spoke about the advanced techniques in artificial insemination and diagnosis and treatment of important reproductive disorders, Dr MK Gendle detailed about animal husbandry; Dr VN Khunte detailed about Transferable technology for dairy farming and Dr Umesh Patel gave the technical and practical training on recycling of waste obtained from cow rearing. Dr MS Parmar and Dr Amit Gupta compered the programme.

Preparations in full swing for SPSB Basketball Tournament

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 23: The Steel Plants Sports Board (SPSB) is going to organize a 3-day 'All India Inter-Steel Basketball Tournament' in Bhilai from March 25 to March 27, 2023. All the matches of this tournament will be held at the Basketball Complex of Pant Stadium, Sector 1, Bhilai.

A total of 8 teams from various steel plants will take part in the tournament along with the basketball team from Bhilai Steel Plant. Other participating teams are from TATA Steel, ISP, RINL, BSL, SRP, JSW etc. The Medical and Health Services Department of

Bhilai Steel Plant will provide free health facilities to all the participants during the tournament. It is worth mentioning that the Cricket team from Bhilai Steel Plant won the gold medal in the cricket competition organized by SPSB in December 2022.

The competition is being organized under the able guidance of NK Banchhor, Chairman, Steel Executives Federation of India (SEFI) and SR Jakhar, Deputy General Manager (Sports). Parvinder Singh, Senior Manager, and General Secretary, Abhijit Bhowmick, Assistant Manager, (Sports) and RS Gaur are the Coordinators.

Bore well digging banned till June 30

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 23: For the purpose of ensuring the availability of drinking water in summer season, Durg district has been declared as a water scarcity area till June 30 by Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena. Till June 30, without the prior permission of the competent authority, new tube wells cannot be dug for drinking water or for any purpose other than drinking water.

But government/semi-government/urban bodies will not require permission for digging tube wells in the area coming under their jurisdiction for drinking water. But they have to follow certain prescribed rules.

An authorized officer has been appointed to grant



permission after receiving the report from the Public Health Engineering/ Urban Body/ Tehsil in the concerned area. Additional District Magistrate (Durg) has been appointed as the authorized officer for the area coming under the entire Durg Municipal Corporation limits.

Similarly, the Sub-Divisional Officer (Revenue) Durg has

been appointed as the authorized officer for the area coming under the Revenue Sub-Division Durg Rural Area. Sub-Divisional Magistrate (Chhawani) Bhilai has been appointed for the area coming under Revenue Sub-Division Chhawani Bhilai.

Sub-Divisional Officer (Revenue) Dhamdha has been appointed for the area coming under Revenue Sub-Division Patan. Sub-Divisional Officer (Revenue) Bhilai 3 has been appointed for the area coming under Revenue Division Bhilai 3. Registered bore-well agency is mandatory for bore-well digging or repair works.

WaterAid India conducts 'Water Awareness Mass Campaign'

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 23: On the occasion of Water Day, WaterAid India (District Durg) conducted the water awareness campaign programme. Oath-taking, river cleaning and public awareness Rath Yatra, etc were organized on the banks of Shiwmath river on the subject of water conservation, safety and cleanliness.

Chief Guest Lavkesh Dhruv and Executive Engineer of Public Health Engineering Department were present. Employees of Swachh Bharat Mission Rural, employees of Jal Jeevan Mission, Sarpanch, Panch, students, Municipal Corporation Durg and Bhilai, Swachhagrahis, self-help group members, active



women, fishermen committee members, along with representatives of 21 villages took oath to work as "Jal Rakshak".

Additional Collector led the sanitation drive on the banks of the river. He urged all to

keep cleanliness and especially save the water from getting polluted.

Motivating Swachhagrahis, Girish Mathure of Swachh Bharat Mission Rural said that every person has to protect the ponds and water bodies of his village.

The purpose of the event was highlighted by the representative of WaterAid India. They said that if we do not save the water of rivers, drains and ponds from pollution today, it will be very fatal for our future generations. Do

your part to save more water.

Appreciating this program organized by WaterAid, the villagers assured to provide their cooperation for the conservation and cleanliness of the river water. At the end of the programme, vote of thanks was proposed by the WaterAid representative.

Saurabh Kumar from WaterAid, Suresh Kapse, Manoj Banik, Swati Sherpa, Nikki Soni, Anshul Meshram and Hema Devangan from Jal Jeevan Mission, Bhavesh Bawankar, Chandrakant from Swachh Bharat Mission Rural, Girish Mathure, Rajesh Tandekar, Ravi and Sarpanchs of Ghughwa, Mahmara along with the students and the villagers were present.

IWD: JK Foundation honours 100 women achievers

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 23: On the occasion of International Women's Day, JK Foundation honoured 100 women achievers from across the Chhattisgarh state during a gracious function held at Risali. MLA Devendra Yadav was the chief guest of the program. Dr Sapna Kukreja (Sindh Samaj National President), Dr Deepa Meghani, Tarun Sharma, Megha Tiwari and Bhilai Press Club President Bhavana Pandey were present as special guests. Dilip Namplwar (Senior Journalist), Subhash Malik, Pooja Mahesh (Mrs India First Runner up), Lalita Chopra (Mrs IWA Second Runnerup), Neetu Mandal (Mrs Central India First Runner Up), Pratima Singh (Mrs India International), Sushma Minj (Mrs. India First Runnerup), Manmeet Kaur (Mrs. World), Kalpana Swami (Assistant Director Education Department) were present as guests.

The programme began with offering prayers to Goddess Durga. Chairman Jaya Reddy welcomed all the guests with flower bouquets. Chief Guest Devendra Yadav opined

that women are better than men in every field. Recollecting his childhood memories, Devendra said that his grandmother used to help him in doing home work and his mother always took care of him. After marriage, his wife has been his inspiration and has been superior to him. Devendra said that he respects his wife very much. He appreciated the awardees for their hard work to achieve their goals.

Dr Sapna Kukreja said that today women are ahead in every field. During the IWD function, the women's power is visible because only women have been given a place on the dais. She asked the women that they are ahead of men in every field. Social worker Tarun Sharma said that if any woman is in need of an ear machine, tri cycle, blood, etc, he would be happy to help them. Dr Deepa Meghani thanked Jaya Reddy for giving the opportunity to celebrate the IWD. Cultural programmes were



staged by Maya Banerjee, Kiran Rathe, Kalpana Swami, Meenu Bisht, Sallu Gupta, Uttara Meshram and Shruti. 100 women including makeup artists, boutique owners, musicians, dancers, social workers, day care teachers, sports teachers, advocates, cooks, and other fields were honored with the Women's Achievers Award.

Yashwanth Reddy (JK Pride of Chhattisgarh), Tanu (Mrs. India Universe), Nidhi Jagat (Miss India First Runner Up), Honey Mallick (Mrs. India), Rukmini Yaduvanshi (Miss India Universe), Sonia Rana (Mrs. India), Bhavana Nathani (JK Pride Second Runner Up), Uma

Kushwaha (JK Pride 3rd Runner Up), Khakhsa Asrafi (Mrs. India 1st Runner Up), Meenu Bisht, Anju Patil (Mrs. India 1st Runner Up), Aayat Siddiqui (Second Runner Up), R Surya Vashu, Isha Mudliyar, Rekha Rao, Preetire Sharma, U Namita Reddy (Best Teacher), Abhilasha Rathore (Best Makeup Artist), Pari Patel, Ranju Reddy (Best Teacher), Radhika Devangan, Saroj Gupta, Disha Bose, Ruchi Sinha, Ayanka Bandhe, Poornima Bandhe, Uttara Meshram, Shalu Gupta, Neetu Devi, Premrata Bagh, Swarnalata Sinha, Sonu Prasad Vijayalakshmi, Dolly Chandravanshi, Basavamma B, Anita Packiraswamy, Archana Kaur,

Harvinder Kaur, Deepti Masih, O Rajeshwari, G Padma, E Sangeeta, S Manharan Rao, Chhaya Rao (Makeup Artist), MV S Gauri, Heena Jasani, KV Lakshmi (Kushma), B Usha, Ushalu Suryavanshi, Vandana Singh, Prabha Hussain, T Meenakshi Reddy (Professional Makeup Artist), Kamala Nag, Anjali Kashyap, Kiran Rathe, Meenakshi Lokaraju, Anita, Maya Das, Krishna Veni, Vibha Sharma, Ruchita Tate, Harshita Tate, Shruti Tulaskar, Sunita Rathe, Moushumi Tandon, Rama Gauti, Radhika Sonwani, P Rama, Lalitha Rajam, Moushumi Mishra (Makeup Artist), Tejashree Salve, Nisha Malani, Archana Verma, Anita Verma, Anita Kamini Ruma Sharma Kavita Gupta, Kamini Sahu, Archana Kaur, Shashi Jal, Kirti Patel, S Sheeba Care Decker, Poonam Reddy Social Worker, Devki Kathwade, Parvati Rao, G Gayatri Teacher, Anjali Kash, Anusha, Debki Disha, Meenu Reddy (Gym Trainer), Gayatri Sahu, Seema Saye and Suchitra Dey participated in the event. JK Foundation President Jaya Reddy proposed the vote of thanks.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 23: On Thursday, Durg Police arrested two constables of Chhattisgarh Police on charges of criminal conspiracy, making statements conducting to public mischief and causing disaffection. FIR against them is lodged at Bijapur Kotwali under section 120 (b), 505 (1), 34 of IPC and Section 3, 4 of the Police (Incitement to Disaffection) Act, 1922. Durg Police arrested them when they were marching towards the Police Headquarters to tender their resignations. They have been handed over to Bijapur Police Station for further legal action.

Alleging harassment on the part of senior officers of the Police Department, Constable Sanjeev Mishra and Constable Ujjwal Diwan had announced to conduct a foot march from Durg



Patel Square to PHQ Raipur and tender their resignations at Raipur. Police team was ready to arrest them at Patel Square in Durg but the protesting Constables played a trick and started their foot march from Risali. They were taken into custody from Central Avenue Road in Bhilai Township.

It needs to be mentioned here that Constable Sanjeev Mishra is posted at CID Branch in PHQ. He had made a complaint alleging the senior officers of harassment. He was also raising voice to increase the monetary benefits and allowances for the lower grade cops. He was allegedly inducing other policemen that the salary and allowances were not enough and it should be increased. The Constables were carrying their police kits on their heads while marching towards PHQ. As their deeds are categorised as breach of discipline, they were arrested in the presence of senior Police officers and handed over to the Bijapur Police.

CM orders probe into rally

Allegedly in support of pro-Khalistan preacher Amritpal Singh

Raipur, Mar 23:

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Thursday said police will probe a rally held in capital Raipur a day earlier allegedly in support of wanted pro-Khalistan preacher Amritpal Singh.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel told the Assembly that anti-national activities would not be tolerated in the state and asked police to examine video footage of the rally and take action accordingly.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour, the BJP alleged the law and order situation in the state was deteriorating under Baghel, with the saffron party's MLAs Ajay Chandrakar and Brijmohan Agrawal also targeting police for intelligence failure over the rally being held.

The BJP legislators sought a discussion in the House on the law and

order situation, while state Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ravindra Choubey countered them asserting anyone indulging in anti-national activities will not be spared.

After the Chair rejected the opposition's demand for a discussion, BJP members started sloganeering leading to the adjournment of proceedings for five minutes.

After the proceedings resumed, BJP legislators again raised the issue following which minister Choubey said the CM will give a statement on the rally later in the House.

Meanwhile, Congress MLA Kuldeep Juneja, who hails from the Sikh community, denied the rally was taken out in support of Khalistan.

Later, delivering his statement in the House, the CM said around 30-35 people took out a foot march raising slogans



from Telibandha area (on Wednesday) and he has directed police to examine the video footage of it.

Action will be taken if anyone is found raising anti-national slogans in the footage, the CM added.

As far as the Sikh community is concerned, their sacrifices for the country cannot be forgotten but anti-national activities will not be allowed to take place, Baghel asserted.

Subsequently BJP MLA Ajay Chandrakar said the CM's statement should be considered as a resolution

and must be passed in the House with voice vote.

Chandrakar's colleague Brijmohan Agrawal said the rally had maligning the image of Chhattisgarh.

Speaker Charandas Mahant said he had allowed the statement as a resolution in the House.

On Wednesday, a rally was taken out allegedly in support of Amritpal Singh, after which police served notice to the organisers. They have been asked to furnish their replies at Civil Lines police station on Thursday.

Diler Singh, a member of Baba Budha Saheb Committee, who was part of the rally, had told media persons Amritpal Singh was innocent and accused the Punjab government of falsely implicating him.

Diler Singh had claimed Amritpal Singh was fighting against addiction and was uniting youth through religion.

However, a video of

Diler Singh, which was shared by police on Thursday, showed him claiming he had been misreported and that some persons were spreading propaganda that the rally was taken out in support of Khalistan.

He said the rally was held against the "illegal" action being taken against Sikhs in Punjab.

"We live in Chhattisgarh and love the people of Chhattisgarh. We respect every religion. We don't want Khalistan and have nothing to do with it. We only talk about Sikhism and we raise our voice for Sikhs. It is our responsibility and right to raise the issue of our community," he added.

Police action began in Punjab last week against radical preacher Amritpal Singh, who heads 'Waaris Punjab De' organisation, leading to several arrests, though he continues to remain elusive.



Massive 'Shobha Yatra' take out

On occasion of Jhulelal Jayanti

Raipur, Mar 23:

A massive 'Shobha Yatra' on occasion of birth anniversary of Lord Shri Jhulelal was taken out in city and it was participated by members of Sindh community in large number. On this occasion Sant Shri Yudhisthir Lal of Shadani Darbar cut the ribbon and inaugurated

the 'Shobha Yatra' from Lakhenagar. This 'Shobha Yatra' was welcomed with busting of fire-crackers and showering of flower petals.

During this Ex-MLA Srichand Sundrani said that demand for Holiday on Chetri Chand was made by the Samaj and on which the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel gave due honour

and for which he expressed gratitude towards all from the Sindh Samaj.

In this programme, MLA Vikas Upadhyay, Mayor RMC Ejaz Dhebar, Speaker RMC Pramod Dubey, Sachchidanand Upsane, Kedar Gupta, Amit Chimmni and other senior BJP leaders were present.

Four supporters of Amritpal arrested

Police swing into action following strong message of CM in the assembly

Raipur, Mar 23:

Raipur Police have arrested four Khalistan supporters Harpreet Singh, Diler Singh, Maninder Singh, Harvinder Singh under section 147, 153, 505 a day after Khalistan supporters took out a rally here and raised anti-national slogans against the action against Amritpal Singh in Punjab. These pro-Khalistan Sikhs took out a rally from Telibandha Gurudwara and demonstrated at the Aam Aadmi Party office in Panchsheel Nagar. The action comes after a

strong message of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel in the state legislative assembly Baghel said that no anti-national activity would be tolerated in the state.

Some people belonging to Sikh community in Civil Line Police Station area had unauthorisedly taken out a rally in support of Amrit Pal Singh. Taking cognizance of the matter the police examined CCTV footages and reviewed video bites of some people who participated in the rally. According to information available Diler Singh Randhava,

Maninderjit Singh alias Mintu, Harvinder Singh Sandhu alias Harinder Singh Khalsa, Harprit Singh Randhava alias Chintu and others had taken a rally.

In view of the possibility of breach of public peace by the said rally and on the basis of information obtained from video etc., offence 180/23 was registered under Section 147, 153 (A), 504, 505 (1) (B) of IPC in Police Station Civil Line. Action was taken after registering the crime. Four persons were arrested in connection with the rally.

Congress leaders express silent protest



Raipur, Mar 23:

Pradesh Congress leaders on Thursday staged dharna at Ambedkar Chowk near Raipur Collectorate soon after Surat District Court sentenced Congress MP Rahul Gandhi to two years' imprisonment in the criminal defamation case filed against him over his alleged 'Modi sur-

name' remark.

Pradesh Congress Committee President Mohan Markam said "Truth can be disturbed, but not defeated. We stand with truth and Rahul Gandhi".

Corporator and MIC member Ajit Kukreja along with his colleagues expressed protest symbolically at Telibandha Marine Drive at 3 pm

- Rahul's conviction, reaction in Raipur
- Truth can be disturbed, not defeated: PCC Chief

today. Ajit Kukreja said that the Modi government at the center was trying to intimidate Rahul Gandhi with misuse of machinery. Rahul Gandhi is walking on the path of truth, he said.

Youth Congress leaders were also seen protesting against the conviction of Rahul Gandhi in the defamation case. They reached near the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Gandhi Maidan under the leadership of Youth Congress state president Akash Sharma and expressed silent protest.

Assembly Speaker inaugurates workshop on health issues related to Covid



Raipur, Mar 23:

Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Speaker Dr Charandas Mahant today inaugurated a workshop on health issues related to COVID. The workshop was organized under the activities of the World Health Organisation, Indian Parliamentary Institute-Population and Development "IAPPD" New Delhi.

Health and Family Welfare Minister TS Singhdeo, Legislators, former Member of

- Organized by "IAPPD" New Delhi

Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Mrs. Chhaya Verma and Secretary of Legislative Assembly Dinesh Sharma were also present. Power Point presentations were given by the Institute's Executive Secretary, former Director, Indian Institute of Mass Communication and expert Manmohan Sharma and colleagues.

CM pays tribute to Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev

On their martyrdom day

Raipur, Mar 23: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel paid floral tributes to the immortal fighters of the Indian freedom movement Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev on their martyrdom day at his residential office today. While remembering them, Chief Minister, Baghel, stated that these great freedom fighters willingly gave their lives for the nation. They reinforced the spirit of independence among the people with this sacrifice. Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev were true sons of India, and their sacrifice will continue to encourage the youth to give their all for the country.

CM extends greetings on 'Chetri Chandra'

Raipur, Mar 23:

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel paid a floral tribute to Lord Jhulelal on the occasion of his anniversary at his residential office today. He extended his best wishes of Chetri Chandra (Cheti Chand) to all the state's residents, especially people belonging to the Sindh community. He prayed for the happiness and prosperity of all citizens on this occasion.

The Chief Minister said that Chetri Chandra (Cheti Chand) is quite a significant festival for

the Sindh community. On this day, the anniversary of Jhulelal Ji, the main deity of the Sindh community, is celebrated. The people of the Sindh community also celebrate this day as the beginning of their new year. It is noteworthy that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel while honoring the faith and traditions of the Sindh community, has declared a holiday this year on the occasion of the Chetri Chandra (Cheti Chand) Festival in the municipal corporation and municipal areas of the state.

An open-house session held between IIT Bhilai and AIIMS Raipur



Raipur, Mar 23:

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhilai and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Raipur, organised a brainstorming session for exploring collaboration opportunities. The aim was to provide a common platform for stu-

dents, faculty members and industries for integrated teaching/training, joint research and development, entrepreneurship etc. with a vision to improve medical facilities through state of art engineering technologies.

The mission of the joint effort is to optimally

utilise resources, infrastructure and knowledge of both institutes for the betterment of society. A website 'Ayush-Tech' was also launched by Prof. Rajiv Prakash, Director, IIT Bhilai and Prof. (Dr.) Nitin M. Nagarkar, Director, AIIMS Raipur. The website contains details of the collabora-

tions, team members etc. which will foster other stakeholders like doctors, startups, medical and technological companies etc.

The theme of the session was to discuss possibilities of providing technological support and solutions from IIT Bhilai to the issues faced by AIIMS

Raipur in providing medical services. Some of the major areas discussed at the session included Affordable Medical Devices, Medical Imaging, Fintech for Healthcare, Smart Materials for Healthcare, Teaching and Training, IOT for Healthcare and Wireless communication for Healthcare.

Topics like low cost medical devices and medical implants, AI/ML for supporting medical applications, smart materials, smart insulin, targeted drug delivery system etc. were discussed. Prof. Prakash speaking on this occasion said that soon several groups including faculty members from IIT Bhilai, AIIMS Raipur and students will work on these problems.

National Seminar in collaboration with NCW on Mar 25

'On Rights of Women to Sexual Health and Choices: A Jurisprudential Conundrum'

Raipur, Mar 23:

Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur is organizing a one-day National Seminar "Rights of Women to Sexual Health and Choices: A Jurisprudential Conundrum", in collaboration with National Commission for Women (NCW), Delhi on March 25. The Seminar is being organized with the objective to highlight the various issues and challenges related to protection of women's right to sexual health and well-being.

The one-day National Seminar will see a host of distinguished dignitaries attending the Inaugural and Valedictory Function and participation from academicians, legal and

medical professionals and research scholars across the country. The Chief Guest for the Inaugural Function is Rekha Sharma, Chairperson, National Commission for Women, Government of India, Delhi and Dr. Nitin Nagarkar, Director, AIIMS, Raipur will be the Guest of Honour.

Prof. (Dr.) V.C. Vivekanandan, Vice-Chancellor, HNU said the Seminar will provide a platform to the legal and medical professionals and research scholars to discuss and deliberate upon the significant issues relating to women's sexual health and well-being.

76 research papers were selected from 250 submissions for the de-

liberations on significant topics such as maternal and reproductive health; rights of unborn; Privacy Marriage; Marital Rape; Rights of LGBT Community; and Assisted Reproductive Technology etc.

The Chief Guest for the Valedictory Function is Prof. (Dr.) Baldev Bhai Sharma, Vice Chancellor, Kushabhau Thakre Journalism and Mass Communication University, Raipur and S.C. Dwivedi, IG, CID, Chhattisgarh Police will be the guest of honour. Dr. Parvesh Kumar Rajput, Assistant Professor, HNU is the Organizing Secretary of the Seminar along with faculty team of Dr. Kaumudhi Challa, Dr.

Archana Gharote, Dr. Eritriya Roy and Surya Narayana Raju and is funded by National Commission for Women.

The Valedictory Function of the Seminar will be held on the same day HNU looks forward to hosting the dignitaries and participants for the Seminar.

Union Home Minister arriving today

To attend CRPF Raising Day prog

Jagdalpur, Mar 23:

The Central Reserve Police Force is going to celebrate its 84th Foundation Day at the CRPF Headquarters in Karanpur, located in the Bastar Division Headquarters. Preparations for the event are going on in full swing. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will attend the foundation day programme as the chief guest. According to the minute to minute programme of the Home Minister, he will arrive on March 24, at 5 pm by BSF's special plane to Jagdalpur airport. From the airport at 5.05 pm, Air Force helicopter will leave directly for Karanpur and he will reach the camp of CRPF's 201 Cobra Battalion at Karanpur at 5.20 pm. In the camp from 5.25 to 7 pm, he will meet the CRPF jawans of 201 Cobra Battalion and



then will have dinner with the jawans from 7 to 8 pm. Then he will hold meeting with CRPF officers from 8 to 8.30 pm. After 8.30 pm, HM will go to take rest in the camp itself. The HM will participate in CRPF's 84th Rising Day celebrations and other pro-

grammes on March 25 from 8 to 10.30 am and then he will leave from Karanpur CRPF camp to Jagdalpur airport by Air Force helicopter at 11.45 am. At 12.05, special BSF plane will leave for Nagpur from the airport. According to the informa-

tion received, before the stay of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, 201 Cobra Battalion of CRPF is going out on search every day and around 5000 soldiers and security forces have been deployed from road-village to forests area. The area is also being monitored through drone cameras. CRPF and Intelligence team from Delhi has reached here. Camps are being visited continuously by them. For the last 15 days, jawans are continuously searching in the nearby villages. If any outsider is coming to the nearby village, then the intelligence team is giving this information to the officers. Jawans are also searching all the vehicles are passing by the road outside Karanpur camp. Being a Naxal-affected area, special attention is being paid to ensure that there is no lapse in security.

Naxalites cause damage to machines, burnt a truck

In Kirandul near Pole No.443 in KK Railway Line Doubling work

Bacheli, Mar 23:

One day prior to arrival of Home Minister Amit Shah, the Naxalites have torched many machines involved in doubling of KK Railway Line, near Kirandul Pole No. 443. In this one Pokelane has got gutted in fire and naxalites could not succeed in trying to burn two other drill machines.

On the other hand, at last end of Bacheli, the Naxalite have set ablaze a truck and threw naxal literature in large number. In the pamphlets thrown by the South Bastar Zonal Bureau Maoist organisation has termed Amit Shah as anti-nation and terrorist and made an appeal to boycott his tour. At the same time they have also protest the police action in Bastar region. It is learnt that on hearing about firing late



at night, when the police arrived, the Naxalites fired shots against them and in the firing by the police, they all manage to escape. The police has taken the burnt truck in its custody in the night itself and has intensified the searching. It is after a long time that Naxalites have become active in this region and caused damage to machines.

One league and two Super Six matches played



Raipur, Mar 23: In the 20th Inter Departmental Cricket Competition DRM Cup organized by South East Central Railway Sports Association (SECR-SA) Raipur one league and two Super Six matches were played on Wednesday. The first match was played between Commercial and RPF, in which Commercial batting

first, set a target of 156 runs in 12 overs with the help of Swaran Singh Kalsi's brilliant second century, while chasing the target, the whole RPF team could score only 138 runs. Swarna Singh Kalsi of Commercial team was adjudged man of the match for his brilliant performance. The first Super Six match of the tournament

was played between Operating and Electric OP, in which Electric OP batting first gave a target of 136 runs, which Operating easily achieved in 10 overs and defeated last year's champion team. Man of the match was Rahul Damle of the Operating team. In the second Super Six, Mechanical set a target of 80 runs, which WRS fought back and defeated Mechanical team by 3 wickets. Sai was the man of the match. Match referee: Pandey, Brijesh Singh, Javed, Chandan Suresh and Piyush. Vinod Sharma, Rajesh Prakash, Ravish Pathak were in the role of scorer.

Tractor collides with a parked truck



Jagdalpur, Mar 23: On Wednesday morning, a Maruti car driver opened the door of his car parked on the side of the road near Surya Mahavidyalaya located on Geddum Road of the district headquarters. At the same time, a tractor driver coming from behind lost control after hitting the car door when the car door opened. Being uncontrolled, the tractor rammed

into a truck parked on the roadside. Although no one got hurt in this accident, but the tractor got damaged due to the negligence of the car driver. Immediately after the incident, there was a gathering of people on the spot. At the same time, the people around reprimanded the car driver. Due to the presence of mind of the tractor driver, a major accident was averted.

Nature lover Mishra expresses concern for sparrows

Raipur, Mar 23: On World Sparrow Day, March 20, the sparrow was gifted a pitcher's nest by the 'Ped Prahari Sansthan'. There has been a continuous decline in the number of sparrows due to the cutting of trees, increasing concrete jungle and pesticides. To prevent this, the founder of the 'Ped Prahari Sansthan', veteran stage artist Vijay Mishra 'Amit' has taken a noble initiative. Mishra and the members of the organization did the exemplary work of making a nest by tying the pitcher with a wire and hanging it on the trees. This initiative was liked by creatures like sparrows, owls, squirrels, neelkanth, hill myna and by making nests in the pitchers, the progeny increased. On World Sparrow Day, Vijay Mishra said that he used to see in his childhood,



the sparrow used to easily build a house behind the photo frames on the walls of the house. The chirping of the birds inside used to fill the room. The situation is almost over. If a sparrow starts making a nest inside a house by mistake, then people drive it away beforehand. People hesitate to give shelter to the sparrow thinking that it is spoiling

the house by spreading garbage. The best way to become a bird friend, to save the vanishing birds, is to stop imprisoning them in cages immediately. To keep them close to you, plant trees and plants in the courtyard, pitchers on the eaves, along with tying the pot, every morning feed and water. The protection of the sparrow, the ornament of the earth, is no less than a worship. **Understand the utility of birds** Nature lover Vijay Mishra said that the bird family has a very important contribution in beautifying the body, mind and wealth of the human community. They protect the crops by eating insects and pests sprayed in fruits and crops and transfer pollen from one flower to another.

NCC cadets take out awareness rally

On occasion of World Water Day

Jagdalpur, Mar 23:

The purpose of World Water Day is to ensure that the people of the world have access to clean water. An awareness rally was taken out on Wednesday morning by the NCC cadets of Nirmal Higher Secondary School

to spread the importance, purpose and usefulness of Water Day to the general public by defining the significance of water in day-to-day life. Through the rally, an attempt was made to make people understand the importance of water, conservation of water, environmental protection, water, forest and land. The rally passed through various streets of the city holding placards with slogans, raising slogans on the theme. Passing through the main routes of the rally, these cadets reached Dalpat Sagar and concluded the World Water Day rally.

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CAIT is holding first ever National Retail Summit: Amar Parwani

Raipur, Mar 23:

CAIT National Senior Vice President Amar Parwani, chairman Mangal Maloo, Amar Gidwani, State President, Jitendra Doshi, States Working President, Vikram Singh Deo, Parmanand Jain, Vashu Makhija, State General Secretary, Suriender Singh, State Working General Secretary, Bharat Jain, State Treasurer Ajay Agrawal and state media incharge Sanjay Choubey informed the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) is holding a first ever "National Retail Summit"

on forthcoming April 18th and 19th, 2023 at New Delhi which will be attended by prominent trade leaders of non corporate sector from all states of the country. Beside trade leaders, the CAIT has also invited leaders of transport, SMEs, farmers, self help groups, women entrepreneurs, hawkers and other sectors of retail trade with an aim to forge a bigger alliance of Indian retail trade. The summit will be chaired by CAIT National President Mr. B C Bhartiya. CAIT National Senior vice President Mr. Amar Parwani & State President Mr. Jitendra

● On April 18-19 Doshi informed that the two days retail summit will discuss various issues of non corporate sector including trade in different structured sessions. We have invited several senior Union Ministers to address the trade leaders in different sessions. Mr.Parwani & Mr. Doshi said that beside discussing simplification of GST tax system, urgency of an e-commerce policy and a regulator for e-commerce, a national retail trade policy, various core but critical issues will be deliberated

during the two days retail summit which includes faster acceptance & adoption of Digital technology and digital payments by the trading community in order to bring informal trade into formal trade, access to finance for SMEs, issues related to cyber security, steps to curb unethical e-commerce business being conducted by e-commerce companies including e-pharmacy, a national policy for speedy development of infrastructure in old markets in different cities across the Country, a skill based educational curriculum having linkage with entrepreneur-

ship and employment, need of a proper and empowered platform for Business networking, working plan to promote women entrepreneurship particularly conversion of home maker women in entrepreneurship, abolition of Mandi cess and professional tax, strengthening of Non Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) & Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) for lending finances to trading community and strengthening of distribution supply chain & protecting distribution fraternity from the onslaughts of big manufacturers.

World Oral Health Day celebration at GDC Raipur

Raipur, Mar 23: Government Dental College celebrated World Oral Health Day today by conducting various activities to spread awareness about the importance of oral hygiene and to give people knowledge about ways to have good oral health. The theme of this year's World Oral Health Day is 'Be Proud of Your Mouth', which stresses on the need to take care of one's oral health and prevent bad breath.



At the outset, health education was provided to people who visited the OPD through posters emphasizing the importance of oral hygiene and preventive measures for dental diseases. Also, the ill effects of tobacco consumption in various forms were demonstrated through the posters. Various competitions were held, including the Rangoli, Poster making, slogan-writing, and meme competitions. The health education rally was also point of attraction during program which emphasis on proper oral health and ill-effects of

Tobacco. There was an informative skit performance for the patients and the public. Pledge taking ceremony was held for both the doctors and the community for the betterment of oral health. The pledge mainly focuses on the following points

- Practice good oral hygiene. Brush teeth thoroughly twice a day and floss daily between the teeth to remove dental plaque.
- Take green leafy vegetables, and use more fibrous food.
- Limit the use of Sugar / Sugary Products.
- Do not use any tobacco

products. If you smoke, quit. Visit your dentist at least once a year, even if you have no natural teeth or have dentures. GDC, Raipur not only celebrated the day with enthusiasm but they are also observing the month of March as the 'Oral Health Month'. CDE programs were conducted for doctors on Research Methodology and Intellectual Property Rights to celebrate this. Health Education Sessions were organized for Out-Patients of GDC Raipur and various other groups. In the coming days, the college is organizing

Screening Programme for Pre-Cancerous and Cancerous Lesions patients and persons with Cleft lip - Cleft Palate. On the occasion of Oral Health Month, there is a series of outreach Dental Camps, some were organized at Gurudwara (Hirapur), Abhanpur (PHC), Schools, and Central Jail Raipur (Male). There are also upcoming dental camps at Aarang Village, Berla Village, Farfaud Village, and Female Prison of Central Jail that will be conducted in March. The team of Govt. Dental College, Raipur under the guidance of Dr. Virendra Vadher, Principal and other clinicians Dr. Milind Wasnik, Professor and Head, Dept of Public Health Dentistry, Dr. Vinita Gupta, Professor and Head, Dept of Periodontics, Dr. Sopan Singh, Dr. R Chevuri, Dr. Abhinav Parakh, Post Graduate students of Periodontics, Interns students took lots of efforts to make a grand success of Programme.

State Assembly passes bill to raise pension, travel allowance of former MLAs

Raipur, Mar 22:

The Chhattisgarh Assembly on Wednesday passed an amendment bill that proposed to increase the pension and travel allowance of former legislators. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ravindra Choubey had tabled the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Members Salary, Allowance and Pension (Amendment) Bill 2023 on Monday, which was taken up for discussion on Wednesday. That bill also proposes to provide telephone and orderly allowances to former MLAs. It was passed with a voice vote. According to the bill, the pension of former MLAs will be increased from Rs 35,000 to Rs 58,300. Apart from this, every former legislator will also be entitled to get an additional pension of Rs 1,000 per month for every one year after his/her first tenure of membership (excess tenure more than five years), the bill stated. As per the bill, each incumbent mem-

ber will be entitled to get an allowance of Rs 10 lakh per year for railway/air travel instead of the existing Rs 8 lakh per year. Similarly, this allowance will be increased from Rs 4 lakh per year to Rs 5 lakh per year for former MLAs, it said. Besides this, former MLAs will be entitled to get telephone allowance and orderly allowance of Rs 10,000 and Rs 15,000 respectively, it stated. According to officials, earlier there was no provision of telephone and orderly allowances for former legislators. The increase in pension and allowances is likely to put an additional annual burden of around Rs 16.96 crore on the state exchequer, they said. The state Assembly had passed bills to hike the salaries of the chief minister, speaker, ministers and MLAs in July last year, and the move had caused an annual burden of Rs 6.81 crore to the state exchequer. The Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly has 90 members.

Classifieds

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Chronicle

More than 7000 'Jyoti Kalash' lighted

In Maa Bamleshwari Temple this year

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Mar 23: The festiva of 'Navratri' started with lighting of 'Jyoti Kalash' in Maa Bamleshwari temple. On the first day of the 'Navratri' the light rains cause some loss to the mela traders.

The management of Maa Bamleshwar Trust Samiti (MBTS) has decorated 'Mata-ka-Darbar' with massive decoration and colourful lights and it has become centre of attraction for the devotees and visitors.

It is notable here that many a national and international devotees come to pay obeisance to Goddess Bamleshwari on occasion



of 'Chaitra Navratri' and they have also established 'Manokamna Jyoti Kalash' in the name of their family members.

In this 9-day lighting of 'Jyoti Kalash' in the temple, more than 7000 have been lighted this year and this include the temple at

the top, temple in the down and at Sheetala Mata Mandir.

Trustee of the Temple Sanjeev Kumar Gomasta



informed that total 6511 'Kalash' have been lighted in the temple atop the mountain; 841 below and 61 in 'Sheetala Mandir'.

CC road to provide improve traffic: Jagdish

Central Chronicle News

Fingeshwar, Mar 23: The foundation stone for CC Road in ward No. 5 Parshuram ward was laid at the hands of Chief Nagar Palika Officer Pradeep Mishra and Nagar Panchayat President Jagdish Yadav here on Wednesday.

On this occasion Jagdish Yadav said that on completion of the road, the ward residents will get relief in smooth movement of vehicles and from traffic congestion. A need for construction of 'pucca' road on this route was felt for long and which hopefully will get completed in few months, especially



during the rains, when it used to turn into muddy terrain and used to cause lot of inconvenience to denizens.

The CC road is being constructed on 'Kana-

Bhairav' route and it is expected to cost Rs 4 lakh. On this occasion Lakhman Nishad, Monu Gupta, Ishwar Sahu, Jaichand Sahu and other ward residents were present.

Advocates' Union enter hunger strike

Talks held with SDM (Revenue), urge to call off hunger-strike

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Mar 23: The strike and protest by the Advocates' Union of Rajim which started way back on Feb 22, entered one full month here on March 22 and on the third day of serial hunger-strike, a total of 10 persons sit on hunger-strike and even till date no action has been taken by the local administration for removal of tehsildar.

Among the advocates who sat on hunger-strike on 3rd day included Arvind Sharma, Mahesh Yadav, Daneshwar Thakur, RK Diwan, Purshottam Jhare, Nemichand Sahu, Tikam



Sahu, Anushahshan Sahu, Yanendra Singh. The members of advocates' union are pretty annoyed and agitated over the misbehaviour and corruption by the Tehsildar. The Union has decided to continue strike till their demand is fulfilled. President Advocates' Union Mahesh Yadav in-

formed that on initiative by Raghoba Mahadik, talks were held between SDM (Rajim) Puja Bansal and Advocates' Union and in this the Union put forth their views in detail. On hearing their views, SDM (Revenue) has assured to take action in the next 15 days and the Union has

been asked to call-off their hunger strike and on which the Union has decided to give it a second thought.

It is notable here that Advocates' Union are on strike since Feb 22 against the misbehaviour and corruption by the Tehsildar and had even burnt an effigy of the local district administration and held 'Nagar-bandh' and staging dharna and protest daily. Till date no advocates are giving presence in the Revenue Court.

Patron Adhivakta Sangh Ramakant Diwan informed that the general public and farmers are very much annoyed and agitated over the behaviour and attitude of Tehsildar as none of their work is getting done on time and demanded his removal at the earliest.

Movement of traffic from under-bridge starts

Comes as good news for residents of nearby areas

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Mar 23: The movement of traffic from the underbridge has started in city on the first day of 'Navratri' and it is very much convenient for the residents of Railway Chowk, Budhwari Para and Kalkapara.

Prior to starting it, the Palika administration has started work on war-footing to get sanction from the railways. District Collector Doman Singh, Congress leader Navaz Khan, traders and Palika administration played an important role in this.

With starting of the under-bridge which was closed for last three years, the denizens have expressed happiness. Congress leader and President District Co-op Bank Navaz Khan said that with re-starting of the railway under-bridge, the local traders, shopkeepers, residents have got benefitted a lot and all this was possible with combined efforts of the railway administration, district administration,

ed with the initiative by the then LS MP Abhishekh Singh and activeness of Nagar Palika President Tarun Hathel. With construction of third and four line of the railways for last three years, the movement from this railway under-bridge was closed for last three years and during which the residents of Budhwari Para, Kalkapara and students faced lots of problems. But with re-opening of the road, it has brought smile on the face of students and nearby residents and shopkeepers.



Nagar Palika administration. It is notable here that the facility of movement of traffic from the railway under-bridge was provid-

ADM listens to the problems of the general public

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Mar 23: On the instructions of District Collector Saurabh Kumar, ADM RA Karavanshi met a large number of people who reached here today and listened to their problems in the weekly public darshan organized at the district office.

While he resolved some applications in public, the cases requiring investigation and testing were registered in TL and instructions were given to the concerned officers for redressal. ADM heard a total of 132 cases here. One



Manharan Prasad Sahu, a resident of Sirgitti, applied for a loan from the State Bank of India branch Sirgitti under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation

Scheme. Registering the application in TL, the ADM handed over the matter to the concerned authorities.

Same way Mithilesh Darke, a resident of Karva

village of Kota block, submitted an application for getting widow pension and CEO Janpad Panchayat Kota will look into this matter.

Pratapsingh Netam, resident of Bhehnadih, N.H. too complained about not getting compensation for the land acquired for the construction of 130 and demanded compensation amount giving information about the deteriorating economic condition of the family. The ADM registered on this in TL and directed the concerned officers to take necessary action.

Child protection prog held

Nandini-Ahirwara, Mar 23: In Nandini city ward No. 9 (100) unit Anganbadi centre, child protection programme was held and in this CMO Yamini Yadav Supervisor, Meena Verma Nandini Nagar Ahirwara (200) Unit Mitaniin- Seema Chandravanshi, Santoshi and Anganbadi assistant Prama were present. In this a total of 27 children were administered Vitamin 'A' syrup, iron syrup and vaccination to 10 children was done.

Advertisement for YES BANK LIMITED with financial details and terms.

Massive 'Shobha Yatra' taken out



Central Chronicle News

Mahasamund, Mar 23: On occasion of 'Chaitra Navratri' and 'Hindu Nav-varsh', a massive Shobha Yatra was taken out in city on Wednesday. Parliamentary Secretary and MLA VS Chandrakar offered prayers to Lord Shri Ram and

then Shobha Yatra started from Sharda Mandir on Tumgaon road. During this the devotees welcomed the Shobha Yatra at many chowks and places and Hindu Nav-varsh was celebrated with great enthusiasm.

Advertisement for Nyaayaalaya Jila Dargahidkari, Raipur regarding a notice.

Advertisement regarding a name change from K Mohan Rao to K Mohan Rao Yadau.

Advertisement regarding a name change from Anil Singh to Anand Singh.

Advertisement for YES BANK LIMITED with financial details and terms.

BRIEF



Devotees take part in the 'Panguni' chariot festival of the Jambukeswar temple, in Trichy, Thursday.

BJP victory

Kalaburagi: The BJP on Thursday won the election to the post of Mayor and Deputy Mayor in the home district of Congress president M Mallikarjun Kharge. The BJP's victory comes ahead of the Assembly elections in Karnataka due by May.

Transferred

New Delhi: A judicial officer was elevated as an additional judge while one judge each from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana were transferred to the Madras High Court on Thursday. According to a notification issued by the Department of Justice in the Law Ministry, Periyasamy Vadmalai, a judicial officer was appointed as an additional judge of the Madras High Court for a period of two years. His name was recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium in January.

Recovered

Gadchiroli: Explosives and other articles suspected to be hidden by Naxalites were recovered from near a village in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district, police said on Thursday. A special squad conducting an anti-Naxalite operation in Nelgunda village under Bhamragadh taluka found claymore mines, two cooker bombs, steel pipes and three bundles of electric wires, among other articles, at two separate roads, on Wednesday.

Booked

Thane: Police have registered an offence against a man for allegedly making, stocking and distributing fake food products of various popular brands, including chocolate spread of a prominent company, at his godown in Thane city of Maharashtra, an official said on Thursday. The case was registered after the police conducted a raid at the godown on March 8 and seized various fake food items worth Rs 10.5 lakh, the official of Narpoli police station in Bhiwandi division said.

CBI action

New Delhi: The CBI has arrested a senior divisional mechanical engineer of West Central Railway in Madhya Pradesh's Katni for allegedly taking a bribe from a businessman, officials said. S K Singh, the accused engineer, was booked under corruption charges on a complaint that he demanded a bribe for clearing the complainant's pending bill worth Rs 25.84 lakh for the supply of four Huck Bolt Machines.

'Will fix accountability to speed up govt functioning'

Dehradun, Mar 23 (PTI):

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Thursday said accountability will soon be fixed to speed up the functioning of the government and progress will be reviewed every month.

In a programme organised here on the occasion of completion of one year of his government, Dhami said the intention of the government is to speed up works so that they can be completed soon.

"In the past years we have done the work of laying the foundation stone and this year we are going to fix the accountability. We will review the work every month and move forward in a planned manner," he said. "We will speed up and fulfill the dream of making the third decade of the 21st century of Uttarakhand on the back of the development done in the state



Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami waves at supporters during a programme organised on completion of one year of his government in the state, in Dehradun, Thursday.

under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said. He said several projects like Rishikesh-Karnprayag rail line, Alvedar road, Kedarnath reconstruction work, Delhi-Dehradun elevated road are going on at a fast pace in Uttarakhand. The chief

minister said Uttarakhand is progressing excellently and for this he also thanked the people for bringing the government back to power. He said people know who can take the state forward in the best way.

He said, "It's not ours but the victory of the peo-

ple." He said he is constantly taking feedback from the public, for which he also goes for a morning walk. In Champawat, he said, he met a mother, who praised his work and blessed him to move forward. He said the government has fulfilled the promises made to the public, including giving three cooking gas cylinders free of cost in a year to 1.76 lakh Antyodaya families.

The chief minister said his government had enacted a stringent law to stop religious conversions. Also, he said he constituted a committee to draft the Uniform Civil Code.

He said the law will be brought as soon as the draft is prepared.

He said his government brought the country's strictest anti-copying law to prevent cheating in competitive examinations and has so far arrested 80 people in this case and sent them to jail.

'T'gana govt not to send crop loss report to Centre'

Hyderabad, Mar 23 (PTI):

The Telangana government will not send any report to the Centre on crop damage caused by recent unseasonal rains, in protest against the Central government's unhelpful attitude towards reports sent earlier, Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao said on Thursday, even as he announced financial assistance of Rs 10,000 per acre for farmers. Rao inspected the crops damaged due to recent unseasonal showers and hailstorms in Khammam, Mahabubabad and other districts. Speaking to reporters in Khammam district, the CM alleged that the present policies of the Centre were not helpful to farmers in times of crop losses and that they benefited insurance companies instead. "The previous Central governments were like that, and (with) the present Central government, it is like (the mes-



Telangana CM K Chandrasekhar Rao meets farmers whose crops got damaged during recent rain and hailstorm, on Thursday.

sage is) falling on deaf ears. Not much use telling them (about losses to farmers)," he said.

Rao said the country requires a 'new integrated agriculture policy'. He disapproved of the present system whereby the state government had to report to the Centre about crop losses and a Central team would then visit and assess the damage, following

which financial assistance is announced after six months. The incumbent NDA government's attitude is such that they are only interested in politics and not bothered about farmers, he alleged. "So, we don't intend to send a report to the Centre, as a protest. Because nothing was given on the basis (of reports) sent earlier," he said.

Coal will continue to be in demand: Varma

Kolkata, Mar 23: India's largest B2B e-commerce company, junction services limited, organised the 16th Indian Coal Markets Conference at ITC Sonar in Kolkata on March 20-21, 2023. In order to capture the essence of the fast-changing energy dynamics, the theme of the Conference was chosen as: "Coal Rush: Growing in a Green world". In keeping with the theme, the conference provided a platform to discuss the simultaneous growth in coal and renewables sectors, and what that would mean for viability of fresh investments in either of these sectors. Vinaya Varma, MD & CEO of junction Services Limited, welcomed all the dignitaries and industry

leaders during the inaugural session of the 16th Indian Coal Markets Conference. He greeted Shri Amit Lal Meena, Secretary, Ministry of Coal, for joining the inaugural session virtually. Additionally, Pramod Agrawal, Chairman, Coal of India, S. Saha, MD Bhubneshwar Power Pvt. Ltd. and Ajay Misra, DG, Renewable Energy Society of India also addressed the session about various implications of the Indian Coal Industry. Speaking on this occasion, Vinaya Varma, MD & CEO of junction Services Limited said, "This is a stiff target as it would require 80 million tons more coal over 700 million tons expected in FY23," he said.

CJI Chandrachud inaugurates yoga, recreation hall

New Delhi, Mar 23 (PTI): Chief Justice DY Chandrachud on Thursday inaugurated the newly created Yoga and Recreation Hall for Supreme Court registry officials in the additional building complex of the apex court. CJI Chandrachud, who inaugurated the hall by cutting a ribbon, also played a game of carrom with Justice Ajay Rastogi and PS Narasimha and others. Justice Rastogi even played table tennis. In his circular, the apex court said "Yoga and Recreation Hall" has been opened for the officers/officials of the registry on the fourth floor in the lobby between A and B blocks, additional building complex and will be open for use on all working days of the registry. It said from Monday to Saturday, the hall will be opened for three sessions with the first from 7.45 am to 8.45 am and the second from 8.45 am to 9.45 am.



G20 delegates being welcomed upon their arrival at Mohanbari Airport in Dibrugarh, Thursday.

'Winning all LS seats, securing absolute majority in Assly polls top priorities'

Patna, Mar 23 (PTI):

The BJP's new Bihar unit chief Samrat Chaudhary on Thursday asserted that securing all 40 Lok Sabha seats of the state next year and ensuring an "absolute majority" for his party in the assembly polls of 2025 will be his top priorities.

Currently the Leader of the Opposition in the state legislative council, Chaudhary, who was a minister in the Nitish Kumar government till the JD(U) leader remained with NDA, also did not deny that by hedging its bets on him, the BJP has sought to make a dent in the "Luv-Kush" base of the Bihar chief



Bihar MLC Samrat Chaudhary being offered sweets after he was appointed as Bihar BJP President, in Patna, Thursday.

minister. "The BJP cares for all. But, of course, where else would Luv Kush go except the place where Lord Rama abides",

Chaudhary replied, tongue in cheek, to questions from journalists about the "Kurmi-Koeri" combine, known by the name of the mythical

twins in Bihar's political lexicon. The development is an indication of the challenges faced by the BJP in a state where it has become a force to reckon with but feels hamstrung by the "pro-upper caste label", given Bihar's history of being the hotbed of Mandal politics.

A Koeri by caste, 54-year-old Chaudhary belongs to an influential political family of Bihar. His father Shakuni Chaudhary has been an MLA several times and also served as the member of Khagaria Lok Sabha seat once besides being a founding member of the Samata Party, to which Nitish Kumar originally belonged.

Shiv Sena ousts Sanjay Raut as RS party leader

● **Names Gajanan Kirtikar as parliamentary party leader**

New Delhi, Mar 23 (PTI): Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena has sacked Sanjay Raut as the leader of its parliamentary party and appointed Lok Sabha MP Gajanan Kirtikar as his successor.

In a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, Shinde, who is chief leader of the Shiv Sena, said Kirtikar has been appointed as the leader of the Shiv Sena Parliamentary Party. Shiv Sena leaders on Thursday

felicitated Kirtikar at the parliamentary party office located on the third floor of the Parliament building. Of the 18 Shiv Sena members in the Lok Sabha, four have their loyalties with Uddhav Thackeray, who lost control of the party to Shinde. Shinde had split the Shiv Sena last year accusing Thackeray of compromising with the core ideals of the party and joining hands with arch rivals Congress and NCP to form the government in Maharashtra. Last month, the Election Commission recognised the Shinde-led faction as the real Shiv Sena and allocated the name and the poll symbol to it.

Peon at MCD-run school arrested

New Delhi, Mar 23 (PTI): A 54-year-old peon, who worked at an MCD-run school, was arrested for raping a class 5 student along with his associates after sedating her, police said on Thursday.

The man was identified as Ajay, a native of Jaunpur in Uttar Pradesh. He lived in Ghaziabad.

Efforts are being made to nab his associates, they said. Police said Ajay was working as a peon at the Municipal Corporation of Delhi-run school for the last 10 years. No immediate response was available from the MCD. According to police, the incident took place on March 14. Since the incident, the girl had stopped going to school and also skipped her final exams.

PROTEST RALLY



People affected by the Navi Mumbai Airport Influence Area (NAINA) project of City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) take out a vehicle rally to protest against the project, in Navi Mumbai, Thursday.

Gadkari inaugurates, lays foundation stone for nine projects

In Jamsheedpur

Ranchi, Mar 23 (PTI): Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday inaugurated and laid foundation stones for nine projects in Jharkhand's Jamsheedpur, which entailed an estimated investment of Rs 3,378 crore.

The road transport and highways minister is scheduled to launch 31 projects in all, during the day, worth Rs 13,296 crore.

Of these, 21 pertain to state capital Ranchi, incurring an expense of Rs 9,453 crore. Noting that Jharkhand has made significant contributions to ensure the country's development, Gadkari said the new highway projects will drive growth and progress

in the state. A 44-km stretch between Jamsheedpur and Mahulta on National Highway-33, constructed at a cost of Rs 465 crore, was among the projects unveiled in the Steel City. A senior National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) official said that this stretch will provide Delhi-Kolkata and Mumbai-Kolkata connectivity via Jamsheedpur, significantly reducing travel time between the destinations.

The project will also drive commercial development in the Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha, he stated. Apart from these, Gadkari laid foundation stone for a four-lane

double-decker elevated corridor on NH-33, connecting Kali Mandi, Dimna Chowk and Baliguma in Jamsheedpur, at an estimated cost of Rs 1,876 crore, thus reducing traffic burden on the Steel City. As part of a Bharatmala package, a four-lane access control road will be constructed on Raipur-Dhanbad Economic Corridor of NH-320, the NHAI official said.

"After completion of the project, Raipur will be commercially connected to Dhanbad and travel time between Ranchi and Bokaro will reduce drastically, leading to social and industrial development of both the states," the official added.

Sri Lanka govt accuses opposition of trying to undermine IMF bailout programme

Colombo, Mar 23 (PTI):

Sri Lankan government on Thursday accused the opposition of trying to undermine the crucial IMF bailout programme by holding a meeting with the C o l o m b o - b a s e d Ambassadors and seeking their assistance in getting the global lender to impose tougher conditions with respect to the delayed local polls.

The accusation came days after the International Monetary Fund approved a USD 2.9 billion bailout programme to help the debt-ridden country overcome its economic crisis and catalyse financial support from other development partners.

Speaking in parliament, Chief

Government Whip and Minister of Urban Development Prasanna Ranatunga claimed that the opposition at a secret meeting with foreign diplomats called for stringent conditions to be applied when the IMF starts releasing the disbursements.

"The opposition has asked the countries to delay the IMF facility or put stringent conditions," he said. "Don't do this at a time when people are out on the streets." The main opposition - the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) - defended the meeting with the diplomats, saying they met to inform them about the government's action to postpone the local council elections.

Main opposition leader Sajith Premadasa

denied that it was the intention of the opposition to use internal matters to curtail the assistance needed by the country.

The opposition sources said ambassadors or senior diplomats from the US and India were also present at the meeting.

Sri Lanka's election commission earlier this month announced April 25 as the new date for the local elections. The local body polls for 340 councils scheduled for March 9 were postponed due to a plethora of reasons linked to the current economic crisis.

The election to appoint new administrations to 340 local councils for a four-year term has been postponed since March last year

due to the ongoing economic crisis. The SJB alleged that President Ranil Wickremesinghe was bearing pressure as the minister of finance to block the money required for the poll as he feared losing the poll.

The ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna won the majority of councils in the last election held in 2018. It has suffered major splits since the economic crisis. Sri Lanka was hit by an unprecedented financial crisis in 2022, the worst since its independence from Britain in 1948, due to a severe paucity of foreign exchange reserves, sparking political turmoil in the country which led to the ouster of the all-powerful Rajapaksa family.

EU SUMMIT IN BRUSSELS



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres, center left, greets Portugal's Prime Minister Antonio Costa, second right, during a round table meeting at an EU summit in Brussels, Thursday, March 23. European Union leaders meet Thursday for a two-day summit to discuss the latest developments in Ukraine, the economy, energy and other topics including migration.

China criticises possible US plan to force TikTok sale

Beijing, Mar 23 (AP):

China's government said on Thursday it would oppose possible US plans to force TikTok's Chinese owner to sell the short-video service as a security risk and warned such a move would hurt investor confidence in the United States.

Governments are worried TikTok's owner, ByteDance, might give browsing history or other data about users to China's government or promote propaganda and disinformation. The Wall Street Journal reported US authorities were considering banning TikTok ban if ByteDance doesn't sell the company.

"If the news is true, China will resolutely oppose it," said a Ministry of Commerce spokeswoman, Shu Jueting. She gave no indication what Beijing might do.

A forced sale "would seriously damage investors from multiple countries including China" and hurt "confidence to invest



People gather for a press conference about their opposition to a TikTok ban on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC on March 22. The White House was reported on March 15, to have told the app TikTok that it will be banned in the US if it continues to be owned by the Beijing-based tech firm ByteDance.

in the United States", Shu said. TikTok is one focus of conflicts between China and other governments over technology and security that are disrupting processor chip, smartphone and other industries. Shu's comments on Thursday came hours

before the CEO of TikTok, Shou Zi Chew, is due to make a high-profile appearance on Thursday before a US Congressional committee to make the case for why the hugely popular video-sharing app shouldn't be banned. American lawmakers

have called for a ban on TikTok over national security concerns, alleging that the app could be used to spy on US users. Chew is expected to tell the US House Committee on Energy and Commerce that TikTok prioritizes the safety of its young

users and deny allegations that the app is a national security risk, according to his prepared remarks released ahead of the hearing.

The United States, Britain and New Zealand's parliament have banned use of TikTok on government-issued phones. India has banned TikTok and dozens of other Chinese apps, including the WeChat message service, on security and privacy grounds.

On Thursday, the Norwegian parliament followed suit and banned Tiktok and messaging app Telegram on devices with access to the assembly's systems with immediate effect, the Norwegian news agency NTB said.

Telegram is a messaging app founded by Russian-born brothers Pavel and Nikolai Durov. The loosely moderated platform is broadly popular in Ukraine, Eastern Europe and used by many conservatives in the United States.

Anger at Macron mounts as French unions hold new protests

Paris, Mar 23 (AP):

Labour strikes upended travel in France on Thursday as French labour unions held their first mass demonstrations since President Emmanuel Macron inflamed public anger by forcing a higher retirement age through parliament without a vote.

Protesters blockaded train stations, Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris and refineries. High-speed and regional trains, the Paris metro and public transportation systems in other major cities were disrupted. About 30 per cent of flights at Paris Orly Airport were cancelled.

Thursday's events were the ninth round of nationwide protests and strikes called by France's eight main unions since January. Violence has intensified in recent days at scattered protests against the pension reform and Macron's leadership. The



People hold a banner reading "Withdrawal of Macron's plan" during a rally against the law reforming the pensions system in Rennes, western France on March 23, a week after the government pushed a pensions reform through parliament without a vote, using the article 49.3 of the constitution.

French leader is stubbornly resisting the discontent on the streets, and said Wednesday that the government's bill to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64 must be implemented by the end of the year.

Critics attacked Macron for the statement, describing him as "self-satisfied," "out of touch" and "offensive." Violence has intensi-

fied in recent days at scattered protests against the pension reform and Macron's leadership, although the mass demonstrations started off in an orderly way.

Protesters staged road blockades on major highways and interchanges to slow traffic around cities that included Lille, Toulouse and Lyon.

Taiwan recalls ambassador as Honduras switches ties to China

Taipei (Taiwan), Mar 23 (AP):

Taiwan says it has recalled its ambassador to Honduras amid moves by the Central American country to establish formal diplomatic ties with China. Taiwan and China have been locked in a battle for diplomatic recognition since the sides split amid civil war in 1949. Honduras President Xiomara Castro announced last week that her government will seek to establish diplomatic relations with China, which would imply severing relations with Taiwan.

The switch would leave Taiwan recognised by only 13 countries, as China spends billions to win recognition for its "One China" policy.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson

Wang Wenbin dismissed reports that Honduras switched relations after Taiwan declined requests to buy USD 2.5 billion in the country's sovereign debt. "We welcome the Honduran government's positive statement to develop relations with China. We are ready to establish and develop bilateral relations on the basis of equality and mutual respect," Wang said at a daily briefing on Thursday.

In a statement, Taiwan's Foreign Ministry said it was "deeply dissatisfied" with the breaking of relations that had lasted more than 80 years and urged Honduras to "be careful of the risks of China's commitments made on its offer of diplomatic relations." Castro said on her Twitter ac-

count that she instructed Honduran Foreign Affairs Minister Eduardo Reina to start negotiations with China and that her intention is to "expand frontiers freely in concert with the nations of the world." Reina was reportedly on his way to Beijing to sign the formal diplomatic pact.

The loss of Honduras would leave Taiwan with formal diplomatic ties with just 13 sovereign states, including Vatican City. In Latin America, it also has relations with Belize, Guatemala and Paraguay, with most of its remaining partners being island nations in the Caribbean and South Pacific, along with Eswatini in southern Africa.

Pak's election body postpones Punjab polls to Oct

Lahore, Mar 23 (PTI):

Pakistan's top election body has delayed assembly polls in the politically crucial Punjab province by more than five months, citing deteriorating security situation in the cash-starved country, a move criticised by former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party chairman Imran Khan. In a late-night order issued on Wednesday, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) said that after considering the reports, briefing and material brought before the commission, it has concluded that it is impossible to hold and organise the elections originally scheduled for April 30 "honestly, justly, fairly, in a peaceful manner and in accordance with the Constitution and law".

Cash-strapped Pak celebrates Pakistan Day

Islamabad, Mar 23 (PTI):

Pakistani leaders on Thursday paid homage to the relentless struggle by the founding fathers of the country for a separate homeland for Muslims, as the cash-strapped nation celebrated Pakistan Day amidst the economic meltdown and bitter political acrimony. The traditional Pakistan Day Military Parade scheduled to be held here was postponed till Saturday due to bad weather. Already it was decided to hold the parade at a limited level due to the severe economic crunch facing the country. President Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif issued messages on the day observed to commemorate the passing of the Lahore Resolution on March 23, 1940, when the All-India Muslim League demanded a separate nation for the Muslims of the British Indian Empire. Shehbaz in a tweet said: "The nation pays homage to Pakistan's founding fathers for their political wisdom, sagacity, and determination to wage a relentless struggle for a separate homeland". "The day is a reminder that no matter what the challenges, human will is capable of attaining the impossible," he said. He went on to add: "Living nations put

themselves to rigorous audit by comparing their performance to the ideals. This is their way of introspection and accountability. I have unwavering faith in the idea of Pakistan defeating the odds. On 23rd March today, let us awaken the spirit of service to the nation."

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CORRIGENDUM
Reference to Advertisement No-01/2023 for filling up 7 posts of Senior Manager in Level - 12 (7th CPC) in TRIFED on deputation basis published on TRIFED website on 06.02.2023, it has been decided to extend the last date of receipt of application till 03.04.2023 (5:00 PM).

All other contents of the advertisement shall remain same as provided in the detailed advertisement published on the official website of TRIFED (<https://trifed.tribal.gov.in/careers-list>) under careers section.

Sd/
General Manager (P&A)

CBC 43104/12/0047/2223

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ई-प्रोक्वैरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
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(System Tender 128698)

नगर पालिक निगम बीरगांव द्वारा शासकीय हाई स्कूल उरकुरा में 04 नग अतिरिक्त कक्ष निर्माण (कुल 01 कार्य) के लिए System 128698 (Bid Due date, 13.04.2023 Time 17:30) अनुसार लोक निर्माण विभाग में [Unified Schedule of Rates (PWD Road / Building and 01.01.2015 And Electrical SOR with all amendments up to date)] से प्रचलित एस्.ओ.आर. में प्रतिशत दर पर ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। इच्छुक सक्षम पात्र निविदाकार, निविदा प्रपत्र, अनुमानित लागत राशि, निगम एच शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, Key Date एवं विस्तृत जानकारी कार्यालयीन अवधि में निकाय कार्यालय से प्राप्त कर सकेंगे। साथ ही यह जानकारी नगर पालिक निगम बीरगांव की वेबसाईट www.nagarnigambirgaon.com व संचालनालय की वेबसाईट www.uad.cg.gov.in में भी उपलब्ध है। इसे <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से डाउनलोड/प्राप्त कर ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से निविदा करने की कार्यवाही कर सकते हैं।

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जिला-रायपुर (छ.ग.)

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tender Notice No.: COM-G-R-GFTSHP-23-2
Name of Work: E-Tender Notification for tender for provision of One Souvenir Shop (Gift Shop) at Raipur Railway Station of Raipur Division for a period of 03 Years.
Reserve Price: ₹ 2,90,400/- per year
Tender Closing Date and Time: At 12:00 Hrs. on 12.04.2023. Other Details on website: www.ireps.gov.in
Assistant Commercial Manager, irpsa@comprail.secr.in, S.E.C.R., Raipur
South East Central Railway @secrail

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता लोक निर्माण विभाग, बिलासपुर मंडल, बिलासपुर
ई-प्रोक्वैरमेंट निविदा सूचना
Portal : <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
प्रतीसमय शासन, लोक निर्माण विभाग, बिलासपुर मंडल, बिलासपुर में निम्नलिखित कार्य नवीन ई-पंजीयन में पंजीकृत ठेकेदार सरल क्र. 01 से 03 हेतु दिनांक 31.03.2023 एवं सरल क्र. 04 हेतु दिनांक 10.04.2023 तक निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

क्र.	नि.आ.क्र./दिनांक	कार्य का नाम	लागत (लाख में)
1	352	रायगढ़ जिला औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थान लेलुगा में 50 सीटर बालक छात्रावास मध्य निर्माण कार्य बाससेफि. एवं विद्युतीकरण सहित। रायगढ़ संभाग रायगढ़। चतुर्थ आमंत्रण।	154.93
2	353	द्विपट्टीही से विक्रमपुर मार्ग के कि.मी. 1/2 से 2/10 = 2.00 कि.मी. एम्बरसी पोपनरी मार्ग के कि.मी. 1/2 से 3/10 = 3.00 कि.मी. तुथरा शरीक पहुँच मार्ग के कि.मी. 1/2 से 1/10 = 1.00 कि.मी. अकलतरी लखराम मार्ग के कि.मी. 1/2 से 1/8 (50) = 0.85 कि.मी. एवं मोफका तोरवा मार्ग के कि.मी. 1/2 से 1/8 = 0.80 कि.मी. एवं 1/10 से 4/2 = 2.40 कि.मी. में अंतर नवीनीकरण कार्य। संभाग क्र. 1 बिलासपुर। तृतीय आमंत्रण।	199.42
3	354	निगमबंद से धोरना मार्ग कि.मी. 1 एवं 2 = 2.00 पंरिया से बुद्विगाही कि.मी. 1 एवं 2 = 2.00 पंरिया से टिडुलाही मार्ग के कि.मी. 1/2 से 2/8 = 1.80 कि.मी. में टी. रिनोवल् का कार्य। संभाग क्र. 2 बिलासपुर। तृतीय आमंत्रण।	73.59
4	355	जिला बिलासपुर वि.सं. सखतपुर के ग्राम तिलतरा शासकीय हाई स्कूल मध्य का निर्माण कार्य। संभाग क्र. 02 बिलासपुर। प्रथम आमंत्रण।	69.46

निविदा में भाग लेने की प्रक्रिया एवं निविदा के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी विभाग के उपरोक्त वेबसाईट में देखे जा सकते हैं।

अधीक्षण अभियंता
लो.नि.वि., बिलासपुर मंडल, बिलासपुर

G-99518/1

DIGITAL DEMOCRACY

As India embraces a digital future, it's high time that we rethink the way we conduct our elections. For too long, the voting process has remained untouched by the sweeping changes that e-governance has brought to the country. It's time for the Election Commission of India (ECI) to step up and introduce new reforms that will make voting more accessible, secure and convenient for all. One major issue that plagues Indian elections is the low voter turnout. People may be unable to vote due to various reasons, including work, distance or just not feeling up to it. This leads to a situation where a small percentage of the population decides the fate of an entire constituency. The solution is not to force people to come to the polling booth but to bring the voting booth to them. The ECI has already taken steps in this direction. They have developed a mobile application called "Saksham" for people who are physically unable to come to the polling stations. This app will be tested in the upcoming state elections, and if successful, could be expanded to cover more voters. But why stop at just mobile apps? In this age of biometric identification and online authentication, why can't we have a system where people can vote from the comfort of their homes? The technology already exists to verify the authenticity of a person's identity through their PAN and Aadhaar-linked KYC system. This could be used to ensure that only eligible voters can cast their votes through a secure online platform. Of course, such a system would need to be carefully designed to prevent fraud and ensure the secrecy of the ballot. But these challenges are not insurmountable, and the benefits of a more accessible and efficient voting system are clear. Another crucial area where reforms are needed is in candidate selection. It's high time that political parties become more transparent about their selection process and provide voters with more information about their candidates. This can be achieved through a KYC campaign, where all parties are required to share details about their candidates on social media and explain the reasoning behind their selection. If a candidate has a criminal record, voters have a right to know why they were chosen. India must seize the opportunity to modernize its electoral system and make it more accessible and transparent for all. The technology is there; all that's needed is the political will to implement it. It's time for the ECI to take bold steps towards digital democracy and pave the way for a more vibrant and inclusive political culture in India.

AI IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly revolutionizing the way we educate and learn. With the market for AI in education systems expected to grow significantly over the next few years, it is important to understand the potential benefits of integrating AI in teaching and learning. One of the main advantages of AI in education is its ability to offer personalized learning experiences to students. Intelligent tutoring systems, learning management systems, and virtual learning environments are some of the AI-powered tools used to provide individualized and adaptable learning experiences. These tools are designed to enhance student engagement by offering real-time feedback and customized learning experiences. They also analyze student performance to provide tailored materials for better academic outcomes. The growth of AI in education is driven by several factors, including the ability to provide personalized learning experiences that result in improved engagement and learning outcomes. Real-time analysis of student performance enables efficient teaching methods, while AI automation of administrative tasks frees teachers to focus on more meaningful interactions with their students. AI-powered educational platforms such as Ahura, Knewton, and Querium are examples of how AI is transforming education. These platforms offer personalized and adaptive learning experiences for students. Ahura tracks learning habits through observation, Knewton offers adaptive learning experiences, and Querium provides step-by-step tutoring and personalized lesson plans for math problems. In addition to personalized learning experiences, AI-powered educational tools provide access to high-quality learning resources regardless of location or socioeconomic status. Advances in AI and machine learning technology allow for more efficient learning experiences and reduce traditional education costs. This makes education more affordable and accessible to a wider range of students. However, the integration of AI in education also raises concerns about the potential consequences of relying on technology for teaching and learning. For example, there may be a risk of students becoming overly reliant on AI-powered tools and losing critical thinking and problem-solving skills. There is also a concern that AI may perpetuate biases and inequalities in education. To address these concerns, it is essential to ensure that AI is used ethically and transparently in education. Teachers and educators must also be equipped with the skills necessary to effectively integrate AI in teaching and learning. It is important to strike a balance between the benefits of AI in education and the potential risks associated with its use. AI has the potential to completely transform education and provide personalized and efficient learning experiences to students. However, it is important to approach its integration in education with caution and ensure that it is used ethically and transparently. With the right approach, AI can be a powerful tool for improving access to education and enhancing learning outcomes.

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.

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MARTYRS' DAY



People take part in 'Tiranga Rally' on the occasion of Martyrs' Day, in Ajmer, Thursday, March 23.

Ensuring a dignified life for persons with disabilities



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

Efforts should be made to ensure a dignified life for persons with disabilities. However, our education system presents a significant challenge in achieving this goal. Inclusion of children with mild to moderate disabilities in regular schools remains a major challenge due to several factors. The availability of special schools, access to schools, trained teachers, and educational materials for the disabled are all issues that need to be addressed. Moreover, reservations for the disabled in higher educational institutions have not been met in many cases, which limits their opportunities to pursue higher education. Although many adults with disabilities are capable of productive work, their employment rates are much lower than the general population. This situation is exacerbated in the private sector, where very few people with disabilities are employed. To ensure a dignified life for persons with disabilities, it is essential to overcome the challenges in education and employment. This can be achieved by creating a more inclusive education system that caters to the needs of disabled children, providing equal opportunities for higher education, and increasing employment opportunities for adults with disabilities. By working towards these goals, we can create a more just and equitable society for all.

As per the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, "Person with Disability" means a person with a long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment who, with barriers, may interfere with, interact with, or participate in their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. Today there are crores of people with disabilities in India. The 2011 census pegs us at 26.8 million, which is 2.21 per cent of India's total population; But activists, academics and world bodies such as the WHO estimate it to be between 40 and 80 million. Article 41 of the Directive Principles of State Policy states that the State shall, within its economic limits, make effective provision for securing the right to work, education and public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement. The subject of 'Relief to the disabled and unemployed' is specified in the State List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution.

It becomes the duty of the Centre, States and Union Territories to take up this matter. It is also important to ensure that all government buses are disabled friendly as per the relevant guidelines. Disability is defined based on an

evolving and dynamic concept. The types of disabilities have been increased from 7 to 21. The Act covers a range of disabilities including mental illness, autism, spectrum disorders, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, chronic neurological conditions, speech and language disabilities, thalassemia, haemophilia, sickle cell disease, deafness, blindness, acid attack victims and Parkinson's disease which were largely ignored in the first act. In addition, the Government has been authorized to notify any other category of specified disability. It increases the quantum of reservation for people with disabilities from 3% to 4% in government jobs and from 3% to 5% in higher education institutions. Every child with benchmark disability between the age of 6 to 18 years shall have the right to free education. Government funded educational institutions as well as government recognized institutions have to provide inclusive education. With the Accessible India Campaign, emphasis has been laid on ensuring accessibility in public buildings within stipulated time frame.

The Chief Commissioner and State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities will act as regulatory bodies and grievance redressal agencies to monitor the implementation of the Act.

A separate national and state fund was created to provide financial assistance to persons with disabilities. Accessible India Campaign, a nationwide flagship campaign to create accessible environment for PwDs and achieve universal access to enable persons with disabilities to access equal opportunities and live independently and fully in all aspects of life in an inclusive society will be able to participate. The campaign aims to enhance the reach of the built environment, transport system and information and communication ecosystem. Under the Deen Dayal Handicapped Rehabilitation Scheme, financial assistance is provided to NGOs for providing various services to persons with disabilities, such as special schools, vocational training centres, community based rehabilitation, pre-school and early intervention etc.

Assistance to persons with disabilities for purchase/fitting of assistive devices: The scheme aims to help persons with disabilities by bringing suitable, durable, scientifically made, modern, standard aids and appliances within their reach. The objective of the scheme is to enhance the opportunities for students with disabilities to pursue higher education. Under the scheme, 200 fellowships are given per year to students with disabilities. The National Trust has schemes for the welfare of persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities. A large number of disabilities are preventable, including those resulting from medical issues during birth, maternal conditions, malnutrition, as well as those resulting from accidents and injuries. However, the health sector has failed to respond actively to disability, especially in rural India, besides lack of affordable access to proper health care, aids and appliances, and poorly trained health workers in rehabilitation centers is another concern subject to our education system is not inclusive. Inclusion of children with mild to moderate disabilities in regular schools remains a major challenge.

There are many issues such as availability of special schools, access to schools, trained teachers and availability of educational materials for the disabled. Furthermore, reservations for the disabled in higher educational institutions have not been met in many cases, and even though many adults with disabilities are capable of productive work, adults with disabilities have much lower employment rates than the general population. The situation is even worse in the private sector, where very few people with disabilities are employed. Physical access to buildings, transport, access to services, etc. still remains a major challenge. Negative attitudes of families of the disabled, and often of

the disabled themselves, prevent persons with disabilities from participating actively in the family, community or workforce. People with disabilities face discrimination in everyday life. People with mental illness or mental retardation face the worst stigma and are subject to severe social exclusion. The lack of hard and comparable data and statistics further hinders the inclusion of persons with disabilities. Major issues with data collection and measuring disability are that disability is difficult to define. Different purposes require different disability data. Reluctance to report a disability as a disability is considered a stigma in many places/societies. Poor implementation of policies and plans hinders the inclusion of persons with disabilities. Though various Acts and schemes have been laid down with the aim of empowering the disabled, they face many challenges in their implementation.

Preventive health programs need to be strengthened and all children should be screened at an early age. Kerala has already started an early prevention programme. The Comprehensive Newborn Screening (CNS) program seeks to identify deficiencies early in infants and reduce the state's disability burden. People with disabilities need to be better integrated into the society by overcoming stigma. Awareness campaigns should be conducted to educate and sensitize people about different types of disabilities. Success stories can be displayed. There is a need to empower adults with disabilities with employable skills. The private sector needs to be encouraged to employ them. There is a need to improve the measurement of disability to better understand the scale of disability in India. There is a need to prepare state wise strategy on education for children with special needs.

There should be proper teacher training to meet the needs of children with disabilities and facilitate their inclusion in regular schools. Also there should be more special schools and ensure educational material for children with disabilities. Safety measures should be taken like road safety, safety in residential areas, public transport system etc. Also, it should be made legally binding to make buildings disabled friendly. More budgetary allocation for welfare of disabled. There should be a disability budget on the lines of gender budget. Proper implementation of the schemes should be ensured. There should be proper monitoring mechanism and counting of public money.

(Writer is Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, All India Radio and TV panelist. Views are personal.)

LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Double-edged sword

Modi's recent satirical remarks about "Kaala Teeka" have sparked controversy, with some criticizing the comments as unjustified. While it is important to question the appropriateness of his comments, there is no denying that India's foreign policy under his leadership has gained global recognition and admiration. India's growing influence can be traced back to Nehru's founding of the Non-Aligned Movement, and today, Modi holds the same position at the epicenter of all international developments. World leaders have praised Modi's foreign policy efforts, and India is set to host the G20 conference and enter the G7 group of countries. While some may not agree with Modi's satirical comments, the reality is that India's foreign policy has put the country on the map as a global power to be reckoned with. However, it is important for leaders to choose their words carefully, as satirical remarks can be a double-edged sword.

Yash Pal Raihan, Jalandhar

Death Penalty: A Humane Execution?

The recent consideration by the Supreme Court to set up a committee of experts to examine the proportionality and painlessness of executing death row convicts by hanging has raised important questions about the humaneness of the death penalty. Attorney General for India (AG) A R Venkataramani promptly agreed to seek instructions from the government before the court sets up a committee to examine the issue. As a staunch opponent of the death penalty, I believe that a more dignified and less painful method of execution should be adopted in our country. While hanging has been the traditional method of execution in India, it is worth exploring alternative methods that have been adopted by developed countries such as lethal injection and firing squad, which are considered more humane. Gas chambers and electric chairs have been known to be horrendous and unreliable, and decapitation is simply barbaric. It is high time that India caught up with the rest of the world and adopted a more humane method of execution. The death penalty may cause fear in the minds of criminals, but it is not an effective deterrent, and it goes against the principles of human rights and dignity.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Mission not successful

I am disappointed with the recent events in Punjab, particularly the failure of the state government to nab fugitive Amritpal. It is disheartening to see the Chief Minister chest-thumping over a 'successful' operation when the main culprit is still at large. The recent reprimand by the HC of Punjab is justified, as the botched-up operation is a loss of face for the state government. The media frenzy surrounding this issue is unnecessary and is only helping to fan the flames of the Khalistan movement. It is alarming to see miscreants outside India engaging in vandalism as a mark of solidarity with this movement. What is even more concerning is the contradictory stance taken by the Centre. On one hand, it proclaims that there is no Khalistan movement in the country, but during the farmers' agitation, it asserted that it was backed by so-called Khalistani groups. Such statements provide legitimacy to non-existent, symbolic groups and only serve to worsen the situation. It is time for the government to take a more proactive stance on this issue and work towards finding a peaceful resolution.

Deepak Singhal, Noida

Women entrepreneurship, a key pillar for India at G20

Dr Sangita Reddy and Ms Anna Roy

Promoting women's entrepreneurship is among India's most important growth and equality priorities. It is a powerful vehicle that can speed up India's journey of becoming a \$5-trillion economy. Moreover, it is one of the most significant factors that will help raise household incomes, alleviate poverty, and help us achieve the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG-5 on gender equality. India's promotion of nari shakti is reflected in various government initiatives. The National Rural Livelihood Mission supports rural women's entrepreneurship, with over 80 million women participating in 7.5 million self-help groups. The Mudra scheme enables access to finance and the GeM portal reserves 3% of all government procurements for women entrepreneurs. Research by Niti Aayog indicates

that women's entrepreneurship needs support to make them sustainable and autonomous and bring them into the formal sector. The employment-generating capacities of these enterprises are well-documented and create collateral gains for the society and economy. Under its G20 presidency, India has identified eight priority areas, including inter alia women-led development and public digital infrastructure. In addition, the G20 Alliance for the Empowerment and Progression of Women's Economic Representation (G20 EMPOWER), led by the ministry of women and child development, aims to shift the narrative from women's development to women-led development. Women entrepreneurs are at the heart of this shift, leading G20 EMPOWER. We must transform challenges into opportunities and accelerate the shift towards greater inclusion of women in the workforce and

women-led entrepreneurship. As SDGs demonstrate, adopting a gender lens and creating a culture to provide more opportunities to women requires collaborative and concerted action within our country and globally. Digitalisation is a powerful tool that can help strengthen women's economic participation. In addition, there are several sectors where remote working can be a permanent feature and offer the opportunity to employ women workforce. G20 Empower platform's three priority areas are to convert these dialogues to action through the following approaches. One, focus on women's entrepreneurship: Increase women's access to skilling, capacity building, support infrastructure, and finances to promote women-led and women-owned businesses. Two, create a partnership for promoting women's leadership aimed at increasing their public representation, access to public

amenities, and enhancing participation in the labour force in public and private sectors. Three, work towards education that facilitates women's representation in decision-making roles. The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) is a key conduit to bridge the knowledge gap: As Indian women and girls make rapid strides and transition from the education system into the world of work, India is creating a strong entrepreneurship pathway for an additional 55 million women who could enter the workforce by 2030. Announced at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2017, the ideation and incubation of WEP happened at Niti Aayog. Today, it is a shining example of a robust public-private partnership, providing multi-sectoral support to women entrepreneurs. It is building the pipeline of women entrepreneurs through awareness, training, skilling, access to finance and marketing needs.

WEP has also emerged as a thought leader by producing data that help better understand women's entrepreneurship needs with a sharp focus on leadership and mental health. Also planned is an emphasis on technology, lowering barriers to allow women to avail multiple efficiencies without mandating a traditional brick-and-mortar approach to optimising growth.

In this year of India's G20 presidency, the world will witness the best collaboration between institutions, countries, initiatives, and people. It will showcase India's nari shakti, all of whom will emerge as pioneers of prosperous societies and economies. Sangita Reddy is joint MD, Apollo Hospitals, past president of FICCI, chair of EMPOWER20 and co-chair of the Steering Committee of WEP. Anna Roy is senior adviser, Niti Aayog and mission director, WEP. The views expressed are personal.

Rasika Dugal set to reprise role as Neeti Singh in 'Delhi Crime' Season 3

Acclaimed actress Rasika Dugal is all set to reprise her role as Neeti Singh in the third season of the critically acclaimed series 'Delhi Crime'. The news was confirmed by the actress herself in a recent Instagram post, just in time for the fourth anniversary of the show's first season. Rasika's portrayal of Neeti Singh was both convincing and emotional, and she brought an added layer of depth to the already complex narrative of the show. Speaking about her return to the series, Rasika Dugal said, "It's an honour to be part of a show that sheds light on the realities of society we live in. Neeti Singh is very close to my heart, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to bring her to life again in the upcoming season of Delhi Crime."

She added: "I'm looking forward to exploring more of her and to collaborating with a team that is dedicated to telling important stories with the required skill and sensitivity." Apart from 'Delhi Crime', Rasika has 'Spike', the black comedy thriller 'Lord Curzon Ki Haveli', and the supernatural horror 'Adhura'. She will also be seen in the improvisational comedy 'Fairy Folk', the dramedy 'Little Thomas', and the highly anticipated action crime thriller 'Mirzapur 3'.

Star Bharat re-airing 'Radha Krishn' and 'Devo Ke Dev...Mahadev'

Star Bharat, one of the most popular television channels in India, has recently announced its plan to revert to its previous programming style of airing shows five days a week. Furthermore, the channel is also launching a new initiative that involves the re-airing of its iconic mythological programs, such as 'Radha Krishn' and 'Devo Ke Dev... Mahadev', on Saturdays starting from March 25, 2023.

After an outpouring of demand from viewers starting on March 25, the shows will be shown every Saturday, with 'Radha Krishn' airing from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM and 'Devo Ke Dev...Mahadev' airing from 9:00 PM to 10:00 PM.



The channel believes that this move will allow viewers to engage with their favorite shows in a more consistent manner. Star Bharat's decision to bring back its iconic mythological shows stems from the fact that they were immensely popular when they first

aired. The channel hopes that by re-airing these shows, a new generation of viewers will have the opportunity to experience them. Sumedh Mudgalkar who rose to fame with the show Radha Krishn speaks expresses his thoughts about the channel's deci-

sion to re-run the iconic shows. He says, "For me doing 'Radha Krishn' has been a life changing moment, the show has changed my life completely as it has given me a recognition and the fans have shown so much of love on the show and me. I al-

ready have a gratitude towards the viewers for showing me so much love and now that Star Bharat is re-running the show I'm glad they have decided this. And because the fans must have demanded it and I'm sure that the fans will show the same love as they showered on the show before".

The channel is enthusiastic about its new programming lineup and encourages viewers to tune in and relive the enchanting magic of its iconic mythological shows once again. As always, Star Bharat is dedicated to providing quality entertainment to its audience and believes that this move will help viewers reconnect with their favorite shows.

Shilpa Shetty returns to Kannada films with 'KD'

Actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra is all set to make a comeback in Kannada films after almost 18 years with the upcoming film 'KD- The Devil'. Shilpa took to Instagram to announce the news on Ugadi. Wrote the actress, who was born in Karnataka: "On this auspicious day of new beginnings, I'm thrilled to share with you a new character entering the war in KD's battlefield as Satyavati." Shilpa made her acting debut with Shah Rukh



Khan-starrer 'Baazigar' in 1993. 'KD', directed by Prem of 'Kariya' fame, is yet another gangster film in Kannada. The period action film is said to be based on the events that took place in Bengaluru in the 1970s. It also stars Dhruva Sarja, V Ravichandran and Sanjay Dutt in pivotal roles. Meanwhile, on the Bollywood front, Shilpa has 'Indian Police Force', an upcoming Hindi language cop action drama streaming series.

Actress Sheena Chohan to play female lead in biopic titled 'Sant Tukaram'



The Fame Game' actress Sheena Chohan has been roped in to play female lead in a biopic titled 'Sant Tukaram'.

She shared challenges faced by her while understanding the character of Avalai Jija Bai, wife of Marathi saint Sant Tukaram.

She said: "There's nothing I love more than deeply researching and collaborating with my director and co-actors to create characters... so this film was one of the most rewarding experiences because Aditya Om Sir went to such lengths to make sure every detail was accurate and sensitive."

"He helped me to push myself to entirely new

limits to really understand who Avalai Jija Bai was, where she came from, what her motivations were and what was it that made her relationship with Sant Tukaram so special."

Talking about the challenges of preparing for a historical role, Sheena added: "It's so much harder in many ways, because people have grown up hearing of Jijabai all their lives, her story is taught in schools in Maharashtra, so people already have an image of her in their minds. It involved a lot of research and learning the dialect was also a task."

Marathi actor Subodh Bhawe is playing Sant Tukaram in the biopic directed by Aditya Om.

Pariva Pranati celebrates her birthday on the set



come an extension of the family. Having worked on the sets of Sony SAB's Wagle Ki Duniya - Nayi Peedhi Naye Kissey for a span of two years, members on set make it a point to celebrate their birthdays together. This year Pariva Pranati, who essays the role of Vandana Wagle, celebrated her birthday on the sets of Wagle Ki Duniya. Sumeet Raghavan (Rajesh Wagle), who is known for surprising everyone with a cake, held true to his promise as all members of the Wagle family came together to rejoice.

Talking about her birthday celebration on set, Pariva Pranati said, "The set of Wagle Ki Duniya is my second home. The cast and crew are like family and any celebration without them feels incomplete. We always get together, cut a cake, have a little party and celebrate with everyone around and this year was no different. Sumeet and I make it a point to surprise everyone on their birthday, right from our spot dada or the producer, a cake is mandatory. However this year, they ordered multiple cakes for me and it was a day of endless cake cutting. We all had a good time together. A birthday without my Wagle family is one that I never wish for. A big thank you to the lovely team of Wagle for making this birthday as memorable as it was." Tune in to watch Wagle Ki Duniya: Nayi Peedhi Naye Kissey only on Sony SAB every Monday to Saturday at 9.00 PM.

Birthdays are a celebration of love, life and happiness. People often choose to celebrate their special days with family, friends and loved ones. However, in the world of television, the cast and crew often be-

Rakesh Roshan reveals how Hrithik Roshan got into films!

This weekend, Sony Entertainment's Indian Idol - Season 13 will be celebrating the 'Rakesh Roshan Special'. Having given Bollywood some of its most iconic hits along with foot tapping chart-busters, Rakesh Roshan will take a trip down memory lane in this episode, as he is regaled by the amazing performances of the Top 6 contestants.

Making the evening 'musicana', contestant Bidipta Chakraborty will astound one and all with her performance on the songs, 'Kaho Na Pyaar Hai' and 'Tanhai Tanhai'. Praising her performance, Rakesh Roshan says, "Bidipta, you sang two of my favourite songs; your voice also reflects the era of the 90's. There will be a day where you will act and sing as well!" After thanking everyone, Bidipta then professes her undying admiration for his son Hrithik Roshan and asks Rakesh ji if his son al-



ways wanted to be an actor. To this, Rakesh Roshan shares, "When Hrithik was in college, he had two options - either he pursues further studies overseas or he assists me in making movies. The decision was left entirely up to him, and he ultimately chose to work

as my assistant in movies. My intention was for him to experience the same hardships that I faced during my own struggling days and learn from it." Tune into Indian Idol 13 this weekend at 8:00 PM only on Sony Entertainment Television.

Megha Chakraborty: I wanted to be a dancer, but acting happened suddenly

Actress Megha Chakraborty, who is currently portraying the lead in the television show 'Imlie', shared that she was more interested in dancing and acting was never on her mind but it happened suddenly.

She said: "I wanted to be a dancer, but acting happened suddenly I just gave my shot in one of the auditions and got selected.... and then my journey started."

Talking about joining the show after it became successful and audience who related to Sumbul Touqeer as Imlie, Megha said she had lot of pressure to make her place.

As she said: "Definitely because Imlie was already a hit. The maker wanted some changes in the story and it was a pressure to maintain Imlie like before and to sustain the TRP. I am trying to keep the audience happy and we, together as a



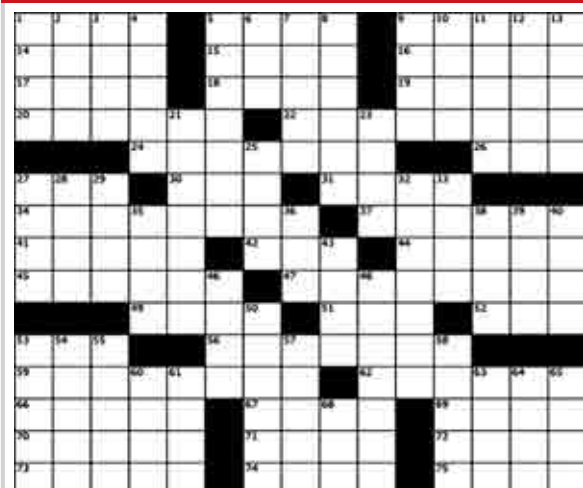
new team, are trying our best."

Megha, who has done shows like 'Badii Devrani', 'Krishna Chali London', among others, said that there is a lot of competition in the industry and it is not easy to achieve success. "There is cut throat competition in every field. You face a lot of rejections and sometimes you don't understand the reasons. It's all part of our job. Nepotism is there in this industry as well and some people get jobs easily. But later, they have to prove their mettle too. Getting the role for them is easy and later, showcasing the talent depends on them."

"People like us, who are not from the industry, do find it difficult to get a foothold because of less contacts. TV also has a lot of competition but new comers are given a chance as well so it's a healthy competition. One has to be talented to be in the long run," she added.

CROSSWORD

596



ACROSS

- Barking sounds
- Price
- Love, in Rome
- Burglar's booty
- Opening wager
- Mature
- Serve tea
- Young adult
- Bumbling
- Flag feature
- Orthodontic device

DOWN

- Mom and dad
- Tricky
- Subside
- Freshly made
- Mast
- Prime Minister _____ Thatcher
- Radio noise
- Thinker _____ Newton
- Knock
- The ones here
- Gets upright
- Indented

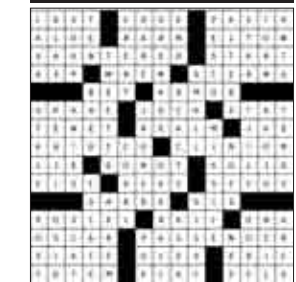
- Father
- Light brown
- Links gadget
- Enjoy the slopes
- Goes up
- Compact
- On land
- Expressed anger
- Building wings
- Jungle sound
- Accompanying
- Narrow cut
- Poet _____ Pound
- Sucker
- Baking _____
- Bad grades

DOWN

- Swiss mountains
- _____ beer
- Quartet count
- Disrobe
- Food provider
- Small bill
- Violinist Isaac _____
- Principles
- Operatic melody
- Short skirt
- Unseals
- Drive off
- Way in
- Cure-all
- Recipe units (abbr.)
- Water jug
- Discharge
- Foundation
- Muffin type

- Is present at
- Football cheers
- Struggle for breath
- Pitch
- Quiz
- Got it! (2 wds.)
- Give over
- _____ Sampras of tennis
- Reach across
- Rummy variety
- Appraise
- Waste material
- Australian marsupial
- Gold bar
- Violin's kin
- Fragment
- Lions' homes
- Irritable
- Leak
- Burger order
- Time periods
- Jar cover

SOLUTION 595



Sindhu, Prannoy advance to pre-quarterfinals

Swiss Open Badminton

Basel, Mar 23 (PTI):

Star Indian shuttler HS Prannoy beat All England Championships finalist Shi Yu Qi of China to storm into the men's singles pre-quarterfinals at the Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament here. World number 9 Prannoy continued his good run as he recovered from a second game slump to notch up a 21-17 19-21 21-17 win over Shi Yu Qi, who is a 2018 world championships silver medallist, in the men's singles opening round.

Two-time Olympic medallist and fourth seed PV Sindhu too made a positive start to her title defence, beating Jenjira Stadelmann of Switzerland 21-9 21-16 in a lop-sided opening round of women's singles. Prannoy will next face France's Christo Popov, while Sindhu will take on 20-year-old Indonesian Putri Kusuma Wardani, who was part of the gold medal winning team of the 2022 Asia Team Championships. Also in action on Thursday will be Kidambi Srikanth against Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk Yiu. National champion Mithun Manjunath takes on Chia Hao Lee of Chinese Taipei and second seeded men's pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will face Taiwanese pair of Fang-Chih Lee and Fang-Jen Lee.



Nikhat, Nitu cruise into final of World Championships

New Delhi, Mar 23 (PTI):

Nikhat Zareen (50kg) and Nitu Ghanghas (48kg) advanced to the final of the Women's World Championships with stellar semifinal wins here on Thursday.

While Nikhat out-punched Rio Olympics bronze medallist Ingrid Valencia of Colombia 5-0, Nitu eked out a 5-2 victory over Alua Balkibekova of Kazakhstan. Reigning champion Nikhat used her speed and tactical acumen to see off Valencia and continue the defence of her title.

Earlier Commonwealth Games champion Nitu Ghanghas (48kg) advanced to the final of the Women's World Championships with a 5-2 win over Alua Balkibekova of Kazakhstan.

In the rematch of last year's quarterfinals, Nitu and Balkibekova went all guns blazing in the first round. However, the Kazakh was more domi-



Both boxers resorted to body blows and clinching with Nitu ending on top. The final three minutes were a tense affair with Nitu getting the better of Balkibekova, forcing a bout review.

You cannot look too much into it: Rohit on Surya's three golden ducks

Chennai, Mar 23 (PTI):

Considered one of the best players in the T20 format, Suryakumar Yadav registered three successive golden ducks against Australia, but captain Rohit Sharma hinted that the Indian team management is not looking too much into his failures in the ODI series. The 32-year-old Suryakumar was trapped by Australian left-arm pacer Mitchell Starc in the



'Didn't want right-handers to get stuck'

Rohit also explained why Axar Patel came out to bat at number 5 ahead of Suryakumar. "When KL (Rahul) and Virat (Kohli) were batting, they (Australia) were operating a leggie and a left-arm spinner. Surya was actually slotted to go in at five. But we thought the ball is taking some turn, and we didn't want our right-handers to get stuck, which is why we wanted a left-hander (Axar). "Axar, being in the form that he is, we wanted to ask him to go in and bat the way he does and take the spinners on. That is why we pushed him up the order. Hardik is obviously the best player at No. 6. We wanted to keep him there and then see between Surya and Jadeja, who we can ask to go before."

first two ODIs. The team management backed him and included him in the playing XI for the series-decider here on Wednesday, but he was again dismissed first ball, this time by left-arm spinner Ashton Agar.

"He (Suryakumar) played only three balls in the series. I don't know how much you can look into it. He got three good balls," Rohit said after India lost the third and final ODI by 21 runs to concede the series 1-2 to Australia. "(On Wednesday) I didn't think it was that

'It was a three-spinner pitch'

Rohit also defended the team management's decision to pick three spinners in the playing XI, saying Axar's presence bolstered the batting department. "We have spoken about creating depth in our batting. So we played with three spinners. Looking at the wicket, I thought it is definitely a three spinner pitch. "It's also about match-ups and combinations the opposition is playing. I thought two left arm spinners will be ideal choice because I had not thought the Australians will make two changes. "(Cameron) Green who bats at number 6 was not available as he was sick and I thought Maxi (Glenn Maxwell) will also play. So looking at the batting line-up they have got, six or seven right handers, we thought taking the ball way from them will be an ideal choice which is why we went with Axar."

great a ball. He just chose the wrong shot. He should have, maybe, come forward. He knows best." Suryakumar has featured in 23 ODIs after his debut in July 2021, scoring 433 runs at a below-par average of 24.05.

Bairstow to miss entire IPL, Livingstone cleared



New Delhi, Mar 23 (PTI):

Prolific England batter Jonny Bairstow will miss the entire IPL this year as his cricket board refused to grant him No Objection Certificate (NOC) to play in the high-profile T20 league beginning on March 31, according to a report.

The 33-year-old Bairstow is recovering from a leg injury he sustained in September last year.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), however, cleared all-rounder Liam Livingstone, who is coming back after recovering from his knee and ankle injuries, to play in

the IPL. Punjab Kings had bought Livingstone and Bairstow for Rs 11.50 crores and Rs 6.75 crores respectively during the IPL auction.

"Punjab Kings have some bittersweet news as England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has cleared Liam Livingstone for participation in the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) but has stopped Jonny Bairstow from taking part," a report in cricbuzz said on Thursday.

"...given the long injury lay-off, the ECB has decided not to issue him (Bairstow) the NOC for the season, which kicks off on March 31."

India bag silver, bronze in mixed team events at shooting World Cup

Bhopal, Mar 23 (PTI):

India bagged a silver and a bronze in the ISSF Pistol/Rifle World Cup, with the air pistol mixed team pair of Varun Tomar and Rhythm Sangwan clinching the second spot, while the pair of Rudranksh Patil and R Narmada Nithin securing the third spot in air rifle event here on Thursday.

India have taken their medals tally in the competition to four, including one gold, a silver and two bronze. China won both the gold medals on offer on day two of the competition at the MP Shooting Academy Range. Varun, following his individual bronze-winning effort in air pistol on Wednesday, teamed up with Rhythm to give a tough fight to the Chinese pair of Qian Wei and Liu Jinyao, before going down 11-17 in the air pistol mixed team gold-medal round.

In the initial stages of the final, it looked like the Chinese would enjoy a cakewalk, but the Indians made a strong comeback, going from 7-15 to 11-15 before the Chinese clinched the 15th series to seal the gold.



Earlier in the qualification round, Qian and Liu had topped the nine-team field with a score of 586, while Varun and Rhythm had finished second with 581. "We all try our best and keep our best foot forward and silver is a medal as well. Gold would have been great but we are happy that we got a silver and we will try to better next time," said Rhythm, one of the most promising pistol shooters in the country, having won four junior team and individual gold

medals at the 2021 World Championships in Lima. The second Indian team in the event comprising Divya TS and Sarabjot Singh missed the bronze by a point, finishing fifth with a score of 574. Reigning men's air rifle world champion Rudranksh Patil and R Narmada Nithin, who had combined to clinch gold at the ISSF World Cup in Cairo last month, couldn't recreate the same magic at home, finishing with a bronze.

We could've won by bigger scoreline: Stimac on India's 1-0 win over Myanmar



Imphal, Mar 23 (PTI):

India edged Myanmar 1-0 in the opening game of the Tri-Nation International Football Tournament but head coach Igor Stimac said the scoreline could have been better, given the hosts' complete dominance in the game.

Two decisions involving captain Sunil Chhetri - an apparent foul on him not given as a penalty in the first half and a goal disallowed for offside - led Stimac to state, "For me, the result is 3-0, not 1-0."

"I cannot say anything to my players as they did everything we agreed upon. Goalkeeper Amrinder was excellent tonight, and Sunil

was unfortunate not to score. He was hungry for goals and could've had a hat-trick," said the Croatian in a release. While many would not have expected Chhetri to play the entire 90 minutes in Imphal just four days after a gruelling ISL final, the skipper's hunger and determination to get back to national duty was what helped Stimac make the decision. "Sunil was the first player to make it to the camp after the ISL final. He did not waste a minute but rather rushed to join the national team. That proves his hunger and commitment. He is one of the fittest players in the squad and can play continuously for three days," the coach said.

Raducanu, Stephens, Murray lose in 1st round at Miami Open



Bianca Andreescu of Canada celebrates match point against Emma Raducanu of Great Britain in their first round match during the Miami Open at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida.

Miami Gardens, Mar 23 (AP):

Former U.S. Open champions Emma Raducanu and Sloane Stephens were knocked out of the Miami Open, hours after No. 1-ranked and defending champion Iga Swiatek pulled out of the tournament because of a rib injury. Bianca Andreescu the 2019 U.S. Open champ

defeated Raducanu 6-3, 3-6, 6-2. Andreescu improved to 2-0 lifetime against Raducanu, the 2021 winner at Flushing Meadows.

"Miami has a special place in my heart," Andreescu said. "I've been coming here since I was 12 years old, whether it's for vacation or training or, yeah, Orange Bowl. I love that tournament very much. Yeah, coming back here, I think it's just good vibes overall."

Andreescu moves on to face 10th-ranked Maria Sakkari, who had a first-round bye.

Shelby Rogers beat Stephens 6-4, 3-6, 6-2. Stephens has six hard-court titles, including the U.S. Open in 2017 and Miami in 2018.

Rogers will face Australian Open champion and world No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka, who beat Rogers in the second round at Melbourne Park. Sabalenka is coming off a loss in the final at Indian Wells, California, last week.

On the men's side, Dusan Lajovic beat three-time Grand Slam champion Andy Murray 6-4, 7-5.

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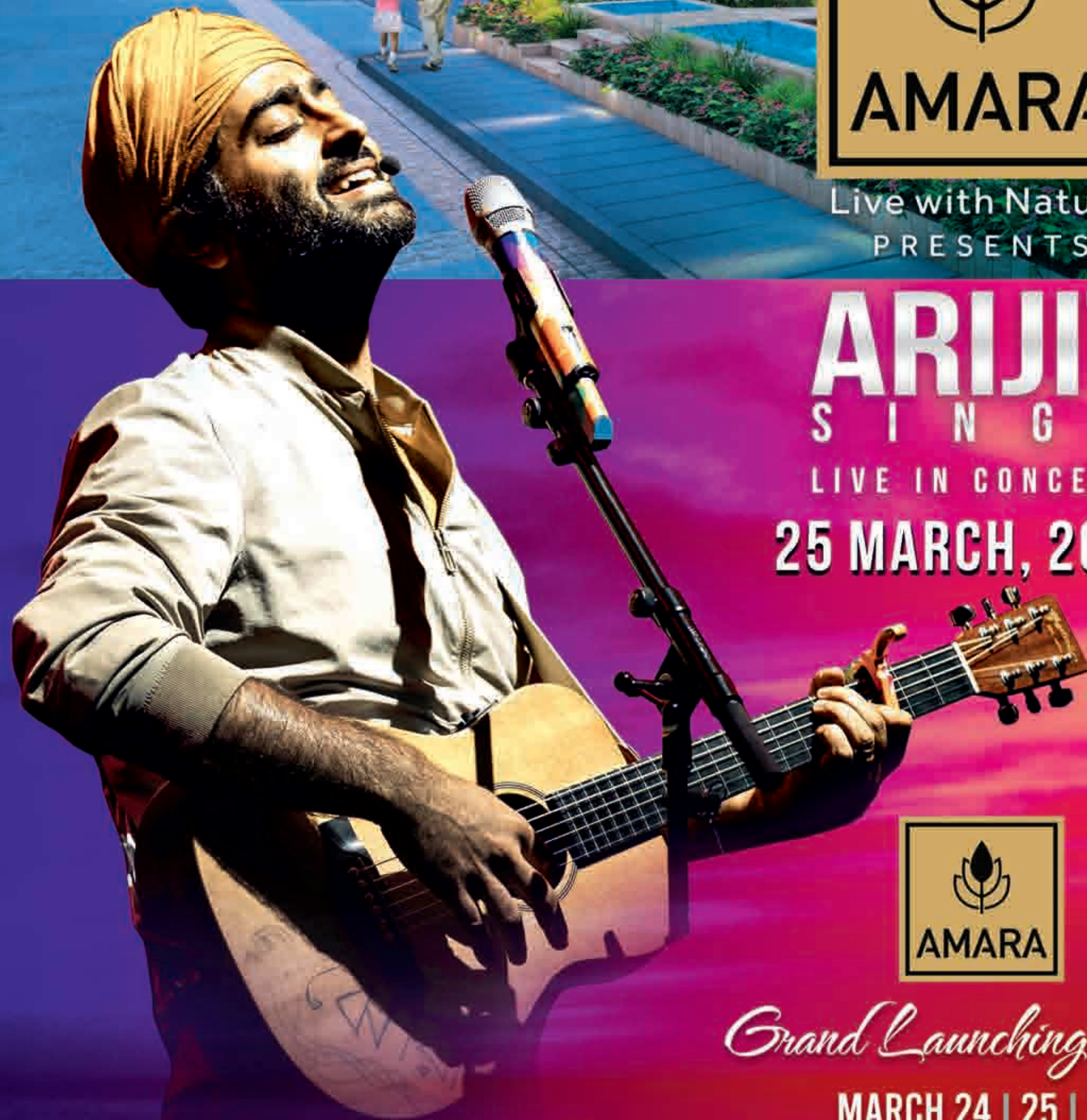


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