



BRIEF



Women with painted face prepare for Earth Hour, in a school in Moradabad, Saturday.

New CJ

New Delhi: The high courts of Allahabad, Chhattisgarh and Patna got new chief justices on Friday. Justice Ramesh Sinha, another judge of the Allahabad High Court, was appointed as the chief justice of the Chhattisgarh HC, and Justice K Vinod Chandran of the Kerala High Court was appointed as the chief justice of the Patna HC.

Factory blast

Samba: A person was killed and four others were injured in a blast that took place in a scrap factory in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district on Saturday, official sources said. The factory was located in the Baribrahmana area, they said. Those injured have been hospitalised.

Suicide

Rajkot: A senior official of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) died on Saturday morning after he allegedly jumped off his 4th-floor office here following his arrest in a bribery case, police said on Saturday. Jawri Mal Bishnoi (44), a joint director of DGFT, was on Friday arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 5 lakh, the official said.

Booked

Mumbai: A woman was allegedly raped and sexually harassed by six persons, including her husband and in-laws, in Bhoiwada area of central Mumbai, police said on Saturday. The matter came to light when the victim approached the Bhoiwada police station with a complaint on Friday, an official said.

Arrested

Srinagar: Two militant associates of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit were arrested and incriminating material including grenades were recovered from their possession in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district, police said on Saturday.

Agniveers

New Delhi: The Passing Out Parade of the first batch of Agniveers took place at INS Chilka on March 28, the Navy said on Saturday. Traditionally, Passing Out Parades have been conducted in the morning hours, however, this historic POP is scheduled to be conducted post-sunset, a first of its kind in the Indian armed forces, officials said.

Mishap

Uttarakshi: A site incharge was crushed to death after debris and boulders from a hill fell on them during an all-weather road project work in the Dharasu area of this Uttarakhand district, police said on Saturday. The deceased has been identified as Sikandar, a resident of the Muzaffarpur district of Bihar.

Weather
High 33 Low 21

'Victory over LWE in last phase'

Shah lauds CRPF's role in tackling Naxalism

Jagdalpur, Mar 25:

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the fight against Left-wing extremism (LWE) seems to be in the final stage of victory in the country and the supreme sacrifices made by the CRPF personnel while battling the menace has a big role in it.

Speaking at the 84th Raising Day event of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), he said security forces have put up a strong fight against the LWE in the last nine years and achieved success on all fronts.

Highlighting the role of CRPF in the fight against Naxalism, he said the credit



Union Home Minister Amit Shah addresses the 84th Raising Day Parade of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), in Jagdalpur, Saturday.

of wiping out hindrances in the path of development in Maoist-hit areas goes to the CRPF personnel.

"The fight against Left-wing extremism seems to be in the final stages of victory and the supreme sacrifice made by your family members has a huge contribution in it. The victory saga will be written in golden letters remembering their sac-

rifices," Shah said, addressing the relatives of martyred personnel present on the occasion.

"As I am in Bastar today, I want to tell you that our security forces have fought strongly against LWE in the last nine years and achieved success on all fronts. They have not only attained victory in pushing them (LWE elements) to the back foot, but

also facilitated development to reach to tribals..." he said.

Extremists were hindrances in the construction of schools, roads, hospitals and fair price shops and installation of mobile towers. As a home minister I wanted to say the credit to wipe hindrances to these development works in Maoist-hit areas only goes to the CRPF personnel, he added.

Shah said the CRPF has also displayed an example of organisational skill by establishing coordination with the local police and carrying out joint operations against the activities of Naxalites.

To check inter-state movement of Naxalites, the CRPF constituted joint task forces in coordination with the police of different states, set up joint camps and established security in tri-junctions areas, he added.

'I'm Gandhi, not Savarkar, won't apologise'

New Delhi, Mar 25 (PTI):

"My name is not Savarkar; my name is Gandhi and Gandhi does not offer an apology to anyone," Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Saturday responding to a query on repeated calls by the BJP seeking his apology over various issues.

The former Congress chief made the remarks while addressing a press conference after being disqualified from Lok Sabha. Asked what he thinks about calls from the BJP seeking his apology for allegedly seeking foreign intervention and whether he could have regretted his remarks in court for which he has been convicted for defamation, he said, "Rahul Gandhi thinks my name is not Savarkar; my name is Gandhi, Gandhi does not



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addresses a press conference, at AICC headquarters in New Delhi, Saturday.

offer apology to anyone."

Gandhi has often targeted late Hindutva ideologue V D Savarkar, saying that he helped the British rulers and wrote a mercy petition to them out of fear.

At the presser, he said that he had made appeals that he be allowed to speak in Parliament but was not given permission.

"Wrote to the Speaker twice, then went to him per-

'Will keep fighting for democracy'

A combative Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said he would continue to defend democracy in the country even if he is disqualified from Parliament for life or jailed and claimed that a "panic-stricken" government has handed the Opposition a "big weapon" by disqualifying him. He said he would continue to ask questions on the Adani issue, adding the moot questions remain that who invested Rs 20,000 crore in Adani shell firms and what is the businessman's relationship with the prime minister. He vowed he will keep raising these questions.

sonally and said 'you are the protector of democracy, allow me to speak', he smiles and says 'I can't do it. If you cannot do it, who can do it, I may have to go to Modi ji then but he will not allow me to speak,' Gandhi said.

In new CCTV footage, Amritpal seen in jacket

Chandigarh, Mar 25 (PTI):

As pro-Khalistan radical preacher Amritpal Singh remained elusive, a new CCTV footage emerged on Saturday purportedly showing him wearing a jacket and trousers and speaking on a mobile phone. There was no official word from police on the undated footage, which is circulating on social media and is said to be from Patiala. In



ing on social media and is said to be from Patiala. In

the footage, the 'Waris Punjab De' outfit chief could be seen holding a bag with his face covered with a white cloth. His key associate Papalpreet Singh could also be seen in the footage. In a second footage from the same spot, Amritpal Singh wearing goggles could be seen walking on the street and speaking on a phone.

My baby Jacqueline: Suresh's romantic note on B'day

New Delhi, Mar 25 (PTI):

Suresh Chandrasekhar, who is lodged in Mandoli jail here in connection with several frauds, wrote a letter to Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez on his birthday and confessed his love for her.

He said that he was missing her on his birthday and referred to her as a "beautiful doll." "My Bomma, I miss you a ton on this day of my birthday, I miss your ener-



gy around me, I have no words, but I know your love for me is never ending, is all over me. I know what is in your beautiful heart. I don't need proof

and that's all that matters to me, baby. But I must admit, I am missing you, you know how much I love you my botta bomma," he wrote in the letter.

The letter further said, "You and your love is the bestest gift which is priceless in my life, you know I am here for you standing by you come what may. Love you my baby, thank you for giving me your heart. I also thank all my supporters and friends for all your wishes on my

birthday. I have received hundreds of letters, greetings. I feel blessed, thank you." Chandrasekhar is accused of cheating many people, including high-profile individuals such as former Fortis Healthcare promoter Shivinder Mohan Singh's wife Aditi Singh. Chandrasekhar and his associates reportedly took money from Aditi posing as government officials and promising to secure bail for her husband who was in jail in a money laundering case.

'Give the party a full majority for a stable govt'

Davanagere, Mar 25 (PTI):

Making a powerful pitch for the return of the BJP government in Karnataka, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday urged the people of the State where Assembly polls are due by May, to give the party a full majority for a stable government. Stressing that fast-paced development was the need of the hour, he urged the people of Karnataka to help bring the State out of the "politics of manipulation". The BJP wanted to make the State a driving force of developed India, while the Congress looked at it as "an ATM that fills the treasury of its leaders", he al-



leged. "Karnataka has seen a long period of opportunistic and selfish coalition governments.

Karnataka has faced losses due to such governments. So, for fast-paced development of Karnataka, BJP's full majority, and stable government is needed," Modi said. Addressing a mega public meeting here, he asked, "When no one gets full majority, will Karnataka be in bad shape or not? Do you

want a strong and stable government or not? Do you want a government with full majority or not? "The first job should be to bring Karnataka out of the politics of manipulation and take it forward at a fast pace," he said. Speaking at the rally held to mark the culmination of the BJP's statewide 'Vijay Sankalpa Yatra' ahead of the Assembly polls, Modi asked the people if they wanted him to serve them and Karnataka. "If I have to serve you and do something for you, I will need BJP's strong government in Karnataka, and you will have to make BJP win and bring in its strong government," he asserted.

'BJP wants to finish off Oppn'

New Delhi, Mar 25 (PTI):

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday slammed the BJP over the questioning of RJD leaders Tejashwi Yadav and Misa Bharti by probe agencies, alleging that the ruling party wants to finish off the Opposition and democracy. RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav's MP daughter Misa Bharti was questioned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in Delhi on Saturday in the railways land-for-jobs linked money laundering case. Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav appeared before the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) here on Saturday to be interrogated in connection with the same scam, after skipping three previous dates. Hitting out at the BJP, Priyanka Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi, "BJP wants to finish off the Opposition and democracy from this country. That is why it is continuously attacking the voice of the people in the Opposition."

Tejashwi appears before CBI

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav deposed for questioning before the CBI in Delhi on Saturday in the same case. Tejashwi Yadav, after the questioning of his parents by the CBI, has told reporters that the then railway minister Prasad had "no powers" to give employment in exchange for favours.

in Delhi on Saturday in the same case. Both the central agencies recently initiated action in the case, with the CBI questioning Lalu Prasad and his wife and former Bihar chief minister Rabri Devi and the ED carrying out raids against the RJD chief's family. The Enforcement Directorate, after the searches, said it seized "unaccounted cash" of Rs 1 crore and detected proceeds of crime worth Rs 600 crore. It said the investigation was underway to unearth more investments made on behalf of Prasad's family and their associates in various sectors, including real estate, at various places.

Her brother and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav deposed for questioning before the CBI

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Gang of auto-rickshaw thieves busted IWD: Women honoured for remarkable works

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 25: With the arrest of three ruffians, Durg Police claimed to have busted a gang of thieves involved in stealing auto-rickshaws. They were operating the stolen vehicles as passenger auto-rickshaws. To hide the vehicles during night, they parked them at random places on the busy roads. Four auto rickshaws worth about Rs 06 lakh were recovered from them. The gang was busted by a joint team of Anti-Crime and Cyber Unit Durg, Kumhari Police Station and Jeora Sirsa Chowki.

While addressing media persons here at the Police Control Room on Friday, SP Dr Abhishek Pallava informed that considering the frequent cases of vehicle lifting, they made efforts to trace the stolen ve-



hicles and people involved in such crimes. Under the supervision of ASP Sanjay Dhruv, CSP Ashish Banchor, CSP Prabhakar Kumar, CSP Vaibhav Banker and DSP (Crime) Rajeev Sharma, a joint team led by Inspector Santosh Mishra (ACCU I/c), Inspector Sudhanshu Badhel (SHO, Kumhari) and Sub-Inspector Mukesh Sori (SHO, Jeora Sirsa) maintained a watch on the

suspects and quizzed the offenders recently released from jail.

The network of informers was also activated. Meanwhile, they received a tip off regarding one Karan Chowdhary of Tiranga Chowki Khursipar. He was reportedly operating a stolen auto-rickshaw. Police team immediately swung into action and took him into custody. During sustained interrogation,

he confessed to have stolen three auto-rickshaws from different areas. He disclosed the names of his accomplices - Asif Ali and Ashok Maurya after which cops arrested them also.

The trio moved in the auto-rickshaw of Ashok Maurya to identify their targets and steal the vehicles. They had stolen an auto-rickshaw from Kumhari in the month of July 2022, 01 auto rickshaw

from Somani Rajnandgaon in the month of December 2022 and 01 auto rickshaw from Jevra Sirsa on March 22, 2023. They changed the registration number plate of the vehicles and used them as passenger vehicles.

The arrested accused are identified as Karan Chowdhary (19) son of Umashankar Chowdhary a resident of Tiranga Chowki Khursipar; Ashok Maurya (32) son of Ramhit Maurya a resident of Tiranga Chowki Khursipar and Asif Ali (22) son of Ameen Ali a resident of Power House Bhilai.

ASI Chandrashekhar Soni, Head Constable Satyendra Madharia, Constables Arvind Mishra, D Prakash, Rakesh Anna, Nitin Singh from Anti-Crime and Cyber Unit Durg played a notable role arresting the accused.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 25: On the occasion of International Women's Day, women from different walks of life were honoured for their remarkable works and exemplary courage they showed to support their families. From government officers to educationists and food delivery partners to self employed, women making their presence in different fields were invited in the programme. New Press Club of Bhilai Nagar President and Bureau Chief of Central Chronicle Newspaper - Bhavana Pandey, renowned medical practitioner and philanthropist Dr Mansi Gulati, Assistant Superintendent of Post - Seema Srivastava, Swami Swaroopanand College Principal Dr Hansa Shukla, DSP (IUCAW) Shilpa Sahu



and Inspector Mamta Sharma (SHO, Newai), Deepti Kaur Khurana (Director of Khalsa College Durg) and Social Worker Payal Jain were the special guests.

The speciality of this programme was that there was no chief guest in the programme. All the women honoured each-other and exchanged IWD greetings. College girls working as Zomato Delivery Partners to support their families, women of Self Help Group,

a Divyang woman who operates an e-rickshaw to support her family and a vision impaired girl who used newspapers to make Braille books were among the women honoured during the programme. It was an emotional moment when a vision impaired young girl Surbhi danced enthusiastically to the tunes of "Desh Rangela" and made everyone join her on the dance floor. Organizers Govind Rao, Rahul Kumar Patel and others were present.

Gang of thieves busted; Rs 7.5 lakh booty seized



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 25: Police busted a gang of thieves involved in thefts, mobile lifting and loots that occurred in rural areas of the district. They committed crimes in about 35 places including Amleshwar, Patan, Ranitarai, Utai, Bhakhara, Abhanpur,

Dhamtari, Gariaband, Rajim, Simga and Raipur. Gold, silver jewellery, household items, android mobile phones of various companies along with the motorcycle used in crimes and cash worth about Rs 7.5 lakh were recovered from the possession of the accused. Seven accused including a juvenile and

three purchasers were arrested.

Superintendent of Police (Durg) Dr Abhishek Pallava informed that considering rising cases of thefts and mobile snatching, a joint team was deployed to trace the accused. Information was collected about the suspects and CCTV footage of

crime scenes was examined.

Police obtained footage in which the accused were seen moving on a bike. On the basis of the registration number of the vehicle, police identified one of the accused as Sagar Nirmalkar of Bajrangpara Amleshwar.

During interrogation, he disclosed the names of his accomplices after which Amleshwar residents Shankar Sethi, Ashish Dewangan, Harsh Shinde and a juvenile were arrested. The accused had sold the stolen items to Ashish Sahu of Jheet.

A stolen mobile was recovered from Khilesh, a resident of Katti Abhanpur. Further action is being taken from the concerned police stations. The owners of other seized mobiles are being traced on the technical basis.

GE Foundation distributes Nutritional Kits to malnourished children



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 25: Nutritional kits and protein power were distributed in the three Anganwadi centers under Jajangiri Ward 23 & 24 (1,2) of Kumhari area, to 9 severe and 24 moderate malnourished children by GE Foundation on the lines of the Chief Minister's Nutrition Campaign on March 23.

Parents present in the program were given detailed information about the health and nutrition level of the children. Kumhari Sector Supervisor and NRC Ahiwara Incharge Sandhya Parganiha advised parents to send malnourished children to NRC and get health benefits. 9 severely malnourished children were adopted by Dr Hema Kulkarni,



Dr Jyothi Pillai, Pratibha Patel, women members of GE Foundation present in the program.

The nutrition level of the children was checked by measuring their weight and height. GE Foundation will continuously monitor the nutrition level of these children by visiting their homes.

The remaining 24 moderately malnourished children were decided to

be adopted by Pradeep Pillai, Umesh Patel, Simhachal Nayak, Shaji Samuel, and K Vinod, Jajangiri counselor Kumari Sahu, Anganwadi worker Pushpa Sahu, Nirmala Sahu, Shashi Yadav. GE Foundation's Pradeep Pillai, Prakash Deshmukh, Ajit Singh, Dr Hema Kulkarni, Dr Jyothi Pillai, Pratibha Patel, and Shweta Singh were present.

Police busts gang that used forged documents to buy cars on loan

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 25: With the arrest of three persons, police claimed to have busted a gang that used forged papers and documents of others to buy cars on loan. After purchasing the cars, they used to get them modified and sold in other states. The gang purchased luxury cars, bullet bike, washing machine, mobile phones etc., misusing the documents of innocent and poor people. Police are trying to trace other members of this inter-state gang.

While addressing media persons here at the Police Control Room on Saturday, SP Dr Abhishek Pallava informed that Khursipar Police Station received a complaint from Hemant Kumar of KLC Zone 02 Khursipar regarding the misuse of his documents for taking car and vehicle loans. He complained that one Shivkumar of his locality introduced him to Srinivas and Yogesh Sonwani. As the victim was in need of money for the marriage of his daughters, Shivkumar helped him with Rs 20000. Later on November 22, 2022, Shivkumar took him to Raipur and they met Yogesh Sonwani. Thereafter they moved to a bike showroom and convinced him to provide his Aadhaar card, pan card, bank passbook and 03 cheques to purchase a Bullet bike on loan. The accused assured him that they will repay all the instalments. Thereafter, the accused bought a



Mahindra XUV 300 using his documents. They made him sign the loan agreement and gave him Rs 20000 cash. Later, they purchased a washing machine also and assured the victim that they will repay all the loans and he will have no problem.

Later the victim came to know that the instalments were not being paid when the finance company representatives reached his residence for recovery of loans. Hemant Kumar immediately reached the Police Station and lodged a complaint against Shivkumar, Srinivas and Yogesh Sonwani. Police team swung into action and Shivkumar was arrested from his residence. Later, Yogesh Sonwani was arrested from Kulba Abhanpur and Srinivas was arrested from Bhilai-3. During interrogation, they confessed to have cheated the

victim Hemant Kumar and the finance companies to purchase vehicles, washing machine and mobiles on loan. After modification, they sold the vehicles in other states. The accused confessed to have fraudulently purchased a total of 10 cars including Hyundai Creta, Skoda, Honda City, etc, a bullet bike, washing machine and mobile phones. Police have recovered 10 cars and other items worth Rs 3 crore from the accused.

Police arrested the accused Shiva alias Shiv Kumar (42) son of Tangshat Wari a resident of Avenue D, Zone 02 Khursipar; P Srinivas (44) son of late P Appa Swamy a resident of Guru Ghasidas World Bank Colony Bhilai-03; and Yogesh Sonwani (42) son of Komeswar Sonwani a resident of village Ulba, Abhanpur.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 25: SAIL - Bhilai Steel Plant organised a one-day awareness program on occasion of the World TB Day at Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital & Research Centre, Sector 9, on Friday. Detailed information about the diseases, symptoms, cure and medication available for the treatment was shared with participants.

Chief Medical Officer Incharge, Dr Ravindranath, CMO, Dr Pramod Vinayak, CMO, Dr Vinita Dwivedi, Head of the Department of Pulmonology & Chest, and Dr Banerjee and other nursing staff were present.

World Tuberculosis Day is observed on March 24 every year to make people aware about the disease. About 20% people in

India are suffering from TB. To achieve a TB-free India, awareness programmes are organised.

Street play was staged during the programme at JLN Hospital to make people aware of Tuberculosis. This was followed by quiz sessions based on the subject theme of the play. Elaborate information was shared about the symptoms of TB and the participants were advised to get tested in case any of the symptoms occur.

Information on precautionary measures for prevention of TB was also shared. The symptoms of TB include loss of appetite and abrupt weight-loss, restlessness and fatigue, and sweating at night. Advanced symptoms of the disease also include excessive perspiration,



pain with breathing or coughing, prolonged fever, recurring cough and traces of blood in the sputum and occasional severe coughing-up blood, swelling of the lumbar bone, pain and difficulty in bending knee etc.

Elaborating on available treatment for TB, CMO, speakers informed participants that nowadays TB is cured using a combined medication using different antibiotics / antibacterial

drugs which continues for 6 to 9 months. However, irregularity in medication may result in fatality, it was advised.

During the treatment, it should be ensured that the patient has nutritious food, and should stay away from alcohol and smoking etc. To avoid TB among infants, BCG vaccine should compulsorily be administered after birth.

Educating people about the

causes of Tuberculosis, the speakers apprised participants that TB is caused by the extremely contagious Mycobacterium tuberculosis bacteria, which also harms the heart, lungs, uterus, liver etc. TB patients are found in very large numbers every year in India, which is a major health hazard for our country. However, if diagnosed at the right time, TB is a completely curable disease.

The speakers further elaborated about the current trend of Tuberculosis, stating that, post Corona, there has been a consistent increase in the cases of TB and malnutrition in children and pregnant mothers. Along with vaccination, preparations are on for achieving a Tuberculosis-free India by 2030.

Assistive Devices distributed in villages under Rowghat Mine Project Area

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 25: The Corporate Social Responsibility Dept of SAIL - Bhilai Steel Plant and CSR Cell of Rowghat Iron Project organised a two-day camp in Kanker District for distribution of free assistive devices to Divyangjans (differently-abled persons) and elderly people in villages Antagarh and Bhanbeda.

The camp was organised by BSP, in association with the Kanker District Administration and Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Auxiliary Production Centre ALIMCO, a PSU under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. The beneficiaries for both camps had been identified earlier in examination camps following which



made to order assistive devices were procured from ALIMCO. 44 assistive devices had been distributed free of cost by SAIL-BSP among 29 differently-abled persons & elderly persons in the first day-long camp organised at Antagarh Gram Panchayat premises on March 22, 2023. In the first day's camp, Kanti Anoop Nag,

Member, Planning Commission was present as the Chief Guest. Among the other dignitary guests Badrinath Gawde, Janpad Panchayat President, Paikra, SDM, Ramteke, BMO and Siniwali Goyal, of the Social Welfare Department were present during distribution of assistive devices. On March 23, the distribution camp was or-

ganized in Village Panchayat Bhanbeda. The program was presided over by Hemant Dhruv, District Panchayat President, Kanker. As many as 187 assistive devices were distributed free of cost among 70 differently-abled persons & elderly persons in the Bhanbeda camp. Siniwali Goyal of the Social Welfare

Department and Sachin Rangari, AGM (Rowghat Project), Bhilai Steel Plant were present. Public representatives from the area, representatives of ALIMCO, APC and officers from Bhilai Steel Plant's CSR Dept, Vivek Mishra, Ashutosh Soni, Ajay Pradeep, Rajni Rajak and Mordhwaj were present in the camp on both the days.

It may be recalled that divyangjans and elderly persons had been identified in free examination camps organised earlier for providing tricycle, wheelchair, crutches, hearing aid, folding stick for visually impaired, and distribute equipment like kit, tripod, tetrapod, cervical collar, knee base etc as assistive equipment to help them carry on with their daily lives.

CM launches mobile app for Chhattisgarh Socio-Economic Survey

RIPA web portal also launched

Centralized database to be created with the software made for socio-economic survey



that a socio-economic survey of all sections of the state. Modern techniques are being used appropriately for his, he said while speaking after launching the mobile app for the Chhattisgarh Socio-Economic Survey prepared by CHIPS at the 'Bharose Ke Sammelan' held at Sargaon in Mungeli district.

The Chief Minister said

Nimora. Baghel also launched the website of Mahatma Gandhi Rural Industrial Park (RIPA) scheme developed by CHIPS on the occasion. Complete information of all the beneficiaries of RIPA scheme will be available in this portal. It was informed that the RIPA scheme will provide equal opportunity to the rural entrepreneurs to

compete at the global level. Market will also be available for the local products of Chhattisgarh like herbal gual, dung made natural paint etc. As a result, the local citizens of the state will get the employment opportunity in the village near their homes.

CHIPS CEO Amitabh Sharma gave details of the mobile app developed by CHIPS. Chhattisgarh Assembly Speaker Dr Charandas Mahant, Panchayat and Rural Development Minister Ravindra Choubey, Ministers Rudra Guru, Shiv Dahria, Amarjit Bhagat, MLA Dharam Lal Koushik, Punnal Mohre along with public representatives, prominent citizens, officers and villagers were present.

Traffic cop assaults woman at pvt hostel in Raipur; suspended

Raipur, Mar 25: A traffic policeman was on Saturday suspended for allegedly assaulting and abusing a woman staffer of a private hostel in Chhattisgarh's Raipur city, police said.

The incident, which was captured by CCTV cameras, took place at a women's hostel in Ganj police station area on Friday afternoon, an official said.

Following the attack, the victim and the hostel owner approached senior police officials and Raipur Senior Superintendent of Police Prashant Agrawal took notice of the issue and suspended the traffic police inspector with immediate effect, he said.

As per the suspension order, the woman has alleged that the inspector had reached the hostel and abused and thrashed her.

The indiscipline and indecent behaviour of the in-



spector, who was posted at traffic headquarter in Raipur, has tarnished the image of the police department. Therefore, he has

been placed under suspension with immediate effect and attached to the Reserve Centre Raipur, the order stated. Talking to reporters,

the owner of the hostel further claimed that the policeman had also assaulted her and made objectionable remarks about her.

BJPians gherao SP office demanding arrest of YCmen



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 25: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday gheraoed the office of Superintendent of Police (SP) Raipur demanding immediate arrest of the Youth Congress office-bearers Akash Sharma and other NSUI leaders against who FIR has been

chalked out strategy to create pressure on the police administration for the arrest of the Congmen against whom FIR has already been registered. After holding meeting, the BJP workers took out march to SP Office to create pressure and raised demand for immediate arrest of YC President Akash Sharma and other associates.

BJP workers kept on raising slogans against the vandalism created and added that they would not remain silent and give befitting reply to the YCmen who had created vandalism at BJP's Ekatma Parishad office following the disqualification of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi as MP from Lok Sabha after the Surat Court verdict.

registered on the charges of creating vandalism at the BJP office situated at Ekatma Parishad.

Prior to it, the BJP leaders including the Raipur Parliamentarian Sunil Soni, Raipur MLA Brijmohan Agrawal, former MLAs Rajesh Munat, Shrichand Sundrani and Nande Sahu and District BJP Chief Jayanti Patel

Bank of India reduces interest rate on home and car loan

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 25: In a bid to bring cheer to its customers this Navratri season, Bank of India has announced a reduction of 0.30 percent in the rate of interest on its Home and Car loans. With this move, the bank's car and home loans will now start from 8.55 percent, providing significant relief to borrowers in terms of their EMI payments. Furthermore, Bank has also waived off the processing fee for both these



loans, making them even more attractive to prospective customers.

Another benefit for borrowers is that the bank does not charge any penalty for prepayment of loans. With these offers, Bank of India hopes to make the dream of owning a car or a home more accessible and affordable to a wider section of society.

Baghel should keep a check on his Congress goons: Sao

● **BJP chief questions the violence under democratic set up**

Central Chronicle News



Raipur, Mar 25: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President and Lok Sabha member form Bilaspur Arun Sao on Saturday questioned the violence by the Congress workers under democratic set up.

Addressing a press conference here, the BJP State Unit President said that the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel should keep a check on the goons who had created vandalism at the BJP office on Friday afternoon.

Regarding the disqualification of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi from the membership of Lok Sabha, the BJP chief said that the former Congress President would have closed the chapter by apologizing to the OBC community during the last four years but despite suggested, he keep on ignoring the op-

tions which resulted in his automatic disqualification following the Surat Court verdict. He also questioned the stand of the Congress who had reached Court within 15 minutes on the issue of its Spokesperson Pawan Khara but could not challenge the decision on Rahul Gandhi disqualification.

With exemption in 50 percent road tax, huge crowd gathered in Auto Expo 2023

Customer happy after getting an average discount of four to five percent in the price

Auto Expo at Science College Ground from March 24 to April 5



various models and the customers thronged the venue on Saturday not to miss out this benefit. Large number of customers bought vehicles on the inauguration day itself, the keys was handed over to them by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. The guests of honor on the second day were State Industry and Excise Minister Mr. Kawasaki

Latham, Chhattisgarh Housing Board Chairman Mr. Kildee Juneau and RMC Mayor Aiwa Debar. The dance troupe and fashion show in the stage program were enjoyed by the expo visitors. The launch of the Kia EV6 took place at Kia Motors in new launching at expo on Saturday. Auto Expo 2023 organized by Raipur

Automobile Dealers Association (RADA) has been organized from March 24 to April 5 at the Science College ground at the behest of Chief Minister Mr. Hopes Bagel, so that the general public can get maximum benefit of exemption on 50 percent road tax during the expo period. On this occasion, the people who bought the vehicle said that after coming to the expo, they get the option to choose the vehicle, while now along with the financial discounts and offers; they are also getting the benefit of 50 percent reduction in road tax. RADA President Vive G and Secretary Kalias Khomeini said that for the last 16-17 years they were trying to get exemption in road tax and today Chhattisgarh government has announced the exemption which made the visitors happy.

Suyash Hospital to organise free cleft lip and palate surgery camp

● **In association with Operation Smile Inc and Inga Health Foundation**



Raipur, Mar 25: Suyash Hospital, Operation Smile Inc and Inga Health Foundation entered into a partnership in 2018 with the aim of increasing the capacity to treat the huge backlog of children suffering from cleft lip and cleft palate in Chhattisgarh, informed by Dr. Vivek Kesharwani, Director, Suyash Hospital while speaking to the scribes here on Saturday. He said that till now safe surgery has been provided to 226 children and comprehensive care consultation in Chhattisgarh including pediatrics, anaesthesia, plastic surgery, nursing, dental, post-operative care, psychosocial care and speech counseling to nearly 400 patients in Chhattisgarh. Dr. Vivek

to more than 120 children with cleft lip and palate deformities, and more than 60 of them will undergo life-changing surgery, he added. The mission will host a multidisciplinary team of medical and non-medical volunteers from the United States, India and Russia, said Dr. Vivek Kesharwani.

social stigmas and taboos, they are ostracized by the society - these children are not able to go to school and sometimes the entire family is also ostracized by the society. A simple surgery is able to bring the child and family back into society. We believe that every child should get a chance to lead a normal life.' Chief Hospital Manager Shiju Sebastian G said that Operation Smile, Inga Health Foundation and Suyash Hospital are committed to reach out to children in remote areas of Chhattisgarh and neighboring states and provide the highest quality care. Inga Health Foundation, Operation Smile and Suyash Hospital partnered with several NGOs and community-based organizations engaged in awareness generation and community mobilization activities in several districts of Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra. More than 100 patients have registered for the medical mission.

NMDC APOLLO CENTRAL HOSPITAL
(Managed by Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd., Hyderabad)
Dist. - Dantewada, Bachel - 494 553 (Chhattisgarh)
Ph: 07857-230050, email- nmdcapollo@gmail.com

Employment Notification No. 02/2023 Dated: 13.03.2023

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

NMDC Apollo Central Hospital, Bachel requires Medical and Paramedical Professionals as per the following details for Bachel, Nagarnar and Panna Hospitals which are having latest equipments and excellent infrastructure.

S. No.	Post	Qualification & Experience	Upper Age Limit	Annual CTC (in Lakhs)/ Monthly Salary	Nature of appointment
1.	Specialist (Gen. Surgery)	MS with experience		MD/MS/DNB - Rs. 28.20 to Rs. 38.00	Regular
2.	Specialist (Obstetrics & Gynaecology)	MD/MS with experience	55 yrs.		
3.	Specialist (Medicine)	MD/DNB with experience		PG Diploma - Rs. 23.00 to Rs. 31.00	
4.	GD/MD #	MBBS with experience	45 yrs.	Rs. 12.00 to Rs. 18.00	
5.	Sc GD/MD	MBBS + AFII with 5 yrs. exp.	45 yrs.	Rs.10000/-	For initially one year and extendable as per requirement
6.	Asst. Lab. Technician	B.Sc. with DMLT or BMLT with experience in Blood Component separation of minimum 02 years. Total Exp. -03 yrs.	35 yrs.	Rs.34100/-	
7.	Dresser	+2 with Certificate of Dresser. Exp. -01 yr.	35 yrs.	Rs.27900/-	
8.	Matron (Sr. Staff Nurse-I)	B.Sc. (Nursing)/GNM. Exp. - 10 yrs. for B.Sc. (Nursing) and 15 yrs. for GNM.	45 yrs.	Rs.49600/-	Regular
9.	Asst. Radiographer	B.Sc. in Radiography/ B.Sc. Medical Technology (X-Ray)/ Certified course in CT Technician. Exp. -03 yrs.	35 yrs.	Rs.34100/-	

* Relaxation in age may be considered for suitable and experienced Specialist doctors and Matron.
Note: Higher CTC may be considered for experienced and deserving Specialist doctors as per rules.
GD/MS will be appointed both on regular/ temporary basis as per the requirement.

I) Date of Walk-in-Interview : 01.04.2023 (Saturday) - For above paramedical staff at S.No. 6 to 9 above.
02.04.2023 (Sunday) - For doctors only at S.No. 1 to 5 above.
9.30 AM to 11.30 AM (Registration)

Time : NMDC Office (GEC), Borriyakala, Shejibahar, Raipur (Chhattisgarh)
Place : 04.04.2023 (Tuesday) - For doctors only at S.No. 1 to 5 above.
05.04.2023 (Wednesday) - For paramedical staff at S.No. 6 to 9 above.
9.30 AM to 11.30 AM (Registration)

Time : Hotel Centre Point, Central Bazar Road, Gandhi Bagh, Ramdaspoth, Nagpur, Maharashtra-440010.
Place :

Important Note: For detailed advertisement kindly visit website: www.nmdc.co.in

Chief Medical Administrator

Amara: Perfect blend of nature and modernity

● **A new residential project launched in Raipur's Jora Ground by SRRM**



such as a 100,000 sq. ft. club house, a swimming pool, parks for senior citizens and children, banquet hall, modern gym, spa and salon, pet park, library, theater, temple, restaurants, and a car charging station. Amara is easily accessible from the main areas of Raipur, making it an ideal choice for those looking for a luxurious lifestyle.

Rahul Singh, CEO of Amara Plots, expressing his vision for the project, said, "our aim is to provide a place that promotes a healthy lifestyle. Amara has been designed to offer a

unique blend of natural and modern living, providing residents with the best amenities from both worlds." With Amara, the residents of Central India can experience a new level of luxury and convenience, making it a perfect place to call home. The grand opening event of Amara is from March 24 to 26, culminating in a concert by Bollywood's famous singer Arijit Singh at Jora Ground touching the heartstrings of his fans with his songs on Saturday here. With the launch of Amara, nature too joined the celebrations.

Man murders wife with scissors

Raipur, Mar 25: A man allegedly murdered his wife using scissors on a trivial issue. After murdering his wife he also tried to commit suicide by slitting his throat. Police admitted him in hospital for treatment besides inquiring his family members.

Vidhan Sabha Police are investigating the incident which took place on Friday evening. According to information, a woman named Pallavi Dahria had a quarrel with her husband Mohardas Dahria. Upset over repeated dispute with her husband Pallavi had come to her grandmother's house. When Mohardas reached to pick her up, Pallavi refused to return. In a fit of anger Mohardas attacked her with scissors kept at home. He kept stabbing the scissor in his wife's body till she died.

Pallavi Dahria had a love marriage on June 9, 2021 with Mohardas Dahria, a resident of Simga. After marriage, the couple was living in a rented house in Amasivani. Later they shifted to a rented house near Saddu Shivam City on March 5, 2023. Pallavi had gone alone to her

house in Amasivani on March 23 afternoon. She told her family members that her husband Mohardas used to beat her a lot. When Mohardas came to pick up Pallavi, her family members asked him as to why he kept fighting with her. Pallavi's family members also asked Mohardas to leave her with them. In the meantime Mohardas forcibly started dragging Pallavi from the room. When Pallavi resisted, he picked up the scissors kept on top of the sewing machine and kept stabbing her till she died. Pallavi's grandmother was present during the incident tried to intervene but he did not stop. After the murder, he tried to slit his own throat with the same scissors.

Pallavi's maternal grandmother called her sons and informed about the incident. Information was subsequently given to the police. Meanwhile Mohardas cut his own throat and hand and remained sitting near the dead body. The police team reached and admitted him to the hospital. However, a case of murder has been registered against him.

CM Baghel announce to establish e-Library in GNPGSC



Attends Golden Jubilee celebration 2023 of Govt Nagarjuna PG Science College

Raipur, Mar 25: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel reached Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay

Auditorium to attend the 'Hirak Jayanti Samaroh 2023' of Government Nagarjuna Post Graduate Science College, Raipur. Chief Minister inaugurated the ceremony by garlanding the portrait of Maa Saraswati. The college students began the occasion by singing the state song 'Arpa Pairi Ke

Dhar.... While addressing Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel stated that he has also been a student of this college and shared his memories associated with the College. CM on this occasion made an announcement of establishment of e-library in College. State Mineral

Development Corporation Chairman Girish Dewangan, Padma Dr. A.T.K. Dabke, first batch students of the year 1948 college Dr. R.S Gupta, Vidya Bhushan Shukla, Anjay Shukla, Principal of the college Dr. P.C Choubey were also present in the programme.

People of Chhattisgarh are Close to Nature: Prof. Dave

Seven day NSS National Integration Camp Concludes at CU

Bilaspur, Mar 25: The conclusion of National Integration Camp 2023 which was organized from March 18 to 24, 2023 at Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (a Central University), sponsored by Regional Directorate of National Service Scheme Bhopal (M.P.), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, took place at 10.30 a.m. on March 24, 2023 in Rajat Jayanti Sabhagar.

The Chief Guest of the program was Professor Neelambari Dave, former Vice-Chancellor of Saurashtra University, Rajkot, Gujarat. The program was presided over by the Vice-Chancellor in-charge, Prof. Amit Kumar Saxena. The Registrar of the university, Prof. Manish Srivastava was also present. The Camp Coordinator, Dr. Dilip Jha delivered the welcome address. The Director of National Service Scheme (Central Region) Bhopal and of



the camp, A.S. Kabir also presented his views.

The Chief Guest of the concluding program, Professor Neelambari Dave said that this unity camp of National Service Scheme has awakened the spirit of nationalism. She appreciated the fact that through the Rashtriya Ekta Shivir, all the participants got an opportunity to learn the art of utilizing their capabilities to the maximum. She said, "The state of Chhattisgarh is unique, the people here are unaffected. Through this camp national unity and regional diversity have been vividly reflected". While presiding over the function, Vice-Chancellor in-charge of the University, Prof. Amit Kumar Saxena exhorted the participants by saying that all should take

advantage of the experience gained from the camp in their lives. He said, "This national camp has proved that language and geographical boundaries are not barriers in the way of learning and excellence".

Prior to this, the program was inaugurated by lighting the lamp, garlanding the idols of Maa Saraswati and Baba Guru Ghasidas and oil painting of Vivekananda. Thereafter, NSS volunteers presented the song 'Uthe Samaj Liye Uthe', the target song of the National Service Scheme. The guests on the dais were welcomed by presenting saplings and putting on of NSS badges. It may be noted that two hundred NSS volunteers from thirty six universities of twelve states participated

in the National Integration Camp. On this occasion, the winners of rangoli, poster, slogan, and quiz competitions were felicitated by the guests on the stage.

The guests on the stage were honored by presenting shawl, shreephal, and mementoes. In the end, the vote of thanks was given by the Registrar of the university, Prof. Manish Srivastava and the program was conducted by the faculty members, Dr Princi Matlani and Dr Vikas Chandra. On this occasion, NSS Program Officers from different states, NSS Program Officers of the University, Deans of various Schools of the University, Heads of Departments, teaching staff and a large number of students were present.

PHC Kutru gets NQAS certificate



Achieve second place at national level in quality check

Bijapur, Mar 25: Collector Rajendra Kumar Katara is making every possible effort to expand better health facilities and its positive result are now visible. Along with the treatment and patients care, the programme of awareness about various diseases is being executed well by the team of the Health Department.

In the same order, Primary Health Center (PHC) got second position in National Quality Check Certificate (NQAS), hoist-

ing its flag. It is to be known that this certificate was obtained by the national team on January 20 and 21 after visiting and inspecting all the national programmes including the delivery room, IPD, OPD and the laboratory at the Primary Health Center, Kutru and after the quality check. PHC got selected at the NQAS national level and got the second position. Collector Rajendra Kumar Katara congratulated the entire team for getting the primary health center Kutru second place. On the other hand, CMO Dr. Ajay Ramekte also congratulated all the team of Primary Health Center Kutru.

Women bikers from Delhi reach Ch'garh



To participate in CRPF's foundation day parade at Jagdalpur

Raipur, Mar 25: Women are marching ahead in every field in today's scenario. 75 women commandant bikers of CRPF are

creating a new record in Navratri, the auspicious days of worship of Goddess. To participate in the 84th Foundation Day of CRPF to be held in Jagdalpur on March 25, 75 women commandants of CRPF reached Raipur after traveling about 1550 kilometers by bullet. The purpose of the bike rally is

to show a glimpse of women empowerment. Women stop at various places in school, college, village and inspire others women to move forward. The team of bikers reached Raipur on March 9 after traveling about 1550 kms from Delhi via Agra, Gwalior, Shivpuri, Bhopal, Nagpur and Bhandra. The

bikers team will reach Jagdalpur after traveling 1848 kms. The aim of the bikers' rally is also to celebrate the 75th year of independence. CRPF officials said that the bikers team was formed in 2014, women were given three months training, after which they are participating in bike rally. They have also participated in march past in Rajpath parade in 2020. In this team, many women are driving bullets for the first time, they have been given one month's training. Along with the women, the team of technicians and doctors is also there. Women commandants are stopping at different places and motivating women to move forward in life. The woman commandant explains to the women by giving their example that there are many obstacles in doing something new, but after achieving the goal, those who create obstacles, people make fun of them, while they start praising us.

Three-day WHRD 2023 workshop inaugurated



Raipur, Mar 25: Three days long Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRD) Workshop 2023 was inaugurated in Xavier Institute for Social Action by Chairman, C.G. Medical Services Corporation (CGMSC) (Cabinet Minister rank) & Member of C.G. Legislative Assembly Dr. Preetam Ram on Friday. Workshop is organised under aegis of Shivi Development Society (SDS), New Delhi. SDS is organising this workshop since last eleven years. As many as 45 women human rights defenders from Bastar, Surguja and Raipur are participating in

the workshop. Workshop is going to hold 12 sessions in three days.

Alongwith Dr. Preetam Ram, catholic father Sri Vinod Toppo, woman journalist Ms. Ambika Misra and governing board member of SDS Vidya Didi were among the guests of honour. Workshop was inaugurated by incense sticks before the photo of Chhattisgarh Mahtari.

Rajesh Singh Sisodia Convener Nange Paon Satyagrah conducted the session, whereas Hanuman Sahay program officer SDS, Safina Sheikh program coordinator SDS, Vamini Sahu coordinator Bastar region, Ishven Patel (Kondagaon), Geetanjali Patel (Narayanpur), Kavita Sinhasr and Ahilya Rajak (Surguja) constitute the support team for the workshop.

CM's decision of purchasing 20 quintals is big gift to all farmers: Mandavi

Central Chronicle News

Bijapur, Mar 25: Vikram Mandavi, MLA of Bijapur and Vice President of Bastar Area Tribal Development Authority, issued a press release expressing gratitude to the Chief Minister of the state and farmer's son Bhupesh Baghel on behalf of the farmers of Bijapur district for 20 quintals per acre of paddy in the coming Khariff year. Chief Minister Baghel's announcement of pur-



chase has been a "historic announcement" which is a great gift for the farmers. There is an air of happiness among

the farmers of district due to announcement. He said in his release that with the purchase of 20 quintal paddy per acre by CM Bhupesh Baghel, the farmers will become more financially prosperous and the farmers will get economic strength. Congress party has always been working for the development of all sections including farmers, scheduled castes, tribes, backward classes, small traders, poor, youth, and women.

Mandavi further said in his release that CM Bhupesh Baghel's announcement to buy paddy at Rs 2800 per quintal on minimum support price for the coming Khariff year proves that the Congress party is the true well-wisher of the farmers. On the other hand, there is the Bharatiya Janata Party, which has only cheated the farmers of the state in the name of support price and bonus for paddy for the last fifteen years.

'Yuva Goth' to guide climate action and inclusive devp in Ch'garh: Zachariah



Raipur, Mar 25: "Yuva Goth" will guide climate action and inclusive development in Chhattisgarh. The youth of Chhattisgarh will become champions of climate and behaviour change and will give new momentum to development in all areas through active community engagement. The initiative of youth leadership has launched by the UNICEF Chief Job Zachariah while addressing as the Chief Guest at 'State Level Seminar on Youth Leadership in Climate, Energy and Water' organised under the joint aegis of Nehru Yuva Kendra, Chhattisgarh & UNICEF and hosted by Shri Rawatpura Government University.

UNICEF Chief commended the Yuva Goth program for its pioneering efforts to empower 4000 young people from 1000 villages in Chhattisgarh. He noted that this innovative initiative is aimed at fostering a more proactive approach to water conservation, climate protection, environmental sus-



tainability, and energy preservation. By promoting the establishment of clean and green schools and climate clubs in colleges, the program seeks to cultivate local leadership among the youth in these critical areas. In his address to the young participants, UNICEF Chief urged them to channel their energies towards this worthy cause, which would not only enhance their own career prospects but also propel India towards greater heights of development. He congratulated the NYKS for launching Yuva Goth and assured UNICEF's support for its successful implementation.

Shrikant Pandey, the State Director of Nehru Yuva Kendra, shed light on the various initiatives of the State, including Yuva Goth, Mission Life, and the Catch the Rain campaign. He stressed that these programs aim to harness the positive energy of youth towards making a meaningful contribution to the society's overall development. Sweta Patnaik,

UNICEF's Water, Sanitation, and Climate Lead, provided insights on youth action for climate change and underscored the significance of clean and green schools, as well as college climate clubs. She further emphasized that today's youth are the future decision-makers who possess a keen awareness of social and environmental issues and talked about three important issues, five commitment of Y20, adopt mission LiFE and work towards 10 agenda of Yuva Goth. Adding to this, she said by providing youth with leadership opportunities, we can ensure timely and effective action on critical areas such as Climate, Energy, and Water. During his speech, Vice-Chancellor S.K. Singh emphasized the university's dedication to addressing climate change, as well as conserving water and energy. He expressed confidence that the young students would actively work towards these objectives, and by coordinating with the community, they would

become champions of change. Following the speech, UNICEF Chief and other guests introduced innovative initiatives of NYKS and UNICEF Yuva Goth, Clean and Green School and Climate Club through unveiling of logo cutouts. The inauguration has a profound impact on the university campus, as it resonates with excitement and enthusiasm among the youth.

As per the schedule, UNICEF Chief Job Zachariah arrived and commenced the program by lighting the lamp. The chief was warmly welcomed by tribal youths from Abujhmadia and Jashpur, the remote tribal areas of Chhattisgarh, along with Rajesh Karanga, Shalini Gupta, Shrikant Pandey, State Director of Nehru Yuva Kendra, and Harsh Gautam, Pro-Chancellor of the University. UNICEF Chief also felicitated selected State Youth Club Awardees of Nehru Yuva Kendra for their outstanding and innovative contributions.

Classifieds

REQUIREMENT

सिद्धी फायनेंस ऑफिस पेन्सन बादा, रायपुर में ऑफिस काम हेतु लड़के/लड़कियों की आवश्यकता है, वेतन योग्यतानुसार, अनुभव की प्राथमिकता, संपर्क करें - मो. 8770186480.

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Chronicle

Applications for admission in KVs will start from March 27



Raipur, Mar 25: Applications for admission to the academic session 2023-24 in Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) will start from March 27. For this, the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has issued a notification. According to the issued notification, applications for admission in class I will be accepted from March 27 to April 17. On the other hand, online applications will be available from April 3 to April 12 for admission to vacant seats of class II to class X. By April 1, the number of vacant seats in middle classes in all Kendriya Vidyalayas will be uploaded on the

website. Students will be able to apply by selecting the respective school. The first list of selected students will be released on April 20 for the students who have applied for admission to all class I seats and other class vacant seats in Kendriya Vidyalayas. Admission will be given on the basis of this list from April 21st. Admission will be given to 520 seats in the class I in three Kendriya Vidyalayas operated in Raipur. Kendriya Vidyalaya located in DD Nagar has 160 seats in four sections. Kendriya Vidyalaya, operated in WRS Colony, is running in two shifts. On this basis, admission will be done for 320 seats in the class I. Admission will be given for 40 seats this year in Kendriya Vidyalaya located in Naya Raipur.

No work impossible with if a woman decide: Sharma

Chairperson NCW hold talks with women from different fields

Central Chronicle News

Bilsapur, Mar 25: National Chairperson Women's Commission (NCW) Rekha Sharma said that women can play an important role in nation building and it is only after women's empowerment that strong nation will be developed. If at all the women decide to take up any task, then nothing is impossible, she added.



Rekha Sharma was holding talks with women from different fields here on Friday. Addressing the women and noted citizens she said that women are performing remarkably well in all the fields. Citing the example of her life's journey, she also belonged to a common military family.

Speaking further she said that whatever opportunity one gets, one should try to get the best possible results. All the women have to travel a long journey and play their role with firmness.

Rekha Sharma on this occasion held face-to-face

talks with female entrepreneurs; female persons of NGOs operators; elected representatives; students; doctors; social organisations; and other women organisations and understood the socio-economic and political role.

She said that meeting all she can strongly feel

that the women power is marching ahead. National Chairperson Rekha said that she is returning from Bilsapur with a confidence that women here holds capacity to create history.

On this occasion RS MP Saroj Pandey said that women apart from fulfilling household responsibilities are earning accolades in outer world as well. Whatever the opportunities they are being provided with, they are excelling in it. She advocated for increasing women's participation in political field and appealed all to come forward.

Conducting the programme, former Chairperson State Women's Commission Harshita Pandey men-

tioned about capabilities of women's strength and apprised the Chairperson NWC about the achievements of women present. In the beginning Rekha Sharma and Saroj Pandey were welcomed by showering flower petals.

In this programme former VS Speaker, MLA Dharamlal Kaushik, former Minister Amar Agrawal also addressed. On this occasion Ramdev Kumawat, Gulshan Rishi, member Child Protection Commission Pja Khanuja, gen. secy. Vibha Awasthi, Puja Vidhani, Jaishri Chouksey, Deepmala Kurre, Sudha Gupta, Tretanath Pandey, Santosh Kashyap, Nurita Kaushik, Mangala Pandey, Lalita Kashyap and others were present.

Demarcation work for by-pass road starts



● As per instructions by Minister Anila Bhedia

Central Chronicle News

Balod, Mar 25: Taking prompt action on the instructions by the Minister for Women and Child Development Department Anila Bhedia, the Revenue and PWD has started the demarcation work in

Dalli-Rajhra city from Gram Jamhi to Gutulmunda for construction of a by-pass road.

It is notable here that Anila Bhedia gave instructions in this regard by convening a meeting with the representatives of Dalli-Rajhra Vayapari Sangh and officers of the concerned department last on March 19 at Sindhu Bhavan.

As per instructions of the Minister Anila Bhedia SDM Doundi formed a combined team of Tehsildar, RI and Patwari and PWD officials and asked them to submit report within a week's time. Taking prompt action on Minister's instructions, the combined team of officers from Revenue and PWD reached the site on March 21 started the procedure of demarcation of land.

Accused stealing 14-wheels truck nabbed

Central Chronicle News

Pithora, Mar 25: The Pithora Police with Cyber Cell managed to nab the accused involved in theft of 14 wheels-truck from near Avatar Dhabha on Tuesday last. The complainant Sunil Agrawal (50) filed a report in Thana Pithora of Saraipali that both the truck driver and helper Dilip Seth after loading material from Mandir Hasoud on March 21 left in their 14-wheel based truck bearing No. CG 06 GM 6809 to Saraipali.



Driver of truck Sirdhar on phone informed that he took a break in Avatar Dhabha near Pithora and left the keys in the truck. But the helper of the truck with the intention of stealing it, ran away with the truck towards Mahasamund. A written

complaint was filed in Pithora thana and matter was taken into investigation.

SP Dharmendra Singh taking the matter seriously directed the Cyber Cell Mahasamund and Thana Pithora team to investigate through CCTV footages and help of informers started gathering information about stolen truck and accused Dilip Seth.

On checking the footage, it was found that the vehicle is being taken towards Patewa road and the team left for the site and nabbed Dilip Seth with stolen truck near Silli turn. He was taken into arrest and accepted his crime when interrogated. A case under section 379 of IPC was filed and 14-wheeled truck worth Rs 20 lakh was seized.

Massive Shobha Yatra marks Hindu Nav-varsh



● In Gram Birkoni

Central Chronicle News

Birkoni, Mar 25: A massive Shobha Yatra was taken out by seating idol of Lord Shri Ram on the Chariot after prayers at Shri Ram-Janaki Mandir on occasion of Hindu Nav Varsh in Gram Birkoni here on Thursday.

This 'Shobha Yatra' passed through Ram Mandir Chowk to Sahupara, Satnam Para, Barbaspur road to

Bhatapara, Saraswati Chow, Subhash Chowk and at different places it was welcomed in the courtyard of the houses by offering prayers.

Members of Santan Samiti took part in this 'Shobha Yatra', along with youth, women carrying saffron flag in their hand and raising slogans in favour of Lord Shri Ram and made a small de-tour of the village.

They all took a pledge to maintain the rich culture of 'Bhartiya Santan Sanskriti'.

This Shobha Yatra left the entire atmosphere religious. On this occasion Acharya Shri Ram-Janaki Mandir Laxaminrayan Vishnav, Dr RL Sahu, Tulsaram Sahu, Tejeshwar Sahu, Ghanshyam Sahu, Kushal Patel, Shomesh Sharma, Girish Chandrakar, Bhola Chandrakar, Prakash Chandrakar, Vijay Chandrakar, Santosh Nishad, Narayan Sahu and others were present.

Public Awareness rally taken out

By School students on World Water Day



Central Chronicle News

Birkoni, Mar 25: On occasion of World Water Day in Gram Panchayat Bodsara of Takathpur block, Pupil Development Society (PDS) organised a

imparted training on checking the quality of water. To ensure usefulness of water and explaining its importance, all villagers were administered oath. Under the educational activities for School children, children were motivated to maintain hygiene and sanitation in village and ensure proper use of water and its conservation.

A rally was also taken out in the village and in this the people present were informed about water conservation and ways & means to save water. Along with this the persons of 'Jal Bahani' were

imparted training on checking the quality of water. To ensure usefulness of water and explaining its importance, all villagers were administered oath. Under the educational activities for School children, children were motivated to maintain hygiene and sanitation in village and ensure proper use of water and its conservation.

A rally was also taken out in the village and in this the people present were informed about water conservation and ways & means to save water. Along with this the persons of 'Jal Bahani' were

Satnami Samaj distribute sweets



Central Chronicle News

Nandini-Ahirwara, Mar 25: On occasion of Hindu Nav-varsh and 'Chaitra Navratri', office bearers of Santnami Samaj from Ahirwara VS area distributed sweets to chil-

dren of Govt Primary School in Gram Sandi coming under Lahanga-Pari area of this VS area. In this President Santosh Banjare, V-P Jagrut Banjare, Mahendra Banjare, Treasurer Sadai Bandhe,

Gen. secy. Chunnul Banjare, Secyary and Rampur corporator Rakesh Kurre, and other members including Head Master Astha Ekka, Gautam Nishad, Sunita Thakur and others were present.

Folk artists from all over state felicitated

Central Chronicle News

Nandini-Ahirwara, Mar 25: The felicitation programme of the folk artists and social workers along with Holi Rang Mahotsav was held in Gram Kodia under Ahirwara VS area. On March 19, the folk artists from all over the state were felicitated in Shivdham Kodia Nankatti.



It is notable here that the soil of Chhattisgarh is known for its rich folk art & culture and traditions of the ancestors and it is the folk artists who by presenting Pandwani, Bharthari, Band party and variety of other art forms have carved an identity at national and international level. This programme was dedicated to such folk artists and it was observed in the presence and assistance of the villagers.

Anurag Dhara Lok Kala Manch Rajnandgaon, and as programme convener was Padam Shri recipient Radhakrishna Barle - a famous folk dance of state and Amruta Barle. The chief guest of the programme was Padam Shri recipient Mamta Chandrakar, V-C Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya, Khairagarh.

On this occasion hosts of folk artists from different fields and parts of state were felicitated with different awards and honour along with public representatives and social workers.

SAGEMS will be operated in Pateva

Central Chronicle News

Mahasamund, Mar 25: Swami Atmanand Govt English Medium School (SAGEMS) will operate in Pateva of Mahasamund assembly constituency and for this, provision has been made in the budget for the year 2023-2024. It is worth mentioning that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, who reached Mahasamund in the meeting program, was drawn attention to the opening of Swami Atmanand English Medium School in Pateva by Parliamentary Secretary and MLA Vinod Sevenal Chandrakar. On which Chief Minister Mr. Baghel announced the opening of Swami Atmanand English Medium School here. Giving information, Parliamentary Secretary and MLA Mr. Chandrakar said that Swami Atmanand English Medium School will be run in Government Higher Secondary

School of Pateva and for this, a provision has been made in the budget. After converting into Swami Atmanand English Medium School, posts have also been decided in the school, under which, out of 24 posts in Swami Atmanand English Medium School of Pateva, 10 posts of lecturer, four posts of of teacher, computer teacher, and one post each of exercise teacher, assistant teacher, five posts of assistant teacher, two posts of assistant science teacher and one post of librarian are included. He said that with the operation of Swami Atmanand English Medium School in Pateva, better education will be accessible to the students of nearby villages including Pateva. Parliamentary Secretary Mr. Chandrakar told that on the upgradation of High School Banpachari of Mahasamund Development Block as Higher Secondary School and Parvu Middle

School of Pateva as High School, making provision of funds in the budget for lecturers, teachers, assistant teachers, librarians, assistant grades, the posts of three more regular servants have been fixed.

नाम परिवर्तन	आम सूचना
एतद् द्वारा सर्वस्वाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मैं विनिता परगनिहा पिता श्री बिष्णु कुमार परगनिहा निवासी- मकान नं. 1209, वाई नं. 67, गली नं. 03, महादेव नगर, बंगौरामाठा, रायपुर तहसील एवं जिला रायपुर (छ.ग.), यह शपथ करता हूँ कि मैंने अपना पुराना नाम विनिता को त्यागकर नया नाम विनिता परगनिहा पिता बिष्णु कुमार परगनिहा रख ली हूँ। अतः आज से मुझे सम्स्त शासकीय, अध्यासकीय व अन्य दस्तावेजों में मेरे नये नाम विनिता परगनिहा पिता बिष्णु कुमार परगनिहा से ही जाना व पहचाना जावे।	सर्वस्वाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मैंने अपना पुराना नाम विनिता परगनिहा पिता श्री बिष्णु कुमार परगनिहा निवासी- मकान नं. 1209, वाई नं. 67, गली नं. 03, महादेव नगर, बंगौरामाठा, रायपुर तहसील एवं जिला रायपुर (छ.ग.), यह शपथ करता हूँ कि मैंने अपना पुराना नाम विनिता को त्यागकर नया नाम विनिता परगनिहा पिता बिष्णु कुमार परगनिहा रख ली हूँ। अतः आज से मुझे सम्स्त शासकीय, अध्यासकीय व अन्य दस्तावेजों में मेरे नये नाम विनिता परगनिहा पिता बिष्णु कुमार परगनिहा से ही जाना व पहचाना जावे।
विनिता परगनिहा मकान नं. 1209, वाई नं. 67, गली नं. 03, महादेव नगर, बंगौरामाठा, रायपुर, तहसील एवं जिला रायपुर (छ.ग.)	भवदीय आशीष कुमार शर्मा (अभि.) सी-33, बंगौरामाठा, रायपुर (छ.ग.) दिनांक 25/03/2023

न्यायालय कलेक्टर एवं जिला दंडाधिकारी
न्यायालय कलेक्टर जिला दण्डाधिकारी रायपुर

नोटिस रायपुर, दिनांक 20 मार्च, 2023

क्रमांक/84/ब-121/2022-23 / 163

1. घसस अजयव जी पार्सि एवं संस (ट्रोलर) टाटोचं पिनार्ड रोड रायपुर

2. कुटीरी खर्नीस

3. शीवती तखरीस खर्नीस एचआरजी - 25 मुकम सिक्कल टाटोचं, के पास टाटोचं पिनार्ड रोड रायपुर

अधिकाधिक प्राधिकृत अधिकारी कोर्टक सॉलिटरी बैंक लिमिटेड शाखा कार्यालय निवासी कर्नलर के पास पेशी रायपुर की ओर से सौरीस बैंक अधिकाधिकार व अजयव पश/रायपुरक मय दस्तावेज प्रस्तुत कर, अजयव पश से आयको बैंक ने 1,95,00,000.00 रुपये का ऋण दिया था, और रिपय करे के आशियस की अजयव संसि बैंक के पश में बंधक रखी गयी है। आयको द्वारा ऋण की अदागारी नहीं की जा रही है। जिसके कारण बैंक ने आयको अधिकाधिकार की पश 13 के तहत नोटिस जारी किया था कि आय को अदागारी मय बंधक एवं अन्य शुल्क समया 1,11,84,006.46 अड करे, अजयव बंधक रखी गई संसि बैंक अजयव हक में प्राप्त कर लेगी कि आयको की ओर, बैंक के पश में आयको द्वारा लिये गये बंधक के पश में बंधक रखी संसि का कब्जा दिखाने जाने का निवेदन किया है।

2/ अपने प्राधिकृत अधिकारी कोर्टक सॉलिटरी बैंक लिमिटेड शाखा कार्यालय निवासी कर्नलर के पास पेशी रायपुर में 1,95,00,000.00 रुपये का ऋण प्राप्त कर पेशी टाटोचं रायपुर में था. रा.पू. निषेध मंडल द्वारा निर्मित एचआरजी 25 कबजा 4025.53 बंधकृत पर निर्मित मकन बैंक के पश में बंधक रखा है।

3/ अतः आयको द्वारा लिये गये ऋण के पश में उक्त बंधक रखी गई अजयव संसि को निषेध अधिसूची कर प्राधिकृतकरण और पुनर्निर्माण और प्रतिभूति हिल प्रकन अधिनियम 2002 की धारा 14 में प्रकन अधिकारी का प्रयोग करते हुए ऋण को न आधिपत्य में लेने की कार्यवाही की जाये। अथ नजब अजयव अपने निषुक्त अधिकाधिकार के माध्यम से ऋण से संबंधित एवं बंधक रखी गई संसि में संबंधित दस्तावेज लेकर पश अजयव करने हेतु इस न्यायालय में पेशी दिनांक 03.04.2023 को ठीक 3.00 बजे उपस्थित होना सुनिश्चित करे। निषेध निषिध व अधिसूची नहीं होने की दशा में आयको सिक्कल एक पक्षीय कार्यवाही की जायक, प्रकन में निषेध से निषा जायक। अजय दिनांक 20 मार्च, 2023 को मेरे हस्ताक्षर एवं न्यायालय की पुर से जारी किया गया।

सही/-
कानिका एवं जिला दंडाधिकारी रायपुर

Bank of India BOI SURAJPUR BRANCH:- MAIN ROAD SURAJPUR TOWN

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)
(Under Rule-8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Bank of India, Surajpur Branch under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(1)(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the following borrower's to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being detail as mentioned here under, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules as mentioned below.

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Bank of India, Surajpur Branch for an amount detail given as below:

Borrower's/Guarantor's	Description of the Properties	Demand Notice	Amount Due
Surajpur Branch: M a a M a m a y a Furniture House Prop. Mr. Vinod Kumar Singh	1. Residential Land and Building Situated at Plot Number-344/1, Area 0.04 Hect. (Diversed) at manpur, Dist. Surajpur, Chhattisgarh in the name of Mr. Vinod Kumar Singh, Boundaries : North: Land of Raju Sai, South : Prop. of Dharam Sai, East : CC Road, West : Land of Dharam Sai.	Date 15.09.2022 Possession Notice Date 21.03.2023	₹ 19,141,191/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Nineteen Thousand One Hundred Forty One & Nineleen Paise Only) and Interest + other expenses

Date: 26.03.2023
Place : Surajpur

Authorized Officer
Bank of India

BRIEF



Four persons posing as NCB officers and staffers arrested in Akola.

Knot

Chandigarh: AAP MLA Harjot Singh Bains tied the knot with IPS officer Jyoti Yadav at a gurdwara in Rupnagar district on Saturday. The marriage was solemnised according to Sikh rituals at Bibhor Sahib gurdwara near Nangal, party sources said. The couple got engaged recently.

Tornado

Fazilka: At least 12 people were injured and 30 houses damaged after a tornado hit the Bakenwala village in this Punjab district, officials said on Saturday. The tornado also damaged standing crops in the fields and kinnow orchards, they said. Bakenwala resident Gurmukh Singh said, "Villagers saw the tornado around 4 pm on Friday." It caused damage in a 2-2.5-km area, he said.

Lifer

Palghar: A court in Maharashtra's Palghar district has sentenced a 33-year-old farmer to life imprisonment after convicting him for killing a woman and her son and seriously injuring her daughter-in-law. Additional Sessions Judge Dr MS Deshpande also fined Sharad Devu Katela Rs 9,000 while pronouncing the judgment on Friday.

Booked

Pratapgarh: An FIR has been lodged against 12 policemen in a case of assault and looting, an official said on Saturday. Inspector in-charge (SHO) of Kandhai police station Dharendra Thakur said, "An FIR was lodged on Friday evening against the police personnel accused of entering the house of women during 2021 panchayat election."

Suicide

Balrampur: A 52-year-old man on Saturday killed his wife following a dispute and then ended his life by hanging from a tree here, police said. The deceased had been identified as Haneef and his wife Zubeda (50), they said.

Gutted

Latur: Seven private buses worth nearly Rs 2 crore were gutted after a high-voltage electricity wire snapped and fell on a garage in Maharashtra's Latur, an official said on Saturday. No one was injured in the incident that occurred at Sikandarpur chowk in the early hours of Friday, the official said.

Hike

Jaipur: The Rajasthan government on Saturday announced a 4 per cent increase in the dearth allowance of the state employees and pensioners.

COVID CASES

Mock drill at Delhi govt hospitals today

● To check preparedness

New Delhi, Mar 25 (PTI):

Delhi government-run hospitals will conduct a mock drill on Sunday to assess their preparedness to deal with any eventuality in view of rising COVID-19 and seasonal influenza cases.

A senior official said an order to this effect was issued to medical superintendents, medical directors and chief district medical officers (CDMOs) by the Delhi health department on Friday.

"All the MS/MDs and CDMOs of all the hospitals of Delhi government are hereby requested to hold a mock drill on 26.03.2023 (Sunday) to check the preparedness of health, infrastructure, and

logistics including availability of oxygen, so as to prepare for any eventuality, especially in view of increasing COVID-19 and influenza type cases," according to the order.

The mock drill must be conducted by all the hospitals of the Delhi government and a report be submitted by March 26 evening or March 27 morning, furnishing details on a list of parameters mentioned in an earlier order dated March 23, it says. Sources said the drill is expected to begin in the morning.

Delhi has seen an increase in the number of Covid cases over the last few days amid a sharp rise in H3N2 influenza cases in the country.

The national capital recorded 152 coronavirus cases with an increased

positivity rate of 6.66 per cent on Friday.

Delhi had logged 117 Covid cases with a positivity rate of 4.95 per cent on Thursday.

According to the March 23 order, in view of the daily upsurge in COVID-19 cases being witnessed in Delhi since the last few weeks, medical directors, medical superintendents, administrators of all government and private hospitals must ensure that all equipment such as ventilators, bi-pap, oxygen concentrators, PSA, etc. are in functional condition.

All severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) and five per cent of influenza like illness (ILI) patients should be tested for COVID-19 as well as seasonal influenza H1N1/H3N2, the March 23 order stated.

'J-K admin wants to strip people of their livelihood'

Srinagar, Mar 25 (PTI):

PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday said the social media guidelines for Jammu and Kashmir government employees were part of "a clear intimidation of dispossessing people" of their livelihood.

Senior CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami too hit out at the J and K administration, saying being a government employee does not mean one giving up all legitimate constitutional rights as a citizen.

"Whether it was blacklisting contractors and the social media gag to employees, a clear intimidation of dispossessing people in J&K of their livelihood has emerged. Authorities have become judge, jury and executioner in complete violation of the fundamental rights of people," Mehbooba wrote on Twitter.



Mehbooba Mufti

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has warned its employees of strict disciplinary action, including termination from service, for posting any material on social media that is critical to any policy pursued or action taken by the government.

Tarigami said barring employees from expressing their views about the issues concerning them is tantamount to stripping them of their basic rights.

"They must be treated as citizens, not as subjects," he said, adding an employ-

ee is not a slave.

"He has presented his services to the government for government works, but he has not surrendered himself. The administration should understand this. A citizen cannot be deprived of his constitutional rights, and if it is done, then it is unconstitutional and unlawful," Tarigami said.

The CPI(M) leader said an employee should get all the rights which a citizen has.

The Constitution has given him the right to criticise policies of the government, but how he expressed that should be under the ambit of the law and the Constitution, he added.

A circular issued on Friday by Commissioner Secretary, General Administration

Department, Sanjeev Verma said fresh provisions have been incorporated in the Jammu and Kashmir Employees Conduct Rules, 1971, barring employees from commenting on political or government policies on social media.

As per the new guidelines, no employee shall, through any post, tweet or otherwise, discuss or criticise on social media, any policy pursued or action taken by the government, nor shall he or she, in any manner, participate in any such discussion or criticism on social media communities or micro-blogs.

No employee shall post, tweet or share content that is political or anti-secular and communal in nature or subscribe to pages, communities or Twitter handles and blogs of such nature, said the guidelines on the use of social media by government employees in the Union Territory.

'Modi govt played 'active role' in Rahul's disqualification'

Patna, Mar 25 (PTI):

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U) on Saturday charged the Narendra Modi government at the Centre with having played an "active role" in ensuring "hasty" disqualification of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi from the Lok Sabha. JD(U) national president Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan also alleged that the CBI case against Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, was an instance of "central agencies being used to settle scores with political opponents".

Lalan was responding to questions, here, from reporters on the disqualification of Gandhi following his conviction, by



Rajiv Ranjan Singh

a Gujarat court, in a defamation case.

"A due procedure should be followed in disqualification of a member of Parliament and legislature upon conviction in a case. There should be a notification from the Election Commission on which the Lok Sabha Speaker should act after seeking the approval of the President. Obviously, this

takes some time", said Lalan.

He added, "in case of Rahul Gandhi, though the disqualification was ordered in less than 24 hours of the court order. The hasty manner (haddadi) shows that the government at the Centre has played an active role in the episode".

"This also shows that the ruling dispensation's exasperation (baukhlaht) and desperation (hataasha). But the people of the country are smart enough and they (the BJP) will be held to account (hisab kar diya jaaega) at the appropriate time", said the close aide of the Bihar CM, who had quit the NDA last year and has since become a strong votary of opposition unity.

Meghalaya CM bats for goods trains

● Seeks consultation stakeholders

Shillong, Mar 24 (PTI):

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma on Friday said the state government will be engaging with different stakeholders to take forward a proposal to start goods trains to the capital of Meghalaya as this would help in the state's economy, including the farming sector. The state has just one railway station as yet and there are plans for two long delayed railway projects, one of which will link Shillong to the rest of India by

with the media here.

He also said that people are not against railways but that they want the government to find solutions "to the issue of influx and the protection of the indigenous people". "Everybody understands the importance of railways and people are not against that.

Hence, we are engaging with the organisations opposing railways to understand and to find out options against influx," he said.

He underlined the need to find provisions to safeguard influx of outsiders yet at the same time bat for the railways to boost the economy of the state.

PROTEST MARCH



Youth Congress activists march towards Governor's house during a protest against the Centre over disqualification of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi from the Lok Sabha, in Kolkata, Saturday.

Kashmiri Pandits determined to preserve their cultural history

Jammu, Mar 25 (PTI):

Kashmiri Pandits have witnessed a significant decline in their cultural practices and traditions since their displacement from the Valley in 1990, but community members are now focused on preserving their rich past glory. The community, living in migrant camps in Jammu, takes the help of special occasions to reach out to the younger generation and educate it about its culture and history.

Mata Baderkali Ashtapan Trust organised a special function on Friday on Zang Trai, an auspicious occasion on the third day of the Kashmiri Hindus' new year, Navreh.

Many programmes, depicting the cultural history of Kashmiri Pandits,

were held during the day.

"People living in Jammu have come here to celebrate Zang Trai, a special ritual connected with Shaktism in Kashmir. It was the first major effort by Mata Baderkali Ashtapan to not only promote this special tradition but also educate the young generation about it," cultural activist Kiran Raina told PTI.

Asserting that over 30 years of terrorism and living outside Kashmir has caused changes in their culture, she said Friday's event was a beautiful scene for the elder generation to refresh their memories and the younger generation to educate themselves about "pheran" (closed gown), "tarang" (special headgear), "pooch", "sheehlaat", "zooj" and "loong" (other

traditional dresses of Kashmiri Pandits).

Prominent spiritual guru Dr Shiv Prasad Raina, while addressing a session, spoke about the significant role played by women in maintaining the cultural ethos and centuries-old traditions of the community.

Former legislator Surinder Ambardar said, "KPs are fighting hard to survive in this battle while in exile and to preserve and promote traditions and educate the younger generation. It is a difficult time, but the community is doing its bit to carry forward these traditions."

Prominent social worker Pammi Ambardar gave a detailed spiritual and social genesis of Zang Trai.

She said Zang Trai is the day of goddess Chandraghanta.

Central Chronicle MATRIMONIAL

श्रीय/राजपूत
वधु चाहिये
राजपूत श्रीय वधु चाहिए- 26.03.1991/ 5'4", परिहार बी.ए. (प्रवर्धन) रायपुर में स्वयं का मकान एवं दुकान, गांव में कृषि योग्य जमीन, केशव सिंह परिहार कुष्माण्ड, रायपुर. मो.- 90095-64721. (281915)

बंगाली
वधु चाहिये
WANTED BRIDE- Wanted Bengali Kayastha well educated & beautiful girl for 27/5/8" Devgan, B.Com (Hons), MBA, M.A. (Music) working as sales manager office-Delhi. Mo. 9826175844, 997938130. (N659747)

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पाठकों को परामर्श दिया जाता है कि वे किसी भी विज्ञापन के अनुसार, कार्य करने से पूर्व समुचित जांच कर लें. वर-वधु के स्तर, आय, आय संबंधी विवरण के संबंध में विज्ञापनदाताओं द्वारा किये गये दावों और वर्णनों के लिये यह समाचार पत्र समर्थक अथवा उत्तरदायी नहीं है.

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नवभारत मैट्रीमोनियल
जोड़ियां स्वर्ग में बनाई जाती है... अब इनको दुंदुआ और भी आसान नवभारत मैट्रीमोनियल के साथ...

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Contact: 0771-3000139, 8871246900

UK's King Charles honours Queen Elizabeth II's pallbearers

London, Mar 25 (PTI):

Britain's King Charles III on Saturday recognised in a special Demise honours list the eight pallbearers who carried the late Queen Elizabeth II's coffin at her funeral last year.

The British soldiers, who were selected to be pallbearers from the King's Company of 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards known as the Queen's Company previously have been awarded the silver Royal Victorian Medal.

They were named as recipients of honours as part of a special set of Demise awards under the Royal Victorian Order (RVO) in recognition of their service to the Queen, who died aged 96 last September.

The RVO is bestowed by



the British monarch and unlike other royal honours, it is not on the advice of the Prime Minister, as a special recognition of those who serve the monarch and the royal family. It dates back to the 19th century and was founded by Queen Victoria in 1896.

Lance Sergeant Alex Turner, Lance Corporal Tony Flynn, Lance Sergeant Elias Orłowski,

Guardsman Fletcher Cox, Guardsman James Patterson, Lance Sergeant Ryan Griffiths, Guardsman Luke Simpson, and Guardsman David Sanderson carried the coffin as millions of around the world watched the funeral on September 19, 2022.

The unit had a close connection with the Queen because as the serving monarch she held

the position of Company Commander and made a personal review of the company every decade.

Pallbearers who carried the Queen's coffin at her lying-in-rest ceremony in Edinburgh also recognised in the special honours list are the Queen's closest adviser Angela Kelly.

She was the Queen's personal assistant, adviser and curator, worked for the monarch for more than 25 years and was made a Commander of the RVO.

According to UK media reports, during the Covid-19 lockdown, Kelly was among those believed to be part of a small group dubbed the "HMS Bubble" that the Queen isolated with along with her late husband Prince Philip.

Pak court grants ex-PM Imran bail in 3 terrorism cases

Lahore, Mar 25 (PTI):

A Pakistani anti-terrorism court on Saturday granted pre-arrest bail to ousted prime minister Imran Khan till April 4 in three terrorism cases registered against him by the Lahore police.

Khan, 70, appeared before the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) here and was accompanied by scores of his supporters.

Khan told ATC judge Ejaz Ahmad Buttar that he wants to join the investigation in three terrorism cases registered against him by Lahore's Racecourse police.

"He said although these cases are fake, he has to join the investigation and for that purpose, he is applying for a pre-arrest bail," a court official told PTI after the hearing.

"While granting him pre-arrest bail till April 4, the judge directed Mr Khan to appear in every hearing of the court. He also asked Mr Khan not to bring a large number of

his supporters to the court," the official said. "If such a large number of people accompanied you in the court next time, I will not hear the case," the judge told Khan.

The Lahore police had registered these three cases against Khan in connection to the clashes between PTI workers and police during an operation to arrest Khan in the Toshakhana gifts case.

On Friday, the Lahore High Court extended the protective bail of Khan till March 27 in five terrorism cases registered against him in Islamabad.

The former premier is facing over 140 cases under terrorism, murder, attempted murder and blasphemy registered against him during the last 11 months by the PMLN-led coalition government.

Taking to Twitter on Saturday, Khan said he will outline his vision of 'Haqueqi Azadi' (real freedom) at a rally planned

here tonight and urged his supporters not to back off under any circumstance from attending it.

Khan said his party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) rally at Minar-i-Pakistan will be the biggest so far and will break all records.

"Tonight will be our 6th jalsa at Minar i Pakistan & my heart tells me it will break all records. I am inviting everyone in Lahore to attend after Tarawih prayers. I will give my vision of Haqueqi Azadi & how we will pull Pak out of the mess cabal of crooks have put our country in," the PTI chief tweeted.

Talking to the media outside the Lahore Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC), Khan said a public reaction would come on Saturday to whatever method the government will use.

"We will not back off under any circumstance," Khan was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper.

France bans TikTok, Twitter from government staff phones

Paris, Mar 25 (AP):

France announced it is banning the "recreational" use of TikTok, Twitter, Instagram and other apps on government employees' phones because of concern about insufficient data security measures.

The move follows similar restrictions on TikTok in democratic countries amid fears about the popular video-sharing app's Chinese connections.

But the French decision also encompassed other platforms widely used by government officials, lawmakers and President Emmanuel Macron himself. The French Minister for Transformation and Public Administration, Stanislas Guerini, said in a statement that "recreational" apps aren't secure enough to be used in state administrative services and "could present a risk for the protection of data."

The ban will be monitored by France's cybersecurity agency. The statement did not specify which apps are banned but noted



In this screen grab from video provided by WPVI-TV/6ABC, smoke rises from an explosion at the R.M. Palmer Co. plant in West Reading, Pa.

Canada 'very closely' following the developments in Punjab: FM Melanie Joly

Toronto, Mar 25 (PTI):

Canada is "very closely" following the developments in Punjab and will continue to address the concerns of the community, Foreign Minister Melanie Joly has said amid Punjab Police's crackdown on radical preacher Amritpal Singh. Joly was answering a question from Indo-Canadian MP Iqbal Singh in the House of Commons on Thursday.

"We are aware of the evolving situation in Punjab, and we are following it very closely. We look forward to a return to a more stable situation," she said.

"Canadians can always count on the Government of Canada to make sure that we will continue to address the concerns of many members of the community," she added.

Gaheer said he had heard about the ongoing mass suspension of Internet services in

Punjab and asked Joly to update the House about the situation in India.

Responding to questions about foreign leaders and parliamentarians commenting on the action against Amritpal Singh, External Affairs Ministry spokesman Arindam Bagchi urged people residing abroad not to believe "inaccurate and motivated narratives" that are being circulated by some elements on social media.

"Authorities in Punjab are undertaking operations to nab a fugitive. Information regarding that operation is being shared by authorities concerned on a regular basis," the spokesman said in New Delhi.

Authorities in Punjab last week suspended internet and SMS services in the state following the police crackdown against elements of 'Waris Punjab De,' headed by the radical preacher. Police in Punjab are still

searching for Amritpal Singh.

Earlier on Wednesday Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in the House of Commons: "We are looking forward to a swift return to a more stable situation."

Canada has also seen a rise in anti-India activities recently by Khalistan supporters who have vandalised some Hindu temples.

A Ram Mandir in Mississauga was defaced by 'Khalistani extremists' with anti-India graffiti on February 13, drawing a strong reaction from the Indian Consulate in Toronto.

"We strongly condemn the defacing of Ram Mandir in Mississauga with anti-India graffiti. We have requested Canadian authorities to investigate the incident and take prompt action on perpetrators," India's Consulate in Toronto had tweeted.

13 dead in tornado that ripped through US South

Rolling Fork (US), Mar 25 (AP):

A powerful tornado tore through rural Mississippi and Alabama on Friday night, killing at least 13 people, destroying buildings and knocking out power as severe weather that produced hail the size of golf balls moved through several southern states and prompted authorities to warn some in its path that they were in a "life-threatening situation." The National Weather Service confirmed a tornado caused damage about 60 miles (96 kilometers) northeast of Jackson, Mississippi. The rural towns of Silver City and Rolling Fork were reporting destruction as the tornado continued sweeping northeast at 70 mph (113 kph) without weakening, racing towards Alabama through towns including Winona



and Amory into the night.

Sharkey County Coroner Angelia Easton told ABC News that 13 people were killed by the tornado in Mississippi. Rolling Fork is located in Sharkey County.

ABC News early Saturday reported an additional six deaths, including three in Carroll County, two in Monroe County and one

in Humphreys County, citing the county coroners and a Mississippi Highway Patrol trooper. The Associated Press was not immediately able to confirm those fatalities.

The National Weather Service issued an alert as the storm was hitting that didn't mince words: "To protect your life, TAKE

COVER NOW!"

"You are in a life-threatening situation," it warned. "Flying debris may be deadly to those caught without shelter. Mobile homes will be destroyed. Considerable damage to homes, businesses, and vehicles is likely and complete destruction is possible."

Cornel Knight told The Associated Press that he, his wife and their 3-year-old daughter were at a relative's home in Rolling Fork when the tornado struck. He said the sky was dark but "you could see the direction from every transformer that blew." He said it was "eerily quiet" as that happened. Knight said he watched from a doorway until the tornado was, he estimated, less than a mile away. Then he told everyone in the house to take cover in a hallway.

Eric Garcetti sworn in as US Ambassador to India

Washington, Mar 25 (PTI):

Eric Garcetti, President Joe Biden's close aide, was officially sworn in as the US Ambassador to India by Vice President Kamala Harris, ending over two years of delay to fill one of Washington's most critical diplomatic positions.

Garcetti's daughter Maya held the Hebrew Bible during the swearing-in ceremony on Friday, which was presided by Vice President Harris.

Garcetti raised his right hand while Harris performed the ceremony, and family members cheered when the two longtime friends shook hands.

The ceremony was attended by his close family members, including wife Amy Wakeland, father Gil Garcetti, mother Sukey Garcetti and mother-in-law Dee Wakeland.



Eric Garcetti, left, with his daughter Maya Garcetti, reacts after being sworn in as Ambassador to India by Vice President Kamala Harris, right in Harris' ceremonial office in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House complex in Washington.

"It feels great. Can't wait to serve," Garcetti, 52, said when asked about his new diplomatic assignment. "I'm so honoured the vice president did this," he said.

Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff also attended the event.

Former Mayor of Los

Angeles Garcetti's nomination was pending before the US Congress since July 2021 when he was nominated by President Biden.

The Senate voted 52 to 42 to confirm Garcetti earlier this month after his nomination stalled amid concerns by some lawmakers that he had not adequately handled allegations of sexual assault and harassment against a former senior adviser.

India's envoy here Taranjit Singh Sandhu met Garcetti soon after his swearing-in ceremony.

"Congratulated @eric-garcetti on his swearing-in as the Ambassador of America to India," Indian Ambassador to Washington Sandhu tweeted after the meeting on Friday.

Indian-Americans rally in support of India at San Francisco Consulate

Washington, Mar 25 (PTI):

A large number of Indian-Americans waiving the tricolour held a peace rally in front of the Indian Consulate in San Francisco to express solidarity with India following the vandalism at the facility by Khalistan supporters early this week.

A group of pro-Khalistan protesters on Sunday attacked and damaged the Indian Consulate in San Francisco. Raising pro-Khalistan slogans, the protesters broke



Indian-Americans gather outside the Consulate General of India in support of India, in San Francisco, USA.

open the makeshift security barriers raised by the city po-

lice and installed two so-called Khalistani flags inside the

Consulate premises. Two consulate personnel soon removed these flags. Scores of Indian-Americans drove from in and around San Francisco and waived the tri-colour to show solidarity with India on Friday.

"The attack on India's consulate by fringe elements was disturbing to not only Indian-Americans but the whole world community. We wanted to show our solid support and solidarity hand in hand with India," Satish Vale, a technology professional and communi-

ty worker, said. Indian-American community members condemned the destructive activities of separatist Sikhs, who were also present there in small numbers. Local police were present there in sizable numbers to prevent any untoward incident. Some of the separatist Sikhs chanted pro-Khalistan slogans, but they were outnumbered by a large gathering of Indian-Americans who chanted "Vande Mataram" and waved the Indian national flag along with that of the US.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE FOR MISCELLANEOUS WORK

Tender Notice No. Sr. DEE (RS&G) BSP/OT/22-23-26, Dtd: 22.03.2023

Name of Work: "Annual overhauling & servicing contract for Diesel Generator sets of capacities 5 KVA to 500 KVA of different makes installed over various stations of Bilaspur division inclusive of replacement of minor spares & repairing of AMF panel for a period of two years. Tender Value (Approx) Rs. 35,79,736.98/-, Bid security amount: Rs. 71,600/-, Tender Closing Date & Time : 14.04.2023, 15.00 Hrs.

For further details, eligibility criteria & complete details for the above work, please refer/download tender document which is available on website www.irsp.gov.in.

Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer (RS&G) CPR/10/511 S.E.C. Railway/Bilaspur

South East Central Railway @seccrail

कार्यालय वन संरक्षक, वन प्रबंधन सूचना प्रणाली रायपुर छत्तीसगढ़
(अरण्य भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नृतीय तल, कक्ष क्रमांक-1R/07, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर)
ईमेल- effmis.cg@gov.in वेबसाइट- <https://www.forest.cg.gov.in>

क्र./EMIS/IT/निविदा/2023/408 अटल नगर, दिनांक 23.03.2023

NOTICE

वन प्रबंधन सूचना प्रणाली वनमण्डल, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर (छ.ग.) के कार्यालयीन पत्र क्रमांक/FMIS/IT/निविदा/2023/30 दिनांक 05.01.2023 द्वारा जारी "Supply and Installation of New Indo AreGIS Desktop Advance Version 10.8 Software, AreGIS Spatial Analyst Tool Extension and Upgradation of Existing Installed AreGIS Desktop Advance 10.5 to Latest Indo AreGIS Desktop Advance 10.8 Version Software" निविदा को केवल 02 ही निविदाकार प्राप्त होने के कारणवश एतद् द्वारा निरस्त किया जाता है।

उप वन संरक्षक, वन प्रबंधन सूचना प्रणाली, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर (छ.ग.)

G-996142



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Clean Water for Rural Areas

Transforming Dantewada

Access to clean water is a fundamental right that has been recognized by the United Nations, and it is critical for the health and well-being of people, especially those residing in rural areas. The Department of Public Health Engineering's initiative of introducing the 'Nal Jal Yojana' in Dantewada district is a significant step towards fulfilling this right. The scheme aims to provide pure drinking water to people living in rural regions of the state, and it is proving to be a game-changer for the residents. The 'Nal Jal Yojana' has enabled the construction of water tanks and the expansion of pipeline networks, along with the provision of domestic tap connections in all households. This has made a remarkable difference in the lives of people in rural areas who previously faced challenges in accessing clean drinking water. The scheme has been implemented successfully in Mendapal, a dependent village under the Aranpur Gram Panchayat in the Kuakonda development block of the district. As a result, clean drinking water is now reaching the homes of people in rural areas through tap connections. The initiative is part of the Jal Jeevan Mission, a nationwide programme aimed at providing clean and adequate drinking water to every rural household in India by 2024. The Public Health Engineering Department is using retrofitting schemes to provide domestic tap connections to households in villages through Nal Jal and Samuh Nal Jal schemes. This program is essential, especially in remote areas where proper water supply is lacking, and people have to walk long distances to access clean drinking water. The 'Nal Jal Yojana' is addressing the problem of water scarcity in rural areas and fulfilling the desire for drinking water in every household. It is a relief for women in rural areas who previously had to worry about obtaining clean drinking water for their families. The scheme's success has been demonstrated in Mendapal, where 35 families are already receiving clean drinking water through tap connections. Efforts are underway to provide water to the remaining families at the earliest. However, there is a need for sustained efforts to ensure that the scheme reaches every household in rural areas. The Public Health Engineering Department needs to provide regular maintenance and repair services for water tanks, pipelines, and domestic tap connections to ensure the scheme's sustainability. This would require a long-term commitment from the government and adequate allocation of resources. The 'Nal Jal Yojana' in Dantewada district is a laudable initiative that has brought significant changes in the lives of people residing in rural areas. The scheme's success in Mendapal is a testament to the government's commitment to providing clean drinking water to every rural household in India. The scheme needs to be replicated in other villages and districts in the state and the country to ensure that every individual has access to clean drinking water and fulfilling the fundamental right of access to clean water.

China's Overseas Police Stations

The presence of Chinese Overseas Police Stations (COPS) across the world has raised serious concerns regarding the Chinese government's reach beyond its borders. These stations, reportedly established by Public Security Bureaus (PSBs), serve as a means of information gathering, influence operations, and repression activities targeting criminals, fraudsters, and corrupt officials, as well as political opponents and dissidents abroad. They often use local Chinese Overseas Home Associations, linked to the United Front Work Department (UFWD), to bring individuals back to China for further investigation. While China claims that the COPS serve to offer administrative services to overseas Chinese and combat cross-border fraud, ulterior motives include safeguarding the Belt and Road infrastructure projects and exerting cultural and racial influence on the overseas Chinese diaspora. The presence of COPS, spread over five continents, has received backlash from a host of countries, mainly the US, Canada, Europe, Japan, and South Korea. However, some developing countries, under Chinese economic and political clout, choose to remain silent. The scalability of these operations suggests that they must have the support of central authorities in China. This is further evidenced by the amalgamation of the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) Overseas Chinese Department into the UFWD in 2018, aimed at employing overseas Chinese as informants. The modus operandi of these operations varies from country to country, with some countries in Africa and South America, Myanmar, and Cambodia, where the Chinese have a strong influence, supporting such operations. Some countries in Africa and Asia, along with Serbia, Croatia, Romania, and Italy, have already signed agreements to cooperate with such operations. The presence of COPS has received condemnation from human rights groups and governments worldwide. A few stations, viz. Dublin (Ireland) and New York (US), have been closed down, while other measures initiated by governments include deliberation by the European Parliament to include this topic in the agenda points of bilateral talks with China and a decision to establish a hotline to report threats related to the issue. However, the silence of some countries under Chinese economic and political clout might embolden other Chinese provinces like Guangdong to establish similar police stations abroad. Recently, China's top legislative body, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPCSC), proposed the Foreign State's Immunity Law (FSIL), which would set out the criteria for deciding circumstances in which a foreign government falls under China's legal jurisdiction. Through this law, Beijing is looking at allowing foreign governments to be sued in Chinese courts. With many foreign countries taking countermeasures against COPS, China can well utilize FSIL in advancing its operations, especially in countries that are not favorable. The international community must come together and oppose such operations vehemently through widespread media attention and a tough stance. The presence of COPS poses a threat to human rights and international sovereignty, and Beijing must be held accountable for overreaching its jurisdiction and intimidating its citizens even beyond its borders. The silence of some governments on this issue must end, and countermeasures must be taken to prevent the expansion of such operations. The international community must stand united in protecting the rights and freedoms of its citizens.

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@editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com.

CLEANLINESS DRIVE



Femele NCC cadets take part in a cleanliness drive at Maharaja Hari Singh Statue ahead of G20 meetings, in Jammu, Saturday, March 25.

YUVA SANGAM: A Salient Pillar of Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat

G. KISHAN REDDY



A land with thousands of languages, home to hundreds of tribes, abode of all the major religions and beliefs of the world, blessed with snow-capped mountain ranges to tropical plains, lush evergreens to dry deserts, India is not just a nation, it is a beautiful tapestry of life, cultures and beliefs. Just like the intricate needle work in a tapestry, it is our diversity that keeps us strong and bound together. It is this diversity, which will emerge as one of our biggest assets as we rise to become a dominant global force. Back in 2015, when Hon'ble Prime Minister announced the mission of 'Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat', he not only strengthened an inherent bond between every Indian, he also unlocked India's 'diversity dividend'. A recent initiative, envisioned by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, 'Yuva Sangam' taps into this diversity dividend to leverage another key asset of India, our Youth. Citizens of tomorrow need to realize and experience the power of our diversity to unlock its immense benefits and dividends. The tours will enable that Sangam of our India's tomorrow with the power of diversity. Yuva Sangam celebrates 'Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat', while strengthening the bond between the youth of North Eastern States and Rest of India. Under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister, a nationwide cultural exchange program Yuva Sangam has been launched under the five pillars of - 'Paryatan, Parampara, Pragati, Prodyogiki and Paraspar Sampark'. Over the next

few months more than 20,000 students will travel across India and witness diverse cultures, ethnicities, cuisines, languages, landscapes, local history, technological advancements, crafts and skills. As I write, over 1000 youngsters and students from premier institutions like IITs, IIMs, NITs etc are travelling to different parts of India and experiencing India in its real rustic flavor. A group diverse in itself, with different professional, social and economic background will come together and build common experiences and memories for lifetime. Our youth travelling from different parts of India, will experience the magic of North eastern States and get inspired to build, create and innovate. Likewise, our youth from North East will travel to different parts of India will add carry with them the knowledge, experiences and unforgettable memories. From visiting local industries, cultural and historical spots, interaction with native students, entrepreneurs and government functionaries, the tours will be a unique opportunity to not just visit a state but appreciate it and emotionally connect with it through a wholesome immersive experience. When you see the youth from Sikkim dancing with little kids from Odisha on Sikkim's folk tune or north eastern students learning the local art of handloom in an Odisha village or when students from Arunachal Pradesh visit the Indian Culinary Institute in Andhra Pradesh to experience the culinary traditions of the State or when students from IIT Guwahati and IIT Gandhinagar

teach each other Garba and Bihu, we know that the future of India is in safe hands and we moving steadily towards the vision of 'Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat'. The tours are also giving the students an opportunity to learn about the tall leaders of different regions, the people who have shaped India and its collective consciousness as we stand today as a free and independent nation. It is pertinent for every Indian to know about the sacrifices made by Rani Gaidinliu, who revolted against the foreign invaders to protect India's political and cultural freedom, the heroism and courage of Lachit Barphukan of the grand Ahom Kingdom or how Manipur's Moirang has a prominent role in Netaji's fight against the British. When students visit the memorials and museums of the great men and women, it would indeed help build a national consciousness among the youth. Celebrating diversity and unifying through tourism is intricately linked to our ancient culture. Saints and Seers travelled across the length and breadth of the country to attain wisdom and cultivated a channel of cross cultural bonds. On the lines, last year Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated 'Kashi Tamil Sangamam' in Varanasi, an event to rediscover the age old links of two India's most ancient seats of learning, Varanasi and Tamil Nadu. Over 2500 delegates from Tamil Nadu visited Kashi and reinvigorated the age old tradition of knowledge sharing. Similarly, 'Madhavpur Ghed' is another such festival which epitomizes India's cultural, spiritual and social unity. Each year, a vibrant fair is organized in Madhavpur village of Gujarat to celebrate the marriage of Lord Krishna with Rani Rukmini, who was a princess from the Northeast. Two States separated by over 3000 km are tied by a close ancient bond that we continue to cherish till date. Yuva Sangam uniquely showcases Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of whole of Government approach. With Ministry of Education taking the lead, Ministry of Development of North East Region, Tourism, Culture,

Information & Broadcasting, Youth & Sports, over 50 different universities, State governments, all have come together to ensure a seamless experience for the citizens of tomorrow. It is truly a sign a sight of pure jubilation, when Yuva Sangam teams are given wholesome welcomes and farewell in each State they visit. From interacting with Union Ministers, Governors, Chief Ministers and other dignitaries, students visit homes of fellow students and build everlasting ties with them and their families. Respect for others, willingness to accept and incorporate new ideas, ability to assimilate differences, emotion of working together towards a common goal and the attitude to learn from diverse beliefs, are the values on which India has thrived on for centuries. Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat is a culmination of such philosophies that India has nurtured for centuries and has been exemplified by lives of legends from different corners of India, be it the Swami Vivekananda's clarion call that 'oneness is the secret of everything' or the religious Mahapurush Srimanta Shankaradeva's renditions on Bharatvarsha or the golden legacy of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel that modern India stands together and united, as a single strong unit. It is Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's endeavor to inculcate these values in our youth and ensure that the citizens of tomorrow are beyond the caste and cultural differences and have a vision and cultural connect with Bharat as a whole. He has also woven India in a common thread of national progress and today every Indian is collectively working towards achieving the mission of Make in India, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Digital India or Atmanirbhar Bharat. Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat encompasses this larger motive of imbuing the spirit of oneness in every Indian. (G. Kishan Reddy is the Minister of Development of North East Region, Culture and Tourism in the Government of India)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Decency and decorum in politics

The disqualification of Rahul Gandhi from the Lok Sabha has left a void in Indian politics. While it may bring some decency and decorum to politics, his conviction highlights the need for truth and non-violence in politics, as advocated by Mahatma Gandhi. The upcoming assembly elections in Karnataka and the bye-elections in Kerala and Punjab will be the litmus test for Rahul and the Congress party. It is essential for them to introspect and adopt new policies for the parliament elections in 2024. The Congress party needs to frame a long-term strategy as per the existing law, Rahul cannot contest elections for eight years. Opposing the government is important, but it should not include slander, libel, and calumny. The tremors in Indian politics are yet to be seen, and only time will tell what impact it will have on the country. Yash Pal Raihan, Jalandhar

Political Hypocrisy

The sentencing of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to two years in jail in a criminal defamation case filed against him highlights the issue of political hypocrisy and double standards in India. While Gandhi's remarks about the Modi surname may have been controversial, they are not unique to him, and similar statements are made by politicians from all parties. The fact that the case was filed by a BJP MLA and former Gujarat minister raises questions about its timing and motives, particularly given the upcoming Karnataka and 2024 elections. It is important for the judiciary to remain impartial and fair in its judgments, and for political leaders to be held accountable for their actions and words, regardless of their party affiliation. As Swami Vivekananda said, "I hate one thing in the world --- hypocrisy." It's time for India to live up to these words and address the issue of political hypocrisy and double standards. Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Rahul Gandhi's disqualification form LS

The disqualification of Rahul Gandhi from the Lok Sabha has raised concerns among political analysts about the ruling party's intention to eliminate the Congress party from Indian politics. Rahul Gandhi, a prominent figure in Indian politics and a vocal critic of crony capitalism and divisive politics, was disqualified promptly, which has sparked suspicions about the BJP's eagerness to wipe out the main opposition party. It is disheartening to see some opposition parties joining forces to create a Congress-mukt third front. They must understand that only a united UPA with the Congress as a leading force can match and challenge the NDA led by the BJP in the upcoming parliamentary elections. The call for a Congress-mukt Bharat implies an opposition-mukt Bharat, where there will be a monopoly of power, and no meaningful democratic competition. The disqualification of Rahul Gandhi and the push for a Congress-mukt Bharat is a cause for concern for the future of Indian democracy. It is time for all opposition parties to come together and fight for a pluralistic and democratic India. Sujit De, Kolkata

Textiles Mega Parks - A Giant Leap for Make in India for the World



Piyush Goyal

Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, and Textiles, Govt. of India. Leader of House in Rajya Sabha. India's rich tradition of textiles, which dates back to the ancient era, is poised for a quantum leap that will make India a global investment, manufacturing and export hub. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced seven PM MITRA mega textile parks in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. These mega textile parks will be set up with an outlay of Rs. 4,445 crore. This would be the biggest-ever

initiative for infrastructure in this sector. Inspired by the prime minister's 5F vision (Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign), PM MITRA park scheme is a major step forward to achieve the Atmanirbhar Bharat and 'Vocal for Local' initiatives. The mega parks will help the sector achieve its target of a turnover of \$250 billion and exports of \$100 billion by 2030. It will revolutionize the sector and create global champions with the help of world-class facilities, state-of-the-art infrastructure and an integrated value chain at each location. A Master Developer will be selected who will be responsible for designing, planning, building, financing, operating and maintaining the PM MITRA Park. This is a big jump for the industry as the value chain is currently scattered across the country, which adds costs and delays in each link of the chain. Indian industry will become globally competitive as the parks will help scale up operations, cut costs, improve efficiency and supply high-quality textiles and apparels. These mega parks will create about 20 lakh direct/indirect jobs and attract an estimated Rs 70,000 crore of domestic and foreign investment. They will be shining examples of sus-

tainability, with zero liquid discharge, common effluent treatment, use of emission-free renewable energy and adoption of global best practices. This is in line with the Prime Minister's call for manufacture of products that have zero defect and zero effect (on the environment). It is pertinent to note that for centuries, Indian textiles have made a global mark but unfortunately, successive governments have inexplicably neglected the sector. It required PM Modi's foresight to launch the PM MITRA scheme for the textiles sector, which is one of the mainstays of the Indian economy, a major exports earner and source of livelihood for millions of people, ranging from humble farmers to well-off city dwellers and business leaders. There were 18 proposals from 13 States to set up PM MITRA parks. State governments will provide land parcels of at least 1,000 acres and will facilitate provision of reliable power and water supply, waste disposal, an effective single window clearance system, along with a conducive and stable policy regime to ensure smooth operations and ease of doing business. These mega parks will offer excellent infrastructure, plug-and-play facilities, as well as training

and research support for the industry. They represent a unique model where the Central and State governments will work together to increase investment, promote innovation, create jobs and ultimately make India the world leader in textiles. The textiles industry has responded enthusiastically to this major initiative of the government, which was taken after extensive consultations with all stakeholders. Leading industry associations of the textiles sector along with top industry bodies such as CII and FICCI have lauded the announcement of PM MITRA mega parks. Industry bodies have expressed optimism that lower logistics cost, modern infrastructure, global scale of operations and supportive policies from the Centre and the States will take Indian textiles to new heights and provide top-quality products at competitive prices to Indian and foreign consumers. The Ministry of Textiles will oversee the execution of these projects and provide financial support of Rs 500 crore for greenfield parks and Rs 200 crore for brownfield parks as Development Capital Support to the SPV of each park. In addition, it will provide up to Rs 300 crore to units in each park to incentivise speedy imple-

mentation. It will also facilitate convergence with other government schemes to give additional incentives. PM MITRA dovetails with the government's initiatives to sign Free Trade Agreements, which open up developed markets for our Indian textiles, apparels and several other sectors. India has already signed trade deals with UAE and Australia, and is negotiating with Canada, UK and the European Union. These efforts will help Indian textiles get deeper access to profitable developed markets and help the country significantly increase its share in the global textiles and apparel trade. India is already one of the largest exporters of textiles and apparel in the world, but our aspiration in the Amrit Kaal, as the country marches to become a developed nation by 2047 under the decisive and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Modi, is to be the largest exporter in the world. With PM MITRA, we are on the right track.

(The author is the Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, and Textiles, and Leader of House in Rajya Sabha)

BRIEF

Ethical hacking



New Delhi: Ethical hacking of computer systems or networks done with the permission of its owner does not attract any liability under the IT Act, Parliament was informed. The Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology in response to a question on the guidelines for ethical hacking shared that liability for compensation and punishment under provisions of the IT Act arises if anyone gains access to a computer system without the permission of its owner. "Any act, including an act of ethical hacking, undertaken with the permission/ consent of its owner does not attract liability under the said or other provisions of the Act," Chandrasekhar said.

Appointment

New Delhi: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries has appointed Srikanth Venkatachari as Chief Financial Officer effective June 1, according to a stock exchange filing. He takes over from Alok Agarwal, who has been CFO since 2005, and will now assume the role of senior advisor to company chairman and managing director Mukesh Ambani. Venkatachari, 57, currently is the joint CFO for the company. Agarwal, 65, who joined Reliance in 1993, completed 30 years with the company. Srikanth, who has been sharing a part of the responsibilities of the CFO position with Agarwal for the last few years, has been with Reliance for the last 14 years.

Credit cards



Kolkata: Bankers have unanimously agreed to issue 'Bhobishyot' credit cards as proposed by the West Bengal government to extend youths a loan of Rs 5 lakh for starting new business ventures, said Amit Mitra, principal chief advisor to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The former state finance minister told reporters on Friday that around 2 lakh people would stand to benefit from the bank loans, following a meeting with lenders. "The state will provide 15 per cent guarantee money, and 85 per cent loan guarantee through credit trust established by consumer durable loan (CDB) for small and medium industrialists. "If all goes well, 2 lakh youths will start businesses this year. The evaluation will start from April 1 and the portal has been created," he said.

FM reviews PSBs' performance amid stress in US fin systems

Asks bankers to be vigilant about rate risks

New Delhi, Mar 25:



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday reviewed the performance of public sector banks (PSBs) on various financial health parameters and their resilience in the wake of the current global financial scenario emanating from the failure of some international banks in the US and Europe. She urged the banks to remain vigilant about the interest rate risks and regularly undertake stress tests. During the two hours meeting with MDs and CEOs of PSBs, an open discussion was held on the

global scenario amid the failure of the Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) and Signature Bank (SB), along with the issues leading to the crisis in Credit Suisse. The meeting was also attended by Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad, Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi and other senior officials, an official statement

said. She also discussed the developing and immediate external global financial stress from both short and long-term perspectives. During the PSB review meeting, she emphasised that the banks should undertake due diligence and adhere to the regulatory framework by focusing on risk management and diversification of deposits and assets base. The finance minister underlined that PSBs must look at business models closely to identify stress points, including concentration risks and adverse exposures, the statement said, adding that she also exhorted PSBs to use this opportunity to frame detailed cri-

sis management and communication strategies. The chiefs of PSBs apprised Sitharaman that they follow the best corporate governance practices, adhere to regulatory norms, ensure prudent liquidity management and continue to focus on having robust asset-liability and risk management. Further, she was also informed by the PSBs that they are vigilant of developments in the global banking sector and are taking all possible steps to safeguard themselves from any potential financial shock. All the major financial parameters indicate stable and resilient PSBs with robust financial health, it added.

BPCL launches 19 EV fast-charging corridors along 15 highways

Kochi, Mar 25:

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has announced that it has launched 19 EV fast-charging corridors along 15 highways in Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

At approximately every 100 km on the corridors, one can find an EV fast-charging station, a top BPCL official said at an event here on Friday. "The fast-charging stations have been installed between 110 fuel stations which have been divided into various electric corridors."

BPCL Executive Director Incharge (Retail) P S Ravi said the company had launched three corridors with 19 fuel stations in Kerala, six corridors with 33 fuel stations in

Karnataka and 10 corridors with 58 fuel stations in Tamil Nadu.

"It takes just 30 minutes to charge an EV, giving a driving range of up to 125 km at our fuel stations. Therefore we have maintained a distance of 100 km between two charging stations," Pushp Kumar Nayar, Head of Retail in the South, said at the launch. Ravi said the fast chargers were easy to use and could be self-operated without any manual assistance, even though support staff would be available if needed.

"BPCL has digitised the entire EV charger locator, charger operations and transaction process through the HelloBPCL app for an online hassle-free and transparent user experience," Ravi added.

UK-India trade has potential to double by 2030: Iyer

Kochi, Mar 25:

Notwithstanding the impact of Russia's war with Ukraine, the UK and India are heading towards an era of positive engagement in trade and business relations, with steps underway to promote mutual investments in both the nations, British Deputy High Commissioner in charge of Kerala and Karnataka Chandru Iyer said. Iyer who is also UK's Deputy Trade Commissioner for South Asia spoke in detail to PTI on Friday about the trade and investments between the UK and India and said there was potential to double the business by 2030.

He was in the state to



take part in various official engagements, including a meeting with Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, and also in connection with the port of call made by the British Royal Navy's frigate ship, HMS Lancaster, at Kochi.

Calling war a global phenomenon that affects all countries in more ways than one, the British Deputy High Commissioner hailed en-

India aspires to take technical textiles market to USD 40 bn in 4-5 years: Goyal

New Delhi, Mar 25:



Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday said India aspires to take its technical textiles market to USD 40 billion in the next 4-5 years from USD 22 billion at present. In a virtual address at a conference on geo textiles, the Textiles Minister also expressed hope to build a domestic technical textiles market of up to USD 300 billion by 2047. Currently, India is the fifth largest producer of technical textiles in the world with a market size of nearly USD 22 billion. To achieve these objectives, Goyal underlined the need to focus on improving productivity at manufacturing and supply-chain levels. Technical textiles are functional fabrics that have applications across various industries including automobiles, civil engineering

and construction, agriculture, healthcare, industrial safety, personal protection etc. "We will have to introduce economies of scale and also have to work on research and development to innovate and come up with attractive products which are in the future going to become global brands. "For this purpose, robust inter-ministerial coordination is happening which will pave the way for the development of the technical textiles market in India," he

added. Pointing out that global demand for geotextiles is also growing strongly, the minister expressed confidence that on the back of robust growth in infrastructure being created in India, the country will be able to contribute significantly to an increased market potential in geotextiles and technical textiles.

"India today is aspiring to take its technical textiles market to at least USD 40 billion in the next 4-5 years. While it is a huge task, we think we can achieve it, provided we all work together," Goyal said. The minister assured that the government is deeply committed to working with all stakeholders to generate demand, strengthen research, bring out new applications for technical textiles and promote startups to bring innovation.

Govt to hike securities transaction tax on F&O contracts

New Delhi, Mar 25:

The government on Friday proposed hiking the securities transaction tax on Futures & Options (F&O) contracts, a move that will increase the trading costs in the derivatives segment as well as help in curbing excessive trades. In the Finance Bill 2023, passed by the Lok Sabha on Friday, the Securities Transaction Tax (STT) on options is proposed to be increased to 0.0625 per cent from 0.05 per cent and on futures contracts to 0.0125 from 0.01 per cent. Analysts opined that higher STT will shore up the government's revenues to some extent and also dis-

courage excessive trading since a large number of retail traders are losing money in the segment.

After the Lok Sabha cleared the Finance Bill, which has 64 official amendments, the finance ministry issued a statement saying that there was a typographical error in the amendments with respect to the change in STT on option trading. The error, the finance ministry said, will be rectified in accordance with the extent procedure of the Government of India. As per the amendments, the STT on options has been increased from 0.017 per cent to 0.021 per cent. "In case of STT, the rate is pro-

posed to be changed from 0.05 per cent to 0.0625 per cent. There was a typographical error which is being corrected," the ministry said. Sunil Gidwani, Partner at Nangia Andersen LLP, the hike in STT would impact the traders in a big way. "STT rates on the sale of options increased from 0.05 per cent to 0.062 per cent and on the sale of futures increased from 0.010 per cent to 0.0125 per cent levying additional burden for the traders," he said. Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research at HDFC Securities, said the proposed increase in STT will shore up the government's revenues to a certain extent.

Govt to set up panel headed by finance secretary to improve NPS

New Delhi, Mar 25:

With some non-BJP ruled states deciding to revert to the old pension scheme, the Centre on Friday decided to set up a committee under the finance secretary to improve the New Pension System (NPS) to take care of the concerns of employees while maintaining fiscal prudence. While moving the Finance Bill 2023 for consideration and passage in the Lok Sabha, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the new approach to the NPS will be designed for adoption by both central and state governments. "I propose to set up a committee under the finance secretary to look into the issue of pensions and evolve an approach which

addresses the needs of employees while maintaining fiscal prudence to protect common citizens," she said. "The approach will be designed for adoption by both the central government and state governments." The decision came in the backdrop of several non-BJP states deciding to revert to the DA-linked old pension scheme (OPS) and also employee organisations in some other states raising demand for the same. The state governments of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh have informed the Centre about their decision to revert to the old pension scheme and have requested a refund of the corpus accumulated under the NPS.

Akasa Air to hire nearly 1,000 people by Mar 2024: Vinay Dube

New Delhi, Mar 25:

Akasa Air plans to hire nearly 1,000 people and take the total staff strength to more than 3,000 by the end of March 2024 as the airline continues to expand its fleet as well as routes, according to its chief Vinay Dube.

The airline, which took to the skies a little over seven months ago, also plans to start international operations by the end of this year, and the possible overseas destinations are still in the process of being finalised. In an interview with PTI, Dube, the founder and CEO of Akasa Air, said the airline will place a "three-digit aircraft order" by the end of this year. It has placed an order for 72 Boeing 737 Max



aircraft, and 19 of them are already in its fleet. The 20th aircraft will be inducted in April, following which it will also be eligible to fly overseas.

In the next financial year, the carrier aims to add another 9 planes to its fleet, taking the total size to 28. Currently, it operates 110 flights every day.

SHOWROOM INAUGURATION



Bollywood actor Rashmika Madanna at the inauguration of a showroom in Prayagraj, Saturday, March 25.

Amazon Business announces exciting deals for MSMEs

Mumbai, Mar 25:

Amazon Business announced the commencement of an 'End of Financial Year Sale' to help its business customers complete all pending purchases with great deals before the end of the current financial year. The event will help B2B customers discover relevant selection and get incremental cashback and discounts on these purchases to save costs. Business customers can enjoy up to 10% extra cashback across all the business relevant categories like computers & accessories, electronic appliances, office products, office kitchen, industrial & scientific. First Time users can enjoy up to 25% CASHBACK across selected categories. Customers can also avail business exclusive prices and bulk deals on more than 5000 products with up to 30% off on the Laptops and up to 40% off on the monitors, ACs

and refrigerators. In addition to these benefits, MSMEs can also use other features such as Multi-user account, pay later, Bill to Ship to and Approvals to make business purchases more efficient and compliant. The financial year end sale aims to empower MSMEs by providing over 16 Cr GST enabled products across top categories at exciting prices. Existing Amazon Business customers can gather more information about the event after signing in their business account. New customers can also see the visibility and know more about the event once they create a free account from <https://business.amazon.in>. Since its launch in 2017, Amazon Business has always worked to add value and convenience to its customers' businesses. With this event, it aims to help MSMEs acquire business supplies at discounted rates, further minimizing the cost of procurement.

Proposals in Finance Bill on debt mutual funds: Experts

New Delhi, Mar 25:

The changes proposed in the Finance Bill 2023 with respect to securities transaction tax and taxation of debt mutual funds are likely to have an adverse impact on the market, according to experts. The bill, which gives effect to taxation proposals for 2023-24, passed by Lok Sabha on Friday. The government had moved 64 official amendments to the bill. Among other proposals, the bill has proposed that from April 1, investments in debt mutual funds will be taxed as short-term capital gains. The move would strip investors of the long term tax benefits that had made such investments popular. Currently, officials said, an arbitrage is being created where an interest income from debt mutual fund - where not more than 35 per cent is invested in the shares of a domestic company - is not distributed.

HDFC Life launches 'HDFC Life Smart Pension Plus'

Mumbai, Mar 25:

HDFC Life, one of India's leading life insurers, has launched HDFC Life Smart Pension Plus - a plan that enables customers to achieve financial independence after retirement, in the form of a regular and guaranteed stream of income, similar to a 'salary'. HDFC Life Smart Pension Plus has been designed to cater to individuals who want to save and create a financial safety net for themselves while they earn to be able to continue with their current lifestyle after retirement in their golden years. Simply put, this annuity product could enable customers live their desired life after retirement.

The product offers flexibility to cover oneself as well as one's spouse, decide the premium payment term, frequency of pay-out and a choice to



take income immediately or after a few years. Speaking on the launch Aneesh Khanna, Head - Products & Segments, HDFC Life said, "The retirement savings gap in India is projected to reach USD 85 trillion by 2050#. With rising inflation, increasing healthcare costs and higher life expectancy, it is imperative for individuals to plan for regular income post their earning years. Our latest offering, HDFC Life Smart Pension Plus is a unique annuity plan that can be customised to meet specific requirements for life after retirement."



Patralekhaa to commence shooting for 'Phule' in early April

Actress Patralekhaa, who was most recently seen in the streaming series 'Aar Ya Paar', is set to start working on her next project titled 'Phule' in early April. The actress will portray the titular character of social activist, Savitribai Phule, who is known to have laid the foundation of female's education in India and is a pioneer of India's feminist movement. Savitribai was the wife of Jyotiba Phule, who is credited with changing the social landscape of India by fighting caste discrimination. The actress was recently spotted at director Anant Mahadevan's office. Patralekhaa responded to the commencement of the shoot in affirmative. She said: "Savitribai Phule was a trailblazer in pioneering female literacy in the country. Her life is heralded as a textbook of women empowerment. To portray the mother of Indian feminism on screen is an absolute honour." The film will be helmed by Anant Mahadevan, who has been feted with the National Film Award for another woman-centric story, 'Mee Sindhutai Sapkal'. The biopic told the story of social activist Sindhutai Sapkal, who worked towards providing shelter to homeless children and raising them. The film also marks the fresh pairing of Patralekhaa and Pratik Gandhi. On the work front, Patralekhaa will also be seen in Prime Video's 'Gulkand Tales', an untitled dramedy by filmmaker Luv Ranjan and another film on road trip 'Heer Saara' alongside actor Maanvi Gargro.

Upcoming week's tracks in &TV shows is a must watch

The upcoming week's tracks in &TV shows Doosri Maa, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai is a must watch. About &TV's Doosri Maa track, Ashok shares, "To prove Krishna's (Aayudh Bhanushali) innocence, Yashoda (Neha Joshi) begins looking for the auto driver who is the sole witness. But Kamani (Priety Sahay) comes up with a plan and pays the driver to stop helping them. The auto driver kidnaps them as soon as they approach him. Manoj (RJ Mohit) defends Krishna and court announces Krishna innocent. However, a situation arises when Yashoda reveals to the family about Krishna being Ashok and Mala's son." About &TV's Happu Ki Ultan Paltan track Bimlesh shares, "Happu

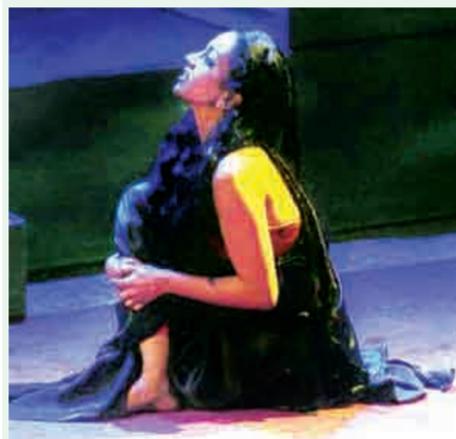


(Yogesh Tripathi) is shocked when Rajesh (Kamna Pathak) informs him that Bimlesh (Sapna Sikarwar) is a Kleptomaniac. The next day, the jeweller arrives and returns Katori Amma's (Himani Shivpuri) khandani haar, which she had given for

polishing. Meanwhile, Rajesh's friend Karishma invites them to her sister's wedding. Rajesh persuades Happu to get her Katori Amma's Khandani Haar. Everyone prepares for the wedding and departs. Beni (Vishwanath Chatterjee) is worried about Bimlesh's stealing

habit. When everyone returns from the wedding, they notice that the khandani haar is missing." Watch Doosri Maa at 8:00 pm, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 pm, and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 pm, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!

Actors reveal their journey from theatres to TV



World Theatre Day is observed every year on March 27. To celebrate the day, &TV shows actors talk about their love for theatre and share their journey from theatres to television. These include Atharva (Bhimrao, Ek Mahanayak—Dr B. R. Ambedkar), Neha Joshi (Yashoda, Doosri Maa), Kamna Pathak (Rajesh, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan), and Aasif Sheikh (Vibhuti Narayan Mishra, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai). Neha Joshi, aka Yashoda of Doosri Maa, shares, "My parents are theatre artists. In my growing years, I have not just seen them perform on stage but have also learned a lot about acting from them. I remember one incident when I was about four or five years old. I had gone to witness a play that my mother and two of her friends were developing for children, and that day some kids didn't show up, so my mother made me

stand there instead. I started crying and telling her, 'Mujhe yahan nahi khade hona. Main kabhi stage par acting nahi karungi'. But she somehow managed to convince me, and today, theatre is like oxygen to me. I start to feel suffocated if I don't get time to be on stage. I am a theatre graduate and make sure to be part of plays always.

People will not believe it, but I have turned down many TV commercials and films because I have commitments with theatres. I started my career with the Marathi stage drama 'Kshan Ek Pure', which landed me a television show and later films. Theatre offered me a lot of learnings to become a good actor. I still take theatre workshops because I believe that if you want to grow as an actor, you must keep yourself associated with theatre. It is the best medium to learn and explore your acting skills."

Kareena is 'so ready' as Rhea Kapoor starts filming for 'The Crew'



On her mother Sunita Kapoor's birthday on Saturday, producer Rhea Kapoor shared that she is starting to shoot for her next movie 'The Crew'. Rhea took to Instagram, where she put two pictures. The first image features the clap board of the film, while the second has a picture of her mother. For the caption, Rhea wrote: "Is this real life!? Day 1. On @kapoor.sunita birthday with my Nani's blessings! Happy birthday mommy I couldn't be here without you! I love you!" The film stars Tabu, Kareena Kapoor Khan and Kriti Sanon. Kareena took to the comment section and wrote: "Kareena Kapoor Khan: So ready my girl love youuuuuu my rheaaaaaa."

Anushka Sharma has a funny reaction on being called 'Mrs Kohli'

Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma, who was seen attending an event here, had a hilarious reaction when she was referred to as 'Mrs Kohli' by the paparazzi.

A video shared by a celebrity paparazzi shows Anushka looking stunning in a black dress. As soon as she stepped on the red carpet, the photographers started referring to her as 'Mrs Kohli' and kept screaming for her to look at the camera.

Hearing this, Anushka laughed and was heard saying: "Relax! Why are you all shouting? Wait! Mere kaan... I have not recovered from the shouting from yesterday." The photographers said that they missed her clicking her at events, she replied 'mere kaan baji rahe hai.'

Recently, Anushka and her cricketer husband Virat Kohli decided to merge their respective



foundations - Anushka Sharma Foundation and Virat Kohli Foundation - to launch a joint non-profit initiative aimed at helping those in need.

Anushka will next be seen in 'Chakda Xpress'. The Netflix film, which is based on the life and times of one of the fastest female pacers in the history of world cricket, Jhulan, will showcase how the pacer moves up the ladder despite countless hindrances to fulfil her only dream - to play cricket.

Jhulan went on to captain the Indian women's national cricket team and is a role model for aspiring cricketers in the country. In 2018, an Indian postage stamp was issued in her honour. Jhulan holds the world record for the highest number of wickets taken by a woman in an international career.

World TV premiere of 'Unnchai' on Zee Cinema today

They say "the journey is more important than the destination". The little joys, and big disappointments along the way are what make life worth living. Celebrating this sentiment, Zee Cinema presents the World Television Premiere of Unnchai on 26th March at 12:30 pm. What starts off as a journey to fulfil their friend's last wish, ends up teaching us the meaning of friendship, family, love, togetherness and emotions.

Starring stalwarts and talent powerhouses like Amitabh Bachchan, Anupam Kher, Boman Irani, Neena Gupta, Sarika and Danny Denzongpa in lead roles, Unnchai is a wholesome story that fills your heart with nothing but joy.



Coming from the makers of Hum Aapke Hain Koun..!, Vivaah and Hum Saath - Saath Hain, with this heart-warming tale of friendship, emotions, relationships, Sooraj Barjatya, once again tells a story keeping family values in mind.

Simplicity has always been at the heart of each Rajshri story. And Unnchai is everything one can expect from a bonafide Rajshri film. As the banner, celebrates 75 years of perfecting the family-friendly movie genre, this film marks

Sooraj Barjatya return after seven years bringing a mixed bag of feelings, including love, sorrow, dreams, wishes, friendship, failures, self-belief, conviction, and a pledge to your loved ones - making it the perfect Sunday afternoon family watch.

Ajay Devgn: In early 90s, directors used to give an idea of scene without script



Bollywood actor Ajay Devgn recalled the era of the 90s and shared how he has done several movies without even getting proper script.

He has also shared his experiences when the writer used to come to give a narration and they used to act out their script as if they were auditioning.

Ajay, who has delivered several hits in the 90s including 'Phool Aur Kaante', 'Jigar', 'Suhaag', 'Diljale', 'Pyaar To Hona Hi Tha', 'Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam', among others, made a comparison of that era from today, and said that certain times he

used to be given idea about a particular scene without specific script.

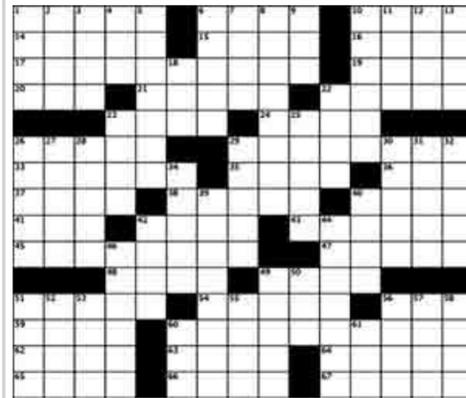
He said: "In the early 90s, it was not uncommon for directors to give actors a general idea of the scene and then allow them to improvise their lines and actions without a specific script. I have even performed in such movies as well."

Ajay is coming along with Tabu and Deepak Dobriyal to promote their film 'Bhola' on 'The Kapil Sharma Show'.

He shared his experience of how certain times writers enact an entire scene while explaining it to the actor as if they are giving an audition.

CROSSWORD

598



ACROSS

- Mamas' mates
- Corrosive substance
- Chilly
- Excuse
- Mediocre (hyph.)
- Adrift
- Admission
- Strategy
- Ess follower
- Witch's charm
- Actor Roger

DOWN

- EMT's word
- Stratford-on-_____
- Macaroni, e.g.
- Spike heel
- Verify
- Annoying one
- Pirate's drink
- Wander
- Lift
- Painter Salvador _____
- Navy officer (abbr.)
- Unpaid bill

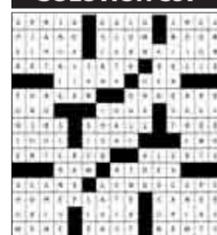
- Surrounded by
- Practice a play
- Locales
- Aid and _____
- Story
- Injury marks
- Adjust
- Outback bird
- Rotate
- Relaxing initial activity
- Huron's neighbor
- Butter substitute
- Strict
- Juicy fruit
- Movie fish
- Relieves

DOWN

- Agreement
- Soothing plant
- Conifer
- CBS rival
- Naps
- Resource
- Mattress part
- Quarantines
- Quixote
- "Scarface" gangster
- Norwegian city
- Tragic King
- A Scandinavian
- Health club
- Lose feathers
- Plant stalk
- Sight
- Kitchen gadget
- Make up for

- Stockpile
- Ill will
- Vocation
- Oklahoma city
- Leaves out
- Not here
- Hindrance
- Desperate
- Specks
- Toy dog breed
- Breadwinner
- Prohibition
- Mar. follower
- Stair part
- Remedy
- Diva's solo
- Consider
- Makes do
- Slight
- Coffeepeeps
- Charged particle
- _____ glance (2 wds.)

SOLUTION 597



Battle Royale as Mumbai take on Delhi in WPL final

Mumbai, Mar 25 (PTI):

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's form is a huge concern as Mumbai Indians look to cap their superb Women's Premier League season (WPL) by defeating Meg Lanning's Delhi Capitals in the final of the inaugural edition of the tournament here on Sunday.

After three half centuries earlier on in the tournament, form has deserted the India skipper, and, had it not been for Nat Sciver-Brunn's unbeaten 72 in the Eliminator against UP Warriorz on Friday, the script of the tournament could have been different.

With Harmanpreet managing just 14 runs in the Eliminator, things could have gone downhill for the Mumbai franchise, but luckily Nat Sciver made the most of the dropped catch to make a mockery of the Warriorz bowling. Australian stalwart Meg Lanning though could exploit Harmanpreet's poor



run with the bat to go all out even though Delhi Capitals will be playing in front of a partisan crowd at the Brabourne Stadium.

Delhi Capitals, after starting sedately, gradually moved up the points table and finally managed to displace Mumbai Indians at

the top, thanks mainly to the performance of Lanning - the leader of the batting charts - and all-rounder Marizanne Kapp. With the third-highest number of runs (272), two half centuries, an enviable average of 54.40 and 10 wickets in nine games, Nat

Sciver is one of the best all-rounders on show here. The England cricketer has, time and again, given commanding performances, and it will be hard for Delhi Capitals to stop the devastating batter in the summit clash.

Another Mumbai

Time: 7:30PM IST.

Indians allrounder Hayley Matthews (258 runs, 13 wickets in nine matches) has blown hot and cold of late but remains a vital cog in the team's line-up, while Yastika Bhatia will look to take a fearless approach with the bat again.

Lanning though would like to add the inaugural WPL trophy to her cabinet after winning the T20 World Cup in South Africa recently for a record-extending fifth time. Mumbai Indians cannot wish away the Australia captain, the WPL's top-scorer with 310 runs (average 51.66), including two half centuries.

Delhi have had their share of highs and lows but Lanning's captaincy, combined with an incredible all-round show from Marizanne Kapp (159 runs, 9 wickets in eight matches), has been the highlight for them. Alice Capsey's power-hitting in the middle overs can also make a strong dent.

Nitu becomes world champion

New Delhi, Mar 25 (PTI):

Commonwealth Games gold medallist Nitu Ghanghas (48kg) added a World Championship title to her name with a win over Mongolia's Lutsaikhan Altansetseg at the marquee tournament here on Saturday.

The Indian put up a stupendous performance to see off Altansetseg 5-0 and claim the title for the minimum weight category in front of a packed crowd.

Nitu started off aggressively, and used her combination of punches effectively to eke out a win.

With this victory, Nitu, a 2022 Strandja Memorial gold medallist, became the sixth Indian boxer to be crowned world champion. Six-time champion Mary Kom (2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2018), Sarita Devi (2006), Jenny RL (2006), Lekha KC (2006) and Nikhat Zareen (2022) are the other pugilists who have won the world title.



India's Nitu Ghanghas reacts after winning over Mongolia's Lutsaikhan Altansetseg in the final match of 48 kg category at the 2023 IBA Women's Boxing World Championships, in New Delhi, Saturday, March 25.

Satwik-Chirag duo enters semi-final of Swiss Open



Basel, Mar 25 (PTI):

Dynamic Indian doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty has entered the semi-finals of the Swiss Open Super Series 300 badminton event defeating the Danish pair of Jeppe Bay and Lasse Molhede in three hard-fought games. On Friday night, the Indian pair fought off the challenge in 54 minutes, winning 15-21, 21-11, 21-14.

The victory came after a hard-fought 84-minute quarter-final battle and now they will face the Malaysian pair of Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi late on Saturday night. Satwik-Chirag are the only Indian

contenders left in a tournament where the likes of PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen suffered early defeats.

The Indian pair didn't have a great start as they lost the first game easily at 15-21. The duo did pull things up in the middle of the game, reducing the deficit to just one point as they trailed 15-16. However, the Danish pair won six consecutive points to wrap up the first game with ease. The Indian pair picked up the tempo in the second game as they quickly got a seven-point cushion of 11-4 at the halfway break. They extended the lead to 10 points by the time parity was restored.

Afghanistan beats Pakistan for first time in a T20

Sharjah, Mar 25 (AP):

Afghanistan defeated Pakistan in a Twenty20 for the first time on Friday after the latter was restricted to 92-9.

Pakistan, without five rested frontline players including captain Babar Azam, struggled on a slow and low pitch at Sharjah Cricket Stadium against the Afghans, whose six bowlers shared all nine wickets. Afghanistan overcame falling to 45-4 in the 10th over to cruise home at 98-4 and win by six wickets with more than two overs to spare. Mohammad Nabi raised Afghanistan's first victory over Pakistan in five attempts over the past decade with a straight six over long off.

"Pleasure to win, as we've always lost against them by small margins," Afghanistan skipper Rashid Khan said. "Wearing Afghanistan colors and leading the team in a win is a proud achievement. We never know the wicket... (but the) mindset was... to adjust accordingly." Afghanistan has a chance at a first series win in the remaining two T20s on Sunday and Monday.

Manu Bhaker bags 25m pistol bronze in ISSF World Cup

Bhopal, Mar 25 (PTI):

Olympian shooter Manu Bhaker clinched the 25m pistol bronze medal in the ISSF Pistol/Rifle World Cup to take India's medal tally to seven, including a gold, here on Saturday.

Bhaker, the multiple World Cup medal winner, had shot 290 in the precision round on Friday and entered day 2 of competition well placed for the rapid round.

In the rapid round on Saturday, she again shot three superb series of 98, 99 and 97 to aggregate 294 and advance to the ranking round placed third.

Another Indian, Esha Singh, who had shot 292 in precision, scored 289 in rapid to aggregate 581 and advance to the ranking round placed eighth.



India's Manu Bhaker (R) during the medal ceremony in ISSF World Cup.

ed. Two shooters from ranking match 2 - China's Ziyue Du and Yaxuan Xiong - qualified for the medal round with 12 points each, to make up the quartet vying for the top position.

In a tough medal match, Bhaker was no match for Doreen (30 points) and Ziyue Du (29 points) who won the gold

and silver, while the Indian could aggregate only 20 points to finish her campaign with a bronze.

This is the first medal in the ongoing World Cup for Bhaker, who had failed to impress in her favourite event, air pistol, on the opening day of the competition, finishing 16th with 568 points.

Five-star Shipley sinks Sri Lanka in first ODI

Auckland, Mar 25 (AP):

Harry Shipley took 5-31 as Sri Lanka was bowled out for 76 on Saturday to lose the first one-day international against New Zealand by 198 runs.

New Zealand made 274 batting first on a drop-in pitch at Eden Park and Sri Lanka was dismissed for its lowest-ever ODI total against New Zealand, its fifth-lowest in all one-day internationals. Sri Lanka lost its first two wickets at 14, its third at 20 and its fourth and fifth at 31 as its innings unraveled inside the first 10 overs. When a break was taken after 14.2 overs to honor victims, rescuers and recovery workers involved in Cyclone Gabrielle which battered New Zealand's North Island on Feb. 14, Sri Lanka was 49-7. Wickets continued to fall steadily and when Sri Lanka was all out after only 19.5 overs, it was for the second lowest one-day international total at Eden Park. Angelo Mathews, who was playing his first ODI in two years, was one of only three Sri Lanka batsmen to reach the double figures. Sri Lanka's first wicket fell to a runout



in the sixth over. Shipley took his first wicket in spectacular style when his angled delivery to opener Pathum Nissanka jagged back through the batter's shot and uprooted his leg stump.

Mbappe delivers for France as captain



Paris, Mar 25 (AP):

Kylian Mbappe delivered for France again, this time wearing the captain's armband. Leading a new era for Les Bleus, there was something very familiar about the way Mbappe slotted home two unforgiving finishes to headline a 4-0 win over the Netherlands in European Championship qualifying.

France showed no lasting effects from that painful penalty-shootout loss to Argentina in the World Cup final three months ago. Nor did Mbappe, the scorer of a hat trick in a losing cause that day. One of his first touches against the Dutch was to slip a pass inside for Antoine Griezmann,

his hair dyed pink, to finish first time for the opening goal inside two minutes at the Stade de France. The two stars embraced, showing there was no lingering feud after Griezmann the more experienced of the pair was overlooked for the captaincy in favor of Mbappe following Hugo Lloris' retirement.

Dayot Upamecano bundled in the second in the eighth minute, and the third goal in a dazzling opening 20 minutes for France was scored by Mbappe. He ran in behind the Netherlands defense and shot inside the near post after Randal Kolo Muani let a pass from Aurélien Tchouameni roll past him.

Alcaraz, Fritz, Andreescu advance to Miami Open 3rd round



Miami Gardens, Mar 25 (AP):

Carlos Alcaraz picked up a straight-set win at the Miami Open on Friday to keep his world No. 1 ranking over idle Novak Djokovic.

Djokovic is not participating in the Miami Open because he still cannot travel to the United States as a foreign citizen who is not vaccinated against COVID-19. Alcaraz, who beat Casper Ruud in the 2022 U.S. Open final for his first

No. 1 ranking, defeated Facundo Bagnis 6-0, 6-2 to advance to the third round in Miami.

Rafael Nadal dropped out of the top 10 on Monday for the first time in 18 years.

Alcaraz, a 19-year-old from Spain, rose into that spot a day after ending Daniil Medvedev's 19-match winning streak by beating him in straight sets in the final at Indian Wells, California. No. 1 American and No. 9 seed Taylor Fritz began his tournament campaign with a 6-4, 6-1 win over Emilio Nava. Fritz is 17-1 in his opening rounds of hard court tournaments since the start of 2022, with his only loss coming at the 2022 U.S. Open to No. 303 Brandon Holt.

Fritz will next face No. 24 Denis Shapovalov, who defeated Guido Pella on Friday. On the women's side, Bianca Andreescu the 2019 U.S. Open champion came from a set down to oust No. 7 seed Maria Sakkari 5-7, 6-3, 6-4. Andreescu improved to 2-1 over Sakkari, with both wins coming in Miami. Andreescu will face Sofia Kenin in the third round.

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'Udhampur-Banihal railway line to be completed soon'

Srinagar, Mar 25 (PTI):

The railway line connecting the Kashmir Valley with the rest of the country will be completed this year, and the special Vande Bharat trains will chug in the Union Territory next year, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday.

Addressing a press conference at the Srinagar railway station in the Nowgam area here, he said the Udhampur-Banihal track, connecting Jammu with Srinagar,

will be completed by December this year, or early next year. With this, the Udhampur-Baramulla railway line in J and K will be completed.

"There is a good progress on the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail line. The work on the Chenab and Anji bridges, and major tunnels is also going and there is a good progress. By the grace of God, the train will chug on this route in December this year or January-February next year," Vaishnaw said. He said a specially de-



Union Minister of Railways Communication and Electronic & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw addresses the media at Nowgam Railway Station in Srinagar, Saturday.

signed Vande Bharat train is being developed for this

line. "Everything like temperature, snow, has been kept in mind while manufacturing this special train. Once the railway line is opened, you will have the Vande Bharat train in the middle of 2024," he said.

Asked about the delay in completing the project, the Union minister said there was less funding before Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over in 2014. "The cost of the project is Rs 35,000 crore. They used to get only Rs 700-800 crores per year. So, after Modi came to power, he

doubled it. Then tripled it and now has increased the funding six times of what it was," Vaishnaw said.

He said this year, Rs 6,000 crore has been allotted for the railway project in J-K in the budget. Vaishnaw said there were technical reasons for the delay as well. "The Himalayas are the young mountains which means they are soft and tunnelling work is very difficult," he said. However, all big challenges have now been completed and all the difficult works have been done, he added.

HABBA FEST



Artists dressed as tiger perform during the Bengaluru Habba festival, at Cubbon Park in Bengaluru, Saturday.

Mah Gov presents India SME Excellence Awards

Mumbai, Mar 25:

Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais addressed the India SME leadership Summit and presented the India SME Excellence Awards to successful small and medium entrepreneurs in Mumbai on Sat (25 Mar). The Summit and awards function was organised by the SME Chamber of India and the Maharashtra Industry Development Association on the occasion of the 30th Foundation Day of the Chamber.

Founder Chairman of the SME Chamber of India Chandrakant Salunkhe, Head, Corporate Strategy and Special Projects Anup Sahay and heads of various small and medium entrepreneurs were present.



The Governor released the Activity Report and launched the initiative of 'Entrepreneurship Development Council' on the occasion. The India SME Excellence Awards were presented to Arpit Sidhpura, Lalit Chadha,

Jittendra Patel, Yusuf Kagzi, Sonir Shah, Uday Adhikari, Vishal Mehta among 20 others. The Governor also presented the Pride of Maharashtra to Prabhakar Salunke, Dr Seema Saini and Sushama Chordiya on the occasion.

'Differences between govt and judiciary doesn't mean confrontation'

Madurai, Mar 25 (PTI):

Denying any clash between the government and judiciary as speculated in the media, Union Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijju on Saturday contended that differences were inevitable in a democracy but they should not be construed as confrontation.

The Minister inaugurated the Chief Judicial Magistrate court, Mayiladuthurai, in the presence of Chief Justice of India Justice D Y Chandrachud, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin and Acting Chief Justice of Madras High Court Justice T Raja here. "We have differences, but it doesn't mean there is confrontation. It sends a

wrong message across the world. I want to make it clear that there is no problem between different organs of the State. There are signs of robust democratic actions, which are not a crisis," he emphasised.

Pointing to some media reports of alleged differences between the government and the Supreme Court or the legislature and judiciary, the Union Minister said, "we must understand that we are in a democracy. There are bound to be certain differences in terms of some outlook but you can't have conflicting positions. This doesn't mean confrontation. We are the largest democracy in the world."

The Centre would support the Indian judiciary



Union Minister of Law and Justice Kiren Rijju and TN CM M.K. Stalin during the foundation stone laying ceremony of Additional Court Buildings in the District Court campus, in Madurai, Saturday.

to be independent, he said, and called upon the bench and the bar -- being two sides of the same coin -- to work together to ensure that the court complex is not divided. "One can't

exist without the other. Court must have proper decorum and conducive atmosphere." He further said, "everybody can't think alike." "We are not ruled by a dictatorial king,

so the difference of opinion can't be termed as a crisis in Indian democracy. We can criticise each other but when it comes to national interest we must be one," he stressed. His Ministry was involved in developing a common core vocabulary where Indian languages will have certain common usages, purely technical in nature, soon, to ensure that common people receive orders in their respective languages.

Lauding the courts in Tamil Nadu for their excellent performance during the pandemic in delivering justice to the people, he said judicial infrastructure in Tamil Nadu was comparatively better than in many States in India.

Primary school locked, students fail to appear for annual exam

Koraput (Odisha), Mar 25 (PTI):

Over 30 students of classes 1 to 5 of a primary school in Odisha's Koraput district have failed to appear for the ongoing annual examination as the institute remained locked. The incident occurred on Friday in Turli primary school under Narayanpatna block of the district. None of the two teachers of the school was present.

"I will inquire into the matter. If the examination has not been conducted, action will be taken against the teachers concerned," Block Education Officer Raghunath Pangi said. After waiting for nearly two hours, the students returned home without appearing for the exam. The school time is from 7 am to

9.30 am. The villagers allege that the school remains locked on most days as teachers do not come. "The teachers seldom come to the school. Academic activities have been paralysed. Most of the students don't know how to write their name in Odia," Luku Mandangi, a Turli villager, claimed.

Situated about 120 kilometres from the district headquarters town, the school with classes from 1 to 5 has over 30 students and two teachers, including a headmaster. The teachers are reluctant to come to the school because of its remoteness, villagers claimed. "We have approached the authorities concerned many times but to no avail. We demand action against the teachers.

BEAUTY OF TAJ



Tourists visit Taj Mahal during a rainy day, in Agra, Saturday.

ECoR set new milestone in freight loading

Bhubaneswar, Mar 25 (PTI):

The East Coast Railway (ECoR) has set a new milestone in freight loading during 2022-23 financial year by loading 232.32 million tonne of freight, an official said.

In 2021-22 financial year, ECoR had loaded 223.64 million tonne of freight during the same period and also loaded 232.13 million tonne of freight in whole the period of 2021-22 financial year.

East Coast Railway is the only Railway which has crossed milestones of 220 million tonne and 230 million tonne and approaching to cross 240 million tonne milestone in the current fiscal.

Ministry of Railways has set target to load 240.60 million tonne of loading for East Coast

Railway, he said. From the earning side, ECoR has earned Rs 2,3872.69 crore from freight during the above period in 2022-23 financial year as against Rupees 2,2184.85 crore in last financial year with an increase of 7.6 per cent.

East Coast Railway achieved this milestone despite many challenges and adverse effect on loading and train operations. Surpassing the last year loading has been achieved due to focus on innovative steps and key interventions by Railway Ministry which helped to get it on to the fast-track.

General Manager, East Coast Railway, Manoj Sharma gave full credit for this achievement to its hardworking and dedicated staff in all its three divisions.

On Rahul verdict, PK recalls Vajpayee's words

Patna, Mar 25 (PTI):

Political strategist turned activist Prashant Kishor on Saturday termed as "excessive" the two years' imprisonment awarded to Rahul Gandhi in a defamation case and urged the ruling dispensation to show "a big heart" on the Congress leader's disqualification. Kishor, who is now touring Bihar, his home state, as part of "Jan Suraaj" campaign, also underscored that the Congress did not seem to be well prepared to reach out to the masses with the message that it has been wronged.

"I am not a legal expert but with due respect to the process of law, the sentence awarded to Rahul Gandhi seems to be excessive. In the heat of elections, people say all types of things. This was not the first instance and

not going to be the last", asserted the IPAC founder who has, in his professional capacity, worked with many political parties, including the BJP and the Congress. "Two years in prison seems to be excessive for what is essentially a defamation case", said Kishor, adding "I would like to remind the government at the Centre of a famous line by Atal Bihari Vajpayee that nobody becomes great with a petty heart (chhote man se koi bada nahin ban jaata)". "The ruling dispensation may hide behind technicalities and insist that Rahul Gandhi's disqualification was inevitable, given his conviction. I



Prashant Kishor

them to have shown a big heart. They should have waited for a few days and allowed the aggrieved party to go in appeal and acted only if no relief was in sight", added Kishor, who first shot into limelight with his handling of the spectacularly successful Lok Sabha poll campaign of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014. Kishor, who decided to return to his home state and launch "Jan Suraaj" after

his proposal to revamp the Congress failed to take off, despite several rounds of talks with the top leadership, also had a word of advice for the grand old party.

"The Congress seems to have little realization of what it is up against. Its top brass needs to understand that you cannot fight a political battle simply by sitting in Delhi, tweeting furiously and staging marches to the Parliament", he said. "I would like to share my own experience here, in Marhaura block of Saran district. I am yet to come across a single Congress worker who is meeting people and trying to explain to them how it is being wronged. There are more than one lakh panchayats across the country. I wonder if Congress workers made an effort in any of these", he added.

'Metabolites regulating eye colour could impact retinal health'

New Delhi, Mar 25 (PTI):

Altering the levels of metabolites in the Kynurenine pathway, responsible for regulating eye colour, has been found to impact retinal health, according to a new study in flies. The study conducted by Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics (MPI-CBG) in Germany investigated the classic *Drosophila* genes cinnabar, cardinal, white, and scarlet, named due to their role in eye colour pigmentation and in particular the formation of the brown pigment of the fly eye.

These genes encode

components of the kynurenine pathway, a metabolic pathway responsible for regulating eye colour, among other various biological processes. Changes in this pathway can impact the health of the brain, including the retina. Metabolic pathways consist of a series of biochemical reactions in cells that convert a starting component into other products.

The scientists studied the role of these genes using flies as model, in whom this metabolic pathway is conserved. They used genetics, dietary changes, and biochemical analysis of metabolites to study different mutations

of the fruit fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*. The researchers developed a biochemical analysis method, which allowed them to link levels of different metabolites of the pathway to retinal health.

They found, through this method, that absolute amounts as well as relative differences between the levels of 3-hydroxykynurenine (3OH-K), which is toxic to retina, and protective metabolites, such as Kynurenine Acid (KYNA), governed retinal degeneration.

"We also fed two of these metabolites to normal (non-mutant) flies and found that 3OH-K enhanced stress-in-

duced retinal damage, whereas KYNA protected the retina from stress-related damage," said Sarita Hebbar, one of the lead authors of the study.

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