



BRIEF



People participate in '18k Run', in Bengaluru, Sunday.

Wall collapse

Bulandshahr: Two workers were killed after a wall at a brick kiln here collapsed on Sunday, police said. The deceased have been identified as Rakesh (25) and Rajkumar (45), both of whom were working at the brick kiln in the Saidpur village, they said.

Rescue

Nagpur: The police in Maharashtra's Nagpur rescued a nine-month-old baby who was sold to a childless couple in neighbouring Chhattisgarh, an official said on Sunday. The Anti-Human Trafficking Cell (AHTC) of the crime branch rescued the infant from Raipur city in Chhattisgarh on Saturday, the official said.

Clash

Hamirpur: A clash broke out between two groups of students on the campus of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) here purportedly over change in the timings of entry into its hostels. The incident, which took place on Saturday night, came to light after its video went viral on social media in which students could be seen holding rods and stones.

Suicide

Kota: A 50-year-old man undergoing treatment at a hospital here died after hanging himself in the bathroom on Sunday, police said. Rambabu Meghwal, a resident of Kota district's Kherabad area who worked as a daily wage labourer, was admitted in the general ward of Jhalawar district hospital, they said.

Appointed

New Delhi: Bansuri Swaraj, the daughter of late Sushma Swaraj, has been appointed as co-convenor of the legal cell of Delhi BJP, paving her entry into active politics. Swaraj practices law in the Supreme Court. Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva, in his first appointment in the state unit, after taking over as full-time state president of the party, appointed Swaraj as co-convenor of the legal cell.

Raahgiri

New Delhi: Delhi Traffic Police organised a Raahgiri programme on Sunday at Connaught Place Inner Circle in alignment with the G20 goal of creating sustainable and livable cities with a focus on sustainable mobility, officials said. The programme was organised in association with Raahgiri Foundation.

IED blast

Chaibasa: A 62-year-old woman was killed and another elderly woman injured in an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast triggered by the banned CPI (Maoist) near Chhriabeda Tola in West Singhbhum district, a senior police officer said on Sunday.

Weather

High 35 Low 22

Cong holds 'Satyagraha' protests across India

■ **Attacks BJP over Rahul Gandhi's disqualification**

New Delhi, Mar 26 (PTI):



Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge with party leader Priyanka Gandhi during the party's 'Satyagraha' against disqualification of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi from the Lok Sabha, at Rajghat in New Delhi, Sunday.

Raising the pitch against the BJP over Rahul Gandhi's disqualification from Lok Sabha, Congress leaders and workers held protests across the country on Sunday, with party president Mallikarjun Kharge and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra accusing the government of "trying to silence" a "martyr's son" for raising the voice of people.

Countering the BJP's charge that Rahul Gandhi insulted OBCs with his remark for which he has been convicted in a criminal defamation case, Priyanka Gandhi asked how a leader whose family has "given its blood to nurture democracy" and who

has walked thousands of kilometres from Kanyakumari to Kashmir with a message of unity could insult the country or a certain community.

"We have remained silent but not anymore," she said alleging that the prime minister and other BJP leaders have repeated-

ly insulted her family members but no cases were filed against them.

The BJP, however, slammed the Congress and asked if it was agitating against the country's Constitution or the law under which Rahul Gandhi was convicted or to justify his remarks

against the entire backward community of the country.

With several other parties condemning the action against Rahul Gandhi, top Congress leaders Ashok Gehlot and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the issue had brought the Opposition together and this unity would grow as days go by.

Kharge, who led the "Sankalp Satyagraha" protest outside Delhi's Raj Ghat after the police refused permission to hold it at the Mahatma Gandhi memorial, asked why the BJP was feeling hurt if fugitives Nirav Modi and Lalit Modi were being criticised. "They talk of OBC now, is Lalit Modi OBC, is Nirav Modi OBC, is Mehul Choksi OBC, they run away with people's money. If they are fugitives why are you pained if they are criticised.

On Rahul's conviction, Tharoor sees a 'silver lining'

New Delhi, Mar 26:

Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor today said the "silver lining" to the two-year jail sentence of Rahul Gandhi in a defamation case is that it has brought forth an "unprecedented opposition unity". "We have seen regional parties in opposition that in each of their states has regarded the Congress as an opponent, actually come out and stand by our side," he said. "We have seen Kejriwal in Delhi, Mamata Banerjee in Bengal, K Chandrasekhar Rao in Hyderabad. These are not figures that in the past had associated in any way with the Congress," he added. It was, he said, the "exhibit number one in the law of unintended consequences of the BJP action". Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao and his Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee had condemned the BJP-led government without naming Rahul Gandhi, saying it was a dark day for democracy.

HIT-AND-RUN Two girls killed, four injured

Raigarh, Mar 26:

Two girls were killed and four injured after a speeding dumper truck ran over them in Sarangarh-Bhilaigarh district on Sunday, police said.

The incident took place near Bataupali village on Sarangarh-Saraipali road this morning when the victims were walking to a pond for a bath, an official said. Six children from Sidar family were walking on the side of the road when the speeding truck ran over them and escaped, he said. Kavita (10) and Anju Sidar (15) died, while Rakhi Sidar (10) sustained serious injuries and was referred to Raigarh medical college for treatment, he said. Three other girls suffered minor injuries and were discharged from the hospital after being administered preliminary treatment, the official said. A case has been registered

About the incident

The incident took place near Bataupali village on Sarangarh-Saraipali road this morning when the victims were walking to a pond for a bath. Six children from Sidar family were walking on the side of the road when the speeding truck ran over them and escaped. Kavita (10) and Anju Sidar (15) died, while Rakhi Sidar (10) sustained serious injuries and was referred to Raigarh medical college for treatment

against the unidentified truck driver and efforts are on to trace him, he added. After the incident, villagers blocked Saraipali-Raigarh highway and demanded action against the driver and compensation for the kin of the deceased children.

The protestors also vandalised some vehicles and were later pacified by the police and administration officials.

UP cops take Atiq Ahmed to Prayagraj

■ **From Sabarmati jail**

Ahmedabad, Mar 26 (PTI):



Prayagraj Police with jailed-mafia Atiq Ahmed outside Sabarmati Central Jail as he is being shifted to Prayagraj, in Ahmedabad, Sunday.

A police team from Uttar Pradesh came to the Sabarmati central jail in Ahmedabad on Sunday and took gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed to Prayagraj, where he will be produced before a court on March 28 when it passes an order in a kidnapping case in which he is an accused, officials said.

The UP police team reached the Sabarmati jail in the morning and left the premises amid tight security with Ahmed in a police van around 6 pm after completing the necessary formalities, they said.

Ahmed, a former Samajwadi Party MP, has been lodged in the Sabarmati central jail

since June 2019. He was shifted there from his home state as per the Supreme Court's order.

"A court in Prayagraj has set March 28 as the date to pass its order in a kidnapping case in which Ahmed is an accused," Prayagraj Police Commissioner Ramit Sharma said in the

Uttar Pradesh city. He said a team of the Prayagraj police was sent to Ahmedabad to bring Ahmed for his court appearance the given date.

"As part of the procedure, all the accused are to be produced before the court on the date of the judgment and then sent back to their respective jails," the police officer said. The Supreme Court had in April 2019 directed that the former MP from Phulpur in UP be shifted to a high-security jail in Gujarat after he was accused of orchestrating the kidnapping and assault of a real estate businessman Mohit Jaiswal while in jail. He is named in more than 100 criminal cases, including the recent Umesh Pal murder case, police said.

ISRO's LVM3 successfully injects 36 satellites into intended orbits

Sriharikota, March 26 (PTI):



ISRO's LVM3 carrying 36 satellites lifts off from the Satish Dhawan Space Station, in Sriharikota, Sunday.

The Indian Space Research Organisation's heaviest LVM3 rocket on Sunday successfully placed 36 internet satellites of UK-based OneWeb group company into intended orbits.

The 43.5 metre tall rocket blasted off at a prefixed time of 9 am on Sunday, from the second launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre here, about 135 kms from Chennai, at the end of a 24.30 hour countdown.

This is the second dedicated mission of NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL), the commercial arm of Indian Space

Research Organisation. ISRO had signed an agreement with Network Access Associates Ltd, United Kingdom, a

'LVM3 rocket suited for Gaganyaan'

Scientists at ISRO on Sunday reaped another success with the LVM3-M3/OneWeb India-2 mission as the rocket used had a configuration similar to the one that would be used for human spaceflight in the ambitious Gaganyaan project. The LVM3 rocket (formerly the Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle Mk III), Indian Space Research Organisation's heaviest launch vehicle so far, successfully placed 36 satellites of OneWeb into orbit, earlier in the day. It had the S200 motors on board, similar to the launchers that are required for the Gaganyaan mission, ISRO Chairman S Somanath noted.

OneWeb Group Company, for the launch of 72 satellites into Low-Earth orbits (LEO).

The first batch of 36 satellites were launched on October 23, 2022 by ISRO, and the second batch on Sunday.

OneWeb is a global communication network powered from space, enabling

connectivity for governments and businesses.

Soon after takeoff, the rocket sequentially deployed the satellites into multiple orbits. While the first set of 16 satellites were injected around 20 minutes after lift off, the remaining satellites were placed into intended orbits later.

Two killed, one injured in lightning strike

Surajpur, Mar 26:

About mishap

The incident took place on Saturday evening when the victims were working on a sugarcane field in Madannagar village under Pratappur development block. The deceased were identified as Mohanlal Pando (40) and Ramesh Aayam (21), while Amit Aayam (28) suffered serious burns. The three took shelter under a tree during rains. A lightning strike left them injured.

Two men were killed and another sustained burns after lightning struck them at a village in Chhattisgarh's Surajpur district, police said on Sunday.

The incident took place on Saturday evening when the victims were working on a sugarcane field in Madannagar village under Pratappur development block, Surajpur Additional Superintendent of Police Madhulika Singh said. "The deceased were identified as Mohanlal Pando (40) and Ramesh Aayam (21), while Amit Aayam (28) suffered serious burns. The three took shelter under a tree during rains. A lightning

strike left them injured, she added. "Some locals shifted them to the community health centre in Pratappur where Pando and Ramesh were declared dead and Amit is undergoing treatment," she added.

PLANETS ON PARADE

Five will be lined up in night sky this week

New York, Mar 26 (AP):

Keep an eye to the sky this week for a chance to see a planetary hangout.

Five planets Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, Uranus and Mars will line up near the moon.

WHERE AND WHEN CAN YOU SEE THEM?

The best day to catch the whole group is Tuesday. You'll want to look to the western horizon right after sunset, said NASA astronomer Bill Cooke.

The planets will stretch from the horizon line to around halfway up the

night sky. But don't be late: Mercury and Jupiter will quickly dip below the horizon around half an hour after sunset.

The five-planet spread can be seen from anywhere on Earth, as long as you have clear skies and a view of the west.

"That's the beauty of these planetary alignments. It doesn't take much," Cooke said.

DO I NEED BINOCULARS?

Maybe. Jupiter, Venus and Mars will all be pretty easy to see since they shine brightly, Cooke said.

CRACKDOWN ON AMRITPAL

'197 released so far, 7 detained under NSA'

Chandigarh, Mar 26 (PTI):

Days after launching a crackdown against radical preacher Amritpal Singh and his aides, the Punjab Police on Sunday said it has released 197 people out of the total 353 taken into preventive custody on apprehension of breach of peace and disturbance of law and order.

The police said it has detained seven persons under the stringent National Security Act. On March 18, the police had launched a crackdown against elements of 'Waris Punjab De,' headed by pro-Khalistan radical preacher Amritpal Singh. Chief Minister

Bhagwant Mann has issued clear directions that the Punjab Police should adopt a positive approach while screening persons arrested on account of apprehension of breach of peace or in substantive criminal offences, said an official release here.

"197 persons out of a total of 353 persons arrested under preventive sections of law have been released till today," it said.

Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Yadav said directions have been issued to all senior superintendents of police and commissioners of police in the state to ensure that no innocent person is harassed or arrested. Investigating of-

ficers and their supervisory officers should first examine the available evidence and satisfy themselves before undertaking any preventive arrest or arrest in substantive offences, he said. The DGP said apart from the 353, 40 persons have been arrested under substantive criminal offences and seven persons have been detained under the National Security Act.

In accordance with the chief minister's directions, police will review the status of persons arrested under substantive criminal offences by examining the available evidence and taking a positive approach, said Yadav.

CLOSE SHAVE

AI, Nepal Airlines flights avert mid-air collision

New Delhi, Mar 26:

A major tragedy was averted on Friday when an Air India and a Nepal Airlines aircraft came close to collision mid-air but the warning systems alerted the pilots whose timely action prevented the disaster, authorities said in Kathmandu on Sunday.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal has suspended two employees of the air traffic controller department for "carelessness", according to CAAN spokesperson Jagannath Niroula. On Friday morning, a Nepal Airlines plane

coming to Kathmandu from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and an Air India plane coming to Kathmandu from New Delhi almost collided.

After it was shown on the radar that the two aircraft were in proximity, the Nepal Airlines aircraft descended to 7,000 ft, the spokesperson said. The Civil Aviation Authority has formed a three-member probe committee to investigate the matter. The CAAN has suspended the two officers, who were in charge of the control room at the time of the incident.

There was no immediate comment from Air India.

ICMR comes up with first ethical guidelines for application of AI

■ **In biomedical research, healthcare**

New Delhi, Mar 26 (PTI):

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has come up with the country's first Ethical Guidelines for the Application of Artificial Intelligence in Biomedical Research and Healthcare to provide an ethical framework for the development of AI-based tools which will benefit all stakeholders. According to a document drafted by the Department of Health Research and ICMR's Artificial Intelligence Cell, AI for health, to a large extent, depends on data obtained from human participants and

invokes additional concerns related to potential biases, data handling, interpretation, autonomy, risk minimization, professional competence, data sharing, and confidentiality. "It is therefore imperative to have an ethical framework that addresses issues specific to AI for biomedical research and healthcare," the guidelines stated. The adoption of AI technology in healthcare is growing in India. However, AI as data-driven technology has many potential ethical challenges which include algorithmic transparency and explainability, clarity on liability, accountability and oversight, bias and discrimination, said ICMR Director General Dr Rajiv Behl.

CM appreciates scientists of Kamdhenu University

For developing cheap fodder and breed improvement

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 26: Unveiling the statue of Dau Shri Vasudev Chandrakar and inaugurating the administrative building of Dau Shri Vasudev Chandrakar Kamdhenu University, the Chief Minister praised the technical efforts made by the university to provide cheap fodder for animals. The University has developed a paddy straw based complete diet palette. Apart from this, it will be nutritious fodder for animals and the cost of fodder will be reduced by 35 percent.

In his address, the Chief Minister said that two factors hindering the prospects of livestock in Chhattisgarh are availability of cheap and nutritious fodder and the hot climate. High breed cattle are unable to adapt to the environment. For this reason only, we have started the work of breed promotion.

Along with this, the Godhan Nyaya Yojana was also started for the devel-



opment of livestock so that animal husbandry could again prove to be a profitable deal. For cheap fodder, the university is experimenting with pellets. We are promoting rural entrepreneurs through RIPA. Such units will be established in every RIPA, which will also have a unit for producing animal feed.

The Chief Minister said that Chhattisgarh currently has immense possibilities in the livestock and dairy industry. By promoting dairy enterprise at the local level, the gap of demand and supply in our country can be reduced. The Chief Minister said that their focus is on cow

dung procurement to promote organic farming and Cow dung paint production.

Economic prosperity can be brought through livestock. The Chief Minister also recalled the contribution of late Dau Shri Vasudev Chandrakar. He said that his work in the field of animal husbandry was a milestone. He adopted dairy as a means of livelihood and reared high breed cattle.

During undivided Madhya Pradesh, he and the then Chief Minister Motilal Vora organized a big agricultural fair in Anjora and from here people got information about



new scientific possibilities in agriculture and animal husbandry. The Chief Minister said that although the cows of our Kosli breed give less milk, their immunity is very good. By improving their breed, significant work will be done in the field of livestock.

On this occasion, Vice-Chancellor Col NP Dakshinkar informed the Chief Minister about the innovations being done by the University. He said that apart from making animal feed pellets, they have also started a business incubation center. Through this, fodder will be available to the live-

stock farmers at a cheap price.

On this occasion, Home and PWD Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, Durg MLA Arun Vora, Bhilai MLA Devendra Yadav, Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal, Former MLA Pradeep Choubey, Former MLA Pratima Chandrakar, President of District Cooperative Bank Rajendra Sahu, District Panchayat President Shalini Yadav, Laxman Chandrakar and other dignitaries were present. Registrar Dr RK Sonawane and Directors, Deans, Professors, Scientists and Officers were present.

BMC: GVP points being abolished to get rid of filth in streets

Penalty being imposed for spreading garbage in public places

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 26: Bhilai Municipal Corporation is making every possible effort to make the common citizens of the city aware of cleanliness. In this sequel a cleanliness campaign was conducted in Ghasidas Nagar on Sunday. Here it needs a mention that efforts are now towards abolishing GVP points to get rid of the filth in the streets, so that people do not throw garbage there and the slogan of clean and beautiful Bhilai can come true. On the other hand, fines are being imposed on those found spreading filth in public places. On the instructions of Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas, work is being done on every parameter of cleanliness to bring Bhilai Municipal Corporation to the first position in the



Swachh Survekshan 2023 competition. The corporation administration is instructing those selling food items in the market area and on the roadside to compulsorily keep dustbins and keep wet and dry waste separately, so that haphazard filth does not spread in crowded areas. Under the Swachh Survekshan, a massive campaign is being run by the Municipal Corporation Bhilai. Along with cleaning of road drains, door to door garbage collection is also being done on time. The role of the common citizens of the city is important in the cleanliness campaign, they are constantly

being appealed to maintain cleanliness. The Zone Health Officer said that people are being made aware of cleanliness in the areas where people used to throw garbage haphazardly. Cleaning is being done after eliminating the GVP point of throwing garbage and spraying lime, bleaching powder has been done after cleaning the site. Despite this, if someone throws garbage, he will be fined. Efforts are being made to keep the site clean and beautiful by eliminating small garbage points. Residents and shopkeepers of nearby areas are also being informed not to throw garbage.

Pebbles Kingdom organises felicitation function



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 26: Pebbles Kingdom Kindergarten, Vaishali Nagar organised a felicitation function for the students who per-

formed appreciably in different activities of the school. Director Manila Giri and Preeti Bose showered blessings and wished them a bright future ahead.

Teachers and parents attended the programme. The school management expressed gratitude towards all for their support in making the programme successful.

Dau Vasudev Chandrakar's dream of happy farmers in Chhattisgarh has come true

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 26: Late Dau Vasudev Chandrakar's dream of happy farmers in Chhattisgarh is being fulfilled. Annadata of Chhattisgarh is very happy now. The farmers are very happy with the decision of procurement of 20 quintals of paddy on MSP, said Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel while addressing the 53rd annual convention of Chandranahu Kurmi Kshatriya Samaj and Dau Vasudev Chandrakar Jayanti celebrations organized at village Anda on Sunday.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister announced Rs One crore for the community hall of the Samaj and opening a new Swami Atmanand School in Anda. Recollecting the memories of Dau Vasudev

Chandrakar, the Chief Minister said that Dau Vasudev Chandrakar was a farmer leader. He always worked for the issues of the interests of the farmers. The big decision to buy paddy at the support price became possible because of Dau Vasudev Chandrakar.

The decision to purchase paddy through the cooperative society was also his idea. Today more than 2500 paddy procurement centers are operational in Chhattisgarh and now the online token system has also been introduced. There was adequate provision of gunny bags and the rate of milling has also been increased.

Paddy has been lifted in the societies in the month of March itself. New rice mills have opened in large numbers and more rice mills are going to open this



year. Considering the demands of farmers, the government has now taken the decision to buy 20 quintals of paddy per acre. In 2017, 12 lakh farmers had sold 60 lakh metric tonnes of paddy and this year 23.5 lakh farmers have sold 107 lakh metric tonnes of paddy.

The Chief Minister said that till now Rs 1.5 lakh crore has been transferred into the bank accounts of the common man of Chhattisgarh. Businesses

are also booming because of the money flow. In the social sector, the social organisations have been demanding support for construction of buildings. Now the Chhattisgarh government made a rule that land will be made available for community buildings of backward castes, SCs and STs.

Land is being made available at only 10% price and funds are being made available for the construction of the building. A building has been announced for the

community recently in Churia. Community buildings were needed to promote the activities of Samaj and accordingly this policy has been made. People have got a big relief due to the fulfillment of the requirement of social buildings. Home and PWD Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu was also present.

He appreciated Chandrakar Samaj's contribution on various fields of society. Samaj President and Mahasamudhaya Vinod Sewanlal Chandrakar, MLA from Gunderdehi Kunwar Nishad, former MLA Pratima Chandrakar, Laxman Chandrakar, President of Apex Bank Baidyanath Chandrakar, Ashwini Chandrakar, Pradeep Chandrakar, Mukesh Chandrakar, Kshitij Chandrakar and other dignitaries were present.

Seminar held on the eve of World Theatre Day

Plays 'Aap Kaun Cheez ke Director Hai' and 'Pukar' to be staged on March 27

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 26: On the eve of World Theatre Day, a seminar on contemporary thought was organized for senior theatre artists of Bhilai. Conducting the seminar organised by "Art and Literature Group" of the region, senior artist Vibhash Upadhyay explained that to underline the role of plays in the welfare of the society, International Theatre Institute had declared March 27 was declared as World Theatre Day.

The first World Theatre Day was celebrated in Paris on March 27, 1962. After that theatre artists from all over the world celebrate this day for their

solidarity, mutual cultural exchange. This year, senior artist Manimay Mukherjee read out the Hindi translation of the message sent by famous Egyptian actress Samiha Ayoub to theatre workers all over the world.

Taking the discussion forward, he explained the multifaceted benefits of connecting children and youth with theatre. Stage artist and famous film actor Pradeep Sharma gave important advice to the senior and new artists of the city to work together while emphasizing on street play.

Suresh Gondale said that to become profession-



al we have to start from zero, because right now there just hasn't been a sufficiently theatre-loving group of spectators. Remembering the old days, the writer of children's plays and poems, Govind Pal told that the old passion of watching Jatra is no longer visible. Today, media has also become an element to dis-

talance artists from the old art forms.

On this, Suresh Gondale said that if the media is used judiciously, it cannot dominate. Bhanuji Rao, spoke on the need to perform dramas by booking tickets and attract children from schools and colleges and avail support in facilities through various govern-

ment and non-government agencies. Jayaprakash Nair said that there is no visible struggle regarding the promotion of theatre in Durg and Bhilai. He cited the example of Kapil Sharma for the entire theatre.

Bablu Biswas said that theatre artist should pool to create a fund to help theatre workers to stand on their own and also be able to organize big events with this fund. Ghulam Haider Mansuri questioned on what did the artists give as cultural heritage to the previous generation?

Haider said that the theatre would have to be strong and independent

without government support, otherwise it would have to show what they want in the plays, which would snatch freedom of expression. RC Samant and Raju Sharma also expressed their views.

In the end, Vibhash Upadhyay said that the enthusiasm which was seen inside this seminar should also be seen in practice throughout the year and in the future. The workers unitedly resolved to organize a huge project.

Here it needs a mention that all the stage artist of Durg Bhilai will gather on the Mukhtakashi stage of Nehru House at 19:30 hrs on March 27 and two plays "Aap Kaun Cheez ke Director Hai" and "Pukar" will be staged.

Praja Sewa Samiti organises blood donation camp



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 26: Under the joint aegis of Siddha Shri Balaknath Mandir and Praja Sewa Samiti, a blood donation camp was organised in which about 73 units of blood was donated by the citizens.

Praja Sewa Samiti has been organising blood donation camps for the last 15 years in different places of the city so that the needy people could get blood. Samiti has a group of about 150 people that works for social causes.

DSCET students excel in BED exams



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 26: The students of Dev Sanskriti College of Education and Technology (DSCET) gave cent percent results in the first semester exam of BEd. Nitesh Tiwari and Mamta Dewangan scored 83% marks to secure first position; Mamta Soni stood

second with 82% marks while Khushbu secured third position with 81.5% marks. DSCET Chairman Vasudev Sharma and Director Jyoti Sharma urged the students to work harder and extended best wishes for their bright future. All the teachers also extended best wishes to the successful students.

SRJS collects 92 quintal grains under 'Ek Mutthi Daan' campaign

Elaborate arrangements made for Shri Ram Navami celebrations

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 26: Shri Ram Janmotsav Samiti (SRJS), Bhilai is organizing a grand event of Shri Ram Navami on March 30, for the 38th consecutive year on March 30. For ensuring participation and contribution of every person in this grand event, a campaign "Ek Mutthi Daan - Shri Ram Ke Naam" was conducted.

The committee collected donations of food grains from every house. The collected grains will be utilised to prepare Mahaprasad. A grand live paint-

ing of Shri Ram Temple and DJ Bhajan Sandhya will be the center of main attraction in Shri Ram Navami programme.

While addressing media persons here at Sector 9 on Sunday, SRJS Patron Prem Prakash Pandey said that the first Ram Navami Yatra was taken out in the year 1986 from a temple in Khursipar HSCL Colony. This event was inspired by the Shri Ram Mandir construction movement. In the last 38 years, this event has become the biggest religious and cultural event of Central India.

Today, Dhvaj Vahaks from more than 1150 temples participate in the procession. The committee has got a place in the Golden Book of Records for this

achievement in the year 2018. Pandey said that our generation is fortunate to witness the success of the struggle of 500 years for the construction of the Shri Ram Temple.

Pandey said that in the grains donation campaign, food grains have been collected from 213 wards and 7 villages of different areas of the district. More than 92 quintals of food grains have been collected so far. Mahaprasad will be made from this grain on the auspicious occasion of Sri Ram Navami.

Live painting will be the center of main attraction in the program this year, in which Pramod Sahu, a well-known artist of the region, will make a live painting of Shri Ram Mandir on the stage.



This year a procession will be taken out from all the 12 Prakhands for which the route has already been decided. All these processions will reach Ramlila Maidan Power House from a fixed route.

SRJS State President Ramesh Mane, General Secretary Budhan Thakur, District President Sevakram Sahu, Executive President Praveen Pandey, District General Secretary Joginder Sharma, Youth Branch President Manish Pandey,

Treasurer Gargi Shankar Mishra and others were present.

Pandey further said that in Sanatan Dharma, charity is considered a virtuous act and they witnessed several examples during the campaign. He informed that a door-to-door hawker in Khursipar donated about 2.5 kg of pulses, which was almost equal to his earnings of two days. When the members asked his name, he refused to tell saying that the virtue of his donation will be reduced if he tells his name. All the processions will reach Power House Ramlila Maidan at 07:30 pm. Display of tableaux, akhada, panthi nacha, raut nacha, bhajan sandhya and dharma sabha will be held here.

Ch'garh Govt is always ready to empower the Steel sector: CM

Steel Industry performed appreciably even during the Corona pandemic because of the state's Industrial Policy

CM attends the All India Steel Conclave

Raipur, Mar 26:

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel attended the All India Steel Conclave on Sunday. While addressing the steel industrialists from all over India on this occasion, he said that the Government of Chhattisgarh is ready to enable the steel sector to progress. Steel industry is the backbone of Chhattisgarh's economy, but from the last few years this industry has been facing many challenges. Sometimes costly electricity becomes a problem, sometimes there is a fuel crisis, sometimes the need for cheap raw material is deeply felt, sometimes there is the global crisis of Corona and lockdown. But because of Chhattisgarh's industrial policy, industries didn't shut down even during the Corona pandemic. The Chief Minister



said that even at the cost of the Government's loss, we gave exemption in electricity so that industries keep running. Our state exports coal to the entire country, we didn't let the supply of coal stop even during the Corona pandemic. Through the Raipur M.P., I urge the Central Government to grant coal linkage to steel traders from SECL. The Chief Minister said that the condition of roads has deteriorated because of coal mines. Bad roads have also adversely affected transportation, making it cost-

lier. That is why, during the establishment of any industry, roads should be included in the project.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that when the second wave of Corona virus arrived, then the national capital and other states faced the shortage of oxygen, but there was no scarcity of oxygen in Chhattisgarh. We readily issued licenses to industrialists to set up oxygen plants. I requested the Prime Minister to provide some oxygen to steel plants as well, so that the plants can operate. In the Corona

pandemic, laborers from all over the nation were deserting, but such was not the case in Chhattisgarh. Because of a good industrial policy, industries continued to operate even during the pandemic.

During the Corona crisis, when lockdown circumstances were formed, it seemed as if the steel sector of the state will perish, but we worked in unison. The government strengthened the steel sector and our steel industry became the source of strength for our government. Even during the pandemic, our state manufactured the highest quantity of steel in the country. The industrial landscape of Chhattisgarh has completely changed in the last four years. In the program, the Forest and Environment Minister Mohammad Akbar, Raipur LS MP Sunil Soni, and officials of Steel Conclave Ramesh Agrawal and Surendra Tripathi were present.

ARCHERY COMPETITION



Female archers aiming at the target in the India Khelo 10-Kadam event by Chhattisgarh State Archery Association jointly by FIT India and SAI at outdoor stadium here on Sunday.

Disruption in water supply due to pipeline burst

Raipur, Mar 26: People may face shortage of drinking water in a large part of the capital Raipur. On March 27, lakhs of people are unlikely to get drinking water in the evening due to the bursting of a pipeline in Raipur. Raipur Municipal Corporation staff began repairing the pipeline.

According to Satnam Singh Panag, head of the water work committee of Municipal Corporation Raipur, it may take time to repair the main rising pipeline near the filter plant. Overhead tanks will be filled on the evening of March 27 so that people get drinking water in the morning of March

28. Repair work will start on the morning of March 27 after the supply of drinking water. Due to repairs, there will be no water supply on the evening of March 27 and it will remain affected on the morning of March 28 as well. Drinking water supply will remain affected from over-

head tanks in Danganiya, Ganj, Gudhiyari, Rajendra Nagar, Telibandha, Shankar Nagar, Khamtarai, Bhanpuri, Idgabhatha old tank and Shyam Nagar overhead tank. Officials of the corporation are also considering alternative arrangements for water supply.

Father-son duo steals cash, nabbed

In cash-jewellery theft case

Raipur, Mar 26: Police have arrested three persons including father-son duo in connection with the incident of theft from an empty house in DD Nagar area. They allegedly carried out theft by breaking the main door of the house and they took away goods worth lakhs including cash and jewellery. The police have recovered stolen goods and cash from their possession. According to information, thieves targeted a house of Rakeshdhar Dewan's daughter recently. They first broke the lock of the

empty house and then ran away with cash and jewellery. Acting on a complaint police registered an offence against the unidentified thieves and started searching for them. In the meantime Satyam Tiwari, a resident of Kukurbada, an old thief, was found to be in that area on the night of the incident. During interrogation by the police Satyam confessed to committing the theft along with Tirath Singh and his father Raspal Singh. After this the police took Tirath and Raspal into custody. Two-wheelers along with stolen jewelry and cash have also been recovered from all three. The trio had an old criminal record.

Congress 'Satyagrah' in Ch'garh

Cong workers protest against Rahul's disqualification from parliament



Raipur, Mar 26:

Joining the nationwide Satyagrah movement the Congress in Chhattisgarh staged protest against disqualification of Rahul Gandhi's parliamentary membership here on Sunday. Congress leaders gathered in front of the

Congress district office in Raipur and demonstrated by singing 'Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram'. PCC Chief Mohan Markam protested by remaining silent in Kondagaon.

Parliamentary Secretary Vikas Upadhyay raised protest in a unique way by locking his mouth.

According to Congressmen it is better to lock the tongue when there is no freedom of speech in a democracy. Congressmen are opposing such 'undemocratic' policies of the Central Government.

Congress City President Girish Dubey, Mayor Ajiz

Dhebar, Municipal Corporation Speaker Pramod Dubey and MIC member Srikanth Menon and several Congress leaders were present during the demonstration. Congress leader and Municipal Corporation Speaker Pramod Dubey said that there was a time when the British used to punish without any hearing. Exactly the same has happened with Rahul Gandhi, he said.

Meanwhile PCC Chief Markam said, 'Sankalp Satyagraha has been launched against dictatorship of Modi government, which makes a mockery of democracy. We will fight and win'.

NSUI takes out funeral procession of central govt



Raipur, Mar 26:

Workers of National Students Union of India (NSUI)-a student wing of Congress on Sunday took out a funeral procession of the central government in protest against disqualification of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi from Lok Sabha membership. NSUI workers took out the funeral procession in Tagore Nagar area of Raipur and went to gherao MP Sunil Soni's

house. The protesters had reached near the residence of MP Sunil Soni, raising slogans against the Modi government but police stopped them midway. During the protest, the workers scuffled with the police. The protesters said that dictatorial decisions were being taken one after the other by the Modi government at the Centre. PM Modi has probably forgotten that there is a democratic system in India, they said.

Children's health and safety important in nation building

Workshop on awareness on protection of children and control on sexual crimes



Raipur, Mar 26: Children's health and safety and everyone's participation in their round development are very important in the process of nation building, said the speakers in a workshop, organized in the capital Raipur on subjects related to Juvenile Justice Act, protection of children from sexual offenses and child protection under the joint aegis of Chhattisgarh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Legal Services Authority and UNICEF. 'You have got the work for the welfare of the children. This is a special task, which even God is watching. You must have many friends and acquaintances who have not got this opportunity. We have got this holy opportunity, we have to make it meaningful. Just as we want to see our children better and happy, in the same way, see the suffering and abused children also, this will give satisfaction to the mind', said Acting Chief Justice and Executive Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Legal

Services Authority Justice Gautam Bhaduri addressing the inaugural session of the workshop. Although an act has been made for protection of children and control on their sexual abuses, yet it is necessary to see its implementation, Justice Bhaduri said.

The workshop was also addressed by Chhattisgarh High Court Judge and Juvenile Justice Committee Chairman Justice P Sam Koshy, Justice Deepak Tiwari, Chairperson of Chhattisgarh Child Protection Commission Mrs Tejkunwar Netam, UNICEF State Chief Job Zakaria. Prateek Khare, Secretary, Chhattisgarh Child Protection Commission gave the welcome address. Anand Prakash Wariar, Member Secretary, Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority, Bilaspur proposed a vote of thanks.

A minor who has been subjected to sexual abuse needs more protection than an adult victim, as a minor

is less vulnerable to physical abuse, social ostracism and psychological abuse than an adult, said justice speakers at the workshop. They often become victims of heinous crimes like sexual abuse, pornography, acid attack. In such a situation, it is the moral and constitutional duty of all of us stake holders who are occupying important positions to work tirelessly to ensure the safety and dignified life of these children, said the speakers.

Short films 'Beyhad Sakht Kanon Hai' and 'Savdhani Zaroori Hai' were also screened on the occasion. Mementos were presented to the guests at the workshop.

In the second session of the workshop, division-wise review of pending cases related to Juvenile Justice Board, sexual offenses and child protection was done. Senior officials greatly appreciated the work done in the direction of child protection. High Court Judges, District and Sessions Judges, members of the Chhattisgarh State Child Rights Protection Commission, Special Secretary, Finance Department, Mrs Sheetal Shashwat Verma, Director, Women and Child Development Department, Mrs Divya Umesh Mishra, Representatives of Chhattisgarh Child Protection Commission, Police Department, Women and Child Development and UNICEF and officials of Juvenile Court and District Legal Services Authority were present.

Two nabbed with 10.50 quintal 'Ganja' worth Rs 2.10 cr

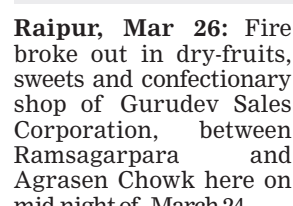


Mahasamund, Mar 26: Mahasamund Police nabbed two accused with 10.50 quintal 'Ganja' worth Rs 2.10 crore kept hidden beneath the load of watermelon in a Mazda truck and being carried from Odisha to Panna in MP. The police has seized the vehicle and 'Ganja' and the two accused. As per tip from an informer, Mahasamund police created barrier near Baisi Petrol Pump on the highway and started checking the vehicle. It was after some time they found a red-coloured 'Mazda' truck bearing No. MP-19-GA-5058 and suspecting it to the

vehicle, stopped it near the petrol pump. Inside it two persons were sitting and both were asked to come down and they disclosed their names as Pappu Pal S/o Lakhon Pal, (35), R/o Basai Thana- Panna District Panna MP and Leeladhar Pal S/o Mahesh Pal, 33, R/o Gram Basai, District Panna, MP. When asked they informed police that they are carrying watermelons inside and on checking the same after lifting few watermelons, they found 10.50 quintal of 'Ganja' kept secretly hidden. On this they informed that they are carrying 'Ganja' from Odisha to Panna in MP. The police seized 10.50 quintal 'Ganja' worth Rs 2.10 cr and the vehicle worth Rs 8.0 lakh and total amounting to Rs 2.18 cr. Both were booked under section 20 (E) of NDPS Act and section 20(K) of Narcotics Act and taken into custody.

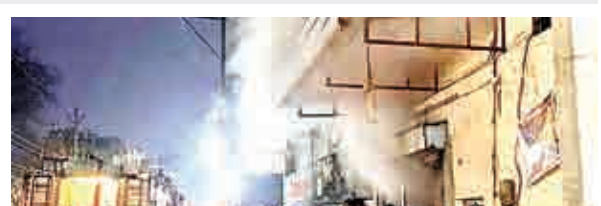
Goods worth lakhs gutted in fire

When fire broke out in dry-fruit, sweets, confectionary shop at mid-night



Raipur, Mar 26: Fire broke out in dry-fruits, sweets and confectionary shop of Gurudev Sales Corporation, between Ramsagarpara and Agrasen Chowk here on mid-night of March 24. It broke out likely due to some short-circuit. In this there are reports all the goods and materials inside were shops were gutted in fire. The owner of the shop, Gautam Chand Jain, R/o DD Nagar, was informed by the nearby shopkeepers and Ravi Singhania that fire has broken out in his shop at around 1:00 in the night.

On this the Police patrolling team came to know about the fire incident and they immediately informed it to Fire-brigade



employees and electricity department. After this the fire-fighters, police administration, electricity department employees and owner of the shop reached the site and somehow it was lot of tiring efforts that firemen could gain control on fire by around 8:00 in the morning. By this time the furniture in the shop,

stock of foods, sweets items etc and computers, laptops etc and other goods worth lakhs were gutted in fire. Fortunately due to timely arrival by the fire-brigade team, the fire did not spread to nearby shops and it was brought under control well on time, or else a major incident could have occurred.

People availing huge benefit of rebate in Road tax

Raipur, Mar 26:

The timings of the Auto Expo at Science College ground is from 12:00 noon, but the people here started reaching from 11:00 am onwards on Sunday and the only objective was that they should not miss the 50% waiver on road tax benefit offered on purchase of vehicles and just wanted to get the booking of their vehicle done. The customers not only from Raipur, but nearby cities also came to avail the benefit. It is notable here that the state government is offering benefits in road tax for the vehicles booked in the Auto Expo and in this the average benefit for two-wheeler vehicles is around Rs 3000- Rs 10000 and in cars it varies from Rs 50000 to Rs 5 lakh depending upon price of the vehicle. To the inquiry by people, the Automobiles are

- In Auto Expo on purchase of two wheelers it ranges from Rs 3000-10000 and for cars from Rs 50000 to Rs 5 lakh
- Fashion Show, Group dance major attraction on Sunday



also informing that this Auto Expo has now being extended till April 5. In the evening, the visitors also enjoyed vibrant Fashion Show and performance by a dance group.

In the Auto Expo 2023, the chief guest was PHE Minister Rudra Guru and special guest was Chairman CREDAI Mrinal Golcha and CII Chairman cum MD Siddharth Agrawal. All three hailed the organisation of this Auto-Expo and said that

it is an important time for those planning to purchase vehicle at the end of FY and they are also getting huge benefit of rebate in Road Tax, which directly goes to their saving. There is an on-the-spot finance facility also available in the Expo and it is being provided by the Banking institutions and there is zero-processing fee in it. They are providing maximum loan which is upto 90% of the cost of the vehicle on-road and are sanc-

tioning the loan with limited documents. The Transport department has got its stall there and many are getting their licence made and since it was Sunday, there was huge rush of the people, because people from Raipur and nearby cities also came here.

President Raipur Automobile Dealers' Association (RADA) Vivek Garg, Secretary Kailash Khemani informed that the most important thing about

this year's Expo is that the booking of the vehicle has started right from the day one and daily the number is increasing. Similarly people are also drawing maximum benefit of 50% rebate in the road tax offered by the state government. In this for two-wheeler the benefit is from Rs 3000-10000; for cars upto Rs10 lakh it is upto Rs 50000; for cars of Rs 20 lakh it is Rs 1.0 lakh and for cars above Rs 50 lakh the benefit is Rs 2.50 lakh and for car above Rs 1 cr it is Rs 5 lakh. All the visitors visiting the Auto-Expo are happy with this offer and are informing others about the same. Here launching of new vehicles is also taking place daily and there is proposal of offer or prize by the dealers' or the Company and to which the visitors are availing to its full, duo added.

Destitute, poor children will be rehabilitated

- To improve their lives
- Special Rescue campaign till March 31 for identification of nomadic children

Bijapur, Mar 26:

As per instructions by the state government and under the guidance of Collector Rajendra Kumar Katara, a campaign is being run for the rescue and rehabilitation of street children, child laborers, collection of waste by children, children involved in beggary. In which detailed information about the implementation of this campaign was given by the District Program Officer of the Women and Child Development Department Lupendra Mahinag. Come back to their families, the children of such category face different types of struggles and challenges every day for their survival viz. food,



clothing, shelter and protection. Giving benefits of various schemes of the government to the families, a campaign is being run from Feb 28 to March 31, 2023, in coordination with various departments for their training and arrangements for their employ-

ment. Under the campaign, a rescue campaign to identify street children / waste collectors/child beggars/stray children. This is being continuously monitored by the rescue team in the district, so that in case any

such children are identified, the rehabilitation process is done immediately. For the rescue of children living on the road, the joint team of District Child Protection Unit and Labor Department is conducting survey work in all blocks. And sur-

vey work will also be done at Panchayat level, so that immediate action will be taken on identification of such children in any situation in the district, keeping in view the best interest of the children and presenting them to the Child Welfare Committee, rehabilitation proceedings and education. Joining work will also be done.

Under the campaign, a one-day training camp was given to head teachers, teachers, middle schools and higher secondary schools in Bhairamgarh and Usur blocks for effective implementation of the child protection system under the School and Awareness Program and empowerment of adolescent girls. Under the said programme, UNICEF coordinator Lekhika Sahu and Kumari Nagina Lekham and Satya Latkar from District Child Protection Unit were present.

Abhijit of DPS create World record by making smallest painting of India Gate

Wins a certificate from Harvard World Records, London

Raipur, Mar 26:

Abhijit Kar, an art teacher at Delhi Public School (DPS) in Raipur, has made his school proud by winning a certificate from Harvard World Records in London. The certificate acknowledges his world record of creating the smallest painting of an Indian monument, the India Gate. The painting measures only 3mm x 4mm in size and was created using a self-made brush using his pet dog's fur. Abhijit Kar used microscopic lenses to prepare this painting and completed the final work in just 15 minutes, after several attempts. The original challenge given was to create a painting of 5 x 5 mm, but Abhijit Kar managed to do it in 3x4 mm.

Abhijit Kar, who is an accomplished artist and art teacher, participated in the global platform event and demonstrated his exceptional skill by creating



the tiny masterpiece. Talking about his achievement, Abhijit Kar said, "I am thrilled to have won this recognition from Harvard World Records. It's an honor to be acknowledged for my artwork, and I'm happy that it has put my school on the global map." DPS Raipur Principal, Mr Raghunath Mukherjee, congratulated Abhijit Kar on his achievement and said, "We are extremely proud of Abhijit Kar's accomplishment. He

has been an excellent teacher and role model to our students, and his passion for art is truly inspiring. We congratulate him on this remarkable feat."

The Harvard World Records certificate is a testament to Abhijit Kar's artistic skill and dedication to his craft. His achievement will undoubtedly inspire young artists in his school and around the world to pursue their passions and strive for excellence.

Pro Vice Chairman Mr. Baldeo Singh Bhatia, Senior members of the management committee, Mr. Vijay Shah and Mr. Pukhraj Jain also congratulated Mr. Abhijit saying, "Embarking on and rising to such global platforms shall keep the legacy of the school pristine. Students and teachers shall certainly be motivated by your ingenuity." Further, they wished him unprecedented success in the years to come.

Five-day capacity building prog concludes

On 'Project Feasibility & Project Financing & Execution'

Raipur, Mar 26:

Indian Institute of Management Raipur (IIM Raipur), under the capacity building initiative of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, Government of India, conducted the five days capacity building programme on the topic "Project Feasibility and Project Financing & Execution" from March 20 to 24. This 5-day training programme is being conducted at its campus in Naya Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The programme was inaugurated by the gracious hands of Prof. Ram Kumar Kakani, Director, IIM Raipur and Anand Pal, Adviser, DEA, GoI, in the presence of Programme Directors Prof. Pranith Kumar Roy and



Prof. SP Rajesh, IIM Raipur. The training under capacity building aims to upgrade the capacities of officials involved in planning, executing, and implementing infrastructure projects. The training program covered various topics: introduction to project pre-feasibility studies and feasibility study,

project financing through a case study, innovative thinking and task management, project scheduling/project implementation framework, evidence-based decision making, etc. The faculty of IIM Raipur, in collaboration with distinguished guest faculty, covered the topics.

SGVEH inaugurates eye care service on wheels-RAAHI

- Under Truckers Eye Health Program

Raipur, Mar 26:

Shri Ganesh Vinayak Eye Hospital (SGVEH) and Shri Ganesh Vinayak Eye Foundation (SGVEF) keeping in line with the vision 'Andhatav Mukh Chhattisgarh - Roshan Chhattisgarh' inaugurated RAAHI - Eye Care Facility on wheels under Truckers Eye Health Program supported by Sightsavers and funded by Chola. Dickson Charles-National coordinator of Raahi, Dr. Paritosh Chandekar - Zonal coordinator of Raahi, Gaurav Jain- Sr. Project Officer, Sightsaver, C.G. Hemantha Kumar Pamarthy, consultant Cholamandalam. Dr



Charudutt Kalamkar, Director SGVEH and Secretary SGVEF and other senior members were present on the occasion. Raahi Mobile Van equipped with primary eye check-up facility aims to reach the communities who often don't have ac-

cess to health services. This will be helpful in reaching the underserved areas, assisting in simple yet crucial service. This initiative will also serve as a platform to generate awareness on eye health issues and serve quality treatment. "Undoubtedly,

the hospital also understands its responsibility towards society, hence trying to serve untouched area in Chhattisgarh. We are trying to work on our tagline - Andhatav mukt Chhattisgarh - Roshan Chhattisgarh, and hopefully we will be able to

achieve this soon. Under this programme we have started one static Vision centre at Raipur transport nagar where we provide free eye screening for truck drivers, helpers, transporters, mechanics etc and distribute free near and distance spectacles which is supported by Sightsavers and funded by Chola. Second program which we have done was in Korba and Raigarh, where we have done free eye screening camps for same targeted population and distributed free spectacles. And now we are going to implement this mobile eye check up unit Van at Durg-Bhilai for those targeted population with same process" comments Dr Charudutt Kalamkar, Director and Eye surgeon, SGVEH.

Budget for all-round development of Sukma municipality

- And trust of general public

Konta/Sukma, Mar 26:

The budget of Sukma Municipal Council was presented here on Saturday. The President Jagannath Raju Sahu along with all the members reached the municipality building with a briefcase made of cow dung, the picture of the briefcase is made from cow dung made in Gauthan. Sahu informed that a budget of 60 crores has been proposed for the all-round development of Sukma municipality. This budget is the budget of the trust of the general public, in this budget all the individuals and related institutions have been kept in mind.



Sahu said that in this budget, we have covered all the development works in the city like Manglik building construction work, 100 shops construction work, new bus stand construction work, Mukhyamantri Palika Bazar construction work, drinking water supply work under Mission

Amrit 2.0 scheme, Rangaraj Talab.

Provisions in the budget has been made for beautification work, mutton market construction work, road, drain and culvert construction work in various wards of the city, high mask solar light, nearby beautification work, hot-market construction work

under infrastructure item. During the budget, proposal was also presented to cancel the plastic ban and shopkeepers who have not deposited property tax and whose property tax payment is pending for a long time.

There will be no dearth of funds for development works: Sahu

WHRD 2023 workshop concludes

Raipur, Mar 26:

Women Human Rights Defenders Workshop 23 was successfully organised by Shivi Development Society New Delhi at Xavier Institute for Social Action Vidhan Sabha Road Raipur.

Workshop held 12 sessions. Among the resources persons were Anand Shukla OXFAM, Dolo Gobinda & Ms. Neelam Toppo from Churches Auxiliary for Social Action, Pushpa Bhatt (Incharge, Sakhi One Stop Center, Dantewada), Ms. Santoshi Rathore (Member, CWC - Janjgir Champa), Ms. Pushplata (Member - Adolescent Welfare Board Rajnandgaon), Third Gender activists Ms. Vidya Rajput and Deb.

SDS board member Vidya Didi gave vivid presentation about spiritual,



Guests giving certificate to participant Ms. Munni Vade Sarpanch Gram Panchayat Kundargaon District Narayanpur.

mental and physical health. Newly posted DIG Prison R. K. Tigga was chief guest while valedictory session, whereas Additional SP Ms. Chanchal Tiwari, Counselor Ms. Jyoti Sharma were among the special guests. They distributed certificates to the participants. Participants were from Bastar, Surguja

and Raipur divisions. Rajesh Singh Sisodia Convener of Nange Paon Satyagrah conducted the program while Hanuman Sahay Program Officer & Ms Safina Sheikh Coordinator SDS facilitated all the 12 sessions, informed Hanuman Sahay Program Officer, Shivi Development Society New Delhi.

Celebration of the religious integration held

Bemetara, Mar 25:

The importance of the religious integration and harmony was conveyed by Dr. Satyajit Hota, Principal, Abid Ali, an alumni of the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh and the students of class VIII named Vineeta Pongare and Shreya Parihar. The religious integration and harmony give its citizens the freedom to practice any religion of their own choice. People belonging to different culture and religions, share common platform to understand each others cultural and religious beliefs, which in turn fosters the feeling of mutual trust and harmony. This is one of the most important factors in promoting national integration. Tolerance and respect for other caste or religion also support to promote national integrity. Education, social and cultural unity, equal-



ity among people also help to teach the feeling of national integration, he added.

Abid Ali told the teaching of the Ramzan Festival. According to him, this festival guides us to remove our evils such as contempt and religious disputes. Dr. Satyajit Hota, Principal said that India is a unique country as I heard the enchanting of the Navaratri's prayer from the Hindu temple

and the worshiping sound from the mosques simultaneously in the early morning. It was a strange event. It is possible only in India as all religions have equal importance. We must control on our evil ideas such as contempt and narrow religious thinking. Today, it is the celebration day of both the first day of the Ramzan and the third day of the Navaratri. India has a unique culture because

different religions are celebrated simultaneously without any discrimination. According to him, it will be the true worshiping of the Maa Chandraghanta Devi and the Allah during the Ramzan and the Navaratri's if we bring universal brotherhood, religious harmony and peace among the society. We learn 10 lessons from Navaratri and Ramadan through the joint Hindu and Muslim faiths towards the great creator.

A silence of two minutes was kept in the morning assembly to pray the God and the Allah for stopping the massacre among Russia - Ukraine and Israel - Palestine. The festivals of the Devi Puram and the Ramadan spread the message of bringing universal peace, harmony and tranquility. All the teachers and the students were present in the morning assembly.

Payal Gwalani awarded Ph.D

Raipur, Mar 26:

Payal Gwalani of Chhattisgarh Raipur is the first student of Chhattisgarh and the first student of Sindhi community from the whole country who has achieved this rare achievement. Her subject for research was Seismic Vulnerability of Irregular RC Buildings. Her research guides were Prof Humberto Varum Department of Civil Engineering University of Porto Portugal and Prof Yogendra Singh, Department of Earthquake Engineering IIT Roorkee.

Payal has been a meritorious student since the beginning. After school-

ing from St. Paul's Pension Bada School, she completed B.Tech degree from Symbiosis International University Pune in Maharashtra and scored the highest marks and stood first. She was awarded Gold Medal and Dutta award by former President Late Pranab Mukherjee.

She completed B.Tech in Structure Dynamics from IIT Nagpur, then got selected in IIT Roorkee and did PhD in Earthquake. Payal was selected by the German government to do research in Earthquake and has presented her research paper among scientists of that country on behalf of IIT Roorkee in a seminar or-

ganized on Earthquake in London after doing research from Germany's Postdam.

Payal Gwalani is the daughter of former councillor Kavita Gwalani and former state Congress spokesperson Shiv Gwalani.

Payal's father Shiv Gwalani said on this achievement of his daughter his joy has increased manifold as with this news came on the occasion of Lord Jhulelal Jayanti ie Chetichand.

There is a wave of joy in the Sindhi society on this achievement of Payal Gwalani. Many prominent members of Sindhi community and eminent citizens of Chhattisgarh



Farmers supporting strike by advocates

Rescue operation gets modernized

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Mar 26: The advocates of the region are on an indefinite strike since last February 22, angry with the behavior of Tehsildar Pekhan Tondre, in-charge of Rajim. Former MP and National Vice President of BJP Backward Front Chandulal Sahu reached the protest site and joined the protestors on the fifth day and the demand of the removal of the corrupt Tehsildar is being supported by the Advocates Association, the Traders Association, political parties, and the people's representatives, particularly by the farmers.

Former MLA Santosh Upadhyay has also extend-



ed his support by reaching the site of the hunger strike. On the other hand, 15 members of the All India Revolutionary Kisan Sabha have supported the movement by undertaking a hunger strike. Tejram Vidrohi, secretary of All India Revolutionary Kisan Sabha, who is on hunger strike, said that in-charge

Tehsildar Pekhan Tondre, who is posted in Tehsil office Rajim, misbehaves with farmers and common complaints while taking pride in his position. Instead of listening to their cases, keeps them astray and the advocates have become the voice of the complainants.

Tejram Vidrohi, Lalit

Kumar Sahu, Pawan Sahu, Zahur Sahu, Jumman Dhruv, Anand Kumar Dhruv, Madhusudan Sahu, Govind Sahu, Adesh Dhruv, Mahendra Kumar Sahu, Neelam Sahu, Soman Yadav, Rekhrum, Sahu, Padum Lal Sahu, Hiraman Sahu sat on a hunger strike in support of the Advocates Association. Advocates RK Dewan, Mahesh Yadav, Tikam Sahu, Kamalnayan Sahu, YK Sharma, Ashish Shinde, Yanendra Sinha, Yadram Sahu, Nemichand Sahu, Daneshwar Thakur also supported the movement. As per information, the farmers will gherao SDM office Rajim on March 27, in support of the ongoing strike.

Team conducts mock drill in Tungal Dam

Central Chronicle News

Sukma, Mar 26: Rescue operations are getting modernized in the region and a well equipped team of jawans conducted a mock drill in Tungal Dam. In Makadril village here the NDRF and the city army reached the spot with modern resources and rescued the person trapped in the flood water safely.

At the same time, the squad deployed on the coast with life saving drugs and other preparations and the health department team sent the victim for better treatment with the help of an ambulance after first aid. The mock drill was successfully conducted with the coordination of the diving, medical and administrative team. It is

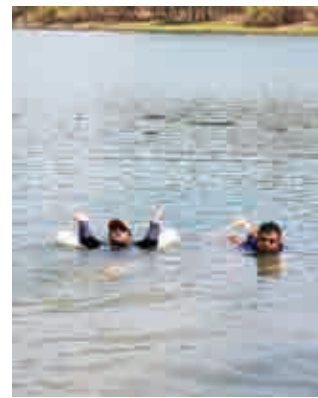


worth mentioning that a large number of people who gathered to see this mock drill to evacuate the victim from flood disaster saw how a practical strategy can be devised in the event of such a disaster.

Rescue team members told that the rescue operation is becoming very modern and modern resources are being used to rescue people trapped in various disasters. Hi-tech resources were used to com-

plete the operation and on the other hand, a person trapped in a flood must have drunk a lot of water during the rescue, therefore the method of extracting it was explained in the mock drill.

Deputy Collector Dulichand Banjare congratulated the rescue team for the excellent skill of the rescue and said that the person trapped in the flood was taken out without delay and promptness with-



in half an hour and the victim was sent for better treatment with first aid.

On this occasion, Deputy Collector Pravesh Paikra, Deputy Collector Ajay Modiyam, Deputy Collector Madhu Teta, Incharge of District Municipal Army AS Netam, Assistant Commandant of NDRF Gaurav Jagate, Inspector Mahabir Mohanty, Sub Inspector SK Sinha and Aapda Mitra and other officers and staff were present.

Congmen burn effigy of Modi's govt

Nagar Panchayat becomes strict in tax collection

In front of BJP office

Central Chronicle News

Kondagaon, Mar 26: Congress protested against the cancellation of Rahul Gandhi's membership in Parliament by reaching the BJP office and burning an effigy of the Modi government there, accusing the central government of tyranny by the central government.

They charged that the ruling government at the Centre is trying to suppress the voice of the Opposition in Parliament by putting pressure on the opposition sometimes through ED sometimes CBI and sometimes through other means.

And fearing that Rahul Gandhi will ask questions in Parliament about the relationship between the Modi government and the Adani



Group, the Center has canceled his membership so that the demand of the opposition for JPC is hampered and no disclosure can be made about the relationship between PM Modi and Adani.

They charged that but the people of the country have

now understood that somehow Modi is robbing the people of this country through the Adani group and as a result of trying to suppress this voice, the Parliament is adopting a dictatorial attitude and it the main reason behind Rahul Gandhi's cancellation

of membership. In the coming times, the fight to save democracy will be more intense and it is now hoped that the people of the country will join shoulder to shoulder with the Congress in this fight to protect democracy. Congmen charged that the

Center is scared of Rahul Gandhi and the Modi government is adopting such tricks.

MLA Budhran Netam, Municipal President Varsha Yadav, City President Tarun Golchha, Hema Devangan, Geetesh Gandhi, District Spokesperson Shilpa Devangan, Media Incharge Ritesh Patel, Youth Congress State General Secretary Abhilasha Poyam, Assembly Speaker Ritesh Gupta, IT Cell during effigy burning. Regional Secretary Nischal Lahouria, Councilor Yogendra Poyam Shanti Pandey Kamdev Korram, Irshad Khan, Sakur Khan, Gunmati Nayak, Rajendra Devangan, Zuggi Khopri District President Ashiq Memon, Bhadauria, Nandu Dewan, Assembly Vice President Priyanshu Chauhan, Kalpesh Dewan, Sanu Sethia, Geetesh Baghel, Shambhu Markam, Heera Dewan, Kamlesh Dubey were present in the protest in large numbers.

Citizens appealed to pay tax by 31st March

Central Chronicle News

Fingeshwar, Mar 26: Fingeshwar Nagar Panchayat, has gone strict in the tax recovery campaign, and a resultant of which the tap connections of the consumers with arrears of water tax are being cut off.

Government institutions are also not being spared in this and as per information, the tap connection of the Primary Small Forest Produce Cooperative Society of the Forest Department located on Darripar Marg was disconnected due to non-payment of tap water amount for a long time.

In the discussion about this, N.P.Fingeshwar's N.P.



Officer Pradeep Mishra said that today the Nagar Panchayat owes Rs 9616 towards water tap tax to the Forest Production Office from the year 2019.

The tap connection was disconnected due to non-payment of taxes by them even after several notices. He said that the operation

and civil facilities are also operated smoothly at an uninterrupted pace only through tap-water and property tax, the recovery of which is done once a year together.

If the consumer wishes, he can pay the water tax every month also and he has appealed to the citizens to compulsorily pay tap water tax and property tax, after that surcharge will be imposed, as well as strict action will be taken like reduction in facilities, disconnection of tap connections.

N.P. President Jagdish Yadav has also appealed to the citizens that to pay property tax and tap water tax by March 31, to avoid action like tax surcharge and disconnection.

State govt sanctions Rs 25 lakh

Farmers demanding compensation to crop damage

For Ambedkar cultural building near Buddha Vihar

Office bearers express gratitude to Dhanesh Patila for taking initiative

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Mar 26: On sanction of Rs 25 lakh by the state government for construction of Ambedkar cultural building adjacent to massive 'Buddha Vihar' after initiative by the ex-MLA and ex-Minister Dhanesh Patila, the office bearers of 'Adarsh Boudha Mahasabha Nagsen Buddha Vihar' (ABMNBV) went to his personal residence and express gratitude to him.

On this occasion Dr



Thaneshwar Patila was also present. It is notable here that the foundation for Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar cultural building was done at the hands of Dhanesh Patila during his term as Minister in BJP government earlier.

Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar Cultural building is being constructed adjacent to the massive 'Buddha Vihar' is being constructed with help from society office bearers and assistance of the state government.

It was on special request by Dhanesh Patila, that the Minister for Urban Development and Administration Dr Shiv Kumar Daharia granted sanction of Rs 25 lakh under the infrastructural head. Prior to this it was on initiative by the Congress leader and District Co-op Bank President Nawaz Khan that CM Bhupesh Baghel granted sanction of Rs 20 lakhs.

The construction work of massive Buddha Vihar and Dr Ambedkar Cultural

building is near completion with assistance from members of Boudh samaj and special assistance by the state government. For its construction, the members of Samaj from different institutions have contributed Rs 70 lakh.

On the other hand, during term of ex-CM Dr Raman Singh and Abhishek Singh a fund of Rs 50 lakh was received and another Rs 45 lakh during the present term of Congress government. In addition to this the corporators from Nagar Palika Dongargarh too are sanctioning funds through different heads.

In this way it is on collection of funds worth Rs 1.50 cr that this massive Buddha Vihar and Dr Ambedkar Cultural Building is being constructed and its dedication is expected to be held on occasion of 'Buddha Poornima'.

Due to hailstorm

Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Mar 26: Farmers are demanding compensation by reaching the Collectorate for compensation for the rabi crops damaged due to unseasonal rains and hailstorms. The farmers who have come from the rural areas here have met the collector and demanded to approve the compensation amount after surveying the loss of crops of the farmers.

After purchasing paddy in the district, the farmers have now started reaching the Collectorate premises to plead about the crop damaged due to unseasonal rains and hailstorms. On the one hand, for the Congress, which has re-



turned to the government after 15 years on the issue of farmers, very difficult situations are being created at this time.

Generally, decisions are being taken by the government keeping in mind the interests of the farmers, announcements are also being made, but at the ground level neither the farmers are getting the benefit of all neither these nor the general public is getting the benefit of the fa-

cilities provided by the government. While the sudden change in weather has increased the seasonal diseases, the weather has also destroyed the hard work of the farmers.

Farmers of Ramgarh, Khairwar, Nuniyakhhar, Shuklabhatha, Bijatrai, Devgaon, Surda, Surighat villages of the area say that on March 21, at 6:30 pm, due to sudden unseasonal storm, rain and heavy hailstorm, cultivation of co-

riander, gram, tivra and wheat and vegetables have got destroyed. Villagers Khem Singh, Ramsharan Sahu, Eram Sahu, Sitaram Sahu, Neeraj, Ramkumar, Daduram, Poonaram, Rajkumar Sahu, Mantram Sahu, Chandrakumar, Tej Anchal, Gopal Sahu, Pardeshi Sahu, Jeevan, Janardan, Dataram are prominent among those who submitted the memorandum.

What officer says

Crops have been damaged due to unseasonal rains, for which the insured farmers can claim their claim in the insurance company. The farmers who have not taken insurance can contact the concerned Patwaris. DK Beauhar, Deputy Director Agriculture Mungeli.

'Chaitra Navratri' festival begins

In Shaktipeeth Maa Ganga Maiya Temple Balod

Central Chronicle News

Balod, Mar 26: Preparations for the Chaitra Navratri festival have started in the famous Shaktipeeth Maa Ganga Maiya temple of Balod district. Navratri will start here from March 22 and preparations are in the final stages and in view of this, the security has also been increased this year, every step of the way will be monitored by CCTV cameras.

The temple management has made arrange-



ments for Puri Sabji Seva Maha Prasadi at normal rates here and the faith of Maa Ganga Maiya temple is famous all over the country, and there are devotees of Maa Ganga Maiya in foreign countries as well.

Sometimes foreign devotees can also be seen here in the festival of Navratri. The lamps of faith will be lit, the preparations for which are almost complete, on March 22, and the lamps of faith will be lit along with worship and exact-

ly 801 lamps will be lit at exactly 12 noon.

Various events will be organized by the temple management in Maa Ganga Maiya temple from 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm and a Ramdhuni competition with tableaux in music

will be organized. Along with this, pandals are also being set up in view of the heat and weather. The management says that full attention is being paid to the fact that the devotees can take advantage of the events comfortably.

Story behind the temple

According to legends, one day a boatman of village Seoni went to Bandha pond for fishing. Then instead of the fish, the stone statue got trapped in the net and because of ignorance, Kenvat threw it into the pond thinking it as an ordinary stone. The Baiga of the village saw a dream of the statue laying there and then the historic temple was created.

NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I, VINITA PARGANIHA D/o. BISHNU KUMAR PARGANIHA resident of Address - House No. 1209, Ward No. 67, Gali No. 03, Mahadev Nagar, Changorabhata, Raipur, Teh. and Dist. Raipur (C.G.) have changed my Old Name VINITA so in future I should be recognized by my new name that is VINITA PARGANIHA D/o. BISHNU KUMAR PARGANIHA in all Government and other documents.

VINITA PARGANIHA
House No. 1209, Ward No. 67, Gali No. 03, Mahadev Nagar, Changorabhata, Raipur, Teh. and Dist. Raipur (C.G.)

आम सूचना

मे अपने पञ्जाब दिक्कत प्रमद साहू आ. को बाबुलाल साहू निवासी : 5/3, वार्ड नं. 1, इमरिया, लखीम-गुडरदेही, जिला- बालोद को अंतर के पत्रे हुवे अधिकार व निर्देश के सुचित करत हुं कि मेरे पञ्जाब साहू की कालानी अग्रवाल आ. की राजेन्द्र कुमार अग्रवाल निवासी ई.ट.नं. 306, वैशाली नगर निगाई, लखीम-गुडरदेही-दुर्ग से उनके भूमिस्वामी हक व अधिकार की ग्राम हजगिया, प.ह.नं. 15, लखीम-गुडरदेही, जिला-बालोद स्थित भूमि खसरा नंबर 200/1, 204, 215/4, 206, 215/1, 215/6 रकबा क्रमशः 0.220, 0.120, 0.100, 0.170, 0.380, 0.210 जुमला 1.200 हे./3.00 एकड़ को भूमिस्वामी की कालानी अग्रवाल आ. की राजेन्द्र कुमार अग्रवाल से खरीदने का सौदा किया गया है तथा उपरोक्त सौदापत्र भूमि का मेरे पञ्जाब साहू द्वारा विक्रम पत्र कर निष्पादन एवं पंजीयन कराया जाना है इसलिए उपरोक्त सौदा के संबंध में किसी किसी भी व्यक्ति का वास्तविकी कौन भी प्रकार से कोई उज्जर वा दावा है तो इस आम सूचना प्रकाशन के सात दिवस के भीतर अवधि में मेरे दफ्तर के मेरे पत्र पर करे। अन्यथा उपरोक्त अवधि की समाप्ति के पश्चात यदि कोई उज्जर वा दावा किया जाता है तो ऐस उज्जर एवं दावा मान्य नहीं होगा तथा मेरा पञ्जाब साहू द्वारा भूमि का बचत प्रतिकर देकर विक्रम पत्र का निष्पादन एवं पंजीयन करा लेवेगा।

सूचना जारी है।
दिनांक : 26.03.2023
हरिकुमार शिवारी
अधीनस्थ
विभाग/कार्यालय : पुलिस कमिश्नरी
के आगे, पञ्जाब, देवर, दुर्ग (C.G.)

Change Of Name

I, Puravi Kolay daughter of Ex - JWO Indrajeet Kolay aged 19 years (DOB 24.04.04) Resident of 37 'A' Market Sector - 2, Bhilai District Durg, Chhattisgarh Pin 490001 have changed my name from Puravi Kolay to Purobi Kolay vide affidavit submitted before the Executive Magistrate district Durg dated 17 march 2023. So in future I should be recognised by my new name Purobi Kolay in all Government and Semi Government / Private documents.

Purobi Kolay

BRIEF



Spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar during a programme in Indore, Sunday.

Win

Kolkata: The Left-Congress alliance made a clean sweep in the elections of the Haldia dock institute management committee in West Bengal's Purba Medinipur district by trouncing ruling the Trinamool Congress candidates. The win of the Left-Congress alliance on Saturday assumes significance after the defeat of the TMC in the Sagardighi assembly by-election at the hands of Left supported Congress candidate Byron Biswas recently.

Crash

Kochi: One person was injured when a Coast Guard helicopter crashed on Sunday just after takeoff from its enclave at the Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) here. Sources said the chopper, which was on a training flight, crashed as it began taking off from the helipad at 12.55 pm. As per preliminary reports, one person has a minor injury in his hand, sources told PTI.

Bust

New Delhi: Delhi Police's Special Cell busted two different drug cartels and recovered heroin and opium worth about Rs 40 crore with the arrest of four men here, officials said on Sunday. In two separate operations, high quality 2.7 kilogram of heroin and 100.338 kilogram of opium, concealed in cavities of three vehicles, were recovered, they said. Police said the drug peddlers sourced heroin and opium from Manipur and supplied it in Delhi, NCR, Punjab and Rajasthan.

Suicide

Kasgan: A 55-year-old government school teacher allegedly shot dead his daughter on Sunday before killing himself following a fight over some issue, police said. The daughter was also a teacher at a government primary school, they said. Narendra Singh Yadav, a resident of Sadar Kotwali area here and posted at Josherwani College in Nagariya town, had a quarrel with his daughter, Juhi (26), in the afternoon over some issue, police said.

Electrocution

Saharanpur: A contractual employee working in the electricity department lost his life while joining an electricity wire, police said on Sunday. Two others were injured. Superintendent of Police (SP) Sagar Jain said on Sunday, in the Deoband police station area, a contractual employee Sonu (35) along with his two associates was repairing the wire of a power transformer.

Recent dip in temperature takes toll on mango crops

Farmers seek compensation

Lucknow, Mar 26 (PTI):

Recent storms accompanied by rain and hailstorm have dashed the hopes of mango farmers in Uttar Pradesh, compelling them to appeal to the government for help.

The mango growers of the state were expecting a bumper crop this time due to good flowering. However, the storm, rain, hailstorm and the resulting cold weather have damaged 2/5th of the crop so far.

Insram Ali, president of the Mango Growers' Association of India, told PTI on Sunday, "The climatic conditions were very good 10 days ago but the recent drop in temperature caused by rain and hailstorm have destroyed nearly 40 per cent of the crop," adding that if the climatic conditions continue to be erratic, further

loss is expected.

He said this year the flowering of the fruit crop was very good and no disease of any kind was reported across the state.

Kalimullah, a famous mango grower from Malihabad in Lucknow said the mango crop requires mild summer weather in the month of March to grow, but this time that did not happen. Last March, mango flowers were scorched due to scorching heat, he added, estimating this year's loss around 50 per cent.

Ali said this year about 60 lakh metric tonnes of mango production was expected, but now it can get reduced to 35 lakh metric tonnes, which will be a big loss. If the weather remains like this for the next 10 days, then even more damage is possible.

"Last year in March due to severe heat, the crop

had suffered a lot and only about 20 lakh metric tonnes of mangoes could be produced in the state. This year, mango growers have been hit by the weather for the second time in a row and the hopes of recouping last year's losses now seem bleak," he added.

Ali said the current damage has also affected the export of mangoes adversely.

"If the domestic consumption is not met due to low production of mangoes, then it is bound to affect the exports," the farmer said.

Ali said, "The government should compensate the mango growers for this loss. We demand that the way the government compensates the farmers of other crops due to natural calamities, similarly the mango growers should also be compensated."

Bhojpuri actress Akanksha Dubey found dead

Police suspect suicide

Varanasi (UP), Mar 26 (PTI): Popular Bhojpuri actress Akanksha Dubey was found dead inside a hotel room here on Sunday, police said.

The 25-year-old actress was found hanging from the fan with a piece of cloth and the police were called immediately, according to the hotel staff.

Dubey, a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Bhadohi district, had come to Varanasi for the shooting of a movie and was staying in the hotel under Sarnath police station area.

When Dubey did not come out of the room till late morning the hotel staff, on the insistence of her colleagues, opened the

gate of her room using a masterkey. Assistant Commissioner of Police (Sarnath) Gyan Prakash Rai said, "The family members of the deceased live in Mumbai. They have been informed about the incident. No suicide note has been recovered from her room. Prima facie it appears to be a case of suicide." Varanasi police Commissionerate, in its statement, said that the body has been sent for post-mortem and police are investigating the matter. Dubey starred in several regional films including Kasam Paida Karne Wale Ki 2', Mujhse Shaadi Karogi' (Bhopuri) and 'Veeron ke Veer'.

Man held for blackmailing, sexually harassing girls

New Delhi, Mar 26 (PTI):

● On Instagram

that she was being blackmailed by an unidentified Instagram user who had nine different Instagram IDs, they said.

The accused created morphed nude photographs of the victim and sent them to her on her Instagram account, police said.

According to the complainant, the man started demanding her nudes by threatening her that he will share these morphed nude pictures in her school group. She became scared and sent her nudes to him with the promise that he will put an end to his nonsense. But after getting

A 22-year-old man was arrested from Punjab for allegedly sexually harassing minor girls on Instagram, police said on Sunday.

The accused threatened the minors that he will share their morphed nude photos on social media if his demands of "sexual favours" are not met, they said.

He has been identified as Jatin, police said, adding he was nabbed from his native place Kapurthala in Punjab.

Police said the accused was working as a waiter in the UAE for past three years. The matter came to light in February after a minor girl complained

TRIBUTE TO MAHATMA



Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra with party President Mallikarjun Kharge and other leaders pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat, in New Delhi, Sunday.

Man who rescued, cared for Sarus crane gets Forest department notice

Amethi (UP), Mar 26 (PTI): The Forest department has filed a case and issued a notice to an Uttar Pradesh man who rescued a Sarus crane and took care of it for a year, officials said.

The crane, which lived with Arif Khan Gurjar in the Mandkha village of Amethi district, accompanied him to his fields and was accepted "like a family member", was taken away by Forest department officials on March 21.

The bird was shifted to the Samaspur sanctuary in Rae Bareilly to allow it to live in its natural environment, an official had said. On Saturday, the department issued a notice

to Gurjar and asked him to appear at the office of the Gauriganj divisional forest officer on April 4 to record his statement.

According to the notice issued by Assistant Divisional Forest Officer (Gauriganj) Ranvir Singh, Gurjar has been booked under relevant sections of the Wildlife Protection Act.

A day after the bird was taken away, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav held a press conference during which he condemned the Forest department action and asked indirectly if any official had the courage to take away the peacocks at the prime minister's residence.

NAVRATRI RUSH



Devotees wait in queues to offer prayers at Vindhyavasini temple during the 'Chaitra Navratri' festival, in Mirzapur, Sunday.

BROTHERHOOD IN AGRA JAIL

Muslim inmates observe fast on Navratri, Hindus partake in roza for Ramzan

Agra (UP), Mar 26 (PTI): In a display of communal harmony and brotherhood, some Muslim inmates at the Central Jail here joined their Hindu brethren to fast on Navratri — a gesture reciprocated by a few Hindu prisoners who observed 'roza' during Ramzan.

Chaitra Navratri, the nine-day Hindu celebration of the triumph of good over evil, started on Sunday, while the Muslim holy month of Ramzan began the following day.

Radha Krishna Mishra, the deputy inspector general in-charge at Central Jail, told PTI, "Muslim inmates are observing fast for Navratri and also tak-

ing part in 'bhajan (devotional songs)' being organised at the temple on the premises."

Pointing to the Hindu inmates observing roza, Mishra said, "It is a good concept where inmates from both the religions are generating a message of Hindu-Muslim unity."

In a video released by the jail authorities, Naushad, an inmate, shared his views on fasting during Navratri.

"I kept a fast on the first day of Navratri and will keep one on the last day. In jail, we all live with unity and respect everyone's religious sentiments."

"We take part in the bhajans organised at the temple and sing with the

Hindu inmates."

Alok Singh, the jailor, said the facility has 905 inmates. Of them, 17 Muslim inmates observed a fast on Navratri while 37 Hindus observed roza.

The jail administration has made arrangements for fruits and milk for inmates fasting for Navratri. For the inmates observing roza, the authorities have arranged for dates to break their fasts.

Since Friday, the jail authorities have also been organising 'Bhagwat Katha' for the prisoners. On March 31, a 'bhandara' will be organised.

"It brings positivity among the inmates and keeps them motivated," Singh added.

'Rs 6,000 aid for farmers by Maha govt insufficient'

Mumbai, Mar 26 (PTI):

Telangana Chief Minister and BRS leader K Chandrasekhar Rao on Sunday said the Rs 6,000 assistance for farmers announced by the Maharashtra government was inadequate.

Speaking at a rally in Loha tehsil in Nanded district, around 450 km from Mumbai, Rao suggested that the Maharashtra government decided to give this financial aid to farmers only after he addressed a rally in Nanded last month.

"I came here only once and a provision to give each farmer Rs 6,000 per year was found in the Maharashtra budget. Why was it never done earlier?"

"This aid is like sprinkling water on a fire. We



K Chandrasekhar Rao

do not want it. We want Rs 10,000 should be given to farmers per acre who can utilise it for investing in agricultural activities," the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader said.

He claimed the Telangana government

under him improved the condition of farmers over years.

"Some eight-nine years ago, Telangana was in bad condition. Farmers were committing suicide in large numbers. But we changed the governance and reduced their burden.

If Telangana can improve why a state like Maharashtra which has more resources, cannot improve?" he asked.

Rao reiterated the "Ab Ki Bar, Kisan Sarkar" slogan suggesting a change in the Central government in the 2024 polls.

Former Lok Sabha MP from Maharashtra Haribhau Rathod, ex-MLAs Shankar Dhondge and Harshvardhan Jadhav, and local political leaders joined the BRS in the presence of KCR at the rally on Sunday.

On February 5, KCR had said in Nanded that the time has come for peasants to take the reins of the country and held the Congress and BJP "kasoorwar" (guilty) for the plight of farmers in the country in the last 75 years.

Imran Khan unveils 10-point roadmap to revive cash-strapped Pakistan

Lahore, Mar 26 (PTI):

Pakistan's ousted prime minister Imran Khan held a massive rally here on Sunday and presented his party's 10-point roadmap for the cash-strapped country's economic recovery, including sops for the diaspora.

Addressing the public rally at Minar-i-Pakistan in the early hours of Sunday, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman challenged the country's ruling party to put forward a plan to rescue Pakistan from the many crises it finds itself mired in.

"I challenge that the incumbent rulers don't have the ability or the intention [to save the country]," he said.

Khan, 70, said he would happily step aside if the establishment tells him they have a plan.

"I know what the programme is there is no programme," he was quoted



Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan (bottom L) speaks to his supporters from behind a bulletproof shield at a rally in Lahore early on March 26.

as saying by the Dawn newspaper. Announcing the 10-point programme, Khan said that overseas Pakistanis will be motivated to invest in Pakistan to attract foreign direct investments to avoid going to the IMF again and again. "We will facilitate all those who would export and bring dollars into the country," he added. Pakistan, which is in dire need of funds as it battles

a wrenching economic crisis, has received economic assistance from the IMF in the past. The country is in discussions with global lender to resume its loan programme.

Khan asserted that the country needs to take difficult decisions to improve its tax collections and exports. "A major surgery is needed to put our house in order. Overseas Pakistanis will bring their dollars to

the country provided they are given incentives," he said, adding that only 2.5 million Pakistanis out of 220 million pay taxes.

"There is a need to increase the tax base to achieve progress," he said and also proposed giving loans to young people to start businesses and reviving the mortgage scheme.

Khan said his government would promote tourism, adding that the minerals sector would be focused on generating revenue. The ex-premier said after coming to power his government would increase agriculture productivity with the cooperation of China.

The government would take measures to stop money laundering, he said, adding that the current account deficit would be curtailed as well.

Khan, who is facing threats to his life, addressed the rally from a bullet-proof glass container.

AFGHAN GIRLS IN SCHOOL



Girls raise their hands in their classroom on the first day of the new school year, in Kabul, Afghanistan. The new Afghan educational year started, but high school remained closed for girls for the second year after Taliban returned to power in 2021.

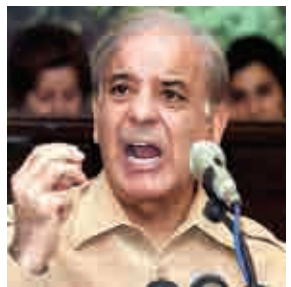
Shehbaz Sharif accuses President Alvi of following dictates of Imran Khan's party

Islamabad, Mar 26 (PTI):

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday hit back at President Arif Alvi, accusing him of being partisan and following the dictates of his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party instead of remaining neutral as the head of the state.

His comments came two days after President Alvi in a letter on Friday accused the premier of using disproportionate force against politicians, political workers and journalists in recent clashes with former prime minister Imran Khan's PTI.

The president, who was a member of Khan's party



before assuming the office, had also asked Sharif to direct all authorities to assist the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in holding the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa elections as per the orders of the Supreme Court.

In his five-page letter to President Alvi, Sharif said that he was writing to "set the record of the

government straight" and bring the latter's "partisan attitude" on record.

He said Alvi's communication in parts read like "a press release of the opposition political party PTI whose one-sided, anti-government views you continue to openly espouse, notwithstanding your constitutional oath/office of President".

He said that the president on several occasions violated his oath, including the order of the dissolution of the National Assembly in April last year on direction of then prime minister Imran Khan, and also his failure to discharge his constitutional duty to give oath to Sharif on his election as the prime minister.

Man gets 100-yr jail over death of Indian child in US

Washington, Mar 26 (PTI): A 35-year-old man has been sentenced to 100 years of hard labour for causing the death of a 5-year-old Indian-origin girl in the US state of Louisiana in 2021, according to local media reports. Joseph Lee Smith from Shreveport was sentenced following his conviction in January of the killing of Mya Patel, local news media outlets like KSLA News 12 and the Shreveport Times reported. Patel was playing in a hotel room on Monkhouse Drive when a bullet entered her room and struck her in the head. Patel was rushed to a nearby hospital, where she battled for three days and was pronounced dead on March 23, 2021. During Smith's trial,

it was revealed to the jury that Smith got into an altercation with another man in the parking lot of the Super 8 Motel. The hotel was owned and operated at that time by Vimal and Snehal Patel, who lived in a ground-floor unit with Mya and a younger sibling. During the altercation, Smith struck the other man with a 9-mm handgun, which discharged. The bullet missed the other man but went into the hotel room and struck Patel in the head before grazing her mother. District Judge John D Mosely sentenced Smith to 60 years at hard labour without the benefit of probation, parole or reduction of sentence in connection with the March 2021 slaying of Mya Patel, reports said.

Russia 'largely stalled' in Bakhmut, shifting focus: UK

Kyiv, Mar 26 (AP):

The top commander of Ukraine's military said on Saturday that his forces were pushing back against Russian troops in the long and grinding battle for the town of Bakhmut, and British military intelligence says Russia appears to be moving to a defensive strategy in eastern Ukraine. "The Bakhmut direction is the most difficult. Thanks to the titanic efforts of the defence forces, the situation is being stabilized," Gen. Valerii Zaluzhnyi said in a post on Telegram giving a synopsis of a telephone call with Adm. Sir Tony Radakin, Britain's chief of defence staff. The seven-month

fight for Bakhmut, where Russian forces have closed in on three sides, is the longest battle of the war, with Russia deploying both regular soldiers and fighters of the mercenary Wagner Group. Russian forces must go through Bakhmut to push deeper into parts of the eastern Donbas region, though Western officials say the capture of the city would have limited impact on the course of the war. Britain's Defence Ministry said in its latest intelligence update that "Russia's assault on the Donbas town of Bakhmut has largely stalled. This is likely primarily a result of extreme attrition of the Russian force". Russia is likely shift-

ing its focus toward two other sectors, which "suggests an overall return to a more defensive operational design after inconclusive results from its attempts to conduct a general offensive since January", the UK ministry wrote on Twitter. However, the Ukrainian military cautioned that a change in strategy was not yet clear and that Bakhmut remained Russia's main point of attack for now. A spokesman for Ukraine's eastern forces, Serhii Cherevaty, said the Russian forces were still hitting the town with artillery and airstrikes, although the number of daily clashes had dropped to fewer than 20, down from 30 to 50 not long ago.

US cops foil Khalistan backers' bid to attack mission

Washington, Mar 26 (PTI):

A group of Khalistan supporters gathered in front of the Indian Embassy here and many of their speakers tried to incite violence, but timely intervention by an alert US Secret Service and local police prevented a repeat of London and San Francisco incidents of vandalism at the mission.

Separatist Sikhs, who gathered outside the Indian Embassy in downtown Washington DC on Saturday, hurled abusive language and openly threatened Indian Ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu. The Ambassador was not in the embassy at the time of the protest.

Some of the speakers were seen inciting fellow



Khalistan supporters protest outside Indian Embassy in Washington, USA.

protestors to indulge in violence and break the windows and glasses of the building across the road.

In their speeches, most of the protestors were seen trying to incite violence not only in India but here as well, including

physical damage to the Indian Embassy property.

Sensing that things might go out of control, the Secret Service and the local police quickly brought in reinforcement and more forces were deployed and at least three police vans were placed in

front of the Embassy. At one point of time, five protesters quickly crossed the road and were about to break into the temporary marker of the embassy property near the pole unfurling the tri-colour before they were asked to leave.

There's nothing left: Deep South tornadoes kill 26

Rolling fork (US), Mar 26 (AP):

Rescuers raced to search for survivors and help hundreds of people left homeless after a powerful tornado cut a devastating path through Mississippi, killing at least 25 people, injuring dozens, and flattening entire blocks as it carved a path of destruction for more than an hour. One person was killed in Alabama.

The tornado devastated a swath of the Mississippi Delta town of Rolling Fork, reducing homes to piles of rubble, flipping cars on their sides and toppling the town's water tower. Residents hunkered down in bath tubs and hallways during Friday night's storm and later broke into a John Deere store that they converted



Aerial view of a destroyed neighborhood in Rolling Fork, Mississippi, after a tornado touched down in the area.

into a triage center for the wounded. "There's nothing left," said Wonder Bolden, holding her granddaughter, Journey, while standing outside the remnants of her mother's now-levelled mobile home in Rolling Fork. "There's just the breeze that's run-

ning, going through — just nothing." The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency announced late Saturday afternoon in a tweet that the death toll had risen to 25 and that dozens of people were injured. Four people previously reported missing

had been found.

Other parts of the Deep South were digging out from damage caused by other suspected twisters. One man died in Morgan County, Alabama, the sheriff's department there said in a tweet. Throughout Saturday, survivors walked around dazed and in shock as they broke through debris and fallen trees with chain saws, searching for survivors.

Power lines were pinned under decades-old oaks, their roots torn from the ground. Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves issued a State of Emergency and vowed to help rebuild as he headed to view the damage in an area speckled with wide expanses of cotton, corn and soybean fields and catfish farming ponds.

Russia will station tactical nukes in Belarus: Putin

Moscow, Mar 26 (AP):

Russian President Vladimir Putin announced plans to station tactical nuclear weapons in neighbouring Belarus, a warning to the West as it steps up military support for Ukraine. Putin said the move was triggered by Britain's decision this past week to provide Ukraine with armor-piercing rounds containing depleted uranium. The Russian leader earlier made a false claim that the rounds have nuclear components. He subsequently toned down his language, but insisted in a state television interview broadcast Saturday night that the ammunition posed an additional danger to both troops and civilians in Ukraine. Tactical nuclear weapons are intended for use on the battlefield, unlike more powerful,



longer-range strategic nuclear weapons. Russia plans to maintain control over the ones it plans to Belarus, and construction of storage facilities for them will be completed by July 1, Putin said. Putin didn't say how many nuclear weapons Russia would keep in Belarus. The U.S. government believes Russia has about 2,000 tactical nuclear weapons, which include bombs that can be carried by tactical aircraft, warheads for short-range missiles

and artillery rounds. In his interview, Putin argued that by deploying its tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, Russia was following the lead of the United States, noting that the U.S. has nuclear weapons based in Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey. "We are doing what they have been doing for decades, stationing them in certain allied countries, preparing the launch platforms and training their crews," Putin said. "We are going to do the same thing." Russia has stored its tactical nuclear weapons at dedicated depots on its territory, and moving part of the arsenal to a storage facility in Belarus would up the ante in the Ukrainian conflict by placing them closer to the Russian aircraft and missiles already stationed there.

French activists wield axes, machetes at reservoir protest

Paris, Mar 26 (AP):

French police and environmental activists fought violent pitched battles on Saturday around a giant agricultural irrigation reservoir in rural western France.

The interior minister reported more than 30 people injured and said police detonated more than 4,000 non-lethal dispersion grenades as they fended off hundreds of protesters, some armed with machetes, axes and gasoline bombs.

The clashes around the reservoir being built in the rural community of Sainte-Soline highlighted increasing pressure on precious water resources in the face of climate change.

French authorities argue that giant irrigation reservoirs are necessary to allow farmers to continue growing food crops when droughts are becoming more common. Critics say the reservoirs sustain ecologically unsustainable types of industrial farming and imprison water that would otherwise naturally irrigate soils and feed rivers and streams.

Video footage showed protesters advancing in clouds of tear gas, police vehicles burning and people hurling projectiles at police lines.

Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said two critically injured people one of them a police officer; the other a protester were transported by helicopter for hospital treatment.

UN nuclear watchdog says missing Libya uranium found

Cairo, Mar 26 (AP):

UN inspectors visiting southern Libya found drums containing natural uranium reported missing earlier this month in the chaos-stricken country, the UN nuclear watchdog said on Saturday.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said earlier this month that some 2.5 tons of natural uranium stored at a site in the southern town of Sabha had gone missing. Forces of the Libyan commander Khalifa Hifter said they found the missing material close to the storage site. In a statement to The Associated Press on Saturday, the Vienna-based agency said UN inspectors visited the area

on March 21 and saw the material being transferred to the storage site.

UN inspectors found that a "relatively small amount of UOC (Uranium ore concentrate) was still unaccounted for," it said.

The IAEA said, however, there was no immediate radiological risk at the location. The statement said investigations were still underway on the matter including reconciling the quantities of natural uranium at the site with those previously verified by the IAEA. The IAEA said its director-general, Rafael Mariano Grossi, informed member states Friday about the findings of the visit. Natural uranium cannot immediately be used for energy produc-

tion or bomb fuel, as the enrichment process typically requires the metal to be converted into a gas, then later spun in centrifuges to reach the levels needed.

But each ton of natural uranium if obtained by a group with the technological means and resources can be refined to 5.6 kilograms (12 pounds) of weapons-grade material over time, experts say.

The material dates back to the rule of late dictator Moammar Gadhafi, who stored thousands of barrels of so-called yellowcake uranium for a once-planned uranium conversion facility that was never built in his decades-long secret weapons program.



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ISRO's Trailblazing Achievement

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), on March 26, 2023, added another feather to its cap by launching the LVM3-M3 OneWeb India-2 mission, which included 36 satellites. This mission was a collaboration between ISRO and the OneWeb Group Company, aimed at creating a low-earth orbit (LEO) constellation of 72 satellites for global communication. The launch was a textbook success, with the spacecraft lifting off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota and deploying the satellites in five stages on their respective orbital planes, after the shutdown of the cryo stage. This will add 36 satellites to the OneWeb fleet and complete the first-ever global LEO constellation. The mission is also significant for ISRO as it is the second launch in 2023 after the successful launch of the SSLV-D2/EOS07 mission in February. ISRO's collaboration with the OneWeb Group Company is aimed at providing broadband connectivity across the world. The UK-based company is implementing a constellation of LEO satellites, with India's Bharti Enterprises serving as a major investor and shareholder in OneWeb. The 150-kilogram satellites are deployed in 12 planes, with each plane separated by four kilometers in altitude to prevent an inter-plane collision. The LVM-III is the redesignated title of India's heaviest launch vehicle, Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle Mark-III (GSLV-MkIII). The rocket's name was changed to LVM-III because it will not deploy the satellite in a geosynchronous orbit. The OneWeb satellites operate in LEO at an altitude of 1,200 kilometers, and the three stages of the rocket performed nominally, taking the spacecraft to its designated orbit. ISRO's latest achievement is a significant milestone in the organization's journey since its inception in 1969. Over the years, ISRO has achieved several milestones and put India on the global map as a leading player in space technology. In 2008, ISRO successfully launched Chandrayaan-1, India's first lunar mission, which discovered water molecules on the moon's surface. In 2013, ISRO launched the Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), also known as Mangalyaan, which made India the first country to enter Mars orbit on its first attempt. The MOM mission was completed at a fraction of the cost of similar missions by other countries, showcasing India's capability to achieve more with less. ISRO has also played a vital role in providing satellite-based communication services to India. In 1983, India launched the INSAT-1B, which was the first Indian satellite to provide domestic communication services. Since then, ISRO has launched a series of satellites under the INSAT program, providing various communication, meteorological, and navigation services. In 2017, ISRO launched a record 104 satellites in a single mission, including satellites from various countries, demonstrating India's potential as a cost-effective and reliable launch partner. ISRO's latest triumph, the LVM3-M3 OneWeb India-2 mission, is a testament to the organization's commitment to advancing space technology and providing valuable services to humanity. The mission is a significant milestone in ISRO's journey towards enabling global connectivity, and it showcases India's potential as a space power.

At the door step of Europe

By- Er.Rajesh Pathak

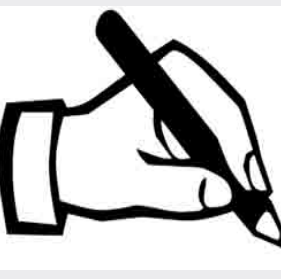
Jihadist incidents seems to have got to be a part of the life in Germany, France, Sweden and other European countries. In what a well-planned way this is being done is what is needed to be understood. Jihadist elements first bring into execution an incident, and then ran away into their locality on the arrival of the police force on the scene. Where already trained in dealing with such kind of exigencies well organized residents force the chasing policemen to backtrack through stone pelting and such other combative tricks. Then comes the turn of so-called human right activists among them who mobilize shouting that being minorities there people are being categorically criminalized by the police and administration. On the other side journalists, writers, advocates and other intellectuals engaged in art and cultures set upon painting the story that Jihad is the brainchild of handful of misguided lots, which has nothing to do with the common 'Peace-loving' Muslims. But the facts have different story to tell. Denmark had to put the ban on the funding of mosques. And behind this step all the political parties came stood united. The cause behind what Denmark did is said to be Turkey having given away the fund for the construction of 25 mosques in 6 cities of the country. Yet this is not an isolated case. Taliba mosque alone received whopping 57 crores from Saudi Arabia! The display of solo music by an individual on a corner of the street is the rare charm of the Denmark culture. As the Muslims grew in influence population wise this music has now begun to irritate fanatics among them due to their 'Sharia' forbidding that. Where Muslims being 8% of the population in that France last year the Anti-separatism law has come to force. Interior minister, Gerald Dermanin, had put 24 mosques to closure in last 2 years. And the leader of opposition Marine Le Pen of Ressemblant party is not yet satisfied. She wants all the mosques nursing Jehad must be shut down uncategorically, and whatever be the amount of Jihadist elements they must be deported back to the country of their origin. Le Pen has demanded that the Muslims using headscarves in the public place should be fined. Once refugees displaced due to 'Jihad' in Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq were warmly received in Germany. This 'liberal' gesture fetched immense appreciation to Chancellor Angela Merkel, worldwide. But later world also got to see the slogans demanding her to step down from the post of Head of the State inside the country because of her same step. As in the frenzy of 'Salafi' doctrine this has got to be common thing to see refugees shouting objectionable religious slogans; teasing women; making assault on Police, and in case of Police action putting children and ladies on the front as a counter tactic. And then spreading fabricated story and morphed videos to tell the world that how their children and women being treated brutally. But last of all this came with infamous Colon incident of sexual assault on the girls. The justification that Jihadists gave in response to this incident is far more notable. They told that the clothes girls wore were too short, which were in contravention of 'Sharia'. And that how could they tolerate it. Britain's condition is more alarming. It's because Jihadists have their open sympathizers in Labor party backed by British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). British Prime Minister even referred BBC the Bolshevik Broadcasting Corporation due to its Marxist's leaning, and even called that she had fought three elections not against Labor party, but BBC. Increasing Muslim population in the country is obviously favorable to these two. BBC's broadcast on Lester riots had openly been a bias in favor of Muslims that entire world saw. Former foreign minister, Jack Straw, who put allegation on Narendra Modi regarding Gujarat riot in BBC documentary, himself relied on that Muslim population of his constituency that is 30% of the population.

CHALO DISPUR PROTEST



Members of Janjati Dharma Sanskriti Suraksha Manch (JDSSM) during their 'Chalo Dispur' protest, in Guwahati, Sunday, March 26.

What dalits gained under dravidan rule

DR. DUGGARAJU SRINIVASA RAO

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

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

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

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

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

the Dravidian movement is anti-Brahmin movement. Till that movement was initiated by Periyar Ramaswamy every field was dominated by the Brahmins in Tamil areas of Madras province. It was against this domination of a single caste that the Dravidian movement got mobilised the other castes, especially the second rung castes and built up hate against Brahmin community, successfully. This social movement turned into political movement by DMK and captured power in 1967.

Despite many splits in DMK, the Dravidian parties hold continued either as DMK or AIADMK. The political power from the assembly to the village panchayat level is with the middle castes and these caste people are now perpetrators of atrocities against the Dalit. These middle castes replaced the Brahmins in perpetuating the caste supremacy. Barring those Brahmins, who are dedicated to the temple priests' profession, the villages across Tamil Nadu are devoid of Brahmin families.

The Tamil Brahmins, to save themselves from the wrath of the DMK, first migrated to metro cities of India and from there to abroad in search of livelihood. Having thrown out the upper caste Brahmins from the Tamil land, the middle castes, who are ardent supporters of Dravidian politics and parties are using their social and political power to subjugate the Dalit. It is because of this proximity with those in power the current crop perpetrators of atrocities against the Dalit are going scot free. Whether the Dalit are allowed to vote

freely is also doubtful.

In some sections it is reported that the Dalit vote moving away from the DMK is the cause for increased tension in the country side. Dalit intellectual groups are becoming assertive on their rights and demanding share in the political power which is not to the liking of DMK as they wish to have their selected leaders to represent the Dalits in the politics and not the independent minded from those communities. It is this political interest of DMK which is allowing those middle level party leader to flex their muscles against the Dalit castes without fear.

The Laws made to protect the rights of Dalits are also not helping those oppressed communities in the absence of political will to punish the offenders. Another point is that the cases filed on the Prevention of atrocities against SC/ST communities are not immediately taken up by the police in Tamil Nadu. Huge number of cases are kept pending by the police, obviously under political instruction, in the name of verification of the caste of the complainant. That verification of caste is a ploy to drag the issue as such verification has to be done by the revenue authorities which work directly under the government.

The pendency of such cases in Tamil Nadu is very and there were cases which were pending since 1992. In the absence of action on their complaints the Dalits are left to suffer. If this is the fate of Dalit in a state where the 'social equality' was claimed to have achieved under Dravidian social movement.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Incredible feat

The incredible feat achieved by boxers Nitu Ghanghas and Saweety Boora are admirable. The ongoing Women's World Boxing Championships in New Delhi witnessed the duo emerging as world champions in their respective weight categories, 48 kg and 81 kg. Nitu Ghanghas has been in indomitable form throughout the tournament, winning her first three bouts by RSC (Referee stops contest) and eventually dominating the 48 kg final against Mongolia's Lutsaikhan Altansetseg with a 5-0 win. Saweety Boora, on the other hand, won the gold in the 81 kg category via a split verdict, registering a 4-3 win over China's Wang Lina. With this victory, India now has a total of 12 Women's World Boxing Championships gold medals, with legendary Rajya Sabha MP MC Mary Kom winning six of them. Nitu Ghanghas and Saweety Boora have joined an elite list of Indian women boxers who have made the nation proud with their outstanding performances. I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the duo and applaud their efforts, which have brought great glory to our country. Their dedication, hard work, and perseverance serve as an inspiration to many young aspiring boxers in the nation.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Remembering Pash

Avtar Singh Sandhu, also known as Pash, was born on September 9, 1950, in the village of Talwandi Salem in Jalandhar, Punjab. Pash's poetry has always had political overtones. Pash was opposed to religious fanaticism and harshly criticised the state's authoritarian nature. On March 25, 1988, he was assassinated in New Delhi by Khalistani militants. Decades after his death Pash's ideas still reverberate to the contemporary socio-political milieu. With the country's communal tensions on the rise, it's a good time to remember Pash's revolutionary spirit.

Vijaykumar H K, Raichur, Karnataka

Double standards in Adani row

It is alarming to witness the personal attacks on Rahul Gandhi by senior BJP members regarding the Adani row. The opposition's right to seek answers in alleged cases of money laundering must not be hindered. While there is a call for charges against Gandhi under the sedition law, proceedings in Parliament regarding the Adani issue should not be stopped. As a private businessman, Adani should not be defended by the ruling party. The recent sentence of Rahul Gandhi in the Surat court for a 'Modi surname' remark highlights that no one is above the law. Therefore, it is concerning that Adani is seemingly given immunity. The lawmakers must serve the nation and set an example by avoiding personal scores at the taxpayers' expense. The ruling party must eliminate double standards and uphold justice in the Adani row.

Shivkumar Mishra, Raipur

Relevance of Satyajit Ray

Kajal Chatterjee

The significance of Greats lie not only in excellence of their works, but also in continued or all-time relevance of it. The films of Satyajit Ray can be visualised in that light. Apart from his protest against inequality, superstition, feudalism, corruption intolerance through films; many of Ray's works shed light on speech also whose relevance would not evaporate overnight from the society. "Sakha Prosakha" --- his penultimate film. An old father suffers a massive heart attack in a far off town. His 3 Kolkata-based sons rushed to the place with their respective families. The youngest son Pratap is a bachelor and an idealist principled person with values just like his father. But the two elder brothers have joined the "mainstream" of corruption. While the two elder brothers were seen to be talkative and "social", Pratap was seen as depressed and morose with a sad face throughout. Within a few days the health situation of the father improved and all the brothers, their wives and children went for a picnic in a

desolate area. When all were either singing or gossiping under the trees, Pratap was silently standing alone at a distance. In that juncture, one of the brothers couldn't restrain himself and started taunting Pratap for his "strange behaviour" and constantly coaxing him to "open up". At last Pratap exploded and protested against the corrupt practice all around blaming his two elder brothers as well. Also he shocked everyone by declaring that he has resigned from his high profile job in the private sector so as to protest against corruption prevalent there and joined as an independent actor in a Jatra group (folk theatre).

After he poured out all that was constantly haunting his mind, the said brother asked Pratap - 'However one thing you would have to admit --- Now you are feeling extremely relieved and relaxed'. In response at last Pratap smiled and admitted that it is indeed the truth.

No, Pratap has not found any solution in life. The corruption will also see no end. But by succeeding in venting out his emotion and thoughts, Pratap certainly got a new

lease of life and could earn a new strength or energy to walk on his principled path. And therein lies the importance of freedom of speech. Just like that elder brother who coaxed Pratap to "open up" and despite getting criticised was encouraging him to "Carry on"; all sectors of the society should have this guts and liberalism to allow people to express their frustration and feelings instead of intimidating or throttling them.

Or Ray's swan song "Agantuk". The opposite happens. The views of the protagonist (played by legendary Utpal Dutta) were challenged by the friend of the host. When the friend found himself at wit's end with all his assertion getting vanquished with logic by the protagonist; the former stooped down to character assassination of the latter and vanished from the scene. Had he been legally powerful enough, surely he would have prosecuted the protagonist. Indeed that is the exact picture of the society --- prompt character assassination or physical attack if personal or "mainstream" views get thwarted.

"Ganashatru" --- Ray's third-

last film. The Doctor finds through his factual analysis that the water supplied in the temple complex including the Charanamrita (Holy water) is polluted. When the concerned authorities failed to convince the Doctor that "Tulsi leaves destroy all germs" with the latter continuing to spread the message that the water is indeed polluted, he was psychologically tortured to the extreme including robbing all forums to register his protest or warning. With voice being choked, even that valiant up-right Doctor found himself defeated.

"Ghare Baire" --- based on Rabindranath Tagore's story. The hot speeches in favour of forced Swadeshi compelling the poor Muslim traders to boycott foreign goods was wreaking havoc on the economy of the already weak lot. Naturally counter-hot speeches started invading the air from Muslim gatherings leading to riots, killings and what not. And in the film "Mahapurush", a "Spiritual Guru" was shown lecturing his "educated" disciples on his personal interaction with the Who's Who of international history including Jesus.

And the gullible lot were simply believing all his rhetoric without any ifs and buts with the "Guru" laughing all the way to the bank.

"Hirak Rajar Deshe" --- the 1980 film where the subjects in the Kingdom were not only trampled under the marauding feet of exploitation, they were forcefully inserted into a Brainwashing machine resulting in a new avatar of themselves shouting the "Greatness" of the King.

However in the end of the film, it was shown that a new dawn has emerged with the brainwashed subjects being relieved from their intoxicated spell with the dictatorship of the King getting eliminated. And "Ganashatru" also ended with the similar note where the Doctor wakes up in surprise hearing shouts in favour of him closing towards his house.

Ray ended the said two films in a very optimistic note transmitting the message that we all should indeed overcome all hurdles on the path of independent expression one day. Also let us all be sane in our speech and thoughts through rational application of God-awarded intellect.

BRIEF

Mutual fund

New Delhi: Existing mutual fund investors have time till March 31 to nominate a beneficiary or opt out of it by submitting a declaration form, failing which their folios will be frozen, and they will not be able to redeem investment. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), in its circular on June 15, 2022, made it mandatory for mutual fund subscribers to submit the nomination details or declaration to opt out of the nomination on or after August 1, 2022. Later, the deadline was extended to October 1, 2022.

Mirae Asset

Mumbai: Mirae Asset Investment Managers India hopes to close the current year with an AUM of Rs 1.5 lakh crore, up from Rs 1.20 lakh crore in December 2022, on the back of aggressive growth in systematic investments plans and its forte of equity-linked funds. Mirae Asset is the only Korean fund operating in the country and since its entry in 2008, it has grown to become the 12th largest fund house in the country with an AUM of Rs 1.16 lakh crore as of February 2023.

WE Hu

Hyderabad: City-based WE Hub, a state-led incubator for women entrepreneurs, on Sunday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Cyber West Sign, an Australian digital marketing agency, to promote cross-border opportunities for startups in both countries. The collaboration aims to help Australian startups break into the rapidly expanding Indian market and vice versa, by utilising the expertise of WE Hub and Cyber West Sign in their respective markets, a press release from WE Hub said.

Tenstorrent

New Delhi: Tenstorrent, a next-generation computing company that builds computers for AI, is looking to partner with Indian startups for building open source RISC-V based microprocessors, a top official of the company said. Tenstorrent CEO Jim Keller told PTI that he is looking forward to real India projects to come out of the country's startups like building an entire data centre using RISC V services designed by local companies.

Lexus India

New Delhi: Luxury carmaker Lexus is looking to expand its customer base in India, enhance sales infrastructure as part of its strategy to grow sales in the country which is expected to see the premium segment return to pre-Covid levels this year, according to a top company official. The company, which is the luxury car arm of Japanese auto major Toyota, completed six years in India earlier this month and now plans to consolidate its position with a slew of measures to bring in additional volumes and growth.

Experts predict RBI may go for 25 basis point hike

Mumbai, Mar 26 (PTI):

With retail inflation remaining above the comfort level of 6 per cent and most global peers including US Fed continuing hawkish stance, the Reserve Bank of India too may go in for a 25 basis points hike in the bi-monthly monetary policy to be announced on April 6, opined experts.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank will be meeting for three days on April 3, 5 and 6 to take into account various domestic and global factors before coming out with the first bi-monthly monetary policy for fiscal 2023-24.

The two key factors which the committee will deliberate intensely while firming up the next monetary policy are elevated retail inflation and the recent action taken by central

banks of the developed nations especially the US Federal Reserve, European Central Bank and Bank of England.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been raising benchmark rates since May 2022 to contain inflation which has been largely driven by external factors, especially the disruption of the global supply chain following the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war.

In its last policy meeting held in February, RBI had raised the policy rate or repo by 25 basis points to 6.50 per cent. Having remained below six per cent for two months (November and December 2022), the retail inflation breached the comfort zone warranting action by the Reserve Bank.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation was 6.52 per cent in January and 6.44 per cent

in February. "Given that CPI inflation has been 6.5 per cent and 6.4 per cent in the last two months and that liquidity is now near neutral, we may expect the RBI to raise rates once again by 25 bps and probably change stance to neutral to signal that this cycle is over," opined Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda.

India Ratings and Research Chief Economist D K Pant too expects the central bank to raise policy rate by 25 bps (basis points). "This is likely to be last rate hike in present policy tightening cycle," he said, and added that inflation trajectory from here is going to decline due to impact of past policy rate hikes, softening of global commodity prices, and base effect.

Meanwhile, Ranen

Banerjee, Partner, Economic Advisory Services, PwC India, said that the risk of dis-anchoring the inflation expectations by going for a pause owing to the banking turmoil has forced the US Fed, ECB and BoE to raise the policy rates. The speech of US Fed chair clearly articulates that there is going to be less hawkishness going forward.

The case for disengagement of the Indian monetary policy moves with the US Fed has become stronger and the probability of a pause by the RBI on rate hikes has increased, he said. "Given that inflation in India is more from supply side factors, as dissented by two of the MPC members in the last MPC meeting, we could possibly now have a majority of MPC members voting for a pause," Banerjee said.

India's highways infra to match US by 2024: Gadkari

Ranchi, Mar 26 (PTI):



India's highways infrastructure will match that of the US by 2024 for which work in time bound 'mission mode' is on including construction of green expressways and rail over bridges, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said.

He said cabinet nod to 'Bharatmala 2' is likely soon and once obtained it will meet the requirements of a robust infrastructure in the country. "I am confident that India's highways will be on par with that of the US by 2024. Work in a time bound mission mode is on to build a robust infrastructure including a network of green expressways across the length and breadth of India," Gadkari told PTI in an interview.

The Road Transport and Highways Minister said in this year railway over

bridges are being constructed at a cost of Rs 16,000 crore which will be increased to Rs 50,000 crore in five years.

On the Kailash Mansarovar highway project via Pithoragarh, Gadkari said "Ninety three per cent work on Kailash Mansarovar project has been completed."

With the completion of this project, the arduous trek through treacherous high-altitude terrain can be avoided by pilgrims of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and the period of journey will be reduced by many days. At present, travel to Kailash Mansarovar takes

around two to three weeks through Sikkim or Nepal routes.

On Bharatmala Phase 2, the minister said: "Nod is likely soon to Bharatmala Phase 2 that will further accelerate the making of highways."

About 5,000 km of highway network is envisaged under phase 2 initially.

Bharatmala Pariyojana is India's largest infrastructure programme to develop about 35,000 km of National Highway corridors, connecting over 580 districts in the nation. The programme signalled a paradigm shift to corridor approach of infrastructure development.

The overall network of the nation was reimagined through scientific studies including, Origin - Destination study of freight movement across 600 districts and growth alignment for optimised routes to reduce transit time.

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance launches 'ICICI Pru Gold'

Mumbai, March 26:

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched ICICI Pru Gold, an innovative long-term savings product designed to enable customers to create an additional income stream to meet their diverse income requirements. Besides receiving guaranteed lifelong income, the life cover component in the product provides financial security to the family.

To cater to the varied income needs of customers, this product is available in three variants i.e. Immediate Income, Immediate Income with Booster and Deferred Income. Customers opting for the 'Immediate Income' variant can choose to receive income after 30 days from the date of policy issuance, enabling them to immediately create a sup-

plementary source of lifelong income. Customers who purchase the "Immediate Income with Booster" variant receive additional guaranteed income every fifth policy year in addition to the lifelong income, which begins after 30 days from the policy issuance date. In the 'Deferred Income' variant, customers have the flexibility to choose when they want the income to start, as per their financial goals. Customers can start receiving income as early as the second policy year or as late as the 13th policy year. This gives customers the flexibility to receive income as per their requirements. Over and above these benefits, ICICI Pru Gold offers customers the option to accumulate their income in a Savings Wallet instead of receiving it as regular payments.

Soft drinks to soaps: Reliance unveils big price war plan

New Delhi, Mar 26 (PTI):

After stirring a price war in the soft drink segment with the relaunch of Campa, billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance has entered the personal and home care segment of FMCG, offering products at 30 to 35 per cent lesser price.

Experts say "the jury is out" and a competitive offering from Reliance would attract the customers to try its products and evaluate performance, quality and perception in comparison to the same from the established brands. Products of RCPL, the FMCG arm and wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL), are available only in selected mar-

kets but the company is building a dealer network on a pan-India basis, and the availability of its products will be scaled up across modern and general trade channels.

"They are creating a distinct and dedicated distribution network comprising traditional dealer/stockists as well as modern trade b2b channels," said an industry source. It articulates ambitions to be a relevant player in the USD 110-billion FMCG (Fast Moving Consumer Goods) segment, largely dominated by players as HUL, P&G, Reckitt, and Nestle. RCPL has priced its Glimmer beauty soaps, Get Real natural soaps, and Puric hygiene soaps at Rs 25, which

is much lower than the products of leading brands such as Lux (Rs 35 for 100 gm), Dettol (Rs 40 for 75 gm) and Santoor (Rs 34 for 100 gm) etc, while prices of its Enzo 2 litre front load and top load liquid detergent is Rs 250 (on Jio Mart) in comparison to a 2-litre pack of Surf Excel Matic priced at Rs 325. For Enzo front-load and top-load detergent powder, it had priced at Rs 149 for 1-kilogramme pack (on Jio Mart). Front-load and top-load refer to the two categories of washing machine. While, in the dish wash segment, it has started with the attractive price point of Rs 5, 10 and 15 for bars and has also launched liquid gel packs at price points of Rs 10, Rs 30 and Rs 45.

Axis Bank and AFL announces partnership

Mumbai, March 26:

Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank and Autocrat Finance Limited (AFL), a Gurgaon based Non-Banking Financial Company, today announced its strategic partnership under the co-lending model through the Yubi Co.Lend platform. Through this partnership, both lenders will offer 'New Tractor Loans' for the Agricultural and Allied activities to cater the financial need of the rural segment in the country. This partnership will leverage the wide customer experience of AFL and deep financial expertise of Axis Bank to enable easy credit availability for farmers at an optimal interest rates. AFL has an advantage of ready access to a robust customer base and

dealers across rural and semi-urban regions (RUSU) in 18 states and it will further continue to maximize its network to ensure that farmers whole heartedly embrace advanced farming technologies. This partnership will also empower Axis Bank and AFL to reach out to potential customers who are unable to derive advantages of a formal lending structure. Backed by tech platform Yubi, this partnership will offer seamless processing of loans as per co-lending guidelines. Speaking on the collaboration, Mr. Munish Sharda, Group Executive & Head - Bharat Banking, Axis Bank said, "Our partnership with AFL is in alignment with the Bank's Bharat Banking mission of extending our reach in the remote regions, and providing financial services in a seamless digital manner.



Farm workers spread paddy grain for drying, in Nadia district, Sunday, March 26.

Zydus recalls over 55k bottles of generic drug in US

New Delhi, Mar 26 (PTI):

Drug firm Zydus Lifesciences is recalling over 55,000 bottles of generic medication in the US market due to failed impurities specifications.

As per the latest enforcement report by the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA), Zydus Pharmaceuticals (USA) Inc is recalling 21,936 (30 count) and 33,066 (100 count) bottles of Colchicine tablets, which are used to treat gout. The affected lot is manufactured by Ahmedabad-based Zydus Lifesciences and marketed in the US by New Jersey-based Zydus Pharmaceuticals (USA) Inc.

USFDA said the company is recalling the product due to "failed impurities/ degradation specifications". An out-of-specification (OOS) re-



sult was observed during release testing of one lot for a related substance, i.e. Betaluminolcolchicine, it added. Zydus commenced the Class III recall on February 24 this year. As per the USFDA, a Class III recall is initiated in a "situation in which use of, or exposure to, a violative product is not likely to cause adverse health consequences". The US market is the largest market for generic pharmaceutical products. The market was estimated to be around USD 115.2 billion in 2019.

FPIs invest Rs 7,200 cr in Indian equities in March so far

New Delhi, Mar 26 (PTI):

Foreign investors have pumped Rs 7,200 crore into the Indian equities so far this month, mainly driven by bulk investment in the Adani Group companies by the US-based GQG Partners.

Going ahead, FPIs are likely to be cautious in the near term since there is a risk-off sentiment in equity markets globally due to the stress in the US banking system and the crash in banking stocks, VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said.

The stress appeared in the US banking system after the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank earlier this month.

Most global equity markets witnessed a sharp recovery, even as macro sentiments remained volatile as frailties in European and US banks were under focus.

"On the economy front, the US Federal Reserve increased the Fed Fund rates by 25 basis points while voicing confidence in the stability of the US financial system. FPIs flow are expected to remain volatile given the tight central bank monetary policy," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said.

According to the data with the depositories, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) invested Rs 7,233 crore in Indian equities till March 25. This came after a net outflow of Rs 5,294 crore in February and Rs 28,852

Govt hikes duty on X-ray machine imports to 15 pc from Apr 1

New Delhi, Mar 26 (PTI):

The government has hiked customs duty on import of X-ray machines and non-portable X-ray generators to 15 per cent with effect from April 1. Currently, portable X-ray machines and non-portable X-ray generators and apparatus attract 10 per cent import duty. The changes in the customs duty rate was brought in as part of the amendments to the Finance Bill, 2023, which was passed by the Lok Sabha last Friday. The new rates would be effective from April 1, 2023, the amendment said. AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said this is intended to improve barriers to manufacturing in India. "This will encourage 'Make in India' to reduce import dependence in the niche sector," he said.

OneWeb offering matches West rates, not India's: Mittal

New Delhi, Mar 26 (PTI):

Satellite communication service provider OneWeb is able to match mobile services rates of western countries but its prices can't be at par with the "extremely low" tariff in India, company's executive chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal said on Sunday.

With the launch of 36 Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites by NewSpace India Limited early in the day, OneWeb constellation now has 618 satellites for global coverage including India. Sharing details of OneWeb launch and services, Mittal said that the services will be affordable and at par with mobile rates if a community of 30-40 homes in a village



use it. However, the services will cost more for individual use in India compared to existing mobile services plans. "If you ask me, can the pricing of satellite communication be at par with mobile tariffs? Whatever is currently available in the Western world, it can be done today. What is available in India for 2 and 2.5 dollars a month? No, because that is a pricing which is extremely low," Mittal said.

346 infra projects show cost overruns of Rs 4.46 lakh crore

New Delhi, Mar 26 (PTI):

As many as 346 infrastructure projects, each entailing an investment of Rs 150 crore or more, have been hit by cost overruns of more than Rs 4.46 lakh crore, as per an official report.

According to Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, which monitors infrastructure projects worth Rs 150 crore and above, out of 1,418 projects, 346 reported cost overruns and as many as 823 projects were delayed.

Total original cost of implementation of the 1,418 projects was Rs 20,38,026.75 crore and their anticipated completion cost is likely to be Rs 24,84,846.99 crore, which reflects overall cost overruns of Rs 4,46,820.24 crore (21.92 per cent of orig-

inal cost)," the ministry's latest report for February 2023 said. According to the report, the expenditure incurred on these projects till February 2023 is Rs 13,62,707.98 crore, which is 54.84 per cent of the anticipated cost of the projects.

However, the number of delayed projects decreases to 643 if delay is calculated on the basis of the latest schedule of completion.

Further, it stated that for 316 projects neither the year of commissioning nor the tentative gestation period has been reported.

Out of the 823 delayed projects, 172 have overall delays in the range of 1-12 months, 171 have been delayed for 13-24 months, 355 projects for 25-60 months and 125 projects have been delayed for more than 60 months.

Classical music and dazzling dance steal the show

52nd All India Bhaskar Rao Nritya and Sangeet Sammelan



Sweta Sinha

The 52nd Annual All India Bhaskar Rao Nritya and Sangeet Sammelan organised by Pracheen Kala Kendra came to a grand conclusion with a three-day extravaganza showcasing various classical music and dance performances. The festival aimed to promote the classical performing arts of India and was a highly anticipated event in the region. Nitin Kumar Yadav, Home Secretary, UT Chandigarh, was the Chief Guest and inaugurated the Sammelan after

lighting the traditional lamp. Pracheen Kala Kendra's Chairman SK Monga IAS (Retd), Registrar Dr. Shobha Koser, Secretary Sajal Koser were also present on this occasion. The three-day festival of classical music and dance is a much-awaited event in the region, like the Hari Vallabh Sangeet Sammelan. The performances included soulful vocals and dazzling classical dance.

The Kendra's tradition of honoring eminent personalities in the field of Indian classical arts was also carried out. The



Senior Sitar Guru Surinder Kumar Dutta and talented journalist Ms. Shayda were honored with a shawl, memento, citation, and cash prize.

The festival's first day began with a mesmerizing performance by eminent vocalist Prasad Khaparde, who presented a soulful gayiki in his resonating voice. He was accompanied by Mithilesh Jha on tabla and Pt. Dharam Nath Mishra on Harmonium. Vidushi Geeta Mahalik's remarkable Odissi dance presentation followed Prasad's performance. She was accom-

panied by Prasana Behera on Vocal, Prasant Maharana on Pakhawaj, Afjaal Zahoor on Violin, and Nikhil Behera on Flute.

On the second day, the audience was treated to a scintillating Sitar recital by Ustaad Shahid Parvez Khan and a beautiful dance presentation by the famous Mallick Bandhus at the Tagore Theatre. Shahid was accompanied by Tabla exponent Azam Ali Khan. Bharatnatyam exponent Rukmini Vijay Kumar presented a beautiful dance presentation, Ishwara, a journey to the self, choreographed in



memory of her father, K Vijayakumar.

The final day of the festival saw a superb trio of Santoor, Flute, and Tabla led by Pt. Tarun Bhattacharya on Santoor, Pt. Ronu Majumdar on Flute, and Pt. Abhijit Banerjee on Tabla. They were followed by a remarkable Kathak performance by Vidushi Shovana Narayan and her troupe.

The Kendra's Chairman, SK Monga IAS (Retd), along with the Registrar, Dr. Shobha Koser, and Secretary, Sajal Koser, honored the artists with bouquets, scrolls, and

mementos. The 52nd All India Bhaskar Rao Nritya and Sangeet Sammelan was a grand success and witnessed a huge audience turnout. The festival aimed to promote and propagate the classical performing arts of India to the masses, and it achieved its objective with soulful vocal performances, dazzling Odissi dances, melodic Sitar and beautiful Bharatnatyam dances, and remarkable Kathak performances. The festival was a much-awaited event in the region and was a celebration of India's rich classical heritage.

Sushmita shows gratitude as the show 'Meri Saas Bhoot Hai' completes 50 episodes

Star Bharat's show 'Meri Saas Bhoot Hai' has completed 50 episodes, marking a milestone in the dramedy genre on Indian television. The show, which premiered on January 23, 2023, has received an overwhelming response from the audience for its unique concept and entertaining storyline.



The show revolves around 'Gaura' and 'Rekha' portrayed by Kajal Chauhan and Sushmita Mukherjee respectively. The unique nok-jhok between Gaura and Rekha is loved by the audience as it gives the viewers a quirky and fun drama to watch between a unique mother-in-law who is a ghost and daughter in law. The supporting cast, which includes seasoned actors like Bhavana Balsaver, Kavita Vaid and Vishal Chaudary, has also done an excellent job of bringing their characters to life. As the show complete 50 episodes Sushmita Mukherjee shows her gratitude towards the

viewers who are showering their love on the show and expresses her thoughts on the same.

She says, "I'm feeling happy that the show has completed 50 episodes already. It feels like it was yesterday when we started shooting for the show. The viewers are giving a lot of love to the show. We never imagined that the show will receive so much of love as this is a very different genre unlike any other daily soaps. The show 'Meri Saas Bhoot Hai' have very different characters apart from the main leads as well which makes the show a complete package."

Suneil Shetty talks about shooting days of film 'Border'



This Saturday, raising the bar for entertainment, the action star Suneil Shetty aka Anna and the super-hit composer duo Salim-Sulaiman will grace Sony Entertainment Television's prestigious singing reality show Indian Idol season 13 to

promote their most anticipated musical, "Disco Dancer- The Musical". Our contestants will be seen performing their songs in the Suneil Shetty and Salim-Sulaiman Special Episode, mesmerising the audience, judges, and special guests and mak-

ing their position in 'Top 6'.

The most lovable contestant of this season Chirag Kotwal from Jammu and Kashmir will be seen singing 'Toh Chalun' and 'Ankhon Mein Base Ho Tum' making the mahol romantically muscana! Impressed by the performance Suneil Shetty will praise Chirag's honesty in his voice. He says, "Chirag's performance took me back on the sets, you know straight back to the 90s. Both the songs are my favourites, especially Toh Chalun from Border. Chirag made the song his own and the honesty his voice embodies is very evident in his performance. He seems to be a very honest person by the way he expresses himself while singing."

He will further go on to talk about his experience while filming his iconic film Border, he shares, "For me, Border didn't have real characters they are real-life characters. I feel we can never give justice to those characters and that uniform. But somewhere I feel by portraying them on celluloid and bringing them closer to the people we are making a small contribution towards the real-life heroes. Making the audience remember that the freedom we enjoy is all because of our soliders.

'In the world of Bholaa, the only one crazier than the villains is hero'



They have every shape, size and character trait. The bad men ki baarat in Bholaa is big, fear-inducing, merciless and crazy. All through the film, villains pepper the screen adding the right intrigue and masala to the film. The villains of Bholaa are a mixed bunch riding and clashing fast and fearlessly. They also have some talked-about dress codes. While the drug cartel has two solid biggies controlling it, the journey further has several inter-state gangs making their appearance and adding to the crazy fear one experiences on the journey. Actor-filmmaker Ajay Devgn wanted a deadly bunch and he went about selecting them systematically. The biker gangs have stylish hoods, face masks and helmets. There are others in more desi attire. Gangs are ready to go to any length to apprehend the crazy, ex-convict Bholaa but what they don't realise is that he's

fearless. Bholaa is not someone who scares easily because he knows how to play the game of death. He's ready for any kind of deadly challenge. Speaking of how he got stylist Radhika Mehra to dress his villains up distinctively and differently, Ajay adds, "I wanted the menace to travel deep. The objective was to carefully construct different identities for the various baddies who show up in Bholaa's path. In the world of Bholaa the only one who is crazier than the villains is Bholaa himself. ". The villains' looks have garnered a lot of appreciation. Of course, while the villains are all deadly and create life-threatening obstacles for Bholaa, Ajay Devgn plays a hero who will shake each one of the villains up beyond imagination. Confronting bad has never felt as good as it feels in the legend of Bholaa. Bholaa will arrive at theatres near you from 30th March 2023.

Shraddha Kapoor reveals reason behind living her 'childhood dream'



Actress Shraddha Kapoor agrees that there is a "big sense of responsibility" on her shoulders as so much hopes are riding on her when it comes to her performances. She said that it is because of the love she gets from the audiences, who she says is the reason behind living her "childhood dreams".

With so much love coming her way and hopes riding on her, does Shraddha, whose latest release is 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar', feel the pressure?

Shraddha said: "It definitely adds a big sense of responsibility. I feel that I am here to entertain people and I want to keep doing that. I need to be a part of films that will provide that." The actress added: "So, I take that kind of responsibility and yes, it's also inspiring and all the energy and inspiration comes from the audiences... They are the reason I have been able to live my childhood dream. It does feel like there is pressure and responsibility."

Arjun Kapoor remembers mother: I try, handle all the hate but I miss your love



"still this lost child". Arjun took to Instagram, where he shared a throwback picture featuring him and his late mother.

Alongside the picture, he wrote an emotional note, which read: "I never cared what anyone said or felt cause I always had u in front of me to make me realise who & what I was... 11 years have passed since u become the shield that protects me from beyond but I still wish u were here because in this cruel world today I try & handle all the hate but I really miss ur love which made me deal with everything with a smile on my face & made me a better person a happier person a calmer person perhaps maybe a more alive soul..."

He added: "I'm still this lost child without u Maa... I look for you everywhere cause I'm lost just like I'm this picture but I always believe ur smiling & looking after me somehow just like in this picture... We shall meet someday soon."

In March 2012, Mona passed away after battling cancer. Her popular films, as a film producer, were 'Sheesha' and 'Farishtay'.

Home-cooked food is Bhaweeka Chaudhary's mantra for staying fit

Television actress Bhaweeka Chaudhary, who plays Nandini in the recently launched show 'Maitree', has opined that eating home-cooked food plays a crucial part in staying fit and it works exceedingly well for her.

Elaborating on the same, Bhaweeka said: "To be honest, I am a fitness freak, and I don't like to skip my gym. But being an actor, we need to be available based on the requirement, so there are times when I miss working out in the gym." The show focuses on the exciting yet dramatic journey of its titular character played by Shreenu Parikh and her soul sister, Nandini (played by Bhaweeka). In recent episodes, viewers witnessed that Ashish (played by Namish Taneja) won the drug case where he was accused by his mother-in-law Vasuandhara (Khalida Jan). However, now he has



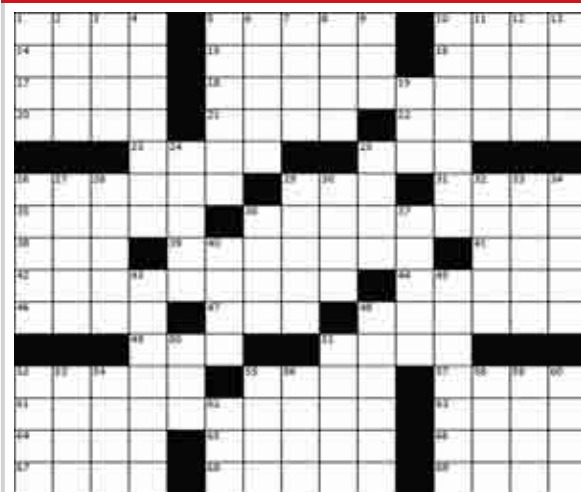
to prove himself to be the parent who can take care of his son Nandish and win the case for his custody. On the other hand Ashish's

wife, Nandini is still in coma.

While Nandini's presence is very much on a wheelchair these days in every scene, Bhaweeka is ensuring that her fitness is not getting affected. To stay in shape and healthy, Bhaweeka utilises the time wisely, she has a 'skipping rope' on the sets of the show, and whenever she gets some time, she works out with it.

She said: "Hence, whenever I get some time, I do some skipping on the set for my fitness. In fact, I try to do all kinds of workout which include cardio, weight lifting, and dancing a.k.a Zumba. I know when it comes to fitness, I am very old school. I believe eating home-cooked food is one of the best ways to stay fit. But again, some things that work for one, may not work for others. Therefore, everyone needs to figure out what suits them best and work accordingly."

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

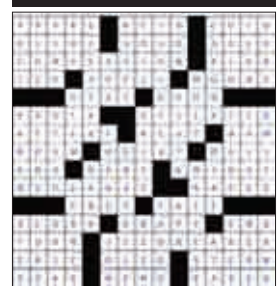
- Mongolian desert
- Recorded
- Discharge
- Long story
- Maxim
- Helper
- Chess term
- Circus leader
- Winter toy
- Leaves
- Iron setting

DOWN

- Valuable stones
- October gem
- Snack
- Summer drink (2 wds.)
- Shooting range feature
- Goodbye (Sp.)
- Window glass
- Hen products
- Clinton's party (abbr.)
- Oriental
- Tiny insect
- Original thought
- Duration
- Fire remains
- Beginning
- Becomes firm
- Slip-up
- Hockey venue
- Little piggies
- That lady
- Bemoan
- Flabbergast
- Ceremony
- Opera highlights
- Made believe
- Ink holder
- Oval
- Linger
- Most snobbish
- Witherspoon of

- "Pleasantville"
- Wyatt
 - Bombshell _____ West
 - Gets the soap off
 - Private _____
 - Did garden work
 - Setting
 - Blemish
 - At one time
 - Disassembles (2 wds.)
 - Authentic
 - Imitator
 - Rear
 - Misters
 - Throw
 - Brought to a close
 - She, in Marseille
 - Trivial
 - Get up
 - Cried
 - Lofters
 - Poke fun at
 - Margins
 - Earnest request
 - Ghostly
 - Green citrus fruit
 - Can _____ (kitchen devices)
 - Approve
 - Decomposed
 - Sure!
 - Racetrack animal
 - Doctor's "at once!"
 - Guitarist's aid
 - Supplements
 - Bridge
 - Reimbursed
 - Astronaut _____ Armstrong
 - Poet _____ Sandburg
 - In addition
 - Exist

SOLUTION 598



Nikhat wins second World Championships title

New Delhi, Mar 26 (PTI):

Ace Indian boxer Nikhat Zareen added a second world Championships title to her name, defeating Vietnam's Nguyen Thi Tam in the 50kg summit clash here on Sunday. Nikhat upstaged Tam by a 5-0 verdict.

Nikhat becomes only the second Indian after the legendary MC Mary Kom to win the prestigious title twice.

On Saturday, Nitu Ghanghas (48kg) and Saweety Boora (81kg) were crowned world champions.

Nikhat was unfazed by Thi Tam Nguyen, a two-time Asian gold medalist, who made history in New Delhi by becoming the first female boxer from her country to reach the world meet final. It was a toe-to-toe battle as Nikhat and Thi Tam traded blows after a dominant start from Nikhat. Nikhat fended off a strong comeback from Thi Tam in the second round to win the final by unanimous decision (5-0) and took home the Gold medal for the second successive year. Nikhat, who won Gold in the women's



52kg category in Istanbul last year, dominated the opening round, landing her punches and swaying away from attacks. She won the first round by

unanimous decision 5-0. However, Thi Tam gave Nikhat a stiff test in the second round, bringing delight to the crowd that had gathered to watch high-o-

tane bouts on the final day of IBA Women's World Boxing Championships in New Delhi. It was the Vietnamese boxer, who took the second round 3-2.

Both boxers upped the ante in the winner-takes-all final round. Nikhat was more aggressive than before, willing to have a go at the Vietnamese boxer. The home crowd rejoiced when Thi Tam was given a countdown. However, Thi Tam went for counter-attack and had Nikhat get a countdown toward the end of the third round.

There were nerves at the KD Jadhav Indoor Hall as both boxers returned to the middle of the ring for the results. In the end, it was Nikhat, who took home the Gold with a unanimous 5-0 win by points.

Hosts India are on course to match their best-ever performance in terms of gold medals won with Olympic medallist Lovlina Borgohain set to take the ring later in the day. India had won the four golds in the 2006 edition at home which was also the country's best ever display with a haul of eight medals, including a silver.

New Zealand beats China 2-1 in football friendly

Wellington, Mar 26 (AP):

New Zealand broke a lengthy scoring drought and won for the first time in more than a year Sunday when it beat China 2-1 in a home football friendly. The first match between the teams was drawn 0-0 and New Zealand had gone 581 minutes without a goal when Matthew Garbett ran onto a chipped pass from captain Joe Bell, chested the ball down and struck it home with his left boot. New Zealand had taken a 1-0 lead in the 43rd minute with an own goal by China center back Zhu Chenjie. Marco Rojas had curled the ball towards the back post where New Zealand defender Michael Boxall was up hunting for the header. But Chenjie went high and managed only to head the ball into the bottom corner of the net.

China rallied late with a goal to Ba Dun in stoppage time but too late to reach the outcome. New Zealand had its first win over China in more than 30 years and a triumph for Denmark-based Bell as captain and Danny Bazeley as interim coach. "I think we were all aware we needed to score more goals," Bell said. "There were two today, should have been three maybe. I think it was good and we're a team which is adaptable against all formations."

Satwik-Chirag win Swiss Open title



Basel, Mar 26 (PTI):

Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty capped off their impressive campaign with a title win, beating China's Ren Xiang Yu and Tan Qiang in the final of the Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament here on Sunday.

The second-seeded Indian pair, the 2022 World Championships bronze medallist, was solid in defence and dished out an attacking game to outwit the world No. 21 pair 21-19, 24-22 in 54 minutes.

It was the first title of the season for India with Satwik and Chirag putting

to rest the disappointment of last week's All England Championships where they had exited in the second round. Overall, it was the fifth career world tour title for the Indian pair, who had claimed the India Open and French Open last year, besides securing the Thailand Open in 2019 and Hyderabad Open in 2018. Satwik and Chirag had also won the Commonwealth Games gold in 2022.

The title run also meant India continued its love affair with the Swiss Open, with PV Sindhu (2022), Saina Nehwal (2011, 2012), Kidambi Srikanth (2015) and HS Prannoy (2016) claiming the crown in the

past. The two pairs had contracted march to the final with Satwik and Chirag playing three three-game matches on their way to the summit clash, while Tan and Ren didn't drop a game.

Tan had forged a world No. 10 pairing with He Jiting in 2019, winning the 2021 World Championships silver medal, while Ren had been ranked as high as 16 with his former partner Ou Xuanyi.

Playing the Chinese pair for the first time, Satwik and Chirag turned up the heat at the right moments, displayed their attacking prowess and steely nerves to come out victorious.

Gritty Samra clinches 50m 3P bronze as Anjum fails to impress

ISSF Rifle/Pistol World Cup

Bhopal, Mar 26 (PTI):

India's upcoming shooter Sift Kaur Samra came up with an inspired performance to clinch her second senior medal at the international level, beating a tough field to win the 50m rifle 3P bronze on the penultimate day of the ISSF Rifle/Pistol World Cup here on Sunday.

On a day when China continued their domination, with Zhang Qiongyue winning gold in the event, Samra, the reigning national champion, scored a total of 403.9 points in the ranking round to finish third, even as Zhang (414.7 points) and Czech Republic's Aneta Brabcova (411.3) entered the title round.

In the gold-medal round, Zhang defeated her Czech rival 16-8. India are currently second on the medals table behind China



with one gold, one silver and five bronze medals.

China are leading the tally with seven gold, two silver and an equal number of bronze.

On Sunday, Samra added to the bronze medal she had won last year at the World Cup in Changwon, China.

All eyes were on world championships silver

medallist in air rifle Anjum Moudgil in the preliminary round of the 3P event. But Samra was in a different zone on Sunday, shooting superb series in all three positions to emerge second best at the end of the qualification round with a score of 588.

Samra shot a total of 194 (99, 95) in kneeling position, a perfect 200 in prone (100, 100) and 194 in standing (97, 97), while Anjum slipped to 17th with a score of 583. The third Indian, Manini Kaushik, barley missed the eighth and last qualification spot on the count of 'inner 10s'.

Samra, 21, who had some of the best scores in the trials held in New Delhi ahead of the World Cup, had three awful 'standing' rounds in the ranking match, which allowed Zhang and Brabcova to race to the top.

I'll pick Shubman Gill ahead of myself: Shikhar Dhawan

New Delhi, Mar 26 (PTI):

India cricketer Shikhar Dhawan has said he would pick Shubman Gill over himself in the national side, given the young cricketer's form with the bat of late.

Gill has been in sublime form in all three formats this season, with the 23-year-old virtually securing his place in the side for the ODI World Cup in India later this year, even as Dhawan finds himself out of favour due to a dip in form.

The young cricketer's form has seen him score centuries in all three formats this year, including an ODI double ton against New Zealand and a century against Australia in the drawn fourth Test at Ahmedabad.

Dhawan, a veteran of 167 ODI, who would still be eyeing a place in the India side for the ODI World Cup



at home, said had he been the selector, he would pick Gill over himself based on current form.

"I feel the way Shubman is (playing). Like he was playing two formats and performing well in Tests and T20s. He was playing more matches in the international circuit and I wasn't... If I were the selector then definitely would have given the chance to Shubman. Would have selected Shubman over Shikhar," Dhawan told Aaj Tak.

Indian lifters bag two bronze on day 1

World Youth Championships

New Delhi, Mar 26 (PTI):

Indian weightlifters Dhanush Loganathan and Jyoshna Sabar won bronze medals in their respective categories on the opening day of the IWF World Youth Championships in Durrës, Albania. Competing in the women's 40kg event, 14-year-old Jyoshna had a combined lift of 115kg (53kg in snatch and 62kg in clean & jerk) as she came in third on Saturday night. Jyoshna won silver in the snatch section but was sixth in the clean and jerk category in the seven-lifter field. Dhanush, on the other hand, heaved a total weight of 200kg (88kg+112kg) to finish third behind Filipinos Prince K. Delos Santos and Eron Borres in the men's 49kg event. The 16-year-old won a silver medal in the snatch category. Lifters between the age of 13-17 are eligible for youth competitions.

I like Virat's passion and work ethic, batting with him was just fantastic: Gayle

New Delhi, Mar 26 (PTI):

Swashbuckling West Indian batter Chris Gayle praised Indian batting maestro Virat Kohli for his work ethic and passion, and recalled the intense competition between the two during their heyday at Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Both Gayle and Kohli spent several seasons together at the IPL, dominating the rival bowlers and entertaining the crowd at their home base, Chinnaswamy Stadium, with as many as 10 century partnerships.

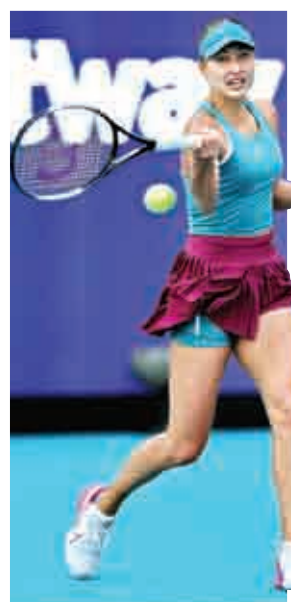
"Batting with Virat was just fantastic. I like the passion he has for the game. I like his passion and his work ethic, it's fantastic. You have to give him credit for that and he wants to show it with his performances," Gayle said. In an episode of 'My Time with Virat', available on Jio Cinema, Gayle spoke about sharing the dressing



room with Kohli, notching up numerous 100-run partnerships, and all the dance moves they perfected together. "Sharing a dressing room with Virat and the other guys, once I am there, I am always jovial and having a lot of fun, dancing and everything like that," said Gayle.

"I'd show them a few moves and realise Virat's got the skills. He can move, you know. But if it's an Indian dance, Chris Gayle will win. If it's a Caribbean dance, Chris Gayle will win!"

Potapova beats Coco Gauff at Miami Open



Miami Gardens, Mar 26 (AP):

Coco Gauff let a big lead slip away and wound up dropping the last five games of a mistake-filled 6-7 (8), 7-5, 6-2 loss to Anastasia Potapova in the third round of the Miami Open.

The No. 6-seeded Gauff, a 19-year-old from nearby in Florida, was critical of herself afterward, saying that her footwork wasn't great, that her mindset was off and that she played too defensively after serving for

the victory at 5-3 in the second set on Saturday. "That's kind of been where I've been messing up in all my matches this year. All the ones I've lost I think I lost because of that. I think it should be more used as a tool in a toolbox than as a weapon," Gauff said. "I think I have to change my mentality in the game about not relying on that too much because I think sometimes I play a little bit too passive because I know I can get to balls."

She heard chants of "Let's go, Coco!" from spectators at the hard-court tournament as she overcame a 5-2 deficit in the opening set, then erased a pair of set points for Potapova in that tiebreaker. Gauff grabbed the set on her second chance with a cross-court backhand winner. The 2022 French Open runner-up then seemed to be pulling away, going up a break in the second set at 5-3. But Gauff eased up and Potapova became more aggressive in their lengthy baseline back-and-forths, taking four games in a row on a sunny afternoon with the temperature above 80 degrees Fahrenheit (nearing 30 degrees Celsius).

Rishabh Pant must take his time to heal properly: Ganguly



New Delhi, Mar 26 (PTI):

Former BCCI president Sourav Ganguly says India's star wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant "must take his time to heal properly" from his injuries, before launching his bid for a comeback to competitive cricket.

Pant was involved in a road accident in the early hours of December 30 as he was driving from New Delhi to Roorkee. He is currently recovering after undergoing treatment for his injuries.

Former India captain Ganguly said that the Delhi Capitals franchise, of which Pant has been the skipper in last few seasons, will definitely miss the wicketkeeper-batter in the upcoming Indian Premier League. Ganguly is serving

as DC's director of cricket. "I am sure that the national team is missing him as well. He's young and he has got a lot of time left in his career. He's a special player and he must take his time to heal properly. We wish him all the best and I'll meet him as well," Ganguly said in a release issued by the IPL franchise.

Ganguly has been keenly observing all the players during the pre-season camp at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here in the lead-up to IPL 2023.

Speaking about the season, he said, "It's been great to work with the boys and I am looking forward to the season starting. Net practice is good, but we want to get into match mode. And (coach) Ricky (Ponting) has been fantastic. He brings a lot of intensity during training."

When asked about David Warner, the Delhi Capitals captain for this season, Ganguly said, "David Warner is looking forward to leading the side. He's always up for the challenge and he's a great player. He has got a lot of runs and experience under his belt."

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'Congress' Satyagraha brazen display of arrogance, insult to Mahatma'

New Delhi, Mar 26 (PTI):

The BJP on Sunday slammed the Congress over its 'Sankalp Satyagraha', alleging that it was agitating against the country's Constitution and the court verdict against Rahul Gandhi to justify his remarks against the entire backward community of the country.

Addressing a press conference, BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi also dubbed the Congress stir as an insult to Mahatma Gandhi, saying while the Father of the Nation had organised Satyagraha for social causes, the Congress was holding "so-called Satyagraha" for personal reasons.

The Congress agitation is a "brazen" display of its "arrogance and indis-

pline" after Gandhi's conviction in a defamation case in Gujarat and his automatic disqualification as a Lok Sabha MP as a result of the court's verdict, he charged. The agitation has nothing to do with fighting for truth, he added. The BJP leader said Gandhi was convicted by a court in Surat after the due legal process and his disqualification as a Lok Sabha MP was an automatic consequence under the relevant law. "Then, Satyagraha for what?" he asked.

"Is it to justify the way you insulted the entire backward community of the country, or against the



Sudhanshu Trivedi

court which sentenced you, or against the provision under which you have to be disqualified," he said, asking Congress to clarify.

Stating that some of the Congress leaders who were allegedly involved in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots were also participating in the party's agitation, the BJP leader asked the opposition party to clarify if their Satyagraha organised at Mahatma Gandhi's Samadhi Sthal in Rajghat was also against 'Ahimsa' (non-violence). He also hit out at the Congress over Rajya Sabha MP Pramod Tiwari's reported remark that the Gandhi family

should be treated differently by the law, and asked if the party considers itself "superior" to the judiciary. "They still want one set of laws for common people and another for their family... they will decide in what manner and on what basis the courts should pass their final verdict," the BJP spokesperson charged.

The Congress has alleged political vendetta and claimed that Gandhi has been targeted as he has raised the Adani issue. The BJP leader said all the allegations being levelled by the Congress and its leaders are "baseless". "Whatever you say or use abusive words against the BJP, we accept peacefully. We remained silent when you spewed venom against Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

BLOOMING MUSTARD FIELD



A girl walks through a blooming mustard field with willow basket on her head, on a sunny spring day in Pulwama district of South Kashmir, Sunday.

Historic bldgs disappearing in Patna

Patna, Mar 26 (PTI): The modern state of Bihar has just turned 111, but the 19th-century Bankipore Central Jail, Dutch-era Patna Collectorate and several other historic buildings which witnessed the creation of the new province in 1912 have disappeared from the capital city's skyline. The state government organised a three-day mega celebration from March 22-24 to mark Bihar Diwas at the historic Gandhi Maidan. Just a few metres away from the sprawling venue, construction work is underway in full swing to build a high-rise new collectorate complex at the site of the old collectorate on the banks of Ganga.

Plea in SC seeks 'Ram Sethu' be declared as national monument

New Delhi, Mar 26 (PTI):

A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking that the Ram Sethu be declared as a national monument. The PIL, filed by advocate Ashok Pandey, also seeks construction of a wall at the spot to facilitate devotees.

On March 20, the top court had said that it will list at the earliest a petition by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy seeking a direction to the Centre to declare the Ram Sethu as a national heritage monument.

Ram Sethu, also known as Adam's bridge, is a chain of limestone shoals between Pamban Island,



off the south-eastern coast of Tamil Nadu, and Mannar Island, off the north-western coast of Sri Lanka.

Swamy had raised the issue of declaring the Ram

Sethu a national monument in his PIL against the controversial Sethusamudram Ship Channel project, initiated by the UPA-I government. The matter reached the

apex court, which in 2007 stayed work for the project on the Ram Sethu.

The Centre later said it had considered the "socio-economic disadvantages" of the project and was willing to explore another route to the shipping channel project without damaging the Ram Sethu.

The Sethusamudram shipping channel project has been facing protests from some political parties, environmentalists and certain Hindu religious groups. Under the project, an 83 km water channel was to be created, linking Mannar with Palk Strait, by extensive dredging and removal of limestone shoals.

'Railways to operate Vande Bharat Metro train between Jammu and Srinagar'

Jammu, Mar 26 (PTI):

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Sunday said a Vande Bharat Metro train will be operated between Jammu and Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir once the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project (USBRL) becomes fully operational.

Addressing mediapersons at the first run of a track-mounted trolley on the world's highest arch bridge constructed on the Chenab river, he said the USBRL project will be completed by December this year or January 2024. Vaishnaw travelled on the track-mounted trolley with



Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw addresses during his visit to Chenab Bridge, in Reasi district, Sunday.

railway officials and inspected the iconic bridge having the height of 359 metres from the Chenab riverbed. Vaishnaw said it has been decided to set up a Vande Bharat Express train maintenance facility at Badgam in the Kashmir Valley and in the first go

Vande Bharat Metro will be run between Jammu and Srinagar cities once this important railway link, which will connect the Kashmir Valley with the rest of the country through rail network gets completed.

The iconic bridge having a foundation equal to half the football field is a "subject of pride" and it was "difficult challenge of engineering", he said, adding that more than 28,000 metric tonnes of steel was used for the bridge structure that is built in a highly active seismic zone. The Northern Railway officials said the arch bridge was constructed at a cost of Rs 1,486 crore.

FESTIVAL PREPARATION



People buy bananas for 'Chaiti Chhath' festival, at Bazar Samiti in Patna, Sunday.

'Preservation of Assam Type' houses, need of the hour

EXPERTS OPINE

Guwahati, Mar 26 (PTI):

Amid the concrete structures mushrooming all over this northeastern state, some areas are still dotted with historically and aesthetically beautiful buildings known as Assam 'Type' houses, which heritage lovers and experts assert require preservation and restoration.

Sloping roofs, louvres, gables, awnings, skylights, bay windows and a porch are some of the features that make them distinctive, along with their sustainability and resilience to withstand earthquakes,

experts point out.

"Architecturally, a typical Assam Type house has features which are aesthetically soothing and at the same time sturdy enough to withstand the vagaries of nature", former chief secretary of the state, Jishnu Barua, said.

This type of architecture is a style developed during the late 19th century and is primarily found in Assam and other Northeastern states along with Sylhet in Bangladesh, Barua, who has a keen interest in the heritage and preservation of these structures, said.

'Increasing road accidents matter of grave concern'



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla speaks to media during the 8th edition of Constitution Club of India car rally of parliamentarians 2023, in New Delhi, Sunday.

New Delhi, Mar 26 (PTI): Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla expressed "grave concern" on Sunday over a rising number of road accidents in the country and urged people to follow basic traffic rules. He said these incidents are also leading to an increasing number of fatalities. Birla pointed out that more than four lakh road accidents, with a cumulative death toll of over 1.5 lakh, are reported in the country every year. If the number of road accidents annually is assessed economically, the loss would be equal to about one per cent of the GDP, he said. "Therefore, road accidents are a loss to the family, society and the country," the Lok Sabha Secretariat quoted Birla as saying in a statement. The speaker made these remarks after flagging off a car rally at the Constitution Club here. Besides members of Parliament, officers from defence and central police forces, eminent personalities from industry and people from different walks of life participated in the car rally.

Assam CM inaugurates, lays foundation for Rs 545-cr projects

Rangia (Assam), Mar 26 (PTI):

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday inaugurated and laid the foundation for Rs 545 crore-worth projects related to connectivity, healthcare and higher education at Rangia in Kamrup district. Reiterating his government's commitment to develop world-class infrastructure in the state, he directed officials to ensure timely completion of all projects.

"As we observe 'A Day dedicated to Development', I inaugurated & laid the foundation for 23 projects worth Rs 545 cr at Rangia today," Sarma tweeted. "I have directed officials to ensure



Himanta Biswa Sarma

timely execution so these initiatives bear the fruits of development & prosperity for people of Assam," he added.

Sarma said he started the day's programme by inaugurating a four-lane link road that will connect Rangia to National Highway 31. He said the government is committed to invest over Rs

10,000 crore in the 2023-24 fiscal to create world-class infrastructure in Assam.

Inaugurating a 47-bed ICU at Rangiya Model Hospital, Sarma said, "Assam is witnessing a silent revolution in healthcare. We are determined to bring quality healthcare infrastructure closer to our towns and villages."

Underlining health education as "front wheels of Assam's developmental journey", he also inaugurated a post-graduation block at Rangiya College, thereby upgrading it to a PG institution. With this, fewer students will have to leave home for studies, the CM added.

Guwahati, Mar 26 (PTI):

For Moromi Talukdar or Bijoya Das, 'pithas' and 'larus' are not mere traditional Assamese sweets, these are also means of livelihood, especially in the urban landscape where avenues of earning are limited to definite skill sets.

They are among the scores of women in Assam's largest city Guwahati who have turned into small-scale entrepreneurs by making 'pithas' (rice pancakes), 'larus' (coconut/ sesame laddus) and other such delicacies and selling them to the general public.



"I had started my business in 2008. There is a demand for pithas and larus here as people in the city don't have the means to get the ingredients and also many lacked the time," Das said. After starting the venture from her own kitchen, Das said she now employs four women for making the or-

ders and two men to help in the packaging and delivery. Talukdar is part of a 10-member women's group which engages in various activities for income generation. "In villages, we can grow our own vegetables, help in farming, etc, and help save money. But in Guwahati,

as women, our means to contribute to the family income are limited. "In such a scenario, this business of selling pithas and larus has helped us earn money and help the family," she said.

Buyers are aplenty for these entrepreneurs as most city dwellers find it difficult to get the ingredients like rice flour, grated coconut or sesame seeds. "I know how to make pithas and larus, but getting the ingredients is a big headache. Also, with the daily schedule of looking after the household, time becomes a constraint," Mina Sharma, a Guwahati resident, said.

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