



BRIEF



An artist makes paintings depicting the Uttarakhand culture on the walls as part of preparation ahead of the G-20 meeting, in Ramnagar, Monday.

IED blast

Bijapur: An assistant platoon commander of Chhattisgarh Armed Force (CAF) was killed on Monday when an improvised explosive device (IED) planted by Naxalites went off in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, police said. The incident occurred at around 7:40 am between Etepal and Timenar villages under the Mirtur police station limits when teams of CAF were out on an area domination operation to ensure security for road construction work in the area, an official said.

Rhino carcass

Guwahati: The carcass of a one-horned rhinoceros, allegedly killed by poachers, was detected by the forest staff at Kaziranga National Park in Assam, a senior park official said on Monday. The park recorded zero rhino deaths due to poaching in 2022, the first time since 1977. Two rhinos each were killed in 2020 and 2021. The carcass of the animal, with its horn missing, was found in Bormer wetland by the staff of Kathpara camp, under the Western Range of Bagori, on Sunday.

BMO held

Tikamgarh: A block medical officer (BMO) was nabbed by the Madhya Pradesh Lokayukta police on Monday for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 25,000 to allow a sealed clinic to operate, an official said. The BMO had sealed the private clinic in Paterna in Mavai area here one-and-a-half month ago for allegedly violating norms and then sought Rs 25,000 from its owner to allow resumption of operations, Lokayukta senior inspector Manju Singh said. "She was held in a trap while accepting the bribe amount in her office. She has been charged under Prevention of Corruption Act. Further probe is underway," the official added.

Weather
High 34 Low 20

MARKET
NIFTY 16,985.70
SENSEX 57,653.86

BULLION
GOLD 58,680
SILVER 70,045

RAHUL TARGETS PM MODI

'Why no investigation into Adani issue, why so much of fear'

New Delhi, Mar 27 (PTI)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi why there was no investigation into the investment of people's retirement fund in the Adani group even after various allegations were levelled against the firm.

Taking to Twitter, Gandhi said, "LIC's capital, to Adani! SBI's capital, to Adani! EPFO's capital too, to Adani! Why is public's retirement money being invested in Adani's compa-



nies even after 'Modani' exposed?". "Mr prime minister, no investigation, no answer! Why so much of fear," he asked in a tweet in Hindi. A major political controversy erupted after Adani Group stocks took a beating on the bourses

Rahul asked to vacate official bungalow by April 22

New Delhi: Disqualified Lok Sabha member Rahul Gandhi has been asked to vacate the official bungalow allotted to him by April 22, official sources said on Monday. The notice to Gandhi to vacate the 12, Tughlaq Lane bungalow was served by the Housing Committee of the Lok Sabha and follows the disqualification notice issued last week. A senior official said a disqualified Lok Sabha member has to vacate the official bungalow within one month of losing his membership. Another official said that Gandhi can write to the Housing Committee seeking an extended stay, a request that can be considered by the panel.

after US-based short seller Hindenburg Research made a litany of allegations, including fraudulent transactions and share-price manipulation, last

month. The Gautam Adani-led group has dismissed the charges as lies, saying it complies with all laws and disclosure requirements.

Tiger attacks three men in forest

Two die on way to hospitals, one injured

Surajpur, Mar 27 (PTI)

A tiger attacked three men in a forest in Chhattisgarh's Surajpur district on Monday, resulting in the death of two of them on way to hospitals, a senior official said.

The incident occurred in the morning near Kalamanjhan village when the victims had gone to collect wood in the forest, Surajpur Collector Effat

Ara told PTI. The deceased were identified as Kailash Singh and Samay Lal and the injured as Rai Singh.

"A tiger attacked the three men when they were busy collecting wood, leaving them injured. While one of them died while being taken to a nearby community health centre, another succumbed to injuries on way to Medical College Hospital, Ambikapur, in neighbouring Surguja district," the collector said. The condition of another injured was said to be stable, she added.

TMC MPs attend Congress-led opposition meeting, protest on Adani issue

New Delhi, Mar 27 (PTI):

In a rare display of unity, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) on Monday attended a Congress-led opposition strategy meeting and was also part of the protest against the Adani issue and Rahul Gandhi's disqualification as Lok Sabha MP.

But instead of TMC's floor leaders, its two MPs were in attendance at both the events. In a meeting called by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge



Placards used during a protest by Opposition MPs over the Adani Group issue at Parliament House complex during Budget Session, in New Delhi, Monday.

on Monday evening of floor leaders of like mind-

Bilkis case: SC asks Gujarat govt to 'be ready' with all files

New Delhi, Mar 27 (PTI)

The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from the Centre, Gujarat government and others on a plea filed by Bilkis Bano, who was gang-raped and seven members of her family were killed during the 2002 post-Godhra riots.

Bano has challenged remission of sentence of 11 convicts in the case.

While posting the matter for hearing on April 18, a bench of Justices K M Joseph and B V Nagarathna said there is a gamut of issues involved and it needs to hear the matter in detail.

The top court issued a notice to the Centre, the Gujarat government and the



convicts. It also directed the Gujarat government to be ready with the relevant files granting remission to the parties on the next date of the hearing. During the hearing, the bench observed that it would not be overwhelmed by emotions in the case and would only go by the law. On January 4, a bench comprising Justices Ajay Rastogi and Bela M Trivedi took up the petition filed by Bano

and other pleas. However, Justice Trivedi recused from hearing the case without citing any reason.

Bano had moved the apex court on November 30 last year challenging the "pre-mature" release of 11 lifers by the state government, saying it has "shaken the conscience of society".

Besides the plea challenging the release of the convicts, the gang-rape survivor had also filed a separate petition seeking a review of the apex court's May 13, 2022, order on a plea by a convict. The review plea was later dismissed in December last year. All 11 convicts were granted remission by the Gujarat government and released on August 15 last year.

Parliament completes Budgetary exercise amid ruckus

New Delhi, Mar 27 (PTI):



Parliament on Monday approved the Union Budget for 2023-24 with the Lok Sabha clearing the Finance Bill as amended by the Rajya Sabha, amid continuous uproar by the Opposition over the Adani issue. The amendment to the Finance Bill 2023, which sought to correct an error with regard to the tax rate on Securities Transaction Tax (STT), was moved by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The passage of the Finance Bill completes the budgetary exercise for 2023-24.

Police cavalcade with gangster-politician Atiq Ahmed reaches Naini Jail

Prayagraj (UP), Mar 27 (PTI):

Gangster-politician Atiq Ahmed was brought to the Naini Central Jail in Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh Monday evening amid tight security arrangements.

The police cavalcade bringing him from a prison in Gujarat reached the Naini Jail at 5.30 pm.

A large posse of police personnel was posted at the main entrance of the Naini Central Jail and the entry of outsiders into the jail premises was stopped. A battery of journalists thronged the area to cover the event.

Ahmed will be produced before a court on Tuesday, when it is likely to pass an order in a 17-year-old kidnap-



Police personnel stand guard outside Naini Central jail as mafia Atiq Ahmed is being shifted from Sabarmati Central Jail, in Prayagraj, Monday.

ping case in which the former MP is an accused. He has been brought to Prayagraj in compliance with the court's orders, Police Commissioner Ramit Sharma said.

Ahmed, a former Samajwadi Party MP from Phulpur, was shifted to the

Sabarmati Central Jail in Gujarat in June 2019 following a Supreme Court order after he was accused of orchestrating the kidnapping and assault of real estate businessman Mohit Jaiswal while in prison in Uttar Pradesh.

New NCERT textbooks revised as per NEP likely from 2024-25

New Delhi, Mar 27 (PTI)

New NCERT textbooks revised in accordance with the new National Education Policy (NEP) are likely to be introduced in schools from 2024-25 academic session, Education Ministry officials said on Monday.

The textbooks will be developed as per the National Curriculum Framework (NCF). "The new textbooks are likely

to be introduced from 2024-25 academic session. It is a tall task but we are aiming for that. The textbooks will be revised as per the new NCF, work on which is already going on," a senior MoE official said. "Since COVID-19 has taught us that there is an appetite for digital learning, all the new textbooks will simultaneously be made available digitally so anybody can download them," he added.

SC dismisses plea seeking uniform minimum age of marriage for men and women

New Delhi, Mar 27 (PTI)

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea seeking a uniform minimum age of 21 years for marriage for both men and women, saying that it will amount to directing Parliament to make a law to fix the age. A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala said the matter fell under the domain of the legislature and it will not be dealing with the issue. The top court referred to its February 20 order by which it had dismissed another PIL filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay seeking equality in the legal age of marriage for men and women. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said, "This will be akin to legislating.... This is in the domain of the legislature. The striking down of a provision would result in a situation where there will be no minimum age for marriage for women."

TOURIST BEACH



Crowd at Digha beach, in East Midnapore district, Monday.

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101 missing mobiles recovered; handed over to owners

Bhilai, Mar 27:

Anti Crime and Cyber Unit (ACCU) of Durg Police traced and recovered 101 missing mobile phones worth Rs 12.50 lakh. The recovered mobile phones were handed over to the concerned owners. On the instructions of the Inspector General of Police, the ACCU is making sustained efforts to trace and recover the missing mobile phones.

Various police stations of the district are receiving complaints about the missing mobile phones. Considering the situation, Inspector General of Police (Durg Range) Anand Chhabra had instructed Superintendent of Police, Dr Abhishek



Pallava to recover the missing mobiles and hand over the same to the applicants. Under the supervision of Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Sanjay Dhruv, Additional Superintendent of Police

(Rural) Anant Sahu, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Cyber) Prabhakar Kumar and Deputy Superintendent of Police (Crime) Rajiv Sharma, the Anti Crime and Cyber Unit Durg led by Inspector Santosh Mishra was de-

ployed for tracing the missing mobiles. According to the instructions of senior officials, ACCU conducted a campaign to trace the missing mobiles of 2022-2023. The Anti Crime and Cyber Unit team recovered al-

most 101 mobiles which were being used in Durg, Bhilai, Rajnandgaon, Balod, Bemetara and Raipur. Mobiles of various companies worth Rs 12.50 lakh were recovered. The recovered mobile phones were duly distributed to the applicants concerned. The Anti Crime and Cyber Unit team played a remarkable role in recovery of mobiles. On the instructions of Superintendent of Police, the list of IMEI numbers of the recovered mobiles will be uploaded on the social account of the Durg Police (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter), so that the concerned mobile owner can collect their mobile phones from Anti Crime and Cyber Unit Office, Sector 3.

Contractual Workers felicitated with safety award



Bhilai, Mar 27:

As many as 10 contractual workers in SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Utilities Organisation were awarded in different categories for better performance in the crucial area of safety. The Contractual Workers Safety Award function was organised by the Utilities Organisation in the office

of CGM (Utilities) on March 27.

Contractual workers in ACWE, Acetylene Plant, PLEM, CAS & CWP and OP-2 workers were awarded by CGM (Utilities) AK Joshi. All the Direct Reporting Officers and Departmental Safety Officers of different sections in the Utilities Organisation were present on the occasion. Dr AR

Sontake, General Manager of Safety Engg Dept (SED) was present as special guest.

Two Suraksha Sarvottam Awards, two Suraksha Anmol Awards and six Suraksha Daksh Awards were given away to contractual workers. The program was conducted by award committee convener and DSO of ACWE, SP Nigam.

Administration takes action against illegal plotting



Bhilai, Mar 27: On the instructions of Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena, the officials are continuously monitoring and taking action in cases of illegal plotting and revenue matters. In this sequel, SDM Laxman Tiwari and the team took action on a complaint of illegal plotting by Jevra resident Ramavtar Sahu and five others. Prompt ac-

tion was taken by the SDM over this issue.

During the investigation of the complaint, it was found that the land located in the village Jevra, Patwari Halka Number 07, Tehsil and District Durg is registered in the name of Ramavtar son of Jagannath and other five people. 0.53 hectare land of Khasra number 156 is recorded in the name of

Mohan son of Chandrika and two others while 0.41 hectare of land Khasra number 151/1 is registered to the name of Shriram son of Govardhan.

In both these plots, illegal plotting was being conducted by Mahavir developers. Taking action against Yogesh Pandey, the director of Mahavir developers, SDM Durg gave instructions to register an FIR and take action as per the rules.

Tiwari said that there have been many such complaints. After investigating the complaints, it is clear that Yogesh Pandey is misleading the farmers and doing illegal plotting. Similarly, complaints of illegal plotting have also been received against Dalveer Singh (SSV Group) and Man Singh Chaudhary, Shamsher Khan, Rahim Khan and strict action will be taken against them after finding merits in the complaints.

Shaheed Rajiv Pandey State Sports Award recipient Divyang athlete seeks job

Bhilai, Mar 27:

Divyang Athlete Sangeeta Maseeh is a recipient of Shaheed Rajiv Pandey State Sports Award for excellent performance in the National Para Athletics Sports. Despite the odd circumstances of her disability, Divyang Sangeeta, who made this achievement, submitted an application at the Collector Jandarshan, stating that her economic situation is bad. She has the responsibility of the entire family. She requested to provide some job in any government department. The Collector instructed the Sports Department to take appropriate action on her application.

The farmers of village Dhanaud said that land is being acquired for National Highway No 53 being constructed under Bharatmala project. They requested to provide ap-



propriate compensation against the acquired agricultural lands. The Collector directed SDO Durg to take action.

The ward residents of Borsi Bantha complained that the plot number 194/2 is the government land, but it is registered in the name of another person.

On this, the Tehsildar Durg was instructed to investigate. Similarly, Kumar Deshmukh, resident of village Samoda, complained about the sale of 0.65 hectares of land which was the government grassland recorded in Khasra number 323. The Collector

instructed the concerned officials to take necessary action. Dayaram, a resident of village Savani, said that Khasra number 2121 and 1101 in Patwari Halka Number 19 are his agricultural land. In the land book, this land has been recorded to the name of his uncle, due to which

he has been deprived of the land. The Collector assured to get it corrected in the land book.

The office bearers of Pragati Sports Club, Bhilai, complained about illegal construction work. They stated that a sports complex has been constructed for the youth. Along with this, the land is also used for public and religious programs. Some anti-social elements are trying to set up a temple by constructing platforms in the ground. The Collector gave instructions to the Municipal Corporation Bhilai to take action.

Santoshi Para Camp-2 residents raised a demand for tap connection and toilet maintenance work at the Sub Health Centre. He informed that the people working in the hospital and the general public and the patient are facing problems. The Collector directed the CMHO to take action.

Mayor & Commissioner inspect ongoing development works in various places

Bhilai, Mar 27:

Various development works are going on in different areas under the jurisdiction of Bhilai Municipal Corporation area. Under this the Arjun Rath complex of Civic Center is going to be renovated in grand form very soon, its work is almost at the final stage. Mayor Neeraj Pal and Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas inspected various places regarding development works and gave necessary instructions to the officers on the spot and asked them to pay special attention to the quality of work the other day. There will be

drain construction in Arjun Rath complex, boundary wall for security cordon, development and beautification of Arjun Rath, construction of pathway for walking inside the campus and attractive gardening, grand entrance as well as better lighting.

MLA Devendra Yadav has also inspected it several times regarding its beautification. Now this work is in final stage and it will attract people coming here.

The site of seven wonders near Supela Square is also being beautified, which include attractive lighting and landscaping. Keeping all aspects in mind, work is being



done on this. Construction of Swami Atmanand English

Medium School near Shri Ram Chowk is also on the verge of comple-

tion. This school is ready with two storey building. 11 classrooms have been built here for the study of children including library, various laboratories, principal's room, staff room.

It would help children get a chance to study in a good environment. Vending zone is being constructed in Vaishali Nagar zone area, with a different concept, a better platform will be available to organize carts and kiosks here. Vending zone with attractive wall painting and paver blocks, lighting and landscaping is being prepared at Vaishali Nagar. Swami Atmanand School in

Farid Nagar will be ready soon, along with it community building and hostel are also being constructed here. Renovation work has been done at Swami Atmanand School in Khamaria where school students are able to study well in English medium school. Additional Commissioner Ashok Dwivedi, Superintending Engineer Deepak Joshi, Zone Commissioner Rajendra Nayak, Yesha Lahere, Pooja Pillay, Executive Engineer Sanjay Sharma, Sanjay Bagde and Kuldeep Sharma etc were present during the inspection.

BSP's safety department lauded in 13th NSC National Convention

Bhilai, Mar 27: National Safety Council (NSC), Mumbai, organised the 13th National Convention on Safety, Health & Environment in Goa recently. The national convention is organized annually for the overall promotion of Safety, Health and Environment in the Indian industry. More than 600 delegates from various industries of the country participated in this two-day event of paramount importance.

Taking part in the seminar on Safety, GP Singh, CGM (Safety & Fire Services), SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, delivered a motivational and informative presentation on Safety Management. During the presentation, he discussed various applications of digital technology in the safety management system of Bhilai Steel Plant



and its successful results. The paper presented by GP Singh was highly appreciated in the conference. Along with this, the representatives also applauded the innovative efforts being made by SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant in the context of enhancing safety measures. It is also noteworthy that the research paper has been authored by GP Singh, CGM (Safety & Fire Services), and SP Rajkumar Senior Manager, INCOS.

Khapri reservoir to be named after late Vasudev Chandrakar

Bhilai, Mar 27:

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel attended the convention of Chandranu Kurmi Kshatriya Samaj in Anda on Sunday. While addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced to name the Khapri reservoir after Late Dau Vasudev Chandrakar. On this occasion, he announced to provide Rs One Crore for community building after the allocation of land for Chandrakar Samaj. He also announced the opening of Swami Atmanand English Medium School in village Anda. Along with this, Rs 25 lakh was announced for renovation of Hanuman Temple at vil-



lage Khamraud in Balod district. The Chief Minister said that the late Dau Vasudev Chandrakar always raised the demands of the farmers before the government and demand-

ed to release water when needed from the Khapri reservoir. The Khapri reservoir will now be named after the late Dau Vasudev Chandrakar, he said.

SPs & SMS-3 surpass annual production records

Bhilai, Mar 27:

With only a few days to go before the end of financial year 2022-23, individual shops are putting in their best and in the process making records. On 27th March 23, the Plant's Universal Rail Mill and Wire Rod Mill set new records in daily production while the Plant's sinter plants and steel melting shop 3 (SMS 3) surpassed their best ever annual production. Till 26th March 23, the Plant's Sinter Plant 2 and 3 together recorded cumulative sinter production of 7.908 Million Tonnes of sinter in current financial year (FY), surpassing best ever financial year record of 7.894 Million Tonnes

recorded in previous FY 2021-22. It is worth mentioning that Sinter Plant 3 had already surpassed its best ever financial year record of 52,65,400 Tonnes on 22nd March 23 itself.

The Plant's SMS-3, a Modex unit, too has surpassed its best ever financial year crude steel production of 2.72 MT (million tonnes) recorded in previous FY 2021-22 by recording cumulative crude steel production of 3.009 million tonnes in current FY on 27th March 23 itself.

Universal Rail Mill that rolls out the world's longest 130 metre rails set a new record in daily production by rolling 406 numbers of blooms on 27th March 23, surpass-



ing previous best of 405 blooms rolled on 4th March 23. The Plant's Wire Rod Mill too has set a new day record with production of 1601 T in profile plain 6/6/5.5, surpassing previ-

ous best of 1573 T in same profile on 27th Sept 2021. A day earlier, on 24th March 23, WRM had recorded a new shift record by rolling 600 billets to produce 573 tonnes of profile plain 6/6/6, sur-

passing previous best shift record of 560 billets rolled and 535 Tonnes of same profile produced on 8th January 2023

On 25th March 23, Bar & Rod Mill had set a new day record by rolling 1801 billets to produce 3750 Tonnes of TMT 20 mm bars, surpassing previous best of 1773 billets rolled and 3692 Tonnes of same profile produced on 2nd Feb 2023.

Director in-charge, Bhilai Steel Plant Anirban Dasgupta, Executive Director (Works), Anjani Kumar and senior officers of the Plant have congratulated the teams of Sinter Plants, SMS 3, URM, WRM, BRM and all their associated departments for record performances.

State level workshop on tobacco control organized

Information given on COTPA 2003, COTPA Chhattisgarh (Amendment) Act 2021 and PECA-2019



Raipur, Mar 27: State level workshop was organized today by the Department of Health and Family Welfare with the objective of effective implementation of tobacco control policies and programs in Chhattisgarh. State level and district level nodal officers of Health Department, Excise Department, Police Department, Higher Education and School Education Department were trained in a one-day workshop organized at Naveen Vishram Bhawan, Civil Lines, capital Raipur.

Detailed discussions were under joint aegis of State Tobacco Control Unit Chhattisgarh and Bloomberg Project Chhattisgarh, to implement policies and programs related to tobacco control more effectively in future. Officials related to tobacco control were informed about the provisions of COTPA Act 2003 and COTPA Chhattisgarh (Amendment) Act 2021 and E-Cigarette Ban Act 2019. Instructions were given to take action according to the provisions of the Act.

State Nodal Officer of National Tobacco Control Program Dr. Kamlesh Jain said that tobacco de-addiction centers are operated in all district hospitals to get rid of tobacco addiction. Despite this, school children in the state have come under the influence of tobacco and e-cigarettes, he said. According to him total 39.10 percent

population of the state uses tobacco. To curb this effectively, all the educational institutions of the state have to be made tobacco free, he emphasised. He informed that the guidelines for tobacco-free educational institutions have to be compulsorily implemented in all educational institutions.

Dr. Amit Yadav, Senior Technical Advisor of 'The Union', gave detailed information on the implementation of the Bloomberg initiative project in Chhattisgarh, action on violation of tobacco advertisement and pictorial health warnings and the challenges faced in it. He

informed that the Tobacco Monitor app is being operated in the state through The Union and Pahal Foundation. Ashish Singh, technical advisor of Pahal Foundation, gave technical information about the Tobacco Monitoring App.

Supreme Court Advocate Ranjit Singh and Program Manager of Voluntary Health Association of India Binoy Mathew gave information on the implementation of E-Cigarette Ban Act (PECA) 2019 and Hookah Bar Ban (Chhattisgarh Amendment) COTPA Act-2021. According to Singh the use of e-cigarettes is increasing rapidly, due to its odorless nature it is not easily recognized and its most affected group is the adolescent group. People do not realize that they are taking nicotine, it is currently banned in 18 states. NTCP State Legal Advisor Khyati Jain gave detailed information on implementation and challenges of smoke free and tobacco free institute under COTPA.

WATER SUPPLY



With repair work of the main rising line starting here in the morning, water supply to many localities was done through water tankers here on Monday evening.

Increase quantity of cow dung in 'Gauthans': Collector

Raipur, Mar 27: Collector Dr Sarveshwar Bhure reviewed the work being done in the district under the government's ambitious scheme 'Narva, Garuva, Ghurva and Bari' in the collectorate hall today. Cowdung procurement in the district under Godhan Nyay Yojana and sale of vermi compost were reviewed in the meeting.

The Collector said that regular procurement of cowdung should be ensured in all Gauthans (cowshelters) of the district and there should be no unnecessary delay in its payment. Similarly, instructions were given to start the process of making vermicompost as soon as possible after cowdung procurement. The Collector instructed for procurement

adequate quantity of cowdung. The work of lifting vermicompost should also be completed on time, he said. Instructions were also given to form committees in all Gauthans as soon as possible. He instructed the Animal Husbandry Department to make arrangements for fodder seeds in the pastures of all Gauthans before the rains. The

Collector directed the PHE to compulsorily make arrangements for water in all the Gauthans of the district. If there is a problem of water even after tubewells, alternative arrangements should be made for it, he said. Directing the officers of the Horticulture Department, he said that regular inspection-testing of the enclosures should be done.

Grant of over Rs 7.5 cr to 24 industrial units

Collector chairs district level CIGCapital investment grant committee meeting



Raipur, Mar 27: A government grant of more than Rs 7 crore 57 lakh has been approved for 24 industrial units in the district level meeting of the Capital Investment Grant Committee held today under the chairmanship of Collector Dr Sarveshwar Bhure. Discussions were held for grant approval to a total of 29 industrial units. Of them the cases of 5 units were canceled due to late submission of applications.

In all the 24 approved cases, the Collector instructed to the officials to

pay the grant amount only after completion of physical verification according to criteria and eligibility, valid consent of Environment Department, valid factory license, GST, registration and other necessary documents. It was also agreed to keep two cases related to district-level entry tax exemption pending due to VAT tax being reported by the GST officials.

The collector instructed officials to cross-check the availability of valid environmental consent

Tuberculosis awareness created



Through signature campaign in Swasthya Bhavan

Raipur, Mar 27: On the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day, several activities are being conducted across the state to make people aware about TB disease. Several campaigns are being run by the health department and the associate organi-

zations of the TB eradication programme. To this end, the Director of Health Services Bhim Singh inaugurated the signature campaign at Swasthya Bhawan, Nava Raipur today. He signed the board by taking an oath to end TB disease and make Chhattisgarh TB free. He appealed to all to unite and join the fight against this global disease and cooperate in its eradication.

Upadhyay visits houses, temples

In ward No. 40 and 41



Raipur, Mar 27: Parliamentary Secretary and MLA Vikas Upadhyay on occasion of 'Chaitra Navratri' reached to the houses and temples in his Raipur (W) Vidhan Sabha area and sought blessings of the Goddess. He started his visit to temples and houses in Thakur Pyarelal ward No. 40 and Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay ward no. 41 and paid obeisance to 'jawara-joyt' lighted in the temples and houses. He also offered 'srfial' and sought blessings for peace and prosperity for all.

MLA Vikas Upadhyay visited 'Shatakshi Mandir', 'Bamleshwari Mandir', Sheetala Mandir, Santoshi Mandir, Durga

Mandir, Bilai Mata Mandir, Kali Mata Mandir in Thakur Pyarelal ward No. 40 and visited the house of Bhim Yadav, Akhilesh Yadav, Bhagela Patel and Neeraj Yadav and gave 'darshan' to 'jyot-jawara' in their houses. He also took part in the 'jas-

geet', 'sewa bhajan mein jhanjh' and by playing 'Manjira' and singing 'Sewa Geet'.

Tomorrow he will be visiting the temples and houses under Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel ward nno. 24; Ramdas ward No. 25.

One nabbed in four vehicles theft case

Using master key



Raipur, Mar 27: It was in theft case of theft of a two-wheeler from Basant Vihar in Gondvara of Khamtarai and three Tata-S four-wheelers that the accused Sahil alias Mohit Ghurav R/o Gudhiyari was nabbed and on serious interrogation he accepted the crime saying that he used to use a master key to steal these vehicles. It was based upon the report filed by the four complainant, including owner of a two-wheeler three Tata-S four-wheeler from Laxmi Vihar Gondwara, Khamtarai; Tata-S Food vehicle from near Sheetala Talab- Gudhiyari and Tata-S vehi-

cle from Bajrang Nagar Srerora Thana, that the senior police officer formed a combined team comprising anti-crime and Cyber Unit and Khamtarai police. The team inquired about suspicious activities from persons near the theft sites and checked CCTV footages and collected informa-

Online application for unemployment allowance from Apr 1

Raipur, Mar 27: According to the instructions of the government, the unemployed in the district will be able to apply online for unemployment allowance from April 1. Collector Dr Bhure has instructed all the CEOs of the district to make adequate arrangements for testing the online applications received for unemployment allowance. Similarly the work of economic census in rural areas will also begin on April 1.

In Mega Blood Donation Camp organised by Red Cross

NIT students donated blood



Raipur, Mar 27: 341 units of blood were collected in the mega blood donation camp organised by the Chhattisgarh branch of the Indian Red Cross Society and 'Sahyog' group at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) in Raipur. In the camp, the students of NIT voluntari-

ly donated blood with enthusiasm. Mr. Ashok Agarwal, President of Indian Red Cross Society, Chhattisgarh branch, thanked the organizers and NIT for the success of this mega camp. Congratulating the family, underlined the importance

of blood donation. He said that the students have set an exemplary example for the society by donating 341 units of blood while actively participating in the camp. Agarwal also met the students donating blood. Dr. Satyanarayan Pandey, in-charge of the

341 units of blood collected

blood bank in the Indian Red Cross Society, Chhattisgarh branch, NIT made the students aware on organ donation. Red Cross Blood Bank, State Consultant, Mr. Sudeep Srivastava described the youth as complementary to Red Cross and appealed to them to cooperate in such events even further. In the camp, General Secretary of Indian Red Cross Society, Chhattisgarh branch, Dr. Roopal Purohit, N.I.T. Prof. Ravikrishna Rao Jade and many members of 'Sahyog' group including Dr. Jageshwar Verma also participated.

OBITUARY

Meena Thakur

Raipur: Meena Thakur, R/o Mathpara, Adarsh Nagar, breathed her last here on Monday. She was 70. The final rites were performed at Marwari crematorium. She was mother of Rajesh, Bhawana, Sheela, Preeti and Shradha Thakur and elder sister of Yugal Kishore Thakur, manager in an evening Hindi daily.

Jugal Kishore Sharma

Raipur: Jugal Kishore Sharma, breathed his last here on Sunday. He was 60. The final rites were performed at Mahadev Ghat crematorium. He was son of NP Sharma and brother of Sanjay and Dinesh and father of Sneha, Jyoti Sharma.

Recognised Skin Bank at Kalda Burn & Plastic Cosmetic Surgery Center

Raipur, Mar 27: Kalda Burn and Plastic Cosmetic Surgery Center (accredited by NABH, Chhattisgarh Government and Chhattisgarh Electricity Board) located at Pachpedi Naka, next to Colors Mall, has been given the recognition of Skin Bank for 5 years by the Government of India and the Government of Chhattisgarh. Giving this information Dr. Sunil Kalda, Director of Kalda Hospital and renowned cosmetic and reconstructive surgeon of Raipur, said that we also have exclusive Skin Bank which is available in very few places all over India. In Skin Bank after death, the patient's skin is taken out safely within 6 hours. And it is stored for 5 years and kept in a secure skin bank. In case of serious and burnt patients, the skin can be attached to the patient's body if required. Anyone living or dead can donate their skin as



per their wish in the skin bank. Skin bank will prove to be a boon for patients, as more than 45 percent of burn patients require skin. Just like the temperature is fixed for keeping the blood in the blood bank, similarly the temperature is fixed for this skin bank. Two to four degree temperature is suitable for this. Skin bank will provide life to severe burn patients. Only after the consent of the patient or his

relatives, the top layer of the skin of the patient's leg or back is removed by electrical dermatome, and proper bandage is done on the removed place. The extracted skin is taken in 50 percent glycerol and stored in the incubator in the skin bank, and after receiving the reports of some necessary tests, small holes are made on the skin by the skin mansher in the biosafety cabinet, so that the glycerol and antibiotic solution go inside it and there is no infection in the skin, after this process the proper label with the name registration number is stored with 85 percent glycerol in the freezer.

This skin can be kept at 4 degree centigrade for about 5 years. In the past also 50-60 percent Burn patients have been saved with the help of skin bank in our hospital, he said.

Raipur, Mar 27: Second one day state level workshop on review and implementation of POC SO Act Juvenile Justice Act and allied issues was organised on March 26th 2023 in the auditorium of Hotel Marriott, Raipur Chhattisgarh in collaboration with UNICEF and commission for protection of child right with major stakeholders of POC SO act namely department of police, Department of women and child welfare and Finance department.

The workshop was inaugurated by the illustrious hands of Justice Gautam Bhaduri, Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Chhattisgarh and Executive Chairman Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority, Justice P. Sam Koshy and Justice Deepak Kumar Tiwari by lightening of lamp.

In his address Justice Gautam Bhaduri said all the stakeholders



involved in sphere of child safety are doing pious jobs and in doing so the different organisation and stakeholders must join hands in cooperation. All the stakeholders namely Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority, UNICEF, Commission for protection of Child Right, Department of Police and Department for Women and Child Welfare are working toward a common goal of child safety. Each department becomes more effective and driven when departments work

well together. But if there is trouble brewing in this area, implementing a successful strategy becomes almost impossible.

In his address Justice P Sam Koshy congratulated State Legal Services of Authority on undertaking outstanding work under the leadership and guidance of Justice Gautam Bhaduri. He further envisaged that there are many roads for one destination likewise there are many departments namely state legal services authority department of

women child welfare, UNICEF and Commission for protection of child right are working towards one common goal of overall welfare and protection of children.

Justice Deepak Kumar Tiwari in his address emphasized about the background of two most important legislations enacted for betterment and strengthening child safety namely Juvenile Justice Act and POC SO Act in light of United Nation convention on child right, to which India became signatory on December 11, 1992.

Vote of thanks was given by Mr Anand Prakash Wariyal, Member Secretary, Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority. The program was attended by respected District Judges, officers of State Legal Services Authority, Police Department, Commission for protection of child right and UNICEF.

NCW Chairperson urges women to snatch their due rights

Compliments HNU for a bold initiative of the seminar

National seminar on 'Rights of Women to Sexual Health and Choices: A Jurisprudential Conundrum' held at HNU



Rights of Women; Child Marriage; Marital Rape; Rights of LGBT Community; and Assisted Reproductive Technology etc.

Dr. Parvesh Kumar Rajput, Assistant Professor, HNU and Organising Secretary of the Seminar conceptualized and organized the conference which is funded by National Commission for Women, Delhi, along with Dr. Kaumudhi Challa, Head of the Legal Aid Cell, Dr. Archana Gharote, Dr. Eritriya Roy, Surya Narayana Raju, and dedicated student volunteers.

The valedictory function had Prof. (Dr.) Baldev Bhai Sharma, Vice Chancellor, Kushabhau Thakre Journalism and Mass Communication University, Raipur as the Chief Guest who highlighted the importance of family and cultural values in protection of women rights. S.C Dwivedi, IG, CID, Chhattisgarh Police, the Guest of Honour gave practical examples to highlight the significance of creating awareness on women's rights through such Seminars.

She in a freewheeling address questioned the disparity for women on marriage age advocating that to be on par with men. She lamented that on one hand women are placed in the pedestal as 'Devi' but on the other hand the basic rights are denied. She urged the law students to visit the villages to disseminate and sensitize about the rights as the issue is not that of the legal rights but their acceptance and understanding by the under-privileged as the main issue. The Chairperson of National Commission for Women, stated that it is time women snatch their due rights than waiting it to be doled out.

Prof. Dr. V.C. Vivekanandan, Vice Chancellor of HNU in

his opening remarks highlighted the various provisions and directives of the OHRC of UN relating to the issues of sexual health and choices of women and the obligations of the State to implement them. Dr. Nitin Nagarkar, Director of AIIMS was the Guest of Honour for inaugural ceremony and highlighted the special needs of women and the choices which will enhance the quality of their life. He invited HNU to collaborate with AIIMS for advocacy on health laws.

The conference had an overwhelming response of 250 research papers from which 76 research papers were selected for the deliberations on a range of topics such as maternal and reproductive health; rights of unborn; Privacy

Congmen raise slogans, stage 'Satyagrah'

Against Rahul's disqualification

Bijapur, Mar 27: As per instructions by General Secretary of AICC and PCC state in-charge Kumari Selja, PCC State President Mohan Markam along with party workers and leaders staged 'satyagrah' at district headquarters Bijapur, against the dictatorial Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Modi government's wrong policy and intention to destroy the world's largest democracy. It started from 10 am and in this Congress workers started Sankalp Satyagraha by garlanding the statue of Father of the Nation. Congress Party leader and Bijapur MLA Vikram Mandavi, DCC Bijapur President Lalu Rathore and other Congressmen said in one voice that the punishment and disqualification of Rahul Gandhi from the Parliament is a strong indication that the



world's most biggest democracy is in grave danger. Rahul Gandhi is constantly questioning and exposing Modi and Adani's relationship at various forums, they alleged.

Congmen charged that trembling at his fearless and unstoppable fight against the misuse of power by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to help his dear friend Adani and fearing of exposing his

collusion in the Parliament, the entire Modi government is trying to silence his voice. We strongly condemn this misconception and ineptitude and stand with Rahul in this noble fight. Rahul Gandhi is not alone in this fight for truth and justice, millions of Congressmen and crores of people want whatever political affiliation they belong to are with him.

MLA Vikram Mandavi

asked the BJP and the Modi government, 'where did the Rs 20,000 cr in Adani's shell companies come from? Ande Lalu Rathore on the other questioned 'why is Modi government running away from JPC investigation and why is BJP defending Adani when Modi government is questioned on Adani'? In this Sankalp Satyagraha, a large number of Congress workers were present.

Budget for all-round development of Sukma municipality

And trust of general public

Konta/Sukma, Mar 27: 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, mut-

ton 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

Municipality President Raju Sahu said that State Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Minister Kawasi Lakhma have given approval of funds worth crores for development works in the municipality area. Along with the development in the municipality area, work is being done under the action plan regarding the development and beautification of the urban area. Sahu further said that taking the development of Sukma municipality as a challenge, we have continuously worked for the residents of the city and their prosperous life, and in the future, we will continue to fulfill the dreams of the people with full force and for the all-round development of Sukma municipality.

GEMS declared final academic results

Raipur, Mar 27: The third and final phase of home examination results of Shri Gujrati English Medium School were declared at Gyanoday Bhavan on Monday. The results of Class III, IV, V, VI and VII were declared in front of a packed auditorium of anxious parents and in presence of Shri Gujrati Shikshan Sangh committee members. The notable among those present were Narayan Bhai Patel, secretary duo Tulsi Bhai Patel and Ashok Bhai Patel, treasurer Jayant Bhai Taunk, Administrator V K Mishra and school principal Dr Shailesh Sharma. At the onset guests lit the ceremonial lamp to mark the beginning of programme. Thereafter Principal Dr Shailesh



Sharma welcomed all the parents and asked them to ensure that their child follows school code of conduct. Treasurer Jayant Bhai Taunk, secretary Ashok Bhai Patel and president Narayan Bhai Patel also spoke on the occasion. Of the results which were declared, Cheryl Motipara of Class III stood first, Darsh Pathriya second and Ananya Dixit third. In Class IV Arpit Khamari

was decalred first, Hem Soni second and Riya Ajit Agarkar third. In Class V Priyadarshini Pattanayak stood first, Renuka Bhaoli second and Tejaswi Sahu was placed third. In Class VI Shivani Yadav stood first, Jeetika Ojha second and Aanya Singh Sengar third.

In Class VII Richelle Motipara stood first, Visha Naman Dave second and Priyanka Pathriya third. Incident sisters

Cheryl Motipara studying Class III and Richelle Motipara studying in Class VII stood first in their respective classes. While another sister duo Darsh Pathriya studying in Class III stood second while elder sister Priyanka Pathriya studying in Class VII came third. Senior faculty member Shayanti Bhattacharya and Divya madam conducted the programme.

IR Men's Kho Kho team wins gold medal

Bilaspur, Mar 27: The 4th Asian Kho Kho Championship was organized in Guwahati, Assam from 20 to 24 March 2023. In this competition, the men's kho-kho team of Indian Railways won the gold medal by performing brilliantly. 02 men players

In 4th Asian Kho Kho Championship Two male players from SECR Bilaspur in the winning team



from South East Central Railway participated in the winning team of Indian Railways and played an important role in winning the gold medal. These male kho kho players of South East Central Railway include Akshay Gunkule, Technician, Operations Department, Bilaspur and Arun Gunke, Technician 3 Electrical Department, Bilaspur. Sports and

sportspersons have always been encouraged by Indian Railways as well as South East Central Railway. The result of this is that today both these players have brought laurels to the country as well as the South East Central Railway. Along with this, other players of South Eastern Railway have also left their mark in various national and international com-

petitions. The Men's Kho Kho team of Indian Railways and its players from South East Central Railway have been congratulated by the General Manager, South East Central Railway and officials for their excellent performance and achievement and encouraged for better performance in future.

Veteran stage artist Vijay Mishra honoured

Raipur, Mar 27: On the occasion of International Women's Day, Vaidehi Shakti Samman Samroh was organized by JK and Vaidehi Films at Vrindavan Hall. Along with 14 celebrities from across the state, theatre artist Vijay Mishra for his important contribution to folk, Hindi theatre 'Amit' was decorated with Vaidehi Samman. Vijay Mishra along with dignitaries described respect as a priceless pearl earned through struggle. Well-known poetess-actress Saira



Zeenat Ehsaan Qureshi, Meenakshi Tuteja, Jai Bala Tiwari, Neetu Amit Singh, Shilpa Nahar, Runa Sharma and social worker director Dr. Ajay Sahai, who came from Mumbai, were present on the stage as guests. Vaidhi Samman ceremony's coor-

dinator Dilip Namgallwar, Subhashini George, Alok Rai, along with other members welcomed the guests. Pragma Srivastava gave a spectacular dance performance in the programme. Mousumi Biswas narrated the heart wrenching story of defeating cancer.

M a d h u b a l a Dewangan, Pushpalata Kaushik, Pinky Joshi, Rambha Vastakar, Kavita Wansnik, Rashmi Pandey, Sangeeta Nishad, Seema Singh, Swalika Ali, Shobha Bawankar, Kumkum Jha, Kunti Singh, Bhawna Pandey, Seema Singh received honours on this occasion.

Two-day science fest 'ESPEKTRO 2K23' inaugurated at CU

Bilaspur, Mar 27: Inauguration ceremony of two-day Science Fest 'ESPEKTRO 2K23' which is being organized on March 27 and 28, 2023 at Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (Central University) took place on March 27 at Rajat Jayanti Sabhagar at 10 a.m. The Chief Guest of the inaugural program was Professor Neelambari Dave, former Vice-Chancellor of Saurashtra University, Rajkot, Gujarat. Special guests at the program were Dr. Anil Kumar, environmentalist, and Mr. Pradeep Deshpande, former member of Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission. The program was presided over by the Vice-Chancellor in-charge of the university, Prof. Amit Kumar Saxena.

Chief Guest, Prof. Nilambari Dave, former Vice-Chancellor of Saurashtra University, Rajkot, Gujarat said that education related to innovation and innovative experiments should be imparted from an early age to inculcate interest in science among chil-

dren. She said, "Our overpopulation is not a problem but is actually a dividend of youth power through which we can try to make India a world guru". Prof. Dave expressed the hope that through this fest, students will develop a sense of learning, understanding and an aptitude for experiential learning by doing things.

Special guest, Dr. Anil Kumar, who is an environmentalist, said that it is our responsibility to conserve water, forest and land. We should have a sense of gratitude towards the environment. He said, "We should have in our conduct a sensibility which considers different parts of the environment as parts of one's family". Pradeep Deshpande, former Member of Chhattisgarh

Public Service Commission said that to establish India as the Vishwa Guru, we all must wake up and work dedicatedly for the nation. Addressing the youth, he called them the pride of the nation of the future. Presiding over the inauguration program, Vice-Chancellor in-charge of the University, Professor Amit Kumar Saxena said that since the advent of National Education Policy-2020, science has become an integral part of overall education.

Earlier, the program was inaugurated with lamp lighting, garlanding the statues of Maa Saraswati and Baba Guru Ghasidas. Ganesh Vandana was presented in dance form by the student at the fest. The guests on the stage were welcomed by presenting saplings. At the inauguration of the program, the founder coordinator of the Science Fest, Prof. Seema Rai welcomed the guests. The Dean of the School of Physical Sciences, Prof. P.K. Bajpai gave his views on the aim and objectives of the Science Fest. The dignitaries were honored by presenting mementos. Twelve departments of the university under the faculty of science participated in this Science Fest. Certificates were given to five students who have achieved success at the national level physics graduate level examination. The students enjoyed the exhibition related to innovation and relished the delicacies at the food stalls put up by the participants at the fest. In the end, the vote of thanks was delivered by the Registrar of the university, Prof. Manish Srivastava and the program was conducted by the students, Shivi Pandey and Indivar Shukla. Deans, Heads of departments, teaching staff and a large number of students were present on this occasion.

Transportation of illegal iron scrap going on openly

From Chirmiri mines, jointly in nexus with scrap mafia of Manendragarh



Chirmiri, Mar 27: The illegal transportation of scrap from the coal mines between Manendragarh and Chirmiri-Bharatpur is going on unabated and has now turned into main target of vehicles involved.

It is notable here that IG Surguja Range after assuming office has put a check on illegal transportation and business of scrap from Chirmiri and it was closed at that time. But the scrap dealers

small scrap dealers of Chirmiri and recent seizure of a vehicle by Koriya Check-post in-charge stands testimony to it. The scrap mafia of Manendragarh is working openly in the form of gang and now it remains to be seen as to how the IG Surguja range and SECL management put a check on movement and transportation of this illegal scrap from the Chirmiri mines. Though this will be known in few days, but what remains to be seen as to when the police or SECL will take action and it also raises eyebrows on their working and who is to be held responsible.

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Chronicle

BRIEF



Priests perform rituals before installation of pillars at Veerasantarayar Mandapam of Meenakshi Amman temple, in Madurai, Monday.

Bribery

Tikamgarh: A block medical officer (BMO) was nabbed by the Madhya Pradesh Lokayukta police on Monday for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 25,000 to allow a sealed clinic to operate, an official said. The BMO had sealed the private clinic in Patana in Mavai area here one-and-a-half month ago for allegedly violating norms and then sought Rs 25,000 from its owner to allow resumption of operations, Lokayukta senior inspector Manju Singh said.

III

Bahgat: Twenty-one people, including children, fell ill after eating 'khichri' served at a 'bhandara' here, officials said on Monday. District Magistrate (DM) Rajkamal Yadav said the incident took place in Faijpur Ninana on Sunday evening. The 21 people are undergoing treatment at the district hospital for food poisoning and their condition is stable, he said.

Escape

Itanagar: Two militants of the Niki Sumil faction of NSCN (K) escaped from Khonsa Jail in Tirap district of Arunachal Pradesh, by killing a security guard on duty, police said on Monday. The two militants Roksen Homcha Lowang and Tiptu Kitnya - who were lodged at the UTP cell of the jail, snatched the service rifle from constable Wangnyam Bosai and fired upon him at around 5 pm on Sunday and escaped from the jail, Arunachal Pradesh Police spokesperson Rohit Rajbir Singh said.

Mishap

Latur: Four members of a family, including three children, were killed and three others injured on Monday when their car fell off a bridge in Latur district of Maharashtra, police said. The family was returning to Nilanga town in Latur district from Pune after attending a wedding when the accident occurred on the Latur-Gulbarga national highway at around 7 AM, a police official said.

Ex-gratia

Imphal: Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Monday announced that the state government will provide an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh to the next of kin of a Class 12 student who was shot dead by unidentified miscreants. The decision was made after the chief minister met with the members of the Joint Action Committee (JAC), formed in connection with the killing.

DELHI GOVT INFORMS HC

'More than 200 child labourers rescued, raids going on'

New Delhi, Mar 27 (PTI):

Delhi High Court was informed on Monday that more than 200 children working as child labourers here have been rescued since January and further raids are underway.

A bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramoniam Prasad granted four weeks to the Delhi government counsel to file a further status report in the matter and listed it for hearing on May 4.

The high court was hearing a plea by NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan, which filed a petition in the aftermath of a fire that killed over 40 people, including several minors, at a factory in the Anaj Mandi area here in December 2019.

The NGO had sought a direction to the authorities to inquire into the angle of trafficking and child labour.

Advocate Prabhsahay Kaur, representing the NGO, said during the hearing that there had been

"unprecedented success" in rescuing child labourers from various units here since January 11 when the last order was passed for constitution of committees in each district.

She said the government rescued more than 200 children and of the 183 complaints filed by the NGO, the authorities had taken action in most of them.

The Delhi government's counsel told the court that in pursuance of an earlier order, a status report had been filed in the matter and added that the process of conducting raids was still going on.

In its status report, the Delhi government said 45 people were killed and 17 injured in the December 8, 2019, fire.

It informed that a compensation of Rs 10 lakh each was given to the victim's next of kin in all the 45 cases. In the case of the 17 injured, Rs 1 lakh each was given to 13 people. Four people could only be traced only now and they

are being paid the amount.

"In accordance with the directions of the court, in all revenue districts, district task force (DTF) on child labour has been constituted and is functioning under the chairmanship of (the) district magistrate with members from the Labour department, WCD (Women and Child Development) department, Police department, Education department, Health department and the MCD (Municipal Corporation of Delhi).

"Regular meetings of DTF are held. NGOs working in this field including the petitioner are also invited in these meetings," the report said.

It further said the list of 183 locations identified by the petitioner was shared with the DTFs, which started action on the locations. The joint labour commissioners or deputy labour commissioners have sent their report of action taken in this regard.

The report said the action of search or inspec-

tion or rescue shall be completed in next two weeks.

The high court, which earlier directed that minors found working in units be rescued and rehabilitated, had said children who ought to have been studying in schools were forced to work at these places that were unhygienic and inhabitable and where accidents were waiting to happen.

It was stated by the NGO that many such units were still operational in the Anaj Mandi, Sadar Bazar and Nabi Karim areas and while the fire tragedy occurred on December 8, 2019, the compensation had not been disbursed yet despite more than three years having been passed.

The high court, in its January 11 order, had said it was "extremely disturbing" that the government was taking a lackadaisical approach and showing extreme insensitivity in the case that had resulted in the deaths of 45 people, including 12 children aged between 12 and 18.

WORKERS PROTEST



Mid-Day Meal workers raise slogans as during a protest amid the Budget Session of Bihar Assembly, in Patna, Monday.

Villagers in Bhaerwah up in arms against diversion of river water

● Fear will lead to closure of 'gharats'

Bhaerwah, Mar 27 (PTI): Villagers in Jammu and Kashmir's Bhaerwah town are up in arms against diversion of water of a local river by the Jal Shakti Department, saying it will lead to the closure of "gharats" or traditional water mills.

Traditional water mills, popularly known as "gharats", is

an ancient and still the only mode of grinding wheat, corn, maize and other grains to produce flour in rural areas of the Bhaerwah region in the absence of electric mills.

Residents of hilltop villages - Mathola, Tapri, Shankhoja, Banzala, Banni-Batoli, Chakka and Upper Dandi - are worried over the department's decision to tap the water above the gharats.

The six villages have a population of about 7,000 people

who are scattered on slopes on eastern hills of the Bhaerwah valley.

Villagers allege that officials of the 'Jal Shakti Vibhag' without considering to save these traditional and only natural sources of producing energy are diverting the water of Mathola river in an unplanned manner.

"They could have easily tapped the water a few hundred meters downstream, from where there is no gharat.

BJP's Suvendu claims not invited to Prez's civic reception

Kolkata, Mar 27 (PTI):

Leader of the Opposition in West Bengal Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari of the BJP, on Monday claimed that he was not invited to President Droupadi Murmu's civic reception this evening.

The ruling Trinamool Congress dubbed the charge as "baseless" and accused the BJP leaders of "boycotting" the President's programme despite being invited.

The state government organised the programme for Murmu at the Netaji Indoor Stadium here, where Governor CV Ananda Bose and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will be present.

Adhikari who is currently in New Delhi tweeted: "Those who queued up

to vote against her (Murmu) would take the centre stage & hog the limelight at the felicitation event! Those who queued up to vote in her favour are snubbed by the WB Govt & aren't invited!"

The TMC, however, claimed several top leaders of the opposition party, including Adhikari, state president Sukanta Majumdar, and BJP national vice-president Dilip Ghosh have been invited to the programme.

The ruling party shared purported images of the receipts of the invitation cards for the President's civic reception sent to Majumdar and Ghosh. The signature and seal of the state BJP's office secretary, along with the date, were there in it.

The ruling party also tweeted another image of

TMC denies charge

The ruling Trinamool Congress dubbed the charge as "baseless" and accused the BJP leaders of "boycotting" the President's programme despite being invited. The TMC, however, claimed sev-

eral top leaders of the opposition party, including Adhikari, state president Sukanta Majumdar, and BJP national vice-president Dilip Ghosh have been invited to the programme.

the receipt of the same invitation card sent to Adhikari. It has a signature but no seal or date.

Alleging that the BJP leaders are "liars" and they have "NO RESPECT for people belonging to the Santhali community", the TMC tweeted: "Were these lies approved by you, @AmitShah".

The Mamata Banerjee-led party also claimed that

BJP leaders stooped to a new low.

"Despite being invited to the event scheduled at Netaji Indoor Stadium, they have chosen to boycott it. When it comes to petty politics, @BJP4India does not even spare the Hon'ble President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu. Shameful," the TMC said in another Twitter post.

'Branding of Meghalaya as 'most corrupt' affecting image'

Shillong, Mar 27 (PTI):

A Congress MLA claimed that a recent statement terming Meghalaya as 'most corrupt' in the country has affected the image of the Christian-dominated state and people outside are identifying locals as 'chor number 1' (Number 1 thief).

Shah had in an election rally at Tura last month had said that the Conrad K Sangma-led Meghalaya Democratic Alliance government, of which the BJP was a partner, was the "most corrupt in the country". Demanding a discussion on the new tag earned by the people of the state, senior Congress leader Celistine Lyngdoh claimed people of the state are



Celistine Lyngdoh

being identified as 'chor number 1' following the statement by the VVIP, although he did not name anyone.

"Imagine the plight of our people who works outside the state. When they meet their friends, they will say you are chor number one in the country,

your state is chor number one," Lyngdoh said, participating in the discussion on the budget.

Stating that the allegation has directly affected the image of the state, Lyngdoh said, "In Khasi language we say 'Ka ktah mationg' (affects the image) more so because our state is also known as a Christian state".

The former state Congress president also underlined that the statement alleging Meghalaya was the 'most corrupt' was made by a very important person. "The allegation was not made by Tom, nor Dick nor Harry. It was made by a very, very important person in our country. So can we just ignore it?" he questioned.

In Wayanad, life goes on after Rahul Gandhi's disqualification as MP

Kalpetta (Ker), Mar 27 (PTI):

Probably Elsie amma turned in her grave at what happened to Rahul Gandhi, although he has no clue that she is no more. Way back in 2019, when his name was announced as candidate for Wayanad ticket by the Congress, she was thrust under the limelight for a while her wish to see Rahul Gandhi was fulfilled by Congress's PR team under the media glare then.

This reporter attempted to track down Elsie amma to see what she feels about

the disqualification only to learn that she passed away six months ago.

Meanwhile, a very lively 99-year old Matthew was spotted cackling, trying to contain it by covering his mouth with his palm. He gave up after a while and asked: "Will you find enough people to carry these?" He was referring to the stacked kerosene-soaked cloth bound around bamboo sticks, to be used as torches, at the district Congress committee office at Kalpetta in Wayanad on Sunday evening. On the third day after Rahul Gandhi's dis-

qualification from the Wayanad seat, Youth Congress was organising a night march.

Matthew, who stays nearby, had dropped by to watch. Yes, he is a Congress sympathiser who had his share of protests he narrated with glee how he threw stones at a police station long, long ago during one. But he was not convinced that people in Wayanad are invested so much that they would come on a day so sacrosanct that most locals refuse to work even if you pay them twice the wage. To make things

worse, on the other end of the district, at Mananthavady, was Wayanad's most famous all-night festival being organised by Valliyoorakkavu temple, the annual 14-day arattu festival. There's also the Ramadan fasting.

Matthew has a point: If you stop people on the street in any part of Wayanad, and ask what you think of the disqualification, more often than not, people express outrage. But then they get on with their lives, implicitly understanding that the battle is being fought elsewhere.

HAPPY FACES



Class XIIth students celebrate on completion of their West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education (WBCHSE) exams, in Nadia district, Monday.

Prohibitory orders clamped in K'taka town after Banjara community stages protest

● Over quota issue

Shivamogga(KTK), Mar 27 (PTI):

Agitating members of the Banjara community on Monday targeted BJP strongman and former Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa's house in Shikaripura town of this district and resorted to stone-pelting, injuring some policemen during a protest against the internal reservation for the Scheduled Castes (SCs) announced by the state government.

Prohibitory orders under Section 144 of CrPC have been imposed in the town. Reacting to the incidents,

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai saw Congress hand behind the violence.

"Local Congress leaders are instigating people. The Congress is unable to digest the social justice done to every community and it resorted to inciting violence. Banjara community should not fall for any hearsay," he told reporters.

Police used batons to disperse the large number of protesters which included women. Some members of the Banjara community, who are also known as Lamani or Lambani, were injured. Police were taken by surprise as the agitators, most of them youths milled around Yediyurappa's house and re-

sorted to stone-pelting, damaging some window panes. Sensing the situation going out of control, additional police forces were summoned to the area. The agitators vented their anger, alleging that "less" reservation was given to the Scheduled Caste-Touchables, to which the Banjara community belongs. The Karnataka Cabinet had last week decided to introduce internal reservation amongst the SCs. After hiking reservation for the Scheduled Castes from 15 per cent to 17 per cent, the government announced that 6 per cent reservation would be given to SC left sub-category, 5.5 per cent to SC right, 4.5 per cent to Touchables

and one per cent to others. The state government also wrote to the Centre recommending that the proposal be included in the ninth schedule of the Constitution. Appealing to the leaders of Banjara community to exercise caution, Bommai clarified that the government implemented the cabinet sub-committee recommendation and not the Sadashiva Commission recommendations.

"They (Lambanis) have apprehension that they will be removed from the SC list. It was me who ordered that Bovi, Lamani, and other communities such as Korcha and Korma be retained in the SC list.

UK PM launches crackdown on anti-social behaviour

London, Mar 27 (PTI):

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Monday launched a new Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan to crack down on illegal activities within communities by handing additional powers to the police to punish drug-related offences and criminal gang activity.

Under the new Immediate Justice scheme, those found committing anti-social behaviour will be made to repair the damage they inflicted on victims and communities, with an ambition for them to start work as soon as 48 hours after their offence.

Offenders, who will be made to wear high-visibility vests or jumpsuits and work under supervision, could be made to pick up litter, remove graffiti and wash police cars as punishment for their actions.

Victims of anti-social behaviour from the local community will be given a say in offenders' punishments to ensure justice is "visible and fits the crime". "Anti-social behav-



PM Rishi Sunak gestures as he attends a Q&A session during a Connect event at a Boxing Club in Chelmsford, Essex, England, Monday.

our undermines the basic right of people to feel safe in the place they call home," said Sunak.

"The public have rightly had enough which is why I am determined to restore people's confidence that those responsible will be quickly and visibly punished. This action plan maps out how we will tackle this issue with the urgency it deserves and stamp out these crimes once and for all so that wherever you live, you can feel safe in, and proud of your community," he said.

Under the plan's "zero-tolerance approach",

Nitrous Oxide or "laughing gas" will also be banned to send a message to intimidating gangs that hang around high streets and children's parks and litter them with empty canisters.

The drug is now reported as the third most used among 16 to 24-year-olds in England and both the police and public have repeatedly reported links between use of this drug and nuisance or anti-social behaviour.

"The British public are fed up with crime and nuisance behaviour in their neighbourhoods inflicting misery on people," said UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman.

"There is no such thing as petty crime not only does antisocial behaviour leave people feeling unsafe, it can also be a gateway into serious criminality. It has always been my priority to give police the powers they need to deliver a common-sense approach to cutting crime, which puts the law-abiding majority first, and that's what this action plan delivers," she said.

UK police will also be given new powers to crack-down on illegal drug use, often a catalyst for other crimes, including expanding powers for drug testing on arrest so more suspected criminals can be tested and more drugs tested for, including ecstasy and methamphetamine.

Currently, only suspected criminals who have committed certain offences can be tested in police detention without additional requirements.

A new reporting tool will also be developed over the next 12 months to act as a digital one-stop shop where people can quickly and easily report incidents of anti-social behaviour when these occur.

"Anti-social behaviour erodes local pride, blights our high streets and parks and is a stain on too many communities across the country. We know that it is more likely to flourish in areas that have, for too long, been overlooked and undervalued," said Michael Gove, UK Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

ARMED FORCES DAY



Police officers march during a parade to commemorate Myanmar's 78th Armed Forces Day in Naypyitaw, Myanmar, Monday.

Pak court grants interim bail to Imran Khan

● In seven cases

Islamabad, Mar 27 (PTI):

A Pakistani court on Monday granted interim bail to Imran Khan in seven different cases registered against him following clashes at the federal judicial complex here earlier this month when the former prime minister arrived from Lahore to appear in a corruption case hearing.

A two-member division bench of the Islamabad High Court (IHC), comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb, heard the bail applications.

Khan, the chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, sought interim bails in seven cases registered against him in Golra, Bara Kahu, Ramna, Khanna and CTD police stations.

Barrister Salman Safdar, Khan's counsel, who filed the pleas, stated that the former prime minister would suffer "irreparable loss" if he was arrested.



Security personnel with bulletproof shields escort former Prime Minister Imran Khan, center, as he arrives to appear in a court, in Islamabad, Pakistan, Monday.

"Furthermore, being head of the single largest political party, there is an apprehension that his political adversaries and opponents would be able to further their nefarious designs and political ambitions if pre-arrest bail is not granted to the petitioner," according to the petition.

The court after hearing arguments granted interim bail to the former premier.

Intense clashes erupted outside the judicial complex on March 18 when Khan arrived from Lahore to attend a much-awaited

hearing in the Toshakhana case.

During the confrontation between PTI workers and police, over 25 security personnel were injured, prompting Additional District and Sessions Judge Zafar Iqbal to defer the court hearing in this case till March 30.

A video posted on PTI's official Twitter on Monday showed Khan entering the court premises with Islamabad police guarding his bullet-proof vehicle.

A total of 143 cases were registered against Khan, mostly on terrorism charges. Khan, 70, has

been repeatedly claiming that his life is under threat because of which he was abstaining from attending court hearings.

Last week Khan alleged that the PML-N-led government was plotting to assassinate him on the pattern of Murtaza Bhutto, who was killed in police firing when his sister Benazir Bhutto was in power in 1996.

Meanwhile, police said that they have arrested 13 supporters of Khan, Senior Superintendent of Police Hasan Wattoo said.

PTI leader Shireen Manzari claimed that Khan's photographer and three other civilians were taken into custody ahead of Monday's court hearing.

"It's shameful how PTI workers are being arrested in Islamabad today. Why are people not even in uniform putting our people in prison vans?" Manzari asked.

In Islamabad, authorities have imposed Section 144 of the Pakistan Penal Code that barred gathering of people and warned of arrests in case of the violation of its order.

Taiwan's former leader Ma begins China visit

Taoyuan (Taiwan), Mar 27 (AP):

Former Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou departed for a tour of China on Monday, in what he called an attempt to reduce tensions a day after Taiwan lost one of its few remaining diplomatic partners to China.

The ex-president is visiting in a private capacity, bringing a delegation of academics and college students for exchanges, as well as members of his family, but the trip is loaded with political meaning.

Ma's policies brought Taiwan and Beijing to their closest relationship ever, but his exit from office was overshadowed by massive protests against a trade deal with the mainland and his



Former Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou answers to press before leaving for China at Taoyuan International Airport in Taoyuan City, Northern Taiwan, Monday.

successor has focused on bolstering ties with the US and defending the autonomy of the democratically governed island that China claims as part of its own territory. Current President Tsai Ing-wen is expected to

launch a 10-day diplomatic tour of her own Wednesday, ostensibly to visit the island's remaining allies in Latin America. She will stop in the US, Taiwan's biggest unofficial partner and supplier of arms.

Ma's visit comes amid rising tensions. Beijing has stepped up pressure against Taiwan in recent years, poaching its diplomatic allies while also sending military fighter jets flying towards the island on a near daily basis. On Sunday, Honduras established diplomatic relations with China, leaving Taiwan with only 13 countries that recognise it as a sovereign state.

Ma, a member of the opposition Nationalist Party (Kuomintang), will land in

Shanghai before starting his visit in nearby Nanjing. He is expected to tour the mainland from March 27 to April 7, stopping in Wuhan and Changsha, as well as other cities. He is bringing college students from Taiwan to meet with fellow students from Shanghai's Fudan University and Changsha's Hunan University. Ma has framed the visit as a bid to lower the tensions in cross-strait relations through people to people exchange. "I hope through the enthusiasm of the youth and their interactions to improve the cross-strait mood, so bring peace faster, and earlier," he said to reporters ahead of his departure on Monday afternoon.

Pak police demolish minarets of Ahmadi worship place

● In Punjab province

Lahore, Mar 27 (PTI):

Police in Pakistan's Punjab province demolished minarets of a 70-year-old worship place of minority Ahmadi community allegedly on the pressure of radical clerics, a spokesman for the minority community said on Monday.

The incident took place on Sunday at Kalra Kalan in Gujarat district, some 150 kms from provincial capital Lahore.

Jamaat-e-Ahmadiyya Pakistan official Amir Mahmood told PTI that an

official of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police came to the said Ahmadi place of worship and told that there are strict orders from the department to demolish the minarets as the place gives a look of a mosque and under the law of the land Ahmadis cannot build minarets at their worship place.

On Sunday, a police team reached there and demolished the minarets and also painted it, removing the

green colour. Mahmood further said the Ahmadi worship place has been damaged on the pressure of local clerics who also lay claim to the place as theirs.

"A senior police officer said that this worship place of Ahmadis belongs to Muslims and you (Ahmadis) have no right to it," he said.

Minorities, especially Ahmadis, are very vulnerable in Pakistan and they are often targeted by religious extremists.

DESERTED AIRPORT TERMINAL



An almost deserted terminal at the airport in Frankfurt, Germany, Monday.

Prince Harry in UK court as privacy case against newspaper begins

London, Mar 27 (PTI):

Britain's Prince Harry, who now lives in the US, made a surprise appearance at the High Court in London on Monday as his legal action against a newspaper group for breach of his privacy began.

The 38-year-old Duke of Sussex is among a group of celebrity claimants, including singer Elton John and actor Liz Hurley, who are suing the Associated Newspapers Limited (ANL) for "abhorrent criminal activity" and "gross breaches of privacy"

as part of alleged phone-tapping.

ANL, the publisher of Daily Mail newspaper, denies the allegations as "preposterous smears" and Monday's preliminary hearing will consider their legal arguments for a judge to decide whether the case will go further to a full hearing.

A spokesperson for ANL also said the allegations were "unsubstantiated and highly defamatory claims, based on no credible evidence".

The four-day preliminary hearing is set to include ANL's bid for the

claims to be dismissed without a trial.

The legal action was announced in October 2022, when law firm Hamlins representing Prince Harry set out a number of allegations against the newspaper group, including hiring of private investigators to secretly place listening devices inside people's cars and homes and commissioning of individuals to surreptitiously listen into and record people's private telephone calls, among others.

In a statement released at the time, the

newspaper group said: "We utterly and unambiguously refute these preposterous smears which appear to be nothing more than a pre-planned and orchestrated attempt to drag the Mail titles into the phone hacking scandal concerning articles up to 30 years old.

"These unsubstantiated and highly defamatory claims based on no credible evidence appear to be simply a fishing expedition by claimants and their lawyers, some of whom have already pursued cases elsewhere," it said.

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
MAHANADI CIRCLE, RAIPUR (CHHATTISGARH)

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

System Tender No. : 128703/NIT No. : 20/SAC/22-23,
Dated : 24.03.2023

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 11.04.2023 at 17:30 Hour

Name of Work : Remodelling, C.C. lining and Reconstruction of Canal Structures of Dy. No. 18 & 20 of Balodabazar Branch Canal.

Probable Amount of Contract : - Rs. 186.07 Lakhs
 (As per S.O.R. dated 01.08.2010 and amended upto dated 01.08.2014).

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 31.03.2023, at 17:31 Hours, (IST) onwards.

NOTE :- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Executive Engineer
 Water Management Division No. 2, Balodabazar
 For, Superintending Engineer
 Mahanadi Circle, Raipur (C.G.)

G-99627/1

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER IN CHIEF
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
NAVA RAIPUR, ATAL NAGAR

(CENTRAL TENDER CELL) E-Procurement Tender Notice
Main Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

Tenders are invited for the Following works:-

S. No	System Tender No / Date	Name of Work	PAC Amount (Rupees in lacs)
1	128158 Second Call 17.03.2023	CONSTRUCTION OF KEWARA MAIN ROAD TO MAHUWAPARA LENGTH 2.00 Km. DISTT. SURAJPUR (C.G.) (Work code - W22421)	229.85
2	128163 Second Call 17.03.2023	Construction of Damapur to Fastarpur Road Length 4.60 K.M. I/c Bridges & Culverts At Distt-Kawardha (C.G.)	692.32
3	128461 First Call 20.03.2023	CONSTRUCTION OF BADANJI TO KUMHALI ROAD (BADANJI -TARAIHANTA- KHASPARA ROAD) LENGTH = 2.50 KM.	214.86
4	128491 First Call 20.03.2023	CONSTRUCTION OF COURT ROOM AT SITAPUR I/C ELECTRIFICATION DISTT- SURGUJA (C.G.) (Work code W25659).	878.52
5	128469 Second Call 21.03.2023	Construction Of High Level Bridge and Approach Road Across Ranpa River on Ghaghra to Lawahori Road.	443.67
6	128475 Third Call 21.03.2023	Construction of Motimpur (Amartapu) Temple on Both Sides Approach Road Length 1.70 Km.	383.25
7	128478 Second Call 21.03.2023	CONSTRUCTION OF JAIL APPROACH ROAD AT BALRAMPUR RAMANUJGANJ LENGTH 2.00 Km. DISTT. BALRAMPUR -RAMANUJGANJ (C.G.) (Work code - W24647)	258.84
8	128482 Fourth Call 21.03.2023	CONSTRUCTION OF HIGH LEVEL BRIDGE ACROSS KODAR NALLA ON GOPALPUR-MUSKI ROAD.	654.54
9	128473 Fourth Call 22.03.2023	Widening of Bridge at Motimpur (Amartapu) Temple Approach Road.	212.15
10	128471 Fourth Call 22.03.2023	UPGRADATION & STRENGTHENING WORK OF KUSMI SAMRI ROAD LENGTH 01 TO 17/6 = 16.60 Km (C.G.) (Work code - W24192) (UNDER CRF SCHEME.)	2815.47
11	128633 First Call 22.03.2023	Construction Of Engineering Park To Ekta Nagar Muktidham Road Length = 2.50 Km. I/C Bridges & Culverts At Distt. Durg (C.G.) (CGRIDCL).	711.04

Last Date of Tender Downloading For S.No. 03, S.No. 04 date 11.04.2023, S.No. 05, S.No. 07 date 10.04.2023, S.No. 11 date 12.04.2023. Other Tenders Date are Schedule as date 03.04.2023. For more details on the tender and bidding process please visit the above mentioned portal.

Chief Engineer
 (Central Tender Cell)
 Office Of Engineer In Chief
 P.W.D. Nava Raipur Atal Nagar

G-99629/2



CENTRAL Chronicle

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Brahmaputra At Risk From Melting Glaciers

The Brahmaputra River is a lifeline for millions of people in India, China, Bhutan, and Bangladesh. However, the rapid melting of Himalayan glaciers, which feed the river, is putting its future in peril. The United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, has issued a warning that major Himalayan rivers like the Brahmaputra will see their flows reduced as glaciers continue to recede in the coming decades. This trend could have catastrophic consequences for the region's agriculture, hydropower, and water quality. In India, the Ministry of Earth Sciences has revealed that glaciers feeding the Brahmaputra and the Ganga are melting at a faster rate compared to glaciers in the Karakoram region. The government has been aware of this issue for some time and initiated the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem in 2010 under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. The mission aims to develop a sustainable national capacity to continuously assess the health status of the Himalayan ecosystem, enable policy bodies in their policy formulation functions, and assist states in the Indian Himalayan Region with the implementation of actions selected for sustainable development. The recession of Himalayan glaciers is a major danger to the country, as highlighted in the mission document. Ecologically sensitive mountainous areas, like the Himalaya, are prone to adverse impacts of global climate change on account of both natural causes and anthropogenic emissions in other parts of the world as well as those arising out of unplanned developmental activities in the region. The Himalayan Ecosystem Resources are critical in the face of natural disturbances, anthropogenic activities, and climate change and have important implications for the formulation of management strategies and the sustenance of dependent human societies. The Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) harbors about 8,000 species of flowering plants, nearly 50% of the total flowering plants of India. Of this, nearly 30% are endemic to the region. There are over 816 tree species, 675 edibles, and nearly 1,740 species of medicinal value in the IHR. The mission document sheds light on the gigantic challenges of conservation of such a rich ecosystem posed by unabated glacier melting. The Brahmaputra River is an international river, with its basin spread over China, India, Bhutan, and Bangladesh. International cooperation among the basin countries to prevent glacier melting and address climate change impact in the Himalayan region is crucial for India to achieve the goals and objectives of the national mission. As the upper riparian country, China sharing the hydrological data and all hydropower and other projects on the Brahmaputra with India and Bangladesh is critical to sustaining life and livelihood in the lower riparian areas like the northeast region and dealing with climate change impacts. Reduced water flow will put the lives of millions of people dependent on the Brahmaputra River in grave danger. Hydrodiplomacy winning over geopolitics and occupying the central stage of discourse on trans-boundary Himalayan rivers is essential to preparing the ground for international cooperation in reversing the trend of glacier melting. The Himalayan glaciers must be protected from the impact of global warming and climate change impact so that life and livelihood of people in Assam and other areas of the Brahmaputra basin remain sustainable. The global community's willingness to rally behind the people depending on the Brahmaputra and other Himalayan rivers for life and livelihood will determine if the governments of the basin countries will join hands to prevent the crisis staring them in the face. The UN Secretary-General's warning of catastrophic consequences if the trend of glacier and ice sheet melting is not reversed is a call to action for the international community.

A Beacon of Hope for Quality Education

Swami Atmanand English Medium School

The government of Chhattisgarh has taken a remarkable step towards revolutionizing the education system by establishing Swami Atmanand English Medium Schools across the state. Swami Atmanand Schools were launched for the first time on 03 July 2020. About 2.5 lakh children are studying in this school. These schools have been providing quality education in English medium to children from economically weaker sections of society at the district headquarters and development block level. The schools have world-class facilities and have gained immense popularity in a short span of time. Currently, there are 247 Swami Atmanand English Medium Schools and 32 Hindi medium schools being operated in the state, and 422 schools are proposed to be established in the next academic session. The new schools will include 252 schools in remote and distant areas of Sarguja and Bastar. Due to the success of the English Medium schools, the government is also planning to launch English Medium Colleges in the upcoming academic session. The popularity of Swami Atmanand Schools can be judged from their widespread demand during the Chief Minister's Bheht Mulaqat programs, where parents of talented children belonging to lower-income groups are relieved from the worries of paying exorbitant school fees in private schools. The schools charge a nominal fee for superior-quality English medium education, which matches global standards, and provides a better educational environment. The primary objective of the government in establishing these schools is to provide quality education to talented students in the state so that they can compete with students from other states in competitive exams. CBSE syllabus is being taught in all Swami Atmanand English and Hindi medium schools. The success of Swami Atmanand Schools can be attributed to their world-class infrastructure, including ultramodern libraries, language labs, computers, science labs, and facilities for sports like tennis and badminton. These facilities have enabled students to excel not only academically but also in co-curricular activities, fostering their all-round development. The launch of Swami Atmanand Schools has proved to be a boon for students from economically weaker sections of society, who were previously deprived of quality education. The schools provide an education-friendly environment, which ensures that the students get the best possible education. It is heartening to see the government's efforts to bring about a positive change in the education system, which will have a significant impact on the future of the state. The establishment of Swami Atmanand English Medium Schools and the proposed launch of English Medium Colleges is a step in the right direction towards providing quality education to every child in the state. The Swami Atmanand English Medium Schools are a beacon of hope for quality education in Chhattisgarh. The government's efforts in establishing these schools have been commendable, and they must continue to expand their reach to every nook and corner of the state. The schools have not only provided quality education but also brought about a positive change in the lives of students and their families. It is time for the rest of the country to take inspiration from the success of Swami Atmanand Schools and work towards providing quality education to every child.

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

'GANGA AARTI'



Priests perform 'Ganga aarti' during the 'Chaitra Navratri' festival, at Vindhychal Dham in Mirzapur, Sunday night.

Festivals in India: Strengthening Social and Cultural Unity



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH



Being agricultural, each season change has its use with laughter and entertainment. The festival has been included on these occasions, which is appropriate. In the first category are the festivals, festivals, and fairs, which are cultural and whose purpose is to protect the basic elements and ideas of Indian culture. All the big festivals of Hindus come in this class, like the Holi festival, Deepawali, Basant, Shravani, Sankranti, etc. Protecting culture is their soul. Those festivals come in the second category, they have been made in the holy memory of some great man. There is a law to remember the qualities, pastimes, pious character, and greatness of the great man whose memory these are. Festivals like Ramnavami, Krishnashtami, Bhishma-Panchami, Hanuman-Jayanti, Nag-Panchami, etc. can be kept in this category. That is, there is a festival here every day. The example of unity in diversity is seen on the occasion of this festival. These festivals bring refreshing moments with happiness, joy, joy, and gaiety to the person in the everyday running, energy filled with confusion, becoming deserted. This applies not only to Hinduism but to various religions and sects. These festivals are based on the social beliefs, traditions, and past rituals of different people's communities. All festivals have their traditions and customs. These festivals provide character and emotional strength to man by developing moral qualities like compassion, kindness,

simplicity, hospitality, mutual love, goodwill, and charity in human life. The pride and identity of Indian culture, these festivals are very important from the social, religious, cultural, and spiritual points of view. Social festivals and inter-school cultural events provide wonderful opportunities to help build children's confidence and interpersonal skills. Interpersonal skills include the ability to communicate and interact effectively with others and self-confidence is belief in oneself and one's abilities, both of which are essential to building positive relationships with others. In this article, we will look at some of the ways how these events help build children's confidence and interpersonal skills. Social festivals bring exposure to different cultures, languages, and traditions, which can broaden their horizons and help them develop empathy and understanding toward others. Make new friends and contacts, which can help to feel more connected to the community and develop a sense of belonging. These events are a great way to develop this as they bring a lot of people together and thus create a sense of unity and brotherhood. They teach us to be more accepting, tolerant, and inclusive of people from different walks of life. Marketing has changed all the systems. Our festivals also did not remain untouched by this. Perhaps that's why major festivals are losing their color and it seems that we celebrate festivals only to fulfill formalities. No one has free time to inquire about the sorrows

India is a land of diverse cultures, religions, and traditions. Festivals play a vital role in connecting people socially and culturally, strengthening the foundation of India's integrity. Fasting days, in particular, are an integral part of our culture, where we pay tribute to the deities, fast, donate and listen to stories, all in the pursuit of personal progress and social harmony. This is where the seeds of Indian culture are sown. Social festivals, which bring happiness and joy to not just an individual or a family but to the entire community, are an essential aspect of Indian society. It is no exaggeration to say that India can be rightfully called the 'Land of Festivals.' As the Bhojpuri saying goes, 'Seven times nine festivals,' highlighting the plethora of festivals that are celebrated throughout the year. Festivals also play a vital role in preserving and promoting Indian culture. From Diwali, the festival of lights, to Holi, the festival of colors, each festival has a unique significance that reflects the country's cultural diversity. Celebrating these festivals ensures that our cultural heritage and traditions are passed down to future generations.

and pains of the people at these major festivals. Everyone is busy earning money. Dirty politics has also ruined the fun of festivals. We were slaves for hundreds of years. But our elders never let the color of these festivals fade. Today in this economic age everything has changed. It was said that no one is small on the day of the festival. No one else is bigger. All equal but now the display of colors has remained and the meeting is just a formality. Even on the day of the festival, we are not able to fully connect with our loved ones and society. Due to this the taste of sweets has become astringent. We talk about removing the darkness of the whole earth, but we are unable to remove even the darkness within ourselves. This ritual performed by us on festivals probably indicates that along with our older generations, our festivals also live. Our festivals are the living form of our sensibilities and traditions, which every member of society likes to celebrate or say, to celebrate again and again, every year. Innumerable concerns about our civilization and culture are hidden in these beliefs, traditions, and ideas. The thought of our festivity, which fills our lives with unique colors of life, gives rise to a new flow of enthusiasm and enthusiasm in the mind. Our minds and life both are festive. Our festivity binds the family and society in one thread. Teaches to live unitedly. Gives the gift of participation and mutual coordination. Our festivals, which add colors to our lives, social festivals provide a unique platform to collaborate, meet

and socialize with peers, showcase our talents, and the ability to teach and learn about different cultures and traditions. These skills are an essential part of our lives and are often at the core of almost all aspects of our lives. Therefore, as far as their relevance is concerned in the present times, on the days of fasting and festivals, we remember the said deity, fast, donate and listen to stories, which shows the message of social harmony along with personal progress. The seeds of Indian culture are hidden in it. Festivals have an immense contribution to the development of Indian culture. Fasting, festivals, festivals, fairs, etc. have their special importance in Indian culture. Most of the festivals of Hindus are celebrated because, in the form of Hindu sages, plans have been made to make life juicy and beautiful. Every festival, festival, fast, festival, fair, etc. have a secret significance. Indian culture is associated with each. They have been determined by keeping a specific idea or purpose in front. Special emphasis has been laid on the need for a value education for the re-establishment of values. Value education has become the need of the hour today. So it needs to be implemented as soon as possible. In the present digital era, people are forgetting their civilization and culture. Because of this, the importance of fasting and festivals increases. (Writer is a research scholar, poet, freelance journalist and columnist, All India Radio and TV panelist. Views are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Want peace, not Khalistan

Recent developments in Punjab, particularly regarding the rise of Amritpal Singh and the demand for Khalistan is a concerning one. It is heartening to note that the Central and state governments have dealt with this issue effectively and have managed to contain the situation that had been blown out of proportion by certain political parties. I can say that the common Punjabi wants peace and prosperity, and does not support any person or party that threatens this hard-earned peace. It is only a small fringe element that has been creating trouble and trying to push their agenda of Khalistan. I would also like to caution countries like Britain and Canada against interfering in our internal affairs. We do not need any unwarranted interest from outside parties that can further complicate the situation. It is our internal matter and we will resolve it peacefully and democratically.

Manoj Kumar, Raipur

Dirty politics

Disqualification of Rahul Gandhi in a defamation case, which is yet another example of the ruling party's vendetta politics. It is a setback for Indian democracy when the government is using every means possible to intimidate and harass its opponents. There have been numerous instances of vindictive actions against opposition leaders, such as Congress MP Pawan Khera and AAP leader Manish Sisodia, who have been targeted by the CBI. Moreover, the needless controversy surrounding Rahul Gandhi's Cambridge speech is another example of how the BJP is using institutions to settle political scores and suppress dissent. The current government is trying to create a tyrannical regime where no one can question it for any wrongful practices. This kind of behaviour undermines the very foundation of democracy and threatens the freedom of speech and expression. It is essential that the government stops using its power to harass its opponents and instead focuses on addressing the real issues facing the country.

MKN, Raipur

Covid-appropriate behaviour

The rising Covid caseload is a cause of concern and we must not lower our guard against the deadly virus. While the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has done well to exhort states and UTs to ensure availability of drugs for influenza and Covid, and has rightly asked people not to panic, we must not forget the harsh days of the lockdown that wreaked havoc on the economic front and rendered millions jobless. Since the vaccine is a major shield against the deadly virus, the public needs to shun hesitancy, especially regarding the booster dose. As the virus is here to stay, people should follow Covid-appropriate behaviour for their own safety as well as for the safety of others. Small acts like regular hand-washing, using sanitiser, avoiding crowding and observing social distancing could go a long way in keeping Covid away.

Ramesh Sharma, Korba

WPL: A New Dawn in Women's Cricket

Manoj Kumar K P

The Women's Premier League (WPL), a new dawn in women's cricket, has arrived, hosted by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The persistent efforts of organizers have finally paid off, and the inaugural season of the WPL has come to an end, with Mumbai Indians emerging as the champions after a thrilling final against Delhi Capitals. The match was a thrilling affair, with the Capitals on life support at 79 for 9 before sensational efforts with the bat from Shikha Pandey and Radha Yadav helped them post a total of 131. From there, their bowlers took it down to Mumbai needing 21 from the last two overs. However, Mumbai's Nat Sciver-Brunt exhibited a fine combination of calm and cheek to steady the innings with a 52-ball half-century and take her team to victory with just three balls to spare. The women's cricket is rapidly storming into this 'male-dominated' domain, proving their talents and capabilities of smashing balls and knocking stumps out in the stadiums. While many countries have devised different ways to encourage women's participation in cricket, including the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) in Australia, the biggest attempt at this is the inauguration of the Women's Premier League (WPL), hosted by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

WPL's Launchpad that has a Million Dreams
The WPL has provided a platform for women cricketers worldwide to showcase their talent and skills. It has given them the opportunity to play in a professional league that was not available before for many women cricketers. The league has also helped to promote



women's cricket and create a more significant fan base for the sport. It has brought new audiences who were not interested in women's cricket before and showed them what talented athletes are capable of. The WPL has not only provided Indian players but also international players the opportunity to showcase their talent.

Breaking Gender Stereotypes

The WPL is slowly breaking the translucent glass between women cricketers and cricket fans. The audience has started to feel more connected with the female players, and the league has created a camaraderie between the players. The WPL has provided an arena for international and national cricketers to

know each other and develop a bond beyond cricket. The WPL will not only benefit the girls who are part of the league but also those who dream of playing cricket and making the game their profession. The league has provided an opportunity for people to recognize many women cricketers' names, who otherwise do not get enough fame for their immense talent. For example, Saika Ishaque was a relatively unknown cricketer before the WPL. However, after her performance in the league, she has become the star pitcher of Mumbai Indians. Shreyanka Patil, playing for Royal Challengers Bangalore, has impressed everyone with her bowling and batting, emerging as one of the most impactful all-

rounders in the league so far. The WPL has also created role models for young girls who aspire to become cricketers. The league has shown them that they, too, can pursue their dreams and make a career in cricket if they work hard and stay dedicated to the sport. It has also helped in breaking down gender stereotypes and creating a more inclusive environment for women in sports.

Future of the League

The Women's Premier League has made an impressive debut, and it seems like the future is bright for the league. The BCCI has expressed its intention to expand the league in the coming years, with more teams and players from around the world expected to participate. With more exposure and media coverage, the league will undoubtedly attract more fans and sponsors, which will help in developing and promoting women's cricket further. The WPL has also paved the way for other countries to follow suit and launch their own premier leagues for women's cricket. It has set a new benchmark and standard for women's cricket globally, inspiring and encouraging young girls to take up the sport and pursue their dreams. The Women's Premier League has been a remarkable addition to women's cricket, creating a platform for women cricketers to showcase their talent and break down gender stereotypes. The league has not only helped in promoting the sport but also in creating role models for young girls and providing them with the inspiration to pursue their dreams. The future of the WPL looks promising, and can't wait to see what it holds for women's cricket in the years to come.

BRIEF

Join FPOs



Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has called upon farmers to join Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs) in large numbers and earn more income by adopting storage, management, grading, and packaging techniques. He urged the farmers to adopt micro irrigation and drip irrigation techniques. Urging the farmers to adopt natural farming, the Chief Minister said that it increases the fertility of the land.

Retail payments

New Delhi: IDFC First Bank on Monday said it has partnered with Swedish company Crunchfish to pilot a project to demonstrate offline retail payments. IDFC First Bank, is set to be a part of RBI's pilot project to enable offline payments, the private sector lender said, adding that the project will give access to digital payments even when there is no network. The unique digital payment solution was designed by Crunchfish for merchants and customers under the RBI's Regulatory Sandbox Program, IDFC First Bank said in a release.

New products



New Delhi: TVS Motor Company on Monday said it has introduced seven new products in Ghana, Africa. The company has launched various new models like Apache 180 and Neo NX among others. "We take pride in our diverse and robust product portfolio that encompasses Bebebs, motorcycles, and three-wheelers, catering to the needs of customers seeking daily and last-mile connectivity in Ghana."

FM moves amendment to Finance Bill to correct STT rate

New Delhi, Mar 27:

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday moved an amendment to the Finance Bill in Rajya Sabha to correct the figures with regard to rate of Security Transaction Tax (STT) to be levied on sale of options as well as futures. The amended Finance Bill 2023 by correcting STT rate has been returned to Lok Sabha, sources said. The amended Bill is likely to be taken up by Lok Sabha either today or tomorrow and thereafter the Budgetary exercise would be complete. The Lok Sabha is adjourned till 4 pm. In the Finance Bill 2023, passed by the Lok Sabha on



Friday, the Securities Transaction Tax on options is proposed to be increased to 0.0625 per cent from 0.05 per cent and on futures contracts to 0.0125 from 0.01 per cent. After the Lok Sabha cleared the Finance Bill, which has 64 official amendments, the finance ministry issued a statement saying that there was a typographical

error in the amendments with respect to the change in STT on options trading.

The error, the finance ministry said, will be rectified in accordance with the extent procedure of the government of India. As per the amendments, the STT on options has been increased from 0.017 per cent to 0.021 per cent. "In case of STT, the rate is proposed to be changed from 0.05 per cent to 0.0625 per cent. There was a typographical error which is being corrected," the ministry said. In percentage terms, STT on sale of futures has been hiked from 0.01 per cent to 0.0125 per cent and in case of options it has been hiked from 0.05 per cent to 0.062 per cent.

EPFO likely to decide rate of interest on employees' provident fund deposits

New Delhi, Mar 27:

The retirement fund body EPFO is likely to announce the rate of interest on employees' provident fund (EPF) deposits for 2022-23 at its two-day meeting beginning Monday. EPFO had lowered the interest on EPF for 2021-22 to an over four-decade low of 8.1 per cent for its about five crore subscribers, from 8.5 per cent in 2020-21 in March 2022. This was the lowest since 1977-78, when the EPF interest rate stood at 8 per cent. "The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation's (EPFO's) apex decision making body Central Board of Trustees (CBT) is likely to decide the

rate of interest on EPF for 2022-23 at its two-day meeting beginning on Monday afternoon," a source said. Besides interest rate, the CBT will also discuss the annual accounts of the EPFO for 2022-23.

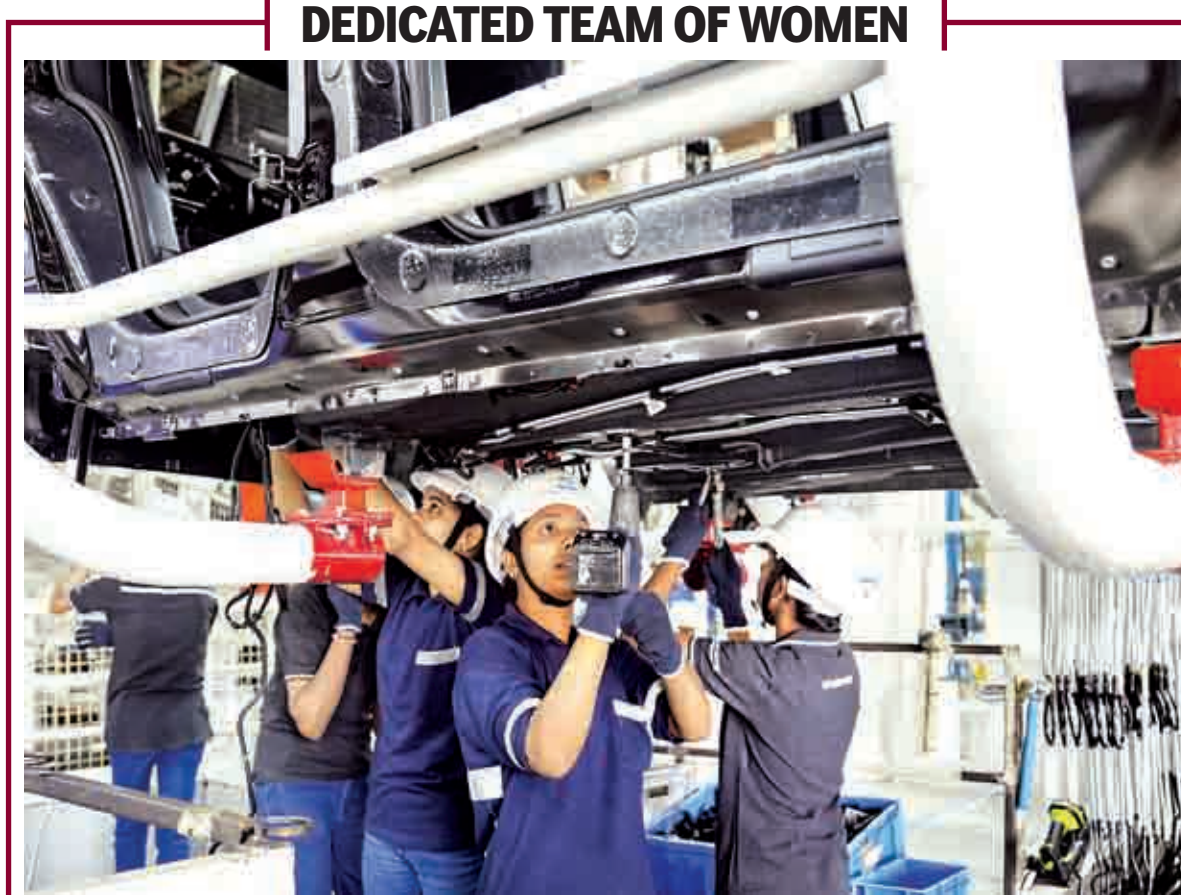
The trustees will also deliberate on the action taken by the EPFO on the Supreme Court order for giving a four-month window to Employees' Pension Scheme 1995 subscribers to opt for higher pension. The EPFO has provided the facility to opt for higher pension to its subscribers till May 3, 2023. The 8.5 per cent interest rate on EPF deposits for 2020-21 was decided by the CBT in March 2021.

BMW plans to launch 19 car models in India this year; eyes double-digit growth

New Delhi, Mar 27:

German luxury auto maker BMW plans to introduce 19 car models, including electric vehicles, in India this year as it looks to sustain double-digit sales growth in the country, a top company official said on Monday. The car maker, which expects 2023 to be the best for it in terms of sales in the country so far, also aims for electric vehicles to account for about 15 per cent of its overall sales this year.

The group also plans to introduce three bike models under the BMW Motorrad business in India this year. "We are going to launch 22 products which includes 19



Employees assemble Tata Harrier & Safari on the production line at the company's facility, in Pune, Monday, March 27, 2023. A dedicated team of 1500 women assemble the Tata Safari and Harrier.



cars and three bikes during this year," BMW Group India President Vikram Pawah told PTI in an interaction. It would be a mix of all new product introductions and facelifts of existing model range, he added. The company has been launching over twenty products a year for the last few years, Pawah said, adding, "two-

third of our volume will be either new or refreshed products which is probably for the first time that so much of the product is changing in one year itself."

Further, Pawah said that in the eight weeks between December last year and January this year, the company introduced eight products, and it has been able to create a demand and an order pipeline of 5,500 cars and 4,500 bikes.

According to him, BMW is the only company having four distinct electric models in the country. "So, out of the 5,500 total demand we have created for cars, 600 is for electric range. So, it is already going to cross the 11 per cent mark."

Rupee gains 3 paise to close at 82.37 against US dollar

Mumbai, Mar 27:

The rupee appreciated by 3 paise to close at 82.37 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, as a positive trend in domestic equities and a weak dollar supported investor sentiments. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.36 against the American currency and finally settled at 82.37 (provisional) against the greenback, registering a gain of 3 paise over its previous close of 82.40. During the trading session, the rupee touched a high of 82.27 and a low of 82.42 against the dollar. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.02 per cent to



103.09. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures advanced 0.68 per cent to USD 75.50 per barrel. According to Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, the Indian rupee appreciated amid positive domestic markets and a soft Dollar.

Govt's immediate steps ensured Indian startups were not adversely impacted by SVB crisis: Ashwini Vaishnav

New Delhi, Mar 27:

Immediate action by the government to help Indian startups in the aftermath of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) collapse ensured they were not adversely impacted by the "minor crisis", Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said on Monday. He also exhorted the entire startup community to think of the Indian banking sector as their trusted partner. Vaishnav, Minister for IT and Communications, also noted the rapid strides taken by India in areas of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and quantum computing. Speaking at India Global Forum event, the Minister said while there was a time when India was only seen



as a consumer of technology, today "many global developers like to have Indian start ups, entrepreneurs and academicians as their partners, as technology gets developed". "In these two technologies, we would like use of Indian talent for developing solutions for India and for the world," he said. To a question on whether India can

produce something equivalent to ChatGPT, the Minister said "wait for a few weeks there will be a big announcement." The Minister said it is important for global economy to have trusted partner like India. All over the world there is a sense that India should emerge as a key semiconductor manufacturing destination, Vaishnav said adding that "Government is working sincerely and diligently" to ensure a vibrant semiconductor ecosystem comes up in the country. The Minister further said that after the SVB collapse, the government swung into action to handhold Indian start ups that had funds or deposits in the bank.

Sensex rises 125 pts, Nifty nears 17k; RIL, Maruti shine

Mumbai, Mar 27:

Equity benchmark Sensex climbed 126 points on Monday, propped up by buying in index heavyweights Reliance Industries, Maruti and SBI amid a higher opening in European equities. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 126.76 points or 0.22 per cent to finish at 57,653.86. During the day, it jumped 492.45 points or 0.85 per cent to 58,019.55. The broader NSE Nifty advanced 40.65 points or 0.24 per cent to end at 16,985.70. Among the Sensex firms, Reliance Industries, Maruti, Sun Pharma, State Bank of India, UltraTech Cement, Infosys, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Hindustan Unilever, ITC and HDFC Bank were the biggest gainers. Shares



of Reliance Industries climbed 1.54 per cent, the most among the 30-share BSE constituents. Power Grid, Axis Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra and Tata Motors were among the major laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the red while Japan settled in the green. European markets were trading in positive territory during the afternoon trade.

Govt sets up committee to monitor tur stocks to check hoarding

New Delhi, Mar 27:

The government on Monday said it has constituted a committee to monitor the stock of tur dal held by importers, mills, stockists and traders in order to check hoarding and speculation. The government is also closely watching the stock position of other pulses in the domestic market to take necessary preemptive measures in the event of unwarranted price rise in the coming months, an official statement said. The decision has been taken in view of the reports of market players not releasing stocks despite regular arrival of imports in good quantities, it added. The committee, under chairmanship of Additional Secretary Nidhi Khare, will monitor tur stocks in close coordination with the state governments.

Earlier on August 12 last year, the government had issued an advisory to the state governments and Union Territories to enforce stock disclosure in respect of tur dal under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Further, in order to facilitate smooth and seamless import, the government has removed the 10 per cent duty applicable for tur imports from non-LDC countries as the duty creates procedural hurdles even for zero duty imports from the Less Developed Countries (LDCs). The latest announcement of a committee to monitor stock disclosure indicates the government's intention to deal with hoarders and unscrupulous speculators in the market. It also indicates the government's determination to keep prices of tur under control in months ahead, the statement added.

NMDC Brand Ambassador Nikhat Zareen wins Gold

At World Boxing Championship 2023

Hyderabad, Mar 27:



display of grit and strength. "NMDC was closely following the journey of Ms Nikhat Zareen at the World Boxing Championship and it was a moment of overwhelming pride to witness her win and roar. It is an honour for the NMDC family to be part of her arduous journey to glory." "It's a special day, a second World Championship gold, that too in a new weight category" said Nikhat Zareen after the match. Expressing her grat-

itude to NMDC, she said, "I am extremely thankful to NMDC for their constant support." Lauding its Brand Ambassador, NMDC said, the company is proud to be represented by someone who epitomizes strength and unstinted commitment to bring honour to the country. The 2022 Commonwealth Gold Medalist represents the hopes and aspirations of New India and NMDC is supporting her journey to the Asian Games in Hangzhou and the 2024 Olympics in Paris. It was a dream run for NMDC this weekend and a coincidence that India's mining giant surpassed 40 MnT iron ore production, consecutively alike Ms Zareen's achievement.

Cantabil Retail expands its retail presence

New Delhi, Mar 27:

Cantabil Retail India Ltd., one of India's leading apparel manufacturer and retailer, has announced the opening of its retail store in Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh. Spread across an area of 1440sqft., this brand's store is located at MG Road Datta colony. The all-new Cantabil Retail store represents the future of retail experience for its customers, as they offer a full range of formal-wear, casuals, and ultra-casual clothing for men & women at competitive price. With this store opening, Cantabil retail has reached to 445 store mark across India and plans to continue expanding its retail presence. Commenting on the



opening of the store, Mr. Deepak Bansal, Director, Cantabil Retail India Ltd. said, "We are delighted to announce the launch of our new retail store in Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh. Cantabil Retail as a brand has been well received and admired amongst our customers in the mid-premium segment, across all age groups. In order to ensure the availability of trendy yet competitive fashion apparel to our customers, we have opened our 9th retail store in Chhattisgarh."

S&P keeps India eco growth forecast unchanged at 6 pc in FY24

New Delhi, Mar 27:

S&P Global Ratings on Monday kept its forecast for India's economic growth unchanged at 6 per cent in the fiscal year starting April 1, before rising to 6.9 per cent in the following year. In the quarterly economic update for Asia-Pacific, S&P saw inflation rate easing to 5 per cent in 2023-24 fiscal, from 6.8 per cent in the current financial year. It saw India's gross domestic product (GDP) likely growing by 7 per cent in the current financial year ending March 31 (2022-23), before slowing to 6 per cent in the next 2023-24 fiscal. "India leads, with average growth of 7 per cent in 2024-2026," the update said. GDP is

projected to rise to 6.9 per cent in the following two financial years - 2024-25 and 2025-26 and rising to 7.1 per cent in 2026-27. "In India, domestic demand has traditionally led the economy. But it has become more sensitive to the global cycle lately, in part due to rising commodity exports; and its year-on-year GDP growth slowed to 4.4 per cent in the fourth quarter (October-December 2022)," the rating agency said. Pronounced core inflation in India suggests little slack in these economies, it said. S&P expected the Reserve Bank of India to raise its already high policy rate further following a recent upside surprise to inflation. "In our view,

India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation should moderate to 5 per cent in fiscal year 2024 (ending March 2024) but we also anticipate upside risks, including from weather-related factors," it said. Stating that the current account balances of energy-importing economies in the Asia-Pacific have deteriorated, the rating agency said in India, the external deficit reached about 3-3.5 per cent of GDP in 2022. S&P Global Ratings maintained "cautiously optimistic outlook for Asia-Pacific," saying China's economy was on track to recover this year. "We believe the recovery in China will be largely organic, led by consumption and services."

Kamya Panjabi: I am not open to any dance reality shows

Kamya Panjabi, who is a well-known name in the TV industry and has worked in a number of fictional dramas, is quite satisfied with the way her career has shaped up as now she is making a cameo in the show 'Tere Ishq Mein Ghayal'.

She spoke about her plans of working on OTT and also added that she is not interested in doing any dance reality shows.

The actor enjoys reality shows as she mentioned, "I love reality shows. 'Bigg Boss' is my favourite. It's like a breather. I did get a call for 'Khatron Ke Khiladi', but I can't give my 100 per cent to it. And, if I can't give my best then I won't do it. I have done 'Comedy Circus' and I am not open to any dance reality shows too," she said.

While recalling her journey and talking about the projects that are close to her heart, she said: "It's very difficult to choose because I enjoyed performing all the parts that I have done till now. But if I have to pick two characters that are close to me are Sindoor and Preeto. In 'Banoo Main Teri Dulhaan', I played Sindoor for three years and got my first award. It actually helped in starting my

journey on a high note. The second character is Preeto from 'Shakti: Astitva Ke Ehsaas Ki'. That show went on for six years and it was quite difficult for me to leave it. In fact, I was not ready to let it go."

Kamya said she does not have a mentor or guide in the industry. "I create my own rules. I have no inspiration as such," she added.

Kamya further shared that female characters on TV have evolved considerably. A lot of strong female characters are being created these days, but she feels the industry still has a long way to go.

"I have seen that when a woman cries on TV then only the audience accepts it. Viewers like the bahus and want to see women tortured and shed tears. Yes there are female-oriented shows, but then these females are crying in that. So, I feel there is still scope for improvement. TV works only because of the content. TRP doesn't come from social media fan following. TV has a different audience and the content here is the hero. My show 'Shakti' has worked despite Vivian Desena and Rubina Dilaik leaving it. The show was the hero. To run your content, you need those set of actors who make a difference," she explained.

'My top priority will always be 'Bhabiji Ghar Pai Hai'

& TV's cult-comedy show Bhabiji Ghar Pai Hai recently completed eight years and 2000 episodes. We caught up with Manmohan Tiwari aka Rohitashv Gour on his incredible journey in the show.



recognised by your character name Manmohan Tiwari?

Excerpts from the interview:

How does it feel to complete 8 years and 2000 episodes together?

It is a special moment for all of us because it is a double celebration. In this highly competitive industry, very few shows manage to sustain success and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai has aced it. I am grateful to the channel and our producers, Sanjay Kohli and Binaiffer Kohli, for believing in me and giving me this opportunity. It's been eight years and is still going strong. The show has played a huge part in shaping my career and providing me with a loyal fan base.

How does it feel to be

My journey as Tiwari has been wonderful. This character has become a household name. The character has resonated so beautifully that people often call me Tiwari Ji instead of Rohitashv. At times, people also ask me 'aapke kacche banyan ki dukan kaisi chal rahi hai?' (laughs). It shows the success of our show and the popularity of its characters. I believe, not just Tiwari, but every character in this show has made a special place in viewers' hearts. On several occasions, our fans have mentioned how watching the show has brought happiness in their lives. There have been cases wherein many patients have written to us stating how the show's humour has helped them divert their minds from their pain. I feel so blessed and thankful.

What is that one quality which is similar between Rohitashv Gour and Manmohan Tiwari?

Like Manmohan Tiwari, I am a middle-class man who loves his family and can commit to any extent to give them all happiness and love.

Recently you said you'll not do Television after Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai. What is the reason?

I come from theatres and have worked on numerous films. Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai has given me enormous recognition. I don't think any other TV show would have given me the same level of popularity and satisfaction as an artist. Wherever I go, people recognise me as Manmohan Tiwari, and I am so proud and happy to play such an iconic character. Jab tak Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai rahega, tabtak main is show ka hissa rahunga. My top priority will always be this show.

Watch Rohitashv Gour as Manmohan Tiwari in &TV's Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 PM every Monday to Friday!

Raashii Khanna desires to do an 'Aashiqui' kind of film with Kartik Aaryan

Actress Raashii Khanna has expressed her desire to work with actor Kartik Aaryan in a love story just like



'Aashiqui'. Recently during an interview, while talking about Kartik, Raashii said, "I think with him, I would like to do an intense love story, not a comedy fun genre kind of film but like an intense film like Aashiqui."

"That film I think will be very nice because I love romantic films and I had done a film and that was the film that was immensely loved by the audience so they love me in a love story. So if I have to do with Kartik, probably a film like that."

On the work front, Kartik has an exciting line-up of films with Satyaprem Ki Katha, Aashiqui 3, and Kabir Khan's untitled next among others.

Sonali Bendre enters as a judge on 'India's Best Dancer Season 3'

Bringing viewers high voltage entertainment, Sony Entertainment Television has always brought forth superlative talent through its impressive reality show offerings. Raising the bar with the latest edition of its homegrown dance reality show, the channel is geared up for the third season of 'India's Best Dancer'!

Promising dance, diversity, and delight - India's Best Dancer Season 3 will be an enthralling watch for all dance enthusiasts. And this time, joining Terence Lewis and Geeta Kapoor on the Judges Panel will be Bollywood's charming actress - Sonali Bendre.

While judges Terence Lewis and Geeta Kapoor will take on their roles of judging the contestants based on "Technique" and "Newness", Sonali Bendre's criterion will be "Entertainment" and "Emotions". Ushering in a new era of dance, this season will commemorate



those contestants whose moves prove what they stand for, along with how they express themselves through this art form.

Talking about joining the show as a first-time judge, Sonali Bendre expressed her excitement saying, "There is something special about seeing a dancer in action - the skill, finesse, emotions, handwork, dedication, joy, sadness, success, failure, they bring it all to life in their movement."

I would love to do a good OTT project: Ranndeeep Rai



TV actor Ranndeeep Rai says that unlike many others, he is not running after the digital platform and will only take up something after looking at the quality of work.

"I think it depends completely on the actor's mindset. Mine is neutral for work. Be it anything, if I feel it's a good project, lead role or not, or on any platform, I don't mind doing it. And yes, everyone wants to do OTT because OTT is the future. But if you ask me, I don't have that mindset. I'm happy with the way my career is going. If I get a chance, I would, of course, love to do a good OTT project on a good platform. But again, I believe in destiny. Jab hona hoga tab ho jayega. I'm just working hard on myself and on my

craft and, for me, that's more important," he says.

Ranndeeep has been part of a number of TV shows including 'Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai', 'Balika Vadhu 2' and 'Bade Achhe Lagte Hain 2'.

Talking about the kind of shows being made today, he says: "Makers make content according to the demand of the audience, so I have no comment on it. Till the time the audience is not facing any problem, the makers are not facing any problem."

On the kind of work he wants to take up on OTT, he says: "I would love to play grey characters, not negative but grey characters. You know someone who is a bit arrogant and also has a little action and romance like Kabir Singh."

TV actors beat the heat with favourite summer diets!



It's March, and most of India is experiencing the hot summers. The sweltering heat necessitates immediate changes in food and beverage consumption to keep your body cool and healthy. &TV artists RJ Mohit (Manoj, Doosri Maa), Kamna Pathak (Rajesh, Hattu Ki Ultan Paltan), and Shubhangi Atre (Angoori, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai) reveal their summer diets. Kamna Pathak aka Rajesh from &TV's Hattu Ki Ultan Paltan shares, "I enjoy sugarcane juice the most during

summers. It tastes best when blended with lemon and mint. It is an instant energizer and has an abundance of nutritional benefits. It boosts body fluids and plasma, helping you fight fatigue and dehydration. It is also one of the healthiest detox beverages available. Additionally, I always have tomatoes and cucumbers at lunch because they are high in nutrition. Fruits and vegetables that are high in water, keep you hydrated and fresh and help beat the heat in a healthy way."

Shoaib Ibrahim's dons a new look in 'Ajooni'

Star Bharat has always been entertaining the audience with its great content and a talented ensemble cast. Actor Shoaib Ibrahim is not falling behind in capturing the hearts of viewers with his fantastic character in the upcoming episode of the television series 'Ajooni.' With the growing appreciation for the show among the audience, Shoaib is once again prepared to win the viewers' hearts over.

The current track of the show is being well received by the audience. The special thing is that in the upcoming track of the show, viewers are going to see many ups and downs, which will be very interesting for the viewers to watch. Rajveer



(played by Shoaib Ibrahim) and Ajooni (played by Ayushi Khurana) have faced every challenge thrown at the Bagga family together and now once again the Bagga family is about to face a big problem, which

received from a source present on the sets of the show, "Shoaib is seen in a completely different look in the show where he has donned the look of a Sardar who is going to look very stylish. Where he is wearing a turban and his team supporting him is also going to be seen in a completely different avatar, wearing funny glasses. Rajveer has taken this look to save his father's honor, which he has promised to his father. In such a situation, Rajveer ji will try his best to win his father's trust. But why he is going to do this is going to be interesting for the audience to see." To know, watch Ajooni show every Monday to Friday at 8:30 pm only on Star Bharat.

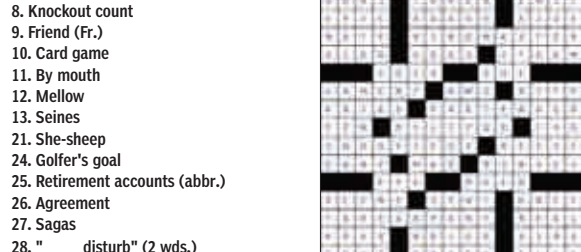
CROSSWORD

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- ACROSS**
- Pear type
 - Aberdeen native
 - Squirrel's treat
 - Choir member
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 - Bridle strap
 - Prayer's end
 - Not appropriate
 - Wizard
 - Tavern drinks
 - Water container
 - Pelvic joints
 - _____ Murphy of "Beverly Hills Cop"
 - Worship
 - Rhyme creator
 - Menu term (3 wds.)
 - "Murder, _____"
 - Most cherished
 - "One Day _____ Time" (2 wds.)
 - Agreement
 - President Calvin _____
 - Tread
 - Most peculiar

- Gazes
- Driving aids
- Region
- Fork point
- Most intelligent
- Shop
- Run into
- Threesome
- Flower feature
- Relieve
- Easter flower
- Sniff
- Picnic intruders
- Elongated fish
- Room theme
- Challenges
- Furious
- Furry swimmer
- Some tides
- Eat at eight
- Perimeter
- Matures
- Type of football pass
- City in Washington
- Least wild
- Agiece
- Fixed prices
- Recipe measures (abbr.)
- Article
- Musical sound
- Actor _____ Penn
- Toledo's waterfront
- Window ledge
- Christmas gifts
- House extension
- "Oh, give _____ home..." (2 wds.)



Nikhat eager to use World Championship experience to win Olympic quota

New Delhi, Mar 27 (PTI)

Newly crowned world champion Nikhat Zareen is keen to use the experience gained in the recently concluded global event to qualify for the 2024 Olympics at the Asian Games scheduled later this year.

The Asian Games are the first qualifying event for the Paris Olympics for the boxers of the continent.

Nikhat, who won the 52kg world title last year, dropped down to the 50kg weight class as it is an Olympic category. "This tournament was a good experience. Especially in the 50kg category, which is an Olympic category. I didn't get seeding also I had to fight six bouts. But in the end, I have won a gold medal here and I am happy," Nikhat said.

The World Championships was Nikhat's second international event in the 50kg class. She had won the gold at the Commonwealth Games in the same weight class last



year. "This is the first major competition in this category after the Commonwealth Games, which did not have much competition.

"But here countries from all over the world competed and had back-to-back matches also my body was a bit slow in some matches. I will learn from these experiences and try to become stronger."

Nikhat is now only the second Indian boxer to have two World titles, the first being the trailblazing MC

Mary Kom, who has won six golds. "I feel good that I have won back-to-back gold and I'm happy to continue this winning streak. The Asian Games are about to come soon and people will obviously have expectations but I will take the pressure in a positive. Whatever the result it will be a good learning lesson for me."

Moving down to 50kg has been a tough task for Nikhat, who has to shed 3 to 4kg from her natural weight to make the cut. "This World

Fantastic Four sparkle at Worlds, but Indian boxers have a long way to go

New Delhi: The indomitable Nikhat Zareen continued to shine bright while Lovlina Borgohain rediscovered her winning touch as hosts India capped off a memorable campaign in the Women's Boxing World Championships, fetching four gold medals. With the Paris Olympics approaching, it augurs well that the Indian contingent matched its best performance in terms of gold medals. The highlight of the tournament was Nikhat becoming only the second Indian to win the World Championships twice after the legendary MC Mary Kom, who has an unprecedented six titles on the global stage. The emergence of three new champions in Lovlina (75kg), Nitu Ghanghas (48kg) and Saweety Boora (81kg) and some promising performances from the likes of Preeti Pawar (54kg) were also key takeaways from the tournament. Nikhat had to battle through six exhausting bouts, including playing back-to-back pre-quarters, quarterfinals and semifinals. She got precious little recovery, and the fact that she defeated tough opponents under immense pressure of performing at home, is a testament to her mental resolve and fitness.

Championships were tougher because last time I did not have to put in a lot of effort for weight management. "But this time I had to follow a diet and I had to be disciplined and after the Nationals we did not get much time to prepare for the competition," she said.

Delighted by the Indian contingent's performance at the World Championships,

Boxing Federation of India President Ajay Singh said the national governing body would try to identify the Olympic team as soon as possible.

World champions Nikhat and Lovlina Borgohain have already qualified for the Asian Games and thus have an opportunity to seal an Olympic berth at the continental event.

Sandeep Sharma replaces injured Prasidh Krishna at RR



Jaipur, Mar 27 (PTI)

Veteran Punjab seamer Sandeep Sharma will replace injured Prasidh Krishna in the Rajasthan Royals squad for IPL 2023, the franchise confirmed on Monday.

Prasidh, a bowling mainstay for Royals, is out of action following a lower-back surgery. It was a lucky break for Sandeep, who has 114 wickets from 104 IPL games at an economy rate of 7.77, as he went unsold at the auction.

The main reason being his lack of pace as he swings the ball between a friendly pace of 120 to 125 clicks. "Fast bowler Sandeep Sharma will represent Rajasthan Royals this season after being signed as a replacement for Prasadh Krishna.

Indore stadium pitch rating changed from 'poor' to 'below average'

Dubai, Mar 27 (PTI):

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has upgraded the pitch rating of Indore's Holkar Stadium - the venue for the third Test between India and Australia - to 'below average' from 'poor' following a BCCI appeal.

The ICC also gave the Narendra Modi Stadium pitch in Ahmedabad, the venue for the fourth Test, an 'average' rating for the slow batting deck where both teams had one completed innings each.

The match had ended in a tame draw, with India winning the series 2-1.

At Indore, Australia had defeated India by nine wickets inside three days of the Border-Gavaskar Test to secure a World Test Championship final berth.

The ICC appeal panel reviewed the earlier decision of the match referee Chris Broad and found that there was not enough excessive variable bounce to warrant the 'poor' rating.

The pitch, which had ini-

tially received three demerit points, will now get only one demerit point.

"The footage from the Test was reviewed by an ICC appeal panel consisting of Wasim Khan, ICC General Manager Cricket, and Roger Harper, ICC Men's Cricket Committee Member Both were of the opinion that, while the guidelines had been followed by the Match Referee in accordance with Appendix A of the Pitch Monitoring Process, there was not enough excessive variable bounce to warrant the 'poor' rating," said an ICC statement on Monday.

"The panel, therefore, concluded that the pitch should be rated 'below average', meaning the Holkar Stadium will receive only one demerit point instead of the original three."

The Holkar Stadium pitch offered a lot of help to the spinners, with 14 wickets falling on the first day and, out of the 31 wickets to fall in the Test, 26 were picked up by spinners.

Nitish Rana named KKR captain in place of injured Iyer

Kolkata, Mar 27 (PTI):

Kolkata Knight Riders on Monday named left-handed batter Nitish Rana as the team's new skipper for the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League.

Rana will replace Shreyas Iyer, who is likely to undergo back surgery and is in danger of missing the entire season.

In fact, KKR's statement was an indicator that Iyer's chances of an early return to play looks improbable at the moment.

"...Nitish Rana would captain the side in the absence of Shreyas Iyer, who is recovering from a back injury. While we are hopeful that Shreyas will recover and participate at some stage in the IPL 2023 edition, we feel fortunate that Nitish, with the captaincy experience having led his state side in white ball cricket and the IPL experience he has had with KKR since 2018, will do a great job," KKR said in a statement. "We are also confident that under head coach Chandrakant Pandit and the support staff, he will get all the support needed off the field, and the highly experienced leaders in the

squad will provide all support that Nitish may need on the field. We wish him the best in his new role and Shreyas a full and speedy recovery," it further stated.

While Rana has captained Delhi in Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, the results have been far from encouraging for the southpaw. It is understood that he would be asked to implement the strategy prepared by coach Pandit, who along with team boss Venky Mysore and former Mumbai Ranji stalwart Abhishek Nayar will be calling the shots.

It may be noted that Rana was dropped by Delhi in this season's Ranji Trophy squad due to his poor show and inept technique in red-ball cricket.

Rana has captained Delhi in 12 T20s in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, with eight wins and four defeats. The 29-year old middle-order batter was bought by KKR ahead of the 2018 season and has been retained by the franchise ever since.

Rana 74 matches for KKR, scoring 1744 runs at a strike rate of 135.61.

KKR will open their campaign against Punjab Kings at Mohali on April 1.

'Winning crucial moments key to Mumbai Indians' success in WPL'

Mumbai, Mar 27 (PTI):

Mumbai Indians captain Harmanpreet Kaur feels that focussing on winning crucial moments of matches and not the ultimate prize worked well for her side, as they lifted the inaugural Women's Premier League trophy after a seven-wicket win over Delhi Capitals in the final here.

"(Right from start) we were talking about winning the moments. We were not looking for the trophy, we were looking to win all the moments. (We thought) if we win the moments, the trophy will come automatically," Kaur told reporters after Mumbai Indians' title win.

Kaur said she was waiting for this moment for a long time, to win a trophy as a captain.

"It feels very good personally also. I was waiting for this moment for a long time when I could win something as a captain. It is also very important for women's cricket," she said.

"Many times we were there but could not make it. But here the tournament was different, the



teams were different. Every side is so balanced and did well in the tournament."

Kaur's run out on Sunday reminded of her

dismissal in the T20 World Cup semifinal against Australia, but the MI captain said there was enough in her team's tank to overhaul the target.

Indian football team to go all out against Kyrgyz Republic in Tri-Nation title decider

Imphal, Mar 27 (PTI):

A draw against Kyrgyz Republic is enough for India to win the Tri-Nation International Football tournament on Tuesday but head coach Igor Simac said the hosts will go all out for a win.

The Blue Tigers began with a slender 1-0 win over Myanmar on Wednesday last. They need just a draw to win the tournament after Kyrgyz Republic snatched a 1-1 draw against Myanmar in the second match of tournament on Saturday.

Kyrgyz Republic, on the other hand, will require a win against India to claim the trophy.

"We will go all out to win. We have a full house with our supporters and a chance to prove ourselves. It will also be a much stronger team than the first game," Simac said at the pre-match press conference.

"I was right when I said Myanmar is a serious side that can hurt you. We saw that against the Kyrgyz Republic. It will, of course,

be a different challenge against the Kyrgyz side because they don't have any option but to come out and win."

Goalkeeper Amrinder Singh, who started in the 1-0 win over Myanmar, accompanied Simac in the press conference and said he would want to keep up his good performance.

"I always try to do my best whenever I get the chance. Coach gives me a lot of confidence on and off the pitch. I work hard in training, rest well, sleep well and eat well. I'm happy with my performance and I want to keep it up," Singh said.

Simac was all praise for the custodian as well and said Singh had "top reactions and eliminated every danger".

"He has always done well in the few games he's played under me - against Thailand (1-0), Oman (1-1) and now Myanmar (1-0)," the head coach said.

Simac also informed that Sahal Abdul Samad has joined the national team camp ahead of Tuesday's game.

Spain Masters: Satwik-Chirag eye another title

Madrid, Mar 27 (PTI):

Newly-crowned Swiss Open doubles champion Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will look to continue their consistent run, while singles stars such as PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth will hope to regain form at the Madrid Spain Masters which gets underway here on Tuesday. Satwik and Chirag notched up the first title for India this season when they defeated China's world No. 21 Ren Xiang Yu and Tan Qiang 21-19 24-22 in the summit clash of Swiss Open in Basel on Sunday. The world number 6 Indian pair, the 2022 world championships bronze medalists, will eye another super 300 title when they begin their campaign against Japan's Ayato Endo and Yuta Takei this week. While Satwik and Chirag made a mark in Basel last week, the singles stars cut a sorry figure with Sindhu still struggling to find her feet since returning from a long injury layoff and Srikanth unable to find any consistency.

Kane and Ronaldo help England and Portugal stay perfect

London, Mar 27 (AP):

England and Portugal made it two wins out of two at the start of European Championship qualifying, helped by their star players continuing their record-breaking streaks.

Harry Kane struck a record-extending 55th goal for his country to help England beat Ukraine 2-0, while Cristiano Ronaldo netted twice in his 198th appearance for Portugal in a 6-0 win over Luxembourg.

Slovenia was the other team with a perfect start to qualifying for Euro 2024 after two matches as it beat San Marino 2-0.

Defending champion Italy got its first win of the qualifying campaign as it beat Malta 2-0.

After surpassing Wayne Rooney as England's outright leading scorer with his penalty in Thursday's 2-1 win against Italy in Naples, Kane extended his record streak at Wembley.

The England captain struck in the 37th minute of the Group C game, converting Bukayo Saka's cross at the far post.

Saka deservedly got on the scoresheet himself three minutes later when



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo, center, scores his sides fourth goal during the Euro 2024 group J qualifying soccer match between Luxembourg and Portugal at the Stade de Luxembourg.



England's Harry Kane reacts during the Euro 2024 group C qualifying soccer match between England and Ukraine at Wembley Stadium in London.

turning on the edge of the area and curling a shot into the top corner. Italy bounced back from

its opening defeat to England with victory in Malta, with Mateo Retegui netting again.

IBA threatens IOC with legal action for breach of contract

New Delhi, Mar 27 (PTI)

The International Boxing Association (IBA) has accused the International Olympic Committee (IOC) of "lack of transparency" and "unlawful" conduct and raised questions about its "transparency principles" while inviting boxing officials for the 2024 Paris Olympics qualification process. The IBA has threatened to take IOC to court for redressal of the issue.

In an open letter to IOC president Thomas Bach ahead of the global sports body's executive board meeting on Tuesday, IBA has said its competition officials were being approached by IOC "without prior approval or communication to IBA", which is a breach of the data transfer agreement signed between the two parties in 2019. At the root of the problem is the ban imposed by IOC on the boxing body due to concerns around its governance, financial transparency, sustainability and the integrity of refereeing and judging process. The IOC has informed IBA that it would conduct boxing qualification events leading up to the Paris Olympics, the same way it had done before of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

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Rajasthan: Private doctors take out rally in protest against Right to Health Bill

Jaipur, Mar 27 (PTI):

Private doctors protesting against the Rajasthan Right to Health Bill took out a massive rally in Jaipur on Monday in a show of strength and to press their demand for its withdrawal.

Thousands of doctors, their family members, and people associated with the medical profession including medical shop owners took part in the rally which started from the resident doctors hostel ground of the SMS Hospital.

The rally passed through Suchna Kendra Tiraha, Maharani College Tiraha, Ashok Marg and Paanch Batti on MI Road.

Private hospitals and nursing homes have been closed for several days due to a strike of private doctors, leading to a rush of patients in government hospitals.

Medical services in government hospitals were also affected as doctors across the state boycotted work for two hours in solidarity with the protesting



Doctors take out a protest rally against the Rajasthan Right to Health Bill, in Jaipur, Monday.

discussion on their suggestions regarding the bill.

However, the doctors were adamant and said any discussion would be possible only after the bill was withdrawn.

The bill was passed by the Assembly last week. Private doctors say that the bill will increase bureaucratic interference in their functioning.

According to the Rajasthan Right to Health Bill, passed by the Assembly on Tuesday, every resident of the state will have the right to emergency treatment and care “without prepayment” at any “public health institution, health care establishment and designated health care centres”.

Before the bill was amended following recommendations by a select committee, the draft mentioned “any health care provider, establishment or facility, including private provider, establishment or facility, public health institution, health care establishment and designated health care centres, qualified”.

private doctors. Chief Secretary Usha Sharma and other senior officials of the state government

held a meeting with a delegation of the agitating private hospitals on Sunday and assured them to hold a

Tourism dept proposes resumption of boating at Purana Qila lake

New Delhi, Mar 27 (PTI):

The Delhi government has urged the Archaeological Survey of India to allow the “restart” of boating in the lake at Purana Qila, saying it would “add attraction” to the national capital during the visit of G20 delegates, officials said on Monday.

Delhi Tourism offered recreational boating at the Old Fort (Purana Qila) lake since 1991. However, boating was suspended after the Tourism department’s agreement with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) ended in 2016, an official said.

Located on the site of the ancient city of Indraprastha, Purana Qila has a nearly two-kilometre circuit. Boating in the lake was among the major tourist attractions.

The Tourism department in January wrote to the ASI, “requesting” it to consider resumption of boating activity.

Delhi Tourism and the ASI entered into an agreement in 2007 after the lake was transferred to ASI from the Delhi Development Authority.

Parliamentary panel

‘India needs increased draft depth at all ports to handle large vessels’

New Delhi, Mar 27 (PTI):

A parliamentary committee has stressed on the need for increasing the draft depth of almost all the ports of the country under the Sagarmala Programme according to their respective cargo profile.

Increased draft depth helps ports handle larger vessels.

In its latest report, the department-related parliamentary standing committee on transport, tourism and culture said that the draft depth at major ports, both in the channel and berths, has been historically low and ranges from 7 metres in older ports up to 20 metres in newer ports. The draft depth is not commensurate with the change of ship sizes and changes in cargo trends such as containerisation.

“Though the government has taken a number of initiatives to modernise our ports under the Sagarmala Programme, the committee said a lot remains to be done to ensure deep draft availabil-

ity to handle mega ships. The committee recommended that the ministry of ports, shipping and waterways should expediently resolve all pending issues, including clearances related to land acquisition, CRZ clearances etc, so that the execution of Sagarmala projects is expedited.

The committee pointed out that only two Indian ports feature in the top 40 Global Container Ports.

While pointing out that there is significant potential to develop port infrastructure in India and become competitive with other leading maritime nations by driving cost effectiveness, it recommended that overall capacity augmentation of Indian ports should be done and cost competitiveness at Indian ports should be ensured in a manner that in the next 5-7 years India has at least 5 of its ports by container throughput in the top 40 ports.

“There is an urgent need to increase the draft of almost all the ports of the country under the Sagarmala Programme, for which, the requirement of dredging at Indian Ports should be assessed and dredging plans should be formulated to accommodate larger ships,” the committee recommended.

While noting that though the government has taken a number of initiatives to modernise our ports under the Sagarmala Programme, the committee said a lot remains to be done to ensure deep draft availabil-

Delhi University likely to hold students’ union elections in September

New Delhi, Mar 27 (PTI)

The Delhi University is likely to hold students’ union elections – a long-standing demand of students’ groups – after a three-year gap this September, according to a varsity official. Elections to the students’ body were last held in 2019. Students’ union elections could not be held in 2020 and 2021 because of COVID-19 while possible disruptions to the academic calendar prevented their conduct in 2022.

Students’ groups have made several representations to varsity officials to demand the resumption of the election exercise as many elected representatives have left the university after completing their studies. “We are planning to hold the elections in

September. We are very hopeful that the election will be conducted later this year,” a senior varsity official told PTI on Monday. The Delhi University Students’ Union (DUSU) is the main representative body of students from most colleges and faculties. This apart, each college has its own students’ union, elections to which are held annually.

DUSU elections are held via direct voting by students of the varsity and member colleges. They are usually conducted in August-September.

The elections to the varsity’s students’ body are organised simultaneously with polls at the college level. Nearly 2,500 students contest the elections for the nearly 500 posts. Around a lakh students vote in the elections, which also act as

a stepping stone for budding politicians. Lauding the officials’ steps to hold the elections, DUSU president Akshit Dahiya said, “This is a mini democracy. I would say the biggest students’ body election in the world. It is a constructive practice.”

“The last elections were held in September 2019. The elections could not take place last year as the admission for graduate and postgraduate programmes started late and then there were examinations,” he added.

Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP)-backed candidates Dahiya was elected president, Pradeep Tanwar vice-president and Shinvangi Kharwal joint secretary of the students’ union in the 2019 elections.

Ex-principal secy to J’khand CM appears before ED in money laundering case

Ranchi, Mar 27 (PTI):

Rajeev Arun Ekka, a former principal secretary to Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, appeared before the Enforcement Directorate on Monday in connection with a probe into money laundering linked to cases against another IAS officer Pooja Singhal. Ekka, now the secretary of the Panchayati Raj department, had earlier this month sought time after March 24 to appear before the central agency in view of the Jharkhand assembly’s budget session. The last assembly session ended on March 23. “Ekka appeared before sleuths of the Enforcement Directorate here in connection with a probe into the alleged irregularities in the MGNREGA scheme and money laundering linked to cases against Pooja Singhal,” an official of the central agency said.

YC activists stage protest against Rahul’s disqualification, detained

New Delhi, Mar 27 (PTI):

Scores of Indian Youth Congress activists staged a protest at the Jantar Mantar here on Monday against the disqualification of Rahul Gandhi from the Lok Sabha and were detained when they tried to march towards Parliament.

Indian Youth Congress (IYC) activists from across the country gathered at the Jantar Mantar to show solidarity with Gandhi and criticised the central government for “silencing” voices of the democratic opposition. Carrying IYC flags and “Satyameva Jayate” placards, the protesters demanded justice for



Indian Youth Congress activists being detained during a protest against the disqualification of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi from Lok Sabha, at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, Monday.

Gandhi. “The Centre has shown that no one can speak or question the Modi government. Rahul ji raised questions about

Adani...so they attempted to silence him by disqualifying him,” said Vikram, one of the protesters. “Rahul Gandhi is fearless

and will continue to question the government over their wrong deeds,” he added. The protesters said they would “gherao” Parliament to as part of their protest. They were detained when they tried to march towards Parliament.

IYC national president B V Srinivas was among those detained. “Several protesters have been detained and taken to Mandir Marg police station in buses. They were allowed only to protest at Jantar Mantar but when the protesters climbed over the multi-layered barricades to head towards Parliament, they were detained at the spot,” a senior police officer said.

Murmu visits Netaji’s house in Kolkata

Kolkata, Mar 27 (PTI):

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday visited Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose’s ancestral residence here and paid homage to the freedom fighter.

Murmu, who is on a two-day trip to West Bengal, went around ‘Netaji Bhawan’, now a memorial and was briefed by Netaji’s grand-nephew Sumantra Bose about the significance of the historical building which is a witness to several incidents of the country’s freedom struggle. Accompanied by Governor CV Ananda Bose, Murmu first was briefed about the historical car — ‘The 1937 Wanderer W24’, in which



President Droupadi Murmu with grand nephew of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Sumantra Bose during her visit to Netaji Bhawan, in Kolkata, Monday.

Mamata urges President to protect Constitution

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday appealed to President Droupadi Murmu to protect the Constitution of the country and save it from a disaster. At a civic reception of Murmu here, Banerjee lauded her as a “Golden lady” and said the country has a proud heritage of people from various communities, castes and creeds living in harmony for ages.

Netaji had used to come downstairs where his nephew Sisir Bose had parked the Wanderer for him to escape. After around a 10-minute stay at Netaji Bhawan, Murmu left for a brief visit to Rabindranath Tagore’s residence at Jorasanko Thakurbari in the central part of the city. Earlier, the President was received by Bose, and state ministers Firhad Hakim and Sujit Bose. She was accorded a guard of honour at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport here by the defence forces. Security arrangements in the city were beefed up for Murmu’s maiden visit to the state after becoming the President.

Netaji had ‘escaped’ from his residence on January 16, 1941. The president went to Netaji’s study, his bedroom and ‘The Great Escape staircase’ which

Netaji had used to come downstairs where his nephew Sisir Bose had parked the Wanderer for him to escape. After around a 10-minute stay at Netaji Bhawan, Murmu left for a brief visit to Rabindranath Tagore’s residence at Jorasanko Thakurbari in the central part of the city. Earlier, the President was received by Bose, and state ministers Firhad Hakim and Sujit Bose. She was accorded a guard of honour at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport here by the defence forces. Security arrangements in the city were beefed up for Murmu’s maiden visit to the state after becoming the President.

Congress needs to do some serious introspection, instead of melodramatics: BJP

New Delhi, Mar 27 (PTI):

The BJP on Monday slammed the Congress, asking it to “do serious introspection” and ponder over what is acceptable in a political and legal system.

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said when asked about the Congress observing ‘black day’ on Monday, a day after their party’s ‘Satyagraha’ protests at the Rajghat.

“You know the lines of propriety, what is acceptable in the political system, the legal system. He (Rahul Gandhi) has been convicted by a court. Then, there are automatic procedures,” he said, alluding to Rahul Gandhi’s disqualification as a Lok Sabha MP after being convicted by a Surat court for his remark in 2019.

“And, then to bring in this kind of melodramatics? I mean people of India will judge them for what they are,” the minister added.

Puri also slammed the Gandhis for invoking Lord Ram and Savarkar in their arguments. “The other day he said ‘I will not apologise because I am not Savarkar’. Do you know

the contribution of people like Savarkar ji? You are getting, as I said, getting an **s to run a horse’s race,” he told reporters in Parliament complex.

With Opposition MPs continuing with their protest in Parliament complex, BJP members also staged a counter protest over the alleged insult to Savarkar and OBC by Gandhi.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said Rahul Gandhi cannot be “Veer Savarkar” even in his “best dreams” as the freedom fighter never stayed abroad for months together neither he sought help from foreigners against his own country.

Representation of the People (RP) Act, 1951, which pertains to promoting enmity between classes in connection with elections.

Delhi excise policy case SC tags BRS leader Kavitha’s plea with pending cases challenging ED summons

New Delhi, Mar 27 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Monday tagged with other pleas, the petition of BRS leader K Kavitha seeking protection from arrest and challenging the summons by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case arising out of the alleged Delhi excise policy scam. A bench of justices Ajay Rastogi and Bela M Trivedi said it will hear the petitions of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader and others after three weeks. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal informed the bench that a similar plea filed by Nalini

Chidambaram, a senior advocate and wife of Congress leader P Chidambaram, is pending on a similar issue of summoning of women accused by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and Additional Solicitor General (ASG) SV Raju said after filing of Nalini Chidambaram’s petition, a judgement was passed by a three-judge bench upholding the provisions of the Prevention of the Money Laundering Act, which squarely covers the provisions for summoning an accused.

Rahul Gandhi’s sentencing, hasty disqualification blatant display of BJP’s authoritarian character: CPIM

New Delhi, Mar 27 (PTI):

The CPIM on Monday said Rahul Gandhi’s sentencing and the “haste” with which he was disqualified as an MP was a “blatant” display of intolerance by the BJP and reflects the party’s “abhorrent authoritarian” character.

CPIM general secretary Sitaram Yechury alleged that the Modi government is giving public money and capital to its friends like businessman Gautam Adani. “The Politburo condemned BJP’s usage of the criminal defamation route to target opposition leaders and disqualify them as MPs. The sentencing of Rahul Gandhi and the

haste with which he was disqualified is a blatant display of the levels of intolerance to criticism and reflects the abhorrent authoritarian character of the BJP,” Yechury said, reading out from a party statement.

The statement said this comes on top of the already “brazen” misuse of the Central agencies to target Opposition leaders. It said the RSS/BJP has also lodged FIRs and filed cases in several states against political opponents on the flimsiest of grounds.

It mentioned the arrest of AAP leader and former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia and

ED/CBI raids on RJD leaders Lalu Prasad Yadav, Tejashwi Yadav, K Kavitha (BRS) and others.

Reiterating its demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee probe on the Adani issue, the party alleged that the BJP government is “shamelessly” defending the Adani group’s acts of “brazen misdeeds, acts of omission and commission”.

Accusing the government of being in nexus with crony capitalists, facilitating the “looting” of people’s hard-earned savings from nationalised financial institutions, Yechury said its “blatant refusal” to hold any sort of

enquiry into the Adani saga is exposing it to the core.

“On that he does not want to answer a question. This is the point. How come all the capital, all the ports, other infrastructure like airport, mines and mining were given to only one person? People lost lives during the pandemic, the economy worsened, but Modi ji’s friend saw tremendous growth, became the richest person?”

“This has been possible with public money. This is loot and embezzlement. Answer Modi government or resign,” Yechury said, attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

SC extends stay on proceedings against Kejriwal in UP over election law violation

New Delhi, Mar 27 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Monday extended its interim stay on the proceedings against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a case registered against him for allegedly making objectionable remarks against the BJP and the Congress in Uttar Pradesh during the 2014 parliamentary election campaign.

Kejriwal has moved the apex court against an order of the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court which had last month declined to discharge him in the criminal case pending before a trial court at Sultanpur.

In the FIR, Kejriwal has been accused of an offence under section 125 of the

Representation of the People (RP) Act, 1951, which pertains to promoting enmity between classes in connection with elections.

जलन के बाद पुनःनिर्माण सर्जरी
(रिकंस्ट्रक्शन)

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