

BRIEF



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated by BJP National President J.P. Nadda during the BJP Parliamentary Party meeting, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

IED blast

Kanker: Two personnel of the Border Security Force (BSF) were injured on Tuesday morning when a pressure improvised explosive device (IED) planted by Naxalites went off in Kanker district, police said. The incident occurred near the BSF camp at Chilparas, around 120 km from Kanker, under Koyalibeda police station limits when a team of BSF was out on a road security operation, a senior official said.

Lifer

Allbag: A court in Maharashtra's Raigad district sentenced a man to life imprisonment for killing his 70-year-old mother in a dispute over money. District sessions judge S N Kole held the accused Madhukar Chandrakant Sakpal guilty of charges under sections 302 (murder), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code and sentenced him to life imprisonment.

CBI probe

Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday ordered the CBI to probe the alleged attack on Union Minister of State for Home Nisith Pramanik's convoy during a visit to his constituency in West Bengal's Cooch Behar district last month. Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari, had filed a PIL seeking a CBI probe into the attack alleging a conspiracy to "cause bodily harm" to Pramanik, a BJP MP, during his visit to Dinhat on February 25.

Suicide

Mumbai: A woman who had consumed poison outside Mantralaya, the headquarters of the Maharashtra government here, died in hospital on Tuesday, police said. The condition of another woman who too had consumed poison along with her was serious, said an official.

ED raids

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday said it has frozen Rs 3.05 crore worth bank funds after it raided a fintech company and its promoters who allegedly indulged in illegal online betting and gaming. The raids were carried out on Monday as part of a money laundering investigation against a person identified as Rakesh R Rajdev and an online portal "http://www.wolf777.com"

Weather
High 36 Low 21

MARKET
NIFTY 16,951.70
SENSEX 57,613.72

BULLION
GOLD 58,835
SILVER 69,970

COAL LEVY CASE

ED conducts fresh searches against businessmen, politicians

Raipur/New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

'Action at the behest of BJP leaders'

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel slammed the action and accused the ED of taking action at the behest of BJP leaders. "The ED has once again conducted raids in Chhattisgarh. No section is left which has not been raided by industrialists, traders, transporters, MLA, officers or farmers. Raids are never conducted in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Gujarat and Karnataka (all ruled by the BJP). It seems that the ED does not have offices there," Baghel said. He alleged that "all action is being carried out at the behest of state and Central BJP leaders (in Chhattisgarh)."

About ED summons

The ED investigation relates to "a massive scam in which an illegal levy of Rs 25 was being extorted for every tonne of coal transported in Chhattisgarh by a cartel involving senior bureaucrats, businessmen, politicians and middlemen," the agency had said earlier. As per the ED, at least Rs 540 crore were extorted over the last two years.

bureaucrats, businessmen, politicians and middlemen", the agency has said. The ED has claimed at least Rs 540 crore was "extorted" over the last two years. About two dozen premises related to those allegedly linked to Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee Treasurer Ramgopal Agrawal and arrested coal businessman Sunil Agarwal, an officer from DPR, besides a few others in Raipur, Bhilai and Mahasamund in the state and in Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh were searched, the official sources said.

UMESH PAL KIDNAPPING CASE

Atiq Ahmad gets lifer

Prayagraj (UP), Mar 28 (PTI):

Along with two others

An MP-MLA court here on Tuesday held gangster-politician Atiq Ahmad and two others guilty in the 2006 Umesh Pal kidnapping case, and sentenced them to rigorous life imprisonment.

Ahmad's brother Khalid Azim alias Ashraf and six others have been acquitted in the case.

This is Ahmad's first conviction in over 100



cases registered against him over the years.

Government counsel Gulab Chandra Agrahari said special MP-MLA court judge Dinesh

Chandra Shukla held Ahmad, Saulat Hanif, a lawyer, and Dinesh Pasi guilty under Indian Penal Code section 364-A (kidnapping or abduction in order to murder).

"The court has awarded the three rigorous life imprisonment and Rs 1 lakh fine to each," Agrahari said, adding that the amount will be given to the family of Umesh Pal, who was gunned down last month. The two brothers are also accused in the murder case. After under-

going court formalities, Atiq Ahmad and others were taken back to Naini jail in separate police vans. In a reply to queries by mediapersons, Ahmad said from inside the police van, "I have respect for the court...this is wrong punishment (saja galat hui hai)... I will move the High Court against it."

Earlier, when Ahmad and Ashraf were produced in the court, a number of lawyers raised slogans of "phansi do" (give them capital punishment).

Amritpal seen without turban in fresh CCTV footage

Chandigarh, Mar 28 (PTI):

A new video of Amritpal Singh with his key aide Papalpreet Singh surfaced on social media on Tuesday, showing the pro-Khalistan preacher without a turban and wearing a mask.

The undated CCTV footage, said to be from a market in Delhi, showed the fugitive walking down a street wearing dark glasses. Behind him, Papalpreet Singh could be seen walking with a bag. There is no official word from Punjab Police on the fresh footage.

The video has emerged a day after a picture of Amritpal Singh and Papalpreet Singh widely circulated on social media. That image showed both these men looking relaxed and Amritpal Singh holding a beverage can. Papalpreet Singh is said to be Amritpal Singh's mentor. He was allegedly in contact with Pakistan's spy agency ISI.

Palaniswami takes full control of AIADMK

Panneerselvam loses one more legal battle

Chennai, Mar 28 (PTI):

In a watershed event for the AIADMK, the party on Tuesday elevated Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS) as its supreme leader, the general secretary, moments after deposed leader O Panneerselvam (OPS) lost one more legal battle against his expulsion from the party.

While the Madras High Court rejected pleas of Panneerselvam and his aides against their expulsion from AIADMK, 68-year old Palaniswami for the first time became the general secretary after the post's revival last year. Before his elevation, EPS was the interim general secretary.

Party founder-leader M G Ramachandran (MGR),

former party supremo J Jayalalithaa, Navalur VR Nedunchezhiyan, P U Shanmugam and S Raghavanandam were the only other leaders who had held that top post in the AIADMK, which was founded in 1972.

On being elevated, cadres gave Palaniswami a rousing welcome and made him wear a dark glass and bright white cap just like MGR and he happily waved at cadres, seen as a gesture of bringing the party under his full control, very much like his iconic predecessors, MGR and Jayalalithaa. He swung into action immediately and announced a new membership drive.

Palaniswami assuming the top position though has brought down the curtain on the leadership issue, the battle is set to continue in courts as OPS camp is determined to take forward its legal struggle.

Tigress that killed 2 men in Surajpur captured

After five-hour operation

Surajpur, Mar 28 (PTI):

The tigress that had killed two men and injured another in a village in Chhattisgarh's Surajpur district was captured on Tuesday after a five-hour operation involving trained Kumki elephants, forest officials said.

The feline, which bore injuries on her body, was tranquilized by forest department personnel while maintaining precautions and rescued at around 10 am, the state's Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife and Biodiversity) Sudhir Kumar Agrawal told PTI.



Kumki elephants are trained to capture and tame wild elephants.

On Monday, two villagers were killed and another injured after they were attacked by the tigress near Kalamanjhan village in Odgi development block, leading to protests by locals demanding immediate capture of the big cat. A team of forest personnel, including veterinarians, launched a

rescue operation early Tuesday morning while complying with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) laid by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Agrawal said, adding that Kumki elephants were also roped in the task. "The female tiger, aged around 6 years, was later rescued and kept in a big cage. Veterinarians administered preliminary treatment to the animal as it has injuries on its forehead. The tigress will be shifted to Jungle Safari zoo in the state capital Raipur," he added.

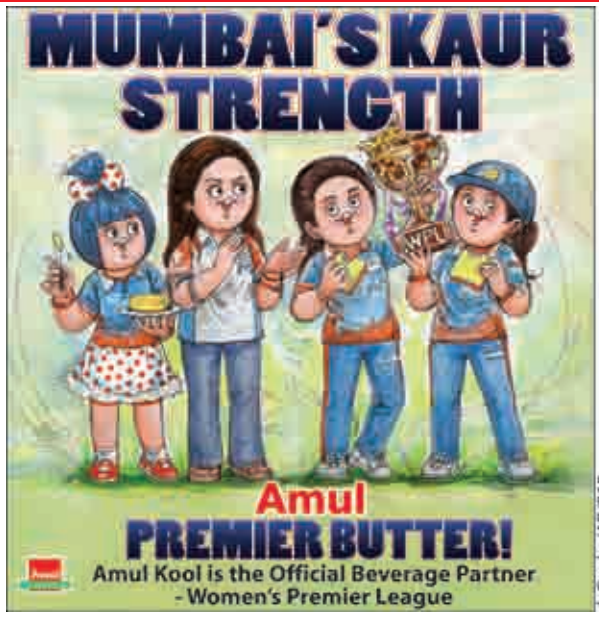
According to forest officials, the tigress sustained injuries on her forehead after one of the three villagers attacked her with an axe while trying to save himself on Monday.

Deadline for linking PAN with Aadhaar extended

Till June 30

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

The government on Tuesday extended the deadline for linking PAN with Aadhaar by three months to June 30 to enable people comply with the mandatory income tax provisions. The deadline for linking PAN with Aadhaar was ending on March 31. As per the income tax department, failure to link the two unique identities will lead to the unlinked PAN becoming inoperative.



'Rahul disqualified from LS for demanding probe into Adani issue'

Lucknow, Mar 28 (PTI):

The Congress will reach out to people on the Centre's silence on the Adani issue and Rahul Gandhi's disqualification from the Lok Sabha, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference here, the Congress leader alleged that Gandhi was disqualified for demanding a probe into the Adani issue.

"The question is not of Rahul (Gandhi) but of the country," he said.

Gandhi was disqualified as a Lok Sabha member on March 24, a day after he was sentenced to two years in jail by a Surat court in a 2019 criminal



Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel addresses a press conference at party office, in Lucknow, Tuesday.

defamation case. Baghel said, "What is (Gautam) Adani's relation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi? Why is the money invested by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and the State Bank of India (SBI) in Adani's companies and the

losses incurred in those not being investigated?

"Why is the SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) and the ED (Enforcement Directorate) not probing into this? When will Adani be called for questioning?"

Baghel was referring to allegations of fraudulent transactions and share-price manipulation against the Adani Group by US-based Hindenburg Research. The Adani Group has denied the allegations. Baghel said, "Why do those associated with the BJP get hurt when people talk about Adani? The BJP is not answering any question. On whose directions were funds of LIC and SBI being invested in Adani's companies?"

Beware of FRAUDSTERS

CAUTION

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Har Pal Apke Saath

Shashi presents Rs120.41 cr budget for Risali

MGNREGA wage hiked; workers to get Rs 221 daily

Four water tankers will be purchased from the Mayor's fund

Bhilai, Mar 28:

Risali Mayor Shashi Sinha presented a budget of Rs 120 crore 41 lakh 16 thousand for the FY 2023-24 on Wednesday. The budget estimates Revenue Income of Rs 4621.66 Lakh and Capital Income of Rs 4637.19 Lakh while the Revenue Expenditure will be around Rs 4637.19 Lakh and Capital Expenditure will be Rs 4637.19 Lakh.

She reached the auditorium located at the Municipal Corporation main office at exactly 12 o'clock. Mayor presented the budget speech and detailed the provisions in about 20 minutes. Thereafter, Speaker Keshav Banchor announced to pass the budget resolution by a voice vote. However, the opposition Corporators continued to create ruckus in the house till the conclusion of the meeting. They had announced not to participate in the discussion.

As soon as Mayor Shashi Sinha tabled the second budget of the Risali Municipal Corporation, the Corporators of the ruling



party got it passed by voice vote. During the address, the Congress Corporators continued to support the budget. However, before the Mayor's speech, the opposition created a ruckus. As soon as the opposition members sat on the ground in front of the Speaker's dais, Mayor Shashi started reading the budget speech.

Immediately after the conclusion of the budget speech, the resolution was passed by a voice vote. The Speaker then adjourned the meeting. Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu's Representative Jitendra Sahu and Durg MP's representative

Deepak Chandrakar were present. MiC members Chandrabhan Singh Thakur, Govind Chaturvedi, Anup Dey, Sanir Sahu, Chandraprakash Singh Nigam, Sonia Dewangan, Ishwari Sahu, Parmeshwar Kumar and Corporators and Aldermen were also present.

Mayor Shashi expressed her gratitude to Regional MLA and Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu and Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel in the budget speech. She said that the Chief Minister has provided Rs 150 crores to Risali Corporation for de-

velopment. The Mayor made provisions for the construction of roads, drains, Anganwadi buildings and box culverts for drainage of water from water-logged areas. The residents of labour-dominated areas will get a 50% discount for depositing lump sum tax of 15-16 years. The Mayor said that keeping in view the basic needs of every ward; it is the priority of the local government to make all-round development beyond party lines.

A provision of Rs 1000 lakh has been made for purchase of various vehicles like DI Max, mobile toilet, cow catcher. Rs 100

lakhs for resources in the Public Health Department like cycle rickshaws, tipplers and other resources; Rs 100 lakh for security, badminton court: CC road at the main gate and TV at Atmanand School and Government Schools in Risali, Puraina and Newai; Rs 200 lakh for Maroda Sector Football Ground: Rs 150 lakh for street lighting; Rs 250 lakhs for gardens and pathway construction; Rs 257 lakhs for dustbins and twin bins; Rs 50 lakh for installation of CCTV cameras in markets; Rs 200 lakhs to save water through water harvesting; Rs 600 lakh for road repair and construction; Rs 200 lakhs for beautifying the ponds; Rs 100 lakhs for construction of community hall; Rs 50 lakh for construction of state-of-the-art toilets in the main market; Rs 100 lakh for expansion of office building; Rs 200 lakh for football ground in Ward 8; Rs 600 lakhs for widening of drain and construction of culvert; Rs 100 lakhs have been provisioned for beautification and vertical garden.



Bhilai, Mar 28: Under the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA), the wage rate for rural laborers has been fixed at Rs 221 by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. It will be applicable for the works conducted under the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme with effect from April 1. The laborers employed in MGNREGA will now get wage at the rate of Rs 221. This amount will be deposited directly in the bank account of laborers on the basis of Aadhaar based enabled system, on linking Aadhaar card with bank account. MGNREGA workers will get Rs 221 per working day from April 1. The Union



Ministry of Rural Development has issued a notification on March 24 increasing the wage rates under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. From April 1, the amount of MGNREGA wages will be directly deposited in the account on linking the Aadhaar card with the bank. The laborers will be able to withdraw their wages from the customer service center and

bank from any corner of the country. Under the guidance of Chief Executive Officer Ashwani Dewangan, the work of Aadhaar verification of MGNREGA job card holder families is being done in the banks, so that the MGNREGA laborers will be able to get their increased amount. For more information, the beneficiaries can contact the office of the Chief Executive Officer of the District Panchayat.

Entrepreneurs to get 30 years land lease in RIPA

Mandatory to establish unit within one year

Bhilai, Mar 28:

The policy has been introduced regarding the land to be given to entrepreneurs willing to start up in RIPA. First of all, land will be given to interested entrepreneurs on lease for a maximum period of 30 years. Unit establishment will have to be done within one year of the registry. For units to be set up in RIPA, provisions of stamp duty exemption, interest subsidy, fixed capital investment subsidy etc will be applicable for economic investment promotion as per the industrial policy. Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena reviewed the implementation of RIPA and other schemes during a meeting held on Tuesday. He said that it is a good opportunity for aspiring startup entrepreneurs. Counselling of such entrepreneurs would be done to prepare them for venture in RIPA. **Bhilai Municipal Corporation**



Commissioner Rohit Vyas, District Panchayat CEO Ashwini Dewangan, Assistant Collector Laxman Tiwari and other officers were present.

A Call Center is being set up in the Collectorate premises. The infrastructure work has been completed and work will start soon. People will be able to register complaints on the call center number.

They can also get information about the status of redressal of the complaints and will be able to get information regarding the action taken on the applications submitted in Jandarshan. Divyang youth will work in the call center. People will also be able to get information regarding government schemes through the call center. Feedback of citizens on

various campaigns will also be taken by the administration through the call center so that they can know the status of ground implementation of government schemes. The nodal officer of the call center will be the Deputy Collector.

Online application form has been invited for the unemployment allowance scheme from April 1. For this purpose, a cluster of 5 to 6 villages and wards has been prepared in all district panchayats and urban bodies. A gazetted officer and 3 other officers have been deployed in each cluster. Training will also be given to all the officers.

In the play schools opening in the district, kids will be taught as per their interest and their curriculum will be completed in an entertaining manner. UNICEF is preparing an action plan for this project. This will help in the all round development of the children.

Nutritional kits distributed in CHC Ahiwara



Bhilai, Mar 28:

GE Foundation distributed nutritional kits, toys and fruits to the kids admitted at nutritional rehabilitation centre of the Community Health Centre in Ahiwara. Children's nutritional kits, pulses, moong, jaggery, split gram and soya chunks were provided which provide protein and are the main sources of fat. Apples, bananas, pomegranates, oranges were given to the mothers, so that these mothers also remain healthy and

could take care of the children properly. Such severely malnourished children in the Nutrition Rehabilitation Center who are of -4sd, -3sd they are recruited. At the time of recruitment, parents of such children are counseled and health check-up of the children is done, in the health check-up, all tests related to blood and urine of the children are done, mainly HB, RBS, sickling, blood sugar etc. Investigation related reports are obtained and medicines are given in case of cold, cough, fever.

The parents of severely malnourished children work as daily wage laborers and if they get their children admitted in the NRC for 15 days, then about Rs 2250 is paid to the bank account of the mothers at the rate of Rs 150 per day so that there is no loss in the daily wage. This initiative shall try to ensure that the children come out of the clutches of malnutrition and take further steps towards better nutrition. In this program, Sub-Divisional Officer Dhamdha (SDM) Brijesh

Kshatriya, Project Officer Lata Chavda, Supervisor (Ahiwara) Vidya Tamarkar, Rajeshwari Gaikwad, Sandhya Pargania, Kusum Verma, Parmeshwari Thakur, Sector Incharge and NRC Incharge Dr Mahendra Kumar from the Health Department were present. Banjare and KP Dubey, Staff Nurse Bharti Banjare were present. Pradeep Pillai, Pratibha Patel, Shweta Singh Rathore, Ajit Singh were present on behalf of GE Foundation.

Mor Zameen Mor Makan: DMC distributes completion certificate to beneficiaries



Bhilai, Mar 28: Durg Municipal Corporation distributed map for starting construction of new houses to more than 100 beneficiaries of Mor Zameen, Mor Makan under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (U) at a function organised in Swami Vivekanand Auditorium, Padmanabhpur the other day. Chief Guest was Chairman Chhattisgarh State Ware House Corporation and MLA Durg (U) Arun Vora. The program was presided over by Durg Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal. In his address, Vora assured the present beneficiaries that providing permanent houses to the poor is a very

important plan and goal of the state government and the corporation. Bakliwal gave best wishes for a bright future to all the 25 families who received the completion certificate and requested them to discharge all the responsibilities for their pucca houses as per the prescribed rules. Municipal Corporation Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar while addressing all the present beneficiaries said that as soon as possible start construction of houses, and assured installment amount will be released in time as per rules. In the program, mainly MiC member Anup Chandania, Councilor Prakash Joshi,

Alderman Ratna Naramdev, SD Sharma Nodal Officer, VP Mishra Assistant Nodal Officer, BLC, distinguished citizens, all working agencies and experts appointed by SUDA were present. Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal informed that 469 DPRs have been approved, whose maps were distributed today and in January 2023, DPRs of 318 new people have also been sent to the state government for approval. The program was conducted by Ashutosh Tamarkar and the announcement of the end of the program and the vote of thanks was done by the nodal officer SD Sharma.

Women learn use of daily essentials for self defence

Bhilai, Mar 28: Daily use items can be used as aggressive weapons for self defence. The rural women and girls learnt the use of common items for self defence during the "Khaki Ki Chaupal" held at village Konari Bharda on Tuesday. On the instructions of SP Dr Abhishek Pallava, ASP Sanjay Dhruv and ASP (UCAW) Mita Pawar, Deputy Superintendent of Police (UCAW) Shilpa Sahu conducted Khaki Ki Chaupal at village Bharda Konari of Pulgaon Police Station limits. Shilpa interacted with the villagers and listened to their problems and complaints. The children were explained about 'Good Touch - Bad Touch' and the helpline number 1098. They were detailed about the

Cyber Security, Domestic Violence Act, Tonahi Pratadana Nivaran Adhinyam, various women related laws and schemes being run by the government. DSP Shilpa Sahu explained the self-defence tactics with the use of available items. She asked the villagers to follow the traffic rules, emergency number Dial 112, etc. They were made aware about the fraudsters who cheat people in the pretext of employment, land, etc. Information was given regarding online fraud, KYC and banking related fraud. The villagers requested the Cops to conduct Chaupals in future also. The Raksha Team and police station staff were present.



MLA dedicates welcome gate in Adivasi Nagar

Bhilai, Mar 28:

Bhilai Nagar MLA Devendra Yadav reached Adivasi Nagar in Ward 40 Chhawani on Tuesday, where he gifted the residents of the ward with a welcome gate and toilets with all facilities. Yadav inaugurated both the development works in the presence of the people residing in the ward and prominent persons from tribal society. The inauguration ceremony was organized with complete rituals. At the outset, the ward residents welcomed Devendra with flowers. In his address, Devendra stated that he has always been receiving love and blessings from all the ward residents and tribal community people and added that we are all part of one family. And when the family is united then the whole family can fight against every problem. We all worked together for the betterment of Bhilai and were also



successful. He recalled that last time when he had come then everyone had demanded for a welcome gate and toilets. Together they worked on the demand and so the day has come when we are dedicating the entrance and toilets. Whenever we have promised, we have fulfilled it. He reminded that the Chief Minister also promised to give patta, ration card, ownership of house to everyone, which he has fulfilled. Yadav requested to continue showering him with love and blessings. At the end of the pro-

gram, office bearers of the tribal community gave blessings and said that we all have always considered Devendra as son, never considered him as a leader and added that they consider him to be a member of their family. They added that Devendra always comes to meet them and understand the problems. Whatever development works we demanded, they were completed. An entrance gate has been constructed and a toilet with all facilities has also been constructed. For this, they expressed gratitude.

PCC passes censure motion against Modi govt

To launch movement against BJP's dictatorial attitude

Raipur, Mar 28: The PCC working committee meeting was held in the presence of PCC State in-charge Kumari Selja, PCC Chief Mohan Markam and in-Charge Secy. Dr Chandan Yadav at Rajiv Bhavan along with MLAs, district presidents and heads of all the cells of PCC. The working committee passed a censure motion against the Modi government and took a pledge to continue its struggle against the anti-democratic attitude of the central government.

AICC general secretary and PCC State in-Charge Kumari Selja putting forth the censure motion against Modi government charged that BJP with its low-level thinking and pity acts has tarnished Indian democracy all over the world. An attempt is being made to suppress the



voice of Rahul Gandhi and it is a danger bell for India's democracy. Rahul Gandhi has exposed the wrong-doings and black working of the Centre and corruption in Modi government in the Parliament. She also questioned as to what is Modi's relation with Adani? On what is publicly available she asked from where the shell companies of Adani received whooping Rs 20000 cr? In the Parliament, Rahul's mike was closed down and when Rahul Gandhi tried to expose the truth both in the

country and abroad, the action was taken cancelling his membership. The family which has sacrificed their lives for the country and now their voice is being suppressed. PCC state in-charge Selja said that whatever happened in the court will be tackled through judiciary and cancelling Rahul Gandhi's membership and issuing notice to vacate the house speaks of dictatorial attitude of the central government. We all strongly condemned the dictatorial attitude of the central government and it

is not the fight just that of Rahul Gandhi, for all Congmen. We all from the Congress stands with Rahul Gandhi at this juncture, she added. Kumari Selja said that Congress will be starting movement against the dictatorial attitude of BJP government at the Centre and would take this fight to the streets. In the beginning PCC Chief Mohan Markam in his presidential speech said that we all would got amidst the public against the dictatorial attitude of BJP government and a divisional-level sammelan would be organised in the coming days. We all would save the democracy by strengthening the organisation and in this all the Morchas and cell of BJP would work together. In every division there will be party workers' sammelan and the booth-level committee where it has not being formed will be completed soon. Holding movement against Modi government; 'Sankalp Shivir and Vidhan Sabha-wise training and

instructions by AICC would be followed. It is by remaining united, that we all would have to fight against this dictatorial attitude of BJP through this movement, he added. Secretary in-charge Dr Chandan Yadav said that with hardly six months left for the Vidhan Sabha polls and added that it was the 1942 movement that of 'do or die' and so in order to fight against the Opposition, we all have to be part of 'Satyagrah Andolan', stage dharna, demonstration and 'nukkad natak'. He charged that Modi government too is neck-deep in corruption and all this needs to be exposed. The meeting was also addressed by Health Minister TS Singh Deo, Minister Dr Shiv Kumar Daharia, Amarjeet Bhagat, Premeai Singh Tekam, Dhanendra Sahu, Satyanarayan Sharma. It was attended by all the MLAs, party office bearers, heads of cells and Morchas of PCC and members of the PCC working committee.

COLOURFUL LIGHTING



The temples of Goddesses have been decorated with colourful lighting for the nine-day 'Navratri' and 'Ashtami Havan' to be held tomorrow.

BJP trying to divide society, says Kumari Selja

Accuses Modi govt of harassing top leaders of Congress

Raipur, Mar 28: Chhattisgarh Congress in-charge Kumari Selja targeted the central government saying that Bharatiya Janata Party and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government are trying to harass top leaders of Congress with a sense of revenge. The BJP Government at the centre is trying to muzzle voice of opposition, she said while talking to the reporters on her arrival at Raipur Airport today.

The entire country is watching how Rahul Gandhi is disqualified from membership of Lok Sabha and a notice was issued to him to vacate government bungalow, Kumari Selja said.

Alleging that Prime Minister was hatching conspiracy she said that Rahul Gandhi became a voice of the common people. 'We have faith in the judiciary of the country. We will continue to fight the legal battle legally', she said.

She said Congress was staging nationwide protest against central government, in support of other opposition parties. She hoped that people in the country would give befitting reply to BJP through their mandate in future.

Kumari Selja also charged the central government with trying to divide the country on the issue of OBC. Kumari Selja also left for Pradesh Congress headquarters 'Rajiv Bhavan' to attend a meeting of PCC office bearers, Congress Ministers and MLAs.

NIT students secure placements in OLX, MathWorks, and Informatica

Raipur, Mar 28: Institute of Technology, Raipur's final year students Supraja Kurella, 7th Semester, Electronics and Communication Engineering, J Varun Iyer, 7th Semester, Computer Science and Engineering have received job offers as Associate Engineer in MathWorks with a package of 20 LPA CTC. In this series, the well-known multinational company OLX has selected Shruti Agarwal, 7th semester, Computer Science and Engineering, Gaurav Kumar Ray, 7th semester, Information Technology, and Ankur Kunal, 7th semester, Information Technology as a full-time role with an annual package of 30 LPA CTC. Also, Nizam Dheeraj, 7th semester, Information Technology, and Aryan Bharti, 7th semester,



Information Technology secured placements in the company Informatica as a full-time role of Software Development Engineers with an annual package of 21 LPA CTC. These students were selected through on-campus placements. J Varun Iyer briefed about his background and said that he worked on his programming skills, focusing on LeetCode and GeeksforGeeks, and honed



his knowledge of Data Structures and Algorithms (DSA) as well as other important computer science subjects such as DBMS. Supraja was amongst the Top 10 finalists of Women of Mettle organized by Tata Steel. She has completed her internship program at Tata Steel which later offered her a Pre-Placement Offer. She worked harder to get a better opportunity and finally got selected for



MathWorks. Aryan Bharti was a late bloomer. He started focusing on his technical skills after the internship season was over. Narrating her placement journey, Shruti Agarwal, said that she studied all the essential topics that were required to succeed in the campus placement and took help from various online resources, which were available in abundance and were sufficient.

One nabbed for cheating 30-35 persons of Rs 6 lakh

In the name of providing houses under govt's schemes

Raipur, Mar 28: A woman claiming herself to be an employee of Municipal Corporation Raipur (RMC) has been nabbed on charges of fooling and cheating of amount worth Rs 6 lakh from around 30-35 persons from slum area of Ramnagar in the name of providing them houses under the government schemes. It is notable here that a complainant Lalita Manikpuri filed a report in Police Chowki Ramnagar under Gudhiyari Thana that she lives in Gopal Nagar, Gali No. 1 in slum area of Ramnagar. She got in touch with a woman named Sonali Dutta, claiming herself to be RMC employee and she has cheated around 30-35 persons of her locality taking Rs 20000 each in the name of provided

house under government scheme within 90 days. But when they contact her after three months, she kept on dilly-dallying the issue and regularly tried to misguide them and switched off her mobile number. The accused had cheated the persons of total amount of Rs 6 lakh and a complaint under section 420 of IPC was filed against her.

The Gudhiyari Thana police and Ramnagar check-post called the accused for detailed inquiry and she tried to escape and make all possible efforts to run away. But the police managed to trace her and nab her and seized one mobile phone from her possession. The accused is Sonali Dutt W/o Amal Krishna (Age-65), R/o HUDCO, Bhilai, H.No. 402, than Kotwali District Durg and her present address is Simran City H.No. 156, Ph-05, Mathpurena, Thana Tikrapara, Raipur.

Export Awareness prog for SC/ST entrepreneurs held

On Agriculture Products & Millets & Financial Opportunities
By DICCI and APEDA



Raipur, Mar 28: Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICCI) organization is to 'Be a job provider-not a job seeker'. In this series DICCI Chapter in association APEDA (Agriculture & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) organised the "Export Awareness Program on Agriculture Products &

this organization is increasing rapidly.

The only mission of DICCI organization is to 'Be a job provider-not a job seeker'. In this series DICCI Chapter in association APEDA (Agriculture & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) organised the "Export Awareness Program on Agriculture Products &

Millets & Financial Opportunities for SC/ST Entrepreneurs at a hotel located at Ramsagar Para, Raipur on March 27 in which President of Chhattisgarh DICCI Chapter, Mr. Pramod Gharde, BDM Mr. Ashok Kumar Bora from APEDA Regional Office Bhopal was present as special guests and DGM NSIC Mr. M.M. Sinha, CGM DIC Mr. A.H. Yejdani and JD Industries Directorate, CG Mr. Sanjay Gajghate was invited as a technical speakers. Members of the organization from all over Chhattisgarh as well as other Dalit entrepreneurs participated in this export awareness program. In the program, Mr.

Pramod Gharde, President of Chhattisgarh DICCI Chapter, while sharing his experiences, stating the opportunity of export in simple words to all the Dalit youths and members who came in the awareness program urged to enter the business and industry sector as entrepreneurs and achieve remarkable position in the industry sector. In addition to motivating them to contribute to the country's economy through wealth creation and to spread the spirit of enterprise among fellow members, he said that our mission is to encourage Dalit entrepreneurs and support them in their ventures.

Preparations have begun for the oath taking ceremony

Of Ch'garh High Court's Chief Justice
Chief Secretary organizes a high-level meeting



Raipur, Mar 28: Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain presided over a meeting of officers yesterday in the Mantralay Mahanadi Bhawan concerning the preparations for the oath-taking ceremony of the Chhattisgarh High Court's newly-appointed Chief Justice Ramesh Sinha. The oath-taking ceremony will be organized in Raj Bhawan's Darbar Hall on 29

March 2023. The Chief Secretary has instructed all officers to make all required arrangements in this regard. In this meeting that was conducted through

video conferencing, DGP Ashok Juneja, Principal Secretary Manoj Pingua, Commissioner Raipur Yashwant Kumar, IG Ajay Yadav, Secretary to the

Governor Amrit Khalkho, Secretary of the General Administration Department Mr. D.D. Singh, and other officers were present.

Two-day training of Masters Trainers begins

To ensure effective administration and management of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Scheduled Areas

Raipur, Mar 28: In order to ensure effective governance and management of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the Scheduled Areas of Chhattisgarh, a two-day training related to capacity development of representatives of selected tribal communities of these institutions was organized today at Tribal Research and Training Institute (TRI), Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar. A total of 54 master trainers nominated from the districts participated on the first day of the training session.

While addressing the inaugural session, Commissioner cum Director TRI Mrs Shammi Abidi briefly explained the objective of the training programme. She urged the master trainers from the districts to take full advantage of this training session and clear all their doubts from the various subject experts coming during the training session, so that they do not face any kind of confusion while giving training to the panchayat representatives at the district level.

On the first day of the training session, subject expert Prakhari Jain (PESA Coordinator) explained in detail about the fifth schedule and said that the fifth schedule is applicable in

total 10 states of the country. It is fully implemented in 16 districts of Chhattisgarh state. Apart from this, Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat were given detailed information about the powers received under the Panchayati Raj Act. PESA law made by the Central Government in 1996 was also explained in detail.

P Nihalani of Revenue Department threw light on various provisions of Chhattisgarh Land Revenue Code, 1959 and Land Acquisition, Displacement and Rehabilitation Act, 2013 in detail. He expressed his views in detail on section 165(1), section 168, sub-section 2, 4, 5, 6 and sub-section 6(a), sub-section 10, section 170B etc. Various provisions of the Chhattisgarh Land Revenue Code, 1959 and the Land Acquisition, Displacement and Rehabilitation Act enacted in 2013 were discussed in detail, especially in relation to purchase and sale of land in scheduled areas and different types of mortgaged land.

Registration of unemployed of Raipur district in CSC for allowance



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 28: After the announcement of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the registration of youths eligible for unemployment allowance

in Raipur district will start from April 1. Collector Dr Sarveshwar Bhure reviewed the preparations made so far for unemployment allowance registration in the weekly time-limit

meeting on Tuesday. He instructed the officials to register the unemployed in all the choice centers and CSCs of the district. To get unemployment allowance, eligible youth can fill online registration application on the website berojaribhat.ta.cg.nic.in.

Help desks are also being set up in every zone office in Raipur Municipal Corporation area for the convenience of unemployed youth. Three help desks in Birgaon Municipal Corporation area and one help desk each in all other urban body areas of the district will have the facility of registration for allowance to the unemployed. Registration facility will be available in CSC and Choice Centers with prescribed service charges. No last date has yet been fixed for the registration of unemployment allowance.

Keeping in mind the registration of unemployment allowance, the Collector has given instructions to the officers to ensure that all necessary criteria and government guidelines are followed for renewal of registration in employment offices, issuing income-residence certificates in revenue offices. The meeting was at-

tended by Commissioner of Municipal Corporation Raipur Mayank Chaturvedi, Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat Akash Chikara, Assistant Collector Jayant Nahata, Additional Collector BBPanchbhai, Gajendra Thakur and B.C.Sahu and all S DMs and departmental officers.

OBITUARY

Vijendra Bahadur Nayak

Raipur: Vijendra Bahadur Nayak, R/o Sunder Nagar, breathed his last here on Monday. He was 82. The final rites were performed on March 28 at Mahadev Ghat crematorium. He was father of Vikram Nayak and uncle of Viimal Nayak and father-in-law of Tikeswar Verma, Sharad Baghel, Gopal Verma.

Finish school repair by April end

Raipur: Collector Dr Sarveshwar Bhure gave instructions to the officials to start the repair work of dilapidated schools and ashram-hostel buildings in the district soon. The Collector also informed the officials about budget allocation by the government for these works to be done under the Mukhyamantri School Jatan Yojana. He directed to identify such repairable schools and ashram-hostel buildings in two days and complete the necessary process as soon as possible. The Collector asked to complete the repair work of all such school hostels-ashrams before the start of the new session. He also instructed to get all such ashram-hostels and school buildings painted with cow dung paint after repairs.

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Ch'garh gears up to promote e-Governance

Through OpenForge platform
State-Level training workshop on OpenForge in Raipur
State govt depts to benefit from OpenForge platform



Raipur, Mar 28: Chhattisgarh is gearing up to promote e-governance with the use of OpenForge software. This platform will enable departments to acquire software easily for monitoring their programmes and schemes, and for expanding their reach to the people.

A two-day long state-level training-cum-workshop has been organized by the Chhattisgarh Infotech Promotion Society (CHiPS) workshop at the New Circuit House here, where officers from various departments will be trained on the use of

this platform. The main aim of the workshop is to provide the citizens of the state with the advantages of the latest information technology sector technologies.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the workshop on Monday, Amit Kumar, Community Development Manager at the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) in New Delhi, said that the "OpenForge" platform has been specifically designed to cater to the requirements of all government departments. He ex-

plained that the platform will provide access to numerous software applications, which can be used for the operation of public utility services offered by government departments. This will bring uniformity to various schemes being run across the country, while also saving valuable time and money for the government.

During the workshop, CHiPS Chief Executive Officer Amitabh Sharma stated that the National e-Governance Division (NeGD), functioning under the Department of

Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, will provide technical training for two days. The training will be led by Community Development Manager Amit Kumar, along with Project Lead Sanjay Kumar Patel and Technical Lead Durgesh Kumar Singh.

More than 35 officials from various departments including Agriculture, Transport, NIC, Energy, Health, Revenue, Police, and Samagra Shiksha, participated in the workshop.

Rural cottage inds, handicrafts will get a boost from NABARD's exhb: Choubey

Grand launch of NABARD sponsored "Gondwana National Livelihood, Art and Cultural Festival 2023"



Raipur, Mar 28: Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey formally inaugurated the four-day "Gondwana National Livelihood, Art, and Culture Festival 2023" at BTI Ground in Shankar Nagar Raipur on Monday.

Chhattisgarh Regional Office of NABARD is hosting this event from March 27 to March 30.

NABARD has sponsored 120 stalls during the expo, which has 250 participants, including NABARD-supported self-help groups, FPOs, and craftsmen from the non-agricultural sector. 125 participants from different districts of Chhattisgarh, as well as about 125 participants from other 15 states of the country- Maharashtra, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh,

Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, and Haryana, are participating in the exhibition. Apart from this, 125 farmers and artisans from 5 districts of the state have also been invited on exposure visits.

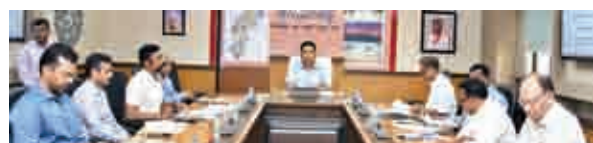
While speaking at the inauguration occasion, Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey commended NABARD's achievements in agricultural and rural development in the state. He stated that such activities would be beneficial in promoting tribal and cultural traditions. Rural cottage businesses and handi-

crafts will benefit from the organization of this exhibition, as will employment chances. In addition to this, Chairman of Apex Bank Bajinath Chandrakar said that in this national fair of NABARD, stalls have been set up for the exhibition and sale of items manufactured by rural artisans, weavers, self-help groups, farmers from Chhattisgarh as well as other states. NABARD also organizes training programs from time to time to encourage such craftsmen and artisans. Chief General Manager of NABARD, Dr. Gyanendra Mani, stated about the significance of the 'Gondwana National

Livelihood, Art, and Culture Festival 2023' and emphasized that NABARD is playing a vital role in making rural India self-sufficient. Its goal is to give a forum for the display and sale of various items made by NABARD-supported Self Help Groups, Artisans, Producer Organizations, Handloomers, and Handicraftsmen in rural areas. He explained that, in addition to the stalls in the exhibition, there is a 'Kid Zone' and a 'Food Court'. Every day of the fair, cultural programs will be organised.

On this occasion, MLA and Chairman of Chhattisgarh Housing Board Kuldeep Juneja, MLA Ramkumar Yadav, Advisor to Chief Minister Pradeep Sharma, Raipur Municipal Corporation Mayor Aijaz Dhebar, Vice Chancellor Dr. RS Kuril, NABARD General Manager Dr. Surendra Babu, Convener SLBC at the inauguration ceremony, Chairman Chhattisgarh Gramin Bank, Karnal Chand, Assistant Directors and officials from Govt were present.

Ensure all preparations for 'Shala Pravesh Utsav': CS



Meeting approves annual action plan and budget proposal of 2023-24 for CSSS

Raipur, Mar 28: Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain, chaired a meeting of the Executive Committee of Samagra Shiksha at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan here on Monday. During the meeting, he directed to complete all necessary preparations for the successful organization of the upcoming 'Shala Pravesh Utsav' for the next academic session. He also asked to prepare for the distribution of free textbooks, uniforms, and bicycles to students.

The Annual Action Plan

for Chhattisgarh State Samagra Shiksha (CSSS) and the proposal for Project Approval Board for the budget year 2023-24 were approved in the meeting. Additionally, the budget for Samagra Shiksha in the year 2022-23 was discussed in detail component-wise and approved. Chief Secretary provided the necessary guidance to officers for the audit of Samagra Shiksha.

The meeting was attended by several officials, including Tribal and Scheduled Caste Secretary, DD Singh, Labor Secretary, Amrit Khalkho, School Education Secretary, Dr. S Bharathidasan, Energy Secretary, Ankit Anand, and other education department officials.

PNM meeting takes decision on host of issues

Pertaining to welfare of employees

Raipur, Mar 28: The first Permanent Negotiating Machinery (PNM) of the railway administration with the South East Central Railway Mazdoor Congress was organized on March 23 and 24, 2023 at the Divisional Railway Manager meeting hall. In this meeting Divisional Railway Manager Sanjeev Kumar, Sr DPO Uday Bharti and all branch officers and Divisional Coordinator of South East Central Railway Mazdoor Congress Vijay Kumar, Deputy Divisional Coordinator B R Bodalkar, COB B D Prasad, R Singh, secretaries and office bearers of all branches were present. PNM was conducted in a cordial atmosphere in the meeting, the problems of the employees were put forth before the administration and while taking action on most of the cases, orders were given for immediate redressal. The issues discussed and solution



given include 1) Railway dispensary to be opened keeping in view the increasing number of railway employees in Durg area. 2) Children's gardens will be developed in all railway colonies where there are more than 50 railway accommodation like Bhilai Nagar, Balod, Tilda, Nipania etc. 3) The quotation for cleaning of BMY railway colony will be extended again for the next 2 months. 4) Bhilai based D. T. Tool - cum - rest rooms will be developed for M No. 29, 31 and 32. Similarly various DTMs have been marked at Raipur Division level all over and will be constructed very soon. 5) The process of

converting 02 Type -I quarters into Type -II quarters will be started again. 6) Industrial Fan Railway Canteen, Ladies Room, Time Room will be renovated in ELS / Bhilai and 1000 lockers will be purchased for the employees.

7) A letter has been written to GM for approval for construction of 60 rail houses for the railwaymen of Bhatapara. 8) 03 new tool - cum - rest rooms will be constructed in Raipur - Lakholi section. 9) Repair of wear and tear in Sirsa Gate underground bridge road and widening of the road towards PP yard will be done. 10) Track maintainers will be supplied

with good quality shoes, rain-coats and winter jackets from GSD Raipur under stock items. 11) The posts of Urologist, Cardiologist and Gastrologist will be filled in Divisional Railway Hospital Raipur. 12) The problem of drinking water in Lakholi Railway Colony is being solved with the help of Sarpanch. 13) A survey will be done for arrangements of dormitories and canteens for the stay of relatives of patients in Railway Hospital Raipur. 14) The process of changing the duty roster of Mandi, Serikhedi, Jindal, Parsada and Gujra Gate of Lakholi section from 12 hours to 8 hours will be started. 15) The road from IOW office Raipur to Bhanpuri gate will be repaired. 16) The posts of Physiotherapist will be filled in Railway Hospital. 17) Station Masters (Gr.4600) in Raipur Division have been ordered to get arrears of unpaid OT for years for extra work. 18) For replacing the system in the DRM office complex with Central Cooling System has been sent for the approval of GM SECR.

Hallmark mandatory in gold and silver from April 1

Hallmark centers should be built in all districts: Bullion Traders

Raipur, Mar 28: If you are going to buy gold and jewellery then this is big news for you. The central government has made big amendments in the rules for buying jewellery. Actually, after nine days i.e. from April 1, consumers will get only Hallmark jewellery. That is, after March 31, 2023, jewellery without hallmark will not be valid. It is being told that as per the instructions of the Central Government, Hallmark is becoming mandatory in jewellery from April 1. According to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, after March 31, 2023, no one will be able to sell jewellery without hallmark. It will be implemented simultaneously in 397 districts of the country.

According to bullion traders, it is a good thing that the government has made Hallmark mandatory. The traders also want that jewellery should be hallmarked. For this, hallmark centers should be made in all the districts. Former President of Raipur Sarafa Association, Harkh Malu said that there are six hallmark centers in Raipur and 10 in the state.

Under the aegis of Raipur Bullion Association and Bureau of Indian Standards, a workshop will be organised on March 24 at the Chamber Bhawan located in the capital's Bombay Market. Association's secretary Deepchand Kotadia said that wholesalers, retailers, confectioners and manufacturers will participate in this workshop. People's queries regarding Hallmarking will also be resolved here.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Chakrawal nominated to Prestigious Research Committee of ICSSR

Bilaspur, Mar 28: Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal, Vice-Chancellor of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (a Central University) has been declared a nominated member of the prestigious Research Committee of Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi. Professor Chakrawal was elected as the Nominee Member of the Distinguished Research Committee at the 142nd Annual General Meeting of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) New Delhi on 15th February, 2023.

The Indian Council of Social Science Research



provides grants for promotion of research through various types of research projects, fellowships, international collaborations, capacity building measures, surveys, publications etc. This committee examines the approval of financial assistance to research projects and other research proposals submitted or sponsored by the

Council. The Research Committee is one of the three major committees of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, and it has a tenure of one year. Continuous Effort to make CU the Best: Continuous development works are being executed under the able leadership and efficient guidance of Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal, Vice-Chancellor of the Central University. These path-breaking initiatives include necessary changes in research plans and curriculum for implementation of the National Education Policy-2020 in its entirety, efforts made to establish the tribal pride,

establishment of Mahima Guru Peeth, Svavalambi Chhattisgarh scheme for all-round development of local youth, Guru Ghasidas University Swabhimani Thali (GST), MoU with prestigious institutions of India and abroad, efforts made for environment protection and solar energy sector, infrastructure development, and establishment of Dr. Ambedkar Center for Excellence for facilitating preparation of national level examinations for underprivileged students, etc. These positive efforts have placed the Central University among the frontline higher educational institutions of the country.

Hindalco's free school bus service gives children access to better schools in GP mines area

253 children from 12 villages benefitting from the initiative
Free operation of school buses under CSR at GP mines



Raigarh, Mar 28: The dreams of people living in the mining area are often left unfulfilled because of the lack of basic amenities. However, children from 12 villages of Tamnar block in Raigarh district are seeing their dreams for English Medium schooling come true because of a free school bus service provided by Hindalco Industries Limited. It's because of

the free school bus service that Ansh Dubey of Milupara village can today think of becoming a doctor. The distance between his village and his school is 15 kilometers and the free school bus run by Hindalco Industries is helping him cover this distance. Ansh's father Yash Dubey said: "My son's dream of studying in a good English medium school has been fulfilled by this free bus service. This initiative is helping me

save the transport costs which I can use for his education."

Hindalco started the free school bus service in 2015 and today caters to 253 children from Banjikhhol, Kondkel, Beljor, Milupara, Sakta, Madwadumar, Lalupar, Jaridih, Urba, Pelma, Hinjar and Semjor villages in Gare Palma mining area. Two school buses are operated under the initiative at an annual cost of Rs 26 lakh, which borne by

Hindalco CSR. Among the 253 students, 50 are girls and this service is a saviour for them. Anju Rathia, a class 9 student from Beljor village said: "I did my education till class 8 from the village school but for further studies I had to go to a bigger school which is about 15 kilometers away from my village. Hindalco's bus service has thus helped me to continue my education." Vivek Mishra, Head of Hindalco Coal Vertical, said: "It is only through education that we can bring meaningful change in society. Keeping in mind the needs of the society we have started this free school bus service and I am happy it is benefitting local people."

AAP target 5 lakh members in one month

Holds general membership campaign in Kondagaon Training Camp



Kondagaon, Mar 28: Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) membership campaign training camp was organized at auditorium hall in the district hq's here on Monday. MP and National Organization General Secretary, AAP Sandeep Pathak addressing the party workers said that under our general membership campaign, a target of 5 lakh more members has been set for one month. AAP is running the procedure of appointing unit in-charge and members in

around 20000 villages. In this connection training of 455 block presidents and office bearers of the entire region has been started from today in four phases. This training will prove to be a milestone for AAP to strengthen its organization in the region. With this, the party will start a state-wide campaign and

reach every home through its strong organization. More than 5 lakh new members are being appointed. In this way, AAP's will become stronger in almost all villages. Together we will continue the work in making a strong organization and active in all villages and at the ground level, he added.

Accusing the BJP-Congress, AAP said that in the name of basic amenities to the people of the state viz. education, health, water and security, they are involved in massive corruption by providing only food. BJP-Congress are both neck deep in corruption and eating the cream and only providing assurance to general public that of taking action. Pathak questioned as to why Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is targeting the Punjab government in order to hide his failure? It is right under his nose here in the state, that the common men, tribals and the police are feeling insecure. The people of the state have understood the

truth behind statistical jargon given by Congress government and showing all sorts of tall achievements for the last four years. The people have not understood why BJP and Congress is not sufficient to carve a new Chhattisgarh and charged that both are literally involved in 'Lutabo' (looting) Chhattisgarh for the last 22 years. AAP is determined to form an honest government with the love and continuous cooperation of the villagers from every village of the state and now the people have formed an opinion to give opportunity to AAP to form an honest government in the state, he claimed.

VTKS submit memo for regularization

Of contractual employees of VTKF

Raipur, Mar 28: The members of Vidyut Theka Karamchari Sangh (VTKS) (generation, distribution and transmission) under the aegis of Aniyamit Karamchari Mahasangh (AKM) left to gheraoed CM's office from CSEB's Budhatalab office. A long list of 25000 employees of VTKS was enclosed herewith and forwarded it to the concerned officer.

Prominent among the demands of contractual employees were to free the department from the contractual system and merge them with the department as regular employee with regular salary



and 62 years of job security.

VTKS recalled that Congress party in its election manifesto in the point No. 30 has mentioned about regularisation of all the adhoc and contractual employees within 10 days of its formation of the government. In this

protest, Joint Gen. Secy. Darshan Kumar Rajak (Korba), Mukesh Maravi (Bilaspur), Dilip Nirmalkar, (Akaltara) and Pankaj Dhar Diwan, Ramnarayan Yadav, Vijendra Bareth, Suresh Rajak, along with 20 female employees submitted the memorandum.

Shooting of many Tollywood films can take place in Bastar: Suman

Hails the natural beauty of Bastar region



Jagdalpur, Mar 28: Having played a lead role in more than 700 Telugu films and acted as villain in the Akshay Kumar starer Hindi film 'Gabbar is Back', the South superstar Suman Talwar came here to take part as chief guest in a programme of Tollywood samaj held in Jaipur in Odisha, near to Bastar.

Talwar along with office bearers of Telugu samaj. As per his scheduled programme, Suman left to take part in the programme to be held at Jaipur in Odisha, near to Bastar.

Chhattisgarh government wants, they can develop these places from shooting point-of-view. He assured that he come again pay visit to Bastar and would come along with producers and directors of Tollywood and hoped that there might be shooting of Tollywood taking place some day in this region as well. Speaking further he said that if the Chhattisgarh government assures of safety and security, then quite a films of Tollywood can be shot in Bastar.

Suman said that the Oscar award to 'Natu-Natu' song of famous Tollywood film 'RRR' is a big honour to entire country and apart from subject matter of Tollywood films, even the songs and its lyrics are being appreciated all over the country and it is an honour for entire Telugu film industry.

SSM students take out 'Prabhat Pheri'

Birkoni, Mar 28:

The students of Saraswati Shishu Mandir (SSM) Gram Achardih observed Hindu Nav Varsh with great enthusiasm. On this occasion in order to create public awareness among the villagers, the students took out rally with attractive tableau and it passed through Sahu para, Bhatapara, Yadavpara, Nayapara, Durga Chowk raising slogans and children on this occasion have worn different attire of Bharat

Mata, and other Goddesses with colourful tableau in the background. Head Master SSM Mathalisharan Thakur informed that the Hindu Nav Varsh starts on the first day of 'Chaitra Navratri Shukl Paksh Pratipada'. On this occasion all the members greet each other for the new year and offer prayers and obeisance to the Gods and Goddesses. During this Sima Sonwami, Jharna Sahu, Jagriti Sahu, Pinki Sahu, and other students were present.



Honour and respect to women should always be done: Yadav



Bagbahra, Mar 28: On occasion of International Women's Day in Town Hall of Bagbahra, a get-together programme was organised in the chief presence of Parliamentary Secretary and MLA Dwarkadheesh Yadav and it was chaired by Dr Seema Dinkar and special guests were - Block President Savita Goswami and Dumroutin Bai, Purna Sagar. Parliamentary Secretary Dwarkadheesh Yadav in his address on the objectives of observing International Women's Day informed that this day is celebrated for honour and love for the women not only in India,

Get-together prog organised on Int'l Women's Day

but all over the world and on the social, economic, political and social achievements and problems being faced by the women and it is in the same context that his get-together programme has been organised. The human life is incomplete without the motherly figure, her love and empathy. In the social life, a woman sometimes fulfill her responsibilities as a mother, daughter or a sister and it is for their sacrifice and dedication that observing

this Int'l Women's Day is need of the hour. But this is not just a thing of one day for women and forget later, but we all have to give due respect to women always and then only it would be true respect to women on Int'l Women's day. On this occasion, Sewati Dhruv, Nantara Devi, Vaidehi, Anu Chandrakar, Bhoomika Sharma, Chameli Sahu, Raksha Sahu, Barik Hema Sriwas, Tanuja Sahu, Manohar Thakur, Bada Khan, Harishankar Yadav, Radhe Prakash Panigrahi, Manta Yadav and women and Congemn from Bagbahra were present in large number.

Four-day training prog begins under JJM



Jagdalpur, Mar 28: A four-day residential training programme began under Jal Jeewan Mission (JJM) at Ganpati Resort here on Monday. This training is being organised by District Water and Sanitation Mission Block Jagdalpur, District Bastar and All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILCG) to pass on the benefits of Jal Jeewan Yojana in the Gram Panchayat

to the masses. SDO PHE Department PC Jain inaugurated the programme. Dy. Director Vishal Rakhecha, Master Trainer T Ansari, Sankil Jain, Shah Ahmed Khan, Dinesh Deshraj, Dinesh Singh, programme manager, Nikhilesh Urkude, Project Associate, Pawan Sahu, Ayush Kesharwani, Ashish Kumar and Co-ordinator Bhavdeep Patel, Avinash, Neha Sahu, Jyotsna Suna and others were present.

Responsible Tourism experts visit tourist sites

In GPM and enjoyed a ride in bullock-cart

Gourela-Pendra-Marwahi, Mar 28: The forest and tribal dominated GPM district is not only attracting tourists from state and country, but also the foreign tourists. As per CM Bhupesh Baghel's inclination, all efforts are being made to provide special identity to GPM district as 'Tourism District' by the local district administration. According to Collector Priyanka Rishi Mahobia, the tourist sites of the district are being developed with help of tourism samitis. The Responsible Tourism and Rural Tourism Expert from UK Mr Graham and Village Veg Institute Director Lucy Anjale visited the Lama Phuta, Kotami Khurd; Tikarkhurd, Bastibagra and Aamagaon of the district here on Saturday. During this visit the foreign tourist duo held talks with the



villagers and tribals about their lifestyle, culture and eating habits. The villagers through their folk dances enthralled both of them. During the tour, Environmentalist Sanjay Payasi apprised them about the local bio-diversity, wood craft and traditional techniques of water conservation. The tourist duo also enjoyed a ride in local bullock-cart. They also visited the

'Chaand-Suraj' prayer site. Foreign tourist duo held the cultural diversity and lifestyle of tribal and forest people as very much conducive for the rural tourism in the district. During their tour, the Sarpanch Gram Panchayat and Janpad member Sahdev Wakre were also present. EE Janpad Panchayat Gourela Sanjay Sharma assisted the two during their visit.

Notice issued to owners of 400 illegally constructed houses

Mungeli, Mar 28: The municipality has issued notices to about 400 people to regularize the houses constructed illegally and about 81 applications have been received so far in the municipality for regularization, out of which 54 applications have been sent to Town and Country Planning Office, Bilaspur and 48 cases have been presented before the committee and passed. The remaining 33 cases will be sent to Town and Country Planning after inspection and so far, 12 cases have been resolved and papers have been handed over to the beneficiaries.



As per information, due to non-availability of town and country planning office in the district, one has to go to Bilaspur, because of which people are not interested in regularization. With the opening of Town and Country Planning Office, where people will get relief from financial and mental problems, the same people will be motivated to regularize according to their facilities. Here colonies have been formed by illegal plotting in large numbers under the municipal area, in which there is lack of basic facilities in many colonies. In the same colonies, electricity, roads and sewerage facilities have been provided, but regularization of houses is not being done in these colonies. In this regard, it is said that there is no provision for regularization of houses built in colonies built illegally in municipality area, whereas houses in illegal colonies built in corporation area are being regularised. The Chhattisgarh government started the regularization

scheme on July 2022 to legalize the houses built without permission, under which a plan was made to regularize houses constructed without a map, in which arrangements have been made for free regularization of residential buildings up to 120 square meters, regularization of more than 120 square meters will be done with a minimum fee. Chief Municipal Officer Anubhav Singh said that the documents required for regularization include land documents, B-1, B-2 or slip and photographs around the land, copy of electricity bill or property tax before 2021, officially.

Farmers support strike of advocates

To remove in-charge Tehsildar



Rajim, Mar 28: Angered by the behavior of Tehsildar Pekhan Tondre posted in Tehsil office, Rajim Advocates Union Rajim is on indefinite strike from Feb 22 and successive hunger strike from March 20th for the demand of transfer of Tehsildar to another

place. The strike is also getting support of farmers' organizations and farmers under the leadership of All India Revolutionary Kisan Sabha (AIRKS), Chhattisgarh State Committee took out a rally from Rajim Mandi here and surrounded the SDM office against Rajim

Tehsildar. Meanwhile, the police administration tried to stop the main gate with great promptness by locking it, but the crowd of farmers opened the gate and reached the SDM office, where by handing over a memorandum to SDM Pooja Bansal, and demanded the removal of in-charge Tehsildar Rajim. All India Revolutionary Kisan Sabha Secretary Tejram Vidrohi, Janata Congress Jogi member Harish Sahu, All India Revolutionary Kisan Sabha members Uttam Kumar, Lalit Kumar, Manoj Kumar, Hemant Kumar Tandon, Bharat Sahu, Lakhbir Singh, and Smt. Sita Bai participated in the gherao programme.

Two-day training on capacity building held



Jagdalpur, Mar 28: Two-day workshop on 'Yuvodaya Prerak' and capacity building training and tour was inaugurated at the hands of Collector Chandan Kumar here on Monday. On this occasion he hailed the work of taking the state government's schemes to masses by the workers of 'Yuvodaya' with complete dedication. In the two-day training at Badal Academy in Aasna, the Yuvodaya workers from Bastar, Raipur, Bilaspur, Kawardha, Bijapur,

Kondagaon were also present. During this, the workers were giving information about their role in bringing positive changes in the society and the type of works to be done by them for capacity building. On this occasion Asst. Nodal Officer Bastar Yowaday Ajay Dewangan, Agrocon Samiti Secy. Manas Banerjee, all staff of Badal Academy and District Co-ordinator of Yuwodaya Bholaram Shandilya and others were present.

Children give message of prevention of TB through paintings

Mitanin, Nikshay Mitra and painting participants honored

Sukma, Mar 28: On the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day, in the programme organized in the District Hospital premises, children were informed about the effects of Tuberculosis (TB) on their health life and the possible symptoms seen on tuberculosis by Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. Mahesh Shandia and Dr. Anamay. Similarly a painting competition was organized at Swami Atmanand English Medium School (SAGEMS), Pavaras Sukma on Saturday, which saw participants of SAGEMS, Pavaras Sukma, Eklavya

Vidyalaya, POTA Cabin involved in this event gave the message of prevention by displaying in painting the effects of tuberculosis on social life and economic aspects. In the painting competition, student of Government Girls Residential High School, Sukma, Anjali Baghel got the first position, student of Eklavya Adarsh Residential School, Kumharras got the second position and Kumari Nancy, a student of SAGEMS, got the third position, who was rewarded with a certificate of appreciation. Mitanin Bharti Telami, Rame Barse, Sarita Thakur, Kunni Sodhi and Parvati



Tondare, who played an important role in the control of tuberculosis in the district and identification of persons suffering from tuberculosis, were honored with certificates of appreciation. Along with this, Sanjay Chandak and Nirmala Kamalakar Bhidwai of Nikshay Mitra

Chhindgarh, who played an important role in the prevention of Nikshay disease, were also honored. Let us inform that 11 TB patients have been adopted by Sanjay Chandak and 10 TB patients by Nirmala Kamalakar, along with providing them nutritious food for 6 months. On this occasion, District Tuberculosis Eradication Officer Dr. Mahadev Barse, District Program Coordinator Mukesh Roy, District TB and HIV Coordinator. Jay Narayan, District PPM Coordinator Naveen Pathak, Santosh Chauhan and other officers, employees and teachers and students were present.

NAME CHANGE
It is informed to the general public that I SEEMA JABIN SAMASH W/o ABDUL LATIF KHAN Resident of Dauchaura Ward No.- 16, Khairagarh, Post and Tehsil- Khairagarh, Police Station- Khairagarh, District - Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai (C.G.) have changed my old name SEEMA JABIN SAMASH W/o ABDUL LATIF KHAN so in future, I should be recognised by my New Name that is SEEMA JABIN KHAN W/o ABDUL LATIF KHAN in all Government and other Documents.
SEEMA JABIN KHAN
Dauchaura Ward No.- 16, Khairagarh, Post and Tehsil- Khairagarh, Police Station- Khairagarh, District - Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai (C.G.)

न्यायालय अपर कलेक्टर एवं विशेष विवाह अधिकारी, जिला बालोद (छ.ग.)
फार्म - अ
सार्वजनिक सूचना (नियम 6 देखिये)।
सर्व संवत्सरान्तर्गत की जानकारी के लिए यह अधिसूचित किया जाता है कि आवेदक जयंदा सुमार सौनबादन विवाह की कल्पना सुमार सोनबादेर, जति हेरी, आयु 30 वर्ष, निवासी गांव नं. 17 नयागांव, ग्राम च.पो. सोरेर, थाना दाहा, मुकुर, जिला बालोद (छ.ग.) एवं आवेदिका अस्माक अर्वा विवाह स्व. श्री डी आर आर्वा, जति हावा, आयु 29 वर्ष, निवासी ग्राम सारवाई, पो. विमोच, थाना च तह. मुकुर, जिला बालोद (छ.ग.) द्वारा विवाह विवाह अधिनियम, 1954 आगति प्रस्तुत कर सकते हे। निश्चित तिथि के पश्चात् प्राप्त आगति भर कोई सुगवाई नहीं होगी तथा वह सुच्य मान्य जावेगा।
आज दिनांक 20/03/2023 को मेरे हस्ताक्षर एवं न्यायालय की मुद्रा सहित जारी।
आगामी तिथि - 24/04/2023
अपर कलेक्टर एवं विशेष विवाह अधिकारी जिला बालोद (छ.ग.)
मुहर

AFFIDAVIT
I, Deepak Kukreja aged 44 years S/o Parmanand Kukreja Resident of H.No.6/10, Hemkunj Govind Nagar Pandri, Raipur, C.G. do hereby state & declare on solemnly affirm as under:-
01. That, I state and declare that my Daughter's name is Ekta Kukreja D/o Parmanand Kukreja which is mentioned in her Aadhar Card bearing no. 7540 7219 7574.
02. That, I state and declare that my name is mentioned wrongly as Deepika Kukreja in the Mark Sheet (Statement of Marks) of the 10th standard & 12th standard of my Daughter, issued by Council for the ICSE (Class-X) in the year 2020 & issued by Council for the ISC (Class-XII) in the year 2021. My Daughter's Unique ID No. 7165593.
03. I state and declare that my name Deepak Kukreja and Deepika Kukreja is the one and the same person i.e. myself (Father of Ekta Kukreja).
04. That, I am making this affidavit, to submit before the concerned authority to show said facts and record my name as Deepak Kukreja.
VERIFICATION :
Verified that the Whatsoever stated here in after is true and correct to the best of my knowledge & belief and if any statements of this affidavit shall be proven false then I alone shall liable for the punishment, hence verified and signed by me on this 24th day of March 2023 in Raipur (C.G.).
Deponent

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA
Branch-Mahasamund (00416), District- Mahasamund (C.G.)
Publication of Notice Regarding Possession of Property u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI Act 2002
Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, a demand notice was issued on the dates mentioned against each account and stated herein after calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Act on the dates mentioned against each account. The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the STATE BANK OF INDIA for an amount and interest thereon.
The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.
SI No. Name of the Borrower Demand Notice Dt. Possession Notice Dt. Outstanding Amount Properties Details
1. Borrower:- Mrs. Khirkumari Choudhary W/O Mr. Dinesh Choudhary (1) 31.12.2022 (2) 24.03.2023 Rs. 2892390.00/- + Interest & Other Charges thereon. Factory Land and building situated at Village - Rajadera, Tehsil-Pithora, Dist-Mahasamund, KH NO. 363/2 (Total Land 0.70 Hect) Regd Sale Deed Dated 16.03.2012. The property is surrounded by boundaries in North-Agrl Land of Kartik Ram, South- Tar Road, East- Agrl Land of Ganga Ram and in West-Agrl Land of Shushila Bai.
Date: 28.03.2023, Place: Mahasamund Authorized Officer, State Bank of India

BRIEF



President Droupadi Murmu during her visit to Belur Math, in Howrah district, Tuesday.

Show-cause

Santiniketan: Hours before the convocation ceremony of Visva-Bharati university, the educational institute show-caused seven faculty members for writing to President Droupadi Murmu complaining against the style of functioning of Vice Chancellor Prof Bidyut Chakraborty.

Seized

Hyderabad: Gold weighing over 1 kg collectively worth over Rs 65 lakh was seized from two passengers, in separate cases, at the international airport here in the early hours of Tuesday, Customs officials said. Based on passenger profiling, Customs Air Intelligence officers intercepted one male passenger who came by a flight from Dubai and on searching the passenger, three capsules of gold in paste form weighing 840 gm (approximately Rs 51.24 lakh value) was found concealed in rectum, a release from Customs said.

Mishap

Hardoi: Five people were killed and four injured in a collision between an autorickshaw and a car on the Lucknow-Hardoi Highway, police said on Tuesday. While the five victims died on the spot, the injured were rushed to a hospital where their condition is stated to be stable, they said.

Resign

Bilaspur: Muskan, the youngest Zila parishad chairperson in Himachal Pradesh from Bilaspur, on Monday resigned from her post. She won as an Independent candidate at the age of 20 years, three years ago and was later elected to the post of Zila Parishad Chairman with the support of the BJP.

Airlifted

Jammu: The Indian Air Force's 'Kargil Courier' service airlifted over 3,000 stranded passengers during the closure of the 434-kilometre-long Srinagar-Leh National Highway this winter, an official said on Tuesday.

Proposal

New Delhi: The Centre has received a proposal from the Maharashtra government for the renaming of Mumbai Central Terminus after Nana Shankarsheth, but no decision has been taken on it yet, the Lok Sabha was informed. Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said the decision in such matters is taken after due consideration of the recommendation of various government agencies and other relevant factors.

'Is Rahul victim of Congress conspiracy'

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

Why no eminent lawyer of the Congress came to the aid of Rahul Gandhi when he was convicted in a defamation case leading to his disqualification from Parliament, Union Minister Anurag Thakur asked on Tuesday and wondered if it was deliberate and part of a conspiracy within the party.

Thakur, addressing the media, also described Gandhi as a "loose cannon" and a "serial offender" who has seven cases of defamation in various courts even after being cautioned by the apex court.

The Information and Broadcasting Minister made it clear that neither the government nor the Lok Sabha secretariat had any role to play in the former Congress president's disqualification from the Lok Sabha.

Thakur said that according to the Representation of the People Act, Rahul Gandhi stood disqualified the moment he was sen-



Anurag Thakur

tenced to a two-year jail term in a criminal defamation case.

The senior BJP leader wondered why none of the eminent lawyers sent by the Congress to the Rajya Sabha could be of any help in the defamation case against Gandhi.

"Was it deliberate? Is there a conspiracy within the Congress? It is surprising that an entire battery of lawyers came to the rescue of Pawan Khera within an hour. Why did the Congress leader not move court in support of Rahul Gandhi? This is a big question," Thakur said.

"Who are these persons who hatched the conspiracy against Rahul Gandhi,"

the Union minister asked.

Thakur said that even after issuing a written apology to the Supreme Court, Gandhi continued to make defamatory remarks against communities, people and organisations like the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

He also slammed Gandhi for speaking harshly to a journalist during a press conference on Saturday.

"Some people do not know that the person who was spoken harshly to had covered the Congress party for 15 years. He lashed out at the journalist and still he talks of freedom of the press," the Union minister said.

Thakur dismissed suggestions that the BJP was over-obsessed with Gandhi and said it was the Congress that has been unable to come out of the influence of the Gandhi family.

He also accused the Congress of derailing the ongoing Budget Session of Parliament after it re-

alised that the BJP would insist on an apology from Gandhi for his remarks "maliciously" on foreign soil.

The minister also rejected the opposition charge that the BJP government was on the defensive on the Adani issue and said that SBI, LIC, RBI, SEBI had come out with statements on the matter.

He said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman too had made a statement on the issue and an investigation by a Supreme Court-appointed committee was underway.

"There is nothing to hide. Our institutions are strong. We have to trust them. Had this not been the case, everything would be haywire," he said.

Thakur slammed the Congress party and claimed that it was obsessed with Gandhi family and prioritised them over the nation.

"Since 2013, 12 lawmakers have lost their Parliament membership due to their involvement in a criminal offence.

Oppn to Odisha Govt

'Table House panel reports on Mahanadi water dispute in Assembly'

Bhubaneswar, Mar 28 (PTI):

Opposition BJP and Congress Tuesday asked the Odisha government to table the reports of two panels on Mahanadi water dispute with Chhattisgarh in the Assembly before holding a special discussion on the issue.

The matter was raised by Leader of Opposition Jaynarayan Mishra of BJP during the Zero Hour. He said that two committees, one by the leader of the House - chief minister and another by Assembly Speaker, were constituted when the entire state expressed concern over neighbouring Chhattisgarh constructing barrages illegally and blocking free flow of Mahanadi water.

In December, 2017, two panels were constituted and the committees visited the areas where Chhattisgarh had constructed the barrages. However, the Assembly was not aware

what were the findings of both the teams, Mishra said.

The LoP also said a five member legal panel was also set up by the state government to oversee the Mahanadi water dispute matter in the tribunal. The House would like to know how much money is spent and the reason behind the extension of the tenure of the tribunal. Noting that he has served a notice for a detailed discussion on the Mahanadi water dispute through a motion in the House, Congress legislature party (CLP) leader Narasingha Mishra said though two panels were formed, there has been no meetings. "This (not holding meetings) speaks how serious the government was for resolving the water dispute. The water resources minister has also no given any statement in the House despite a ruling by the Speaker," the Congress veteran said.

The speaker, however, said that the minister has not given the statement as the House is likely to take up a full-fledged discussion on the matter.

Mishra also targeted Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti Bisheswar Tudu, who hails from Odisha. "It is understood that the Union Minister despite being from the state has not intervened in the matter," he said.

Earlier, the ruling BJD members had stalled proceedings of the House over Mahanadi water dispute and accused the BJP led Central government and previous UPA government for not resolving the Mahanadi water dispute. BJD MLA Debi Prasad Mishra accused both the BJP and the Congress of not being sincere to resolve the issue even as people in 15 of the state's 30 districts suffer due to erratic flow of water in downstream of Mahanadi.

PRAYERS FOR WELLBEING



Devotees arrive to offer prayers at a Kali Mata temple during the 'Chaitra Navratri' festival, in Jammu, Tuesday.

BJP protests in Kolkata over owes of potato farmers

● Due to bumper harvest

Kolkata, Mar 28 (PTI):

The BJP protested in Kolkata on Tuesday, alleging that the state government was not doing enough to mitigate the losses being faced by potato farmers due to bumper harvest this year.

Leader of opposition Suwendu Adhikari led a rally from College Square

to Rani Rashmoni Road over the issue. Armed with posters and placards, BJP members marched on the streets wearing garlands made with potatoes.

"The state government has completely failed to protect the interest of the farmers. The potato farmers are not getting the price of their produce while TMC leaders are busy indulging in corruption. The farmers are fac-

ing a tough time, and the government is wasting public money fighting cases to stop CBI and ED investigations," he alleged. Adhikari said the state government should take immediate steps to compensate the potato farmers for their losses.

"Farmers in various parts of the state are dying. The TMC government can't be just a mute spectator," he said.

'TMC's decision to support GST Bill wrong'

Singur (WB), Mar 28 (PTI):

Asserting that the Centre has been depriving West Bengal of its share of the Goods and Service Tax collected from the state, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said that the decision to support the passage of the GST Bill was wrong.

Banerjee, also the Trinamool Congress supremo, said that she had supported the passing of the GST Bill thinking that it would benefit the states.

She was addressing a programme here in Hooghly district to launch the 'Pathashree - Rastashree' scheme for constructing around 12,000 kilometres of roads in rural areas of the state.

"It was our mistake to support the passing of the GST (Bill). I had thought that the states would benefit from it. But, the Centre is collecting all the taxes and not giving us our share of it," Banerjee said.

The GST was launched across the country on July 1, 2017. The primary motive was the "one country



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during the foundation stone laying of road projects, in Singur, Tuesday.

one tax" enabling the Centre to collect tax at once. The TMC had 'in principle' supported the Narendra Modi government when this tax framework was introduced.

The BJP-led central gov-

ernment has stopped releasing funds for the 100 days work scheme, scholarships for the OBC students and various other programmes, she said at the event organised by the state panchayat and rural

development department. From Wednesday, Banerjee will start a two-day sit-in demonstration in Kolkata protesting against the BJP-led Union government's alleged discriminatory attitude towards West Bengal.

She also demanded that the Centre release funds for the MGNREGA project and other initiatives of the housing and road departments. Launching the 'Pathashree - Rastashree' scheme ahead of the panchayat election, Banerjee said that the entire expenditure of Rs 3.75 thousand crores for constructing rural roads would be borne by the state and not the central government.

Under the scheme, around 12,000 km of roads will be constructed or reconstructed in 29,475 villages of the state, a senior official of the Panchayat and Rural Development department said.

Twenty-two districts will benefit from this project as 8,767 roads have been approved under this scheme, he said.

ARRIVAL OF SUMMER



A potter arranges clay pots which are popularly used to store drinking water during the summer season, at a village on the outskirts of Ahmedabad, Tuesday.

'Savarkar's name being 'blackened' by those ignorant of his sacrifice'

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

Former vice president M Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday said it was unfortunate that V D Savarkar's name was being "blackened needlessly" by those who seem to be ignorant of his "matchless sacrifice" during the freedom struggle. Without naming anyone, he said the country's heroes and nationalists deserve utmost respect.

"Those who criticise Veer Savarkar should first inform themselves of his contribution and selfless sacrifice in the cause of the freedom struggle, before they at-



M Venkaiah Naidu

tempt to tarnish his reputation," Naidu said in a Facebook post. His remarks come amid a political row

over Congress leader Rahul Gandhi using Savarkar's name to hit out at the ruling BJP. As the BJP stepped up attack on Rahul and sought his apology for "maliciously" India on his recent tour to the UK, the former Congress president had said he was "not Savarkar" and would not apologise. "...our political differences should not cloud our perceptions and lead to extreme positions which are patently false," Naidu said. Former Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray and NCP chief Sharad Pawar have asked Rahul Gandhi not to target Savarkar, a revered

figure in Maharashtra. "It is unfortunate that this iconic patriot who has been a great source of inspiration to millions of his countrymen, is being denigrated and his name, blackened needlessly by those who seem to be ignorant of his matchless sacrifice during the freedom struggle," Naidu wrote.

He recalled that for his role as a freedom fighter and a revolutionary, Savarkar suffered "heinous torture" at the hands of the British and spent years in Cellular Jail in the Andamans in a tiny cell in extremely harsh conditions without ventilation or toilet facilities.

'Fight not meant for Rahul but to safeguard democracy'

Jammu, Mar 28 (PTI):

The Congress' campaign following Rahul Gandhi's "hasty disqualification" from the Lok Sabha is meant to safeguard democracy and highlight corruption in the country, senior leader Ajay Maken said on Tuesday.

The former Union minister also reiterated the party's demand for setting

up a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to probe into the allegations against the Adani Group.

"Look at the sequence of events, which culminated in the hasty disqualification of Gandhi — who raised serious questions on the links between (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi and Adani in Parliament. Instead of getting answers, he was disqualified which

we see as democracy-disqualified.

"Our fight is not for Rahul (Gandhi) but it is meant to safeguard democracy in the country. We will continue our protest to expose corruption and safeguard the interests of the common citizens, who are becoming victims of crony capitalism," Maken told reporters at the Congress' headquarters here. Gandhi



Ajay Maken

was on March 23 sentenced to two years in jail by a

Surat court in a 2019 criminal defamation case. The two-year jail term triggered his disqualification as a Lok Sabha member from the date of the verdict.

Flanked by senior party leaders, including Pradesh Congress Committee chief Vikar Rasool Wani, working president Raman Bhalla and chief spokesperson Ravinder

Sharma, Maken said Gandhi is not fighting to gain control of power but to defend the country's democratic institutions and its people. Pessing for a JPC probe into the Adani issue, Maken said the government should respect the joint demand of the opposition as JPCs were set up twice in the past by previous regimes to make things clear. "Why are they

(BJP) afraid of setting up a JPC despite the fact that it will have the largest number of members in it? "The JPC is a must to expose the connection between Modi and Adani and also to identify the shell companies that are directly linked to national security as there is a possibility of these companies having direct backing from China and Pakistan," he said.

Russia says it test-fired anti-ship missiles in Sea of Japan



A Russian navy boat launches an anti-ship missile test in the Peter the Great Gulf in the Sea of Japan. Russia's Defense Ministry says Moscow has test-fired anti-ship missiles in the Sea of Japan. The ministry said Tuesday that a few boats launched a simulated missile attack on a mock enemy warship about 60 miles away.

Moscow, Mar 28 (AP):

Russia's Defense Ministry says Moscow has test-fired anti-ship missiles in the Sea of Japan. The ministry said on Tuesday that two boats launched a simulated missile attack on a mock enemy warship about 100 kilometers (60 miles) away. The ministry said the target was successfully hit by

two Moskito cruise missiles. The Moskito, whose NATO reporting name is the SS-N-22 Sunburn, is a supersonic anti-ship cruise missile that has conventional and nuclear warhead capacity. It said the exercise took place in the Peter the Great Gulf in the Sea of Japan but did not give more precise coordinates. The gulf borders the Russian Pacific Fleet headquarters at Pokino and is about 700 kilometers (430 miles) from Japan's northern Hokkaido Island. The US Navy's 7th Fleet did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Japan does not plan to lodge a protest to Russia over the missile exercise,

said Tasuku Matsuki, Japanese Foreign Ministry official in charge of Russia, noting that its location Peter the Great Bay is considered Russian coast, though it is facing the water between the two countries.

"On the whole, Japan is concerned about Russia's increasing military activities around the Japanese coasts and watching them with great interest," Matsuki said. He said Russia has conducted missile drills in that area in the past and issued maritime advisories ahead of time. He said Japan is not in a position to comment on Russia's intention of the exercise. Russian nuclear-capable Tu-95 bombers flew over the Sea of Japan for several hours last week.

Japan and the United States have reached an agreement on trade in critical minerals for electric vehicle batteries, part of an effort to diversify supply chains and reduce reliance on China for strategically important resources.

The deal struck Tuesday is expected to help electric vehicles using metals processed in Japan qualify for tax incentives under President Joe Biden's Inflation Reduction Act. "This announcement is proof of President Biden's commitment to building resilient and secure supply chains," US Trade Representative Katherine Tai said in a statement.

The Inflation Reduction Act, enacted in August, requires a portion of the critical minerals used in EV batteries to be mined in or processed domestically or from countries with which the US has free trade agreements. Japan and the US have no such FTA, but the deal will grant Japan the same treatment as an FTA partner regarding such minerals, Japanese officials said. As a result, the two sides said they agreed to not impose export duties on trade in lithium, cobalt, manganese, nickel and graphite all strategically important minerals.

US, Japan reach deal on vital minerals for EV batteries

Tokyo, Mar 28 (AP):

Japan and the United States have reached an agreement on trade in critical minerals for electric vehicle batteries, part of an effort to diversify supply chains and reduce reliance on China for strategically important resources.

The deal struck Tuesday is expected to help electric vehicles using metals processed in Japan qualify for tax incentives under President Joe Biden's Inflation Reduction Act. "This announcement is proof of President Biden's commitment to building resilient and secure supply chains," US Trade Representative Katherine Tai said in a statement.

INS SUMEDHA IN ALGERIA



Naval officers onboard the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sumedha as it reaches port at Algiers, as a part of overseas deployment, in Algeria.

Wary of China, Pakistan opts out of democracy summit in Washington

Islamabad, Mar 28 (PTI):

Pakistan, the closest ally of China, has decided to skip the Democracy Summit that begins in Washington on Tuesday, opting instead to engage with the US bilaterally to strengthen democratic values, the Foreign Office here said. The virtual summit is co-sponsored by the US Department of State and USAID on the theme of "Global Declaration of Mayors for Democracy". China and Turkey have not been invited to the virtual summit. Pakistan's participation in the summit has been a subject of intense debate for some time now. Islamabad chose to skip the event so that it does not potentially upset its

"all-weather ally" China, officials said. "The Summit process is now at an advanced stage and therefore, Pakistan would engage bilaterally with the US and co-hosts of the Summit to promote and strengthen democratic principles and values and work towards advancing human rights and the fight against corruption," Pakistan's Foreign Office spokesperson told the media.

However, the Foreign Office thanked the US for inviting Pakistan to attend the Second Summit for Democracy. "We value our friendship with the US. Under this Biden Administration, this relationship has widened and expanded substantially. We remain committed to further solidifying this relationship for peace, stability, and prosperity in the region," the Foreign Office said. The three-day event will showcase the role of cities and sub-national governments in the affirmation of democratic values and the renewal of democracy worldwide.

On Tuesday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will chair virtually a panel session on "A Just and Lasting Peace in Ukraine" featuring President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Cash-strapped Pakistan is awaiting a much-needed USD 1.1 billion tranche of funding from the Washington-based global money lender, which was originally due to be disbursed in November last year.

Further solidifying this relationship for peace, stability, and prosperity in the region," the Foreign Office said. The three-day event will showcase the role of cities and sub-national governments in the affirmation of democratic values and the renewal of democracy worldwide.

On Tuesday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will chair virtually a panel session on "A Just and Lasting Peace in Ukraine" featuring President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Cash-strapped Pakistan is awaiting a much-needed USD 1.1 billion tranche of funding from the Washington-based global money lender, which was originally due to be disbursed in November last year.

Second Mahatma Gandhi statue vandalised in Canada this month

Toronto, Mar 28 (PTI):

The statue of Mahatma Gandhi was vandalised at a university campus in Canada's British Columbia province, days after another statue of the global peace icon was targeted in this country by Khalistan supporters.

In the latest incident, the statue placed at Peace Square on the Burnaby campus at Simon Fraser University was vandalised, the Consulate General of India in Vancouver said on Tuesday.

"We strongly condemn the heinous crime of vandalising the statue of the harbinger of peace Mahatma Gandhiji, @SFU Burnaby campus," the Consulate said in a tweet. "The Canadian authorities

are urged to investigate the matter urgently and bring the perpetrators to justice swiftly @MEAIndia," it added. The incident comes after Khalistani supporters defaced and spray-painted a Mahatma Gandhi statue near the City Hall in the town of Hamilton in Canada's Ontario province on March 23.

In July last year, a Mahatma Gandhi statue at a Vishnu temple in Richmond Hill, Canada was vandalised, drawing sharp condemnation from the Consulate General of India in Toronto.

"We are distressed at the desecration of the Mahatma Gandhi statue at Vishnu temple in Richmond Hill. This criminal, hateful act of vandal-

ism has deeply hurt the sentiments of the Indian community in Canada," it said in a tweet at that time. Canada has witnessed a surge in anti-India activities recently by Khalistan supporters who have vandalised some Hindu temples. A Ram Mandir in Mississauga was defaced by "Khalistani extremists" with anti-India graffiti on February 13, drawing strong reaction from the Indian Consulate in Toronto.

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

'India, China to contribute half of global economic growth in 2023'

Beijing, Mar 28 (PTI):

The report titled "Asian Economic Outlook and Integration Progress" said that Asia's weighted real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate in 2023 is estimated to be 4.5 per cent, an increase from 4.2 per cent in 2022, making it a "stand-out performer in view of the global economic slowdown."

China and India would contribute to half of the world's growth this year, the report said, citing data from the Washington-based International Monetary Fund (IMF).

As a major engine of the world economy, Asia economies are accelerating the pace of overall economic recovery in 2023, making them stand-out performers given the global economic slowdown.

The report was released as the think tank on Tuesday began its four-day annual session at the Boao village in the Hainan province of China.

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As a major engine of the world economy, Asia economies are accelerating the pace of overall economic recovery in 2023.

IMF analysis indicates that only China and India would contribute half of

the world's growth this year, with every 1 per cent increase in China's economic growth leading to approximately a 0.3 per cent increase in output for the rest of Asia. Moreover, other regions of Asia may also contribute a quarter of the global growth, the report said. According to IMF projections, India is expected to grow at 6.8 per cent in 2023, followed by China with 5.2 per cent.

In her speech at the China Development Forum on March 26, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva stressed that global economic growth might fall below three per cent this year. "We expect 2023 to be another challenging year, with global growth slowing to below 3 per cent, as scarring from

the pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and monetary tightening weigh on economic activity", Georgieva said. "Even

with a better outlook for 2024, global growth will remain well below its historic average of 3.8 per cent", she added.

39 dead in fire at Mexico migrant centre near US border



Image taken from a video showing ambulances and rescue teams staffed outside an immigration center in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Tuesday, March 28. At least 39 migrants have died in a fire at an immigration detention center in northern Mexico near the U.S. border.

Mexico City, Mar 28 (AP):

A fire in a dormitory at a Mexican immigration detention centre near the US border left more than three dozen migrants dead, a government

agency said Tuesday, in one of the deadliest incidents ever at an immigration lockup in the country. Hours after the fire broke out late Monday, rows of bodies were laid out under shimmering sil-

ver sheets outside the facility in Ciudad Juarez, across from El Paso, Texas. Ambulances, firefighters and vans from the morgue swarmed the scene.

Thirty-nine people died and 29 were injured and are in "delicate-serious" condition, according to the National Immigration Institute.

There were 68 men from Central and South America held in the facility at the time of the fire, the agency said.

It was the deadliest incident inside a Mexican immigration facility in recent memory. Authorities are investigating the cause of the fire and the governmental National Human Rights Commission had been called in to help the migrants.

Renewable energy growth falls short of climate goal

Berlin, Mar 28 (AP):

Deployment of new wind and solar power plants needs to be drastically ramped up by the end of the decade to meet the world's climate goals, the International Renewable Energy Agency said Tuesday.

In an advance preview of its annual report on the global shift from fossil fuels to clean energy, the agency said renewables accounted for 83 per cent of new power generation last year. Worldwide, the share of installed power generation coming from renewables reached 40 per cent in 2022, it said. But in order to halve greenhouse gas emissions

by 2030 and put the world on track to cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), existing targets for renewable power deployment would need to be more than doubled, the Abu Dhabi-based agency said. Governments agreed in the 2015 Paris climate accord to limit the global temperature rise to 2 C (3.6 F) ideally no more than 1.5 C above pre-industrial averages. The lower target would prevent significant harm from climate change but is increasingly difficult to achieve given that temperatures have already increased by 1.1 C (2 F) since the 19th century and emissions show no sign of dropping fast.

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing
(A premier research organization of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Govt. of India, carrying out R&D across a wide spectrum of ICT thematic areas)
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CBC 06130/12/0021/2223

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Corporate Identity Number (CIN) - L1310TG1958GO001674

e-Tender Notification
Tender Enquiry No: HO (Contracts)/SP-III/Site Dev.(PH-II)/KDL/2022/897/
Dated : 29-03-2023
MSTC Ref. No. : NMDC/HO/101/22-23/ET/1021

Estimated Cost including GST is Rs. 71.78 Cr.
NMDC Limited (Employer), a "NAVARATNA" Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India, invites online bids from domestic prospective bidders for the work "Site Development works (Phase-II) for SP-III, Kirandul, Dist : Dantewada, Chhattisgarh" on item rate basis.

The detailed NIT and Bid documents can be viewed and / or downloaded from 29-03-2023 to 13-04-2023 from following website links:
1. NMDC website - <https://tenders.nmdc.co.in/nmcdctender/>
2. Central Public Procurement portal - <https://www.eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app> and search tender through tender enquiry number.
3. MSTC portal - https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/nmdc/buyer_login.jsp

The bidders are requested to submit their bids online through MSTC Limited website. The details of submission of bid through online are given in NIT. The Bidders on regular basis are required to visit the NMDC's website / CPP Portal / MSTC website for corrigendum, if any, at a future date. For further clarification, the following can be contacted -
Mr. Sowmen Bisai, Project Manager, TATA CONSULTING ENGINEERING LIMITED, Block JC-30/A, Sector-III, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700106, West Bengal, India, Ph: (+91-33) 66115500, Mob: (+91) 91636 22244; E-Mail: sbisai@tce.co.in
Chief General Manager (Contracts), NMDC Limited Hyderabad, Tel no. +91-04023532800, email: (1) contracts@nmdc.co.in ; (2) gnaresh@nmdc.co.in. Chief General Manager (Contracts)

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
NO.P/HQ/GAZ/561/MD-13/290. DATE : 23.03.2023

CORRIGENDUM
In partial modification of this Railway's Notification of even number dated 03.03.2023, short Notification is issued for engagement of 15 posts of Honorary Visiting Specialists for one year, purely on yearly contract basis in Central Hospital, South East Central Railway/ Bilaspur. For more details i.e. eligibility, qualifications, age, experience and other terms and conditions may please log on to the South East Central Railway website <http://secr.indianrailways.gov.in>. Recruitment/News/Press released-Recruitment-HQ-GAZ Section.

Dy. CPO (Gaz.), For Principal Chief Personnel Officer, S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur
f South East Central Railway @secrail

कार्यालय प्राचार्य, शासकीय आयुर्वेद महाविद्यालय, रायपुर
जी. ई. रोड, रायपुर - 492001 (छत्तीसगढ़)
Web site- www.gacraipur.org E-mail- ayurvediccollege@gmail.com
Tel./Fax No.:- 0771-2263396

क्रमांक / प्रवेश / 2023 1092-93 रायपुर दिनांक - 28/03/2023

आयुर्वेद वाचस्पति (एम.बी. आयुर्वेद) एवं आयुर्वेद द्रव्यतंत्रि (एम.एस. आयुर्वेद) विषयीय स्नातकोत्तर पाठ्यक्रम में प्रवेश हेतु काउन्सिलिंग कार्यक्रम की सूचना

काउन्सिलिंग स्थान :- शासकीय स्वशासकीय आयुर्वेद महाविद्यालय, जी.ई.रोड, रायपुर (छ.ग.)
काउन्सिलिंग दिनांक :- 31.03.2023 (शुक्रवार) एवं 01.04.2023 (शनिवार)

शासकीय आयुर्वेद महाविद्यालय, रायपुर (छ.ग.) में संचालित आयुर्वेद वाचस्पति (एम.बी. आयुर्वेद) एवं आयुर्वेद द्रव्यतंत्रि (एम.एस. आयुर्वेद) पाठ्यक्रम सत्र 2022-23 में प्रवेश हेतु नेमानस दृष्टिकोण एकेन्यो, नई दिल्ली द्वारा आयोजित AIA-PGET 2022 में सम्मिलित छात्रीसंगठन के मूल निवृत्तियों के अन्वयितों को प्रत्या आवेदन पत्रों एवं उक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा को जॉन इन्डिया वेब के अर्धवार पत्र विभिन्न विषयों के अन्वयितों को तैयार प्रायोगिक सूची महाविद्यालय के वेबसाइट में प्रकाशित की गयी है। उक्त सूची में सम्मिलित अन्वयितों को निमानुसार काउन्सिलिंग हेतु आमंत्रित किया जा रहा है। अन्वयितों इस सूचना को ही बुलना पत्र मन्तव्य हेतु काउन्सिलिंग में अवरर लेने हेतु उपस्थित हो सकते हैं।

दिनांक	श्रेणी / संवर्ग	रजिस्ट्रेशन का समय	AIA-PGET-2022 प्रवेश परीक्षा का प्राप्तांक
31.03.2023 (शुक्रवार)	अनामतित	प्रातः 09 बजे से 10 बजे तक	277 से 197 तक
01.04.2023 (शनिवार)	ई-कम्प्यूटर	प्रातः 10 बजे से 10:30 बजे तक	167
01.04.2023 (शनिवार)	अनुसूचित जाति	प्रातः 09 बजे से 10 बजे तक	192 से 113 तक
	अनुसूचित जाति	प्रातः 08 बजे से 11 बजे तक	220 से 124 तक
	अभिच.	प्रातः 11 बजे से 12 बजे तक	270 से 197 तक
	साक्ष्य संवर्ग (समस्त श्रेणी)	प्रातः 12 बजे से 01 बजे तक	250 से 101 तक

सभी अन्वयितों समस्त पूरा प्रमाण पत्रों/अनुसूचितों एवं उनकी एक सेट की स्व-अभिप्रेक्षागत प्रति सहित काउन्सिलिंग हेतु निर्धारित दिनांक, स्थान एवं समय पर उपस्थित होने। उपस्थित नहीं होने पर अन्वयितों सूचना का अवरर को दैनिक। काउन्सिलिंग में उपस्थित होने प्रवेश की गारंटी नहीं है। काउन्सिलिंग में भाग लेने वाले अन्वयितों को शासकीय आयुर्वेद महाविद्यालय रायपुर द्वारा जारी सूची में अन्वयितों को उनके नाम के निम्नलिखित वाले कॉलेज में दक्षिण की गई विधियों से सम्बन्धित प्रमाण-पत्र को काउन्सिलिंग के समय अनिवार्य रूप से प्रस्तुत करना होगा। नोट- श्रेणीवार सूची, प्रमाण-पत्रों का क्रम एवं नियम निर्देश हेतु वेबसाइट www.gacraipur.org को अवलोकन करें।

प्राचार्य
शासकीय आयुर्वेद महाविद्यालय
रायपुर (छ.ग.)
G-997011



CENTRAL Chronicle

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Breaking Barriers

Paving the Way for Olympic Glory

India's women's boxing has been on the rise in recent years, thanks to the incredible achievements of MC Mary Kom and other female pugilists who have followed in her footsteps. The just-concluded Women's Boxing World Championships in New Delhi saw four Indian boxers win gold medals, matching the country's best-ever performance in terms of gold medals. Nikhat Zareen won her second world title, while Lovlina Borgohain, Nitu Ghanghas, and Saweety Boora also emerged victorious. With the Paris Olympics approaching, these performances have raised hopes that India can finally win an Olympic gold medal in women's boxing. The dominance of Indian women's boxers has also inspired more girls to take up the sport, alongside wrestling, another traditionally male-dominated sport. While cricket remains the most popular sport in the country, other sports such as boxing and wrestling are becoming increasingly popular, with more opportunities for girls to pursue their athletic ambitions. The inaugural Women's Premier League in cricket was also a resounding success, with Harmanpreet Kaur leading Mumbai Indians to the title triumph. Nikhat Zareen's victory was particularly impressive, as she had to battle through six exhausting bouts to claim her second world title. She defeated tough opponents under immense pressure of performing at home, demonstrating her mental resolve and fitness. The 50kg field was one of the toughest, with 35 boxers vying for the top honours. Lovlina Borgohain's triumph was also an encouraging sign, as she broke the "bronze jinx" that had been affecting her psychologically. Her win at home, following a series of underwhelming results, will do wonders for her confidence. However, both Nikhat and Lovlina are still adapting to their new weight categories and have several aspects to work on. The Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, will be held in September-October this year, and both Nikhat and Lovlina will be favourites to win gold medals. Nitu and Saweety will need to change their respective weight categories to enter the fray. The Asian event will double as a qualifier for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. While the performances of some Indian boxers, such as Manisha Moun, Jaismine Lamboria, and Manju Bamboriya, left a lot to be desired, the emergence of three new champions in Lovlina, Nitu, and Saweety, and some promising performances from the likes of Preeti Pawar, were key takeaways from the tournament. Preeti, competing in the 54kg category, topped the top seed and last edition's silver medalist Lacramioara Perijoc of Romania before going down to two-time Worlds medallist Thailand's Jitpong Jutamas in a fiercely-contested bout. The rise of Indian women's boxing can be attributed to various factors, such as the unstinting support of parents and coaches, along with the backing of central and state governments. The country's daughters now have more sporting opportunities, with the likes of Mary Kom and Sania Mirza being enduring role models. This bodes well for Indian sports as well as for gender equality. Indian women's boxing is on the rise, with a new generation of female pugilists inspiring more girls to take up the sport. The recent Women's Boxing World Championships saw four Indian boxers win gold medals, matching the country's best-ever performance in terms of gold medals. While the performances of some boxers left a lot to be desired, the emergence of new champions and promising young talents is a positive sign.

Misuse of Probe Agencies

The independence of India's investigative agencies, including the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED), has been a long-standing concern, with allegations of political misuse becoming more frequent in recent years. A plea by 14 Opposition parties, alleging arbitrary arrests and the misuse of these agencies against political opponents, is set to be heard by the Supreme Court on April 5. The plea argues that there is a clear pattern of these agencies being used to target political rivals and dissenting citizens. It highlights instances where cases are registered in quick succession to ensure that the accused stays in custody for a prolonged period. It also alleges that investigations slow down or clean chits are given to politicians who have crossed over to the ruling party at the Centre. The plea contends that 95% of the cases filed by the CBI and ED in the recent past were against leaders of Opposition parties, indicating that the fight against corruption is increasingly being used as an instrument of vendetta politics. While the ruling party has countered this with its claim of zero tolerance for graft, the BJP cannot escape the criticism of eroding the autonomy of these investigative agencies when it was in Opposition. It is essential to understand the gravity of the issue at hand. The misuse of these agencies threatens democracy, as it undermines the credibility of the criminal justice system and the rule of law. The Opposition parties' plea is not just about partisan politics; it is a matter of the fundamental principles of democracy. The independence of the CBI and ED is crucial to ensuring fair and impartial investigations and upholding the rule of law. Any abuse of power undermines public trust in these institutions and ultimately erodes the democratic foundations of the country. This issue is not limited to the present government or political party in power; it is a systemic problem that has persisted for decades. It is also essential to address the root cause of the problem, which is the lack of institutional safeguards to prevent the misuse of these agencies. The Opposition's plea for framing pre-arrest and post-arrest bail guidelines is a step in the right direction. These guidelines will ensure that individuals are not arrested without sufficient evidence and are not kept in custody for prolonged periods without a fair trial. However, more needs to be done to ensure that the autonomy of these agencies is protected. The government should introduce legislation to establish an independent oversight body to monitor the functioning of these agencies and prevent any political interference. The appointment of senior officials in these agencies should be done in a transparent and merit-based manner, with the involvement of independent bodies like the judiciary and civil society. The Opposition's plea is not just about political vendetta; it is about protecting the independence of these agencies and upholding the rule of law. The Supreme Court's verdict on this matter will have far-reaching implications, and it is crucial that the government takes steps to prevent the misuse of these agencies in the future. If we want to strengthen our democracy, we must ensure that these institutions remain fair and impartial, and that they are not used as tools for political witch-hunts.

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@centralchronicle@gmail.com.

CHAITRA NAVRATRI



Devotees arrive to offer prayers at a Kali Mata temple during the 'Chaitra Navratri' festival, in Jammu, Tuesday, March 28.

The Paradox of Goddess Worship in India: From Reverence to Neglect of Girls



PRIYANKA SAURAB



Navratri is a Hindu festival. Navratri is a Sanskrit word, which means 'nine nights'. During these nine nights and ten days, nine forms of Shakti Devi are worshipped. During the nine nights of Navratri, three goddesses - Mahalakshmi, Mahasaraswati, or Saraswati and nine forms of Durga are worshipped, which are called Navadurga. During these nine nights and ten days, nine forms of Shakti Devi are worshipped. Indian feminists and modern Indian women have begun to question this discarded goddess symbolism as it has also been used as an active tool of patriarchal oppression. Some of the most prominent goddesses in other cultures and mythologies have also been mothers and epitomized the life of ideal motherhood—for example, Egyptian Isis, Greek Demeter, or in Catholicism, Mary—as the mother of Jesus. But in no other culture are little girls worshipped as goddesses as is done in India. The modern goddess movement turned to the reconstruction of many early traditions for a new generation of women who were constantly in conflict with their patriarchal societies, which worshipped goddesses but discriminated against and discriminated against their actual flesh-and-blood women. Used to exploit Many Western feminists

and many women globally find Hindu deities to be inspirational and givers of inner strength. Small pre-pubescent girls who are worshipped on the eighth and/or ninth day of Navratri are often abused and discriminated against. There are many Devi temples where menstruating women or women of perceived lower caste are not even allowed to enter; there are many places of worship of the Goddess where only men are allowed into the inner sanctum and not women. Small pre-pubescent girls who are worshipped as Kanjakas or Kanyas on the eighth and/or ninth day of Navratri are often abused, discriminated against, and 'castrated' for being born as girls for the rest of the day, considered 'impure'. She should be worshipped after menstruation starts. Changing times require a contemporary understanding of the Goddess, we are living in a highly polarized world, and with movements against sexual discrimination and harassment most recently #MeToo which emerged in the West but gained ground in India, it is in the concept of the Goddess It's time to diversify. Almost all cultures that consider the Earth as Mother must do something to prevent damage to the environment around them. Some feel, "the goddess may be a projection of the male imagination of wom-

The worship of the divine feminine has been a significant aspect of many cultures around the world for centuries. In India, the festival of Navratri celebrates the nine forms of the Goddess, where girls are revered as manifestations of the divine. However, this respect towards women and girls seems to fade away as soon as the festival ends, and they continue to face discrimination and exploitation in various forms. The society we live in must adopt a gender-sensitive understanding of the divine feminine, where the worship of women and girls continues beyond the festival period. The birth of a girl child is still met with sorrow in many parts of India, which is a clear indication of the deeply ingrained patriarchal mindset that needs to be challenged. Treating women with respect and equality should not be limited to religious rituals or festivals, but it should be a way of life for everyone. The concept of the Goddess needs to be diversified to align with the current movements against sexual discrimination and harassment worldwide. It is essential to recognize that the divine feminine is not just limited to a particular gender or form but can be manifested in all human beings, irrespective of their gender identity. By respecting and treating women with equality, we are also honoring the divinity within them.

hood, but women, as throughout history, can use the tools of subversion and subversion to find what they want in the symbol. A few years ago, Tap Route India developed a campaign that featured images of the three main Hindu goddesses - Durga, Saraswati, and Lakshmi, but with bruises and bruises on their faces that indicate violence against women. Were. Now the time has come, maybe all these symbols related to goddesses need to be reimagined to suit the present environment, and goddess worship of chest-thumping "Jai Mata Di, Mata ki Jai" should be replaced if not replaced. It needs to be a safer and more respectful place for girls and women. In many homes, the girls do not have the same place and respect that the sons of the family have. Some prominent persons and political leaders of our society are also lions in giving speeches only on paper, but as soon as they enter inside the house, they forget what speeches they have given outside for women's rights. It is a matter of regret that the constitution which can make a woman the President cannot make her the head of a temple. Even today there are some temples where women are not allowed to enter. At the time of the death of the male head of the family, the turban is placed on the daughters' heads. When

a woman dies, her daughters or daughters-in-law do not have the same rights that remain with the son or husband. In many communities, women cannot even touch the turban being tied in the fraternity. Now little change is coming. With Kanya Pujan, we have to take a resolution that why the girl whom we are worshipping cannot become a temple priest. At least women should worship in the temples of goddesses. There is logic in this, if the society thinks, is it right? Why can't she become the president of the temple? Can play dholak, can cook langar. But in some special temples, she cannot visit the same deity whose songs she tears her throat by singing songs or cooks food for them and offers them food. It has to be remembered that society has to change its mindset, but first women have to change their mindset. In India, girls are worshipped as goddesses during Navratras. But some people forget all this after Navratri. Girls are exploited and insulted in many places. Even today, in many villages in India, sorrow is observed at the birth of a girl child. We have to change our thinking toward girls and women. Respect girls like a goddess. Respecting them is as virtuous as worshipping God. It is also written in the scriptures that God himself resides in the house where women are respected.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Air Pollution's Deadly Impact

The 2023 State of India's Environment report revealed a shocking truth: air pollution is significantly reducing the lifespan of Indians. On average, an Indian's lifespan has decreased by nearly five years due to air pollution, with Delhi being hit the hardest with a 10-year decrease. Rural areas face an even greater loss of life, with an average of five years and two months cut short. The situation calls for immediate action. The government must take strict measures to curb pollution, as complacency towards it will only bring harm to future generations. The use of petrol-driven vehicles is the primary source of pollution, but steps towards the implementation of electrical vehicles and the use of solar plants could help reduce it. It's not too late to take action and save lives. We must take this issue seriously and work towards a cleaner, healthier India.

Yash pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

Robotics Education

The current unemployment rate in various states in India are a pressing issue that needs to be addressed. The advancement of technology and its increasing importance in the job market is an opportunity that we cannot ignore. I believe that introducing robotics education in schools could be a potential solution to this problem. If we make the study of robotics compulsory in schools, it will not only prepare students for future careers in the IT industry but also make them more equipped to tackle the challenges of the modern world. This initiative can potentially decrease the unemployment rate in the country and even make it a leading exporter in technology. It's time for the Government to take the lead in introducing new and innovative educational practices. Let's empower our youth with the skills necessary for success in the future job market.

MKN, Raipur

Demand for OPS

The demand for the restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) is gaining momentum across the country, especially among government employees. The recent proposal by the Central Government to review the New Pension Scheme (NPS) seems like an exercise in futility. Non-BJP-ruled states have already announced the implementation of the OPS, and employees are demanding the same across the country. The restoration of the OPS is imperative for the Central dispensation and BJP-ruled states, especially with elections around the corner. The BJP lost to the Congress in Himachal Pradesh only on the promise of restoring the OPS. The AAP government in Punjab has already implemented it. The government must listen to the voices of its employees and take necessary steps to restore the OPS all over the country. Failure to do so may prove to be a nightmare for the party at the hustings.

Rajesh Sharma, Korba

India's Digital Revolution: Bridging the Gap and Creating Opportunities



Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

In recent years, India has seen an impressive growth in its digital economy, propelled by the government's Digital India initiative and the rise of digital startups. As the country strives to become a leading player in the global digital arena, it faces several

challenges and opportunities.

The Rise of Internet Users

India's digital revolution can be attributed to the significant increase in internet users. According to a report by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), the number of internet users in India is expected to reach 974 million by 2025. This surge in internet users is due to the government's efforts to connect the entire country through high-speed internet and provide online services, including e-commerce.

Digital Payments

To promote the use of digital payments, the government launched the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), which has become the preferred mode of payment for many Indians. The introduction of the Aadhaar card, a unique identification num-

ber for every citizen, has helped to verify identities for digital transactions and reduce fraud. The government has also encouraged the use of digital signatures, e-contracts, and e-invoicing to further digitize the economy.

Digital Startups

India is home to the third-largest startup ecosystem globally, with many companies focusing on digital technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and the internet of things. These startups are driving innovation and creating new business models that are disrupting traditional industries.

Challenges and Opportunities

While India's progress towards building a digital economy is impressive, it faces several challenges that need to be addressed. One of the significant challenges is improving digital infrastruc-

ture, especially in rural areas, to ensure access to high-speed internet. The government has been working towards this goal, with initiatives such as the BharatNet project, which aims to provide broadband connectivity to over 600,000 villages.

Another challenge is addressing the digital divide, as access to technology and digital literacy is limited in many parts of the country. The government has launched several initiatives to address this, including the Digital Saksharta Abhiyan, which aims to provide digital literacy to at least one person in every household.

Ensuring data privacy and security is also crucial for the growth of India's digital economy. The government has enacted the Personal Data Protection Bill, which seeks to protect the privacy of Indian citizens' personal data. The bill will require businesses to obtain consent

from individuals before collecting their data and impose penalties for data breaches.

India's commitment to building a digital economy is creating new opportunities for businesses and individuals alike. Digital technologies are transforming traditional industries, and startups are disrupting established business models. The government's efforts to promote digital payments and provide online services are making it easier for businesses to operate and individuals to access services. India's progress towards building a digital economy is impressive, and the country has the potential to become a leading player in the global digital arena. While challenges such as improving digital infrastructure and addressing the digital divide exist, the government's initiatives and startups' innovative spirit present significant opportunities for growth and development.

BRIEF

Appointment



Mumbai: Axis Securities has appointed Pranav Haridasan as its new managing director & chief executive for a three-year tenure, following the incumbent B Gopkumar moving to head Axis AMC. Haridasan is currently managing director and co-head of equities at Axis Capital and has over 20 years of experience in financial markets across different asset classes. Before Axis Capital, he was with Citigroup Global Markets as director and head of India/Asean execution services.

Smart cities



New Delhi: Public-private partnerships (PPP) in developing smart cities and villages are crucial to achieve India's vision of becoming a USD 5 trillion economy, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Monday. Addressing the 8th Smart Cities India Expo, Gadkari also stressed the need of developing smart cities and villages through the PPP model. "Development of Smart Cities is a success story in India. We have got a huge potential here."

Retail footprint



Chennai: Hinduja Group flagship Ashok Leyland has inaugurated its new light commercial vehicle retail outlet in Tamil Nadu under its move towards strengthening presence, the company said on Tuesday. The company inaugurated its 11th light commercial vehicle dealership at Thiruparankundram Main Road, Pasumalai in Madurai on Tuesday offering sales, service and spares facility to customers.

Situations fund



Mumbai: A Kotak Mahindra Bank arm on Tuesday announced that it has raised USD 1.25 billion for its second special situations fund. The money raised will be deployed in equity, debt capital and hybrid instruments across sectors, a statement from Kotak Investment Advisors (KIA), the arm of the private sector lender, under which the fund comes, said.

PSU banks recover 14 pc of written-off loans in last 5 years: FM

New Delhi, Mar 28:

Public sector banks could recover only 14 per cent of the written-off loans worth Rs 7.34 lakh crore in the last five years ending March 2022, Parliament was informed on Tuesday. Of Rs 7.34 lakh crore written-off loans, state-owned lenders recovered Rs 1.03 lakh crore, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha. So after recovery, net written-off stood at Rs 6.31 lakh crore in the last five years. Replying to another question, the Finance Minister said non-performing assets (NPAs), including, those in respect of which full provisioning has been made on completion of four years, are removed from the balance-sheet of the bank con-



cerned by way of write-off as per RBI guidelines and policy approved by bank boards. Banks evaluate/consider the impact of write-offs as part of their regular exercise to clean up their balance sheets, avail tax benefits and optimise capital, in accordance with RBI guidelines and policy approved by their boards, she said. Such write-off does not result in waiver of liabilities

of borrowers to repay, she said. As borrowers of written-off loans continue to be liable for repayment and the process of recovery of dues from the borrower in written-off loan accounts continues, write-off does not benefit the borrower, she said. Banks continue to pursue recovery actions initiated in written-off accounts through various recovery mechanisms available, such as filing of a suit in civil courts or in Debts Recovery Tribunals, action under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, she said. They pursue to recover by filing cases in the National Company Law Tribunal under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, through negotiated settlement/compromise, and

through sale of non-performing assets, she added. In another reply, Sitharaman said, the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) frames and implements reservation policies in services and posts under the Central Government for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs). "Policies/Guidelines issued by DoPT are extended mutatis mutandis to all Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) by Department of Public Enterprises (DPE). Implementation of the policies/guidelines on reservation is done by the respective CPSEs and is monitored by their Administrative Ministries/Departments," she said.

India's goods, services exports to cross USD 760 billion in FY23

New Delhi, Mar 28:



Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said the country's merchandise and services exports are estimated to cross USD 760 billion in the current fiscal ending March 31. Exports grew to USD 676 billion in 2021-22 from USD 500 billion.

Speaking at the annual session of ASSOCHAM here, Goyal said that at a time when the whole world is facing recession, high inflation and elevated interest rates, India is performing well. Goyal stressed that over the last 9 years, the focus of the Modi government has been on building the foundation blocks which are necessary for an economy to have many years of uninterrupted and sustainable growth. Various steps being taken by the government are making India

more cost competitive, be it the huge investment in infrastructure coupled with logistics, technological advancement, or the PM GatiShakti, he said. He also said the performance of India's global trade has proved the naysayers wrong. "I can say with great pride, happiness, and thanks to all your efforts that India has crossed in its 75th year of independence, as we speak today, USD 750 billion of exports," he said, adding the financial year is expected

to end with a total exports (merchandise and services) of about USD 760 billion. The minister also said the FTAs (Free Trade Agreements) with the UAE and Australia have been welcomed by the industry. The speed of India's FTAs did not come at the cost of compromising the quality of agreements and it was done after extensive stakeholder consultation, he noted. "We have a string of countries from across the globe wanting to engage with India today to expand and deepen ties," Goyal said and added the world recognises the delta of opportunities that India offers. Leveraging on the G20 Presidency and the edge India has today, the need of the hour is speedy and aggressive outreach to global markets with focus on investment, trade, technology and tourism, the minister said.

HMSI introduces new Activa 125

Compliant with latest emission norms

New Delhi, Mar 28:

Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India on Tuesday said it has launched latest version of its scooter Activa125 with upgraded engine priced at Rs 78,920 (ex-showroom, Delhi). The 2023 Activa125 now conforms to the stricter emission norms which will be effective from next month. "With this new model, we have leveraged the latest technology to ensure that our customers can enjoy a smooth and hassle-free ride while meeting the latest norms," Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) Managing Director, President & CEO



Atsushi Ogata said in a statement. The Indian automobile industry is currently working to make products meet the second phase of BS-VI norms in real-time driving conditions. Automobiles will need more sophisticated equipment to meet the next level of emission standards. The second phase of BS-VI emission norms is set to kick in on April 1.

Modi govt never took populist decisions, ended political instability: Amit Shah

New Delhi, Mar 28:

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said the Modi government never took populist decisions for vote bank politics but worked for the betterment of people and ensuring political stability in the country. Addressing the annual session of industry-body ASSOCHAM here, he said, in a vast country like India, development is possible only through the "whole of government approach" and Prime Minister Narendra Modi implemented this vision of "Team India" on the ground. This is why good results have come from every field in the last nine years. "When we take decisions, we have before us the betterment of the country or a sector. We



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with ASSOCHAM President and ReNew Power Chairman Sumant Sinha during the ASSOCHAM Annual Session 2023 - 'Bharat@100: Paving the Way for Inclusive and Sustainable Global Growth', in New Delhi, Tuesday, March 28.

have before us efforts to put a system in place in the country. We don't take decisions considering vote banks. Otherwise, GST would have never come in this country. We know there is a long army of people mocking the GST

EPFO fixes 8.15 pc interest rate on employees' provident fund for 2022-23

New Delhi, Mar 28:

Retirement fund body EPFO fixed 8.15 per cent rate of interest on employees' provident fund (EPF) deposits for 2022-23 at its meeting on Tuesday. In March 2022, 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. This was the lowest since 1977-78, when the EPF interest rate stood at 8 per cent. "The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation's apex decision making body Central Board of Trustees (CBT) has decided to provide 8.15 per cent rate of interest on EPF for 2022-23 at its meeting on Tuesday,"

a source said. The 8.5 per cent interest rate on EPF deposits for 2020-21 was decided by CBT in March 2021. After the CBT's decision, the interest rate on EPF deposits for 2022-23 will be sent to Ministry of Finance for concurrence. After the government's ratification, the interest rate on EPF for 2022-23 will be credited into accounts of over five crore subscribers of EPFO. EPFO provides the rate of interest only after it is ratified by the government through the finance ministry. In March 2020, EPFO had lowered the interest rate on provident fund deposits to a seven-year low of 8.5 per cent for 2019-20, from 8.65 per cent provided for 2018-19.

'VASTRA' FASHION SHOW



Models walk the ramp during 'Vastra' fashion show organised by North East Institute of Fashion Technology (NEIFT), in Guwahati.

Rupee gains 15 paise to close at 82.16 against US dollar

New Delhi, Mar 28:

The rupee appreciated 15 paise to settle at 82.16 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, tracking a weak American currency in the overseas market. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.20 against the American currency and finally closed at 82.16 (provisional) against the greenback, registering a gain of 15 paise over its previous close of 82.31.

During the session, the rupee touched a high of 82.16 and a low of 82.28 against the dollar. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.26 per cent to 102.59. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures declined 0.42 per cent to



USD 77.79 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 40.14 points or 0.07 per cent to end at 57,613.72, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 34.00 points or 0.2 per cent to 16,951.70. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital market on Monday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 890.64 crore, according to exchange data.

Govt to launch 7th round of commercial auctions today

To put 106 coal mines on block

New Delhi, Mar 28:

The government will put on the block 106 coal mines on Wednesday, launching the seventh round of commercial auctions, an official statement said. In the statement, the coal ministry said it will also be signing the agreements for the 28 coal mines auctioned under the sixth round of auctions, it said. "The Ministry of Coal will be signing the agreements for 28 coal mines auctioned under the sixth round and launching the seventh round of auction of mines for sale of coal on March 29, 2023," the statement said.

Sensex, Nifty close lower in volatile trade ahead of F&O expiry

Mumbai, Mar 28:

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty ended marginally lower in highly volatile trade on Tuesday as losses in IT and auto stocks were largely offset by gains in banking and financial shares amid mixed global trends. Profit booking by cautious investors ahead of F&O expiry on Wednesday also dented the sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 40.14 points or 0.07 per cent lower at 57,613.72 as 19 of its stocks declined and 11 advanced. The index opened higher and further climbed 295.59 points or 0.51 per cent to touch a high of 57,949.45. It, however, failed to hold onto the gains and fell to a low of



57,494.91 later. The broader NSE Nifty closed lower by 34 points or 0.20 per cent to finish at 16,951.70 after gyrating between 17,061.75 and 16,913.75. As many as 32 Nifty stocks declined, 17 advanced and one closed unchanged. Adani Entertainment, Adani Ports, Tech Mahindra, HeroMotoCorp and Tata Motors were among major Nifty losers.

Housing prices may rise 5 pc in FY24; rates appreciate by 8-10 pc this fiscal: India Ratings

New Delhi, Mar 28:

Housing prices rose 8-10 per cent in this fiscal year and may further increase by 5 per cent in 2023-24, India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) said on Tuesday. The rating agency has revised the outlook on the residential real estate sector to neutral from improving for FY24. "The residential real estate market continued its upward trajectory in FY23 (sales growth of 15 per cent year-on-year for top eight real estate clusters) despite pressure from higher input costs, increasing mortgage rates, and domestic and global recession," Ind-Ra



said in a statement. Recessionary and inflationary pressures could impact near-term demand slightly, it said, but expected the market to absorb the pressure. The agency believed demand would pick up eventually. Overall, Ind-Ra expected the sales momen-

tum to continue and housing sales to increase by 9 per cent year-on-year, supported by a steady, healthy demand. "Property prices have risen by 8-10 per cent year-on-year in FY23, and might increase further by 5 per cent year-on-year in FY24," Ind-Ra said.

Govt looking for private investors to run MCCL in PPP mode: Conrad K Sangma

Shillong, Mar 28:

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma on Tuesday told the Assembly that despite infusing Rs 350 crore of funds, the state's oldest cement company MCCL could not be revived forcing the government to look for private investors to run it in a PPP mode. The Mawmluh Cherra Cement Ltd (MCCL) is the oldest public sector undertaking unit and is the only state-owned cement plant set up in the early 1960s (then undivided Assam) in limestone rich Sohra but has lately suffered making it a loss-making enterprise. "Since 2006 till date, Rs 350 crore has been infused into the Mawmluh Cherra Cement Limited and in the last five years alone Rs 100 crore

has been infused, mostly to pay salaries and other dues," the CM said during Question Hour. "With so much investment, we are not able to revive it. For the government to continue investing in it may not be possible," he said, adding that the PPP mode is what the government is eyeing presently. Stating that the government is pushed to "look at options", the chief minister said the government does not want to "close it down" as a concern about the employees. According to the chief minister, apart from looking into the affairs of the MCCL, the government has also infused an additional Rs 1,000 crore in MeECL which was why the government went for option of a PPP mode to get private investors.



Kangana says KJo 'banned' Priyanka from Bollywood over SRK 'friendship'

Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut, who does not shy away from speaking her mind, on Tuesday made an allegation against filmmaker Karan Johar, saying that he "banned" global star Priyanka Chopra Jonas because of her friendship with superstar Shah Rukh Khan. Priyanka in a recent interview shared that she had decided to take a break from the Hindi film industry after she was being "pushed into a corner" and got "tired of politics". Kangana took to Twitter, where she shared an article which had the title: "Priyanka Chopra says she moved to the US because had 'beef' with people in Bollywood: 'Was being pushed into a corner, was tired of the politics'".

Captioning the article, Kangana tweeted: "This is what @priyankachopra has to say about bollywood, people ganged up on her, bullied her and chased her out of film industry" a self made woman was made to leave India. Everyone knows Karan Johar had banned her."

She even said that Karan "harassed" Priyanka, which caused her to leave the country.

In another tweet, she wrote, "Media wrote extensively about her fallout with Karan Johar because of her friendship with SRK and movie mafia Cruella who is always looking for vulnerable outsiders saw a perfect punching bag in PC and went all out in harassing her to a point where she had to leave India."

She further tweeted: "This obnoxious, jealous, mean and toxic person should be held accountable for ruining the culture and environment of the film industry which was never hostile to outsiders in the days of AB or SRK. His gang and mafia PR should be raided and held accountable for harassing outsiders."

Hiba Nawab from 'Woh Toh Hai Albela' gets candid about her character's evolution

Hiba Nawab is a versatile actress who has been associated with the television industry from a very young age. She is currently playing Sayuri in the Star Bharat tv show Woh Toh Hai Albela. The show recently reached the milestone of 300 episodes, and the entire cast is ecstatic about it. Hiba Nawab spoke up about her journey and how her character, "Sayuri," has developed during the course of the show so far.

On talking about the same she says, "For the past few years, as I've been playing the role of 'Sayuri,' I've seen her personality change and develop in a way that makes me feel a great connection to my character. Sayuri is a young woman with unique viewpoints and thoughts on her life and motivations. After getting married, her small world enlarges as she begins a new family. She was initially quiet



and reserved, but after becoming a mother, she has developed into a woman who is both resilient and strong".

She further adds, "As shown by my character, Sayuri, 'Motherhood is a lovely aspect in a woman, and I feel amazing to be

portraying such a character since it's tender and also touches the heart of the viewers. Even though I am not a mother in real life, I can feel every feeling a mother has when portraying this character. Well, this is something new for me, and I feel like it's been good. I'm in awe of how far the show has progressed and how we have now surpassed the 300-episode mark. I hope there are many more events like this, and that we hit even more significant milestones."

Woh Toh Hai Albela' has kept the audience hooked with unexpected twists. The show has created a lot of buzz with its current track in the show. The show depicts a love story between Kanha and Sayuri portrayed by Shaheer Sheikh and Hiba Nawab respectively.

To know more about the upcoming twists, stay tuned every Monday to Friday at 9 PM only on Star Bharat.

Did Sara Ali Khan experience paranormal activities on 'Gaslight' sets?

Actress Chitrangda Singh, who is gearing up for her upcoming psychological thriller 'Gaslight', has revealed that her co-star in the film, Sara Ali Khan, had a rather unsettling experience on the sets of the film during the shoot.

While the cast and crew enjoyed shooting at Wankaner palace, there was something off on the sets too. Sara Ali Khan decided to ditch her commute and stay at the palace to save her time, that's when she experienced something that

the film's team is still trying to wrap their hands around.

Talking about the incident, Chitrangda Singh said: "She (Sara) said she could hear voices in the palace. When she went to the bathroom, she could feel someone pass by, like a gust of wind. Sara ended up there one night and apparently the palace was slightly haunted so she then returned to the hotel. We don't know if it was paranormal."



I've found a new family in 'Dil Diyaan Gallaan'

Does art imitate life, or does life imitate art? The latter seems to be coming true for Sony SAB's Amrita from Dil Diyaan Gallaan. Working on a show like Dil Diyaan Gallaan, which showcases a family torn apart by misunderstood circumstances, hurt emotions, and inherent beliefs has helped Kaveri Priyam realize the importance of her relationships and how communication is key.

Kaveri Priyam shared how relationships in life have had an impact on her after portraying the character of Amrita in Dil Diyaan Gallaan.

"It's been a while since I started playing the character of Amrita in Dil Diyaan Gallaan, and I must say that the way the show has depicted life's com-



plexities and showcases how humans drift away due to miscommunications is beyond commendable.

Chahatt Khanna shares why she likes to travel with her daughters

Bade Achhe Lagte Hain' actress Chahatt Khanna said that she is fond of travelling and also shared her experience of visiting the Pink City, Jaipur along with her daughters, Amaira and Zohairr.

Sharing her experience, she said it is very important for parents to travel with their children at regular intervals.

Chahatt said: "Travelling helps in strengthening the bond between parents and children. In today's times, most parents get extremely occupied with their professional lives. The few hours that we manage to set aside for our children every day are not enough. When you travel with your children, you get to know them better."

"You also make them realise the importance of travelling to new places and being outdoors. Very few things in our life contribute to our growth as

much as travelling does," she said. The actress, who is known for her shows such as 'Kumkum', 'Kaaajal', 'Qubool Hai', and many more, said she had been to Jaipur earlier, however, it was Amaira's first visit to the city. This is the reason, she made a complete list of places before starting her trip where she can take her daughter. "I was particular about taking Amaira to places she would enjoy visiting. Although I had visited Jaipur a couple of times in the past, I got to discover many wonderful things which I had not come across earlier. One of our most memorable visits was to the Albert Hall Museum which happens to be the oldest museum that is based in Rajasthan," she said.

Chahatt said: "Amaira was highly amused to see the historical artefacts and other elements in the museum that took one back to a bygone era."



TV actors reveal their hilarious pranks!

On April Fool's Day, which is celebrated annually on 1st April, is widely popular for playing pranks. It disrupts your routine schedule in a fun way. &TV artists including Aayudh Bhanushali (Krishna, Doosri Maa), Gazal Sood (Kate Singh, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan), and Rohitashv Gour (Manmohan Tiwari, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai) recollect some hilarious memories of pranking their co-stars. Aayudh Bhanushali, essaying Krishna, shares, "On the sets, people refer to me as a prankster. I leave no opportunity to prank on my co-stars and make others laugh. My mother occasionally gets upset with my naughtiness, but April Fool's Day (laughs) should



be an exception. I am closest to Neha Didi (Neha Joshi), who plays my mother in the show. My pranks

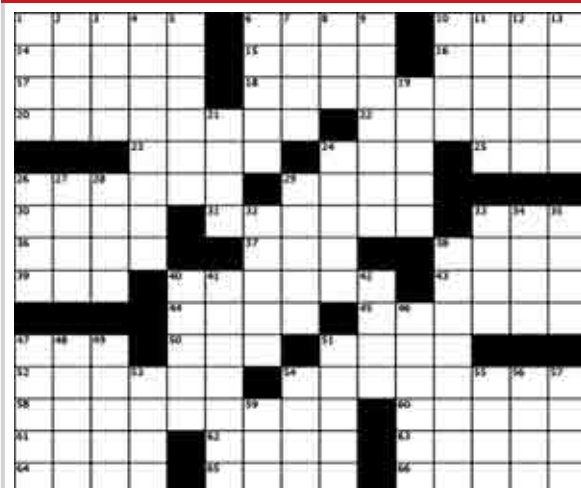
irritate her. Recently, we were shooting for an intense scene and the moment they called us for the scene, I splattered ink on her saree. I will never forget her expression at the time. She got so panicked that she called our Assistant Director and requested a change, as she was wearing a light-coloured saree. But the ink vanished soon. I was rolling on the floor with laughter. It was a gel ink that disappeared completely. I am planning a prank with her for April Fool's Day this year, but I won't reveal it here because it won't have the desired effect (laughs)."

Gazal Sood essaying Kate Singh, says, "On our set, Yogesh Ji (Daroga Happu Singh) is a

prankster. He always makes us laugh with his funny pranks. But one day, I decided to play a prank on him, and it went well (laughs). While shooting a scene, I said, 'Aapki mucche thodi tedhi lag rahi hai'. He quickly called his makeup artist and asked him to fix it. After a while, I told him again, 'Aapki mooche abhi bhi thodi tedhi lag rahi hai'. He asked for a mirror and requested the makeup artist to fix it again. He became so conscious after a while that he began asking me if the moustaches are fine. He also went to our director and ask if the moustaches looked fine in cameras to which he replied, 'theek lag rahi hai, par aap phirse fix karna chaho to kar sakte ho'.

CROSSWORD

601



ACROSS

- Highway exits
- Mr. Gershwin et al.
- Ewes' mates
- In flames
- Designate
- PDQ's kin
- Beauty shop
- Happen
- High blood
- Achieve

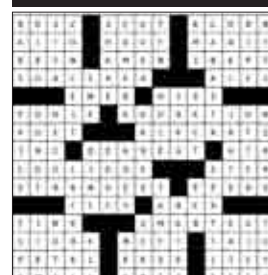
- Mexican money
- Amtrak depot (abbr.)
- Fish trap
- Hinder
- Vegas machine
- Powder mineral
- Go to bed
- Psychic letters
- Thicken
- Free (of)
- Ground grain

- "You there!"
- Hi-fi system
- Model Macpherson
- Circle segments
- What Moses parted (2 wds.)
- Maple's fluid
- Pecan, e.g.
- Surrealist painter Salvador
- Warnings
- Transmit a TV show
- Change
- A la
- Give forth
- Shade trees
- Staircase part
- Part
- If not
- Scorches
- Restless desire
- Gender
- Scheme
- Mixes
- Upright
- Slithery swimmers
- Shopper's delight
- Guilty, e.g.
- Government health program
- Yule visitor
- Board member
- Voiced
- Votes in
- Screen
- San Antonio shrine
- Hazard
- Thickly populated
- Ceremony
- Cruise and Hanks
- Vicinity
- Celebrity
- Williams and Koppel
- Unwell

DOWN

- Grating sound
- Not nearby
- Distance measure
- Possibility
- Felt
- Beginning part
- Seldom seen
- Doctors' org.
- Ted Kennedy, e.g.
- Entranced
- Chinese, e.g.
- Antoinette
- Paid out
- Declare
- Operator
- Glide

SOLUTION 600



IPL 2023: CSK return to fortress Chepauk, MSD eyes milestone



Chennai, Mar 28:

Among Indian Premier League's 10 teams, Mahendra Singh Dhoni's Chennai Super Kings (CSK) remain sentimental favourite of the fans, primarily because of the man at the helm. The 41-year-old Dhoni, with his bulging biceps and never diminishing flash reflexes, remains a top draw even though his batting prowess hasn't got requi-

site return. Yet, having led the team to four titles and nine finals, his mere presence makes the opposition try to think out of the box. No one knows what to do with the tangibles as much as the man from Ranchi does and in what could be his last season as a professional cricketer, he might still have some aces up his sleeves. With IPL returning to its familiar home and away format, CSK will get to play seven games at

STRENGTH

The presence of Ben Stokes will give CSK a different look as his power-hitting could change complexion of any game. Also, on slow Chepauk track, he can produce a magical over or two and at times hurry the batters with his effort deliveries. Seven home games at Chepauk where a Ravindra Jadeja or a Moeen Ali could prove to be very effective on tacky tracks where run-scoring could be difficult. Devon Conway and Ruturaj Gaikwad look one of the most settled pairs among all teams. Ambati Rayudu, Stokes, Dhoni and Jadeja will form a solid batting core and for low-scoring games, they have Ajinkya Rahane, who could be used as an 'Impact Player'.

WEAKNESS

Mukesh Chaudhary being ruled out of the tournament due to injury is a big setback for CSK after his fine performance last season. Deepak Chahar, who has also had recurring back and hamstring issue, remains untested in match conditions, having missed the entire domestic season. Chahar's last injury was a grade 3 quadriceps tear and it is difficult to know how well his rehabilitation has been unless he is tested in match situation. He will also be a contender for ODI World Cup but Chahar, at this point, won't be thinking that far ahead and would like to have a good IPL tournament.

'Fortress Chepauk' this season. After failing to qualify for the play-offs last season, Dhoni, who took back the captaincy from an angry Ravindra Jadeja, would certainly like to go out on a high. If

he plans to quit also, one can never be sure about 'Captain Marvel'. In IPL, it will always be foolhardy to keep CSK out of contention and this edition will be no different. And with star England all-

rounder Ben Stokes in their ranks, CSK will have an imposing look.

OPPORTUNITY

In the fast bowling department, young Simarjeet Singh, who is deceptively quick, and Lasith Malinga's 'action doppelganger' Matheesa Pathirana will get a chance to stamp their class. Pathirana briefly showed that his slinging action could create trouble for the batters. Of late, he hasn't been a part of the Sri Lankan squad and has been playing domestic cricket after ILT20 in UAE. But in CSK, it is about players Dhoni believes could do the job for his side and Pathirana, if fit, seems to be one of those. Dhoni, a master strategist, could also use 'Impact Player' rules better than many in case of overseas recruits. He could easily field three foreign players during batting innings and then include the fourth during bowling innings. In that case, someone like a Mitchell Santner might prove to be

a handful on Chepauk track.

THREAT

The biggest threat for CSK is their ageing unit and Dhoni hasn't yet produced any second line of potent Indian batters. Players like Rayudu or Rahane might just find it difficult to up the ante in high-scoring games. The other issue will be lack of quality Indian spinners that will be a worry for Dhoni. One of the reasons is Jadeja's slightly underwhelming T20 record in recent times. While Jadeja has been a revelation at No. 5 or 6 in Test matches, the same can't be said about his left-arm spin as far as T20 cricket is concerned. If one checks the records, there are innumerable examples where Dhoni hasn't used Jadeja's quota of overs. There are a few left-arm spinners like U-19 World Cup winner Nishant Sindhu and Chattisgarh's Ajay Mandal but it is unlikely that Dhoni will try a rookie in a high-pressure tournament if he is not convinced.

Aus love to hate Pujara: Hazlewood



Bengaluru, Mar 28 (PTI):

Australian pacer Josh Hazlewood feels the price Cheteshwar Pujara puts on his wicket makes him one of the most difficult batters to bowl to, and added that there is a "thrill" one gets after dismissing him. Pujara recently completed a century of Test matches during the Border-Gavaskar series, and though he couldn't score big in the four matches, he still had some vital contributions. The 35-year-old has more than 7,000 Test runs from 102 games, including 19 centuries and 35 half-tens. Hazlewood, who is nursing a tendon injury which sidelined him during the Test series against India,

added that Pujara is someone Australians "love to hate".

"It's a bigger thrill for the bowlers (to dismiss Pujara). I think when you do end up getting his wicket, it means you have earned it," Hazlewood said on RCB podcast on Tuesday.

"It means you've put in a lot of hard work. Whether it is the fifth ball he (Pujara) faces... you've already bowled to him in the previous Test matches, you've earned that respect and you've earned that wicket," added Hazlewood, who was RCB's pace spearhead during IPL 2022, taking 20 wickets.

Hazlewood said that he had had some great tussles with the Indian stalwart, adding that he was a fantastic player.

Stars who will miss IPL 2023

The Indian Premier League 2023 is all set to commence from Friday, March 31, when defending champions Gujarat Titans take on four-time champions Chennai Super Kings in Ahmedabad. The teams are working out the permutations and combinations and that includes finding a way around player injuries. Stars like Jasprit Bumrah, Rishabh Pant and Shreyas Iyer will miss the season due to injury. In addition to these stars, many franchises will miss key players for IPL 2023.

Jasprit Bumrah

For years, Bumrah has played a vital part in Mumbai Indians's success. This season, Bumrah will miss the IPL for the first time since his debut in 2013. Recurring back injuries have forced Bumrah to opt out of several international tournaments. Last year, he was ruled out of the T20 World Cup. According to reports, Bumrah might be out of action for most of this year.



In Bumrah's absence, MI will hope English star pacer Jofra Archer can fill the void.

Rishabh Pant

Delhi Capitals Head Coach Ricky Ponting has said it would be tough for the team without their skipper and star batter Rishabh Pant who will miss this season due to the serious injuries he sustained during a road accident in December. Ponting made it clear that Pant is irreplaceable. The coach wants Pant to sit next to him in the dugout at every Delhi Capitals match during IPL 2023. In Pant's



absence, Delhi Capitals have given the captaincy reins to Australian opener David Warner.

Shreyas Iyer

Iyer is likely to undergo back surgery and may miss the entire season. A statement from Kolkata Knight Riders was an indicator that Iyer's chances of an early return to play looks improbable at the moment. KKR have announced Nitish Rana as the skipper for this season.



Jonny Bairstow

Punjab Kings is gearing for IPL 2023 without their destructive batter who has been ruled out because of his leg injury. Punjab Kings have named Matthew Short as Bairstow's replacement.



Jhye Richardson

Another pacer who will miss IPL 2023 for the Mumbai Indians. The 26 year old underwent surgery for hamstring issues earlier this year. Richardson was set to join the Mumbai Indians in what would have been his second stint in the IPL after a previous season with the Punjab Kings.



Prasidh Krishna

The pacer was integral to Rajasthan Royals reaching the IPL 2022 final. He bowled exceptionally well last season, picking 19 wickets from 17 games and would have been integral to RR's plan to build on the success. Krishna will miss the entire season following surgery for a lumbar stress fracture. Sandeep Sharma will represent Rajasthan Royals this season after



being signed as a replacement for Krishna.

Rajat Patidar

Royal Challengers Bangalore's top-order batter has been in fabulous form in domestic cricket for the last couple of seasons. Patidar, who played a crucial role in the tournament's final stages for RCB last season, is currently undergoing rehab at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru. He could miss the first half of the IPL owing to a heel injury. In addition to Patidar, RCB will also miss



Australian speedster Josh Hazlewood who continues to recover from Achilles tendonitis, adding to the Faf du Plessis-led team's woes.

Tsitsipas wins in 1st action in Miami Open

Miami Gardens, Mar 28 (AP):

Third-ranked Stefanos Tsitsipas beat Chilean qualifier Cristian Garin 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 at the Miami Open, the Greek's first on-court action after a bye and walkover in the opening rounds. In women's competition, 2019 U.S. Open champion Bianca Andreescu of Canada left the court in a wheelchair due to a lower left leg injury in the second set of her night match against 18th-seeded Ekaterina Alexandrova. There was no immediate word on the nature of the 22-year-old's injury or its severity. Andreescu was trailing in the match when, moving across the baseline, she fell to the court, clutching her lower left leg and screaming. A short time later, she left the court in a wheelchair to a standing ovation. Andreescu had dropped the first set 7-6 (7) and was mounting a comeback, winning the first two games of the second set when she was forced to retire, allowing Alexandrova to advance. Earlier in the day, Tsitsipas had 12 aces in his first



victory since an opening-round win in Rotterdam over Emil Ruusuvuori in mid-February. He ran his record to 3-0 against Garin, who was attempting to become the first Chilean player to reach the fourth round in Miami since Fernando Gonzalez in 2010.

Indian lifter Bharali Bedabrate bags World Youth C'ships bronze

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

Indian weightlifter Bharali Bedabrate clinched the men's 67kg bronze medal at the the IWF World Youth Championships in Durres, Albania.

The 15-year-old lifted a total of 267kg (119kg+148kg) to finish third on Monday night. Armenia's Seryozha Barsyegyan 275kg (128kg+147kg) and Saudi Arabia's Mohammed Al Marzouq 270kg (119kg+148kg) won the gold and silver medals respectively. Bharali also won a bronze medal in the clean and jerk section with a best lift of 148kg. Medals are awarded separately for snatch, clean & jerk, and total lift in continental and World Championships, while just one medal for total lift is awarded in the Olympic



Games. Commonwealth Games champion Jeremy Lalrinnunga holds the total (306kg), snatch (140kg) and clean jerk (166kg) youth men's world records in the category. In the women's 49kg event, Koyel Bar finished ninth with a total lift of 144kg (64kg+80kg). Mima Santa, who lifted 153kg (70kg+83kg), finished 13th in the women's 55kg event. Lifters between the age of 13-17 are eligible for youth competitions.

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Rain dampens Sri Lanka's World Cup hopes!

Wellington, Mar 28 (AP): The second one-day cricket international between New Zealand and Sri Lanka was abandoned Tuesday because of rain. Heavy rain fell throughout the day and by the scheduled start of 2 p.m. local time, the covers were on and large pools of water already had formed in the outfield. Umpires made the decision to abandon the match after a ground inspection at 4:25 p.m. local time. The latest a match could start was 7:02 p.m. but it already was clear that with rain still falling a large puddles in some parts of Hagley Oval, no play would be possible. New Zealand leads the three-match series after winning the first match at Eden Park on Saturday by 198 runs.

'Tagore visualised India as leading source of knowledge'

Santiniketan, Mar 28 (PTT): President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said poet laureate Rabindranath Tagore had visualised India as a leading source of knowledge in the global arena, while speaking at the convocation of the Visva-Bharati university, founded by the first Asian to win the Nobel prize.

Murmu, the visitor of the central university, also said that though she had the privilege to visit many institutions of learning and eminence, but her first visit to Visva-Bharati remains very special as it is associated with the memory of one of the greatest thinkers in this world. "Gurudev had visualised India being the leading source of knowl-



President Droupadi Murmu with West Bengal Governor C. V. Ananda Bose during the annual convocation of Visva-Bharati University, at Santiniketan in Birbhum district, Tuesday.

edge...", she said, adding that Visva Bharati was founded based on this principle.

Murmu also pointed out that the national anthems

of India and neighbouring Bangladesh have both been composed by the bard - 'Jana Gana Mana' and 'Amar Sonar Bangla' - respectively.

The President recalled her visit to Tagore's ancestral house, Jorasanko Thakurbari, in Kolkata the day before and said this was nothing short of a

"pilgrimage". "Tagore had left the comforts of city life to come here (Bolpur village) when it was a remote area to realise his dreams of setting up Visva Bharati.... Young students should follow his path to chase their dreams," Murmu said.

Tagore, the first Asian Nobel Laureate, founded Visva-Bharati in 1921. It was declared a central university and an institution of national importance by an Act of Parliament in 1951.

West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose and Visva Bharati Vice Chancellor Bidyut Chakraborty also addressed the students having assembled to be awarded degrees at the convocation for the year 2022.

Bombay lawyers body moves SC against Dhankhar, Rijiju

Over remarks on judiciary

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

The Bombay Lawyers Association on Tuesday moved the Supreme Court against a high court decision dismissing its PIL against Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar over their remarks on judiciary and the collegium system for appointment of judges.

The lawyers' body has challenged the Bombay High Court's February 9 order of dismissing its plea on the ground that it was not a fit case to invoke the writ jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution. The Bombay Lawyers Association

(BLA) had claimed that Rijiju and Dhankhar showed lack of faith in the Constitution with their remarks and conduct. It had sought orders to restrain Dhankhar from discharging duty as the vice president, and Rijiju from discharging his duty as the cabinet minister for the central government.

Lawyer Ahmed Abdi told PTI that the petition has been filed with the apex court registry on Tuesday. In an appeal, the lawyers body said that the "frontal attack not just on the judiciary but the Constitution" by the two executive officials has lowered the prestige of the Supreme Court in public.

GOVT TO LS

'No proposal to make Sanskrit official language'

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTT): There is no proposal under consideration of the government to make Sanskrit communication and official language, Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Kumar Mishra said in Lok Sabha.

The minister's written answer came in response to a question posed by BJP member Subrat Pathak, who asked whether the government proposes to make Sanskrit the communication and official language in addition to Hindi. "No, Sir. There is no proposal under consideration of the government to make Sanskrit as communication and official language.

Webb Telescope helps measure temperature of exoplanet, 40 light years from Earth

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

Scientists used National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) to measure the temperature of an exoplanet TRAPPIST-1 b of an M-dwarf system 40 light years from Earth.

The measurement was close to 225 degrees Celsius and was done by detecting the planet's thermal emissions, recorded by the infrared sensor of the Webb telescope, Mid-Infrared Instrument (MIRI).

The international team of scientists involved in the study are

also trying to determine if the exoplanet has an atmosphere or not, they said. The study is published in the journal Nature.

HIV genomes hide behind certain WBCs, could provide therapy target: Study

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

Scientists have reported new evidence of the possibility of finding HIV genomes in circulating white blood cells (WBCs) called monocytes, thereby, identifying another of the places where therapy could be targeted.

These monocytes, which are short-lived circulating immune cells that engulf and destroy viruses, bacteria and other foreign cells, were found to be capable of infecting the neighbouring cells.

"Our results suggest we should continue research efforts to understand their

role in this disease," says Janice Clements, professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, US, which led the study.

The team of scientists performed the study on HIV-infected blood samples from men and women on long-term suppressive therapy, they said in the study published in the journal Nature Microbiology.

Current antiretroviral drugs, according to the study, can successfully suppress HIV to nearly undetectable levels, but have not resulted in total eradication of the virus.

'ECI never worked on anyone's diktat'

Guwahati, Mar 28 (PTT):

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar on Tuesday said that the Election Commission of India has never worked on the diktat of anyone nor will it in the future.

The assertion of the CEC came following allegations levelled by the Congress that the poll panel was working at the behest of the ruling BJP for the delimitation of 126 Assembly and 14 Parliamentary seats of Assam.

"It's not new for us, we have to hear such words. It is never possible to dictate anything to us. Our record is such that we never take dictation from anyone and never will," Kumar said. The ECI has



Chief Election Commissioner of India Rajiv Kumar with Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey addresses the media regarding the delimitation of parliamentary and assembly constituencies of Assam, in Guwahati, Tuesday.

been able to maintain its impeccable record by remaining firm on its two foundations - discourse and participation of stakeholders, he told a press conference here at the end of his three-day

visit to the state ahead of delimitation of constituencies.

The two election commissioners, Anup Chandra Pandey and Arun Goel, accompanied him. The Congress re-

fused to meet the ECI team and submit their representation over the proposed delimitation, alleging that the panel had failed to address queries raised before it earlier.

State Congress president Bhupen Kumar Bora accused the ECI of 'match fixing' while carrying out the process of redrawing constituencies.

Whether it is the election process or delimitation exercise, all decisions and reasons thereof are shared with the people and involvement of political parties is ensured at all levels, the CEC asserted. "In case of delimitation also, the draft will be published and discussions held again," he added.



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