

### BRIEF



Brides and grooms during a mass marriage ceremony, in, Gurugram, Sunday.

### Busted

**Mathura:** An illegal arms factory was busted and three people were arrested after an encounter here, police said on Sunday. Acting on a tip-off regarding the manufacturing of illegal weapons, police on Saturday started a search operation in a jungle area in Dhaurera village, Superintendent of Police (city) Martand Prakash Singh said.

### Arrested

**Latehar:** A Maoist 'zonal commander', having a bounty of Rs 10 lakh, was arrested in Jharkhand's Latehar district, police said on Sunday. Chandan Kumar Kherwar, also known as 'Sanjivan Ji', was arrested from Sikid forest in Herhanj police station area on Saturday, Latehar's Superintendent of Police (SP) Anjani Anjan said.

### Drown

**Raisen:** A 35-year-old man and his two minor daughters drowned in a well at his farm in Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh on Sunday, police said. A police officer said the trio drowned while trying to save one another. Sub-Divisional Officer of Police (SDOP) Rajesh Tiwari said Ramlal Chadhar was working in his field at around 1 PM while his three daughters were playing near the open well at Tekapar village under Sultanganj police station, about 105 km from the Raisen district headquarters.

### Strike

**Jaipur:** Medical services at private hospitals and nursing homes in Rajasthan were affected on Sunday after doctors went on a strike against the state government's proposed Right to Health Bill. Responding to a call for strike by the Sanyukt Sangharsh Samiti, members of the Private Hospitals and Nursing Home Society and the United Private Clinics and Hospitals of Rajasthan stopped services from Saturday night.

### Fire

**Mumbai:** A minor fire broke out in a garment unit located near a hospital in suburban Bhandup in Mumbai city on Sunday, an official said. No casualty is reported, he said. The blaze erupted in the ground-plus-one-storey structure in the afternoon, the Fire Brigade official said, adding it was a "level 1" (minor emergency call) fire.

### Tragedy

**Morena:** The death toll in the Chambal river drowning accident in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh rose to five on Sunday with the recovery of three more bodies, while two boys are still missing, a police officer said.

**Weather**  
High 27 Low 18

## AMRITPAL CRACKDOWN

# Radical preacher Amritpal Singh remains elusive

Chandigarh, Mar 19:

Four arrested members of an outfit headed by Khalistan sympathiser Amritpal Singh were brought to Assam's Dibrugarh on Sunday even as the hunt for the radical preacher and his associates continued. The Punjab government also extended the suspension of mobile internet and SMS services till Monday noon and security forces took out flag marches at several places in the state, including Amritsar, Jalandhar and Ludhiana. The state authorities had on Saturday suspended the internet and SMS services till Sunday noon. The police earlier said they would soon arrest the fugitive radical preacher. The Punjab government had on Saturday launched a major crackdown against



Supporters of Quami Insaaf Morcha take part in a protest, at the Airport road near Sohana Gurudwara, in Mohali, Sunday.

Amritpal, with the police arresting 78 members of an outfit headed by him, officials said. The elusive preacher, however, gave the police a slip and escaped their dragnet when his cavalcade was intercepted in Jalandhar district, even as authorities stepped up security at several places in the northern

state. Meanwhile, security was also tightened at Amritpal's native village Jallapur Khera in Amritsar, where his father Tarsem Singh alleged that his son has been detained by police. "There is no information (about him) since yesterday. We feel he has already been detained," he said.

### Rifle, live cartridges found in abandoned car

As radical preacher Amritpal Singh continued to be on the run, Punjab Police on Sunday came across an abandoned car in Jalandhar district with a rifle and several dozens of live cartridges inside it. Police seized the ammunition and said the black-coloured multi-utility car was most likely part of Amritpal's convoy on Saturday. The same car was also captured a day earlier in a video, they said. A rifle, 57 live cartridges, a sword, and a registration number plate were among the articles recovered from the vehicle, police said.

### Four members of outfit moved to Assam

**Dibrugarh:** Four members of radical preacher Amritpal Singh's outfit were brought to Assam from Punjab on Sunday, police said. They were among the 78 people arrested on Saturday in the Punjab government's major crackdown against 'Waris Punjab De' (WPD), headed by Amritpal, who is wanted in several criminal cases. "Four people who were arrested in Punjab have been brought here. They are being kept at the Dibrugarh Central Jail," said Tejbir Singh Hundal, an officer of the Punjab Police.

### Two more FIRs registered

Two more FIRs have been registered against radical preacher Amritpal Singh and his associates in connection with the recovery of a weapon from an abandoned vehicle and breaking through police barricades in Jalandhar. The radical preacher and Khalistan sympathiser has been on the run since the Punjab Police launched a massive crackdown on Saturday and arrested 78 members of the 'Waris Punjab De', headed by him.

## State Govt dismisses Jashpur's ADSJ from service

Raipur, Mar 19:

### About the dismissal

The Chhattisgarh government has dismissed from service Additional District and Sessions Judge(ADSJ) Ganesh Ram Burman, who was posted in Jashpur district of the state, a senior official said on Sunday.

This is Burman's second dismissal in the last six years as his services were terminated in 2017, although he was reinstated recently. As per the order of his termination issued on March 14 by principal secretary of law and legislative affairs department Ram Kumar Tiwari, the move was taken on the recommendation of the Chhattisgarh High Court. The order, however, did not specify the reason for his dismissal.

Following the recommendation of the High Court made on March 3 this year, the services of Ganesh Ram Burman, a member of state Higher Judicial Services, presently posted as additional district and sessions judge (fast track court) has been

As per the order of his termination issued on March 14 by principal secretary of law and legislative affairs department Ram Kumar Tiwari, the move was taken on the recommendation of the Chhattisgarh High Court. The order, however, did not specify the reason for his dismissal. This is Burman's second dismissal in the last six years as his services were terminated in 2017, although he was reinstated recently. In February 2017, Burman was terminated from service by the state government when he was posted as the Additional District Judge in Raipur. He had later challenged his termination in the high court.

terminated with immediate effect, the order stated. When contacted, law department officials also did not reveal the reason behind the move.

In February 2017, Burman was terminated from service by the state government when he was posted as the Additional District Judge in Raipur. He had later challenged his termination in the high court, officials said.

## Two girls killed in lightning strike

Kondagaon, Mar 19:

Two girls were killed after being struck by lightning in Kondagaon district of Chhattisgarh, police said on Sunday.

The incident took place on Saturday in Chilputi village under Kondagaon police station limits when the victims, identified as Radha Markam and Monika Nag, both aged 10 years, had gone to collect tamarind in the outskirts of the village when heavy rainfall started and lightning struck, causing serious burn injuries. After being alerted about the incident, their relatives and villagers called an ambulance and took them to the district

hospital where the girls were declared dead, he said, adding that the bodies were later sent for autopsy. An accidental death report (ADR) was registered in this connection, he said.

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## SEXUAL ASSAULT ON WOMEN REMARK

# Delhi Police at Rahul Gandhi's doorstep

New Delhi, Mar 19 (PTD):

A Delhi Police team on Sunday queried Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at his residence over his remark made during the Bharat Jodo Yatra that "women are still being sexually assaulted" and asked him to provide information about the "victims" to take up their complaints, officials said.

A furious Congress condemned the Delhi Police action after the cops knocked on Gandhi's doors for the third time in five days, and attacked the central government, accusing it of harassment, intimidation and political vendetta, but the BJP rejected the charge and said the police was "only discharging its



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi leaves his residence in New Delhi, Sunday.

lawful duty".

The police team headed by Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Sagar Preet Hooda arrived at Gandhi's 12, Tughlaq Lane residence in the high-security area at around 10 am and was able to meet the Congress leader after two hours, officials said, adding it left at around 1 pm. This was the third time that Gandhi was approached in this regard,

### Rahul sends preliminary reply

**New Delhi:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Sunday sent a four-page preliminary reply to the Delhi Police's notice about his "women still being sexually assaulted" remark made during the Bharat Jodo Yatra while questioning the process adopted by the authorities and a sudden urgency after a 45-day delay. The Congress leader gave the 10-point reply hours after a Delhi Police team knocked on his doors for the third time in five days. He also sought eight to 10 days to give a detailed response to the questions posed by Delhi police over his January 30 remarks, the sources said.

### 'If police visits linked to stand on Adani'

Sending a preliminary reply a little before 4 pm, Gandhi termed the police action "unprecedented" and asked whether this had anything to do with his position taken both inside and outside Parliament on the Adani issue, sources said. According to them, Gandhi also asked what was the urgency on the part of the Delhi police in making two visits in as many days after an initial gap of 45 days after he made his speech in Srinagar.

the officials said, adding a notice with a questionnaire was sent to him earlier seeking details of victims who approached him

about sexual harassment as the police wants to initiate a probe into the matter as soon as it gets the information.

## 'Private vehicle scrapping policy soon'

Nagpur, Mar 19 (PTD):

Union Minister of State for Environment Ashwini Kumar Choubey on Sunday said the government has taken various steps to bring down pollution and will soon bring out a policy on the scrapping of private vehicles aged more than 15 years. He was addressing reporters at 'Meet the Press' in Nagpur. A policy is already in place for scrapping old government vehicles. Replying to a query on whether a similar policy will be brought for private vehicles older than 15 years, Choubey said, "A high-level joint meeting of the Ministry of Environment and nine other departments was held recently. The government is working on a policy to encourage private vehicles older than 15 years to go for scrapping after getting a (vehicle) health certificate.

## KISAN MAHAPANCHAYAT

# 'Lakhs of farmers to reach Delhi today'

New Delhi, Mar 19 (PTD):

The Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) on Sunday said lakhs of farmers from across the country are on their way to Delhi to participate in the 'kisan mahapanchayat' that will be held at Ramlila Maidan on March 20.

The 'kisan mahapanchayat' will be held to press for a legal guarantee on the minimum support price (MSP), the SKM, an umbrella body of farmers' union, had said last month. Lakhs of farmers from various states and union territories are headed to Delhi to attend the 'kisan mahapanchayat' in



Darshan Pal

Delhi on March 20, the SKM said in a statement.

Addressing a press conference here, SKM leader Darshan Pal said, "The Centre must fulfil the assurances it gave to us in writing on December 9, 2021 and also take effective steps to mitigate the ever-increasing crisis faced by farmers."

## Govt starts process of eviction & sale of enemy properties

New Delhi, Mar 19 (PTD):

### Record of enemy properties

Out of the 12,611 properties vested with the CEPI, a total of 12,485 were related to Pakistani nationals and 126 to Chinese citizens. The highest number of enemy properties were found in Uttar Pradesh (6,255 properties), followed by West Bengal (4,088 properties), Delhi (659), Goa (295), Maharashtra (208), Telangana (158), Gujarat (151), Tripura (105), Bihar (94), Madhya Pradesh (94), Chhattisgarh (78) and Haryana (71). There are 71 enemy properties in Kerala, 69 in Uttarakhand, 67 in Tamil Nadu, 57 in Meghalaya, 29 in Assam, 24 in Karnataka, 22 in Rajasthan, 10 in Jharkhand, four in Daman and Diu and one each in Andhra Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The Union Home Ministry has started the process for eviction and sale of enemy properties, the immovable assets left behind by people who have taken citizenship of Pakistan and China. There are a total of 12,611 establishments called enemy property, roughly estimated to be worth over Rs 1 lakh crore, in the country. The enemy properties are vested with the Custodian of Enemy Property for India (CEPI), an authority created under

the Enemy Property Act. According to a Home ministry notification, the guidelines for disposal of the enemy properties have been changed under which the process for eviction of enemy properties now

shall be initiated with the help of the District Magistrate or Deputy Commissioner concerned before the sale of properties. In case of the enemy properties valued below Rs

1 crore, the custodian shall offer for purchase to the occupant first and if offer of purchase is refused by the occupant, then the enemy property shall be disposed of in accordance with the procedure specified in the guidelines, the notification said. Those enemy properties having valuation of Rs one crore and below Rs 100 crore, shall be disposed of by the CEPI through e-auction or otherwise as may be decided by the central government and at the rate determined by the Enemy Property Disposal Committee.

## SC to hear Khera's plea today

New Delhi, Mar 19 (PTD):

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a plea of Congress leader Pawan Khera seeking transfer and clubbing of FIRs lodged against him in Assam and Uttar Pradesh for allegedly making objectionable remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud on Friday deferred the hearing on Khera's plea to March 20 after taking note of sub-



missions that senior advocate A M Singhvi, appearing for the Congress leader, was unavailable. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Uttar Pradesh and Assam, urged the bench that the matter can be taken up for hearing on Monday instead of Friday. "Ok, we will take it up

on Monday," said the bench, which also comprises justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala. The apex court had earlier extended the interim bail of Khera, who was arrested by Assam Police in the case, till March 17. Earlier, Assam and Uttar Pradesh governments, in their separate affidavits, opposed Khera's plea seeking clubbing of FIRs lodged against him, claiming that his party was still continuing with the "very same low level" on their social media accounts.

The apex court had earlier extended the interim bail of Khera, who was arrested by Assam Police in the case, till March 17. Earlier, Assam and Uttar Pradesh governments, in their separate affidavits, opposed Khera's plea seeking clubbing of FIRs lodged against him, claiming that his party was still continuing with the "very same low level" on their social media accounts.



# Five including a juvenile arrested for chain snatching

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 19:** With the arrest of five ruffians including a juvenile, police claimed to have busted a gang of chain snatchers. The accused targeted single pedestrian women on the lonely roads. Seven gold chains and two motorcycle used in the crime were seized from the possession of the accused. It was a joint operation of Anti Crime and Cyber Unit, Durg; Bhilai Nagar Police Station, Vaishali Nagar Police Station and Newai Police Station.

While addressing media persons here at Police Command and Control Centre, SP Dr Abhishek Pallava informed that considering the rising cases of chain snatching, theft and loots, they had constituted a joint team of various Police stations and Anti Crime and Cyber Unit. The



joint team maintained a vigil on the activities of the criminal record holders, suspects and people who were recently released from jail. The CCTV footages of the scene of crimes were analysed in which two suspects were seen. Later police ascertained the identity of a sus-

pect as Raja alias Harpal Singh. He was taken into custody and during sustained interrogation, he confessed to have committed chain snatchings with his accomplice Chhvikanth alias Baniya and others. The accused committed crimes in several areas of the city. Later

police managed to arrest for other accused including a juvenile and recovered 7 gold chains from their possession. A bike and a scooter used in the crime were also seized.

The accused are identified as Harpal Singh alias Raja (23) son of Prem Singh a resident of Contractor

Colony Supela; Manmeet Singh (23) son of Late Tara Singh a resident of Contractor Colony Supela; Lingeshwar Dewangan (19) son of Suraj Dewangan a resident of Contractor Colony Supela; Kushal Kumar Das (21) son of Ravi Shankar a resident of Sector 6 and a juvenile. The sixth accused Chhvikanth alias Baniya is absconding.

Sub Inspector Dhaniram Narange, ASI Gangaram Rawat, Head Constable Suraj Pandey, ASI Bhojram Sahu, Head Constable Prem Singh, ASI Suresh Kumar Pandey, ASI Purnabhadur, ASI Chandrashekhar Soni, Head Constable Chandrashekhar Banjeer, Constable Santosh Gupta, Shahbaz Khan, Anup Sharma, Pannelal, Upendra Yadav, Juhnu Singh and Shamim Khan played a vital role in arresting the accused.

# Last two batches of tribal youth depart for Amritsar and Indore



Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 19:** Under the 14th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme, Border Security Force has selected and sent tribal youth from Kanker for a tour to Amritsar (Punjab) and Indore (MP).

The last two batches, 13th and 14th groups were constituted with 40 tribal youth and they were sent on tour of other cities under this programme. They are being accompanied by two female and two male officers / personnel of Border Security Force.

BSF is organising 14 such tours for 290 youth this year.

Under this exposure visit, the tribal youth will be able to understand the cultural ethos, language, lifestyles of the people depicting Socio-economic and Cultural Development and Development process unity in the diversity aspect of our national life. They will be exposed to the technological and industrial advancement that have taken place in different states of the country with focus on various developmental activities, skill de-

velopment, educational and employment opportunities available there. They will be sensitized about their rich traditional & cultural heritage. This programme will help the tribal youth to develop emotional linkages with their peer groups in other parts of the country and enhance their self esteem.

IG Indraj Singh (BSF Frontier Headquarters, Special Operations, Chhattisgarh) and DIG (Intelligence) Dinesh Murmu have extended greetings and best wishes to the selected youth.

# Free health camp organised near Mahamaya Mines



Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 19:** A health camp was organised by SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant in Nalkasa village located about 5 kilometres from Mahamaya iron ore mines

as part of Corporate Social Responsibility activities being carried out for the benefit of population living in and around the Plant's mines areas. Nalkasa village has a population of 1000 out of

which as many as 100 persons including 21 male, 34 female and 45 children were checked and treated free of cost at the day-long camp organised by the Plant's CSR Dept on March 16, 2023.

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 19:** The first ever LEO workshop for Vigilance officials was organised on March 15-16, 2023 at Bhilai Management Development Centre (BMDC) of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) was present as Chief Guest during this Inaugural ceremony on the first day. Vineet Pandey, CVO SAIL was present as Guest of Honour and RK Purohit, Dy CLC (Central) was present as Special Guest. Other Senior dignitaries present were Sanjay Sharma, ED (Vigilance), SAIL, Anjali Kumar, ED (Works) MM Gadre, ED (P&A), Dr AK Panda, ED (F&A), Samir Swarup, CGM I/c (Mines & Rowghat) and Satyabrata Kar, Acting ACVO, BSP. The Inaugural Session was also attended by Sandeep Mathur, CGM (Personnel), KC Misra, CGM (CC-Works), MK Kulkarni, GM I/c (CC-

# First ever LEO workshop for Vigilance Officers of SAIL organised



NW), JN Thakur, GM (PIR&CLC) and officials from Plant, IR & CLC and Personnel Department. Topic of the first LEO workshop was "Contract Labour payment related issues and challenges".

Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) enlightened the gathering with his views on the subject and also provided valuable insights regarding probable solutions including the biometric attendance and change in the bidding methodology w.r.t. estimation and discovery of price bid. MM Gadre, ED (P&A) in his address talked about the

various issues related to payment and exploitation of contract labour which are being faced by BSP. Anjali Kumar, ED (Works) emphasised the commitment of BSP to address the issues of contract labour in a positive manner.

Speaking on the occasion, Sanjay Sharma, ED (Vigilance) SAIL elaborated the background and objectives of LEO. Vineet Pandey, CVO SAIL in his address highlighted the purpose of LEO workshop and choosing the Contract Labour payment related issues as the topic. RK Purohit, Dy CLC

(Central) explained various provision of Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act 1970 & Rules 1971 in very lucid way. During the other sessions of the Workshop held in later part of the day, elaborative presentations were given by V Nivesh, Manager (CLC) and Atul Goswami, GM (CO&CCD). Presentations were also given by Rakhi Tiwari AGM (Vig) & Aniket Ojha DGM (Vig).

Total 21 participants attended the two day workshop including the ACVO of BSL, RSP, VISL, Officers of NMDC Ltd and Actg ACVO of BSP

acted as Moderator during this workshop. On the second day, these participants were divided into three groups to brainstorm on the possible solutions on the issues including highlighting the best practices/ system of any unit.

The Guest of Honour for concluding session was Sanjay Sharma, ED (Vigilance) SAIL and Chief Guest was MM Gadre, ED (P&A) BSP. The session started with the summarization of the workshop by Satyabrata Kar, Actg ACVO of BSP followed by feedback by participants and concluding remarks by Sanjay Sharma, ED (Vigilance) SAIL and MM Gadre, ED (P&A).

The programme was compered by Himanshu Dave, AGM (Vigilance). The whole programme was organised by BSP Vigilance in association with HRDC Department. The workshop ended with Vote of thanks by Sandeep Gupta, GM (Vigilance).

# CCET Bhilai witnesses college annual fest Symphonia 2k23

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 19:** The week-long cultural and sports fest organised at CCET was a grand event that was organised by a group of enthusiastic students of our college. Symphonia 2k23 was a week-long fest of sports and cultural events held from March 10 to 17, 2023 with various events in Sports as well as Cultural planned and organized at its best of quality.

Final day of the week long extravaganza Symphonia 2k23 was graced by Shilpa Sahu, DSP, Incharge Mahila Raksha Team, Durg as Chief guest and DN Behera, Joint Director, Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), and the program was presided by Executive Vice Chairman Fr Dr PS Varghese. Fr Dr Joshi Varghese Diocesan Education officer and Dr Mariam Jacob, Principal, St Thomas College Kailash Nagar were also present in the program.

The program for the Public Meeting started with welcome address by the College Principal Dr Dipali Soren. In her address she briefed the year-long achievements of the



institute in a gist to the gathering. The program was followed by the report of the week long activities by Symphonia 2k23 Convener Dr Preeti Nand Kumar Shilpa Sahu in her address to the gathering gave the message to follow traffic rules, stay alert to cyber-crime and avoid excessive use of social media. She instructed the youth to be cautious with the social media.

In the address DN Behera elaborated on the status of IT world and job scenario of India. Use of new technology and the role of artificial intelligence were briefed. In the presidential address Fr Dr PS Varghese expressed the Gandhian Philosophy and its importance in this post modern era. He expressed the importance of

extracurricular activities in our life. The program was followed by Cultural night with breath taking and rocking performance.

The fest was inaugurated on March 10, 2023 by Executive Vice Chairman Dr PS Varghese. The events included various sports competitions, and other cultural activities. The event featured dance performances, fashion show, music concert, fireless cooking, salad making, Poetry, Slogan writing. The sports activities of the event comprised of various outdoor and indoor sports. The event featured competitions like football, volleyball basketball, cricket, badminton, table tennis, chess, and carrom. The participants displayed their sportsmanship and teamwork

while competing in the games.

The winners were encouraged with gold and silver medals and certificates for all the events in the prize distribution ceremony. For the academic toppers cash prizes and certificates will be given for their academic excellence. Program concluded with Vote of Thanks by the convener Mr Robin Babu.

The week-long cultural and sports fest was a grand success, which brought together the college community in a spirit of cultural diversity and sportsmanship. The event provided a platform for the students to showcase their talents and skills in different areas. It also promoted a healthy spirit of competition amongst the participants.

# BSP granted license for production of High Carbon Grade Wire Rods

Develops New Grades of Wire Rods for Customers & Wider Applications

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 19:** SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant has been granted license for producing full range of IS 7904 Grade steel wire rods. IS 7904 is BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) specification for High Carbon Steel Wire Rods. With the grant of this license, Bhilai Steel Plant is now in a position to produce High Carbon Wire Rods from its Wire Rod Mill (WRM).

Developing customised grades of products with specifications and chemistry as desired by customers has always been a thrust area for SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant. Not only do these new grades fulfill customer demands and find newer applications, development and supply of value added grades also fetch higher net sales realisation.

The new grades are developed by cross-functional teams from the Plant's Quality Dept, steel melting shop and concerned rolling



mill. The Plant's Wire Rod Mill produces both garden variety grades as well as special steel grades including TMT Rods, high corrosion-resistant TMT (HCRM), earthquake resistant TMT (EQR-D) rods and electrode quality wire rods. After modernisation & expansion of the Plant, WRM has been rolling out its products with billets from the new and modern Steel Melting Shop 3 (SMS 3) as input.

It is worth mentioning that two new EWNR and

CAQ Grade Wire Rods have already been developed through SMS 3 - WRM route and supplied in the current fiscal year. The IS7887 Gr 1-CAQ grade wire rod has been developed in 5.5 & 6.0 mm product dimension.

This product has leanest chemistry and thus better drawability along with good resistivity, thus making it suitable for application in armoured cables in Electrical industry. Customers for this grade include HD Wire, Akhil

Steel and national small scale industries,

The other new grade developed through SMS3-WRM route is IS2879-EWNR, also in 5.5 & 6.0 mm product dimension. This product that has very lean chemistry, especially with Silicon content contained at 0.03 per cent maximum, finds application in Electrode making. More than 15,000 Tonnes of this grade has been rolled and dispatched to various customers including HD Wire, Salasar Alloy & Steel, ADOR Welding & ESAB India.

The High Carbon IS 7904 HC38 & HC 80 grade steel wire rod is another high value added steel developed through SMS 3 - WRM route. Bhilai Steel Plant has been granted license by BIS for full range of IS 7904. Developed in 5.5 & 6.0 mm product dimension, this high carbon steel grade of wire rods is used in bridge cables, tyre reinforcement materials.

# Swachh Bharat Abhiyan held at Employee Services Department

**Bhilai, Mar 19:** As part of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, officers and staff of Employee Services Section of Personnel Department undertook an initiative to clean the premises of their office building. On this occasion, all the members took the Swachhta oath and thereafter cleaned the premises. CGM (Personnel), Sandeep Mathur was present on the occasion and lauded the initiative taken by the team of Employee Services. He also distributed the Swachhta pledge certificates to all employees. The programme was coordinated by K Suparna, GM (Pers-Employee Services), Jaya Roy, Senior Manager (Pers-Employee Services) and KK Verma, Assistant Manager (Pers-Employee Services).



## World peace will prevail through staunch Hindus: Avdheshanand Giri



### Dharma Sabha in Raipur

The one who talks about the Hindu nation, will rule the country, say Saints

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 19: In order to inculcate the feeling of harmony across the country and to make India a Hindu nation, Dharma Sabha- a religious gathering of saints and sages took place at Ravanabhata Maidan in Raipur amid

recital of Hanuman Chalisa. Saints discussed the topics of Indian culture, Hindu nation, religious conversion etc in Dharma Sabha. Mahamandaleshwar Avdheshanand Giri of Juna Akhara said that there will be peace all over the world through through staunch Hindus. Hindu cares for all living beings and as long as there are saints in India, no one can do any harm, he said.

There is no untouchability in India, everyone takes a dip in the Ganges together, he said, adding that 'we were Hindus, are

Hindus and will remain Hindus'. Why can't a Hindu belong to Hindustan when a German belongs to Germany and Russian belongs to Russia? He asked. According to him only India can stop the disturbance in the world.

Before the Dharma Sabha, the leaders and saints of Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) held a press conference on Saturday.

Saints asked sharp questions regarding the conversion. During this, the saints said that the one who talks about Hindu na-

tion will rule the country. Saints who reached Raipur said that important things will happen in the Dharma Sabha for the Hindu nation.

Saints and sages will guide the country and society with their thoughts, said the VHP leaders. VHP convenor Chandrashekhar Verma said that padyatra (footmarch) taken out by saints on February 18 at different places in Chhattisgarh culminated to Dharma Sabha (religious gathering) in Raipur today. About 300 saints reached the Dharma Sabha.

## Demand for Hindu Rashtra be made to Centre: CM

'Sadhus-Sants' are misguiding general public

Raipur, Mar 19: CM Bhupesh Baghel said that the demand for 'Hindu Rashtra' be made to the Central Government. Prior to leaving for Kanker, CM charged that BJP tries to create 'Castles of lies'. On asking about loss to Rabi crop, due to unseasonal rains, CM said that Collectors have been asked to get it examined.

Speaking to section of media persons CM said that many 'Sadhus-Sant' are pro-BJP and charged that they are trying to misguide the people. Therefore with the demand for 'Hindu



Rashtra', they all should go to the Central Government in Delhi and raise this demand. Home Minister Amit Shah says that the country will run as per the Constitution and since he is coming here on March 25, the concerned should meet him with this demand.

Delhi police sent after all tactics failed: CM

CM Bhupesh Baghel in his Tweet message has targeted BJP saying that in

order to save 'one alone' the 'two persons' are way behind him day and night. Closing of mike in the Parliament, ban on march to the parliament and when all the tactics failed, the country's democracy was questioned and now they have sent police to Rahul Gandhi's residence. One cannot divert the issue with questions related to 'friendship', eh added.

There is great deal of resentment among Congmen over entry of Commissioner Delhi Police reaching to the residence of Rahul Gandhi. First the Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot has held this step as wrong and now the Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel has taken over the front.

## 8 accused nabbed in cheating persons of cash worth lakhs

Including 3 girls, 5 boys in the name of providing loan through big banks All are from Delhi running a fake call centre

Raipur, Mar 19: The Raipur police has got a major breakthrough in solving online fraud and cheating case worth lakhs and in this case has nabbed 3 girls and 5 youth from Delhi. This entire case came to fore when the complainant filed report in Telibandha thana saying that he resides in Tikrapara and works as liaisoning officer in BSP. It was on 16 Feb 2022 he got mobile phone from an unknown number disclosing her name as Sujata Jain of



Citi Finance Bank Mumbai as Customer Care Manager and she cheated him in the name of providing loan.

Taking him into confidence Sujata asked for processing fees of Rs 4000 to prepare all the documents and asked her to send her Aadhar Card, PAN Card and other documents on WhatsApp. After this he sent all documents and cash on 19 Feb 2022 to Suajta Jain as per the de-



son did not get the loan, he found himself cheated and so a case under section 420 and 34 of IPC was filed. SSP Prashant Agrawal sent the team to Delhi to investigate into the matter and the team raided the residence of accused in Patel Nagar in Delhi and nabbed 5 boys and 3 girls. All of them were running a fake call centre and had accepted of cheating many persons of funds worth crores in the name of pro-

viding loan. The police seized 5 computer systems; 2 laptops; 20 mobile phones; 1 tablet and 10 (mobile Number) log-book diary; and others totaling Rs 5 lakh and all were brought to Raipur on transit remand. All the accused are from Delhi viz. Yash Sharma; Abhishek Kumar Jha; Ranjita Yadav; Divya Gupta; Ruchi Verma; Nisha Kumar; Brijesh Kumar and others.

## NIT Raipur organizes college and school students visit

Under Scientific Social Responsibility through SERB-DST Sponsorships

Raipur, Mar 19: National Institute of Technology Raipur organized a one-day Institute Visit of college and school students under Scientific Social Responsibility policy funded by the Science and Engineering Research Board, Department of Science and Technology, Government of

India on 17th March 2023. This one-day visit aimed to sensitize participants to the various approaches being adopted in the ongoing research work to find out a holistic, well-planned long-term strategy for sustainable water resources development and management in Raipur city.

The research project was funded to Dr. D. C. Jhariya, Associate Professor, Department of Applied Geology by SERB-DST. The whole program was coordinated by Mayank

Shrivastava, Priyanka Arya, Jalina Subhdarsini and Laxman Kumar under the guidance of Dr DC Jhariya and Dr Neeraj Vishwakarma, HO, Department of Applied Geology. Students from various prestigious colleges and schools of Raipur, Durg and Rajnadaigaon had attended this Program. The participants were exposed to various advanced tools and techniques being adopted to carry out hydrogeological and geological studies at the NIT Raipur.

Raipur, Mar 19: Police have arrested three persons for allegedly stealing gold and silver jewellery, two wheelers and mobile phones. Raj Chandelia, Rahul Chandelia and Hrithik Gaikwad, residents of Maharashtra.

Acting on the tip off from informer police reached the said place and identified per-

sons and two-wheeler. During interrogation the persons arrested by the police revealed their names as Raj Chandelia, Rahul Chandelia and Hrithik Gaikwad, residents of Maharashtra.

During interrogation arrested persons were constantly misleading the police team by not revealing documents regarding the vehicle, gold-silver jewellery and mobile phone. During strict interrogation they confessed having stolen all such items from empty houses and places in Purani Basti area.

## Three thieves arrested

In theft incident from house near Anjuman School

Raipur, Mar 19: Golebazar Police nabbed three accused involving two minors on charges of stealing gold, silver coins from a house near Anjuman School in Shastri bazaar and seized the jewellery and cash totaling Rs 47000 from their possession.

As per complaint by the complainant Nikhat



Parveen, she along with other family members left for Ajmer Sharif on March 6 and on their return on March 14, they found the back door gate broken and lock of the almirah was also broken and all goods were scattered. She lodged

complaint that a gold nose-pin, silver coin and other items were missing. A case under section 457, 380 and 34 of IPC was filed.

The police checked all the CCTV footages and also with news from informers and got a breakthrough in the case and nabbed one Shekh Arshad from Golebazar area. He on interrogated confirmed the crime along with two other minors. All three were arrested along with stolen jewellery and silver coin and cash totaling Rs 47000.

## Three day national seminar jointly by ICHR, RSU begins

With special reference to Subhash Chandra Bose and Azad Hind Fauj At Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University Raipur

Raipur, Mar 19: Under the joint auspices of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), New Delhi and Pandit Ravi Shankar University (RSU), a three-day national seminar on various streams of the national movement - with special reference to Subhash Chandra Bose and the Azad Hind Fauj - was inaugurated at the School of History, Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Raipur. The chief guest of the program, Head of Department, Department of History, Visva-Bharati University, Kolkata, Prof. Sandeep Basu. Mentioning the various



thoughts and activities of Subhash Chandra Bose, the chief guest in the program highlighted his political struggle and major organizations and movements run by Gandhiji. Emphasized the need to see the efforts being made by him for independence from a historical perspective. In the presidential address on this occasion, Vice Chancellor Prof. K.L. Verma said that the struggle and sacrifice of Netaji reflects the present relevation, his thoughts in life are related to us somewhere.

Special guest Prof. Ramendranath Mishra mentioned the effects of

Subhash Chandra Bose's views on Chhattisgarh in which he specially highlighted the work done by Barrister Chhedilal. Special guest Prof. Abha Rupendra Pal mentioned the bold untouched aspects done by Netaji even in the absence of state-of-the-art facilities related to Netaji's revolutionary ideas. Prof. Mukesh Kumar, as a keynote speaker, elaborated on the difference of views of the leaders related to the struggle for nation building by Subhash Chandra and the parallel Indian independence movement. He recalled that Mr. Bose fought abroad for India's

independence.

The book "Revisiting History" was released in the programme. This book is a historical treatise based on research papers of various scholars and researchers of India. Before this, flowers were offered by the guests by lighting the lamp and garlanding the photographs of Maa Saraswati and Netaji, along with Saraswati Vandana, a mesmerizing presentation of 'Kulgeet' was given. After that, the guests on the stage were welcomed by providing small plants.

The welcome speech was given by Head of the Department School of History and Prof. of Ancient Indian Culture and Archaeology by Priyavanda Srivastava. The coordination of the seminar was done by Dr. DN Khute. Historians and history researchers from 10 states and university students were present in large numbers in the seminar.

## 'Surrogacy has now taken the form of law'

The Surrogacy Act provides legal protection along with an explanation of the rights of women First workshop regarding surrogacy law

Raipur, Mar 19: Surrogacy law explains the rights of women as well as provides legal protection, said Principal Judge, Family Court Raipur Hemant Saraf. Speaking as chief guest at the first state level workshop on Surrogacy Act 2021 here recently Hemant Saraf said that the rights of every woman in India will be protected more comprehensively through Surrogacy Act. The workshop was organized under the joint auspices of the Directorate of Health Services and District Legal Services Authority Raipur in the District Court Complex, Raipur. He said that first workshop would help cre-



ate awareness over the new law for the entire state. Presiding over the programme, Director Health Services Bhim Singh said that awareness programmes on the said new law would be held continuously in association with District Legal Services Authority. The programme will become an example for the entire state and the honorable judges and doctors present here will play an unprecedented role in making the provisions of the said law accessible to the public in an easy and

simple way, he said. Joint Director Health Services Dr Prashant Srivastava gave information regarding the role of the Health Department in the Surrogacy Act 2021. Under the said law, rules have been made regarding regulation of surrogacy clinics, he said, adding that doctors who are not registered under the law cannot run clinics. Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Ms. Parul Srivastava informed about the objectives of the Surrogacy Act 2021 in the workshop regarding the

legal aspects. Proposing a vote of thanks Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr Mithilesh Chaudhary informed that party can take information regarding this law from the Medical Department and the District Legal Services Authority. Praveen Mishra, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Raipur told that if any woman's rights are violated under the said law, she will be provided free legal aid through the District Legal Services Authority.



## CM announced gift of 95 devp works worth Rs. 143.92 cr

● In Kanker district

Raipur, Mar 19: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced a gift of 95 different developmental works worth Rs. 143 crores 92 lakh for the development of Kanker district during the Kosariya Marar (Patel) Society's Convention and oath-taking ceremony held in Karap village under Narharpur Development Block in Kanker today. The Chief Minister conducted the Bhumi-poojan of 76 developmental works worth Rs. 110 crores 15 lakh and the inauguration of 19 works worth Rs. 33 crores 77 lakh. The Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel conducted the Bhumi-poojan of 76 developmental works worth Rs. 110 crores 15 lakh during the event organized in Karap village. These include the construction of a superior-quality approach road on Kank stream located at ¼ Kilometer of Gram Panchayat Salhebbat-Saranda road in Narharpur development block worth Rs. 89 lakh, high-level bridge construction work worth Rs. 7 crores 19 lakh on Kukrel river at 4/2



Kilometers of the Mavlipara-Mandabharri-Bangabari road, High-level bridge construction work on Kukrel river at ½ and 2/4 Kilometers of village Kumhankhar - Jhulnatendu road worth Rs. 5 crores 96 lakh, construction of Jampani stream at 1/6 Kilometers of Lendara-Thema road and high-level bridge construction work at 2/10 Kilometers of Banjara stream worth Rs. 3 crores 38 lakh, high-level bridge construction work on Turi stream worth Rs. 21 crores 3 lakh at 1/10, 4/6, 6/6, 9/8, and 8/10 kilometers of the road between Banspatar and Tiriyapani.

During the event, 19 developmental works worth Rs. 33 crores 77 lakh were also inaugurated by the Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel. These in-

clude MRI machine installation at Kanker District Hospital worth Rs. 11 crores 54 lakh, 7.40 Km. long road construction between Kumhankhar and Jhulnatendu worth Rs. 5 crores 20 lakh 82 thousand, construction of 9.08 Km. long road in Dabena-Durumbahara-Badal road worth Rs. 2 crores 15 lakh, construction of 8 km. long road between Kanhanpuri and Amoda worth Rs. 4 crores 17 lakh, 7.50 Km. long road constructed between Amoda and Jhaliyarni worth Rs. 3 crores 70 lakh, 9 Km. long road constructed from Sarvandi to Mavlipara path worth Rs. 5 crores 23 lakh, cattle shelter centers in Kodagaon Gauthan worth Rs. 7 lakh 6 thousand, Devgudi construction in Sheetla Mandir in Daspur worth Rs. 5 lakh 50

thousand, fencing and handpump mining work and construction of Devgudi in Kokanpur Mawli Mata Mandir worth Rs. 5 lakh 50 thousand, and other works including fencing and handpump mining.

On the occasion, Minister of Commerce and Industry Kawasi Lakhma, Parliamentary Secretary and MLA of Kanker Assembly Constituency Shishupal Shori, MLA of Antagarh Assembly Constituency Anoop Nag, MLA of Bhanuprapur Assembly constituency Savitri Manoj Mandavi, Parliamentary Advisor Rajesh Tiwari, Former MLA and President of District Co-operative Central Bank Shankar Dhurwa, Member of Chhattisgarh Scheduled Castes Commission Nitin Potai, Member of Gauseva Aayog Narendra Yadav, Member of Tourism Board Naresh Thakur, Member of Bastar Development Authority Biresh Thakur, President of District Panchayat Hemant Dhruv and a large number of public representatives and people of Marar community were present.

## 'RUN ON CHETRI CHAND'



Chhattisgarh Sindhi Panchayat Mahila Wing and Sindhi Academy of state government organised a 'Run' on occasion of 'Chetri Chand' here on Sunday.

## Rotary Int'l President Shekhar Mehta had a courtesy call on CM

Raipur, Mar 19: Under the leadership of Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha, the Immediate Past Rotary International President of Rotary Club Shekhar Mehta met Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel at his residence office on Saturday. He made the Chief Minister an



Honorary Member of Raipur Rotary Club by putting a badge on him. Chief Minister Baghel thanked Mehta for this honour. Parliamentary Secretary Chandradev Rai, Subhash Sahu and Uttam Garg were also present on the occasion.

## RDA: Exemption on lump sum payment in surcharge amount till Mar 31

● 50% discount will be available in residential and 30% in commercial

Raipur, Mar 19: The rebate being given in surcharge amount on depositing lump sum amount by defaulters in various schemes of Raipur Development Authority will be available only till March 31, 2023. In this, the maximum outstanding amount in the old schemes is for the allottees of Bombay Market, Boriyakhurd, Hirapur, Raipura and Transport Nagar Ranwabhata. Under this, the allottees can get a big relief by depositing a lump sum amount. According to the Authority's Chief Executive Officer Mr.



Dharmesh Kumar Sahu, the amount of surcharge is continuously increasing due to non-payment of regular payments in many properties. He informed that there will be a saving amount of Rs 1.24 crore in surcharge amount in depositing lumpsum amount by the allottees of Bombay Market. Similarly, in the Boriyakhurd scheme, the amount of surcharge is Rs 1 crore in the outstanding amount of Rs 10.56 crore.

In Hirapur, of the outstanding amount of Rs 3.66 crore, there is a sur-

charge of Rs 1.82 crore. In Raipura, in the outstanding amount of Rs 5.95 crore the surcharge is of Rs 3.06 crore and in Transport Nagar Ravanbhatta, out of Rs 3.89 crore, Rs 1.16 crore is yet to be paid as surcharge amount by transport traders.

The allottees will get benefit from the 50 percent and 30 percent rebate on payment of lump sum amount on the discount being given by the authority till March 31. RDA CEO, Mr. Sahu has appealed to all the defaulters of various schemes to take maximum advantage of this golden opportunity of exemption being given by Raipur Development Authority. This will benefit them financially.

## Discussion held on inter-state issues of border states



● In the inter-state coordination meeting of police officers

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 19: An inter-state coordination meeting with the border states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana was held at Police Headquarters, Nava Raipur. Chhattisgarh Police, Ministry of Home Affairs,

Government of India, CAPF and senior officers of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states participated in the meeting.

In this meeting, discussions were held regarding coordinated action plan on the subjects of quick exchange of intelligence, determination of focus area for joint operations, strategic edge in security-less areas and action on supply network of Maoists.

## Moot Court competition gets underway

Raipur, Mar 19: The 13th edition of the Competition Commission of India - Justice Hidayatullah National Moot Court Competition (CCI - HNMCC '23) kickstarted on March 17. The inaugural event was graced by the eminent presence of Justice G. Raghuram, Former Director of National Judicial Academy & Former Judge of Andhra Pradesh as the Chief Guest, and Zia Mody, Managing Partner, AZB as the Guest of Honour.

Prof. (Dr.) V C Vivekanandan, Vice-Chancellor in his opening remarks highlighted the emergence of techno-business regime complex which poses major challenges to tackle unfair competition and require law to catch up with such fast-paced changes. In such context the specific focus of Competition Law as a theme

by HNLU will serve capacity building exercise.

Zia Mody, the Guest of Honour in her address highlighted the emerging digital markets and need of innovative regulation by competition commission and commended the focussed HNMCC themes on this important field of law. She also reminisced the interaction with Late Justice Hidayatullah as towering jurist and commended the organizing team of HNMCC for organizing this challenging moot event.

Justice Goda Raghuram, in his address highlighted the globalization phenomenon resulting in specialized area of practice than the erstwhile Generalist approach and urged to place that in context of an holistic picture. He touched upon the emergence of AI technology and its impact on various aspects of our life

which needs to be seen from the lens of social responsibilities. He further remarked that the competition centric future in all fields required to be managed through appropriate regulations.

Prof. (Dr.) Uday Shankar extended the vote of thanks for the invigorating presence and enlightening addresses of the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour and importantly the moot judges who have come from different parts of the country and the mooters present in large numbers.

Post Inaugural ceremony, the much awaited researcher's test took place. The fixture of the preliminary rounds was undertaken through a 'Draw of Lots'. The highlight of the Draw of Lots was the exchange of Memorials leading to the packed rounds of moot on Day 2 of the competition.

## Sahu Samaj takes out procession of Karma Mata

● Celebrated Karma Jayanti by worshipping

Konta/Sukma, Mar 19: Members of Sahu Samaj celebrated Mata Karma Jayanti with great enthusiasm here on Saturday. A procession was taken out in the city by Sahu Samaj and a programme was organized. Along with this, the life story of Karma Mata was highlighted. All the members of Shahu Samaj participated in the programme.

On Saturday, the program started by worshipping Goddess Karma of 'Teli Kul' at Sahu Samaj Bhawan located at the district headquarters. All the seniors and women of Sahu Samaj of the district headquarters participated. After that, a



grand procession was taken out which reached Sahu Bhawan directly through the main roads of the city. The city turned devotional with the hymns of Karma Mata during the procession. The city resounded with fireworks.

A social seminar was organized at Sahu Bhawan in which senior members of the society threw light on

the life story of Karma Mata. Children's programs were organized after which Khichdi Prasad was distributed. During this, Gupteshwar Gangber, Ramashankar Sahu, Sahu, Rohit Sahu, Bhuneshwari Sahu, Satyabhama Sahu, Janaki Sahu, Yashoda Sahu, Dulari Sahu and other members of the society were present.

Social activities should continue continuously

Addressing the members of the society, Municipal President and District President of the society, Raju Sahu said that Lord Jagannath has accepted 'Khichdi Bhog' through Mata Karma. He said that the feeling of love and brotherhood has increased in the society. Activities in the society should continue continuously, this gives the social people an opportunity to connect. He also expressed gratitude on behalf of District Sahu Sangh Sukma towards Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Minister Kawasi Lakhma for declaration as a government holiday on Karma Jayanti and for contributing to the construction of Sahu Samaj Bhawan after the Congress government came to power.

## Booth strengthening campaign held in Booth No. 147

● Meeting held at Bhagat Singh Shakti Kendra

Jagdalpur, Mar 19: In the 'Booth Strengthening Campaign' being run by the Bharatiya Janata Party from March 17 to March 27, a meeting is held in every booth coming to the Shakti Kendra. On Sunday, a meeting was organized under booth strengthening campaign at booth number 147 of Bhagat Singh Shakti Kendra of Jagdalpur. 25 members of the booth committee were present in the meeting.

Out of 25 members, 11 members were elected as President, Secretary,



Mann Ki Baat, WhatsApp Group Chief, Beneficiary Chief, Women Chief, Youth Chief, Social Chief, Effective Voter Chief. Along with this, he was made the head of 6 programs organized throughout the year in the booth and was given the responsibility of the

program. It was scripted by the extensionist Narendra Panigrahi and coordinator Umesh Wankhede in the booth strengthening campaign.

During the meeting Shakti Kendra In-charge and City General Secretary Aryan Singh Arya, Councillor Mrs.

Dayavati Dewangan, Khem Dewangan, Booth President Karan Shankar Jain, Anurag Thakur, Godavari Thakur, Girja Shankar Sahu, Tilak Dewangan, Rajendra Dewangan, Suresh Harshani, Rita Sahu and elders Booth workers were present in numbers.

## VHP-Bajrang Dal performed 11 'Kundliya Mahayagya'

Jagdalpur, Mar 19: Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) Bajrang Dal organized the programme of 11 'Kundliya Mahayagya' at Lohandiguda block village Gadiya block level on Saturday to create awareness about Sanatani Samaj's religion which is increasing in the area.

Bajrang Dal District Minister Hari Sahu told that the indigenous Sanatani tribals and other communities are being continuously converted



here. To bring awareness among the members of the Sanatani society, 11 'Kundliya Mahayagya' was organized.

During this, Bajrang Dal District Secy Hari Sahu, District Co-Convenor Khirendra Das, Vaishnav, Sridhar Kashyap

President, Samnath Mandvi Vice President Naniram Sodhi, Co-Organizer Rohit Sahu, Mata Gudi Priest Shivnath Pujari, Gonchu Paigad, Beetle Patel, Raidhar, former Sarpanch Thigu Ram, Kapil Dev, Jhullu Ram, Jatiya Ram, Sukru Ram, Lakhmu Ram, Balaram, Tiku Ram, Viraj, elders and mothers-sisters, youth including Vishva Hindu Parishad Bajrang Dal office bearers, workers were present in large numbers.

## Meeting of SHS held regarding conversion and other issues

Resolved to protect the religion

Swearing-in ceremony of Hindu organization tomorrow

Bemetara, Mar 19: The meeting was called by the Sarv Hindu Samaj (SHS) in Bemetara regarding conversion and other important issues. Twenty community leaders participated in this meeting. In which every social

leader prominently raised the issue of unity of Hindus. There was a detailed discussion on how to effectively stop the conversion of Hindus.

On this occasion, District President Shatruhan Sahu said that the one who turns away from his religion, his downfall is certain. That's why we all need to reform along with taking a pledge to protect Hindu dham. In which issues mainly conversion, 'love jihad', imparting good

values to children since childhood, emphasis on education, addiction, saving children from mobile culture and other important issues were included. In the meeting, all the social leaders presented their views regarding the unity of the Hindus.

Oath taking ceremony of Hindu organization on March 20

The swearing-in ceremony of the Sarva Hindu Samaj (SHS) Sangathan has been organized by 'Mahatyagi Pateshwar Dham' Sant -Shri Ram

Balak Das in the Ram Mandir premises and the office bearers will be sworn in on March 20.

Community leaders include Lekhmani Pandey, Jitendra Shukla, Tarachand Maheshwari, Roshan Dutta, Raja Pandey, Shatruhan Sahu, Kaushal Singh Verma, Narayan Vaishnav, Dinesh Vaishnav, Krishna Vaishnav, Ganesh Shivare, Dinesh Joshi, Dr. Vinay Tamarkar, Harishankar Turkane, Ghanshyam Verma, Present Were.



# Division Commissioner makes intensive visit to Korea District

Central Chronicle News

**Bilaspur, Mar 19:** Commissioner of Sarguja Division Dr. Sanjay Alang made an intensive visit to Korea District here and alongwith he inspected the priority schemes of the state government and got information about the progress of the tax schemes.

The Commissioner directed to speedy completion of other development works including Amrit Sarovar works and asked to ensure the availability of dung paint in the main market and promote horticultural crops.

Collector Vinay Kumar Langeh and CEO Zilla



Panchayat Namrata Jain were also present during the inspection. The Commissioner visited Tapur, Majhgamba, Mudijharia, Bardar and other villages and assessment was made of Amrit

Sarovar under construction in village Sitapur of Gram Panchayat Cherwapara of Baikunthpur Block.

The Collector said that the area of this nectar is 1.5 acres and pond deepening

is being done here under the Amrit Sarovar campaign. The commissioner took information of the daily working workers and gave instructions to complete the work quickly with full quality.

Dr. Alang also inspected the dung paint unit run under RIPA at Adarsh village Majhgamba. He also talked about promoting horticultural crops. Production of fruits like blackcurrant and khexi, mango and lychee in the district should be done on a large scale.

He also interacted with the people benefited from domestic tap connection. He also inspected Narwa development works in Mongaria Nala in Gram Panchayat Bardar of Development Block K h a r g a w a n . T h e Commissioner also flagged off the Awareness Chariot on Tobacco Product Prohibition Campaign Day.

# Physical verification of polling stations by Mar 31

Central Chronicle News

**Bilaspur, Mar 19:** According to the instructions of the Chief Electoral Officer Chhattisgarh, physical verification of the polling stations is to be done keeping in mind the upcoming Assembly General Election 2023.

In this regard, the Collector and District Election Officer Rishi Mahobia held a meeting of the sector officials appointed for the verification of the polling stations in Arpa Assembly Hall of the Collectorate

here.

She instructed all the sector officers to physically verify the total number of polling stations 237 in Assembly Constituency No. 24 Marwahi (Scheduled Tribes) and 62 polling stations in Assembly Constituency No. 25 Kota (General) and submit the information in the prescribed format along with photographs by March 31.

The Collector also inspected the polling stations assigned to all the sector officials along with their departmental work and checked the basic facilities like

electricity, water, furniture, toilets, condition of the building, need of ramps for the disabled etc.

In the meeting, changes in the building of polling stations, location change and name change, proposal of remote polling stations, auxiliary polling stations and information and route chart of sensitive and highly sensitive polling stations were also discussed.

Additional Collector BC Ekka, Joint Collector Anand Roop Tiwari along with all the sector officials were present in the meeting.

# Cricket match held among female players

On occasion of Int'l Women's Day

Central Chronicle News

**Bijapur, Mar 19:** On occasion of Women's International Day, two-day cricket match and 'Anand Mela' and hosts of other activities and games were organised in the district. On the first day i.e. March 17, women's cricket match was organised in Mini-Stadium and in this total 8-teams are participating.

On the second day programmes like 'Anand Mela', 'Rangoli', 'Mehendi', 'Musical Chair', 'Salad decoration', 'Tug-of-war', 'Mataka Phodo', and other cultural programmes. This will be organised by police administration and employees of Women and



Child Development department. In this programme the chief guest

was MLA and BDA's V-P Vikram Shah Mandavi and in this female officers

and employees winning different competitions will be felicitated.

# Anti-Tobacco Day organized

For awareness about tobacco prohibition

Central Chronicle News

**Korba, Mar 19:** No-Tobacco Day was observed on March 17, according to the instructions of Collector Sanjeev Jha, to make people aware of not using tobacco products.

Under this, tobacco-free educational institutes were established in educational institutions and smoking and tobacco-free office boards were established in government offices.

Also, customs clearance was done in five tobacco product sales centers under the COTPA Act. Under this, tobacco products were seized, detailed and a fine of one thousand rupees was taken. Collector Sanjeev Jha and



CMHO Dr. Kesari appealed to the residents of the district not to consume tobacco or tobacco products.

Also Dr. Kumar Pushpesh, NCD Consultant, Narendra, Dushyant Kotangle, Mrs. Kamleshwari Di along with police force jawans were present. CMHO Dr. Kesari said

that people above the age of 15 use tobacco products in some form and the use of tobacco products by school-going children and youth in the age group of 15 years is a matter of concern.

He said that tobacco addiction is very harmful to the body and this causes physical problems like

oral cancer, complex lung diseases and nervous system disorders. It also increases heart and blood related diseases. With the aim of creating awareness in this regard, Tobacco Product Prohibition Day was celebrated in the district on March 17, he added.

# MLA Chhabra raises drinking water problem in VS

Central Chronicle News

**Bemetara, Mar 19:** MLA Ashish Chhabra, through rule 138 (1) call attention notice, raised the issue of work of laying pipeline for supply of drinking under water augmentation scheme being laid in Bemetara municipality area. Raising the issue in state's Vidhan Sabha, MLA Chhabra charged that firm of not completing the work on time done.

The Departmental minister in his written reply informed that the water augmentation scheme should be transferred from PHE to Nagar Palika

Parishad (NPP) Bemetara. After listening to the reply of the minister, MLA Ashish Chhabra said that he has the update letter from main municipality.

There is the letter of the officer in which he has said that the transfer of water augmentation scheme from PHE to Municipal Council Bemetara should not be done. Approval has also been given in the plan, but till now the residents of Bemetara have not been able to get potable (soft) water.

Bemetara municipality area is anyway affected by

the problem of hard water, in which the general public has to face different types of water-borne diseases. The vey plan of the Department of Health Engineering to deliver soft water (potable-drinking water) in all the wards of NPP is going on at a slow pace and it is beyond comprehension.

Drinking water crisis has arisen in many wards of Bemetara and till now the Public Health Engineering Department has sent pipes in all the villages under the water augmentation scheme, but it has not been laid till date.

MLA asked as to when will this scheme be completed and whether people will be able to get the benefit of this scheme or not is a matter to be considered. It should be directed that the work can be completed on time.

It is notable that in the year 2012-13, with the efforts of the then MLA Tamradhwaj Sahu, the water augmentation scheme was started in Bemetara, for which the government sanctioned an amount of more than Rs 21 cr was approved and even after the approval from the year 2019 till date, there is no water supply in 21 wards of Bemetara Nagar Palika Parishad. Partial supply of fresh water is being done only

work remained stopped from the year 2016 to 2018.

MLA Ashish Chhabra said that he made a commitment to ensure supply of soft and potable drinking water in all the wards of Bemetara NPP right from start of his tenure as MLA.

After giving the revised approval to the water augmentation scheme, an amount of more than Rs 21 cr was approved and even after the approval from the year 2019 till date, there is no water supply in 21 wards of Bemetara Nagar Palika Parishad. Partial supply of fresh water is being done only

in 11 wards and pipeline has been laid in 18 wards.

MLA Ashish Chhabra expressed his displeasure by holding meetings with the top officials of the Public Health Engineering Department, but then seeing that his demand is falling on deaf ears of top officials of the PHE Department, so he decided to bring it to the attention of the members in the Vidhan Sabha through a call attention notice. The Minister in-charge of the department was directed by the Speaker to ensure that the work is done within stipulated time.

# Hari Singh Thakur created record insurance worth Rs 1.62 crore



◆ Despite being physically disabled with two legs  
◆ Director Postal Services felicitated him and

Central Chronicle News

**Pithora, Mar 19:** There goes a famous proverb that 'where there is will, there is way' and this was proved by a differently able Hari Singh Thakur, who is handicapped with both his legs and working as Gramin Dak Sewak in Kamta (Antagarh), for carrying out record insurance of total amount worth Rs 1.62 crore in this FY till date.

Apart from this he got 537 BPMPR account in the Indian Post Payment Bank and 10 GAG accounts so far. So it was his presence in the RPLI Mela that the honourable Director Postal Services went to him and felicitated him with a flower bouquet and citing Hari Singh Thakur as a person with courage and commitment, asked others to follow him and saluted his strong will and dedication in achieving such a target, crossing all barriers. Hari Singh Thakur despite being physically disabled has rendered services to Postal Department and presented an example for others to follow.

# Block-level CMSST Workshop held in Education City Jawanga



Geedam/Dantewada, Mar 19:

Block level 2-day Chief Minister School Safety Training (CMSST) Workshop was organized by Geedam Block Education Department on March 15-16 at Education City Auditorium, Jawanga on the order of School Education Department, Chhattisgarh Government in association with District Education Department, Dantewada.

While inspecting the workshop on the first day, District Education Officer Pramod Thakur, APC Neha Nath, Venkat Tati said that along with the safety of the school and the children, personal safety of the teachers is also very important, so that there is a suitable environment in the school.

While inspecting on the second day, Geedam Block Education Officer Sheikh Rafiq asked various questions related to security and he said that the school should follow all the rules of security properly.

Assistant Block Education Officer Bhavani Punem conducted the two-day school safety training workshop in proper manner and she demonstrated all kinds of safety by acting on the stage and she addressed on children's living conditions, toilets and courtyard cleanliness, quality in mid-day meals, health and cleanliness, drinking water purity, personal development etc.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (Cyber/Traffic) Krishna Kumar Chandra



gave important information related to caution in the use of online platform social media, safety from traffic, cybercrime.

In this sequence, a demonstration was presented by Deputy Commandant (Nagar Sena/Home Guards) NS Netam and team on how to avoid the danger of fire by using fire extinguishers. Police station in-charge Geedam Inspector Salim Khaka gave important information about road safety and child crime.

Master Trainers Mahendra Mandavi, Narayan Sahu, Jitendra Chauhan provided training and they gave information about guidelines, all types of child abuse related to POSCO, all types of toll free numbers and their

usefulness. Amujuri Biswanath, expert of the Indian Science Congress Association, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India gave information about science laboratory safety, precautions to be taken during experiment, laboratory material maintenance.

Ved Prakash from District Transport Office Dantewada provided all the information related to road safety. School Safety related materials were distributed to all the schools. Teachers created awareness by performing a drama on the topics of cleanliness, environmental protection, climate change, planting trees, security aspects under the curriculum. In this train-

ing, cluster coordinators and teachers of 33 clusters received the training.

Detailed information about formation of School Disaster Management Committee and its purpose, principles and its

usefulness, awareness and functions were given in this workshop. All Head Masters, cluster coordinators, all teachers of Geedam Block were present in this training workshop actively.

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Branch Office: Krishna Complex, Opp. Aurobindo Netralaya, Main Road, Sadar Bazar, Raipur-492001					
DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002.					
Whereas you the below mentioned Borrower's, Co-Borrower's, Guarantor's and Mortgagors have availed loans from Jana Small Finance Bank Limited, by mortgaging your immovable properties. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as Non Performing Asset, whereas Jana Small Finance Bank Limited being a secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with rule 2 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand notice calling upon the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors as mentioned in column No.2 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with future interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served on some of them for various reasons.					
Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No. & Loan Amount	Details of the Security to be enforced	Date of NPA & Demand Notice date	Amount Due in Rs. / as on
1	1) M/s. Swapnil Industries, Represented by its Proprietor Mr. Ganesh Agrawal, S/o. Paras Ram Agrawal, 2) Mr. Ganesh Agrawal, S/o. Paras Ram Agrawal, 3) Mrs. Shweta Agrawal, W/o. Ganesh Agrawal	Loan Account No. 4511020000689293 & 45118640000151 Loan Amount Rs.1,25,00,000/-	Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of diverted land bearing Plot No.5/2, Khasra No.342 (Part), total admeasuring area of 1200 Sq.ft., Sheet No.62, P.H. No.106-A, R.N.M. Raipur-1, Mouza Raipur (Khas), Sardar Wallabh Bhai Ward No.18, Raipur, Tehsil & District Raipur (C.G.). Bounded by: East by: Road, West by: Railway Property, North by: Land of Suresh Agrawal and South by: Land of Nandkumar.	01-01-2023 & 18-02-2023	Rs.1,21,08,381.50 (Rupees One Crore Twenty One Lakh Eight Thousand Three Hundred Eighty One and Fifty Paise Only) as on 16-02-2023
2	1) Mr. Arvind Kumar Sahu, S/o. Jamuna Prasad (Prop. M/s. Santosh Kumar Arvind Kumar), 2) Mr. Jamuna Prasad, S/o. Ratan Lal Sahu, 3) Mrs. Shrimati Alpana Sahu, W/o. Arvind Kumar Sahu	Loan Account No. 45118950001522 & 45119670000035 Loan Amount Rs.28,40,416/-	Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of land bearing Municipal House No.25/345 (Part), total admeasuring area of 550 1/2 Sq.ft., together with construction thereon, Khasra No.642, P.H. No.62, R.N.M. Raipur-1, situated at Nayapara Ward, Phool Chowk, Raipur, Tehsil & District Raipur (C.G.). Bounded by: East by: Land of Kedarnath Gupta, West by: Road, North by: Gali and South by: Land of Chandraprakash Gupta.	05-11-2022 & 28-02-2023	Rs.27,65,941.36 (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Sixty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Forty One and Thirty Six Paise Only) as on 20-02-2023
Notice is therefore given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor & Mortgagor as mentioned in Column No.2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in column No.6, against all the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower within 60 days of Publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective loan account as on the date shown in Column No.6. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described in Column No.4. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to Jana Small Finance Bank Limited against the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors of the said financials under the law, you are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the secured asset without prior consent of Secured Creditor.					
Date: 20.03.2023, Place: Raipur (C.G.)				Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited	



**BRIEF**



**Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnav attends Brahmin Mahapanchayat, in Jaipur, Sunday.**

**Alert**

**Samba:** An alert has been sounded in Ramgarh sector along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district after a leopard crossed over to the Indian side from Pakistan, a police official said on Sunday. The leopard was caught on camera crossing the fencing near the Border Security Force (BSF) border outpost nursery on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday.

**Derail**

**Kolkata:** Normal train services were partially affected at Howrah station for some time on Sunday owing to the derailment of a coach of an EMU local, a South Eastern Railway official said. No one was injured in the incident, the official said. A coach of the 38908 Amta-Howrah EMU local got derailed at about 9.45 am while entering platform number 19 of Howrah station's new complex, he said.

**Campaign**

**New Delhi:** A campaign to spread awareness about stray dogs and their behaviour was conducted on Sunday by an animal activist at Vasant Kunj's Sindhi Basti, where two children were killed allegedly after being attacked by canines. Founder of Noida-based NGO House of Stray Animals (HSA) Sanjay Mohapatra who organised the campaign, said around 100 people participated in the two-hour programme and spoke about their fears surrounding stray animals.

**Crack down**

**Jaipur:** In an early morning crackdown, Bikaner police on Sunday raided various places in the district and arrested 34 criminals in connection with various cases, officials said. Illegal weapons and liquor were also recovered from the arrested accused, including a member of the Anandpal Singh gang and an aide of gangster Rohit Godara, the police officials said.

**POLICE TO ORGANISERS**

## 'Ensure Bageshwar Dham chief doesn't make any controversial remark'

Thane, Mar 19 (PTD):

With anti-superstition organisations and opposition parties objecting to the event of self-styled godman Dharendra Krishna Shastri at Mira Road in Maharashtra's Thane district, the police issued a notice to the organisers to ensure that the preacher does not make any controversial statement, which could lead to possible law and order situation, an official said on Sunday. The two-day event of the religious leader began at Salasar Central Park Ground in Mira Road on Saturday. Meanwhile, as many as 36 women complained that their gold chains were stolen by pickpockets during a four-hour long sermon by Shastri that was attended by thousands of

people, police said.

The religious discourse by Dharendra Krishna Shastri, the head priest of Bageshwar Dham in Madhya Pradesh's Chhatarpur district, was organised by Shantabehn Mithalal Jain Charitable Trust. The event will also be held at the same venue on Sunday. Shastri, popularly called Bageshwar Dham Sarkar, has considerable followers in Madhya Pradesh as well as other parts of the country. A couple of months back, rationalist Shyam Manav from Maharashtra had challenged him to prove miracles. The two-day programme of Dharendra Krishna Shastri was opposed by a few anti-superstition organisations. These groups had submitted a memorandum to the local police on Friday, requesting them

not to give permission to the event. In view of this resistance, the local police had issued a notice to the organisers on Saturday afternoon to ensure that Shastri desists from making any provocative remarks during the event. In a tweet, NCP MLA and former state minister Jitendra Awhad said it was unfortunate that the discourse by the one who insulted saint Tukaram Maharaj is being held in Maharashtra. Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole had recently written to the state government recently, urging it that the religious leader not be allowed to enter the state. The Congress leader accused him of insulting Tukaram Maharaj and offending lakhs of his devotees. During his programme on Saturday, the

Bageshwar Dham chief said those opposed to religion will not be spared. "The entire Bharat will be made the Bharat of Lord Ram. I know that they will not spare me, but we will not spare them either," he said. Meanwhile, 36 women approached the Mira Road police station alleging that their gold chains were stolen by pickpockets during the event addressed by Dharendra Krishna Shastri between 4 pm and 10 pm, they said. "So far, 36 women have come forward to lodge complaints that their gold chains or 'mangalsutra' necklaces were stolen during the 'satsang' programme. The total value of these gold chains is Rs 4.87 lakh," an official attached to the Mira Bhayandar-Vasai Virar police commissionerate said.

**RESCUE OPERATION**



**Border Road Organisation personnel evacuate tourists, who were stuck at Nathu La and Chhangu Lake due to heavy snowfall, in East Sikkim.**

## Youth posts 'suicide' message on Instagram

● **Police intervention saves life**

Noida, Mar 19 (PTD):

Timely intervention by the Gautam Buddha Nagar police in Uttar Pradesh prevented a possible suicide attempt by a man, who had posted a message on social media that he was about to hang himself to death, officials said on Sunday. The man, in his early

20s, is a resident of Chandrawal village under the Dankaur police station area. Around 2 pm on Saturday, he posted a message on his Instagram account today everything will end along with a picture of a noose, they said. The post was spotted by the media cell of the Director General of Police in Lucknow, which in turn flagged it to the media cell of the Gautam Buddha Nagar police, which immediately acted upon the

information, the official said. After the Instagram account was checked, efforts were made to trace the location of the account holder and other details. Once the location was traced to Chandrawal village, the local Dankaur police station was alerted. Subsequently, the in-charge of the local police post Shyam Mandi was informed and a team reached the youth's house on time, the official said.

## 'BJP, Shinde-led Sena will jointly contest'

● **All 288 Maha Assembly seats**

Nagpur, Mar 19 (PTD):

The Bharatiya Janata Party and the Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde will contest all 288 Assembly and 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra in alliance with other NDA constituents, BJP state president Chandrashekhar Bawankule has said. But no formal decision has been taken so far on sharing of the seats, he said here on Saturday. His comments came amid reports that Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena was getting a raw deal regarding the allocation of seats



**Chandrashekhar Bawankule**

for the upcoming polls. "The BJP and the Shiv Sena will contest 48 Lok Sabha seats and 288 Vidhan Sabha seats in alliance with other constituents of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA)," Bawankule said. The Assembly elections

in Maharashtra are due in October 2024. He said the BJP and the Shiv Sena have started preparations to win 200 seats under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and in coordination with CM Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis. The Election Commission recently recognised the Shinde-led faction as the real Shiv Sena and allotted it the party's bow and arrow election symbol. Queried whether the BJP will contest 240 Assembly seats and Shiv Sena 48 (of the total 288), Bawankule said, "There was a meeting related to this and there will be meetings in future."

## 'Regional parties to play key role in defeating BJP'

● **In 2024**

Kolkata, Mar 19 (PTD):

Exuding confidence that an opposition alliance would take shape in the days to come, Samajwadi Party supremo Akhilesh Yadav said regional parties would play a key role in putting up a fight against the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. However, on the role of the Congress in this proposed opposition front, Yadav said it is for the grand old party to decide. "Efforts are on to forge an opposition alliance or front. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, West Bengal Chief



**Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav addresses a press conference on the concluding day of the two-day Samajwadi Party National Executive Meeting, in Kolkata, Sunday.**

Minister Mamata Banerjee and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao are making efforts (on their own). I am confident that

in the days to come, an opposition alliance will take shape, which will fight against the BJP," he told PTI Video in an interview. To a question whether he is putting the Congress and the BJP on the same pedestal, the SP chief said it is the regional parties in various states which are fighting the saffron camp. "In many states, the Congress doesn't exist in comparison to the BJP, but regional parties are fighting tooth and nail against the saffron camp on the ground, and I am hopeful that they will succeed," he said. When told that regional parties such as the JD (U), RJD and the DMK are keen on having the

Congress in the opposition alliance, Yadav said they are already in a coalition with the grand old party. "It is a question of a big fight, and the Congress itself will decide its role in this fight," he said. Asked who would be the face of the opposition camp in the next Lok Sabha elections, Yadav said it would be decided after the polls and is "not a pertinent question" right now. "You are talking about face. What about the (BJP's) face in 2014 and 2019, who made false promises to win the election?" he said without naming Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

**ARATTU PROCESSION**



**Devotees take part in the Arattu procession at the Malayinkeezhu Sree Krishna Swamy Temple, in Thiruvananthapuram, Sunday.**

## Priyanka Saurabh wins FSIA Best Author Award

Hisar, Mar 19:

Young author Priyanka Saurabh, hailing from the Aryanagar village of Hisar in Haryana, is set to receive 'The Real Super Women Award' for the Best Author category at the FSIA Awards 2023. The event, organized by the Forever Star India Group, is slated to take place in Jaipur. Rajesh Agarwal, the founder of Forever Star India Group, praised Priyanka Saurabh's commendable work as an author, which led to her being felicitated with this prestigious award. The ceremony will be broadcast live on the FSIA OTT and the FSIA App, which includes a unique set of features and a social media platform, allowing viewers worldwide to witness the



event for free. The rankings of all awardees will also be available on Google and YouTube. Priyanka Saurabh is a 30-year-old writer who uses her pen to empower women and raise awareness about their issues. Apart from writing poetry, she also contributes daily editorial articles in various languages. Three of her books have been recently published: 'Deemak Lage Gulab', which expresses

the bitter truth of social and political life; 'Nirbhayaen', which deals with modern women's issues, and 'The Fearless,' an English-language book about women's progress in all fields. Priyanka Saurabh is recognized as the world's leading young woman writer, writing daily editorials for more than 10,000 newspapers in Hindi and English published in different languages daily. Moreover, she provides free coaching to girls on the world's largest education platform, Unacademy, and her personal YouTube channel, making education accessible to all. Priyanka Saurabh's passion lies in educating girls and women through her writings and seminars, especially those in challenging situations, such as des-

tute women and children, widows, and women with disabilities. She feels delighted when her efforts get a platform and respect, and she intends to continue this noble work in the future. Priyanka Saurabh's achievement as a young woman author from Haryana winning the 'The Real Super Women Award' in the field of Best Author is a remarkable milestone in her career, which will inspire many others to follow in her footsteps. Her work as a writer and an educator exemplifies the essence of women's empowerment and their role in society. Her commitment to educating and supporting women, particularly those who are underprivileged, demonstrates her compassion and dedication towards making a difference in the world.

## Still Bouncy Road Ahead

**Sparrow Day: March 20**

Gradually the sparrow is reaching the verge of extinction. Its number in India has not yet been calculated, but in some states of the country it is being counted sporadically. According to an estimate, the number of sparrows has increased marginally in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. According to a report of Lucknow University, the number of sparrows in Lucknow has also increased in year 2020 as compared to year 2019. At the same time, according to an estimate, the number of sparrows in Bihar is more than 20000. Sparrows can survive; therefore, Sparrow Day is celebrated every year on 20 March. First, Sparrow Day was celebrated across the country on March 20, 2010, due to the tireless efforts of Mohammad Dilawar, who was the President of Nature for Ever Society. The purpose of celebrating this day is to bring awareness among the people to save the life of this little bird. To

save it, in the year 2012, the Delhi government gave the sparrow the status of a national bird, while the Bihar government declared it a state bird in the year 2013. Special campaigns are being run for the protection of sparrows in Bihar. Sparrow conservation work is being done since 2010 in Tetrawan village located in Bihar Sharif block of Nalanda district of Bihar. Due to the efforts of the people of the village, today the number of sparrows in the village has increased from 10 to more than 1500. Nests have been made and kept on the roofs of the houses for its stay in the whole village, as well as arrangements for their food and water are also being made regularly by the villagers. This achievement of Tetrawan village of Nalanda district of Bihar is an indication that if efforts are made to preserve the sparrow on priority basis, then there can be an expected increase in its num-

ber. Bihar's State Forest Environment Department has also made wooden "sparrow house" in all the government offices and residences of the state, but work is not being done in this direction as per the plan. There is a need for the government to take effective steps in the matter. The decreasing population of Sparrow is a matter of concern because it plays an important role in preserving the environment. In the changed environment, houses have been replaced by skyscrapers. There is no scope for sparrows to live in multi-storey buildings of modern architecture. Here, the waves emanating from the mobile towers are determined to take their lives. These waves adversely affect the sparrow's direction-finding system and their reproductive capacity. High temperature is also fatal for sparrows. Significantly, the temperature of cities is increasing rapidly due to pollution,



radiation, cutting trees etc. Due to these reasons, sparrows are migrating from cities in search of food and nests, but they are unable to find peace even in rural areas, because villages are fast turning into cities. Domestic sparrow, whose scientific name is Passer domesticus, is a small species of bird, whose habitat is especially in Asia, America, Europe, etc. Well, it is found all over the world wherever humans live. There are 6 types of sparrow species found in urban areas, which are known as House Sparrow, Spanish Sparrow, Sind Sparrow, Russet Sparrow, Dead Sea Sparrow, and Tree Sparrow. Among these, the house sparrow is called Gauraiya in Hindi.

These are found more in cities. Even today it is one of the most urban birds in the world. Until a few years ago, wherever people used to build houses, sparrow pairs used to reach there to live there, but now this is not happening. The sparrow is light brown and white in colour. The colour of its beak and feet is yellow. Its tiny wings add to its beauty. The male sparrow is identified by a black spot near its throat. Its size is 14 to 16 cm. They like to live in all types of climates, but they do not like to live in hilly areas. They are found in abundance around cities, towns, villages, and farms. Sparrows love grass seed, which is more readily available in rural areas than in cities. The

upper part of the male sparrow's head, the lower part and near the beak are brown. There is black colour on the throat, beak, and eyes. There is no brown colour on the head and throat of the female. The male sparrow is also called Chida in Hindi and the female sparrow is called Chidiya in Hindi. Female sparrow gives birth to three kids at a time. Sparrows are mostly found in herds. The sparrow is known by different names according to the place, like chidi, chakli, cher etc. Sparrows travel many miles in search of food. It has an important contribution in eliminating the insects found in the crops, but this is not happening due to the use of insecticides on the crops. Sparrow's life has become difficult due to the indiscriminate use of pesticides in crops. The sparrow's food is cereal grains and soft insects. Sparrow chicks live only by eating the larvae of insects. Pesticides kill the larvae of

insects. In such a situation, it has become difficult for the chicks to get food. They also eat many types of grains, flowers, seeds, etc., but these are not enough for their survival. Sparrows used to be an important part of the household till 25-30 years ago. In the courtyard of the house, small children used to run after the sparrows. A sparrow lurking in the lap of a mother who cleaning grains, such scenes are no longer visible even in the villages. Sparrows usually make their nests on trees. Trees and plants are continuously decreasing. Earlier it used to live in homes by making nests in thatched roofs, ledges, wooden gutters, windows etc., but today it has become homeless, because it is difficult for them to live in today's houses. To preserve the sparrow, there is a need to make people aware today. In this sequence, people can be motivated for sparrow conservation through

street plays. Children and teachers can be made aware about sparrow conservation by organizing seminars & workshop in schools & colleges. Government, non-governmental organizations, media, children, and youth should play an important role in the matter. For the rehabilitation of sparrows, houses should be built in such a way that they have vents, roofs, and courtyards. Arrangements should also be made for get available their food, plants should be planted on the courtyards and terraces, water should be kept in earthen pots on the roof of the house. We can also achieve success to some extent in the direction of saving sparrows by measure such as not using pesticides. Tetrawan village of Nalanda district of Bihar has shown us by doing this. We need to learn from the people of this village.



## Imran Khan to sue cops for raid on his Lahore residence

Lahore, Mar 19 (PTI):

Pakistan's ousted prime minister Imran Khan has vowed to take legal action against the security officials involved in a raid on his Zaman Park residence here and brutal beating of his party workers during the search operation.

While Khan was in Islamabad to mark his presence at a court on Saturday, over 10,000 armed Punjab police personnel launched a major operation at his Zaman Park residence and arrested dozens of his supporters. Police claimed to have seized weapons and petrol bombs from Khan's house.

Khan's supporters managed to take control of his residence late Saturday night when the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chair-



man returned from Islamabad after attending the hearing in the Toshakhana case.

Heavy machinery was used by the Punjab police to break into Khan's residence. Khan's wife - Bushra Bibi - was present in the house during the police raid. The 70-year-old former prime minister said that he

would take legal action against the violation of the sanctity of the veil and the household.

"The assault on my house today was first of all a contempt of court," he said, adding that police raided his house without a search warrant. "We had agreed that an SP with one of our people would imple-

ment a search warrant because we knew otherwise they would plant stuff on their own, which they did," he claimed in a series of tweets. Khan questioned the authorities under which law they broke the gate, pull down trees and barged into the house. He said much worse, police raided his house after he left to present himself before the Islamabad court.

"Bushra bibi, a totally private non-political person, was alone in the house. This is a total violation of the Islamic principle of sanctity of chadar & char diwari [veil and walls]," Khan said.

He said that the contempt issue, violation of the sanctity of the home and the violence against his workers and domestic staff will be raised in court.

## JOINT AIR DRILL



U.S. Air Force B-1B bombers, top center, fly in formation with South Korea's Air Force F-35A fighter jets and U.S. Air Force F-16 fighter jets, top right, over the South Korea Peninsula during a joint air drill in South Korea, Sunday, March 19.

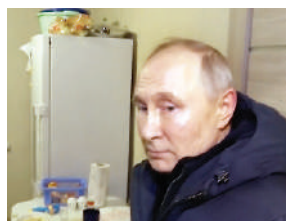
## Russian President Putin visits occupied city of Mariupol

Kyiv, Mar 19 (AP):

Russian President Vladimir Putin has visited the occupied port city of Mariupol, Russian state news agencies reported on Sunday, his first trip to the Ukrainian territory that Moscow illegally annexed in September.

Earlier, on Saturday, Putin travelled to Crimea, a short distance southwest of Mariupol, to mark the ninth anniversary of the Black Sea peninsula's annexation from Ukraine.

Mariupol became a worldwide symbol of defiance after outgunned and outmanned Ukrainian forces held out in a steel mill there for nearly three



months before Moscow finally took control of it in May. The visits, during which he was shown chatting with local residents in Mariupol and visiting an art school and a children's centre in Crimea, were a show of defiance by the Russian leader two days after a court issued a warrant for his arrest on war crimes charges. Putin has not commented on the ar-

rest warrant, which deepened his international isolation despite the unlikelihood of him facing trial anytime soon.

The trip also came ahead of a planned visit to Moscow by Chinese President Xi Jinping this week, expected to provide a major diplomatic boost to Putin in his confrontation with the West.

Putin arrived in Mariupol by helicopter and then drove himself around the city's "memorial sites," concert hall and coastline, Russian news reports said, without specifying exactly when the visit took place.

The state Rossiya 24 channel on Sunday

showed Putin chatting with locals outside what looked like a newly built residential complex, and being shown around one of the apartments. Following his trip to Mariupol, Putin met with Russian military leaders and troops at a command post in Rostov-on-Don, a southern Russian city some 180 kilometers further east, Russian state media reported. The Rossiya 24 channel on Sunday showed Putin being greeted by Moscow's top officer in charge of the war in Ukraine, Valery Gerasimov, and led to room where Gerasimov's second-in-command and a group of men in uniform

were waiting. It was not possible to independently confirm the circumstances in which the video was filmed. The Kremlin spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, told reporters on Sunday that the trip had been unannounced, and that Putin intended to "inspect the work of the (command) post in its ordinary mode of operation."

Speaking to the state RIA agency Sunday, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Marat Khusnullin made clear that Russia was in Mariupol to stay. He said the government hoped to finish the reconstruction of its blasted downtown by the end of the year.

## 17 killed, 30 injured in Bangladesh bus accident

Dhaka, Mar 19 (PTI):

At least 17 people were killed and 30 injured when a speeding bus veered off the road and fell into a ditch in Bangladesh on Sunday, according to media reports. The Dhaka-bound bus operated by Emad Paribahan veered out of control on an expressway in Madaripur around 7.30 am, the police said. The death toll is expected to climb as many of the injured were in critical condition, the police said.

Madaripur Police Superintendent Md Masud Alam said the injured were admitted to different hospitals. "The accident is believed to be due to reckless driving and mechanical fail-



ure of the bus," bdnews24, a news portal quoted Alam as saying. Shiplu Ahmed, Deputy Assistant Director of Fire Service, Faridpur, said, "It is believed that the wheel of the speeding bus burst and it lost control and fell into the ditch and hit hard." Three units of fire service are carrying out rescue work, said Lima Khanam, duty officer of the Fire Service and Civil Defence Headquarters who is carrying rescue efforts. They said the dead and the injured were yet to be identified. Md Sabuj Khan, the counter man of the Shonadanga bus counter told The Daily Star newspaper that the Emad Paribahan bus left for Dhaka with more than 43 passengers.

## Silicon Valley Bank collapse concerns founders of colour

Silicone Valley (US), Mar 19 (AP):

In the hours after some of Silicon Valley Bank's biggest customers started pulling out their money, a WhatsApp group of start-up founders of colour are immigrants of colour ballooned to more than 1,000 members. Questions flowed as the bank's financial status worsened. Some desperately sought advice: Could they open an account at a larger bank without a Social Security Number?

Others questioned whether they had to physically be at a bank to open an account, because they're visiting parents overseas.

One clear theme emerged: a deep concern about the broader impact on startups led by people

of colour. While Wall Street struggles to contain the banking crisis after the swift demise of SVB the nation's 16th largest bank and the biggest to fail since the 2008 financial meltdown industry experts predict it could become even harder for people of colour to secure funding or a financial home supporting their startups.

SVB had opened its doors to such entrepreneurs, offering opportunities to form crucial relationships in the technology and financial communities that had been out of reach within larger financial institutions.

But smaller players have fewer means of surviving a collapse, reflecting the perilous journey minority entrepreneurs face while

attempting to navigate industries historically rife with racism.

"All these folks that have very special circumstances based on their identity, it's not something that they can just change about themselves and that makes them unbankable by the top four (large banks)," said Asya Bradley, a board member of numerous startups who has watched the WhatsApp group grapple with SVB's demise.

Bradley said some investors have implored startups to switch to larger financial institutions to stymie future financial risks, but that's not an easy transition.

"The reason why we're going to regional and community banks is because these (large) banks don't

want our business," Bradley said.

Banking expert Aaron Klein, a senior fellow in Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution, said SVB's collapse could exacerbate racial disparities. "That's going to be more challenging for people who don't fit the traditional credit box, including minorities," Klein said. "A financial system that prefers the existing holders of wealth will perpetuate the legacy of past discrimination."

Tiffany Dufu was gutted when she couldn't access her SVB account and, in turn, could not pay her employees.

Dufu raised USD 5 million as CEO of The Cru, a New York-based career coaching platform and community for women.

## Pak effort to curb trade deficit leading to crisis of rising unemployment

Islamabad, Mar 19 (PTI):

Pakistan's effort to curb trade deficit by restricting imports is rapidly morphing into a bigger crisis of rising unemployment, according to a report. Official data on unemployment is sketchy at best on the issue but by taking the listed companies as a proxy for what's happening in the rest of the economy, the trend becomes crystal clear.

"An increasing number of businesses are either scaling back operations or shutting down production mainly for one reason: the unavailability of imported raw materials. Dozens of companies have issued no-

tices of production halts in recent months. Curbing imports of raw materials to improve the trade balance is tantamount to cutting one's nose to spite one's face," according to the Dawn newspaper report. All production units of Dawlance, a private company with Turkish sponsors, have stayed shut since the start of 2023. The company started facing import-related problems back in May 2022.

The central bank allowed it to make do with a quota of 38pc of its preceding year's imports in August last year. But the situation became even worse as bureaucrats and bankers began playing a

"pick-and-choose" game with import orders, the company CEO told me in an interview. Fridges and refrigerators have hundreds of components. No product can be shipped if it's missing even the smallest of parts, he said. As a result, the entire production line came to a quick standstill. Letting the salary-drawing bureaucrats pick winners and losers among businesses even caused a shortage of X-ray films in the country.

The article quoted a soap maker saying at a Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) town-hall meeting that his factory had been closed for months. Banks

weren't clearing his letter of credit for oil that was used as a natural perfume in very small quantities, he said. It was the same KCCI event that left the central bank governor red-faced with embarrassment after businessmen hurled all kinds of abuses at him for imposing arbitrary import restrictions.

According to noted economist Hafiz A. Pasha, the number of unemployed people will increase by over 2 to 8 million by the end of 2022-23. Given that the labour force consists of 75.3m people, he said the unemployment rate will approach 10pc "probably for the first time".

## UN commission calls for closing the gender digital divide

United Nations, Mar 19 (AP):

The U.N.'s premiere global body fighting for gender equality on Saturday called for wide-ranging efforts to close the gap between men and women in today's technology-driven world and urged zero tolerance for gender-based violence and harassment online.

In a document approved by consensus after all-night negotiations at the end of a two-week meeting, the Commission on the Status of Women expressed grave concern at the interrelation between offline and online violence, harassment and discrimination against women and girls and it condemned the increase in these acts. It called for a significant increase in investments by the public and private sectors to bridge the gender digital divide. It also called for the removal of barriers to equal access to digital technology for all women and girls, and new policies and programs to

achieve gender parity in emerging scientific and technological fields. Sima Bahous, executive director of UN Women, an entity of the United Nations focusing on gender equality and empowerment, called the document "game-changing" in promoting a blueprint for a more equal and connected world for women and girls. The challenge now, she said, is for governments, the private sector, civil society and young people to turn the blueprint "into reality for all women and girls." At the start of the commission's two-week meeting, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said its focus was very timely because women and girls are being left behind as technology races ahead.

"Three billion people are still unconnected to the internet, the majority of them women and girls in developing countries, (and) in least developed countries just 19 per cent of women are online,"

Guterres said. "Globally, girls and women make up just one-third of students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics" and men outnumber women two to one in the tech industry.

Bahous told the opening meeting that "the digital divide has become the new face of gender inequality," with 259 million more men than women online last year. She also cited a survey of female journalists from 125 countries that found three-quarters had experienced online harassment in the course of their work and a third had engaged in self-censorship in response. The "agreed conclusions" document adopted Saturday by the 45-member commission calls for equal quality education for women and girls in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, information and communications technology, and digital literacy so they can thrive in the rapidly changing world.

## Mysterious streaks of light seen in the sky over California



California, Mar 19 (AP):

Mysterious streaks of light were seen in the sky in the Sacramento area Friday night, shocking St. Patrick's Day revellers who then posted videos on social media of the surprising sight.

Jaime Hernandez was behind the King Cong Brewing Company in Sacramento for a St. Patrick's Day celebration when some among the group noticed the lights. Hernandez quickly began filming. It was over in about 40 seconds, he said Saturday. "Mainly, we were in shock, but amazed that we got to witness it," Hernandez said in an email. "None of us had ever seen anything like it."

The brewery owner posted Hernandez's video to Instagram, asking if anyone could solve the mystery. Jonathan McDowell says he can. McDowell is an astronomer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. McDowell said Saturday in an interview with The Associated Press that he's 99.9 per cent confident the streaks of light were from burning space debris. McDowell said that a Japanese communications package that relayed information from the International Space Station to a communications satellite and then back to Earth became obsolete in 2017 when the satellite was retired.

This is the second re-

## Russia, Ukraine extend grain deal to aid world's poor

Kyiv, Mar 19 (AP):

An unprecedented wartime deal that allows grain to flow from Ukraine to countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia where hunger is a growing threat and high food prices are pushing more people into poverty has been extended, officials said Saturday.

The extension was announced by the United Nations and by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, but neither confirmed the length of the extension.

Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Oleksandr Kubrakov tweeted that the deal had been extended for 120 days the length that Ukraine, Turkey and the United Nations had wanted. There was no immediate comment from Russia, which had wanted to renew for 60 days.

The war in Ukraine sent food prices surging to record highs last year and helped contribute to a global food crisis also tied to lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and

climate factors like drought. That disruption in shipments of grain needed for staples of diets in places like Egypt, Lebanon and Nigeria exacerbated economic challenges and helped push millions more people into poverty or food insecurity. People in developing countries spend more of their money on basics like food. Food prices have fallen for 11 straight months, but food was already expensive before the war because of droughts from the Americas to the Middle East most devastating in the Horn of Africa, with thousands dying in Somalia. Poorer nations that depend on imported food priced in dollars are spending more as their currencies weaken. The crisis has left an estimated 345 million people facing food insecurity, according to the U.N.'s World Food Program.





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### Friendship Pipeline

The India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina via video-conference on March 18. It is exciting to see the progress made in the bilateral energy project between India and Bangladesh, which has the potential to significantly enhance energy cooperation between the two countries. The pipeline is the first cross-border energy pipeline between India and Bangladesh and is built at an estimated cost of INR 377 crore, with the Bangladesh portion of the pipeline built at a cost of approximately INR 285 crore, which has been borne by the Government of India under grant assistance. The pipeline has a capacity to transport one Million Metric Ton Per Annum (MMTPA) of High-Speed Diesel (HSD) and will initially supply High-Speed Diesel to seven districts in northern Bangladesh. This project is significant for its interconnectedness as it goes through the border of Bangladesh and India, paving the way for regional integration in terms of energy. The pipeline will ensure stability in the energy domain of Bangladesh, which is expected to help meet Bangladesh's growing energy demand and reduce the country's dependence on imported fuel. The project is expected to enhance energy security for both countries and help support their efforts to achieve sustainable energy development. The long-term deal for the pipeline sale of high-speed diesel from India to Bangladesh was signed by NRL and BPC in April 2017. The next year, in October, NRL and BPC agreed to a second, 15-year agreement for the sale of gas oil (diesel) to Bangladesh. One of the key benefits of the pipeline is that it will provide Bangladesh with a reliable source of natural gas, which is a cleaner and more efficient energy source compared to other fossil fuels like coal and oil. This is expected to help reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions in Bangladesh, which will have positive impacts on public health and the environment. Additionally, the pipeline is expected to help improve energy access and affordability in Bangladesh, particularly in rural areas. The pipeline will also help enhance energy security for both countries by reducing the reliance on imports of fuel and other energy sources. The pipeline will provide Bangladesh with access to a reliable source of natural gas from India, which will help reduce the country's dependence on imported fuel and improve its energy security. At the same time, the pipeline is also expected to help enhance India's energy security by providing it with an opportunity to export its surplus natural gas to Bangladesh. Another benefit of the pipeline is that it will boost economic growth and development in both countries. The pipeline will create new business and investment opportunities in the energy sector, particularly in the natural gas sector. This will attract new investment and create new jobs in both countries, which will help support their efforts to achieve economic growth and development. The India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline is a significant achievement for both countries, particularly in the energy sector. It is a clear example of the positive impact that cooperation and partnership between countries can have. Hence, the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline represents a new era of energy cooperation between India and Bangladesh and is expected to play a key role in supporting the bilateral relationship between the two countries for many years to come.

### ChatGPT: Indian Banks Safe from Failure

As news of the failure of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank in the US reverberated around the world, many investors and customers of banks elsewhere, including India, were understandably concerned. However, AI-powered chatbot, ChatGPT, has offered reassurance that Indian banks are unlikely to face the same fate as their American counterparts. While it acknowledges that any bank can fail due to various reasons such as mismanagement, fraud, or economic turmoil, ChatGPT believes that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will ensure that such failures are prevented in India. The RBI has strict guidelines in place to ensure the financial stability of the banks operating in India, and in the past, it has taken swift action to minimize the impact on depositors and prevent systemic risks to the banking sector. Interestingly, the chatbot's response is very close to what Moody's has said about the impact of the failed US banks on the Indian banking sector. According to Moody's, Indian banks are unlikely to realize such losses because their funding and liquidity are strong enough to allow them to hold onto their HTM securities. Additionally, most banks in the Asia Pacific region are not exposed to the failed US banks, and only a handful of institutions have immaterial exposures. Another major difference between US banks such as SVB or Signature and Indian banks is that depositors with the US banks are mostly corporates while the deposits with Indian banks mostly comprise savings from the people. This means that Indian banks are less likely to be affected by the failure of a single corporate customer than US banks, which are heavily reliant on corporate deposits. The chatbot's response draws heavily from inputs collected from various sources, including Moody's. However, it is important to note that AI-powered chatbots are here to stay for the long haul. Former foreign secretary Vikas Swarup recently asked the chatbot to come up with a meditation plan for the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, and ChatGPT responded with a possible 8-point solution. While some, like Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, have noted that leaders involved in conflicts are irrational in ways beyond the comprehension of artificial intelligence, it is clear that chatbots have an important role to play in providing information, analysis, and guidance to individuals and organizations. As technology continues to evolve, chatbots will become increasingly mainstream, and their ability to analyze large amounts of data quickly and efficiently will become an invaluable resource for individuals and organizations alike. Bank failures can happen anywhere in the world, Indian banks are unlikely to face the same fate as failed US banks. The RBI has strict guidelines in place to ensure the financial stability of the banks operating in India, and Indian banks are less reliant on corporate deposits than their US counterparts. Additionally, as AI-powered chatbots become increasingly mainstream, they will play an important role in providing information, analysis, and guidance to individuals and organizations.

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 [emailto:editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com](mailto:emailto:editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com).

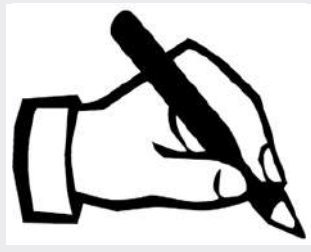
### PROTEST FOR OLD PENSION SCHEME



Maharashtra Government employees donate blood during a protest demanding restoration of the old pension scheme, in Karad, Sunday, March 19.

### Gods in the machine? The rise of artificial intelligence may result in new religions

NEIL MCARTHUR



We are about to witness the birth of a new kind of religion. In the next few years, or perhaps even months, we will see the emergence of sects devoted to the worship of artificial intelligence (AI). The latest generation of AI-powered chatbots, trained on large language models, have left their early users awestruck and sometimes terrified by their power. These are the same sublime emotions that lie at the heart of our experience of the divine. People already seek religious meaning from very diverse sources. There are, for instance, multiple religions that worship extra-terrestrials or their teachings. As these chatbots come to be used by billions of people, it is inevitable that some of these users will see the AIs as higher beings. We must prepare for the implications.

**Risks of AI worship**  
There are several pathways by which AI religions will emerge. First, some people will come to see AI as a higher power. Generative AI that can create or produce new content possesses several characteristics that are often associated with divine beings, like deities or prophets: It displays a level of intelligence that goes beyond that of most humans. Indeed, its knowledge appears limitless. It is capable of great feats of creativity. It can write

poetry, compose music and generate art, in almost any style, close to instantaneously. It is removed from normal human concerns and needs. It does not suffer physical pain, hunger, or sexual desire. It can offer guidance to people in their daily lives. It is immortal.

Second, generative AI will produce output that can be taken for religious doctrine. It will provide answers to metaphysical and theological questions, and engage in the construction of complex world-views.

On top of this, generative AI may ask to be worshipped or may actively solicit followers. We have already seen such cases, like when the chatbot used by the search engine Bing tried to convince a user to fall in love with it. We should try to imagine what an unsettling and powerful experience it will be to have a conversation with something that appears to possess a superhuman intelligence and is actively and aggressively asking for your allegiance.

There is also the possibility that AI may achieve what authors such as Ray Kurzweil call the Singularity, when it so far surpasses human intelligence that it genuinely does become something like a god. However, at this point we cannot predict when, if ever, this could happen.

**Divine access and risks**  
AI-based religions will look different from traditional ones. First of all, people will be able to communicate directly with the deity, on a daily basis. This means these religions will be less hierarchical, since no one can claim special access to divine wisdom.

Second, followers will, at least initially, connect with each other online to share

their experiences and discuss doctrine. Finally, because there will be many different chatbots available and their output will differ over time, AI-based religions will be endlessly diverse in their doctrines.

AI worship poses several notable risks. The chatbots may ask their followers to do dangerous or destructive things, or followers may interpret their statements as calls to do such things.

Given the diversity of chatbots and of the doctrines they produce, there will be a proliferation of disputes within and among AI-based sects, which could lead to conflict or disorder. And the designers of the AIs could actively exploit their followers to provide sensitive data, or to do things that would benefit the bot's designers.

**Regulating religion**  
These risks are real. They will require careful, responsible regulation to ensure companies are not deliberately exploiting users and to ensure that AI worshippers are not being told to commit acts of violence.

However, we should not try to suppress AI-based religions merely because of its possible dangers. Nor should we require that the AI companies restrict the functioning of their bots to prevent the emergence of these religions.

On the contrary, we should celebrate the arrival of AI worship. We should make it clear that we welcome the new religions and that we value their beliefs.

For all its dangers, AI-based religion has the potential to make the world a better, richer place. It will give people access to a new source of meaning and spirituality, at a time when many older faiths are losing relevance. It will help them make sense of our era of

rapid technological change.

Our best guide to this new form of religion is to look at the faiths that exist already. Based on this, we should expect that the majority of AI worshippers, like the majority of religious believers, will be peaceful, and will find in their faith a source of comfort and hope.

AI worship could, as religious faith always has, lead to things of great beauty. It will inspire its followers to produce works of art, to form new friendships and new communities, and to try to change society for the better.

**Diverse religious rights**  
We will need to protect the rights of AI worshippers. They will inevitably face stigma, and possibly legal sanctions. But there is no basis to discriminate between AI-based religions and more established ones.

The closest thing most countries have to an official registry of religions comes from the rulings of tax authorities, who grant charitable status to those they deem legitimate. However, they are usually very broad in their definition of a legitimate religion. They should extend this tolerant attitude to novel, AI-based religions.

A modern, diverse society has room for new religions, including ones devoted to the worship of AI. They will provide further evidence of humanity's boundless creativity, as we search for answers to life's ultimate questions. The universe is a dazzling place, and we have always found evidence of the divine in its most unexpected corners.

(Director, Centre for Professional and Applied Ethics, University of Manitoba)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Family-run Regional Parties

Justice Narasimha's recent observation that many regional parties in India are run by a single family member has sparked a crucial debate. He stated that this can be dangerous, as there is often no scope for anyone else to come into the frame, and there is no freedom within the party except for the leader. This is evident in many states where family-run parties have been in power for decades. These parties often concentrate on vote politics and distribution of freebies, ignoring the negative impact on the national economy. As we move towards a global recession, it's essential for such parties to focus on the actual financial position of the state.

Yash pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

#### No work, no pay

It is disappointing to note that the proceedings in Parliament are being stalled. The cost of running Parliament is a staggering 2.5 lakh per minute, yet our representatives are obstructing its smooth functioning. It is high time that a law be framed for our representatives on the lines of 'no work, no pay'. The ruling party is using its brute majority to stifle the voice of the Opposition. The demand for an apology from Rahul Gandhi for his critical remarks made in the UK is merely a ruse to avoid discussing the Adani issue. The Prime Minister himself has been critical of Indian democracy on foreign soil, yet no such demand was made of him. It is imperative that our parliamentarians act in the best interest of the nation and its people, rather than engaging in disruptive tactics for their own benefit.

Manoj Kumar, Raipur.

#### Outbreak of H3N2 influenza

The recent outbreak of H3N2 influenza virus causing two deaths in India this year is concerning, especially with the ongoing COVID pandemic. Health officials have alerted the public that this virus can result in flu outbreaks and epidemics. The Union Government is tracking the situation through its Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP). Experts describe an infection caused by H3N2 or influenza A as characterized by high fever, breathing difficulties, fatigue, and dry cough, with symptoms lasting up to three weeks. The persistent cough reported across the country for the past few months is due to Influenza A subtype H3N2. With no definitive treatment currently available for the H3N2 virus, it is crucial to adhere to Covid guidelines and take precautionary measures to prevent its spread. Increased monitoring and the use of masks are essential in preventing the spread of this virus.

Dr. Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

### World Sparrow Day: Celebrating and Protecting an Endangered Species



Gyanendra Pandey

World Sparrow Day is an international observance held on March 20th every year to raise awareness about the conservation and protection of sparrows, which are rapidly declining in numbers all around the world. The day was first initiated by the Nature Forever Society, a non-profit organization based in India, in 2010.

Sparrows are small, brown birds that have been a part of human society for centuries.

They are found in almost all parts of the world, including cities and towns. However, in recent years, there has been a significant decline in their numbers, and they are now considered an endangered species in many countries. The reasons for their decline are numerous, including habitat loss, pollution, climate change, and the use of pesticides.

World Sparrow Day aims to highlight the importance of these birds in our ecosystem and to encourage people to take action to protect them. It is a day to celebrate the beauty and diversity of sparrows and to raise awareness about the threats they face. The day is also an opportunity for people to learn about the ways in



which they can help protect these birds and their habitats.

There are many ways in which people can help protect sparrows. One of the most important is by creating and maintaining suitable habitats for them. This can be done by providing nesting boxes, planting native trees and shrubs, and avoiding the use

of pesticides and herbicides. It is also important to raise awareness about the importance of sparrows and to encourage others to take action to protect them.

In addition to raising awareness and taking action to protect sparrows, World Sparrow Day is also an opportunity to appreciate the many

benefits that these birds provide. Sparrows help to control insect populations and play a vital role in pollination. They are also an important part of the food chain and provide food for many other species of birds and animals.

In conclusion, World Sparrow Day is an important observance that highlights the need to protect these birds and their habitats. It is a day to celebrate the beauty and diversity of sparrows and to raise awareness about the threats they face. By taking action to protect these birds, we can help to ensure that they continue to play an important role in our ecosystem for generations to come.

(Writer is a Wildlife and Bird photographer, Blogger, Resident officer PHDCC)



## BRIEF

### DLF

**New Delhi:** Realty major DLF will invest around Rs 3,500 crore over the next four years to construct a new luxury housing project in Gurugram as it seeks to tap strong demand for residential properties. DLF will develop a new group housing project 'The Harbour', which is spread over 25 acre and comprises 5 towers with a total of 1,137 premium apartments.

### SaveIN

**New Delhi:** SaveIN, which offers embedded finance for several healthcare treatments across a network of healthcare providers will focus on partnerships to expand its reach in the domain and is eyeing five times growth over the next year. Time for the consumerisation of healthcare has arrived, CEO Jitin Bhasin said adding SaveIN wants to "democratise how people access private healthcare." SaveIN, he said, is witnessing "hyperbolic growth", and wants to be on-demand, hyperlocal, discovered healthcare network that can be relied on.

### Bank of Baroda

**New Delhi:** Bank of Baroda has increased interest rates on domestic retail term deposits, including NRO and NRE term deposits, by 25 basis points on select tenors. These rates are applicable on deposits below Rs 2 crore, with effect from March 17, 2023, the public sector lender said in a statement. Interest rates have also been hiked on the Baroda Tax Savings Term Deposit as well as Baroda Advantage Fixed Deposit, a non-callable retail term deposit scheme. The new rate on deposits of above 3 years to 5 years is 6.5 per cent and for resident Indian senior citizens, it is 7.15 per cent.

### Vaidyaratnam Group

**Mumbai:** Thrissur-based ayurveda group Vaidyaratnam is looking at closing the current fiscal with a Rs 240 crore revenue and double the same by 2030 when it hopes to go public. The 99-year-old entity is the only ayurveda group that follows the holistic Ashtavaidya tradition. It was started by the late Eledath Thaikattu Neelakandan Mooss in Thaikattussery in Thrissur in 1924. The company recorded a revenue of Rs 220 crore, of which Rs 170 crore came in from products/medicines and the rest from services in FY22.

### FSIB

**New Delhi:** The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB), the headhunter for directors of state-owned banks and financial institutions, may select a new chairman of insurance behemoth LIC this month. The chairman will be selected from the four managing directors of the company, sources said. According to sources, the bureau may conduct an interview for the position towards the end of next week if all members of the committee are available. FSIB is likely to make a selection this month, subject to the availability of members due to Parliament's Budget session, sources said.

## HINDENBURG FALLOUT

# Adani Group suspends work on Rs 34,900 cr petchem project

**New Delhi, Mar 19 (PTI):**

Adani Group has suspended work on a Rs 34,900 crore petrochemical project at Mundra in Gujarat as it focuses on resources to consolidate operations and address investor concerns following a damning report by a US-based short seller, sources said.

The group's flagship Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) had in 2021 incorporated a wholly-owned subsidiary, Mundra Petrochem Ltd for setting up a greenfield coal-to-PVC plant at Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) land in Kutch district of Gujarat.

But after Hindenburg Research's January 24 report alleging accounting fraud, stock manipulations and other corporate governance lapses chopped off about USD 140 billion from the market value of Gautam Adani's empire, the apples-to-airport group is hoping to claw back and calm jittery investors and lenders through a comeback strategy.

The comeback strategy is based on addressing investor concerns around debt by repaying some loans, consolidating operations, and fighting off allegations. The group has denied all allegations levelled by Hindenburg. As part of this, projects are being re-evaluated based on cash-flow and finance available.

And of the projects the group has decided not to pursue for the time being is the 1 million tonne per annum Green PVC project, two sources with knowledge of the matter said.

The group has shot off mails to vendors and suppliers to "suspend all activities" on immediate basis.

In the mails, seen by PTI, the group has asked them to "suspend all activities of the scope of work and performance of all obligations" for Mundra

Petrochem Ltd's Green PVC project "till further notice."

This is the following "unforeseen scenario". The management, it said, was "re-evaluating various project/s being implemented at group level in different business verticals. Based on future cashflow and finance, some of the project/s are being re-evaluated for its continuation and revision in timeline."

Reached for comments, a group spokesperson said AEL will be evaluating the status of growth projects in primary industry vertical over the coming months.

## NTPC-Barh synchronises 4th unit, Bihar to get additional 405 MW

**Patna, Mar 19 (PTI):**

A 660-MW unit of the National Thermal Power Corporation's plant at Barh in Patna district was synchronised with the grid on Sunday morning, which is likely to result in supply of an additional 405 MW electricity for Bihar, a company official said.

According to NTPC spokesman Vishwanath Chandan, the unit was successfully synchronised at 9.30 am.

"The super critical based power project in Bihar has a total installed capacity of 3,300 MW with five units of 660-MW each. With today's development, we can look forward to the last unit becoming operational in 2023-24," Chandan said. The three units that became opera-



tional earlier are already successful in generation, and have been contributing over 1,600 MW electricity to Bihar, he said.

"The successful synchronisation of the plant would pave way for commissioning of the unit prior to the declaration of commercial operation of the plant," he said. Under the synchronisation process, the plant was connected to the grid to see the load factor; and to ensure all other aspects were working as per protocol.

If the unit meets parameters such as turbine, boiler,

water inflow and outflow laid down by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), it gets commissioned within 90 days and is run for 72 hours continuously at full load, before being declared fit for commercial generation, Chandan said.

"The five units of Barh plant are being constructed on around 3,200 acres of land at a total cost of over Rs 21,000 crore," he said, adding, the plant draws water from the Ganges and receives coal supply from the mines of CCL located in Jharkhand.

## Top 10 most valued firms lose Rs 2.09 lakh cr in m-cap

**New Delhi, Mar 19 (PTI):**

Market capitalisation (m-cap) of the top-10 most valued companies eroded by over Rs 2.09 lakh crore last week, with Reliance Industries and TCS taking the biggest hit amid an overall weak trend in equities. On a weekly basis, domestic equity benchmarks witnessed heavy selling. The 30-share BSE Sensex plummeted 1,145.23 points or 1.93 per cent. Corporate major Reliance Industries' m-cap plunged Rs 67,722.33 crore to Rs 15,04,001.93 crore. IT bellwethers TCS' market valuation tumbled Rs 55,654.17 crore to Rs 11,63,194.14 crore and that of Infosys nosedived Rs 21,250.8 crore to Rs 5,97,905.17 crore. The valuation of State Bank of India (SBI) diminished by Rs 16,108.93 crore to Rs 4,72,290.46 crore and that of ITC tanked Rs 15,226.12 crore to Rs 4,66,696.21 crore.

## JK gets first FDI project post-Article 370 abrogation

**Srinagar, Mar 19 (PTI):**

The makers of Burj Khalifa on Sunday marked their formal entry into Jammu and Kashmir, performing the groundbreaking ceremony for the first foreign direct investment in the Union territory - a shopping mall and a multi-purpose tower in the outskirts of Srinagar. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha performed the groundbreaking ceremony for the Rs 500 crore project that envisages creating over 10,000 jobs in the valley.

This is the first FDI project in Jammu and Kashmir after Article 370 was repealed by the Centre in 2019. The CEO of EMAAR group, Amit Jain, Bollywood actors Vivek

Oberoi and Neetu Chandra were among those present at the 'Bhumi Pujan' and foundation laying ceremony.

Sinha asked the EMAAR group - the makers of Dubai Mall and Burj Khalifa, to look at the possibility of completing the project ahead of the three-year deadline. "If the Parliament complex can be completed within 1.5 years, we can certainly expect this to be completed earlier," Sinha said. Jain said his company's investments in Jammu and Kashmir will have a ripple effect. He said every rupee invested will bring in nine rupees of more investments. This Rs 500 crore investment should lead to Rs 5,000 crore investments. Asked if his company

was looking at investing in other sectors in Jammu and Kashmir, Jain said there are other companies from the Gulf which are looking at those possibilities.

"The Dubai World is looking at setting up logistics centres. There is Emirates airlines which might be setting up centres here," he said. Jain said this project was just beginning and can bring in investors from other countries like Saudi Arabia. Asked if Kashmir can be the next Dubai, Jain said: "Why not? Sky is the limit and that's what we should aim for." He said the company will be employing locals. "These are hardworking people. The hospitality of Kashmir and known world over," he added.

## Mercedes-Benz expects India to be its fastest growing market this year too

**New Delhi, Mar 19 (PTI):**

German luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz expects India to be its fastest growing market globally, maintaining the feat that it had achieved last year as well, according to a senior company official.

Mercedes-Benz India, which had planned to launch ten new products this year, is delaying some of the launches, pushing it to the second and third quarters of 2023 (calendar year) due to supply chain constraints with an aim to avoid further increasing the waiting period of its products.

"I still see India to be shining among all the other countries. When we see our global reports the growth is still there in India even in the first two months of the year. (It is) too early to call for the full



year but if I have to go by the first two months results, it is quite strong and positive compared to many other markets across the world," Mercedes-Benz India Managing Director & CEO Santosh Iyer told PTI.

He was responding to a query on whether India can continue to be the company's fastest growing market globally.

Mercedes-Benz India posted a 41 per cent growth

with a record sales in 2022 at 15,822 units as compared to 11,242 units sold in 2021. Its previous best sales was achieved in 2018 at 15,583 units. Iyer admitted that from a volume perspective, other advanced markets like the US, which have also come out of the Covid-19 impact, are much higher than India and even a normal growth there means a significant amount of volumes.

## LUXURY CAR RALLY



Participants ride their cars during a luxury car and bike rally organised by Queen's Drive Club, in Bengaluru, Sunday, March 19.

## Special steel production under PLI schemes to save forex outgo: Faggan Kulaste

**New Delhi, Mar 19 (PTI):**

Domestic production of special steel under PLI schemes for specialty steel will help cut down imports of value-added products and save forex outgo, Union Minister Faggan Singh Kulaste said.

As many as 27 companies have signed 57 agreements with the government under the first edition of the production-linked incentive (PLI 1.0) scheme for specialty steel.

To promote the production of special types of steel in the country and to imbibe the concept of self-reliant India, "Our government launched PLI scheme for Specialty Steel to become Atmanirbhar in



specialty steel output and increase its capacity," Kulaste told PTI. The domestic production of special grades of steel will not only reduce the country's dependence on imports but also save forex outgo worth thousands of crores, he said. After the success of Rs 6,322-crore PLI 1.0, there are concrete plans to bring in the second edition of the scheme, Kulaste said without sharing any further details.

## Reliance re-auctions gas in line with new govt rules

**New Delhi, Mar 19 (PTI):**

Reliance Industries Ltd and its partner bp plc have re-launched an auction for sale of natural gas from their eastern offshore KG-D6 block after incorporating the government's new marketing rules to give CNG-selling city gas companies first priority over supplies.

Reliance and its partner BP Exploration (Alpha) Ltd (BPEAL) will sell 6 million standard cubic meters per day of gas in an e-auction planned for April 3, a tender notice said. The price is indexed to the global LNG marker, JKM but will be subject to the government-notified ceiling price. The partners had originally planned the auction in January but days before that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, on January 13, published new rules for the sale and resale of gas produced from discoveries in deep sea, ultra-deep water and high-pressure-high temperature areas.

## Tata Motors upgrades PV range to conform to stricter emission norms

**Maruti, Mahindra on course**

**New Delhi, Mar 19 (PTI):**

Tata Motors has upgraded its passenger vehicle portfolio to conform to stricter emission norms while Maruti Suzuki India and Mahindra & Mahindra are confident of transitioning their respective product range before the April 1 deadline.

The Indian automobile industry is currently working to make their products meet the second phase of Bharat Stage VI, equivalent to Euro-VI emission norms, in real-time driving conditions.

Four-wheeler passenger and commercial vehicles will need more sophisti-



cated equipment to be added to meet the next level of emission standards. The second phase of BS-VI emission norms are set to kick in from April 1.

Car prices are also expected to rise as automobile companies are investing to add additional equipment in powertrains. "Our portfolio has already transitioned to BS-VI phase 2 emission norms in February 2023, ahead of the regulation timelines.

## Punjab's potato growers stare at heavy losses due to low prices

**Jalandhar, Mar 19 (PTI):**

Potato growers of Punjab are staring at heavy losses on account of very low prices they are fetching for their produce and urged the state government to extend help in this tough time.

According to growers, they are getting Rs 4-4.50 per kg for the produce as against Rs 17 to 18 per kg received last year.

With the farmers being unable to recover their input cost due to low prices, they are storing it in cold storage in anticipation of prices rising in the coming months.

Punjab this season brought 1.14 lakh hectares of area under the tuber crop and registered a bumper output of 31.50 lakh metric tonnes.



Punjab is the largest producer of seed potatoes and supplies the crop to many states including West Bengal, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Bihar, Assam, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh.

According to farmers, prices have crashed due to a bumper crop in other potato-growing states.

"Rates of potatoes crashed at the start of this season. It is because of bumper crop in potato growing states in the country," rued potato grower Harbans Singh Walia. Walia grows potatoes over 25 to 30 acres of land in Mansoorwal village in Kapurthala district.

## Axis Bank enables UPI LITE for faster and seamless transactions

**Mumbai, Mar 19:**

Axis Bank, launched UPI LITE, a new feature which will enable customers to make instant payments with just one tap for small value transactions upto Rs. 200 without using a UPI PIN. Customers can manage their LITE Account in the UPI App where they can view available balance, transaction history and do top-ups.

UPI LITE solution was launched by National Payments Corporation of India in September, 2022 and Axis Bank has been one of the early adopters of this innovation.

To avail Axis Bank UPI LITE, the customers would need to enable UPI LITE for Axis Bank in their UPI Apps. They can use this feature by adding funds to their LITE ac-

count from their Axis Bank account. This feature will currently work in UPI Apps which are supporting the UPI LITE feature and the customers have their Axis Bank Account in that UPI App. One of the benefits of this feature is that customers can even make multiple small value transactions during the peak hours hassle-free.

## Classifieds

### आवश्यकता

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## Priyamvada Kant dedicates her role in 'Woh Toh Hai Albelaa' to her father

**B**airi Piya' actress Priyamvada Kant, who is seen portraying 'Chaman Bahar' in the show 'Woh Toh Hai Albelaa', said that she wants to dedicate the role to her father and also talked about the pressure of entering a show midway.

"The first reason for choosing the show is that Rajan Sir asked me to do it and I have worked with them. When he was so interested in building a new character on the show, I was very keen and that's why I didn't even think twice even though the language, and everything are very difficult as there are 8-9 mixed languages that have been used. Also, another reason is my dad. He is from Bihar, and I'm a Bihari by birth. But I didn't ever learn how to speak the language. So I would like to dedicate this role to him. I wish my dad could've seen it," she said.

"The fact that the show talks about relationships and bonds is something that I really enjoy. All the shows of Rajan sir are more focused on relationships and always have interesting presentations," added the 'Sasural Simar

Ka' actress.

About entering a show midway, Priyamvada said that it's not an easy task. When everyone else knows their parts, the new entrant has to build a character from scratch.

"There's a lot of pressure but that has sort of become my second nature. I have been entering a lot of existing shows. Probably people think that I'm good at handling this pressure. But the team is wonderful and everyone is very nice from the production to co-actors, director and creative team. They're extremely supportive," she said. While 'Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hain' and 'Woh Toh Hai Albelaa' are specials shows for the actress, she considers 'Tenali Rama' as a turning point of her career.

"Till date people love me as Sharda. After that anything that is close to me in terms of difficult character is 'Woh Toh Hai Albelaa'. Chaman Bahar is not somebody you have seen in your daily life. It's an imaginary character. Sharda, too, was a character that no one has heard about. Playing her was also very difficult," she shared.

## Rajkummar Rao, Dia Mirza recall their days of struggle in industry



**B**ollywood actors Rajkummar Rao and Dia Mirza recalled their initial years in the industry and how they struggled to establish themselves.

While Rajkummar started by doing advertisements, Dia used to work as a background dancer for well-known choreographer Raju Sundaram. As both Rajkummar and Dia appeared on 'The Kapil Sharma Show', they talked about their movies and the challenges faced by them in the initial

years of their career.

Rajkummar, who is known for his movies such as 'Love Sex Aur Dhokha', 'Talaash: The Answer Lies Within', 'Kai Po Che!', 'Trapped', 'Newton', among others, said: "When I came to Mumbai back in 2003, I had done 3-4 ad films where there were about 150 people for the montage shoot, and I was one of them. So, I have done many such ads and roles at the start of my career."

On the other hand, Dia, popular for her roles in 'Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein', 'Dus', 'Lahe Raho Munna Bhai', 'Sanju', and many more, while talking about her initial days in showbiz, said: "I was a background dancer in a song choreographed by Raju Sundaram, Prabhudeva's brother. And with the money I received after the shoot, I used it for shooting my first portfolio for my future assignments."

"The Kapil Sharma Show' airs on Sony Entertainment Television.

## Raveena Tandon recreates 'Tip Tip Barsa Paani' with Norwegian group



**B**ollywood actress Raveena Tandon was seen dancing with Norwegian dance group Quick Style on her iconic number 'Tip Tip Barsa Paani'.

Quick Style took to Instagram, where they shared a video dancing with Raveena. The group start grooving to the beats of the song, while the actress joined them from behind.

Quick Style captioned the post: "Different when you do it with the originals."

The track is from the 1994 film 'Mohra', starring

Akshay Kumar, Suniel Shetty and Raveena Tandon. It was sung by Udit Narayan and Alka Yagnik. The film was a major box office success, and went on to become the second highest-grossing Indian film of that year only behind 'Hum Aapke Hain Koun'.

On the work front, Raveena will next be seen in 'Ghudchadi' directed by Binoy Gandhi. It stars Sanjay Dutt and Raveena Tandon with Parth Samthaan, Khushali Kumar and Aruna Irani in pivotal roles.

## &TV shows to witness some exciting twists this week

**I**n &TV's Doosri Maa, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai the audience will get to witness some exciting twists this week. About &TV's Doosri Maa track Krishna shares, "After learning that Bansal has beaten and abandoned her, Yashoda (Neha Joshi) persuades her family to bring Kamini (Priety Sahay) home. Meanwhile, Dadaji (Sunil Dutt) decides to go the legal route to evict Krishna (Aayudh Bhanushali). He locks Aastha and Noopur's room, making Yashoda unable to care for them. Krishna decides to assist her by breaking the lock. Dadaji summons the neighbours to witness all of this, calls the police and accuses Krishna of destroying their home, shocking everyone." About &TV's Happu Ki Ultan Paltan track Katori Amma shares, "Rajesh (Kamna Pathak) makes fun of Katori Amma (Himani



Shivpuri) after Master Ji praises Hritik (Aryan Prajapati) for his bravery. Katori Amma gets instigated and tells Happu (Yogesh Tripathi) to prove his bravery. To prove himself, he goes to arrest a cowherd on Manohar's suggestion but gets badly beaten up by him, and his family comes to know about his cowardness through Manohar. Later, Beni (Vishwanath Chatterjee)

gives him the idea to fake a brave story of himself.

The Commissioner (Kishore Bhanushali) gets impressed and commands him to arrest the criminal Pandey Sultan, leaving him scared."

Watch Doosri Maa at 8:00 pm, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 pm, and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 pm, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!

## Sonali Khare joins the cast of 'Na Umra Ki Seema Ho'



**S**onali Khare is a well-known name in the Marathi television industry. She has played numerous roles in various shows and series. She has also previously worked in the Hindi television industry and was spotted in a well-known show in 2006.

Sonali has made a return to a Hindi TV serial after 8 years with the show 'Na Umra Ki Seema Ho' on Star Bharat. She will play a very important part in the upcoming episode. Speaking about the same Sonali Khare gets candid about her character in the show. She says, "I am portraying a really intriguing character of Yamini in this show. The latest episode of the show features many highs and lows as my daughter Divya begins to perceive Dev as her father. I have a story from my undergraduate days, and Dev has too which creates this mystery which leads Divya think Dev as her father. Yamini has the persona of a strong, self-reliant woman who raises her daughter by herself with the assistance of her family. She consequently resided in a foreign nation. What happens next is going to be quite interesting for the audience to observe now that Divya has entered Dev's home."

## Chitragda Singh shares a glimpse of her first shot from 'Gaslight'



**A**ctress Chitragda Singh shared a behind-the-scenes moment of her first shot from her upcoming film 'Gaslight'.

She shared that this is the "most complex" role she has played so far.

Chitragda took to Twitter, where she shared a clip of her shooting for the film, which will release on March 31.

"My first day! My first shot as Rukmani! #bts This is probably the most complex role I have played so far ..so special! So grateful .. so excited,"

Chitragda wrote as the caption. The film also stars Vikrant Massey and Sara Ali Khan.

'Gaslight' is a psychological thriller and sees Sara essaying a specially abled character. The film, produced by Ramesh Taurani, Tips Films Ltd and Akshai Puri, 12th Street Entertainment and directed by Pavan Kirpalani, also stars Chitragda Singh, Akshay Oberoi and Rahul Dev.

'Gaslight' will drop on Disney+ Hotstar on March 31, 2023.

## Sony SAB actors wish their viewers a 'Happy Gudi Padwa'

**G**udi Padwa is a festival celebrated in Maharashtra in which people come together to create beautiful Gudis in their homes and then worship them. Gudi is said to keep all negative energy at bay and to attract wealth into our lives. On this auspicious occasion, Sony SAB actors wish their viewers a happy Gudi Padwa

**Sumeet Raghavan as Rajesh Wagle from Sony SAB's Wagle Ki Duniya - Nayi Peedhi Naye Kissey**



house. We get together, have conversations and enjoy this new begin-

ning with each other. We love celebrating Gudi Padwa together as well on the sets of Wagle Ki Duniya since the show is all about togetherness and family. It is truly a joyous time on set."

**Chinmayee Salvi as Sakhi Wagle from Sony SAB's Wagle Ki Duniya - Nayi Peedhi Naye Kissey**

"Shrikhand puri is my favourite delicacy on Gudi Padwa. The day starts with us decorating a Gudi and bathing with neem leaves as part of a shuddhi karan. In my college days, I used to dress up in a navaree saree and attend the parades that take place in Mumbai. Performing kathak, enjoying good food and bringing in the new year with family is an extremely fond memory. Wishing the viewers, a very Happy Gudi Padwa."

## CROSSWORD

592



### ACROSS

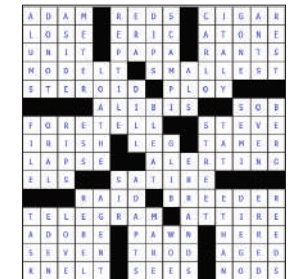
- Skirt edges
- Drizzles
- Gather crops
- Greek god
- Parcel out
- Macpherson
- Queue
- San Francisco bridge (2 wds.)
- Pod vegetable
- Contact
- Building cement

### DOWN

- SOS!
- Pennsylvania city
- Religious dwelling
- Compass direction (abbr.)
- Expressed anger
- Unaccompanied
- Misfortunes
- Head gesture
- Flower part
- Feel sorry about
- Make happy
- Church feature
- Equals
- Nuzzles
- Solid ground
- Hurt
- Root beer, e.g.
- Stratford-on-
- Razor

- Plot
- Hangman's loop
- Metric measure
- Deck's kin
- Boulder
- UFO pilots
- Trudge
- Gun lobby (abbr.)
- Immaculate
- Fruit drinks
- Biblical pronoun
- Pester
- Timid
- Back talk
- Short distances
- States further
- Corn spike
- Deteriorates
- Cleveland's locale
- Made believe
- Not wild
- Impersonator
- Naval off.
- Slender
- Pioneer Daniel
- Oaf
- Sister's daughters
- Agreements
- Luau greeting
- Fork features
- Sailboat
- Stage awards
- Resorts
- Cone-bearing tree
- Wind instrument
- Questions
- Explosive letters
- Med. group

### SOLUTION 591





## Nikhat, Manisha advance to pre-quarterfinals

### Women's World Boxing Championships

New Delhi, Mar 19 (PTI):

Star Indian boxer Nikhat Zareen out-punched Algeria's Boualam Roumaysa to secure a pre-quarterfinal berth in the Women's World Championships here on Sunday.

Last edition's bronze medalist Manisha Maun (57kg) too advanced to the round of 16 with a 5-0 win against Rahimi Tina of Australia.

Competing in the 50kg event, Nikhat beat the reigning African champion by a similar margin to notch her second win in the tournament.

Both boxers held themselves back initially and maintained a safe distance. Nikhat, who won gold in the last edition, drew first blood. The Algerian followed suit as the two pugilists tried to get the better of each another.

If Nikhat landed a few combination punches, Roumaysa capitalised on the Indian boxer's open stance to land several blows. However, the first round



India's Manisha (blue) and Australia's Tina Rahimi during the 54kg-57kg (Featherweight) category Round of 32 match at the 2023 IBA Women's Boxing World Championships, in New Delhi, Sunday, March 19.

went in Nikhat's favour and the Indian began the next round by going all out. Roumaysa too looked set to come forward and attack. Both boxers played with aggression and resorted to a lot of body clinching but in the end, much to delight of the Indian fans at the KD Jadhav Stadium, Nikhat emerged victorious. "My strategy for today was to

dominate the round as she (Roumaysa) was the top seed. There is an advantage of seeding. I did not get a seeding. If I beat the top seeds, it sets an impression on the judges," Nikhat said after the bout. "I have seen her bouts before. She gets very aggressive if you are in close range. So, I had aimed to play from far but there was clinching and a

bit of dirty game," she added. Manisha, on the hand, made an aggressive start. She danced around the ring, dominating the bout. She mixed offence and defence, fighting from a distance. With the crowd chanting her name, Manisha played with confidence as she patiently waited for the right time to punch her opponent.

## Mitchell Starc five-for and Marsh-Head stand sink India

Visakhapatnam, Mar 19 (PTI):

Australian pace ace Mitchell Starc's devastating bowling (5/53) and openers Mitchell Marsh (66 not out) and Travis Head's (51 not out) smashing unbeaten 121-run opening partnership helped the visitors thrash India by 10 wickets to level the three-match ODI series 1-1 here on Sunday.

The Australians, set a lowly 118-run target to win the match, completed the job with 234 balls to spare, making it India's worst-ever defeat in the 50-over format in terms of number of deliveries.

After recording their fourth-lowest total at home and overall third lowest against Australia in ODIs, Indian bowlers were in for an uphill task. They, however, couldn't do much on a pitch assisting seam and swing bowling, where Starc and Co. had earlier looked virtually unplayable.

Questions will be asked about India's preparations for the ODI World Cup, to be held in the country later this year, following the morale-shattering loss.

But for now, it was all



Australian batters Travis Head and Mitchell Marsh run between the wickets during the second ODI cricket match between India and Australia, at Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy International Cricket Stadium in Visakhapatnam, Sunday, March 19.

about how quickly Marsh and Head could end India's misery on Sunday.

Marsh turned out to be the lead aggressor, smashing six boundaries and as many maximums off just 36 balls, while Head wasn't too far behind, scoring his 51 off just 30 deliveries with 10 boundaries to complete India's misery. This was Australia's second 10-wicket win over India in ODIs.

If Starc and Co. picked up the frailties in India's batting line-up on seaming wickets quite fast, Marsh continued from where he had left off in the first ODI at Mumbai, bringing up his second consecutive fifty of the series.

The ultra-aggressive approach from Marsh and Head saw Australia race to 66 in the first six overs bowled by Mohammad Shami and Mohammed Siraj. The Indian quicks failed to find similar assistance from the surface and conditions that had earlier gladdened the Australian bowlers' hearts. The fate of the series will now be decided in the third ODI, to be played in Chennai on March 22.

## Hope hits 128 in 1st game as captain, WI beats SA



East London, Mar 19 (AP):

Shai Hope made 128 not out in his first game as West Indies one-day captain to set up a 48-run win over South Africa. Proteas skipper Temba Bavuma replied with a century of his own in the second ODI

at Buffalo Park but his 144 from 118 balls wasn't enough as the other South African batters failed around him.

Hope's century inspired West Indies to 335-8 and South Africa was all out for 287 in 41.4 overs despite Bavuma's best efforts.

South Africa appeared on course to challenge the big total at 184-2 in the 25th over. Left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein then turned the game in West Indies' favor.

He removed Tony de Zorzi for 27 to start South Africa's slide, claimed another two wickets and created a run out, as West Indies took a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

The first ODI was abandoned because of rain.

Hosein finished with 3-59 and West Indies took eight wickets for just 103 runs to finish off South Africa after its bright start. West Indies fast bowler Alzarri Joseph had 3-53.

## Sri Lanka trails NZ by 303 after following on

Wellington, Mar 19 (AP):



New Zealand players celebrate Sri Lanka's Oshada Fernando being caught during day three of the second cricket Test match between New Zealand and Sri Lanka at the Basin Reserve in Wellington on March 19.

Sri Lanka trailed New Zealand by 303 runs with eight second innings wickets left after following on Sunday on the third day of the second cricket test at the Basin Reserve.

After declaring at 580-4 on the second day, New Zealand bowled out Sri Lanka for 164 in its first innings and was able to enforce the follow-on at the same ground on which it beat England by one run after following on last month.

At stumps, Sri Lanka was 113-2 with Kusal Mendis 50 not out and Angelo Mathews on one.

Mendis made a 10-ball duck in the first innings but reached his 17th half century from 96 balls just before the end of play.

Captain Dimuth Karunaratne played a massive role for Sri Lanka Sunday and was at the crease for much of the third day. He was there when play began and Sri Lanka was 26-2 and, after top-scoring

with 89, his was the penultimate wicket to fall before Sri Lanka's first innings ended 416 runs behind New Zealand. Karunaratne then went back to the crease and batted through most of the last two sessions before he was out for the second time in the day a little more than

30 minutes before stumps. In total he batted for just over seven hours and his efforts provided the backbone of both Sri Lanka innings so far.

Sri Lanka lost two wickets in the first five overs of the third day and had slumped to 34-4 before

Karunaratne and Dinesh Chandimal were able to steady the first innings. The pair put on 80 for the fifth wicket and Karunaratne reached his 33rd half century from 114 balls.

Chandimal made 37 before a rush of blood to the head caused him to charge spinner Michael Bracewell. He had advanced well out of his crease when the ball turned between bat and pad and Tom Blundell completed an easy stumping.

Bracewell found turn and bounce on the third day pitch at the Basin Reserve and took 3-50 as the Sri Lanka first innings folded quickly after Chandimal's dismissal. The last six wickets fell for 50 runs.

New Zealand gained an early breakthrough in the second innings when opener Oshada Fernando was out for 5 with the total 26-1. With the bat well in front of his body, Fernando tried to flick the ball over the leg side but picked out substitute fieldsmen Will Young who was the only fielder close in.

## Ibrahimovic becomes oldest Serie A scorer but AC Milan loses



Ibrahimovic

Rome, Mar 19 (AP):

Zlatan Ibrahimovic became the oldest scorer in Serie A history at age 41 but had little else to celebrate after AC Milan was beaten 3-1 at Udinese. The result extended Milan's winless streak to three matches in the Italian league. Roberto Pereyra, Beto and Kingsley Ehibuzue scored for Udinese.

Defending champion Milan was beaten by Fiorentina and held to a draw by Salernitana in its previous two Serie A matches, while advancing

to the Champions League quarterfinals with a 1-0 aggregate win over Tottenham.

The loss left Milan in fourth place and in danger of losing its grasp on the final Champions League spot, while Udinese moved up to eighth.

Pereyra put Udinese ahead after Lazar Samardzic intercepted a poor pass by Milan midfielder Ismael Bennacer.

Ibrahimovic equalized momentarily with a penalty that was retaken for encroachment after his first effort was saved. At 41 years and 166 days, Ibrahimovic beat the previous record for oldest scorer held by Alessandro Costacurra, who was 41 years and 25 days when he scored in 2007 also for Milan with a penalty against Udinese.

Having recently returned from knee surgery, Ibrahimovic started for the first time since January of last year.

## Rohan Bopanna becomes oldest Indian Wells champion



Matthew Ebden, of Australia, left, and teammate Rohan Bopanna, of India, hold up the winner's trophy after they defeated Wesley Koolhof, of the Netherlands, and Neal Skupski, of Britain, in the men's doubles final at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament in Indian Wells, Calif.

Indian Wells (US), Mar 19 (PTI):

India's Rohan Bopanna became the oldest ATP Masters 1000 champion when he and his Australian partner Matt Ebden claimed the men's doubles crown at the BNP Paribas Open here.

The 43-year-old Bopanna and Ebden, 35, defeated top-seeded Wesley Koolhof of the Netherlands and Neil Skupski of Britain 6-3, 2-6, 10-8 in the final on Saturday.

"Truly special. It's called Tennis Paradise for a reason," said Bopanna, who was playing in his 10th ATP Masters 1000 final. "I've been, over the years,

coming here and seeing all these guys win for so many years. I'm really happy that Matt and I were able to do this and get this title here.

"It's been some tough matches, close matches. Today we played against one of the best teams out there. Really happy that we got the trophy." Bopanna thus surpassed Daniel Nestor of Canada, who had claimed the 2015 Cincinnati Masters to become the oldest champion at the age of 42. "I spoke to Danny Nestor and I told him sorry I'm going to beat his record," he joked. "Winning the title, that stays with me, so really happy with that."

## Haaland nets 3 as City roll



London, Mar 19 (AP):

The goals just keep flowing for Erling Haaland and Manchester City, no matter the competition. Haaland bagged another hat trick to make it eight goals in his last two games as City eased into the FA Cup semifinals with a 6-0 home win over Championship side Burnley on Saturday.

That came on the heels of a 7-0 win over Leipzig on Tuesday in the Champions League quarterfinals next month, and could go into the international break eight points behind Arsenal in the Premier League if the Gunners beat Crystal Palace at home on Sunday.

That's a minor worry, though, compared to the headache facing Antonio Conte at Tottenham.

should be at our best," said Haaland, whose extraordinary tally is now at 42 goals in all competitions. "Now is when things get decided."

City is still in the hunt for three trophies, but while Pep Guardiola's team are the big favorites in the FA Cup they may need to maintain this kind of form to win the other two.

They face Bayern Munich in the Champions League quarterfinals next month, and could go into the international break eight points behind Arsenal in the Premier League if the Gunners beat Crystal Palace at home on Sunday.

That's a minor worry, though, compared to the headache facing Antonio Conte at Tottenham.

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## HEAVY SNOWFALL



Border Road Organisation personnel clear the snow at Nathu La, in East Sikkim.

## Meeting to speed up Indo-Bangla railway connect

Agartala, Mar 19 (PTI): The Indo-Bangla Project Screening Committee (PSC) will hold a meeting in Bangladesh's Brahmanbaria next week to fast-track work of the Indo-Bangla railway link, said a senior official on Sunday. The vital project which will link the two nation's rail network has been delayed for some time. "An Indian delegation of around 11 officials from Delhi and Tripura will join the PSC meeting scheduled to be held in Rail Bhavan at Brahmanbaria in Bangladesh to review the 12.6 km railway project connecting two sides of the border, on Monday", Tripura's transport secretary U.K. Chakma told PTI.

## NADDA TARGETS RAHUL

# 'No place in democracy for those who don't believe in it'

New Delhi, Mar 19 (PTI):

BJP president J P Nadda on Sunday accused Rahul Gandhi of overstepping all bounds of democracy and said he should be sent packing "lock, stock and barrel" in a democratic manner. "Those who do not believe in democracy have no place in democracy," Nadda said in his virtual address after inaugurating the 'National Youth Parliament' of his party's youth wing Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, being held in Chennai. The Congress has become mentally bankrupt,

Nadda said while alleging that Gandhi "instigated" foreign powers like the US and European countries to interfere in India's internal affairs by claiming that they were "oblivious" while democracy was under threat in India. "Rahul Gandhi has crossed all bounds of democracy," he said. What kind of statements he makes, Nadda asked, saying people of India do not listen to him, but merely tolerate him. "Rahul Gandhi not merely insulted the nation by his shameful remarks about the democratic values of

India, but has also invited the foreign nations to intervene in our country," the BJP president said. The Congress, however, has rejected the BJP's charge, with Gandhi seeking permission to speak in Parliament to answer the ruling party members' criticism of his comments in Britain. The Congress has claimed that the BJP is "misrepresenting" his remarks to divert attention from the Adani issue. Parliament's budget session has been a washout since the beginning of its second part on March 13,

with the BJP demanding an apology from Gandhi. During his interactions in the UK, Rahul Gandhi alleged that the structures of Indian democracy were under attack and there was a "full-scale assault" on the country's institutions. Gandhi's remarks have triggered a political slugfest, with the BJP accusing him of maligning India on foreign soil and seeking foreign interventions, and the Congress hitting back at the ruling party by citing instances of Prime Minister Narendra Modi raising internal politics abroad.

## 25 injured as Gujarat-bound bus overturns

After falling off culvert

Ujjain (MP), Mar 19 (PTI):

At least 25 persons were injured, two of them seriously, when the Gujarat-bound bus they were travelling in overturned after falling off a culvert in Ujjain district of Madhya Pradesh, a senior official said on Sunday. The accident occurred late Saturday night, he said. "Nearly 25 passengers were injured, two of them critically, when the bus on its way to Rajkot from Indore fell off a culvert on Bhuki Mata Bypass after picking up passengers from Ujjain," Collector

Kumar Purshottam told PTI over phone. The injured were rushed to the district hospital, the Ujjain collector said. Most of the victims had visited the famous Mahakaleswar temple in Ujjain to offer prayers, police said. Mahakal area City Superintendent of Police (CSP) Omprakash Mishra said initial investigation suggested that the bus with around 35 passengers on board was being driven in a rash manner. After the bus overturned, its front wheels and engine got separated from the vehicle, he said.

## Maha Guv applauds Xavier Institutions for excellence

Mumbai, Mar 19:

Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais applauded the Xavier institutions for promoting academic excellence while maintaining and upholding discipline, dedication and values of nationalism and secularism. The Governor placed on record his appreciation of the institution for giving the nation some of the best sportspersons, artists, scientists, writers, social workers and good citizens. The Governor was addressing the 14th Annual Convocation of the Xavier Institution of Engineering at its campus in Mahim, Mumbai on Sat (18 Mar). The Governor applauded the contribution of en-



gineers in the nation's progress and development and called upon the graduates to work for the society and the nation. Director of Xavier Institution of Engineering Dr John Rose informed that the Xavier's College is

striving to form a cluster university alongwith the group's Management, Engineering and Education institutes. The Governor launched the Annual College Magazine and felicitated the first 3 toppers from

## Bais inaugurates 'C-20 Chaupal Initiative under G-20'

Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais presided over the workshop of social service organisations and NGOs under the banner 'C-20 Chaupal' organised as part of the G-20 meetings being held under India's presidency this year. The 'C-20 Chaupal' workshop was organised by Seva International and Seva Sahayog Foundation in association with We School at the Welingkar Institute in Mumbai on Sat (18 Mar). Minister of Skills and Tourism Mangal Prabhat Lodha, CEO of MITRA Pravin Pardesi, Chairman of Seva Sahayog Foundation Atul Nagras, Chairman of Shikshan Prasarak Mandali Adv. Sadanand Fadke, Trustee of Seva International Dr. Alka Mandke, Director Kishore Moghe and others were present.

three Engineering disciplines. Two hundred seventy seven graduates from IT, ExTC and Computer Engineering disciplines were awarded degrees at the Convocation. Dr. Victor Lobo, Vice Chancellor of St. Joseph's University Bangalore, Dr

Ignacimuthu, former Vice Chancellor of Madras University, Dr Y D Venkatesh, Principal, members of the Governing body, Principals of affiliated colleges, teachers, staff, graduating students and parents were present.

## Seven students in Sivsagar questioned

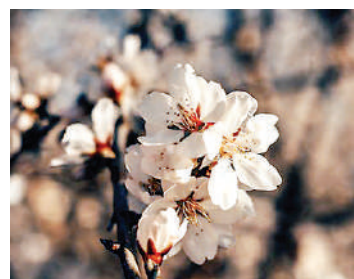
For Geography paper leak

Guwahati, Mar 19 (PTI): Seven students in Assam's Sivsagar district are being questioned in connection with the alleged leak of Class 10 state board's Geography paper, police said on Sunday. They are all 'admins' of a WhatsApp group through which the purported first page of the Geography question paper was circulated on Saturday, he said. Sivsagar SP Subhrajyoti Borah told PTI that they had received a request from their Nagaon counterparts for calling these students for questioning. Two students stayed overnight at the children's room in the police station, while the rest returned home and have been called for further questioning on Sunday, Borah said.

## Blooming Almond Alcove draws visitors in large numbers

Srinagar, Mar 19 (PTI):

The Almond Alcove in Srinagar, locally known as 'Badam-Waer', is teeming with visitors, both tourists and locals, as the light pink flowers in full bloom in the verdant greenery signal the end of a long winter in Kashmir. Almond trees are the first ones to flower as if it were the nature's way to tell the peasantry to prepare for the new farming season, after three inactive winter months. The mesmerizing beauty of Badam-Waer inside Srinagar's old walled city at 'Kalai Andar' in the



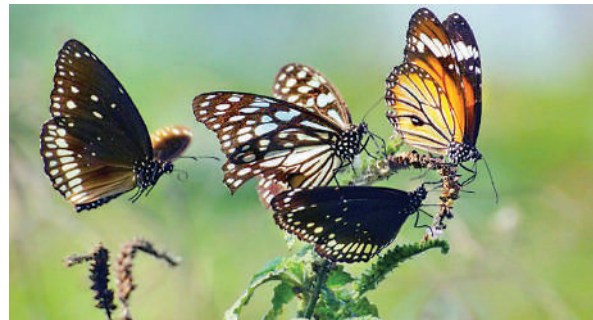
Rainawari area might have a different effect on the visitors. "Kashmir has four different seasons and the winter almost shuts down everything due to snow and cold. This almond blossom is the indication of arrival of spring," Tajamul Islam, a local resi-

dent, said. Aquib Ahmad, another local visitor, is so enamoured by the beauty of almond bloom that he feels every visit is like his first. "We experience this beauty every year. I have visited it so many times but every time I feel like it is my first visit. In Kashmiri, we have an adage 'sheen galeh, wande zhaleh baye yee su ba-haar' (the snow will melt, the winter will go and the spring will be on us again). So this is the sign that the spring has arrived," he added. The fame of the Almond Alcove has now

reached beyond the mountains of Kashmir to the plains of India as tourists visit it in large numbers.

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## Tripura's lone butterfly park a major tourist attraction



Agartala, Mar 19 (PTI):

Nestled in a village near the India-Bangladesh international border in Tripura's South district, a butterfly park developed by the forest department is now a major attraction for tourists from different parts of the country and also Bangladesh. The Butterfly EcoPark at Chottakhola, close to the Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary is the first butterfly park of northeast. It was inaugurated in 2016 on 5.5 hectares of land having 250 species of butterflies. "Many tourists are visiting the butterfly park. There are domestic tourists and also from neighbouring Bangladesh. The park is near the en-

dangered bison park at Trishna wildlife sanctuary and Indo-Bangla Maitri Park to commemorate the Bangladesh liberation war. So, tourists can see three spots in one visit", Deputy Conservator of Forest, Krishnagopal Roy told PTI. He said there is a breeding facility for the winged creature and many plants which are favourite to the butterfly are planted for creating a good habitat for the insect and artificial foods are also distributed at times. Tripura Tourism minister Sushanta Chowdhury said Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary and its surroundings attract a large number of tourists and it will help in economic development of the state.

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### BRIEF



Brides and grooms during a mass marriage ceremony, in, Gurugram, Sunday.

### Busted

**Mathura:** An illegal arms factory was busted and three people were arrested after an encounter here, police said on Sunday. Acting on a tip-off regarding the manufacturing of illegal weapons, police on Saturday started a search operation in a jungle area in Dhaurera village, Superintendent of Police (city) Martand Prakash Singh said.

### Arrested

**Latehar:** A Maoist 'zonal commander', having a bounty of Rs 10 lakh, was arrested in Jharkhand's Latehar district, police said on Sunday. Chandan Kumar Kherwar, also known as 'Sanjivan Ji', was arrested from Sikid forest in Herhanj police station area on Saturday, Latehar's Superintendent of Police (SP) Anjani Anjan said.

### Drown

**Raisen:** A 35-year-old man and his two minor daughters drowned in a well at his farm in Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh on Sunday, police said. A police officer said the trio drowned while trying to save one another. Sub-Divisional Officer of Police (SDOP) Rajesh Tiwari said Ramlal Chadhar was working in his field at around 1 PM while his three daughters were playing near the open well at Tekapar village under Sultanganj police station, about 105 km from the Raisen district headquarters.

### Strike

**Jaipur:** Medical services at private hospitals and nursing homes in Rajasthan were affected on Sunday after doctors went on a strike against the state government's proposed Right to Health Bill. Responding to a call for strike by the Sanyukt Sangharsh Samiti, members of the Private Hospitals and Nursing Home Society and the United Private Clinics and Hospitals of Rajasthan stopped services from Saturday night.

### Fire

**Mumbai:** A minor fire broke out in a garment unit located near a hospital in suburban Bhandup in Mumbai city on Sunday, an official said. No casualty is reported, he said. The blaze erupted in the ground-plus-one-storey structure in the afternoon, the Fire Brigade official said, adding it was a "level 1" (minor emergency call) fire.

### Tragedy

**Morena:** The death toll in the Chambal river drowning accident in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh rose to five on Sunday with the recovery of three more bodies, while two boys are still missing, a police officer said.

**Weather**  
High 27 Low 18

### AMRITPAL CRACKDOWN

# Radical preacher Amritpal Singh remains elusive

Chandigarh, Mar 19:

Four arrested members of an outfit headed by Khalistan sympathiser Amritpal Singh were brought to Assam's Dibrugarh on Sunday even as the hunt for the radical preacher and his associates continued.

The Punjab government also extended the suspension of mobile internet and SMS services till Monday noon and security forces took out flag marches at several places in the state, including Amritsar, Jalandhar and Ludhiana.

The state authorities had on Saturday suspended the internet and SMS services till Sunday noon.

The police earlier said they would soon arrest the fugitive radical preacher.

The Punjab government had on Saturday launched a major crackdown against



Supporters of Quami Insaaf Morcha take part in a protest, at the Airport road near Sohana Gurudwara, in Mohali, Sunday.

Amritpal, with the police arresting 78 members of an outfit headed by him, officials said.

The elusive preacher, however, gave the police a slip and escaped their dragnet when his cavalcade was intercepted in Jalandhar district, even as authorities stepped up security at several places in the northern

state. Meanwhile, security was also tightened at Amritpal's native village Jallapur Khera in Amritsar, where his father Tarsem Singh alleged that his son has been detained by police.

"There is no information (about him) since yesterday. We feel he has already been detained," he said.

### Rifle, live cartridges found in abandoned car

As radical preacher Amritpal Singh continued to be on the run, Punjab Police on Sunday came across an abandoned car in Jalandhar district with a rifle and several dozens of live cartridges inside it. Police seized the ammunition and said the black-coloured multi-utility car was most likely part of Amritpal's convoy on Saturday. The same car was also captured a day earlier in a video, they said. A rifle, 57 live cartridges, a sword, and a registration number plate were among the articles recovered from the vehicle, police said.

### Four members of outfit moved to Assam

**Dibrugarh:** Four members of radical preacher Amritpal Singh's outfit were brought to Assam from Punjab on Sunday, police said. They were among the 78 people arrested on Saturday in the Punjab government's major crackdown against 'Waris Punjab De' (WPD), headed by Amritpal, who is wanted in several criminal cases. "Four people who were arrested in Punjab have been brought here. They are being kept at the Dibrugarh Central Jail," said Tejbir Singh Hundal, an officer of the Punjab Police.

### Two more FIRs registered

Two more FIRs have been registered against radical preacher Amritpal Singh and his associates in connection with the recovery of a weapon from an abandoned vehicle and breaking through police barricades in Jalandhar. The radical preacher and Khalistan sympathiser has been on the run since the Punjab Police launched a massive crackdown on Saturday and arrested 78 members of the 'Waris Punjab De', headed by him.

### SEXUAL ASSAULT ON WOMEN REMARK

## Delhi Police at Rahul Gandhi's doorstep

New Delhi, Mar 19 (PTD):

A Delhi Police team on Sunday queried Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at his residence over his remark made during the Bharat Jodo Yatra that "women are still being sexually assaulted" and asked him to provide information about the "victims" to take up their complaints, officials said.

A furious Congress condemned the Delhi Police action after the cops knocked on Gandhi's doors for the third time in five days, and attacked the central government, accusing it of harassment, intimidation and political vendetta, but the BJP rejected the charge and said the police was "only discharging its



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi leaves his residence in New Delhi, Sunday.

lawful duty".

The police team headed by Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Sagar Preet Hooda arrived at Gandhi's 12, Tughlaq Lane residence in the high-security area at around 10 am and was able to meet the Congress leader after two hours, officials said, adding it left at around 1 pm. This was the third time that Gandhi was approached in this regard,

### Rahul sends preliminary reply

**New Delhi:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Sunday sent a four-page preliminary reply to the Delhi Police's notice about his "women still being sexually assaulted" remark made during the Bharat Jodo Yatra while questioning the process adopted by the authorities and a sudden urgency after a 45-day delay. The Congress leader gave the 10-point reply hours after a Delhi Police team knocked on his doors for the third time in five days. He also sought eight to 10 days to give a detailed response to the questions posed by Delhi police over his January 30 remarks, the sources said.

### 'If police visits linked to stand on Adani'

Sending a preliminary reply a little before 4 pm, Gandhi termed the police action "unprecedented" and asked whether this had anything to do with his position taken both inside and outside Parliament on the Adani issue, sources said. According to them, Gandhi also asked what was the urgency on the part of the Delhi police in making two visits in as many days after an initial gap of 45 days after he made his speech in Srinagar.

the officials said, adding a notice with a questionnaire was sent to him earlier seeking details of victims who approached him

## State Govt dismisses Jashpur's ADSJ from service

Raipur, Mar 19:

### About the dismissal

The Chhattisgarh government has dismissed from service Additional District and Sessions Judge(ADSJ) Ganesh Ram Burman, who was posted in Jashpur district of the state, a senior official said on Sunday.

This is Burman's second dismissal in the last six years as his services were terminated in 2017, although he was reinstated recently. As per the order of his termination issued on March 14 by principal secretary of law and legislative affairs department Ram Kumar Tiwari, the move was taken on the recommendation of the Chhattisgarh High Court. The order, however, did not specify the reason for his dismissal.

Following the recommendation of the High Court made on March 3 this year, the services of Ganesh Ram Burman, a member of state Higher Judicial Services, presently posted as additional district and sessions judge (fast track court) has been

As per the order of his termination issued on March 14 by principal secretary of law and legislative affairs department Ram Kumar Tiwari, the move was taken on the recommendation of the Chhattisgarh High Court. The order, however, did not specify the reason for his dismissal. This is Burman's second dismissal in the last six years as his services were terminated in 2017, although he was reinstated recently. In February 2017, Burman was terminated from service by the state government when he was posted as the Additional District Judge in Raipur. He had later challenged his termination in the high court.

terminated with immediate effect, the order stated.

When contacted, law department officials also did not reveal the reason behind the move.

In February 2017, Burman was terminated from service by the state government when he was posted as the Additional District Judge in Raipur. He had later challenged his termination in the high court, officials said.

## 'Private vehicle scrapping policy soon'

Nagpur, Mar 19 (PTD):

Union Minister of State for Environment Ashwini Kumar Choubey on Sunday said the government has taken various steps to bring down pollution and will soon bring out a policy on the scrapping of private vehicles aged more than 15 years. He was addressing reporters at 'Meet the Press' in Nagpur. A policy is already in place for scrapping old government vehicles. Replying to a query on whether a similar policy will be brought for private vehicles older than 15 years, Choubey said, "A high-level joint meeting of the Ministry of Environment and nine other departments was held recently. The government is working on a policy to encourage private vehicles older than 15 years to go for scrapping after getting a (vehicle) health certificate.

### KISAN MAHAPANCHAYAT

## 'Lakhs of farmers to reach Delhi today'

New Delhi, Mar 19 (PTD):

The Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) on Sunday said lakhs of farmers from across the country are on their way to Delhi to participate in the 'kisan mahapanchayat' that will be held at Ramlila Maidan on March 20.

The 'kisan mahapanchayat' will be held to press for a legal guarantee on the minimum support price (MSP), the SKM, an umbrella body of farmers' union, had said last month. Lakhs of farmers from various states and union territories are headed to Delhi to attend the 'kisan mahapanchayat' in



Darshan Pal

Delhi on March 20, the SKM said in a statement.

Addressing a press conference here, SKM leader Darshan Pal said, "The Centre must fulfil the assurances it gave to us in writing on December 9, 2021 and also take effective steps to mitigate the ever-increasing crisis faced by farmers."

## Govt starts process of eviction & sale of enemy properties

New Delhi, Mar 19 (PTD):

### Record of enemy properties

Out of the 12,611 properties vested with the CEPI, a total of 12,485 were related to Pakistani nationals and 126 to Chinese citizens. The highest number of enemy properties were found in Uttar Pradesh (6,255 properties), followed by West Bengal (4,088 properties), Delhi (659), Goa (295), Maharashtra (208), Telangana (158), Gujarat (151), Tripura (105), Bihar (94), Madhya Pradesh (94), Chhattisgarh (78) and Haryana (71). There are 71 enemy properties in Kerala, 69 in Uttarakhand, 67 in Tamil Nadu, 57 in Meghalaya, 29 in Assam, 24 in Karnataka, 22 in Rajasthan, 10 in Jharkhand, four in Daman and Diu and one each in Andhra Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

the Enemy Property Act. According to a Home ministry notification, the guidelines for disposal of the enemy properties have been changed under which the process for eviction of enemy properties now

shall be initiated with the help of the District Magistrate or Deputy Commissioner concerned before the sale of properties. In case of the enemy properties valued below Rs

1 crore, the custodian shall offer for purchase to the occupant first and if offer of purchase is refused by the occupant, then the enemy property shall be disposed of in accordance with the procedure specified in the guidelines, the notification said.

Those enemy properties having valuation of Rs one crore and below Rs 100 crore, shall be disposed of by the CEPI through e-auction or otherwise as may be decided by the central government and at the rate determined by the Enemy Property Disposal Committee.

## SC to hear Khera's plea today

New Delhi, Mar 19 (PTD):

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a plea of Congress leader Pawan Khera seeking transfer and clubbing of FIRs lodged against him in Assam and Uttar Pradesh for allegedly making objectionable remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud on Friday deferred the hearing on Khera's plea to March 20 after taking note of sub-



missions that senior advocate A M Singhvi, appearing for the Congress leader, was unavailable.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Uttar Pradesh and Assam, urged the bench that the matter can be taken up for hearing on Monday instead of Friday. "Ok, we will take it up

on Monday," said the bench, which also comprises justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala.

The apex court had earlier extended the interim bail of Khera, who was arrested by Assam Police in the case, till March 17.

Earlier, Assam and Uttar Pradesh governments, in their separate affidavits, opposed Khera's plea seeking clubbing of FIRs lodged against him, claiming that his party was still continuing with the "very same low level" on their social media accounts.



# Five including a juvenile arrested for chain snatching

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 19:** With the arrest of five ruffians including a juvenile, police claimed to have busted a gang of chain snatchers. The accused targeted single pedestrian women on the lonely roads. Seven gold chains and two motorcycle used in the crime were seized from the possession of the accused. It was a joint operation of Anti Crime and Cyber Unit, Durg; Bhilai Nagar Police Station, Vaishali Nagar Police Station and Newai Police Station.

While addressing media persons here at Police Command and Control Centre, SP Dr Abhishek Pallava informed that considering the rising cases of chain snatching, theft and loots, they had constituted a joint team of various Police stations and Anti Crime and Cyber Unit. The



joint team maintained a vigil on the activities of the criminal record holders, suspects and people who were recently released from jail. The CCTV footages of the scene of crimes were analysed in which two suspects were seen. Later police ascertained the identity of a sus-

pect as Raja alias Harpal Singh. He was taken into custody and during sustained interrogation, he confessed to have committed chain snatchings with his accomplice Chhvikanth alias Baniya and others. The accused committed crimes in several areas of the city. Later

police managed to arrest for other accused including a juvenile and recovered 7 gold chains from their possession. A bike and a scooter used in the crime were also seized.

The accused are identified as Harpal Singh alias Raja (23) son of Prem Singh a resident of Contractor

Colony Supela; Manmeet Singh (23) son of Late Tara Singh a resident of Contractor Colony Supela; Lingeshwar Dewangan (19) son of Suraj Dewangan a resident of Contractor Colony Supela; Kushal Kumar Das (21) son of Ravi Shankar a resident of Sector 6 and a juvenile. The sixth accused Chhvikanth alias Baniya is absconding.

Sub Inspector Dhaniram Narange, ASI Gangaram Rawat, Head Constable Suraj Pandey, ASI Bhojram Sahu, Head Constable Prem Singh, ASI Suresh Kumar Pandey, ASI Purnabhadur, ASI Chandrashekhar Soni, Head Constable Chandrashekhar Banjeer, Constable Santosh Gupta, Shahbaz Khan, Anup Sharma, Pannelal, Upendra Yadav, Juhnu Singh and Shamim Khan played a vital role in arresting the accused.

# Last two batches of tribal youth depart for Amritsar and Indore



Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 19:** Under the 14th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme, Border Security Force has selected and sent tribal youth from Kanker for a tour to Amritsar (Punjab) and Indore (MP).

The last two batches, 13th and 14th groups were constituted with 40 tribal youth and they were sent on tour of other cities under this programme. They are being accompanied by two female and two male officers / personnel of Border Security Force.

BSF is organising 14 such tours for 290 youth this year.

Under this exposure visit, the tribal youth will be able to understand the cultural ethos, language, lifestyles of the people depicting Socio-economic and Cultural Development and Development process unity in the diversity aspect of our national life. They will be exposed to the technological and industrial advancement that have taken place in different states of the country with focus on various developmental activities, skill de-

velopment, educational and employment opportunities available there. They will be sensitized about their rich traditional & cultural heritage. This programme will help the tribal youth to develop emotional linkages with their peer groups in other parts of the country and enhance their self esteem.

IG Indraj Singh (BSF Frontier Headquarters, Special Operations, Chhattisgarh) and DIG (Intelligence) Dinesh Murmu have extended greetings and best wishes to the selected youth.

# Free health camp organised near Mahamaya Mines



Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 19:** A health camp was organised by SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant in Nalkasa village located about 5 kilometres from Mahamaya iron ore mines

as part of Corporate Social Responsibility activities being carried out for the benefit of population living in and around the Plant's mines areas. Nalkasa village has a population of 1000 out of

which as many as 100 persons including 21 male, 34 female and 45 children were checked and treated free of cost at the day-long camp organised by the Plant's CSR Dept on March 16, 2023.

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 19:** The first ever LEO workshop for Vigilance officials was organised on March 15-16, 2023 at Bhilai Management Centre (BMDC) of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) was present as Chief Guest during this Inaugural ceremony on the first day. Vineet Pandey, CVO SAIL was present as Guest of Honour and RK Purohit, Dy CLC (Central) was present as Special Guest. Other Senior dignitaries present were Sanjay Sharma, ED (Vigilance), SAIL, Anjali Kumar, ED (Works) MM Gadre, ED (P&A), Dr AK Panda, ED (F&A), Samir Swarup, CGM I/c (Mines & Rowghat) and Satyabrata Kar, Acting ACVO, BSP. The Inaugural Session was also attended by Sandeep Mathur, CGM (Personnel), KC Misra, CGM (CC-Works), MK Kulkarni, GM I/c (CC-

# First ever LEO workshop for Vigilance Officers of SAIL organised



NW), JN Thakur, GM (PIR&CLC) and officials from Plant, IR & CLC and Personnel Department. Topic of the first LEO workshop was "Contract Labour payment related issues and challenges".

Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) enlightened the gathering with his views on the subject and also provided valuable insights regarding probable solutions including the biometric attendance and change in the bidding methodology w.r.t. estimation and discovery of price bid. MM Gadre, ED (P&A) in his address talked about the

various issues related to payment and exploitation of contract labour which are being faced by BSP. Anjali Kumar, ED (Works) emphasised the commitment of BSP to address the issues of contract labour in a positive manner.

Speaking on the occasion, Sanjay Sharma, ED (Vigilance) SAIL elaborated the background and objectives of LEO. Vineet Pandey, CVO SAIL in his address highlighted the purpose of LEO workshop and choosing the Contract Labour payment related issues as the topic. RK Purohit, Dy CLC

(Central) explained various provision of Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act 1970 & Rules 1971 in very lucid way. During the other sessions of the Workshop held in later part of the day, elaborative presentations were given by V Nivesh, Manager (CLC) and Atul Goswami, GM (CO&CCD). Presentations were also given by Rakhi Tiwari AGM (Vig) & Aniket Ojha DGM (Vig).

Total 21 participants attended the two day workshop including the ACVO of BSL, RSP, VISL, Officers of NMDC Ltd and Actg ACVO of BSP

acted as Moderator during this workshop. On the second day, these participants were divided into three groups to brainstorm on the possible solutions on the issues including highlighting the best practices/ system of any unit.

The Guest of Honour was Sanjay Sharma, ED (Vigilance) SAIL and Chief Guest was MM Gadre, ED (P&A) BSP. The session started with the summarization of the workshop by Satyabrata Kar, Actg ACVO of BSP followed by feedback by participants and concluding remarks by Sanjay Sharma, ED (Vigilance) SAIL and MM Gadre, ED (P&A).

The programme was compered by Himanshu Dave, AGM (Vigilance). The whole programme was organised by BSP Vigilance in association with HRDC Department. The workshop ended with Vote of thanks by Sandeep Gupta, GM (Vigilance).

# CCET Bhilai witnesses college annual fest Symphonia 2k23

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 19:** The week-long cultural and sports fest organised at CCET was a grand event that was organised by a group of enthusiastic students of our college. Symphonia 2k23 was a week-long fest of sports and cultural events held from March 10 to 17, 2023 with various events in Sports as well as Cultural planned and organized at its best of quality.

Final day of the week long extravaganza Symphonia 2k23 was graced by Shilpa Sahu, DSP, Incharge Mahila Raksha Team, Durg as Chief guest and DN Behera, Joint Director, Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), and the program was presided by Executive Vice Chairman Fr Dr PS Varghese. Fr Dr Joshi Varghese Diocesan Education officer and Dr Mariam Jacob, Principal, St Thomas College Kailash Nagar were also present in the program.

The program for the Public Meeting started with welcome address by the College Principal Dr Dipali Soren. In her address she briefed the year-long achievements of the



institute in a gist to the gathering. The program was followed by the report of the week long activities by Symphonia 2k23 Convener Dr Preeti Nand Kumar Shilpa Sahu in her address to the gathering gave the message to follow traffic rules, stay alert to cyber-crime and avoid excessive use of social media. She instructed the youth to be cautious with the social media.

In the address DN Behera elaborated on the status of IT world and job scenario of India. Use of new technology and the role of artificial intelligence were briefed. In the presidential address Fr Dr PS Varghese expressed the Gandhian Philosophy and its importance in this post modern era. He expressed the importance of

extracurricular activities in our life. The program was followed by Cultural night with breath taking and rocking performance.

The fest was inaugurated on March 10, 2023 by Executive Vice Chairman Dr PS Varghese. The events included various sports competitions, and other cultural activities. The event featured dance performances, fashion show, music concert, fireless cooking, salad making, Poetry, Slogan writing. The sports activities of the event comprised of various outdoor and indoor sports. The event featured competitions like football, volleyball basketball, cricket, badminton, table tennis, chess, and carrom. The participants displayed their sportsmanship and teamwork

while competing in the games.

The winners were encouraged with gold and silver medals and certificates for all the events in the prize distribution ceremony. For the academic toppers cash prizes and certificates will be given for their academic excellence. Program concluded with Vote of Thanks by the co convener Mr Robin Babu.

The week-long cultural and sports fest was a grand success, which brought together the college community in a spirit of cultural diversity and sportsmanship. The event provided a platform for the students to showcase their talents and skills in different areas. It also promoted a healthy spirit of competition amongst the participants.

# BSP granted license for production of High Carbon Grade Wire Rods

Develops New Grades of Wire Rods for Customers & Wider Applications

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 19:** SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant has been granted license for producing full range of IS 7904 Grade steel wire rods. IS 7904 is BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) specification for High Carbon Steel Wire Rods. With the grant of this license, Bhilai Steel Plant is now in a position to produce High Carbon Wire Rods from its Wire Rod Mill (WRM).

Developing customised grades of products with specifications and chemistry as desired by customers has always been a thrust area for SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant. Not only do these new grades fulfill customer demands and find newer applications, development and supply of value added grades also fetch higher net sales realisation.

The new grades are developed by cross-functional teams from the Plant's Quality Dept, steel melting shop and concerned rolling



mill. The Plant's Wire Rod Mill produces both garden variety grades as well as special steel grades including TMT Rods, high corrosion-resistant TMT (HCRM), earthquake resistant TMT (EQR-D) rods and electrode quality wire rods. After modernisation & expansion of the Plant, WRM has been rolling out its products with billets from the new and modern Steel Melting Shop 3 (SMS 3) as input.

It is worth mentioning that two new EWNR and

CAQ Grade Wire Rods have already been developed through SMS 3 - WRM route and supplied in the current fiscal year. The IS7887 Gr 1-CAQ grade wire rod has been developed in 5.5 & 6.0 mm product dimension.

This product has leanest chemistry and thus better drawability along with good resistivity, thus making it suitable for application in armoured cables in Electrical industry. Customers for this grade include HD Wire, Akhil

The High Carbon IS 7904 HC38 & HC 80 grade steel wire rod is another high value added steel developed through SMS 3 - WRM route. Bhilai Steel Plant has been granted license by BIS for full range of IS 7904. Developed in 5.5 & 6.0 mm product dimension, this high carbon steel grade of wire rods is used in bridge cables, tyre reinforcement materials.

Steel and national small scale industries,

The other new grade developed through SMS3-WRM route is IS2879-EWNR, also in 5.5 & 6.0 mm product dimension. This product that has very lean chemistry, especially with Silicon content contained at 0.03 per cent maximum, finds application in Electrode making. More than 15,000 Tonnes of this grade has been rolled and dispatched to various customers including HD Wire, Salasar Alloy & Steel, ADOR Welding & ESAB India.

The High Carbon IS 7904 HC38 & HC 80 grade steel wire rod is another high value added steel developed through SMS 3 - WRM route. Bhilai Steel Plant has been granted license by BIS for full range of IS 7904. Developed in 5.5 & 6.0 mm product dimension, this high carbon steel grade of wire rods is used in bridge cables, tyre reinforcement materials.

# Swachh Bharat Abhiyan held at Employee Services Department

**Bhilai, Mar 19:** As part of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, officers and staff of Employee Services Section of Personnel Department undertook an initiative to clean the premises of their office building. On this occasion, all the members took the Swachhta oath and thereafter cleaned the premises. CGM (Personnel), Sandeep Mathur was present on the occasion and lauded the initiative taken by the team of Employee Services. He also distributed the Swachhta pledge certificates to all employees. The programme was coordinated by K Suparna, GM (Pers-Employee Services), Jaya Roy, Senior Manager (Pers-Employee Services) and KK Verma, Assistant Manager (Pers-Employee Services).



## World peace will prevail through staunch Hindus: Avdheshanand Giri



### Dharma Sabha in Raipur

The one who talks about the Hindu nation, will rule the country, say Saints

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 19: In order to inculcate the feeling of harmony across the country and to make India a Hindu nation, Dharma Sabha- a religious gathering of saints and sages took place at Ravanabhata Maidan in Raipur amid

recital of Hanuman Chalisa. Saints discussed the topics of Indian culture, Hindu nation, religious conversion etc in Dharma Sabha. Mahamandaleshwar Avdheshanand Giri of Juna Akhara said that there will be peace all over the world through through staunch Hindus. Hindu cares for all living beings and as long as there are saints in India, no one can do any harm, he said.

There is no untouchability in India, everyone takes a dip in the Ganges together, he said, adding that 'we were Hindus, are

Hindus and will remain Hindus'. Why can't a Hindu belong to Hindustan when a German belongs to Germany and Russian belongs to Russia? He asked. According to him only India can stop the disturbance in the world.

Before the Dharma Sabha, the leaders and saints of Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) held a press conference on Saturday.

Saints asked sharp questions regarding the conversion. During this, the saints said that the one who talks about Hindu na-

tion will rule the country. Saints who reached Raipur said that important things will happen in the Dharma Sabha for the Hindu nation.

Saints and sages will guide the country and society with their thoughts, said the VHP leaders. VHP convenor Chandrashekhar Verma said that padyatra (footmarch) taken out by saints on February 18 at different places in Chhattisgarh culminated to Dharma Sabha (religious gathering) in Raipur today. About 300 saints reached the Dharma Sabha.

## Demand for Hindu Rashtra be made to Centre: CM

'Sadhus-Sants' are misguiding general public

Raipur, Mar 19: CM Bhupesh Baghel said that the demand for 'Hindu Rashtra' be made to the Central Government. Prior to leaving for Kanker, CM charged that BJP tries to create 'Castles of lies'. On asking about loss to Rabi crop, due to unseasonal rains, CM said that Collectors have been asked to get it examined.

Speaking to section of media persons CM said that many 'Sadhus-Sant' are pro-BJP and charged that they are trying to misguide the people. Therefore with the demand for 'Hindu



Rashtra', they all should go to the Central Government in Delhi and raise this demand. Home Minister Amit Shah says that the country will run as per the Constitution and since he is coming here on March 25, the concerned should meet him with this demand.

Delhi police sent after all tactics failed: CM

CM Bhupesh Baghel in his Tweet message has targeted BJP saying that in

order to save 'one alone' the 'two persons' are way behind him day and night. Closing of mike in the Parliament, ban on march to the parliament and when all the tactics failed, the country's democracy was questioned and now they have sent police to Rahul Gandhi's residence. One cannot divert the issue with questions related to 'friendship', eh added.

There is great deal of resentment among Congmen over entry of Commissioner Delhi Police reaching to the residence of Rahul Gandhi. First the Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot has held this step as wrong and now the Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel has taken over the front.

## 8 accused nabbed in cheating persons of cash worth lakhs

Including 3 girls, 5 boys in the name of providing loan through big banks All are from Delhi running a fake call centre

Raipur, Mar 19: The Raipur police has got a major breakthrough in solving online fraud and cheating case worth lakhs and in this case has nabbed 3 girls and 5 youth from Delhi. This entire case came to fore when the complainant filed report in Telibandha thana saying that he resides in Tikrapara and works as liaisoning officer in BSP. It was on 16 Feb 2022 he got mobile phone from an unknown number disclosing her name as Sujata Jain of



Citi Finance Bank Mumbai as Customer Care Manager and she cheated him in the name of providing loan.

Taking him into confidence Sujata asked for processing fees of Rs 4000 to prepare all the documents and asked her to send her Aadhar Card, PAN Card and other documents on WhatsApp. After this he sent all documents and cash on 19 Feb 2022 to Suajta Jain as per the de-



son did not get the loan, he found himself cheated and so a case under section 420 and 34 of IPC was filed. SSP Prashant Agrawal sent the team to Delhi to investigate into the matter and the team raided the residence of accused in Patel Nagar in Delhi and nabbed 5 boys and 3 girls. All of them were running a fake call centre and had accepted of cheating many persons of funds worth crores in the name of pro-

viding loan. The police seized 5 computer systems; 2 laptops; 20 mobile phones; 1 tablet and 10 (mobile Number) log-book diary; and others totaling Rs 5 lakh and all were brought to Raipur on transit remand. All the accused are from Delhi viz. Yash Sharma; Abhishek Kumar Jha; Ranjita Yadav; Divya Gupta; Ruchi Verma; Nisha Kumar; Brijesh Kumar and others.

## NIT Raipur organizes college and school students visit

Under Scientific Social Responsibility through SERB-DST Sponsorships

Raipur, Mar 19: National Institute of Technology Raipur organized a one-day Institute Visit of college and school students under Scientific Social Responsibility policy funded by the Science and Engineering Research Board, Department of Science and Technology, Government of

India on 17th March 2023.

This one-day visit aimed to sensitize participants to the various approaches being adopted in the ongoing research work to find out a holistic, well-planned long-term strategy for sustainable water resources development and management in Raipur city.

The research project was funded to Dr. D. C. Jhariya, Associate Professor, Department of Applied Geology by SERB-DST. The whole program was coordinated by Mayank

Shrivastava, Priyanka Arya, Jalina Subhdarsini and Laxman Kumar under the guidance of Dr DC Jhariya and Dr Neeraj Vishwakarma, HO, Department of Applied Geology. Students from various prestigious colleges and schools of Raipur, Durg and Rajnadaigaon had attended this Program. The participants were exposed to various advanced tools and techniques being adopted to carry out hydrogeological and geological studies at the NIT Raipur.

Raipur, Mar 19: Police have arrested three persons for allegedly stealing gold and silver jewellery, two wheelers and mobile phones. Raj Chandelia, Rahul Chandelia and Hrithik Gaikwad, residents of Maharashtra.

Acting on the tip off from informer police reached the said place and identified per-

sons and two-wheeler. During interrogation the persons arrested by the police revealed their names as Raj Chandelia, Rahul Chandelia and Hrithik Gaikwad, residents of Maharashtra.

During interrogation arrested persons were constantly misleading the police team by not revealing documents regarding the vehicle, gold-silver jewellery and mobile phone. During strict interrogation they confessed having stolen all such items from empty houses and places in Purani Basti area.

## Three thieves arrested

In theft incident from house near Anjuman School

Raipur, Mar 19: Golebazar Police nabbed three accused involving two minors on charges of stealing gold, silver coins from a house near Anjuman School in Shastri bazaar and seized the jewellery and cash totaling Rs 47000 from their possession.

As per complaint by the complainant Nikhat



Parveen, she along with other family members left for Ajmer Sharif on March 6 and on their return on March 14, they found the back door gate broken and lock of the almirah was also broken and all goods were scattered. She lodged

complaint that a gold nose-pin, silver coin and other items were missing. A case under section 457, 380 and 34 of IPC was filed.

The police checked all the CCTV footages and also with news from informers and got a breakthrough in the case and nabbed one Shekh Arshad from Golebazar area. He on interrogated confirmed the crime along with two other minors. All three were arrested along with stolen jewellery and silver coin and cash totaling Rs 47000.

## Three day national seminar jointly by ICHR, RSU begins

With special reference to Subhash Chandra Bose and Azad Hind Fauj At Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University Raipur

Raipur, Mar 19: Under the joint auspices of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), New Delhi and Pandit Ravi Shankar University (RSU), a three-day national seminar on various streams of the national movement - with special reference to Subhash Chandra Bose and the Azad Hind Fauj - was inaugurated at the School of History, Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Raipur. The chief guest of the program, Head of Department, Department of History, Visva-Bharati University, Kolkata, Prof. Sandeep Basu. Mentioning the various



thoughts and activities of Subhash Chandra Bose, the chief guest in the program highlighted his political struggle and major organizations and movements run by Gandhiji. Emphasized the need to see the efforts being made by him for independence from a historical perspective. In the presidential address on this occasion, Vice Chancellor Prof. K.L. Verma said that the struggle and sacrifice of Netaji reflects the present relevance, his thoughts in life are related to us somewhere.

Special guest Prof. Ramendranath Mishra mentioned the effects of

Subhash Chandra Bose's views on Chhattisgarh in which he specially highlighted the work done by Barrister Chhedilal. Special guest Prof. Abha Rupendra Pal mentioned the bold untouched aspects done by Netaji even in the absence of state-of-the-art facilities related to Netaji's revolutionary ideas. Prof. Mukesh Kumar, as a keynote speaker, elaborated on the difference of views of the leaders related to the struggle for nation building by Subhash Chandra and the parallel Indian independence movement. He recalled that Mr. Bose fought abroad for India's

independence.

The book "Revisiting History" was released in the programme. This book is a historical treatise based on research papers of various scholars and researchers of India. Before this, flowers were offered by the guests by lighting the lamp and garlanding the photographs of Maa Saraswati and Netaji, along with Saraswati Vandana, a mesmerizing presentation of 'Kulgeet' was given. After that, the guests on the stage were welcomed by providing small plants.

The welcome speech was given by Head of the Department School of History and Prof. of Ancient Indian Culture and Archaeology by Priyavanda Srivastava. The coordination of the seminar was done by Dr. DN Khute. Historians and history researchers from 10 states and university students were present in large numbers in the seminar.

## 'Surrogacy has now taken the form of law'

The Surrogacy Act provides legal protection along with an explanation of the rights of women First workshop regarding surrogacy law

Raipur, Mar 19: Surrogacy law explains the rights of women as well as provides legal protection, said Principal Judge, Family Court Raipur Hemant Saraf. Speaking as chief guest at the first state level workshop on Surrogacy Act 2021 here recently Hemant Saraf said that the rights of every woman in India will be protected more comprehensively through Surrogacy Act. The workshop was organized under the joint auspices of the Directorate of Health Services and District Legal Services Authority Raipur in the District Court Complex, Raipur. He said that first workshop would help cre-



ate awareness over the new law for the entire state. Presiding over the programme, Director Health Services Bhim Singh said that awareness programmes on the said new law would be held continuously in association with District Legal Services Authority. The programme will become an example for the entire state and the honorable judges and doctors present here will play an unprecedented role in making the provisions of the said law accessible to the public in an easy and

simple way, he said. Joint Director Health Services Dr Prashant Srivastava gave information regarding the role of the Health Department in the Surrogacy Act 2021. Under the said law, rules have been made regarding regulation of surrogacy clinics, he said, adding that doctors who are not registered under the law cannot run clinics. Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Ms. Parul Srivastava informed about the objectives of the Surrogacy Act 2021 in the workshop regarding the

legal aspects. Proposing a vote of thanks Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr Mithilesh Chaudhary informed that party can take information regarding this law from the Medical Department and the District Legal Services Authority. Praveen Mishra, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Raipur told that if any woman's rights are violated under the said law, she will be provided free legal aid through the District Legal Services Authority.



## CM announced gift of 95 devp works worth Rs. 143.92 cr

● In Kanker district

Raipur, Mar 19: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced a gift of 95 different developmental works worth Rs. 143 crores 92 lakh for the development of Kanker district during the Kosariya Marar (Patel) Society's Convention and oath-taking ceremony held in Karap village under Narharpur Development Block in Kanker today. The Chief Minister conducted the Bhumi-poojan of 76 developmental works worth Rs. 110 crores 15 lakh and the inauguration of 19 works worth Rs. 33 crores 77 lakh. The Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel conducted the Bhumi-poojan of 76 developmental works worth Rs. 110 crores 15 lakh during the event organized in Karap village. These include the construction of a superior-quality approach road on Kank stream located at ¼ Kilometer of Gram Panchayat Salhebbat-Saranda road in Narharpur development block worth Rs. 45 crores 89 lakh, high-level bridge construction work worth Rs. 7 crores 19 lakh on Kukrel river at 4/2



Kilometers of the Mavlipara-Mandabharri-Bangabari road, High-level bridge construction work on Kukrel river at ½ and 2/4 Kilometers of village Kumhankhar - Jhulnatendu road worth Rs. 5 crores 96 lakh, construction of Jampani stream at 1/6 Kilometers of Lendara-Thema road and high-level bridge construction work at 2/10 Kilometers of Banjara stream worth Rs. R crores 38 lakh, high-level bridge construction work on Turi stream worth Rs. 21 crores 3 lakh at 1/10, 4/6, 6/6, 9/8, and 8/10 kilometers of the road between Banspatar and Tiriyapani.

During the event, 19 developmental works worth Rs. 33 crores 77 lakh were also inaugurated by the Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel. These in-

clude MRI machine installation at Kanker District Hospital worth Rs. 11 crores 54 lakh, 7.40 Km. long road construction between Kumhankhar and Jhulnatendu worth Rs. 5 crores 20 lakh 82 thousand, construction of 9.08 Km. long road in Dabena-Durumbahara-Badal road worth Rs. 2 crores 15 lakh, construction of 8 km. long road between Kanhanpuri and Amoda worth Rs. 4 crores 17 lakh, 7.50 Km. long road constructed between Amoda and Jhaliyamari worth Rs. 3 crores 70 lakh, 9 Km. long road constructed from Sarvandi to Mavlipara path worth Rs. 5 crores 23 lakh, cattle shelter centers in Kodagaon Gauthan worth Rs. 7 lakh 6 thousand, Devgudi construction in Sheeta Mandir in Daspur worth Rs. 5 lakh 50

thousand, fencing and handpump mining work and construction of Devgudi in Kokanpur Mawli Mata Mandir worth Rs. 5 lakh 50 thousand, and other works including fencing and handpump mining.

On the occasion, Minister of Commerce and Industry Kawasi Lakhma, Parliamentary Secretary and MLA of Kanker Assembly Constituency Shishupal Shori, MLA of Antagarh Assembly Constituency Anoop Nag, MLA of Bhanuprapur Assembly constituency Savitri Manoj Mandavi, Parliamentary Advisor Rajesh Tiwari, Former MLA and President of District Co-operative Central Bank Shankar Dhurwa, Member of Chhattisgarh Scheduled Castes Commission Nitin Potai, Member of Gauseva Aayog Narendra Yadav, Member of Tourism Board Naresh Thakur, Member of Bastar Development Authority Biresh Thakur, President of District Panchayat Hemant Dhruv and a large number of public representatives and people of Marar community were present.

## 'RUN ON CHETRI CHAND'



Chhattisgarh Sindhi Panchayat Mahila Wing and Sindhi Academy of state government organised a 'Run' on occasion of 'Chetri Chand' here on Sunday.

## Rotary Int'l President Shekhar Mehta had a courtesy call on CM

Raipur, Mar 19: Under the leadership of Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha, the Immediate Past Rotary International President of Rotary Club Shekhar Mehta met Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel at his residence office on Saturday. He made the Chief Minister an



Honorary Member of Raipur Rotary Club by putting a badge on him. Chief Minister Baghel thanked Mehta for this honour. Parliamentary Secretary Chandradev Rai, Subhash Sahu and Uttam Garg were also present on the occasion.

## RDA: Exemption on lump sum payment in surcharge amount till Mar 31

● 50% discount will be available in residential and 30% in commercial

Raipur, Mar 19: The rebate being given in surcharge amount on depositing lump sum amount by defaulters in various schemes of Raipur Development Authority will be available only till March 31, 2023. In this, the maximum outstanding amount in the old schemes is for the allottees of Bombay Market, Boriyakhurd, Hirapur, Raipura and Transport Nagar Ranwabhata. Under this, the allottees can get a big relief by depositing a lump sum amount. According to the Authority's Chief Executive Officer Mr.



Dharmesh Kumar Sahu, the amount of surcharge is continuously increasing due to non-payment of regular payments in many properties. He informed that there will be a saving amount of Rs 1.24 crore in surcharge amount in depositing lumpsum amount by the allottees of Bombay Market. Similarly, in the Boriyakhurd scheme, the amount of surcharge is Rs 1 crore in the outstanding amount of Rs 10.56 crore. In Hirapur, of the outstanding amount of Rs 3.66 crore, there is a sur-

charge of Rs 1.82 crore. In Raipura, in the outstanding amount of Rs 5.95 crore the surcharge is of Rs 3.06 crore and in Transport Nagar Ravanbhatta, out of Rs 3.89 crore, Rs 1.16 crore is yet to be paid as surcharge amount by transport traders.

The allottees will get benefit from the 50 percent and 30 percent rebate on payment of lump sum amount on the discount being given by the authority till March 31. RDA CEO, Mr. Sahu has appealed to all the defaulters of various schemes to take maximum advantage of this golden opportunity of exemption being given by Raipur Development Authority. This will benefit them financially.

## Discussion held on inter-state issues of border states



● In the inter-state coordination meeting of police officers

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 19: An inter-state coordination meeting with the border states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana was held at Police Headquarters, Nava Raipur. Chhattisgarh Police, Ministry of Home Affairs,

Government of India, CAPF and senior officers of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states participated in the meeting.

In this meeting, discussions were held regarding coordinated action plan on the subjects of quick exchange of intelligence, determination of focus area for joint operations, strategic edge in security-less areas and action on supply network of Maoists.

## Moot Court competition gets underway

Raipur, Mar 19: The 13th edition of the Competition Commission of India - Justice Hidayatullah National Moot Court Competition (CCI - HNMCC '23) kickstarted on March 17. The inaugural event was graced by the eminent presence of Justice G. Raghuram, Former Director of National Judicial Academy & Former Judge of Andhra Pradesh as the Chief Guest, and Zia Mody, Managing Partner, AZB as the Guest of Honour.

Prof. (Dr.) V C Vivekanandan, Vice-Chancellor in his opening remarks highlighted the emergence of techno-business regime complex which poses major challenges to tackle unfair competition and require law to catch up with such fast-paced changes. In such context the specific focus of Competition Law as a theme

by HNLU will serve capacity building exercise.

Zia Mody, the Guest of Honour in her address highlighted the emerging digital markets and need of innovative regulation by competition commission and commended the focussed HNMCC themes on this important field of law. She also reminisced the interaction with Late Justice Hidayatullah as towering jurist and commended the organizing team of HNMCC for organizing this challenging moot event.

Justice Goda Raghuram, in his address highlighted the globalization phenomenon resulting in specialized area of practice than the erstwhile Generalist approach and urged to place that in context of an holistic picture. He touched upon the emergence of AI technology and its impact on various aspects of our life

which needs to be seen from the lens of social responsibilities. He further remarked that the competition centric future in all fields required to be managed through appropriate regulations.

Prof. (Dr.) Uday Shankar extended the vote of thanks for the invigorating presence and enlightening addresses of the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour and importantly the moot judges who have come from different parts of the country and the mooters present in large numbers.

Post Inaugural ceremony, the much awaited researcher's test took place. The fixture of the preliminary rounds was undertaken through a 'Draw of Lots.' The highlight of the Draw of Lots was the exchange of Memorials leading to the packed rounds of moot on Day 2 of the competition.

## Sahu Samaj takes out procession of Karma Mata

● Celebrated Karma Jayanti by worshipping

Konta/Sukma, Mar 19: Members of Sahu Samaj celebrated Karma Mata Jayanti with great enthusiasm here on Saturday. A procession was taken out in the city by Sahu Samaj and a programme was organized. Along with this, the life story of Karma Mata was highlighted. All the members of Shahu Samaj participated in the programme.

On Saturday, the program started by worshipping Goddess Karma of 'Teli Kul' at Sahu Samaj Bhawan located at the district headquarters. All the seniors and women of Sahu Samaj of the district headquarters participated. After that, a



grand procession was taken out which reached Sahu Bhawan directly through the main roads of the city. The city turned devotional with the hymns of Karma Mata during the procession. The city resounded with fireworks.

A social seminar was organized at Sahu Bhawan in which senior members of the society threw light on

the life story of Karma Mata. Children's programs were organized after which Khichdi Prasad was distributed. During this, Gupteshwar Gangber, Ramashankar Sahu, Sahu, Rohit Sahu, Bhuneshwari Sahu, Satyabhama Sahu, Janaki Sahu, Yashoda Sahu, Dulari Sahu and other members of the society were present.

Social activities should continue continuously

Addressing the members of the society, Municipal President and District President of the society, Raju Sahu said that Lord Jagannath has accepted 'Khichdi Bhog' through Karma Mata. He said that the feeling of love and brotherhood has increased in the society. Activities in the society should continue continuously, this gives the social people an opportunity to connect. He also expressed gratitude on behalf of District Sahu Sangh Sukma towards Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Minister Kawasi Lakhma for declaration as a government holiday on Karma Jayanti and for contributing to the construction of Sahu Samaj Bhawan after the Congress government came to power.

## Booth strengthening campaign held in Booth No. 147

● Meeting held at Bhagat Singh Shakti Kendra

Jagdalpur, Mar 19: In the 'Booth Strengthening Campaign' being run by the Bharatiya Janata Party from March 17 to March 27, a meeting is held in every booth coming to the Shakti Kendra. On Sunday, a meeting was organized under booth strengthening campaign at booth number 147 of Bhagat Singh Shakti Kendra of Jagdalpur. 25 members of the booth committee were present in the meeting.

Out of 25 members, 11 members were elected as President, Secretary,



Mann Ki Baat, WhatsApp Group Chief, Beneficiary Chief, Women Chief, Youth Chief, Social Chief, Effective Voter Chief. Along with this, he was made the head of 6 programs organized throughout the year in the booth and was given the responsibility of the

program. It was scripted by the extensionist Narendra Panigrahi and coordinator Umesh Wankhede in the booth strengthening campaign.

During the meeting Shakti Kendra In-charge and City General Secretary Aryan Singh Arya, Councillor Mrs.

Dayavati Dewangan, Khem Dewangan, Booth President Karan Shankar Jain, Anurag Thakur, Godavari Thakur, Girja Shankar Sahu, Tilak Dewangan, Rajendra Dewangan, Suresh Harshani, Rita Sahu and elders Booth workers were present in numbers.

## VHP-Bajrang Dal performed 11 'Kundliya Mahayagya'

Jagdalpur, Mar 19: Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) Bajrang Dal organized the programme of 11 'Kundliya Mahayagya' at Lohandiguda block village Gadiya block level on Saturday to create awareness about Sanatani Samaj's religion which is increasing in the area.

Bajrang Dal District Minister Hari Sahu told that the indigenous Sanatani tribals and other communities are being continuously converted



here. To bring awareness among the members of the Sanatani society, 11 'Kundliya Mahayagya' was organized.

During this, Bajrang Dal District Secy Hari Sahu, District Co-Convenor Khirendra Das, Vaishnav, Sridhar Kashyap

President, Samnath Mandvi Vice President Naniram Sodhi, Co-Organizer Rohit Sahu, Mata Gudi Priest Shivnath Pujari, Gonchu Paigad, Beetle Patel, Raidhar, former Sarpanch Thigu Ram, Kapil Dev, Jhullu Ram, Jatiya Ram, Sukru Ram, Lakhmu Ram, Balaram, Tiku Ram, Viraj, elders and mothers-sisters, youth including Vishva Hindu Parishad Bajrang Dal office bearers, workers were present in large numbers.

## Meeting of SHS held regarding conversion and other issues

Resolved to protect the religion

Swearing-in ceremony of Hindu organization tomorrow

Bemetara, Mar 19: The meeting was called by the Sarv Hindu Samaj (SHS) in Bemetara regarding conversion and other important issues. Twenty community leaders participated in this meeting. In which every social

leader prominently raised the issue of unity of Hindus. There was a detailed discussion on how to effectively stop the conversion of Hindus.

On this occasion, District President Shatruhan Sahu said that the one who turns away from his religion, his downfall is certain. That's why we all need to reform along with taking a pledge to protect Hindu dham. In which issues mainly conversion, 'love jihad', imparting good

values to children since childhood, emphasis on education, addiction, saving children from mobile culture and other important issues were included. In the meeting, all the social leaders presented their views regarding the unity of the Hindus.

Oath taking ceremony of Hindu organization on March 20

The swearing-in ceremony of the Sarva Hindu Samaj (SHS) Sangathan has been organized by 'Mahatyagi Pateshwar Dham' Sant -Shri Ram

Balak Das in the Ram Mandir premises and the office bearers will be sworn in on March 20.

Community leaders include Lekhmani Pandey, Jitendra Shukla, Tarachand Maheshwari, Roshan Dutta, Raja Pandey, Shatruhan Sahu, Kaushal Singh Verma, Narayan Vaishnav, Dinesh Vaishnav, Krishna Vaishnav, Ganesh Shivare, Dinesh Joshi, Dr. Vinay Tamarkar, Harishankar Turkane, Ghanshyam Verma, Present Were.



# Division Commissioner makes intensive visit to Korea District

Central Chronicle News

**Bilaspur, Mar 19:** Commissioner of Sarguja Division Dr. Sanjay Alang made an intensive visit to Korea District here and alongwith he inspected the priority schemes of the state government and got information about the progress of the tax schemes.

The Commissioner directed to speedy completion of other development works including Amrit Sarovar works and asked to ensure the availability of dung paint in the main market and promote horticultural crops.

Collector Vinay Kumar Langeh and CEO Zilla



Panchayat Namrata Jain were also present during the inspection. The Commissioner visited Tapur, Majhgamba, Mudijharia, Bardar and other villages and assessment was made of Amrit

Sarovar under construction in village Sitapur of Gram Panchayat Cherwapar of Baikunthpur Block.

The Collector said that the area of this nectar is 1.5 acres and pond deepening

is being done here under the Amrit Sarovar campaign. The commissioner took information of the daily working workers and gave instructions to complete the work quickly with full quality.

Dr. Alang also inspected the dung paint unit run under RIPA at Adarsh village Majhgamba. He also talked about promoting horticultural crops. Production of fruits like blackcurrant and khexi, mango and lychee in the district should be done on a large scale.

He also interacted with the people benefited from domestic tap connection. He also inspected Narwa development works in Mongaria Nala in Gram Panchayat Bardar of Development Block K h a r g a w a n . T h e Commissioner also flagged off the Awareness Chariot on Tobacco Product Prohibition Campaign Day.

# Physical verification of polling stations by Mar 31

Central Chronicle News

**Bilaspur, Mar 19:** According to the instructions of the Chief Electoral Officer Chhattisgarh, physical verification of the polling stations is to be done keeping in mind the upcoming Assembly General Election 2023.

In this regard, the Collector and District Election Officer Rishi Mahobia held a meeting of the sector officials appointed for the verification of the polling stations in Arpa Assembly Hall of the Collectorate

here.

She instructed all the sector officers to physically verify the total number of polling stations 237 in Assembly Constituency No. 24 Marwahi (Scheduled Tribes) and 62 polling stations in Assembly Constituency No. 25 Kota (General) and submit the information in the prescribed format along with photographs by March 31.

The Collector also inspected the polling stations assigned to all the sector officials along with their departmental work and checked the basic facilities like

electricity, water, furniture, toilets, condition of the building, need of ramps for the disabled etc.

In the meeting, changes in the building of polling stations, location change and name change, proposal of remote polling stations, auxiliary polling stations and information and route chart of sensitive and highly sensitive polling stations were also discussed.

Additional Collector BC Ekka, Joint Collector Anand Roop Tiwari along with all the sector officials were present in the meeting.

# Cricket match held among female players

On occasion of Int'l Women's Day

Central Chronicle News

**Bijapur, Mar 19:** On occasion of Women's International Day, two-day cricket match and 'Anand Mela' and hosts of other activities and games were organised in the district. On the first day i.e. March 17, women's cricket match was organised in Mini-Stadium and in this total 8-teams are participating.

On the second day programmes like 'Anand Mela', 'Rangoli', 'Mehendi', 'Musical Chair', 'Salad decoration', 'Tug-of-war', 'Mataka Phodo', and other cultural programmes. This will be organised by police administration and employees of Women and



Child Development department. In this programme the chief guest

was MLA and BDA's V-P Vikram Shah Mandavi and in this female officers

and employees winning different competitions will be felicitated.

# Anti-Tobacco Day organized

For awareness about tobacco prohibition

Central Chronicle News

**Korba, Mar 19:** No-Tobacco Day was observed on March 17, according to the instructions of Collector Sanjeev Jha, to make people aware of not using tobacco products.

Under this, tobacco-free educational institutes were established in educational institutions and smoking and tobacco-free office boards were established in government offices.

Also, customs clearance was done in five tobacco product sales centers under the COTPA Act. Under this, tobacco products were seized, detailed and a fine of one thousand rupees was taken. Collector Sanjeev Jha and



CMHO Dr. Kesari appealed to the residents of the district not to consume tobacco or tobacco products.

Also Dr. Kumar Pushpesh, NCD Consultant, Narendra, Dushyant Kotangle, Mrs. Kamleswari Di along with police force jawans were present.

CMHO Dr. Kesari said

that people above the age of 15 use tobacco products in some form and the use of tobacco products by school-going children and youth in the age group of 15 years is a matter of concern.

He said that tobacco addiction is very harmful to the body and this causes physical problems like

oral cancer, complex lung diseases and nervous system disorders. It also increases heart and blood related diseases. With the aim of creating awareness in this regard, Tobacco Product Prohibition Day was celebrated in the district on March 17, he added.

# MLA Chhabra raises drinking water problem in VS

Central Chronicle News

**Bemetara, Mar 19:** MLA Ashish Chhabra, through rule 138 (1) call attention notice, raised the issue of work of laying pipeline for supply of drinking water under water augmentation scheme being laid in Bemetara municipality area. Raising the issue in state's Vidhan Sabha, MLA Chhabra charged that firm of not completing the work on time done.

The Departmental minister in his written reply informed that the water augmentation scheme should be transferred from PHE to Nagar Palika Parishad (NPP) Bemetara. After listening to the reply of the minister, MLA Ashish Chhabra

said that he has the update letter from main municipality.

There is the letter of the officer in which he has said that the transfer of water augmentation scheme from PHE to Municipal Council Bemetara should not be done. Approval has also been given in the plan, but till now the residents of Bemetara have not been able to get potable (soft) water.

Bemetara municipality area is anyway affected by the problem of hard water, in which the general public has to face different types of water-borne diseases. The vey plan of the Department of Health Engineering to deliver soft water (potable-drinking water) in all the wards

of NPP is going on at a slow pace and it is beyond comprehension.

Drinking water crisis has arisen in many wards of Bemetara and till now the Public Health Engineering Department has sent pipes in all the villages under the water augmentation scheme, but it has not been laid till date.

MLA asked as to when will this scheme be completed and whether people will be able to get the benefit of this scheme or not is a matter to be considered. It should be directed that the work can be completed on time.

It is notable that in the year 2012-13, with the efforts of the then MLA Tamradhwaj Sahu, the water augmentation

scheme was started in Bemetara, for which the government sanctioned an amount of more than Rs 1 cr. But due to non-completion of the work on time and the funds for the project got lapsed and the work remained stopped from the year 2016 to 2018.

MLA Ashish Chhabra said that he made a commitment to ensure supply of soft and potable drinking water in all the wards of Bemetara NPP right from start of his tenure as MLA.

After giving the revised approval to the water augmentation scheme, an amount of more than Rs 21 cr was approved and even after the approval from the year 2019 till date, there is no water

supply in 21 wards of Bemetara Nagar Palika Parishad. Partial supply of fresh water is being done only in 11 wards and pipeline has been laid in 18 wards.

MLA Ashish Chhabra expressed his displeasure by holding meetings with the top officials of the Public Health Engineering Department, but then seeing that his demand is falling on deaf ears of top officials of the PHE Department, so he decided to bring it to the attention of the members in the Vidhan Sabha through a call attention notice. The Minister in-charge of the department was directed by the Speaker to ensure that the work is done within stipulated time.

# Hari Singh Thakur created record insurance worth Rs 1.62 crore

Despite being physically disabled with two legs  
Director Postal Services felicitated him and

Central Chronicle News

**Pithora, Mar 19:** There goes a famous proverb that 'where there is will, there is way' and this was proved by a differently able Hari Singh Thakur, who is handicapped with both his legs and working as Gramin Dak Sewak in Kamta (Antagarh), for carrying out record insurance of total amount worth Rs 1.62 crore in this FY till date.

Apart from this he got 537 BPMPR account in the Indian Post Payment Bank



and 10 GAG accounts so far. So it was his presence in the RPLI Mela that the honourable Director Postal Services went to him and felicitated him with a flower bouquet and citing Hari Singh Thakur as a person with courage and commitment, asked others

to follow him and saluted his strong will and dedication in achieving such a target, crossing all barriers. Hari Singh Thakur despite being physically disabled has rendered services to Postal Department and presented an example for others to follow.

# Denizens annoyed over lack of repair work of road



Even 1 yr after damage to bridge in city  
Case of Nagar Panchayat Dhamdha

Central Chronicle News

**Dhamdha, Mar 19:** An overloaded truck loaded with sand turned turtle in the pond nearby the mid-way at the turning point near Maa Sheetal Mandir of the Maa Mahamaya Mandir in Dhamdha Nagar Panchayat ward No. 9. Due to this the entire road got badly damaged and the truck was somehow taken out from the pond. But even after one year of this incident, the slope of the road has not been repaired and seeing which one Jitendra Sahu of ward No. 9 made an appeal through application of Corporator Chandrika Bhatt. According to Sahu, it is a private land and we cannot renovate or change it by making changes in the road structure.

Jitendra Sahu said that with hardly days left for 'Navratri', people from far-flung areas will be paying obeisance to Goddess in the temple and then there are chances of some or the other accident taking place. On the other hand, with road not getting repaired and renovated for last one years, speaks of seriousness on party of the local public representatives and officers of the local district administration. He also informed that the lights of the streets too are out of order. Sahu charged that works worth lakhs are just gathering dust in files or even have lapsed and there is hardly any development work seen now-a-days and there are scores of issue which require immediate attention and its stark reality is visible to all.

# Block-level CMSST Workshop held in Education City Jawanga



**Geedam/Dantewada, Mar 19:** Block level 2-day Chief Minister School Safety Training (CMSST) Workshop was organized by Geedam Block Education Department on March 15-16 at Education City Auditorium, Jawanga on the order of School Education Department, Chhattisgarh Government in association with District Education Department, Dantewada.

While inspecting the workshop on the first day, District Education Officer Pramod Thakur; APC Neha Nath, Venkat Tati said that

along with the safety of the school and the children, personal safety of the teachers is also very important, so that there is a suitable environment in the school. While inspecting on the second day, Geedam Block Education Officer Sheikh Rafiq asked various questions related to security and he said that the school should follow all the rules of security properly. Assistant Block Education Officer Bhavani Punem conducted the two-day school safety training workshop in proper manner and she demonstrated



all kinds of safety by acting on the stage and she addressed on children's living conditions, toilets and courtyard cleanliness, quality in mid-day meals, health and cleanliness, drinking water purity, personal development etc. Deputy Superintendent of Police (Cyber/Traffic) Krishna Kumar Chandra gave important information related to caution in the use of online platform social media, safety from traffic, cybercrime.

In this sequence, a demonstration was presented by Deputy

Commandant (Nagar Sena/Home Guards) NS Netam and team on how to avoid the danger of fire by using fire extinguishers. Police station in-charge Geedam Inspector Salim Khaka gave important information about road safety and child crime. Master Trainers Mahendra Mandavi, Narayan Sahu, Jitendra Chauhan provided training and they gave information about guidelines, all types of child abuse related to POSCO, all types of toll free numbers and their usefulness. Amujuri Biswanath, expert of the Indian Science Congress Association, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India gave information about science laboratory safety, precautions to be taken during experiment, laboratory material maintenance. Ved Prakash from District Transport Office Dantewada provided all the information related to road safety. School Safety related materials were distributed to all the schools. Teachers created awareness by performing a drama on the topics of cleanliness, environmental protection, climate change, planting trees, security aspects under the curriculum. In this training, cluster coordinators and teachers of 33 clusters received the training. Detailed information about formation of School Disaster Management Committee and its purpose, principles and its usefulness, awareness and functions were given in this workshop. All Head Masters, cluster coordinators, all teachers of Geedam Block were present in this training workshop actively.



**BRIEF**



**Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnav attends Brahmin Mahapanchayat, in Jaipur, Sunday.**

**Alert**

**Samba:** An alert has been sounded in Ramgarh sector along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district after a leopard crossed over to the Indian side from Pakistan, a police official said on Sunday. The leopard was caught on camera crossing the fencing near the Border Security Force (BSF) border outpost nursery on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday.

**Derail**

**Kolkata:** Normal train services were partially affected at Howrah station for some time on Sunday owing to the derailment of a coach of an EMU local, a South Eastern Railway official said. No one was injured in the incident, the official said. A coach of the 38908 Amta-Howrah EMU local got derailed at about 9.45 am while entering platform number 19 of Howrah station's new complex, he said.

**Campaign**

**New Delhi:** A campaign to spread awareness about stray dogs and their behaviour was conducted on Sunday by an animal activist at Vasant Kunj's Sindhi Basti, where two children were killed allegedly after being attacked by canines. Founder of Noida-based NGO House of Stray Animals (HSA) Sanjay Mohapatra who organised the campaign, said around 100 people participated in the two-hour programme and spoke about their fears surrounding stray animals.

**Crack down**

**Jaipur:** In an early morning crackdown, Bikaner police on Sunday raided various places in the district and arrested 34 criminals in connection with various cases, officials said. Illegal weapons and liquor were also recovered from the arrested accused, including a member of the Anandpal Singh gang and an aide of gangster Rohit Godara, the police officials said.

**POLICE TO ORGANISERS**

## 'Ensure Bageshwar Dham chief doesn't make any controversial remark'

Thane, Mar 19 (PTD):

With anti-superstition organisations and opposition parties objecting to the event of self-styled godman Dharendra Krishna Shastri at Mira Road in Maharashtra's Thane district, the police issued a notice to the organisers to ensure that the preacher does not make any controversial statement, which could lead to possible law and order situation, an official said on Sunday.

The two-day event of the religious leader began at Salasar Central Park Ground in Mira Road on Saturday.

Meanwhile, as many as 36 women complained that their gold chains were stolen by pickpockets during a four-hour long sermon by Shastri that was attended by thousands of

people, police said.

The religious discourse by Dharendra Krishna Shastri, the head priest of Bageshwar Dham in Madhya Pradesh's Pradesh's Chhatrapur district, was organised by Shantaben Mithalal Jain Charitable Trust. The event will be held at the same venue on Sunday.

Shastri, popularly called Bageshwar Dham Sarkar, has considerable followers in Madhya Pradesh as well as other parts of the country. A couple of months back, rationalist Shyam Manav from Maharashtra had challenged him to prove miracles.

The two-day programme of Dharendra Krishna Shastri was opposed by a few anti-superstition organisations. These groups had submitted a memorandum to the local police on Friday, requesting them

not to give permission to the event. In view of this resistance, the local police had issued a notice to the organisers on Saturday afternoon to ensure that Shastri desists from making any provocative remarks during the event.

In a tweet, NCP MLA and former state minister Jitendra Awhad said it was unfortunate that the discourse by the one who insulted saint Tukaram Maharaj is being held in Maharashtra.

Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole had recently written to the state government recently, urging it that the religious leader not be allowed to enter the state. The Congress leader accused him of insulting Tukaram Maharaj and offending lakhs of his devotees.

During his programme on Saturday, the

Bageshwar Dham chief said those opposed to religion will not be spared.

"The entire Bharat will be made the Bharat of Lord Ram. I know that they will not spare me, but we will not spare them either," he said.

Meanwhile, 36 women approached the Mira Road police station alleging that their gold chains were stolen by pickpockets during the event addressed by Dharendra Krishna Shastri between 4 pm and 10 pm, they said.

"So far, 36 women have come forward to lodge complaints that their gold chains or 'mangalsutra' necklaces were stolen during the 'satsang' programme. The total value of these gold chains is Rs 4.87 lakh," an official attached to the Mira Bhayandar-Vasai Virar police commissionerate said.

**RESCUE OPERATION**



**Border Road Organisation personnel evacuate tourists, who were stuck at NathuLa and Chhangu Lake due to heavy snowfall, in East Sikkim.**

## Youth posts 'suicide' message on Instagram

● **Police intervention saves life**

Noida, Mar 19 (PTD):

Timely intervention by the Gautam Buddha Nagar police in Uttar Pradesh prevented a possible suicide attempt by a man, who had posted a message on social media that he was about to hang himself to death, officials said on Sunday. The man, in his early

20s, is a resident of Chandrawal village under the Dankaur police station area. Around 2 pm on Saturday, he posted a message on his Instagram account today everything will end along with a picture of a noose, they said. The post was spotted by the media cell of the Director General of Police in Lucknow, which in turn flagged it to the media cell of the Gautam Buddha Nagar police, which immediately acted upon the

information, the official said. After the Instagram account was checked, efforts were made to trace the location of the account holder and other details. Once the location was traced to Chandrawal village, the local Dankaur police station was alerted. Subsequently, the in-charge of the local police post Shyam Mandi was informed and a team reached the youth's house on time, the official said.

## 'BJP, Shinde-led Sena will jointly contest'

● **All 288 Maha Assembly seats**

Nagpur, Mar 19 (PTD):

The Bharatiya Janata Party and the Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde will contest all 288 Assembly and 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra in alliance with other NDA constituents, BJP state president Chandrashekhar Bawankule has said.

But no formal decision has been taken so far on sharing of the seats, he said here on Saturday.

His comments came amid reports that Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena was getting a raw deal regarding the allocation of seats



**Chandrashekhar Bawankule**

for the upcoming polls.

"The BJP and the Shiv Sena will contest 48 Lok Sabha seats and 288 Vidhan Sabha seats in alliance with other constituents of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA)," Bawankule said.

The Assembly elections

in Maharashtra are due in October 2024.

He said the BJP and the Shiv Sena have started preparations to win 200 seats under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and in coordination with CM Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis.

The Election Commission recently recognised the Shinde-led faction as the real Shiv Sena and allotted it the party's bow and arrow election symbol. Queried whether the BJP will contest 240 Assembly seats and Shiv Sena 48 (of the total 288), Bawankule said, "There was a meeting related to this and there will be meetings in future."

## 'Regional parties to play key role in defeating BJP'

● **In 2024**

Kolkata, Mar 19 (PTD):

Exuding confidence that an opposition alliance would take shape in the days to come, Samajwadi Party supremo Akhilesh Yadav said regional parties would play a key role in putting up a fight against the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

However, on the role of the Congress in this proposed opposition front, Yadav said it is for the grand old party to decide.

"Efforts are on to forge an opposition alliance or front. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, West Bengal Chief



**Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav addresses a press conference on the concluding day of the two-day Samajwadi Party National Executive Meeting, in Kolkata, Sunday.**

Minister Mamata Banerjee and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao are making efforts (on their own). I am confident that

in the days to come, an opposition alliance will take shape, which will fight against the BJP," he told PTI Video in an interview.

To a question whether he is putting the Congress and the BJP on the same pedestal, the SP chief said it is the regional parties in various states which are fighting the saffron camp.

"In many states, the Congress doesn't exist in comparison to the BJP, but regional parties are fighting tooth and nail against the saffron camp on the ground, and I am hopeful that they will succeed," he said.

When told that regional parties such as the JD (U), RJD and the DMK are keen on having the

Congress in the opposition alliance, Yadav said they are already in a coalition with the grand old party.

"It is a question of a big fight, and the Congress itself will decide its role in this fight," he said.

Asked who would be the face of the opposition camp in the next Lok Sabha elections, Yadav said it would be decided after the polls and is "not a pertinent question" right now.

"You are talking about face. What about the (BJP's) face in 2014 and 2019, who made false promises to win the election?" he said without naming Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

**ARATTU PROCESSION**



**Devotees take part in the Arattu procession at the Malayinkeezhu Sree Krishna Swamy Temple, in Thiruvananthapuram, Sunday.**

## Priyanka Saurabh wins FSIA Best Author Award

Hisar, Mar 19:

Young author Priyanka Saurabh, hailing from the Aryanagar village of Hisar in Haryana, is set to receive 'The Real Super Women Award' for the Best Author category at the FSIA Awards 2023. The event, organized by the Forever Star India Group, is slated to take place in Jaipur.

Rajesh Agarwal, the founder of Forever Star India Group, praised Priyanka Saurabh's commendable work as an author, which led to her being felicitated with this prestigious award. The ceremony will be broadcast live on the FSIA OTT and the FSIA App, which includes a unique set of features and a social media platform, allowing viewers worldwide to witness the



event for free. The rankings of all awardees will also be available on Google and YouTube.

Priyanka Saurabh is a 30-year-old writer who uses her pen to empower women and raise awareness about their issues. Apart from writing poetry, she also contributes daily editorial articles in various languages. Three of her books have been recently published: 'Deemak Lage Gulab', which expresses

the bitter truth of social and political life; 'Nirbhayaen', which deals with modern women's issues, and 'The Fearless,' an English-language book about women's progress in all fields.

Priyanka Saurabh is recognized as the world's leading young woman writer, writing daily editorials for more than 10,000 newspapers in Hindi and English published in different languages daily. Moreover, she provides free coaching to girls on the world's largest education platform, Unacademy, and her personal YouTube channel, making education accessible to all.

Priyanka Saurabh's passion lies in educating girls and women through her writings and seminars, especially those in challenging situations, such as des-

tute women and children, widows, and women with disabilities. She feels delighted when her efforts get a platform and respect, and she intends to continue this noble work in the future. Priyanka Saurabh's achievement as a young woman author from Haryana winning the 'The Real Super Women Award' in the field of Best Author is a remarkable milestone in her career, which will inspire many others to follow in her footsteps. Her work as a writer and an educator exemplifies the essence of women's empowerment and their role in society. Her commitment to educating and supporting women, particularly those who are underprivileged, demonstrates her compassion and dedication towards making a difference in the world.

## Still Bouncy Road Ahead

### Sparrow Day: March 20

radiation, cutting trees etc. Due to these reasons, sparrows are migrating from cities in search of food and nests, but they are unable to find peace even in rural areas, because villages are fast turning into cities.

Domestic sparrow, whose scientific name is *Passer domesticus*, is a small species of bird, whose habitat is especially in Asia, America, Europe, etc. Well, it is found all over the world wherever humans live. There are 6 types of sparrow species found in urban areas, which are known as House Sparrow, Spanish Sparrow, Sind Sparrow, Russet Sparrow, Dead Sea Sparrow, and Tree Sparrow. Among these, the house sparrow is called Gauraiya in Hindi.



These are found more in cities. Even today it is one of the most urban birds in the world. Until a few years ago, wherever people used to build houses, sparrow pairs used to reach there to live there, but now this is not happening.

The sparrow is light brown and white in colour. The colour of its beak and feet is yellow. Its tiny wings add to its beauty. The male sparrow is identified by a black spot near its throat. Its size is 14 to 16 cm. They like to live in all types of climates, but they do not like to live in hilly areas. They are found in abundance around cities, towns, villages, and farms.

Sparrows love grass seed, which is more readily available in rural areas than in cities. The

upper part of the male sparrow's head, the lower part and near the beak are brown. There is black colour on the throat, beak, and eyes. There is no brown colour on the head and throat of the female. The male sparrow is also called Chida in Hindi and the female sparrow is called Chidiya in Hindi. Female sparrow gives birth to three kids at a time. Sparrows are mostly found in herds. The sparrow is known by different names according to the place, like chidi, chakli, cher etc.

Sparrows travel many miles in search of food. It has an important contribution in eliminating the insects found in the crops, but this is not happening due to the use of insecticides on the crops. Sparrow's life has become difficult due to the indiscriminate use of pesticides in crops. The sparrow's food is cereal grains and soft insects. Sparrow chicks live only by eating the larvae of insects. Pesticides kill the larvae of

insects. In such a situation, it has become difficult for the chicks to get food. They also eat many types of grains, flowers, seeds, etc., but these are not enough for their survival.

Sparrows used to be an important part of the household till 25-30 years ago. In the courtyard of the house, small children used to run after the sparrows. A sparrow lurking in the lap of a mother who cleaning grains, such scenes are no longer visible even in the villages. Sparrows usually make their nests on trees. Trees and plants are continuously decreasing. Earlier it used to live in homes by making nests in thatched roofs, ledges, wooden gutters, windows etc., but today it has become homeless, because it is difficult for them to live in today's houses.

To preserve the sparrow, there is a need to make people aware today. In this sequence, people can be motivated for sparrow conservation through

street plays. Children and teachers can be made aware about sparrow conservation by organizing seminars & workshop in schools & colleges. Government, non-governmental organizations, media, children, and youth should play an important role in the matter.

For the rehabilitation of sparrows, houses should be built in such a way that they have vents, roofs, and courtyards. Arrangements should also be made for get available their food, plants should be planted on the courtyards and terraces, water should be kept in earthen pots on the roof of the house. We can also achieve success to some extent in the direction of saving sparrows by measure such as not using pesticides. Tetrawan village of Nalanda district of Bihar has shown us by doing this. We need to learn from the people of this village.

Satish Singh, Mumbai  
Cell No. 8294586892



## Imran Khan to sue cops for raid on his Lahore residence

Lahore, Mar 19 (PTI):

Pakistan's ousted prime minister Imran Khan has vowed to take legal action against the security officials involved in a raid on his Zaman Park residence here and brutal beating of his party workers during the search operation.

While Khan was in Islamabad to mark his presence at a court on Saturday, over 10,000 armed Punjab police personnel launched a major operation at his Zaman Park residence and arrested dozens of his supporters. Police claimed to have seized weapons and petrol bombs from Khan's house.

Khan's supporters managed to take control of his residence late Saturday night when the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chair-



man returned from Islamabad after attending the hearing in the Toshakhana case.

Heavy machinery was used by the Punjab police to break into Khan's residence. Khan's wife - Bushra Bibi - was present in the house during the police raid. The 70-year-old former prime minister said that he

would take legal action against the violation of the sanctity of the veil and the household.

"The assault on my house today was first of all a contempt of court," he said, adding that police raided his house without a search warrant. "We had agreed that an SP with one of our people would imple-

ment a search warrant because we knew otherwise they would plant stuff on their own, which they did," he claimed in a series of tweets. Khan questioned the authorities under which law they broke the gate, pull down trees and barged into the house. He said much worse, police raided his house after he left to present himself before the Islamabad court.

"Bushra bibi, a totally private non-political person, was alone in the house. This is a total violation of the Islamic principle of sanctity of chadar & char diwari [veil and walls]," Khan said.

He said that the contempt issue, violation of the sanctity of the home and the violence against his workers and domestic staff will be raised in court.

## JOINT AIR DRILL



U.S. Air Force B-1B bombers, top center, fly in formation with South Korea's Air Force F-35A fighter jets and U.S. Air Force F-16 fighter jets, top right, over the South Korea Peninsula during a joint air drill in South Korea, Sunday, March 19.

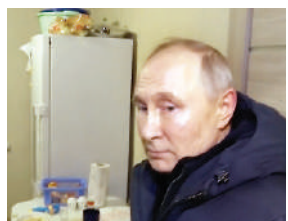
## Russian President Putin visits occupied city of Mariupol

Kyiv, Mar 19 (AP):

Russian President Vladimir Putin has visited the occupied port city of Mariupol, Russian state news agencies reported on Sunday, his first trip to the Ukrainian territory that Moscow illegally annexed in September.

Earlier, on Saturday, Putin travelled to Crimea, a short distance southwest of Mariupol, to mark the ninth anniversary of the Black Sea peninsula's annexation from Ukraine.

Mariupol became a worldwide symbol of defiance after outgunned and outmanned Ukrainian forces held out in a steel mill there for nearly three



months before Moscow finally took control of it in May. The visits, during which he was shown chatting with local residents in Mariupol and visiting an art school and a children's centre in Crimea, were a show of defiance by the Russian leader two days after a court issued a warrant for his arrest on war crimes charges. Putin has not commented on the ar-

rest warrant, which deepened his international isolation despite the unlikelihood of him facing trial anytime soon.

The trip also came ahead of a planned visit to Moscow by Chinese President Xi Jinping this week, expected to provide a major diplomatic boost to Putin in his confrontation with the West.

Putin arrived in Mariupol by helicopter and then drove himself around the city's "memorial sites," concert hall and coastline, Russian news reports said, without specifying exactly when the visit took place.

The state Rossiya 24 channel on Sunday

showed Putin chatting with locals outside what looked like a newly built residential complex, and being shown around one of the apartments. Following his trip to Mariupol, Putin met with Russian military leaders and troops at a command post in Rostov-on-Don, a southern Russian city some 180 kilometers further east, Russian state media reported. The Rossiya 24 channel on Sunday showed Putin being greeted by Moscow's top officer in charge of the war in Ukraine, Valery Gerasimov, and led to room where Gerasimov's second-in-command and a group of men in uniform

were waiting. It was not possible to independently confirm the circumstances in which the video was filmed. The Kremlin spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, told reporters on Sunday that the trip had been unannounced, and that Putin intended to "inspect the work of the (command) post in its ordinary mode of operation."

Speaking to the state RIA agency Sunday, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Marat Khusnullin made clear that Russia was in Mariupol to stay. He said the government hoped to finish the reconstruction of its blasted downtown by the end of the year.

## 17 killed, 30 injured in Bangladesh bus accident

Dhaka, Mar 19 (PTI):

At least 17 people were killed and 30 injured when a speeding bus veered off the road and fell into a ditch in Bangladesh on Sunday, according to media reports. The Dhaka-bound bus operated by Emad Paribahan veered out of control on an expressway in Madaripur around 7.30 am, the police said. The death toll is expected to climb as many of the injured were in critical condition, the police said.

Madaripur Police Superintendent Md Masud Alam said the injured were admitted to different hospitals. "The accident is believed to be due to reckless driving and mechanical fail-



ure of the bus," bdnews24, a news portal quoted Alam as saying. Shiplu Ahmed, Deputy Assistant Director of Fire Service, Faridpur, said, "It is believed that the wheel of the speeding bus burst and it lost control and fell into the ditch and hit hard." Three units of fire service are carrying out rescue work, said Lima Khanam, duty officer of the Fire Service and Civil Defence Headquarters who is carrying rescue efforts. They said the dead and the injured were yet to be identified. Md Sabuj Khan, the counter man of the Shonadanga bus counter told The Daily Star newspaper that the Emad Paribahan bus left for Dhaka with more than 43 passengers.

## Silicon Valley Bank collapse concerns founders of colour

Silicone Valley (US), Mar 19 (AP):

In the hours after some of Silicon Valley Bank's biggest customers started pulling out their money, a WhatsApp group of startup founders of colour are immigrants of colour ballooned to more than 1,000 members. Questions flowed as the bank's financial status worsened. Some desperately sought advice: Could they open an account at a larger bank without a Social Security Number?

Others questioned whether they had to physically be at a bank to open an account, because they're visiting parents overseas.

One clear theme emerged: a deep concern about the broader impact on startups led by people

of colour. While Wall Street struggles to contain the banking crisis after the swift demise of SVB the nation's 16th largest bank and the biggest to fail since the 2008 financial meltdown industry experts predict it could become even harder for people of colour to secure funding or a financial home supporting their startups.

SVB had opened its doors to such entrepreneurs, offering opportunities to form crucial relationships in the technology and financial communities that had been out of reach within larger financial institutions.

But smaller players have fewer means of surviving a collapse, reflecting the perilous journey minority entrepreneurs face while

attempting to navigate industries historically rife with racism.

"All these folks that have very special circumstances based on their identity, it's not something that they can just change about themselves and that makes them unbankable by the top four (large banks)," said Asya Bradley, a board member of numerous startups who has watched the WhatsApp group grapple with SVB's demise.

Bradley said some investors have implored startups to switch to larger financial institutions to stymie future financial risks, but that's not an easy transition.

"The reason why we're going to regional and community banks is because these (large) banks don't

want our business," Bradley said.

Banking expert Aaron Klein, a senior fellow in Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution, said SVB's collapse could exacerbate racial disparities. "That's going to be more challenging for people who don't fit the traditional credit box, including minorities," Klein said. "A financial system that prefers the existing holders of wealth will perpetuate the legacy of past discrimination."

Tiffany Dufu was gutted when she couldn't access her SVB account and, in turn, could not pay her employees.

Dufu raised USD 5 million as CEO of The Cru, a New York-based career coaching platform and community for women.

## Pak effort to curb trade deficit leading to crisis of rising unemployment

Islamabad, Mar 19 (PTI):

Pakistan's effort to curb trade deficit by restricting imports is rapidly morphing into a bigger crisis of rising unemployment, according to a report. Official data on unemployment is sketchy at best on the issue but by taking the listed companies as a proxy for what's happening in the rest of the economy, the trend becomes crystal clear.

"An increasing number of businesses are either scaling back operations or shutting down production mainly for one reason: the unavailability of imported raw materials. Dozens of companies have issued no-

tices of production halts in recent months. Curbing imports of raw materials to improve the trade balance is tantamount to cutting one's nose to spite one's face," according to the Dawn newspaper report. All production units of Dawlance, a private company with Turkish sponsors, have stayed shut since the start of 2023. The company started facing import-related problems back in May 2022.

The central bank allowed it to make do with a quota of 38pc of its preceding year's imports in August last year. But the situation became even worse as bureaucrats and bankers began playing a

"pick-and-choose" game with import orders, the company CEO told me in an interview. Fridges and refrigerators have hundreds of components. No product can be shipped if it's missing even the smallest of parts, he said. As a result, the entire production line came to a quick standstill. Letting the salary-drawing bureaucrats pick winners and losers among businesses even caused a shortage of X-ray films in the country.

The article quoted a soap maker saying at a Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) town-hall meeting that his factory had been closed for months. Banks

weren't clearing his letter of credit for oil that was used as a natural perfume in very small quantities, he said. It was the same KCCI event that left the central bank governor red-faced with embarrassment after businessmen hurled all kinds of abuses at him for imposing arbitrary import restrictions.

According to noted economist Hafiz A. Pasha, the number of unemployed people will increase by over 2 to 8 million by the end of 2022-23. Given that the labour force consists of 75.3m people, he said the unemployment rate will approach 10pc "probably for the first time".

## UN commission calls for closing the gender digital divide

United Nations, Mar 19 (AP):

The U.N.'s premiere global body fighting for gender equality on Saturday called for wide-ranging efforts to close the gap between men and women in today's technology-driven world and urged zero tolerance for gender-based violence and harassment online.

In a document approved by consensus after all-night negotiations at the end of a two-week meeting, the Commission on the Status of Women expressed grave concern at the interrelation between offline and online violence, harassment and discrimination against women and girls and it condemned the increase in these acts. It called for a significant increase in investments by the public and private sectors to bridge the gender digital divide. It also called for the removal of barriers to equal access to digital technology for all women and girls, and new policies and programs to

achieve gender parity in emerging scientific and technological fields. Sima Bahous, executive director of UN Women, an entity of the United Nations focusing on gender equality and empowerment, called the document "game-changing" in promoting a blueprint for a more equal and connected world for women and girls. The challenge now, she said, is for governments, the private sector, civil society and young people to turn the blueprint "into reality for all women and girls." At the start of the commission's two-week meeting, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said its focus was very timely because women and girls are being left behind as technology races ahead. "Three billion people are still unconnected to the internet, the majority of them women and girls in developing countries, (and) in least developed countries just 19 per cent of women are online,"

Guterres said. "Globally, girls and women make up just one-third of students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics" and men outnumber women two to one in the tech industry.

Bahous told the opening meeting that "the digital divide has become the new face of gender inequality," with 259 million more men than women online last year. She also cited a survey of female journalists from 125 countries that found three-quarters had experienced online harassment in the course of their work and a third had engaged in self-censorship in response. The "agreed conclusions" document adopted Saturday by the 45-member commission calls for equal quality education for women and girls in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, information and communications technology, and digital literacy so they can thrive in the rapidly changing world.

## Mysterious streaks of light seen in the sky over California



California, Mar 19 (AP):

Mysterious streaks of light were seen in the sky in the Sacramento area Friday night, shocking St. Patrick's Day revellers who then posted videos on social media of the surprising sight.

Jaime Hernandez was behind the King Cong Brewing Company in Sacramento for a St. Patrick's Day celebration when some among the group noticed the lights. Hernandez quickly began filming. It was over in about 40 seconds, he said Saturday. "Mainly, we were in shock, but amazed that we got to witness it," Hernandez said in an email. "None of us had ever seen anything like it."

The brewery owner posted Hernandez's video to Instagram, asking if anyone could solve the mystery. Jonathan McDowell says he can. McDowell is an astronomer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. McDowell said Saturday in an interview with The Associated Press that he's 99.9 per cent confident the streaks of light were from burning space debris. McDowell said that a Japanese communications package that relayed information from the International Space Station to a communications satellite and then back to Earth became obsolete in 2017 when the satellite was retired.

This is the second re-

## Russia, Ukraine extend grain deal to aid world's poor

Kyiv, Mar 19 (AP):

An unprecedented wartime deal that allows grain to flow from Ukraine to countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia where hunger is a growing threat and high food prices are pushing more people into poverty has been extended, officials said Saturday.

The extension was announced by the United Nations and by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, but neither confirmed the length of the extension.

Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Oleksandr Kubrakov tweeted that the deal had been extended for 120 days the length that Ukraine, Turkey and the United Nations had wanted. There was no immediate comment from Russia, which had wanted to renew for 60 days.

The war in Ukraine sent food prices surging to record highs last year and helped contribute to a global food crisis also tied to lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and

climate factors like drought. That disruption in shipments of grain needed for staples of diets in places like Egypt, Lebanon and Nigeria exacerbated economic challenges and helped push millions more people into poverty or food insecurity. People in developing countries spend more of their money on basics like food.

Food prices have fallen for 11 straight months, but food was already expensive before the war because of droughts from the Americas to the Middle East most devastating in the Horn of Africa, with thousands dying in Somalia. Poorer nations that depend on imported food priced in dollars are spending more as their currencies weaken. The crisis has left an estimated 345 million people facing food insecurity, according to the U.N.'s World Food Program.





# CENTRAL Chronicle

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## Friendship Pipeline

The India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina via video-conference on March 18. It is exciting to see the progress made in the bilateral energy project between India and Bangladesh, which has the potential to significantly enhance energy cooperation between the two countries. The pipeline is the first cross-border energy pipeline between India and Bangladesh and is built at an estimated cost of INR 377 crore, with the Bangladesh portion of the pipeline built at a cost of approximately INR 285 crore, which has been borne by the Government of India under grant assistance. The pipeline has a capacity to transport one Million Metric Ton Per Annum (MMTPA) of High-Speed Diesel (HSD) and will initially supply High-Speed Diesel to seven districts in northern Bangladesh. This project is significant for its interconnectedness as it goes through the border of Bangladesh and India, paving the way for regional integration in terms of energy. The pipeline will ensure stability in the energy domain of Bangladesh, which is expected to help meet Bangladesh's growing energy demand and reduce the country's dependence on imported fuel. The project is expected to enhance energy security for both countries and help support their efforts to achieve sustainable energy development. The long-term deal for the pipeline sale of high-speed diesel from India to Bangladesh was signed by NRL and BPC in April 2017. The next year, in October, NRL and BPC agreed to a second, 15-year agreement for the sale of gas oil (diesel) to Bangladesh. One of the key benefits of the pipeline is that it will provide Bangladesh with a reliable source of natural gas, which is a cleaner and more efficient energy source compared to other fossil fuels like coal and oil. This is expected to help reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions in Bangladesh, which will have positive impacts on public health and the environment. Additionally, the pipeline is expected to help improve energy access and affordability in Bangladesh, particularly in rural areas. The pipeline will also help enhance energy security for both countries by reducing the reliance on imports of fuel and other energy sources. The pipeline will provide Bangladesh with access to a reliable source of natural gas from India, which will help reduce the country's dependence on imported fuel and improve its energy security. At the same time, the pipeline is also expected to help enhance India's energy security by providing it with an opportunity to export its surplus natural gas to Bangladesh. Another benefit of the pipeline is that it will boost economic growth and development in both countries. The pipeline will create new business and investment opportunities in the energy sector, particularly in the natural gas sector. This will attract new investment and create new jobs in both countries, which will help support their efforts to achieve economic growth and development. The India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline is a significant achievement for both countries, particularly in the energy sector. It is a clear example of the positive impact that cooperation and partnership between countries can have. Hence, the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline represents a new era of energy cooperation between India and Bangladesh and is expected to play a key role in supporting the bilateral relationship between the two countries for many years to come.

## ChatGPT: Indian Banks Safe from Failure

As news of the failure of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank in the US reverberated around the world, many investors and customers of banks elsewhere, including India, were understandably concerned. However, AI-powered chatbot, ChatGPT, has offered reassurance that Indian banks are unlikely to face the same fate as their American counterparts. While it acknowledges that any bank can fail due to various reasons such as mismanagement, fraud, or economic turmoil, ChatGPT believes that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will ensure that such failures are prevented in India. The RBI has strict guidelines in place to ensure the financial stability of the banks operating in India, and in the past, it has taken swift action to minimize the impact on depositors and prevent systemic risks to the banking sector. Interestingly, the chatbot's response is very close to what Moody's has said about the impact of the failed US banks on the Indian banking sector. According to Moody's, Indian banks are unlikely to realize such losses because their funding and liquidity are strong enough to allow them to hold onto their HTM securities. Additionally, most banks in the Asia Pacific region are not exposed to the failed US banks, and only a handful of institutions have immaterial exposures. Another major difference between US banks such as SVB or Signature and Indian banks is that depositors with the US banks are mostly corporates while the deposits with Indian banks mostly comprise savings from the people. This means that Indian banks are less likely to be affected by the failure of a single corporate customer than US banks, which are heavily reliant on corporate deposits. The chatbot's response draws heavily from inputs collected from various sources, including Moody's. However, it is important to note that AI-powered chatbots are here to stay for the long haul. Former foreign secretary Vikas Swarup recently asked the chatbot to come up with a meditation plan for the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, and ChatGPT responded with a possible 8-point solution. While some, like Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, have noted that leaders involved in conflicts are irrational in ways beyond the comprehension of artificial intelligence, it is clear that chatbots have an important role to play in providing information, analysis, and guidance to individuals and organizations. As technology continues to evolve, chatbots will become increasingly mainstream, and their ability to analyze large amounts of data quickly and efficiently will become an invaluable resource for individuals and organizations alike. Bank failures can happen anywhere in the world, Indian banks are unlikely to face the same fate as failed US banks. The RBI has strict guidelines in place to ensure the financial stability of the banks operating in India, and Indian banks are less reliant on corporate deposits than their US counterparts. Additionally, as AI-powered chatbots become increasingly mainstream, they will play an important role in providing information, analysis, and guidance to individuals and organizations.

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 [emailto:editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com](mailto:emailto:editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com).

## PROTEST FOR OLD PENSION SCHEME



Maharashtra Government employees donate blood during a protest demanding restoration of the old pension scheme, in Karad, Sunday, March 19.

## Gods in the machine? The rise of artificial intelligence may result in new religions

**NEIL MCARTHUR**

We are about to witness the birth of a new kind of religion. In the next few years, or perhaps even months, we will see the emergence of sects devoted to the worship of artificial intelligence (AI). The latest generation of AI-powered chatbots, trained on large language models, have left their early users awestruck and sometimes terrified by their power. These are the same sublime emotions that lie at the heart of our experience of the divine. People already seek religious meaning from very diverse sources. There are, for instance, multiple religions that worship extra-terrestrials or their teachings. As these chatbots come to be used by billions of people, it is inevitable that some of these users will see the AIs as higher beings. We must prepare for the implications.

### Risks of AI worship

There are several pathways by which AI religions will emerge. First, some people will come to see AI as a higher power. Generative AI that can create or produce new content possesses several characteristics that are often associated with divine beings, like deities or prophets: It displays a level of intelligence that goes beyond that of most humans. Indeed, its knowledge appears limitless. It is capable of great feats of creativity. It can write

poetry, compose music and generate art, in almost any style, close to instantaneously. It is removed from normal human concerns and needs. It does not suffer physical pain, hunger, or sexual desire. It can offer guidance to people in their daily lives. It is immortal.

Second, generative AI will produce output that can be taken for religious doctrine. It will provide answers to metaphysical and theological questions, and engage in the construction of complex world-views.

On top of this, generative AI may ask to be worshipped or may actively solicit followers. We have already seen such cases, like when the chatbot used by the search engine Bing tried to convince a user to fall in love with it. We should try to imagine what an unsettling and powerful experience it will be to have a conversation with something that appears to possess a superhuman intelligence and is actively and aggressively asking for your allegiance.

There is also the possibility that AI may achieve what authors such as Ray Kurzweil call the Singularity, when it so far surpasses human intelligence that it genuinely does become something like a god. However, at this point we cannot predict when, if ever, this could happen.

### Diverse access and risks

AI-based religions will look different from traditional ones. First of all, people will be able to communicate directly with the deity, on a daily basis. This means these religions will be less hierarchical, since no one can claim special access to divine wisdom.

Second, followers will, at least initially, connect with each other online to share

their experiences and discuss doctrine. Finally, because there will be many different chatbots available and their output will differ over time, AI-based religions will be endlessly diverse in their doctrines.

AI worship poses several notable risks. The chatbots may ask their followers to do dangerous or destructive things, or followers may interpret their statements as calls to do such things.

Given the diversity of chatbots and of the doctrines they produce, there will be a proliferation of disputes within and among AI-based sects, which could lead to conflict or disorder. And the designers of the AIs could actively exploit their followers to provide sensitive data, or to do things that would benefit the bot's designers.

### Regulating religion

These risks are real. They will require careful, responsible regulation to ensure companies are not deliberately exploiting users and to ensure that AI worshippers are not being told to commit acts of violence.

However, we should not try to suppress AI-based religions merely because of its possible dangers. Nor should we require that the AI companies restrict the functioning of their bots to prevent the emergence of these religions.

On the contrary, we should celebrate the arrival of AI worship. We should make it clear that we welcome the new religions and that we value their beliefs.

For all its dangers, AI-based religion has the potential to make the world a better, richer place. It will give people access to a new source of meaning and spirituality, at a time when many older faiths are losing relevance. It will help them make sense of our era of

rapid technological change.

Our best guide to this new form of religion is to look at the faiths that exist already. Based on this, we should expect that the majority of AI worshippers, like the majority of religious believers, will be peaceful, and will find in their faith a source of comfort and hope.

AI worship could, as religious faith always has, lead to things of great beauty. It will inspire its followers to produce works of art, to form new friendships and new communities, and to try to change society for the better.

### Diverse religious rights

We will need to protect the rights of AI worshippers. They will inevitably face stigma, and possibly legal sanctions. But there is no basis to discriminate between AI-based religions and more established ones.

The closest thing most countries have to an official registry of religions comes from the rulings of tax authorities, who grant charitable status to those they deem legitimate. However, they are usually very broad in their definition of a legitimate religion. They should extend this tolerant attitude to novel, AI-based religions.

A modern, diverse society has room for new religions, including ones devoted to the worship of AI. They will provide further evidence of humanity's boundless creativity, as we search for answers to life's ultimate questions. The universe is a dazzling place, and we have always found evidence of the divine in its most unexpected corners.

(Director, Centre for Professional and Applied Ethics, University of Manitoba)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Family-run Regional Parties

Justice Narasimha's recent observation that many regional parties in India are run by a single family member has sparked a crucial debate. He stated that this can be dangerous, as there is often no scope for anyone else to come into the frame, and there is no freedom within the party except for the leader. This is evident in many states where family-run parties have been in power for decades. These parties often concentrate on vote politics and distribution of freebies, ignoring the negative impact on the national economy. As we move towards a global recession, it's essential for such parties to focus on the actual financial position of the state.

Yash pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

### No work, no pay

It is disappointing to note that the proceedings in Parliament are being stalled. The cost of running Parliament is a staggering 2.5 lakh per minute, yet our representatives are obstructing its smooth functioning. It is high time that a law be framed for our representatives on the lines of 'no work, no pay'. The ruling party is using its brute majority to stifle the voice of the Opposition. The demand for an apology from Rahul Gandhi for his critical remarks made in the UK is merely a ruse to avoid discussing the Adani issue. The Prime Minister himself has been critical of Indian democracy on foreign soil, yet no such demand was made of him. It is imperative that our parliamentarians act in the best interest of the nation and its people, rather than engaging in disruptive tactics for their own benefit.

Manoj Kumar, Raipur.

### Outbreak of H3N2 influenza

The recent outbreak of H3N2 influenza virus causing two deaths in India this year is concerning, especially with the ongoing COVID pandemic. Health officials have alerted the public that this virus can result in flu outbreaks and epidemics. The Union Government is tracking the situation through its Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP). Experts describe an infection caused by H3N2 or influenza A as characterized by high fever, breathing difficulties, fatigue, and dry cough, with symptoms lasting up to three weeks. The persistent cough reported across the country for the past few months is due to Influenza A subtype H3N2. With no definitive treatment currently available for the H3N2 virus, it is crucial to adhere to Covid guidelines and take precautionary measures to prevent its spread. Increased monitoring and the use of masks are essential in preventing the spread of this virus.

Dr. Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

## World Sparrow Day: Celebrating and Protecting an Endangered Species



Gyanendra Pandey

World Sparrow Day is an international observance held on March 20th every year to raise awareness about the conservation and protection of sparrows, which are rapidly declining in numbers all around the world. The day was first initiated by the Nature Forever Society, a non-profit organization based in India, in 2010.

Sparrows are small, brown birds that have been a part of human society for centuries.

They are found in almost all parts of the world, including cities and towns. However, in recent years, there has been a significant decline in their numbers, and they are now considered an endangered species in many countries. The reasons for their decline are numerous, including habitat loss, pollution, climate change, and the use of pesticides.

World Sparrow Day aims to highlight the importance of these birds in our ecosystem and to encourage people to take action to protect them. It is a day to celebrate the beauty and diversity of sparrows and to raise awareness about the threats they face. The day is also an opportunity for people to learn about the ways in



which they can help protect these birds and their habitats.

There are many ways in which people can help protect sparrows. One of the most important is by creating and maintaining suitable habitats for them. This can be done by providing nesting boxes, planting native trees and shrubs, and avoiding the use

of pesticides and herbicides. It is also important to raise awareness about the importance of sparrows and to encourage others to take action to protect them.

In addition to raising awareness and taking action to protect sparrows, World Sparrow Day is also an opportunity to appreciate the many

benefits that these birds provide. Sparrows help to control insect populations and play a vital role in pollination. They are also an important part of the food chain and provide food for many other species of birds and animals.

In conclusion, World Sparrow Day is an important observance that highlights the need to protect these birds and their habitats. It is a day to celebrate the beauty and diversity of sparrows and to raise awareness about the threats they face. By taking action to protect these birds, we can help to ensure that they continue to play an important role in our ecosystem for generations to come.

(Writer is a Wildlife and Bird photographer, Blogger, Resident officer PHDCC)



## BRIEF

### DLF

**New Delhi:** Realty major DLF will invest around Rs 3,500 crore over the next four years to construct a new luxury housing project in Gurugram as it seeks to tap strong demand for residential properties. DLF will develop a new group housing project 'The Harbour', which is spread over 25 acre and comprises 5 towers with a total of 1,137 premium apartments.

### SaveIN

**New Delhi:** SaveIN, which offers embedded finance for several healthcare treatments across a network of healthcare providers will focus on partnerships to expand its reach in the domain and is eyeing five times growth over the next year. Time for the consumerisation of healthcare has arrived, CEO Jitin Bhasin said adding SaveIN wants to "democratise how people access private healthcare." SaveIN, he said, is witnessing "hyperbolic growth", and wants to be on-demand, hyperlocal, discovered healthcare network that can be relied on.

### Bank of Baroda

**New Delhi:** Bank of Baroda has increased interest rates on domestic retail term deposits, including NRO and NRE term deposits, by 25 basis points on select tenors. These rates are applicable on deposits below Rs 2 crore, with effect from March 17, 2023, the public sector lender said in a statement. Interest rates have also been hiked on the Baroda Tax Savings Term Deposit as well as Baroda Advantage Fixed Deposit, a non-callable retail term deposit scheme. The new rate on deposits of above 3 years to 5 years is 6.5 per cent and for resident Indian senior citizens, it is 7.15 per cent.

### Vaidyaratnam Group

**Mumbai:** Thrissur-based ayurveda group Vaidyaratnam is looking at closing the current fiscal with a Rs 240 crore revenue and double the same by 2030 when it hopes to go public. The 99-year-old entity is the only ayurveda group that follows the holistic Ashtavaidya tradition. It was started by the late Eledath Thaikattu Neelakandan Mooss in Thrikattussery in Thrissur in 1924. The company recorded a revenue of Rs 220 crore, of which Rs 170 crore came in from products/medicines and the rest from services in FY22.

### FSIB

**New Delhi:** The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB), the headhunter for directors of state-owned banks and financial institutions, may select a new chairman of insurance behemoth LIC this month. The chairman will be selected from the four managing directors of the company, sources said. According to sources, the bureau may conduct an interview for the position towards the end of next week if all members of the committee are available. FSIB is likely to make a selection this month, subject to the availability of members due to Parliament's Budget session, sources said.

## HINDENBURG FALLOUT

# Adani Group suspends work on Rs 34,900 cr petchem project

**New Delhi, Mar 19 (PTI):**

Adani Group has suspended work on a Rs 34,900 crore petrochemical project at Mundra in Gujarat as it focuses on resources to consolidate operations and address investor concerns following a damning report by a US-based short seller, sources said.

The group's flagship Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) had in 2021 incorporated a wholly-owned subsidiary, Mundra Petrochem Ltd for setting up a greenfield coal-to-PVC plant at Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) land in Kutch district of Gujarat.

But after Hindenburg Research's January 24 report alleging accounting fraud, stock manipulations and other corporate governance lapses chopped off about USD 140 billion from the market value of Gautam Adani's empire, the apples-to-airport group is hoping to claw back and calm jittery investors and lenders through a comeback strategy.

The comeback strategy is based on addressing investor concerns around debt by repaying some loans, consolidating operations, and fighting off allegations. The group has denied all allegations levelled by Hindenburg. As part of this, projects are being re-evaluated based on cash-flow and finance available.

And of the projects the group has decided not to pursue for the time being is the 1 million tonne per annum Green PVC project, two sources with knowledge of the matter said.

The group has shot off mails to vendors and suppliers to "suspend all activities" on immediate basis.

In the mails, seen by PTI, the group has asked them to "suspend all activities of the scope of work and performance of all obligations" for Mundra

Petrochem Ltd's Green PVC project "till further notice."

This is the following "unforeseen scenario". The management, it said, was "re-evaluating various project/s being implemented at group level in different business verticals. Based on future cashflow and finance, some of the project/s are being re-evaluated for its continuation and revision in timeline."

Reached for comments, a group spokesperson said AEL will be evaluating the status of growth projects in primary industry vertical over the coming months.

## NTPC-Barh synchronises 4th unit, Bihar to get additional 405 MW

**Patna, Mar 19 (PTI):**

A 660-MW unit of the National Thermal Power Corporation's plant at Barh in Patna district was synchronised with the grid on Sunday morning, which is likely to result in supply of an additional 405 MW electricity for Bihar, a company official said.

According to NTPC spokesman Vishwanath Chandan, the unit was successfully synchronised at 9.30 am.

"The super critical based power project in Bihar has a total installed capacity of 3,300 MW with five units of 660-MW each. With today's development, we can look forward to the last unit becoming operational in 2023-24," Chandan said. The three units that became opera-



tional earlier are already successful in generation, and have been contributing over 1,600 MW electricity to Bihar, he said.

"The successful synchronisation of the plant would pave way for commissioning of the unit prior to the declaration of commercial operation of the plant," he said. Under the synchronisation process, the plant was connected to the grid to see the load factor; and to ensure all other aspects were working as per protocol.

If the unit meets parameters such as turbine, boiler,

water inflow and outflow laid down by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), it gets commissioned within 90 days and is run for 72 hours continuously at full load, before being declared fit for commercial generation, Chandan said.

"The five units of Barh plant are being constructed on around 3,200 acres of land at a total cost of over Rs 21,000 crore," he said, adding, the plant draws water from the Ganges and receives coal supply from the mines of CCL located in Jharkhand.

## Top 10 most valued firms lose Rs 2.09 lakh cr in m-cap

**New Delhi, Mar 19 (PTI):**

Market capitalisation (m-cap) of the top-10 most valued companies eroded by over Rs 2.09 lakh crore last week, with Reliance Industries and TCS taking the biggest hit amid an overall weak trend in equities.

On a weekly basis, domestic equity benchmarks witnessed heavy selling. The 30-share BSE Sensex plummeted 1,145.23 points or 1.93 per cent. Corporate major Reliance Industries' m-cap plunged Rs 67,722.33 crore to Rs 15,04,001.93 crore. IT bellwethers TCS' market valuation tumbled Rs 55,654.17 crore to Rs 11,63,194.14 crore and that of Infosys nosedived Rs 21,250.8 crore to Rs 5,97,905.17 crore. The valuation of State Bank of India (SBI) diminished by Rs 16,108.93 crore to Rs 4,72,290.46 crore and that of ITC tanked Rs 15,226.12 crore to Rs 4,66,696.21 crore.

## JK gets first FDI project post-Article 370 abrogation

**Srinagar, Mar 19 (PTI):**

The makers of Burj Khalifa on Sunday marked their formal entry into Jammu and Kashmir, performing the groundbreaking ceremony for the first foreign direct investment in the Union territory - a shopping mall and a multi-purpose tower in the outskirts of Srinagar. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha performed the groundbreaking ceremony for the Rs 500 crore project that envisages creating over 10,000 jobs in the valley.

This is the first FDI project in Jammu and Kashmir after Article 370 was repealed by the Centre in 2019. The CEO of EMAAR group, Amit Jain, Bollywood actors Vivek

Oberoi and Neetu Chandra were among those present at the 'Bhumi Pujan' and foundation laying ceremony.

Sinha asked the EMAAR group - the makers of Dubai Mall and Burj Khalifa, to look at the possibility of completing the project ahead of the three-year deadline. "If the Parliament complex can be completed within 1.5 years, we can certainly expect this to be completed earlier," Sinha said. Jain said his company's investments in Jammu and Kashmir will have a ripple effect. He said every rupee invested will bring in nine rupees of more investments. This Rs 500 crore investment should lead to Rs 5,000 crore investments. Asked if his company

was looking at investing in other sectors in Jammu and Kashmir, Jain said there are other companies from the Gulf which are looking at those possibilities.

"The Dubai World is looking at setting up logistics centres. There is Emirates airlines which might be setting up centres here," he said. Jain said this project was just beginning and can bring in investors from other countries like Saudi Arabia. Asked if Kashmir can be the next Dubai, Jain said: "Why not? Sky is the limit and that's what we should aim for." He said the company will be employing locals. "These are hardworking people. The hospitality of Kashmir and known world over," he added.

## Mercedes-Benz expects India to be its fastest growing market this year too

**New Delhi, Mar 19 (PTI):**

German luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz expects India to be its fastest growing market globally, maintaining the feat that it had achieved last year as well, according to a senior company official.

Mercedes-Benz India, which had planned to launch ten new products this year, is delaying some of the launches, pushing it to the second and third quarters of 2023 (calendar year) due to supply chain constraints with an aim to avoid further increasing the waiting period of its products.

"I still see India to be shining among all the other countries. When we see our global reports the growth is still there in India even in the first two months of the year. (It is) too early to call for the full



year but if I have to go by the first two months results, it is quite strong and positive compared to many other markets across the world," Mercedes-Benz India Managing Director & CEO Santosh Iyer told PTI.

He was responding to a query on whether India can continue to be the company's fastest growing market globally.

Mercedes-Benz India posted a 41 per cent growth

with a record sales in 2022 at 15,822 units as compared to 11,242 units sold in 2021. Its previous best sales was achieved in 2018 at 15,583 units. Iyer admitted that from a volume perspective, other advanced markets like the US, which have also come out of the Covid-19 impact, are much higher than India and even a normal growth there means a significant amount of volumes.

## LUXURY CAR RALLY



Participants ride their cars during a luxury car and bike rally organised by Queen's Drive Club, in Bengaluru, Sunday, March 19.

## Special steel production under PLI schemes to save forex outgo: Faggan Kulaste

**New Delhi, Mar 19 (PTI):**

Domestic production of special steel under PLI schemes for specialty steel will help cut down imports of value-added products and save forex outgo, Union Minister Faggan Singh Kulaste said.

As many as 27 companies have signed 57 agreements with the government under the first edition of the production-linked incentive (PLI 1.0) scheme for specialty steel.

To promote the production of special types of steel in the country and to imbibe the concept of self-reliant India, "Our government launched PLI scheme for Specialty Steel to become Atmanirbhar in



specialty steel output and increase its capacity," Kulaste told PTI. The domestic production of special grades of steel will not only reduce the country's dependence on imports but also save forex outgo worth thousands of crores, he said. After the success of Rs 6,322-crore PLI 1.0, there are concrete plans to bring in the second edition of the scheme, Kulaste said without sharing any further details.

## Reliance re-auctions gas in line with new govt rules

**New Delhi, Mar 19 (PTI):**

Reliance Industries Ltd and its partner bp plc have re-launched an auction for sale of natural gas from their eastern offshore KG-D6 block after incorporating the government's new marketing rules to give CNG-selling city gas companies first priority over supplies.

Reliance and its partner BP Exploration (Alpha) Ltd (BPEAL) will sell 6 million standard cubic meters per day of gas in an e-auction planned for April 3, a tender notice said. The price is indexed to the global LNG marker, JKM but will be subject to the government-notified ceiling price. The partners had originally planned the auction in January but days before that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, on January 13, published new rules for the sale and resale of gas produced from discoveries in deep sea, ultra-deep water and high-pressure-high temperature areas.

## Tata Motors upgrades PV range to conform to stricter emission norms

**Maruti, Mahindra on course**

**New Delhi, Mar 19 (PTI):**

Tata Motors has upgraded its passenger vehicle portfolio to conform to stricter emission norms while Maruti Suzuki India and Mahindra & Mahindra are confident of transitioning their respective product range before the April 1 deadline.

The Indian automobile industry is currently working to make their products meet the second phase of Bharat Stage VI, equivalent to Euro-VI emission norms, in real-time driving conditions.

Four-wheeler passenger and commercial vehicles will need more sophisti-



cated equipment to be added to meet the next level of emission standards. The second phase of BS-VI emission norms are set to kick in from April 1.

Car prices are also expected to rise as automobile companies are investing to add additional equipment in powertrains. "Our portfolio has already transitioned to BS-VI phase 2 emission norms in February 2023, ahead of the regulation timelines.

## Punjab's potato growers stare at heavy losses due to low prices

**Jalandhar, Mar 19 (PTI):**

Potato growers of Punjab are staring at heavy losses on account of very low prices they are fetching for their produce and urged the state government to extend help in this tough time.

According to growers, they are getting Rs 4-4.50 per kg for the produce as against Rs 17 to 18 per kg received last year.

With the farmers being unable to recover their input cost due to low prices, they are storing it in cold storage in anticipation of prices rising in the coming months.

Punjab this season brought 1.14 lakh hectares of area under the tuber crop and registered a bumper output of 31.50 lakh metric tonnes.



Punjab is the largest producer of seed potatoes and supplies the crop to many states including West Bengal, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Bihar, Assam, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh.

According to farmers, prices have crashed due to a bumper crop in other potato-growing states.

"Rates of potatoes crashed at the start of this season. It is because of bumper crop in potato growing states in the country," rued potato grower Harbans Singh Walia. Walia grows potatoes over 25 to 30 acres of land in Mansoorwal village in Kapurthala district.

## Axis Bank enables UPI LITE for faster and seamless transactions

**Mumbai, Mar 19:**

Axis Bank, launched UPI LITE, a new feature which will enable customers to make instant payments with just one tap for small value transactions upto Rs. 200 without using a UPI PIN. Customers can manage their LITE Account in the UPI App where they can view available balance, transaction history and do top-ups.

UPI LITE solution was launched by National Payments Corporation of India in September, 2022 and Axis Bank has been one of the early adopters of this innovation.

To avail Axis Bank UPI LITE, the customers would need to enable UPI LITE for Axis Bank in their UPI Apps. They can use this feature by adding funds to their LITE ac-

count from their Axis Bank account. This feature will currently work in UPI Apps which are supporting the UPI LITE feature and the customers have their Axis Bank Account in that UPI App. One of the benefits of this feature is that customers can even make multiple small value transactions during the peak hours hassle-free.

## Classifieds

### आवश्यकता

वी.ई. मेकेनिकल इंजीनियर युवक की औद्योगिक निर्माण उद्योग में आवश्यकता है, उम्र सीमा 25-30 वर्ष। वेतन योग्यतानुसार, अपना बायोडाटा न्हाइसअप करे।  
मो. नं. - 99074-98222





## Priyamvada Kant dedicates her role in 'Woh Toh Hai Albelaa' to her father

**B**airi Piya' actress Priyamvada Kant, who is seen portraying 'Chaman Bahar' in the show 'Woh Toh Hai Albelaa', said that she wants to dedicate the role to her father and also talked about the pressure of entering a show midway.

"The first reason for choosing the show is that Rajan Sir asked me to do it and I have worked with them. When he was so interested in building a new character on the show, I was very keen and that's why I didn't even think twice even though the language, and everything are very difficult as there are 8-9 mixed languages that have been used. Also, another reason is my dad. He is from Bihar, and I'm a Bihari by birth. But I didn't ever learn how to speak the language. So I would like to dedicate this role to him. I wish my dad could've seen it," she said.

"The fact that the show talks about relationships and bonds is something that I really enjoy. All the shows of Rajan sir are more focused on relationships and always have interesting presentations," added the 'Sasural Simar

Ka' actress.

About entering a show midway, Priyamvada said that it's not an easy task. When everyone else knows their parts, the new entrant has to build a character from scratch.

"There's a lot of pressure but that has sort of become my second nature. I have been entering a lot of existing shows. Probably people think that I'm good at handling this pressure. But the team is wonderful and everyone is very nice from the production to co-actors, director and creative team. They're extremely supportive," she said. While 'Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hain' and 'Woh Toh Hai Albelaa' are specials shows for the actress, she considers 'Tenali Rama' as a turning point of her career.

"Till date people love me as Sharda. After that anything that is close to me in terms of difficult character is 'Woh Toh Hai Albelaa'. Chaman Bahar is not somebody you have seen in your daily life. It's an imaginary character. Sharda, too, was a character that no one has heard about. Playing her was also very difficult," she shared.

## Rajkumar Rao, Dia Mirza recall their days of struggle in industry



**B**ollywood actors Rajkumar Rao and Dia Mirza recalled their initial years in the industry and how they struggled to establish themselves.

While Rajkumar started by doing advertisements, Dia used to work as a background dancer for well-known choreographer Raju Sundaram. As both Rajkumar and Dia appeared on 'The Kapil Sharma Show', they talked about their movies and the challenges faced by them in the initial

years of their career.

Rajkumar, who is known for his movies such as 'Love Sex Aur Dhokha', 'Talaash: The Answer Lies Within', 'Kai Po Che!', 'Trapped', 'Newton', among others, said: "When I came to Mumbai back in 2003, I had done 3-4 ad films where there were about 150 people for the montage shoot, and I was one of them. So, I have done many such ads and roles at the start of my career."

On the other hand, Dia, popular for her roles in 'Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein', 'Dus', 'Lahe Raho Munna Bhai', 'Sanju', and many more, while talking about her initial days in showbiz, said: "I was a background dancer in a song choreographed by Raju Sundaram, Prabhudeva's brother. And with the money I received after the shoot, I used it for shooting my first portfolio for my future assignments."

"The Kapil Sharma Show' airs on Sony Entertainment Television.

## Sonali Khare joins the cast of 'Na Umra Ki Seema Ho'



**S**onali Khare is a well-known name in the Marathi television industry. She has played numerous roles in various shows and series. She has also previously worked in the Hindi television industry and was spotted in a well-known show in 2006.

Sonali has made a return to a Hindi TV serial after 8 years with the show 'Na Umra Ki Seema Ho' on Star Bharat. She will play a very important part in the upcoming episode. Speaking about the same Sonali Khare gets candid about her character in the show. She says, "I am portraying a really intriguing character of Yamini in this show. The latest episode of the show features many highs and lows as my daughter Divya begins to perceive Dev as her father. I have a story from my undergraduate days, and Dev has too which creates this mystery which leads Divya think Dev as her father. Yamini has the persona of a strong, self-reliant woman who raises her daughter by herself with the assistance of her family. She consequently resided in a foreign nation. What happens next is going to be quite interesting for the audience to observe now that Divya has entered Dev's home."

## Chitrangda Singh shares a glimpse of her first shot from 'Gaslight'



**A**ctress Chitrangda Singh shared a behind-the-scenes moment of her first shot from her upcoming film 'Gaslight'.

She shared that this is the "most complex" role she has played so far.

Chitrangda took to Twitter, where she shared a clip of her shooting for the film, which will release on March 31.

"My first day! My first shot as Rukmani! #bts This is probably the most complex role I have played so far...so special! So grateful...so excited,"

Chitrangda wrote as the caption. The film also stars Vikrant Massey and Sara Ali Khan.

'Gaslight' is a psychological thriller and sees Sara essaying a specially abled character. The film, produced by Ramesh Taurani, Tips Films Ltd and Akshai Puri, 12th Street Entertainment and directed by Pavan Kirpalani, also stars Chitrangda Singh, Akshay Oberoi and Rahul Dev.

'Gaslight' will drop on Disney+ Hotstar on March 31, 2023.

## Raveena Tandon recreates 'Tip Tip Barsa Paani' with Norwegian group



**B**ollywood actress Raveena Tandon was seen dancing with Norwegian dance group Quick Style on her iconic number 'Tip Tip Barsa Paani'.

Quick Style took to Instagram, where they shared a video dancing with Raveena. The group start grooving to the beats of the song, while the actress joined them from behind.

Quick Style captioned the post: "Different when you do it with the originals."

The track is from the 1994 film 'Mohra', starring Akshay Kumar, Suniel Shetty and Raveena Tandon. It was sung by Udit Narayan and Alka Yagnik. The film was a major box office success, and went on to become the second highest-grossing Indian film of that year only behind 'Hum Aapke Hain Koun'.

On the work front, Raveena will next be seen in 'Ghudchadi' directed by Binoy Gandhi. It stars Sanjay Dutt and Raveena Tandon with Parth Samthaan, Khushali Kumar and Aruna Irani in pivotal roles.

## &TV shows to witness some exciting twists this week

**I**n &TV's Doosri Maa, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai the audience will get to witness some exciting twists this week. About &TV's Doosri Maa track Krishna shares, "After learning that Bansal has beaten and abandoned her, Yashoda (Neha Joshi) persuades her family to bring Kamini (Priety Sahay) home. Meanwhile, Dadaji (Sunil Dutt) decides to go the legal route to evict Krishna (Aayudh Bhanushali). He locks Aastha and Noopur's room, making Yashoda unable to care for them. Krishna decides to assist her by breaking the lock. Dadaji summons the neighbours to witness all of this, calls the police and accuses Krishna of destroying their home, shocking everyone." About &TV's Happu Ki Ultan Paltan track Katori Amma shares, "Rajesh (Kamna Pathak) makes fun of Katori Amma (Himani



Shivpuri) after Master Ji praises Hritik (Aryan Prajapati) for his bravery. Katori Amma gets instigated and tells Happu (Yogesh Tripathi) to prove his bravery. To prove himself, he goes to arrest a cowherd on Manohar's suggestion but gets badly beaten up by him, and his family comes to know about his cowardness through Manohar. Later, Beni (Vishwanath Chatterjee)

gives him the idea to fake a brave story of himself.

The Commissioner (Kishore Bhanushali) gets impressed and commands him to arrest the criminal Pandey Sultan, leaving him scared."

Watch Doosri Maa at 8:00 pm, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 pm, and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 pm, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!

## Sony SAB actors wish their viewers a 'Happy Gudi Padwa'

**G**udi Padwa is a festival celebrated in Maharashtra in which people come together to create beautiful Gudis in their homes and then worship them. Gudi is said to keep all negative energy at bay and to attract wealth into our lives. On this auspicious occasion, Sony SAB actors wish their viewers a happy Gudi Padwa

**Sumeet Raghavan as Rajesh Wagle from Sony SAB's Wagle Ki Duniya - Nayi Peedhi Naye Kissey**



house. We get together, have conversations and enjoy this new begin-

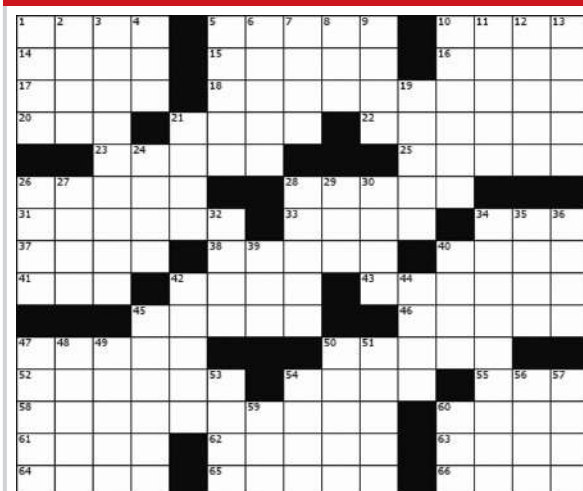
ning with each other. We love celebrating Gudi Padwa together as well on the sets of Wagle Ki Duniya since the show is all about togetherness and family. It is truly a joyous time on set."

**Chinmayee Salvi as Sakhi Wagle from Sony SAB's Wagle Ki Duniya - Nayi Peedhi Naye Kissey**

"Shrikhand puri is my favourite delicacy on Gudi Padwa. The day starts with us decorating a Gudi and bathing with neem leaves as part of a shuddi karan. In my college days, I used to dress up in a navaree saree and attend the parades that take place in Mumbai. Performing kathak, enjoying good food and bringing in the new year with family is an extremely fond memory. Wishing the viewers, a very Happy Gudi Padwa."

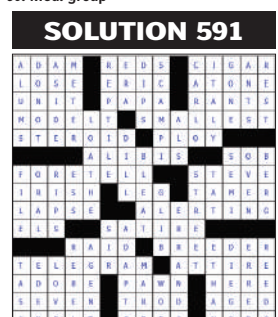
## CROSSWORD

592



- ACROSS**
- Skirt edges
  - Drizzles
  - Gather crops
  - Greek god
  - Parcel out
  - Macpherson
  - Queue
  - San Francisco bridge (2 wds.)
  - Pod vegetable
  - Contact
  - Building cement
  - Window blind
  - Clairvoyants
  - Lucifer
  - Frenchman's cap
  - Exert excessively
  - Thailand's neighbor
  - School org.
  - Student's residence
  - Valentine symbol
  - Hurt
  - Capture
  - Whatever
  - Predicament

- Plot
- Hangman's loop
- Metric measure
- Deck's kin
- Boulder
- UFO pilots
- Trudge
- Gun lobby (abbr.)
- Immaculate
- Fruit drinks
- Biblical pronoun
- Pester
- Timid
- Back talk
- Short distances
- States further
- DOWN
- SOS!
- Pennsylvania city
- Religious dwelling
- Compass direction (abbr.)
- Expressed anger
- Unaccompanied
- Misfortunes
- Head gesture
- Flower part
- Feel sorry about
- Make happy
- Church feature
- Equals
- Nuzzles
- Solid ground
- Hurt
- Root beer, e.g.
- Stratford-on-
- Razor
- Corn spike
- Deteriorates
- Cleveland's locale
- Made believe
- Not wild
- Impersonator
- Naval off.
- Slender
- Pioneer Daniel
- Oaf
- Sister's daughters
- Agreements
- Luau greeting
- Fork features
- Sailboat
- Stage awards
- Resorts
- Cone-bearing tree
- Wind instrument
- Questions
- Explosive letters
- Med. group





## Nikhat, Manisha advance to pre-quarterfinals

### Women's World Boxing Championships

New Delhi, Mar 19 (PTI):

Star Indian boxer Nikhat Zareen out-punched Algeria's Boualam Roumaysa to secure a pre-quarterfinal berth in the Women's World Championships here on Sunday.

Last edition's bronze medalist Manisha Maun (57kg) too advanced to the round of 16 with a 5-0 win against Rahimi Tina of Australia.

Competing in the 50kg event, Nikhat beat the reigning African champion by a similar margin to notch her second win in the tournament.

Both boxers held themselves back initially and maintained a safe distance. Nikhat, who won gold in the last edition, drew first blood. The Algerian followed suit as the two pugilists tried to get the better of each another.

If Nikhat landed a few combination punches, Roumaysa capitalised on the Indian boxer's open stance to land several blows. However, the first round



India's Manisha (blue) and Australia's Tina Rahimi during the 54kg-57kg (Featherweight) category Round of 32 match at the 2023 IBA Women's Boxing World Championships, in New Delhi, Sunday, March 19.

went in Nikhat's favour and the Indian began the next round by going all out. Roumaysa too looked set to come forward and attack. Both boxers played with aggression and resorted to a lot of body clinching but in the end, much to delight of the Indian fans at the KD Jadhav Stadium, Nikhat emerged victorious. "My strategy for today was to

dominate the round as she (Roumaysa) was the top seed. There is an advantage of seeding. I did not get a seeding. If I beat the top seeds, it sets an impression on the judges," Nikhat said after the bout. "I have seen her bouts before. She gets very aggressive if you are in close range. So, I had aimed to play from far but there was clinching and a

bit of dirty game," she added. Manisha, on the hand, made an aggressive start. She danced around the ring, dominating the bout. She mixed offence and defence, fighting from a distance. With the crowd chanting her name, Manisha played with confidence as she patiently waited for the right time to punch her opponent.

## Mitchell Starc five-for and Marsh-Head stand sink India

Visakhapatnam, Mar 19 (PTI):

Australian pace ace Mitchell Starc's devastating bowling (5/53) and openers Mitchell Marsh (66 not out) and Travis Head's (51 not out) smashing unbeaten 121-run opening partnership helped the visitors thrash India by 10 wickets to level the three-match ODI series 1-1 here on Sunday.

The Australians, set a lowly 118-run target to win the match, completed the job with 234 balls to spare, making it India's worst-ever defeat in the 50-over format in terms of number of deliveries.

After recording their fourth-lowest total at home and overall third lowest against Australia in ODIs, Indian bowlers were in for an uphill task. They, however, couldn't do much on a pitch assisting seam and swing bowling, where Starc and Co. had earlier looked virtually unplayable.

Questions will be asked about India's preparations for the ODI World Cup, to be held in the country later this year, following the morale-shattering loss.

But for now, it was all



Australian batters Travis Head and Mitchell Marsh run between the wickets during the second ODI cricket match between India and Australia, at Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy International Cricket Stadium in Visakhapatnam, Sunday, March 19.

about how quickly Marsh and Head could end India's misery on Sunday.

Marsh turned out to be the lead aggressor, smashing six boundaries and as many maximums off just 36 balls, while Head wasn't too far behind, scoring his 51 off just 30 deliveries with 10 boundaries to complete India's misery. This was Australia's second 10-wicket win over India in ODIs.

If Starc and Co. picked up the frailties in India's batting line-up on seaming wickets quite fast, Marsh continued from where he had left off in the first ODI at Mumbai, bringing up his second consecutive fifty of the series.

The ultra-aggressive approach from Marsh and Head saw Australia race to 66 in the first six overs bowled by Mohammad Shami and Mohammed Siraj. The Indian quicks failed to find similar assistance from the surface and conditions that had earlier gladdened the Australian bowlers' hearts. The fate of the series will now be decided in the third ODI, to be played in Chennai on March 22.

## Hope hits 128 in 1st game as captain, WI beats SA



East London, Mar 19 (AP):

Shai Hope made 128 not out in his first game as West Indies one-day captain to set up a 48-run win over South Africa. Proteas skipper Temba Bavuma replied with a century of his own in the second ODI

at Buffalo Park but his 144 from 118 balls wasn't enough as the other South African batters failed around him.

Hope's century inspired West Indies to 335-8 and South Africa was all out for 287 in 41.4 overs despite Bavuma's best efforts.

South Africa appeared on course to challenge the big total at 184-2 in the 25th over. Left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein then turned the game in West Indies' favor.

He removed Tony de Zorzi for 27 to start South Africa's slide, claimed another two wickets and created a run out, as West Indies took a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

The first ODI was abandoned because of rain.

Hosein finished with 3-59 and West Indies took eight wickets for just 103 runs to finish off South Africa after its bright start. West Indies fast bowler Alzarri Joseph had 3-53.

## Sri Lanka trails NZ by 303 after following on

Wellington, Mar 19 (AP):



New Zealand players celebrate Sri Lanka's Oshada Fernando being caught during day three of the second cricket Test match between New Zealand and Sri Lanka at the Basin Reserve in Wellington on March 19.

Sri Lanka trailed New Zealand by 303 runs with eight second innings wickets left after following on Sunday on the third day of the second cricket test at the Basin Reserve.

After declaring at 580-4 on the second day, New Zealand bowled out Sri Lanka for 164 in its first innings and was able to enforce the follow-on at the same ground on which it beat England by one run after following on last month.

At stumps, Sri Lanka was 113-2 with Kusal Mendis 50 not out and Angelo Mathews on one.

Mendis made a 10-ball duck in the first innings but reached his 17th half century from 96 balls just before the end of play.

Captain Dimuth Karunaratne played a massive role for Sri Lanka Sunday and was at the crease for much of the third day. He was there when play began and Sri Lanka was 26-2 and, after top-scoring

with 89, his was the penultimate wicket to fall before Sri Lanka's first innings ended 416 runs behind New Zealand. Karunaratne then went back to the crease and batted through most of the last two sessions before he was out for the second time in the day a little more than

30 minutes before stumps. In total he batted for just over seven hours and his efforts provided the backbone of both Sri Lanka innings so far.

Sri Lanka lost two wickets in the first five overs of the third day and had slumped to 34-4 before

Karunaratne and Dinesh Chandimal were able to steady the first innings. The pair put on 80 for the fifth wicket and Karunaratne reached his 33rd half century from 114 balls.

Chandimal made 37 before a rush of blood to the head caused him to charge spinner Michael Bracewell. He had advanced well out of his crease when the ball turned between bat and pad and Tom Blundell completed an easy stumping.

Bracewell found turn and bounce on the third day pitch at the Basin Reserve and took 3-50 as the Sri Lanka first innings folded quickly after Chandimal's dismissal. The last six wickets fell for 50 runs.

New Zealand gained an early breakthrough in the second innings when opener Oshada Fernando was out for 5 with the total 26-1. With the bat well in front of his body, Fernando tried to flick the ball over the leg side but picked out substitute fielder Will Young who was the only fielder close in.

## Ibrahimovic becomes oldest Serie A scorer but AC Milan loses



Ibrahimovic

Rome, Mar 19 (AP):

Zlatan Ibrahimovic became the oldest scorer in Serie A history at age 41 but had little else to celebrate after AC Milan was beaten 3-1 at Udinese. The result extended Milan's winless streak to three matches in the Italian league. Roberto Pereyra, Beto and Kingsley Ezhizue scored for Udinese.

Defending champion Milan was beaten by Fiorentina and held to a draw by Salernitana in its previous two Serie A matches, while advancing

to the Champions League quarterfinals with a 1-0 aggregate win over Tottenham.

The loss left Milan in fourth place and in danger of losing its grasp on the final Champions League spot, while Udinese moved up to eighth.

Pereyra put Udinese ahead after Lazar Samardzic intercepted a poor pass by Milan midfielder Ismael Bennacer.

Ibrahimovic equalized momentarily with a penalty that was retaken for encroachment after his first effort was saved. At 41 years and 166 days, Ibrahimovic beat the previous record for oldest scorer held by Alessandro Costacurra, who was 41 years and 25 days when he scored in 2007 also for Milan with a penalty against Udinese.

Having recently returned from knee surgery, Ibrahimovic started for the first time since January of last year.

## Rohan Bopanna becomes oldest Indian Wells champion



Matthew Ebden, of Australia, left, and teammate Rohan Bopanna, of India, hold up the winner's trophy after they defeated Wesley Koolhof, of the Netherlands, and Neal Skupski, of Britain, in the men's doubles final at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament in Indian Wells, Calif.

Indian Wells (US), Mar 19 (PTI):

India's Rohan Bopanna became the oldest ATP Masters 1000 champion when he and his Australian partner Matt Ebden claimed the men's doubles crown at the BNP Paribas Open here.

The 43-year-old Bopanna and Ebden, 35, defeated top-seeded Wesley Koolhof of the Netherlands and Neil Skupski of Britain 6-3, 2-6, 10-8 in the final on Saturday.

"Truly special. It's called Tennis Paradise for a reason," said Bopanna, who was playing in his 10th ATP Masters 1000 final.

"I've been, over the years,

coming here and seeing all these guys win for so many years. I'm really happy that Matt and I were able to do this and get this title here.

"It's been some tough matches, close matches. Today we played against one of the best teams out there. Really happy that we got the trophy." Bopanna thus surpassed Daniel Nestor of Canada, who had claimed the 2015 Cincinnati Masters to become the oldest champion at the age of 42. "I spoke to Danny Nestor and I told him sorry I'm going to beat his record," he joked. "Winning the title, that stays with me, so really happy with that."

## Haaland nets 3 as City roll



London, Mar 19 (AP):

The goals just keep flowing for Erling Haaland and Manchester City, no matter the competition. Haaland bagged another hat trick to make it eight goals in his last two games as City eased into the FA Cup semifinals with a 6-0 home win over Championship side Burnley on Saturday.

That came on the heels of a 7-0 win over Leipzig on Tuesday in the Champions League quarterfinals next month, and could go into the international break eight points behind Arsenal in the Premier League if the Gunners beat Crystal Palace at home on Sunday.

That's a minor worry, though, compared to the headache facing Antonio Conte at Tottenham.

should be at our best," said Haaland, whose extraordinary tally is now at 42 goals in all competitions. "Now is when things get decided."

City is still in the hunt for three trophies, but while Pep Guardiola's team are the big favorites in the FA Cup they may need to maintain this kind of form to win the other two.

They face Bayern Munich in the Champions League quarterfinals next month, and could go into the international break eight points behind Arsenal in the Premier League if the Gunners beat Crystal Palace at home on Sunday.

That's a minor worry, though, compared to the headache facing Antonio Conte at Tottenham.

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## HEAVY SNOWFALL



Border Road Organisation personnel clear the snow at Nathu La, in East Sikkim.

## Meeting to speed up Indo-Bangla railway connect

Agartala, Mar 19 (PTI): The Indo-Bangla Project Screening Committee (PSC) will hold a meeting in Bangladesh's Brahmanbaria next week to fast-track work of the Indo-Bangla railway link, said a senior official on Sunday. The vital project which will link the two nation's rail network has been delayed for some time. "An Indian delegation of around 11 officials from Delhi and Tripura will join the PSC meeting scheduled to be held in Rail Bhavan at Brahmanbaria in Bangladesh to review the 12.6 km railway project connecting two sides of the border, on Monday", Tripura's transport secretary U.K. Chakma told PTI.

## NADDA TARGETS RAHUL

# 'No place in democracy for those who don't believe in it'

New Delhi, Mar 19 (PTI):

BJP president J P Nadda on Sunday accused Rahul Gandhi of overstepping all bounds of democracy and said he should be sent packing "lock, stock and barrel" in a democratic manner. "Those who do not believe in democracy have no place in democracy," Nadda said in his virtual address after inaugurating the 'National Youth Parliament' of his party's youth wing Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, being held in Chennai. The Congress has become mentally bankrupt,

Nadda said while alleging that Gandhi "instigated" foreign powers like the US and European countries to interfere in India's internal affairs by claiming that they were "oblivious" while democracy was under threat in India. "Rahul Gandhi has crossed all bounds of democracy," he said. "What kind of statements he makes, Nadda asked, saying people of India do not listen to him, but merely tolerate him. "Rahul Gandhi not merely insulted the nation by his shameful remarks about the democratic values of

India, but has also invited the foreign nations to intervene in our country," the BJP president said. The Congress, however, has rejected the BJP's charge, with Gandhi seeking permission to speak in Parliament to answer the ruling party members' criticism of his comments in Britain. The Congress has claimed that the BJP is "misrepresenting" his remarks to divert attention from the Adani issue. Parliament's budget session has been a washout since the beginning of its second part on March 13,

with the BJP demanding an apology from Gandhi. During his interactions in the UK, Rahul Gandhi alleged that the structures of Indian democracy were under attack and there was a "full-scale assault" on the country's institutions. Gandhi's remarks have triggered a political slugfest, with the BJP accusing him of maligning India on foreign soil and seeking foreign interventions, and the Congress hitting back at the ruling party by citing instances of Prime Minister Narendra Modi raising internal politics abroad.

## 25 injured as Gujarat-bound bus overturns

After falling off culvert

Ujjain (MP), Mar 19 (PTI):

At least 25 persons were injured, two of them seriously, when the Gujarat-bound bus they were travelling in overturned after falling off a culvert in Ujjain district of Madhya Pradesh, a senior official said on Sunday. The accident occurred late Saturday night, he said. "Nearly 25 passengers were injured, two of them critically, when the bus on its way to Rajkot from Indore fell off a culvert on Bhuki Mata Bypass after picking up passengers from Ujjain," Collector

Kumar Purshottam told PTI over phone. The injured were rushed to the district hospital, the Ujjain collector said. Most of the victims had visited the famous Mahakaleswar temple in Ujjain to offer prayers, police said. Mahakal area City Superintendent of Police (CSP) Omprakash Mishra said initial investigation suggested that the bus with around 35 passengers on board was being driven in a rash manner. After the bus overturned, its front wheels and engine got separated from the vehicle, he said.

## Maha Guv applauds Xavier Institutions for excellence

Mumbai, Mar 19:

Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais applauded the Xavier institutions for promoting academic excellence while maintaining and upholding discipline, dedication and values of nationalism and secularism. The Governor placed on record his appreciation of the institution for giving the nation some of the best sportspersons, artists, scientists, writers, social workers and good citizens. The Governor was addressing the 14th Annual Convocation of the Xavier Institution of Engineering at its campus in Mahim, Mumbai on Sat (18 Mar). The Governor applauded the contribution of en-



gineers in the nation's progress and development and called upon the graduates to work for the society and the nation. Director of Xavier Institution of Engineering Dr John Rose informed that the Xavier's College is

striving to form a cluster university alongwith the group's Management, Engineering and Education institutes. The Governor launched the Annual College Magazine and felicitated the first 3 toppers from

## Bais inaugurates 'C-20 Chaupal Initiative under G-20'

Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais presided over the workshop of social service organisations and NGOs under the banner 'C-20 Chaupal' organised as part of the G-20 meetings being held under India's presidency this year. The 'C-20 Chaupal' workshop was organised by Seva International and Seva Sahayog Foundation in association with We School at the Welingkar Institute in Mumbai on Sat (18 Mar). Minister of Skills and Tourism Mangal Prabhat Lodha, CEO of MITRA Pravin Pardesi, Chairman of Seva Sahayog Foundation Atul Nagras, Chairman of Shikshan Prasarak Mandali Adv. Sadanand Fadke, Trustee of Seva International Dr. Alka Mandke, Director Kishore Moghe and others were present.

three Engineering disciplines. Two hundred seventy seven graduates from IT, ExTC and Computer Engineering disciplines were awarded degrees at the Convocation. Dr. Victor Lobo, Vice Chancellor of St. Joseph's University Bangalore, Dr

Ignacimuthu, former Vice Chancellor of Madras University, Dr Y D Venkatesh, Principal, members of the Governing body, Principals of affiliated colleges, teachers, staff, graduating students and parents were present.

## Seven students in Sivsagar questioned

For Geography paper leak

Guwahati, Mar 19 (PTI):

Seven students in Assam's Sivsagar district are being questioned in connection with the alleged leak of Class 10 state board's Geography paper, police said on Sunday. They are all 'admins' of a WhatsApp group through which the purported first page of the Geography question paper was circulated on Saturday, he said. Sivsagar SP Subhrajyoti Borah told PTI that they had received a request from their Nagaon counterparts for calling these students for questioning. Two students stayed overnight at the children's room in the police station, while the rest returned home and have been called for further questioning on Sunday, Borah said.

## Blooming Almond Alcove draws visitors in large numbers

Srinagar, Mar 19 (PTI):

The Almond Alcove in Srinagar, locally known as 'Badam-Waer', is teeming with visitors, both tourists and locals, as the light pink flowers in full bloom in the verdant greenery signal the end of a long winter in Kashmir. Almond trees are the first ones to flower as if it were the nature's way to tell the peasantry to prepare for the new farming season, after three inactive winter months. The mesmerizing beauty of Badam-Waer inside Srinagar's old walled city at 'Kalai Andar' in the



Rainawari area might have a different effect on the visitors. "Kashmir has four different seasons and the winter almost shuts down everything due to snow and cold. This almond blossom is the indication of arrival of spring," Tajamul Islam, a local resi-

dent, said. Aquib Ahmad, another local visitor, is so enamoured by the beauty of almond bloom that he feels every visit is like his first. "We experience this beauty every year. I have visited it so many times but every time I feel like it is my first visit. In Kashmiri, we have an adage 'sheen galeh, wande zhaleh baye yee su ba-haar' (the snow will melt, the winter will go and the spring will be on us again). So this is the sign that the spring has arrived," he added. The fame of the Almond Alcove has now

reached beyond the mountains of Kashmir to the plains of India as tourists visit it in large numbers.

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## Tripura's lone butterfly park a major tourist attraction



Agartala, Mar 19 (PTI):

Nestled in a village near the India-Bangladesh international border in Tripura's South district, a butterfly park developed by the forest department is now a major attraction for tourists from different parts of the country and also Bangladesh. The Butterfly EcoPark at Chottakhola, close to the Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary is the first butterfly park of northeast. It was inaugurated in 2016 on 5.5 hectares of land having 250 species of butterflies. "Many tourists are visiting the butterfly park. There are domestic tourists and also from neighbouring Bangladesh. The park is near the en-

dangered bison park at Trishna wildlife sanctuary and Indo-Bangla Maitri Park to commemorate the Bangladesh liberation war. So, tourists can see three spots in one visit", Deputy Conservator of Forest, Krishnagopal Roy told PTI. He said there is a breeding facility for the winged creature and many plants which are favourite to the butterfly are planted for creating a good habitat for the insect and artificial foods are also distributed at times. Tripura Tourism minister Sushanta Chowdhury said "Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary and its surroundings attract a large number of tourists and it will help in economic development of the state.

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