

BRIEF

Man apprehended

New Delhi: A young man was apprehended for allegedly insulting a saffron flag placed near a mosque in northeast Delhi's Jyoti Nagar, police said on Friday. An FIR was registered against Falz Alam (18) for disrespecting the flag near the mosque Moula Baksh situated at B-Block, Ashok Nagar, a video of which went viral on social media. "Alam was booked under IPC sections 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc.

CISF jawan

Srinagar: Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district Friday helped perform the last rites of a Hindu CISF jawan who died of cardiac arrest, officials said. Balbir Singh, 55, a Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) jawan died Thursday evening of cardiac arrest at his home in Karkan area of south Kashmir's Kulgam, the officials said. Singh's family is the only Hindu Rajput family living in the village, so, his friends and the local Muslim community came forward to help perform his last rites, they said. People from the Muslim community also shouldered his 'arthi' and arranged wood for the cremation, they added.

House blast

Bulandshahr (UP): Four people died in a suspected gas cylinder blast in a house here on Friday, police A call was received in the afternoon regarding a cylinder blast in a house built in the middle of the fields in Nayagaon in Kotwali Nagar area, SSP Shlok Kumar said. The house where the explosion took place was destroyed, police said. Some cylinders have been found and police, district administration, fire brigade and CMO teams are engaged in relief and rescue operations, the SSP said. District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh said that there was an explosion in a house built in the middle of the fields and the bodies of four people have been recovered so far.

Calf dies

Udhagamandalam (TN): A five-month-old orphaned elephant calf brought to Theppakkadu Elephant Camp in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in the Nilgiris district a fortnight ago, died in the early hours of Friday. The calf which fell into a farm well, was brought to the camp, after Forest department failed to unite it with its mother in Dharmapuri and handed over to the Oscar-winning documentary "The Elephant Whisperers" couple Bomman and Bellie on March 16. The health condition of the calf suddenly deteriorated reportedly due to dysentery late Thursday night and was under treatment and was given glucose after consulting an expert at Vandalur Zoo, Forest department sources said.

Weather

High 34 Low 21

MARKET

NIFTY 17,359.75 ▲

SENSEX 58,991.52 ▲

BULLION

GOLD 59,472

SILVER 72,316

IPL OPENING CEREMONY



Actress Rashmika Mandanna performs during the IPL 2023 opening ceremony, at Narendra Modi Stadium, in Ahmedabad, Friday.

'Sisodia architect of conspiracy'

New Delhi, Mar 31 (PTI): A court here on Friday dismissed a bail plea of incarcerated former Delhi deputy minister Manish Sisodia in the excise policy case lodged by the CBI, saying prima facie the AAP leader is the architect of the criminal conspiracy in the matter. The court said his release may adversely impact the ongoing investigation and "seriously hamper" its progress.

Special Judge M K Nagpal, who had reserved order on the AAP leader's bail plea on March 24, said he was not inclined to release him at this stage. "Thus, it is clear from the above discussion that the applicant had played the most important and vital role in the criminal conspiracy and he had

been deeply involved in the formulation as well as the implementation of the said policy to ensure the achievement of objectives of the said conspiracy... Thus, as per allegations made by the prosecution and the evidence collected in support thereof so far, the applicant can prima facie be held to be the architect of the said criminal conspiracy," the judge said.

"... This court is not inclined to release the applicant on bail at this stage of investigation of the case as his release may adversely affect the ongoing investigation and will also seriously hamper the progress thereof. Therefore, this bail application filed on behalf of the applicant is being dismissed," the judge said in his 34-page order.

HC quashes CIC order asking Gujarat varsity to give information on PM Modi's degree

Court imposes Rs 25,000 cost on Kejriwal

Ahmedabad, Mar 31 (PTI): The Gujarat High Court on Friday set aside the seven-year-old order of the Central Information Commission (CIC), asking the Gujarat University to provide information on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's degree to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Allowing the Gujarat University's appeal against the CIC order, Justice Biren Vaishnav also imposed a cost of Rs 25,000 on Kejriwal and asked him to deposit the amount within four weeks to the Gujarat State Legal Services Authority (GSLSA). Justice Vaishnav also refused to stay his order as requested

Doesn't country have right to know PM's academic qualification: Kejriwal

New Delhi: Does not the country have the right to know the academic qualification of the prime minister, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal asked on Friday after the Gujarat High Court set aside an order of the Central Information Commission for providing information on Narendra Modi's degree to him. Reacting to the high court verdict, Kejriwal tweeted in Hindi, "Doesn't the country even have the right to know how much the PM has studied? He vehemently opposed showing the degree in the court."

by Kejriwal's lawyer Percy Kavina. In April 2016, the then CIC M Sridhar Acharyulu had directed the Delhi University and the Gujarat University to provide information to Kejriwal on the degrees that Modi received.

Three months later, the Gujarat High Court stayed the CIC order after the var-

Govt raises interest rates on most small saving schemes

New Delhi, Mar 31 (PTI):

The government on Friday raised interest rates on most post office saving schemes by up to 0.7 per cent for the April-June 2023 quarter in line with the firming of interest rates in the economy.

While the interest rates for popular PPF and savings deposits have been retained at 7.1 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively, there has been an increase between 0.1 per cent and 0.7 per cent in other saving schemes, a finance ministry statement said.

The highest increase was in the interest rate of the National Savings Certificate (NSC), which will now attract 7.7 per cent, up from 7 per cent,



for the April 1 to June 30, 2023 period.

The new rate for the girl child savings scheme Sukanya Samriddhi has been increased to 8 per cent from 7.6 per cent.

The interest rate on the senior citizen savings scheme and Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) is 8.2 per cent (up from 8 per cent) and 7.5 per cent (up from 7.2 per cent), respectively.

KVP will now mature in 115 months as against 120 months earlier.

Interest rates were increased in the last quarter as well.

Interest rates for small savings schemes are notified on a quarterly basis.

With the revision, a one-year term deposit with post offices would earn 6.8 per cent (up from 6.6 per cent), for two years — 6.9 per cent (up from 6.8 per cent), three years — 7 per cent (up from 6.9 per cent) and five years — 7.5 per cent (7 per cent).

The interest rate on Public Provident Fund (PPF) has been retained at 7.1 per cent and that of the savings deposit at 4 per cent.

Monthly Income Scheme has been increased by 30 basis points to 7.4 per cent.

Two Naxalites involved in March 27 IED attack held

Bijapur, Mar 31 (PTI):

Two Naxalites who allegedly planted an improvised explosive device (IED) that caused the death of a Chhattisgarh Armed Force assistant platoon commander on March 27 were arrested in the state's Bijapur district on Friday, a police official said.

The two, identified as Korsu Manglu (20) and Deva Muchaki (21), were held by a joint team of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), District Reserve Guard (DRG) and district force near Tekri area on Hurrepal Patelpara road under Mirtur police station limits, the official said.

"The security team was on an anti-Naxal operation at the time. Mangle and Muchaki are members of the outlawed outfit's IED team. A tiffin bomb, detonators, detonating cord, electric wire, battery and switch were seized from them," the official said.

"They have said they had planted an IED near Etapal camp to target security forces on March 27, leading to the death of an assistant platoon commander of the Chhattisgarh Armed Force. They also named two more Naxalites involved in the March 27 incident. Efforts are on to nab these two," he said.

SC dismisses PIL seeking declaration of all animals as legal entities

New Delhi, Mar 31 (PTI):

The Supreme Court has dismissed a PIL seeking declaration of all animals as legal entities having rights like any living person. A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala dismissed the PIL saying "we find that the prayer sought in the writ petition cannot be granted by this court in its extraordinary jurisdiction under Article 32 of the Constitution of India."

"The writ petition is, accordingly, dismissed," it added. The PIL filed by the NGO People's Charioteer Organisation



said that of late cases of cruelty towards animals have come to light which have raised questions as to how humans have absolutely no respect for animals' lives and how can they be absolutely devoid of sympathy.

"Such incidents have further enraged many and made one ponder as to whether the laws in existence are sufficient enough to protect animals

from possible abuse and cruelty," the plea said, while referring to various incidents of cruelty in various states.

It sought direction of the court to declare all the citizens of the country as "persons in loco parentis" (in place of a parent) for the protection of animals from cruelty and abuse and to ensure their welfare. The PIL placed reliance on verdicts of the Punjab and Haryana High Court and the Uttarakhand High Court, whereby all animals in the animal kingdom were recognised as legal entities and all the people were declared as "persons in loco parentis".

Sidhu likely to be released from jail on Apr 1

Chandigarh: Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu is likely to be released from the Patiala jail on April 1, said his counsel HPS Varma on Friday.

The 59-year-old was serving a one-year sentence in a 1988 road rage case. On May 20 last year, Sidhu, the former Punjab Congress chief, was jailed following his surrender before a court in Patiala after he was sentenced to one-year rigorous imprisonment by the Supreme Court. The top court had in its order said any sympathy in imposing an inadequate sentence would do more harm to the justice system and undermine the public confidence in the efficacy of law.

Kolkata airport gets check-in with facial recognition tech

Kolkata, Mar 31 (PTI):

Passengers travelling through the Kolkata airport will now be able to check in for their flights and board planes with facial recognition technology as DigiYatra was rolled out here on Friday, an official statement said. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport is the fourth one in the country after airports in Delhi, Bengaluru and Varanasi have the facility that provides a seamless entry and embarkation process for air passengers.

DigiYatra was rolled out in those three airports in the first phase in December last year. "Its

main objective is to enhance passenger experience by eliminating the need for verification of ticket and ID at multiple touch points and to achieve better movement of passengers through existing infrastructure using a digital framework," the Kolkata airport said in a statement.

The trials of the technology started at the Kolkata airport on February 21, and till Thursday, 9,206 passengers utilised the facility. Passengers travelling through Air India, IndiGo, GoFirst, Vistara and SpiceJet will be able to use DigiYatra at the Kolkata airport, the statement said. They will be

able to use the facility at departure gates 2B and 3A, security hold area 1, 2 and 3, and boarding gates 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23.

"It will lead to fast passenger movement, paperless travel, more security and improved airport infrastructure," Kolkata airport director C Pattabhi said, inaugurating the facility. Passengers will now be able to spend more time shopping at the airport, enjoying food and beverages, besides other services, he added.

For availing of the service, a passenger has to register their details on the DigiYatra app using Aadhaar-based validation, and a self-image capture.

In fresh unrest in Howrah, policemen pelted with stones

Howrah (WB), Mar 31 (PTI):

Fresh incidents of stone-throwing by unidentified people on police personnel, deployed in Howrah's Kazipara area which witnessed violence over the Ram Navami procession on Thursday, triggered tension in the area on Friday afternoon, an officer said.

The police had to use batons to disperse a group of people who had gathered there. Prohibitory orders under Section 144 of CrPC were imposed in Kazipara area, the senior IPS officer told PTI.

Together 45 people were arrested in connection with the violence since Thursday. "The situation was calm and peace-

Amit Shah speaks to Bengal governor over violence

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday spoke to West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose over the violence during a Ram Navami procession in Howrah and took stock of the situation, sources said. During the telephonic conversation, the home minister sought to know the prevailing situation in the state, particularly in the violence-hit areas of Howrah.

ful until this afternoon. After that, police personnel were pelted with stones which sparked tension in the area. Some people were arrested as our officers reacted instantly," he said.

Indore tragedy: FIR against two temple trust members for culpable homicide not amounting to murder

Indore, Mar 31 (PTI): A case of culpable homicide not amounting to murder was registered on Friday against two members of the trust of the Indore temple where a floor caved in a day earlier hurtled devotees into a stepwell, killing 36 persons, a police official said.

The slab constructed on top of an ancient 'bawdi' or stepwell had collapsed during a 'havan' programme held on the occasion of Ram Navami at the Beleshwar Mahadev Jhulelal Temple located in Patel Nagar area here on Thursday.

A First Information Report was registered against Sevaram Galani,



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan meets people injured after the roof of a 'bawdi' (well) collapsed at Beleshwar Mahadev Jhulelal on Thursday, at a hospital in Indore, Friday.

president of Beleshwar Mahadev Jhulelal Temple Trust, and its secretary Murlu Kumar Sabnani

under IPC section 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), Juni Indore police station in charge Neeraj Medha said.

There are allegations against these two office bearers that they built a very unsafe structure by putting a slab on the stepwell, due to which 36 people lost their lives in Thursday's incident, Medha said.

"The Indore Municipal Corporation had ordered the trust to remove the illegal construction in the temple complex, but the trust did not comply with the order. Both the accused have not been arrested as yet," Medha informed.

2008 Malegaon blast trial: Another witness declared hostile by NIA court

Mumbai, Mar 31 (PTI):

A witness in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, who had allegedly booked a hotel room for the accused days before the incident, turned hostile before a special court here on Friday.

He became the 32nd witness to be declared hostile in the case, in which BJP MP from Bhopal Pragya Singh Thakur is one of the key accused. The witness, who worked at a hotel in Madhya Pradesh's Indore, had in his statement to the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) claimed that he had

booked rooms for the accused in the case. However, during his deposition before special NIA judge A K Lahoti on Friday, the witness said he doesn't remember what he told the probe agency. Following which, the court declared him hostile.

The court has examined 307 witnesses until now. Six people were killed and more than 100 injured on September 29, 2008, when an explosive device strapped to a motorcycle went off near a mosque in Malegaon town in north Maharashtra, some 200 km from Mumbai.

Safety week concludes at Bar and Rod Mill, Bhilai Steel Plant

Hirri Mines donates RO Water Machines to 13 schools in villages

Central Chronicle News

RO Water Machines

Bhilai, Mar 31: As part of Corporate Social Responsibility initiative by SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, Hirri Mines, has installed RO Water Machines with 25 litres storage capacity at 13 schools in nearby rural areas. This step shall ensure pure drinking water to the students of these schools. Keeping in view the continuous demand by the Sarpanch, students and headmasters of the schools and taking into consideration the health of the students, the management provided RO water machines to the schools on priority basis.

RO Water Machines were installed at the Primary, Secondary and High schools of villages Chatauna and Bodri, and at the Primary and Middle schools of village Bodsara Pendihi and Rahgi. Hirri Mines, RO Water Machines were installed at the Middle Schools. Expressing immense happiness on receiving the RO water machine, the students and teachers of the school expressed their gratitude to the management. Chhatradhari, DGM (CSR) also apprised the school for adequate upkeep and maintenance of these RO Water Machines in future.



In the week-long Safety Week, organised for the safety training of contractual workers, the Fire Brigade Department demonstrated various fire prevention drills and training and operating procedures of various fire extinguishers. Various awareness measures were also introduced through safety videos based on behaviour-based safety measures, safety measures adhered during welding and gas cutting etc.

Shailendra Gwal from Occupational Health Centre was invited for the First Aid Training. He presented a live demonstration of Artificial Respiration (CPR). Poster, Slogan and Poetry competitions were organized during the Safety Week. A large number of departmental personnel participated actively in all these programmes.

department accident free. Shakeel Ahmed Khan, Departmental Safety Officer, presented the Previous Year's Safety Report of BRM and presented an outline of the programs planned for the coming year. In the inauguration ceremony of the Safety Week celebrations, Abhishek Sahu presented a melodious song on safety.

employees that has brought the mill to achieve its height today. CGM (BRM) awarded all the winners and participants. On this occasion General Managers SK Behera, KK Thakur, Sachchidanand Tripathi, Ashish, Shashwat Mehti, Sameer Pandey, Shikhar Tiwari and senior officers were present, along with other officers. At the end of the program, SK Behera, GM,

proposed the vote of thanks. Safety week was inaugurated by Mukesh Gupta, Chief General Manager (BRM) on March 16, 2023, at the Secure Bhavan Conference Hall of Bar and Rod Mill of Bhilai Steel Plant. The safety week was aimed at achieving the goal of "Zero Loss". Addressing the gathering, Mukesh Gupta emphasised on the basic objectives of Safety and Safe environment and appealed everyone to imbibe the value of security in their lives. He further said that by compromising safety, production of even one tonne is not acceptable. He congratulated all the workers for achieving the benchmark of more than 500 accident free days by BRM and encouraged them to always keep the

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Durg University VC appeals donation for gold medal

Grand celebration of Mahavir Jayanti at Shri Triveni Jain Teerth Sector 6

Central Chronicle News

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 31: Hemchand Yadav University Durg has been giving gold medal to meritorious students from various faculties adding to around 44 medals owing to the donors who extended financial support for the same. In this regard, Vice-Chancellor of the University Dr Aruna Palta has appealed to the donors to cooperate in providing gold medal to the student

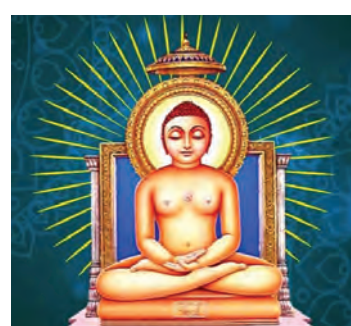
appearing in the merit in the final year examination of B Sc B Ed and BA B Ed. In the meeting of the officials held at the university on Friday, the Vice-Chancellor Dr Palta said that 60 thousand rupees for each has to deposited separately in the university by the donors willing to give the gold medal to the student who got the first place in merit in both the above classes. This amount will be fixed deposit in the bank by the university. Gold medal

will be distributed every year to the candidate from the amount received from its interest. Giving this information, Dean, Student Welfare, Dr Prashant Srivastava told that the donor can deposit the amount for the gold medal either in his own name or in the name of any of his relatives like son-daughter, parents, siblings or any other. All these gold medals will be awarded to the concerned meritorious student in the presence of

donors in the future convocation ceremony organized by the university. It is worth mentioning that at present 44 gold medals have been made available to Hemchand Yadav University, Durg by depositing desired amount from various donors. According to Dr Srivastava, donors who wish to deposit money for the gold medal can contact Academic Assistant Registrar of the University, Dr Sumit Agarwal during office hours.

Bhilai, Mar 31: A grand program will be held at Shri Triveni Jain Teerth Sector 6 on the occasion of Lord Mahavir Jayanti (Mahavir Swami Janma Kalyanak Mahotsav). While a grand theatrical performance by women will be organised on April 02, Mangal Abhishek will be held on April 3 along with a grand procession. The theatrical presentation will be held at Jain Bhawan Sector 6 from 19:30 hrs. The convenors of this program are Sadhna Bakliwal, Chanda Chhabra, co-convenors Anju Kasliwal, Swarnalata Jain and

Neena Jain. On the auspicious occasion of 2622nd Lord Mahavir Swami Janam Kalyanak Mahotsav, on 3rd April, Jain Milan, Jain Trust, Jain Women's Club and Sakal Jain Samaj, Bhilai Sector 6 will organize several religious events in the premises of Shri Triveni Jain Teerth. According to the fixed programs, there will be broadcast of devotional songs at 5:30 hrs, Mangal Abhishek of Lord Mahavir Swami ji, Prarthana Jivani Vandana, Temple Vidhi Vidhan Pujan and Aarti Pujan at 6:30 hrs. Flag hoisting at 9:00 hrs, then from 9:15 hrs grand



After Aarti in Sector 06 B Market, there will be entry to Jain Bhawan from opposite Agrasen Bhawan via Central Avenue Road from Sector 6 Market. Mangal Abhishek of Lord Mahavir Swami ji will be done by the devotees of Shantidhara Shripurshwanath Digambar Jain Mahasabha Temple Committee. Giving information, media in-charge Pradeep Jain Bakliwal said that the day of Chaitra Shukla Trayodashi is an auspicious day for the Jain community, as in 2622 BC, the last Tirthankara of Jainism, Lord Mahavir Swami ji descended on this day.



युवाओं को सबल

1 अप्रैल से
₹ 2,500 प्रतिमाह भत्ता

भत्ते की पात्रता

- ❖ आयु सीमा 18-35 वर्ष
- ❖ 2.5 लाख रु तक की परिवार की वार्षिक आय
- ❖ 1 अप्रैल को 2 वर्ष पुराना रोजगार पंजीयन

आवेदन के लिए आवश्यक दस्तावेज

- ❖ मूल निवासी प्रमाणपत्र
- ❖ जन्मतिथि के लिए 10वीं की मार्कशीट/प्रमाणपत्र
- ❖ 12वीं की मार्कशीट/प्रमाणपत्र
- ❖ आधार कार्ड और रोजगार पंजीयन कार्ड
- ❖ पासपोर्ट साइज फोटो
- ❖ गत एक वर्ष की परिवार की आय का प्रमाणपत्र

पंजीकरण में सुगमता के लिए अप्रैल माह में किसी भी दिन किए गए आवेदन पर घोषणानुसार भत्ता 1 अप्रैल से ही देय होगा

श्री भूपेश बघेल
मुख्यमंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़

3 वर्ष पुराने पंजीयन के नवीनीकरण का अंतिम तारीख बीत जाने के 2 महीने बाद तक का प्रावधान

नए पंजीयन के लिए

बेरोजगारी भत्ते के लिए आवेदन की कोई अंतिम तिथि नहीं है
1 अप्रैल, 2023 से घर बैठे इस पोर्टल पर कर सकते हैं आवेदन
<https://berojgaribhatta.cg.nic.in/>



छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार - भरोसे की सरकार

Rahul is son of the nation: Satyanarayan Sharma

● **Its disgusting mentality of the Congress, says BJP**



He was raising the voice of the public in the Lok Sabha but he was not allowed to speak. The way BJP conspired, no other party has done it, said Sharma, adding that Rahul's mike was switched off and his statement was expunged from the proceedings of the House. This is a conspiracy to kill democracy, he alleged.

BJP State Spokesperson Sandeep Sharma said that Congressmen were now insulting the Father of the Nation out of sycophancy in their thirst for power. Calling Rahul Gandhi the son of the nation, who questioned India's democracy by going to Britain against which the Father of the Nation fought for years, is an indication of the disgusting mentality of the Congress, he said.

vidual or OBC. The BJP government at the center is doing the work of strangling democracy, he said, adding that BJP is conspiring more than what the British didn't do. He said that Congress party will go to the public against the dictatorship of the Modi government.

Sharma said that Rahul Gandhi was a Member of Parliament for four times.

Seven quintals 'Ganja' worth Rs 1.40 cr seized

Mahasamund, Mar 31: Two inter-state drug smugglers were nabbed by Thana Singhoda and Cyber Crime with 'Ganja' worth Rs 1.40 cr and were booked under Section 20 B of NDPS Act and taken into custody.

As per information in this regard from the police, the police team of Thana Singhoda and Cyber crime got tip from an informer on March 30 that 'Ganja' in large quantity is being transported from Odisha and it is being transported from via Singhoda to Madhya Pradesh. On this information barricade was erected near a dabha on

Placement camp on April 3rd

Raipur, Mar 31: The District Employment and Self Employment Guidance Center, Raipur is going to organise a placement camp on April 3 from 11 am to 2 pm at the District Employment Office, Old Police Headquarters Complex, Raipur with a view to provide employment opportunities to the local educated unemployed youth of Chhattisgarh. The Deputy Director of the District Employment Department said that eligible and interested applicants can appear in the placement camp on the scheduled date and venue.

Retail and fast food shops to be opened at Raipur Airport

● **Airport Authority invites applications till April 13**



Raipur Airport Director, Praveen Jain said that applications have been invited and soon air passengers will get all these facilities here. After the opening of retail and fast food shops, air travelers will have a dif-

Angioplasty with retrograde technique for the first time in Chhattisgarh

● **Yet another record set by Cardiology Department of Suyash Hospital**



Raipur, Mar 31: The Cardiology Department of Suyash Hospital has set another record. According to Dr. Gaurav Tripathi, a unique angioplasty was done in a workshop organized in the hospital, which is considered very difficult. A

patient whose vein was 100 percent blocked was treated with the retrograde technique, in which a vein is opened by going through another vein. This is the first time such a process has been done in the state. The cardiology department of Suyash Hospital has made a special place in the hearts of the people of Chhattisgarh by setting many such special records in the past as well.

Dr Chandan Yadav and Saptgiri Shankar Ulka and co-in-charge Vijay Jangid will be present. Dedication of Congress Bhavan today

The historic Congress Bhavan at Gandhi Maidan has been re-constructed and would be dedicated after its renovation by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on April 1 at 6:00 pm. In this PCC State in-Charge Kumari Selja will be the chief guest and PCC Chief Mohan Markam will be the special guest. The other guests as mentioned above will also be present.

Advocate Animesh Tiwari appointed as Addl. Advocate General

Raipur, Mar 31: Advocate Animesh Tiwari has been appointed by the state government as Additional Advocate General to appear in the Chhattisgarh High Court on behalf of the Chhattisgarh government. Tiwari has been appointed for a tenure of two years from the date he assumes charge. An order to this effect has been issued today by the Law and Legislative Affairs Department of Chhattisgarh Government from Mantralaya (Mahanadi Bhawan).

Was studying B.Com in Girls Degree College

● **Sources say that she could not perform well last paper**

Raipur, Mar 31: A girl from SC Hostel committed suicide by hanging herself. When the girls of the hostel viewed from the window, they found her body hanging from the ceiling and they immediately informed it to the police. On getting this information the Police reached the site and sent the body for post-mortem and started further investigation into the matter. The case is that of Kotwali thana.

Girl commits suicide in the SC Hostel

She was worried about her previous paper not going well. The door of her room was closed for long and when the door did not open the girls nearby started knocking on the door, but to no avail. But when they tried to look inside from the window, the found a body hanging and this created sensation in the girl's hostel. On information in this regard, the family members and Kotwali police reached the site. The team got the 'panchnama' of body done and sent it for post-mortem.

The disclosure about reasons behind suicide would be known once the post-mortem report is received. On the other hand, the parents of the girl charged the Hostel Superintendent is not serious and despite being 24 hours job, she never used to stay on duty and maximum time used to stay absent. She was least bothered about the safety and security of girls and charged that it was due to carelessness on part of the Hostel superintendent that this incident took place.

HUGE RUSH



There was huge rush of people on the last day of the FY for the registry and there was long-waiting for all since morning hours.

Girl commits suicide in the SC Hostel



As per information in this regard the incident is reported to be that of Friday at around 12:00 noon. The deceased girl was R/o Kharora and was studying for B.Com in Degree Girl's College.

HUID CODE on gold jewellery mandatory from TODAY



● **Sale of gold jewellery and gold artefacts hallmarked without six-digit HUID code is prohibited in the country from 1st April 2023.**

● **The authenticity of HUID can be verified through BIS Care App's "Verify HUID" feature.**

● **BIS Hallmark now comprises three mandatory markings**



BIS Logo | **22K916** Purity of Gold in Carats & Fineness | ********* Six Digit Alphanumeric HUID Code unique to each jewellery article

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BIS CARE APP

Unemployment allowance scheme in Ch'garh from today

Eligible beneficiaries will receive Rs 2500 per month

Process of online application will commence from April 1, there is no last date for applying

Beneficiaries will receive allowance directly in bank account

Raipur, Mar 31: As per the announcement of Chief Minister Bhanu Prasad Baghel, unemployment allowance scheme will be implemented in Chhattisgarh from April 1, 2023. Under this scheme, the eligible beneficiaries will be paid Rs 2500 directly every month in their bank account. The unemployed will also be provided training for skill development and assistance for employment.

To avail the benefits of the unemployment allowance scheme, family income of the income should not be more than Rs 2.50 lakh annually.

Family means husband and wife, dependent children and dependent parents.

About the eligibility conditions, the applicant of Berojgari Bhatta Yojana i.e. the unemployment allowance scheme must be a domicile of Chhattisgarh. The age of the applicant should be between 18 to 35 years as on 1st April of the year of applying for the scheme. The applicant must have passed at least Higher Secondary i.e. 12th standard from a recognized board, should be registered in any district employment and self-employment guidance center of Chhattisgarh and his/her employment registration should be at least two years old with Higher Secondary or above qualification as on 1st April of the year of application. The applicant should not have any source of income of his own and the annual income of the applicant's family from all sources should not exceed Rs.2.50 lakh. Income certificate issued by Tehsildar or higher revenue officer for the applicant should not be

more than one year old from the date of application for unemployment allowance.

Payment of unemployment allowance

Under the unemployment allowance scheme, a payment of Rs 2500 per month will be transferred directly to the beneficiary's bank account by the Directorate of Employment and Training, Nava Raipur. At the time of applying, the applicant has to give the correct information of his savings bank account number, IFSC code. Any non-payment due to error in the bank account will be the responsibility of the applicant.

Duration of unemployment allowance issuance

Unemployment allowance will be payable to the eligible applicant under the scheme for the first one year. If the particular beneficiary does not get gainful employment in this period of one year, then the unemployment allowance will be provided for a period of one more year. In any case this period shall not exceed two years.

Skill Training

Applicants who will be approved for the unemployment allowance under the scheme will be offered skill development training within a period of one year. After the skill development training, the applicant will be assisted in getting employment. Skill development training will be provided free of cost in any one of the trades mentioned in the application. If applicants refuse to undergo training or do not accept the offered employment, their unemployment allowance will be stopped.

Review of unemployment allowance beneficiaries

The concerned panchayats and bodies will regularly monitor the status of the beneficiaries receiving unemployment allowance every 6 months, to ensure whether they are still eligible to receive unemployment allowance or not. Notice will be issued to the beneficiaries found ineligible in the investigation and after the hearing, an order will be issued to stop their unemployment allowance. Information about the same will be uploaded on the portal.

Tobacco control laws will be stringently implemented

Meeting of the State-level Steering Committee formed under the Tobacco Control program was organized

All educational institutions will be made tobacco-free



Raipur, Mar 31: For the regulation of the use of tobacco and tobacco-related products in the state, the laws concerned with tobacco control will be stringently implemented. Effective steps have been taken to make all educational institutions tobacco-free. A meeting of the state-level steering committee, presided over by the Additional Chief Secretary Renu G. Pillay, was held in the Mantralay yesterday. In the meeting,

Pillay gave instructions for the effective implementation of laws related to tobacco-control. Continuous efforts are being taken by the State Government to discourage the use and consumption of tobacco and tobacco-based products in the state. Still, the consumption of tobacco by adults and children in the state is a cause for concern. In the meeting of the state-level steering committee, the information about activities undertaken by the Health Department for the regulation of tobacco use was given. The challenges in

the path of tobacco control were also discussed. During the meeting, instructions were given to officers of various departments for rigid compliance to legal provisions for tobacco control like COTPA Act 2003, COTPA (Amendment) Act -2021, and E-cigarette Prohibition Act - 2019. In the meeting, discussions were held on making educational institutions tobacco free, tobacco monitoring app, WHO's FCTC 5.3 Strategy, tobacco-free Village Panchayat, ban on commercials of tobacco

products, vendor licensing, and tobacco-free office. The Secretary of the General Administration Department Dr. Kamalpreet Singh, Secretary of Health Department Prasanna R., Director of Healthcare Services Bheem Singh, Secretary of Panchayat and Rural Development Department Mohammad Kaisar Abdulhaq, Special Secretary of School Education Department Rajesh Singh Rana, Director of National Health Mission Bhoskar Vilas Sandipan, and the Nodal Officer of Tobacco Control Program in the state Dr. Kamlesh Jain, representatives of organizations working for tobacco-control 'The Union' and 'Pahal', and Senior Officers of various departments of the State Government were present in the meeting.

School children will get free textbooks

During 'Shala Pravesh Utsav'

Raipur, Mar 31: The distribution of free textbooks to the school children of Chhattisgarh will start from the day of Shala Pravesh Utsav. In this regard, instructions have been given by the School Education Department to celebrate Shala Pravesh Utsav on June 16 in all the districts. Students taking admission in the Shala Pravesh Utsav will be welcomed by applying Tilak. Along with this, free textbooks will also be distributed to them. Principal Secretary School Education Dr. Alok Shukla has said that time bound

action should be ensured for distribution of free textbooks. In this work, along with the Text Book Corporation, the officers of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan and Directorate of Public Education should work in coordination. Dr. Shukla has also said that all the formalities related to printing should be completed. Books should be stored safely. Cluster level for students of class 1st to 8th of government and aided schools by Textbook Corporation, high school and higher secondary level for students of class 9th-10th, block level for students of class 1st to 8th in registered madrasas and for the students of

non-aided non-government schools, the determination of vehicles required for transportation of textbooks directly to the corporation's depot level should be ensured well in advance. The necessary route chart for the transportation of textbooks should be prepared by the Textbook Corporation, district-wise, package-wise or institution-wise, date-wise and informed to all concerned nodal officers-divisional joint directors, district education officers, block education officers, package in-charges and depot managers well in advance, so that the responsible employees are ready to receive the textbooks on time and there is

no unnecessary hindrance in the transportation and unloading work. Adequate building, location determination work should be completed in advance for all cluster coordination and maintenance of orderly unloading of essential textbooks to be distributed by the Principal High School and Higher Secondary under their work area. According to the date and time fixed and communicated by the Textbook Corporation, the set supplied by the Textbook Corporation should be obtained by the cluster coordinator, Principal High School and Higher Secondary only after matching the numbers properly.

Preparation to open JAK in railway stations of Raipur division

Passengers will get cheap medicines



Raipur, Mar 31: The railway administration is continuously making efforts to provide better facilities to the passengers in all the major railway stations of Raipur Railway Division. In this series, the Railway Board has made preparations to open Jan Aushadhi Kendra (JAK) (medicine shop) at railway stations for the convenience of the passengers. In fact, the Ministry of Health has coordinated with the Indian Railways to open the Jan Aushadhi Kendras at railway stations and railway hospitals as well. This step of Railways can prove to be a boon for those passengers who have to face problems due to health related problems during travel. With this initiative of the Railways,

Raipur Railway Division said that taking another step, Indian Railways is going to open Jan Aushadhi Kendra (medicine shop) at railway stations for the convenience of the passengers. In fact, the Ministry of Health has coordinated with the Indian Railways to open the Jan Aushadhi Kendras at railway stations and railway hospitals as well. This step of Railways can prove to be a boon for those passengers who have to face problems due to health related problems during travel. With this initiative of the Railways,

the train passengers will not only get the convenience of availability of medicines at the station, but also they will have to spend less money for those medicines, for which they have to pay a lot of money outside. Significantly, it has been five years since the Jan Aushadhi Yojana started by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and this time Jan Aushadhi Week is also being celebrated across the country to make people aware of it.

Nine thousand centers have been opened in the state, which has been set a target to increase to 10 thousand this year. Now it has been decided to expand this center at major railway stations including 127 railway hospitals. Other essential medicines including cold, cough, fever, breathlessness, blood pressure and diabetes will be available in the Jan Aushadhi Kendra to be opened at the station.

Akarshi advances ahead in Spain Masters Badminton tournament



Raipur, Mar 30: Akarshi Kashyap from Chhattisgarh, presently ranked 43 in the World Badminton Ranking has defeated 14th rank player Michael Lee from Canada with the score of 12-21, 21-15, 21-18 in the first round of the Spain Masters Badminton tournament being underway at Madrid. Akarshi is unseeded in the tournament but she created major upset as she defeated the 6th seed player. She lost the first game but came back strongly in the match by registering victory in the second and third set within 51 minutes.

Devotees throng Kaushalya temple on Ram Navami

Raipur, Mar 31: Thousands of devotees thronged various temples across the state on Thursday on the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami, the birth anniversary of Lord Rama. Ram Navami is being celebrated in entire Chhattisgarh including the capital Raipur. Large number of devotees gathered at Shri Ram Temple, Jaitu Sav Math, Dudhadhari Math, Kaushalya Temple located on VIP Road to worship Lord Shri Rama from morning hours on Thursday here. At 12 o'clock in the afternoon, the chants of Jai Shri Ram echoed in the temples. The birth anniversary of Lord Shriram was celebrated with devotion and enthusiasm. Apart from the pandits-priests in the temples, the devotees also anointed the idol of Lord Shri Rama with 'Panchamrit'. After this, attractive makeup was done with fragrant flowers, gold and silver jewelry. There was huge rush of devotees to see and worship the decorated form of Lord Shriram. In Mahaarti 'Shri Ramchandra Kripalu Bhaj Man, Haran Bhava Bhay' aarti were

performed at Thakur Ramchandra Swami Jaitusav Math located in Purani Basti. Mahaarti was also performed at Dudhadhari Math of Mathpara, Nagaridas Math of Purani Basti, Gopidas Math, Shri Ram-Janki Temple of Byron Bazar, temple located at Gudiyari Machhi Talab, Shri Ram Temple located on VIP Road and at Kaushalya Temple at Chandkhuri. Mahaarti was performed in the presence of Pandit Hanumatlal at Shriram Temple of VIP Road, Mahant Ramsunderdas at Doodhadhari Math and many other pandits. At Shri Thakur Ramchandra Swami Jaitusav Math of Purani Basti, Maha Aarti took place at 12 noon after Dughdhabhishek and special makeup. Jaitusav Math's Trustee Secretary Mahendra Kumar Agarwal said that on the second day of the five-day event of Shriram Jannotsav, 11 quintals of 'Malpua' and 'Manjari' were offered as Mahabhog. Prasad was distributed at 5 pm. A large number of devotees gathered at different shrines in villages and cities in the state to offer their prayers to Lord Rama.

30th free regular yoga practice center inaugurated



In Gondwara Raipur Parliamentary Secretary Vikas Upadhyay and Chairman of CYC Gyanesh Sharma attended

Raipur, Mar 31: The 30th free regular yoga practice center was inaugurated in Basant Vihar Garden in Kabir Das Ward, Gondwara, Raipur as part of the Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission's regular yoga practice program in the Municipal Corporation region. The inauguration's chief guest was Parliamentary Secretary Shri Vikas Upadhyay. The Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission presided over the event. Meawhile,

Gyanesh Sharma extended his best wishes for Chaitra Navratri and stated that individuals can overcome physical and mental problems by including regular yoga in their daily practice. Yoga instructor Mrs. Babita Singha, will lead yoga exercises at the Basant Vihar Garden every day from 5:30 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. According to Mr. Vikas Upadhyay, Yoga Commission is establishing its own identity in the state in terms of yoga activities. Individuals are clearly benefiting from free yoga practice classes that are held on a regular basis. Ward Senior Councilor Narad Kaushal, Secretary of Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission ML Pandey, yoga practitioners and a large number of citizens were present.

Dr. Lerinoa purchased state govt's minor forest produce

And appreciated the initiative of giving community forest rights



Raipur, Mar 30: Dr. Yon Fernandes Lerinoa, Head of the Tribal Department of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO), has lauded Chhattisgarh Government for its various tribal welfare and development works. He said that it is a positive step on the part of Chhattisgarh Government to procure minor forest produce at support price and to distribute community forest rights to the forest dwellers. On this occasion, Dr.

Lerinoa invited Minister Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam and the delegation of Chhattisgarh to visit the headquarters of the United Nations World Food and Agriculture Organization. It is noteworthy that Dr. Yon Fernandes Lerinoa, head of the Tribal Department of the United Nations Agriculture Organization, had a courtesy meeting with Tribal and Scheduled Tribes Development

Minister Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam during his visit to Raipur. During the meeting, Dr. Yon said that the tribal welfare schemes being run by the Government of Chhattisgarh are definitely an important step towards ensuring social justice for the tribal community. On this occasion, Dr. Tekam, while giving detailed information about the tribal welfare and development schemes and

programs of Chhattisgarh government, informed about the support price of forest produce and the success of the forest produce procurement.

Minister Dr. Tekam also informed Dr. Lerinoa about the Chhattisgarh Government's drive to promote production and consumption of millets (coarse cereals), various tubers and other traditional herbs in tribal areas. Dr. Lerinoa said that these efforts should also be linked to educational activities. This knowledge of traditional tribal community should be included as a formal curriculum in schools, colleges and universities, especially in tribal areas.

IB Group construct a beautiful mosque

To be known as Azeez Masjid

Raipur, Mar 31: Some buildings are famous for their architecture. Recently, the country's leading company, the IB Group, built a mosque in Rajnandgaon, which will be operated by the Azeez Memorial Trust. The mosque is also being seen from the perspective of tourism.

The beautiful mosque, which is built on a 3-acre area took nearly 2 years to complete the construction. About 200 workers from Rajasthan worked day and night to complete the construction and decoration of the mosque. The grandeur of Azeez Masjid can be estimated from the fact that more than 500 worshippers can



offer prayers together. On this occasion, Hafiz Kari and Imam Shah Nawaz Ashraf Haideri, from Banaras, addressed the gathering. IB Group MD, Mr. Bahadur Ali, said, "Several years ago, after

seeing a mosque, I wanted a mosque for prayers in my Rajnandgaon too. For this, the idea of building this mosque came up. In order to fulfill the same vision, we brought in stones, marbles, chandeliers, lights, and other

decorative items used in the mosque from other states and countries, apart from the craftsmen." The mosque, which started on March 21st, began in the morning with the Fajr prayers at 5:10 am.

OBITUARY

Premnarayan Shukla

Raipur: Premnarayan Shukla, R/o Sunder Nagar, breathed his last here on Friday. The final rites will be performed in Mahadev Ghat crematorium on April 1 at 11:30 am. He was father of Upper director Industry dept Praveen Shukla and CA Bankim Shukla and grand-father of CA Padam Shukla, Neel, Satyam, Sanjaya and Shankh Shukla.

Ramnavami celebrated with great enthusiasm

Along with the villagers

Konta, Mar 31: On the auspicious occasion of Ramnavami, under the direction of Nitin Kumar, Commandant 219 Battalion, 'Kanya Poojan' and 'Bhandara' were organized at 219th Corps CRPF Headquarters, Injram, Sukma. First of all, all the jawans present in the camp prayed for peace in the surrounding area by offering prayers and performing Havan. After that all the girls were offered prasad by worshipping the girls. After that, Prasad of Kheer, Puri, Laddu, Bundi and Halwa was distributed to the villagers around Injram headquar-



ters. In this event, officers and employees of various departments also registered their presence in Bhandara, in which chief Rohit Shukla (SDPO Konta), Gaurav Mandal (A.S.P. Konta), employees of Axis Bank and Postal Department were involved. The food was thoroughly enjoyed by the villagers and after eating the prasad, a lot of happiness was seen on the

faces of the villagers. The girls enjoyed the delicious prasad like kheer, puri, laddu boondi and halwa. On this auspicious occasion of Ram Navami, the villagers came to the camp and K.R. Celebrating the festival with PU force, it seems that the villagers are moving away from the false ideology of Naxalites and wish for development and Naxal free area.

151 girls from different societies invited for 'Kanya-Bhoj'

On occasion of 'Navratri'

Central Chronicle News

Kawardha, Mar 31: On occasion of 9th day of 'navratri' on Thursday, more than 151 girls were called for 'Kanya-bhoj' in the city. During this prayers were offered and free of cost educational material was distributed to them. This programme is organised every year by 'Jila Yuwa Brahmin Samaj' (JYBS) at local Veer Sawarkar Bhavan.

In this programme, 'Mahabhog', 'Maha-arti' to more than 151 girls was performed. The most important thing here is that girls from all sections of the society were called for 'Kanya bhoj'.

During this the people offered prayers and gave their blessings. In this programme LS MP



Rajnandgaon Santosh Pandey, Nagar Palika President Rishi Sharma, Ganesh Tiwari Anand Mishra extended greetings to JYBS for holding this programme.

The most important thing in this programme was that girls from different societies were invited and first their feet were washed and 'mahur' was applied around the corner



Prog went on till afternoon:

For this programme the JYBS members were busy for last 10 days and special preparations were made for the programme. It began at 11:00 am and continued till 3:00 pm. During this people offered prayers to girls invited and in the end they all expressed gratitude towards the elders for their support and

of their feet. After 'Maha-Arti' to Goddess Durg by the seniors of the Samaj, the prayers and 'Kanya-bhoj' was offered to all the girls. After this the girls were distributed books, copies, pen, drawing book, sketch pens, water bottle and other educational material. In this programme people from different samaj extended valuable support.

cooperation.

Girls express happiness on being part of 'Kanya-Bhoj': There was lot of enthusiasm and happiness among people from all sections of the society in this programme by JYBS and this was the second time, where people from different societies took part. In this programme girls were offered sweets, 'Halwa' and other food items.

Food was distributed to girls by members of JYBS. The works done by JYBS for welfare of the society and others is being hailed by one & all.

Rakesh Gautam and his team from police provided water bottles and Frooti for girls. In this programme, Santosh Pandey, RK Sharma, Vijay Sharma, Ganesh Tiwari, Kirtan Shukla, TR Tiwari, Premprakash Pandey, Prabhakar Shukla and others were present.

Jyot-Jawara immersion mark conclusion of 'Navratri'



Central Chronicle News

Berla, Mar 31: The nine-day long 'navratri' festival concluded with immersion of 'Jyot-Jawara' by the devotees here on Thursday. The men and women from Gram Padpoda, Chikhala Hindu Para, and nearby villages wearing went to immerse 'jyot-jawara', putting it on

their heads. The devotees of Goddess bid farewell to Her with faith and devotion, singing 'Mata's Jasgeet' and reached the nearby pond - river and immersed the 'Jyot-Jawara' performing the rituals.

This procedure which started in the afternoon, continued till the late in the evening. Since it is the

10th day on Friday, on this day also 'Jawara' procession will be taken out at few places.

On the 9th day of 'Navratri', 'bhandaras' were organised at many places in Sheetala Mandir and services were rendered to general public. At the same time, 'Kanya Bhoj' was also offered to the girls as per rituals.

Akbar lays stone for various construction works

Central Chronicle News

Kawardha, Mar 31: State's Forest, Transport, Housing, Environment, Legal Legislative and Climate Change Minister and Kawardha MLA Mr. Mohammad Akbar gifted development works for public convenience in village Kusumghata of Bodla development block, fulfilling public aspirations.

Minister Mr. Akbar performed Bhumi Pujan of Anganwadi building, two wall constructed from main road to Mahamaya Mandir, Ahir Samaj Community Building, High School Cultural Forum and Nayapara Cultural Forum.

Minister Mr. Akbar congratulated and wished



everyone. Mr. Akbar said at the Bhumi Pujan of development work in village Kusumghata that keeping in mind the proper development of the area and public facilities, concrete solution to their demands and problems is also in-

cluded in our first priority. Work is being done keeping in mind the public interest and the convenience of the people. He said that the government is continuously working for the health, nutrition and education of the chil-

dren. For this, benefits are being provided through various schemes.

He said that with the construction of Anganwadi building, small children of the village, whose school is their second home after their parents will get good education here. In the Anganwadi Bhavan, kids will be able to start their educational life and the villagers will definitely get the benefit of the Anganwadi Bhavan.

Pregnant women will also get a lot of benefits. Along with this, all the services operated by the project of Women and Child Development Department will be available through the Anganwadi center.

Accused of Rs 55 lakh fraud sent to police custody

Central Chronicle News

Bemetara, Mar 31: The police have arrested the accused who cheated a businessman of the city of Rs 55 lakh in lieu of giving a letter to export wheat.

During the investigation in the case, the accused Jitendra Singh Solanki, Director of M/s Elephant Work Private Limited Company, was arrested by Police Station City Kotwali Bemetara and sent on judicial remand.

According to the information, on April 1, 2022, the applicant Devratan Tapadia's S/o Laxmichand Tapadia, age

64 yrs, R/o Ward No. 16, Durg Road Bemetara, along with his firm Govinda Traders Bemetara had a deal with the accused.

M/s Elephant Work Pvt Ltd MI 30 Arvind Vihar Bhopal MP and M/s Squaro Exim Pvt Ltd Company had entered into a contract for wheat assignment work in Bangladesh in which export of wheat by M/s Elephant Work Pvt Ltd Company to M/s Squaro Exim Pvt Ltd Company LC related to export of wheat on giving 55 lakh rupees before starting the related work.

It was agreed to give the letter to firm Govinda Traders Bemetara on behalf of Swadharo Exim Private Limited Company by depositing a total of Rs 55 lakh in the account of M/s Elephant Work Pvt Ltd Company through installment for the said deal.

A duplicate LC was also given by M/s Elephant Work Pvt Ltd Company. On payment of the installment when the firm contacted the said company for LC, no one talks about the said deal nor is returning the amount.

Jitendra Singh Solanki, Director of M/s Elephant Work Pvt Ltd., committed

criminal breach of trust and cheated by causing damage to property by dishonestly concealing facts.

Section 406, 415, 420 IPC was registered against Director Jitendra Singh Solanki on written application and taken into consideration. Under the direction and guidance of senior officers, station in-charge City Kotwali Bemetara inspector Amber Singh Bhardwaj, sub-inspector Rakesh Sahu, Soumi Santosh Dhurve, head constable Mohit Chelak, Gopal Dhruv, Anupam Sharma and other staff played a commendable role.

'Jyot-Jawara', 'Ramayan Paath' marks Ramnavami



Central Chronicle News

Nandini-Ahirwara, Mar 31: The festival of 'Ramnavami' was observed in Nandini-Ahirwara and nearby areas with great enthusiasm. The 'Jyot-Jawara' kept at the Sheetala Mata Mandir and in the houses were immersed in the ponds. In the

township market, 'Maa Kaushalya Manas Mandali' performed 'Ramayan Paath' and celebrated 'Ramnavami' and distributed 'Prasad' to people present. In this programme, mainly, Tulsi Tamrakar, Bisakha Chandrakar, Sarita Thakur and others were present.

CRPF 74th Corps built a shed in the memory of its soldiers

- Who got martyred while fighting Naxalites
- Grand inauguration of Shaheed Raghuveer Singh Memorial Cricket Stand in Dornapal
- Inaugural prog began with cricket match and cultural prog

Central Chronicle News

Konta, Mar 31: Continuous efforts are being made by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) to increase the trust and mutual coordination between the villagers and the security forces in the heavily naxal affected areas. In this episode, keeping in view the expectation of school children and sports loving citizens, under the Civic Action Program



(CAP) by the 74th Corps, Dornapal, a large audience gallery was constructed at the Cricket Stadium, Dornapal, named after the martyr Raghuveer of the 74th Corps in Burkapal.

Under the leadership of Singh, 24 soldiers marching on their duty for the country sacrificed their lives. The newly constructed visitors' gallery has been named 'Shaheed Raghuveer Singh Smriti Stand', in honor of the martyrdom of those who attained martyrdom during an encounter with Naxalites at Burkapal on 24 April 2017.

The chief guest Arvind Kumar Rai, DIG, Operational Range (Sukma) CRPF inaugurated the stand in Dornapal stadium for local residents and sports lovers. Ravikant Behera, Commandant 2nd Corps Arun Kumar, Commandant 131st Corps, were also present. The programme was organized in the presence of thousands of spectators including Naveen Kumar, Commandant 223rd Corps, local residents, Central Reserve Police Force officers and jawans.

Sports material given to the players under CAP:

Sports materials were distributed to children from Naxal-affected villages of Kankeralka, Puswada and Tamilwada. On this occasion the center of attraction were 2 women teams of High School Polampalli and Middle School Polampalli amidst which match was played and team of Middle School Polampalli emerged victorious. Anita Rai was also present among us for the encouragement of women sports lovers and she encouraged and distrib-

uted prizes to the women cricket teams.

Also, sports material and daily use items were distributed to the girls and women present on the occasion. The distribution was done under the Civic action Program. A splendid cultural program was presented on the occasion by the children of Polampalli Ashram, Saraswati Shishu Mandir Dornapal and Nagalgonda Ashram Schools. All the children participating in the cultural program were rewarded with cash prizes to boost their morale.

This work of social harmony done by the Central Reserve Police Force 74th Corps was highly appreciated by the Sukma District Magistrate, along with assurance of all possible help in the future administratively. Arvind Kumar Rai, Deputy Inspector General of Police, heartily felicitated the present public group students etc. and called upon the youth to join the main stream of development.

On this occasion, encouraged and praised the students involved in sports and cultural programs. On this occasion, on behalf of the residents of Dornapal, he expressed his gratitude to the 74th Corps for this unique gift and also told that this work done by the 74th Corps will prove to be a milestone in establishing better relations with the force.

UNICEF team gives training under 'Pothh Laika' campaign

- Mitanin, Anganwadi workers and helpers were given training to reduce the malnutrition rate in the district

Central Chronicle News

Bemetara, Mar 31: Under the 'Pothh Laika' campaign, a training programme was organized through UNICEF in the meeting hall of the District Panchayat Office to reduce the malnutrition rate in the district, here on Wednesday, Sub-Divisional Officer (R) Bemetara Suruchi Singh, Mitanin, Anganwadi workers and assistants along with employ-

ees of Women and Child Development Department were present in the training programme.

In the training programme, Dr. Bharti Sahu, who came from UNICEF Chhattisgarh, informed all Mitanins, Anganwadi workers and assistants about the symptoms of malnutrition and how it can be removed.

He said that we should pay attention to the time when the child starts eating solid food because the chances of malnutrition are high at that time, so mothers should be made aware about it. During this, necessary guidelines were

given for better operation of the nutrition campaign being run to remove malnutrition. Pregnant women should also be informed about the ways to save themselves and their children from malnutrition.

The trainees were also explained about the importance of tricolour food, i.e. the color of the tricolour on the plate is for white rice, milk and eggs, green is for green vegetables and saffron or yellow is for lentils, chickpeas, soybeans, meat etc. Having all the three colours on our plate is important for a balanced diet. The importance of washing hands before and after the

meals, sanitation in the bathroom and other habits before eating food was also explained.

The focus is on providing as much nutritious food as possible to malnourished children, pregnant and lactating mothers. Mid-day meal scheme (MDM) takes care of school going children, hot meals are served to mothers and children to eat in Anganwadis under Poshan Abhiyaan.

Eggs and bananas are also being distributed under the Mukhyamantri Suposhan Yojana. These schemes along with the Public Distribution System have eliminated the prob-

lem of availability of food.

These are big steps towards eradicating malnutrition. However, a gap still exists in that information about when and what to eat is not readily available to all families. Thus, there is a need for nutrition counseling and behavior change programmes.

For all these reasons, Bemetara district has started the Pothh Laika campaign. The pilot project will cover 40 villages of Bemetara section. The main objective is to eliminate malnutrition in the district (to reduce the number of severely malnourished children to zero).

Body could not be identified even after 24 hours

Central Chronicle News

Nandini-Ahirwara, Mar 31: The body of a person found in Gram Bodegaon under Nandini thana could not be identified even after 24 hours.

TI Nandini Thana Rajesh Mishra and other staff in order to identify the youth, visited nearby villages and held inquiry in the factory and even searched for some identity card or mobile near the site of the incident, where the body of the youth was found.

TI Rajesh Mishra acting as per instructions by seniors said that it is by taking into account each and every aspect that effort is being made to identify the body of the youth.

Meanwhile the CCTV footages at the Chowks and triangles and public places in village too is being scrutinised to find out about the clue. Apart from this inquiry with people is also done in order to reach upto the accused involved in the murder of the youth.

NAME CHANGE

I Huzefa Zafer S/o Abbas Zaber Resident of Ahmedji Colony, Nal Ghar, Raipur (CG) solemnly affirm that I have changed my daughter's name from Insiya D/o Huzefa Zafer to Insiya Zafer D/o Huzefa Zafer. She would be recognised in all government document in the new name.

HUSEFA ZAFER
ABBAS ZAFER

Land-mafia brother evades stamp duty worth Rs 11 lakh!

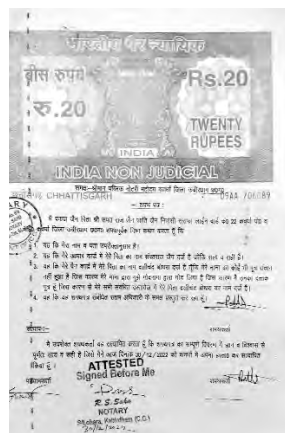
By hiding information about being adopted son and claiming waiver in stamp duty worth lakhs

To save actual stamp duty for cost of land at the plot rate, they got registry done by hiding facts

Role of Dy. Registrar dubious, as to how registry can be done with paper of affidavit related to adoption attached with registry and changing name of biological father in the registry?

Chandrashekhar Sharma

Kawardha, Mar 31: Daily some or the other irregularity in evasion of stamp duty is coming to fore by the land-mafia brother by taking officers into their influence. The game of evasion of stamp duty and registry fees with nexus of Dy. Registrar is going on for quite some time. It is notable heretah that the well-known land-mafia Pankaj Jaini and Mahavir Jain after the purchase of land, citing about adoption at the time of submission of an affidavit during registry and changing relations at the time of registry have cause loss worth lakhs to the government exchequer in terms of Stamp Duty fees through a conspiracy. If the local administration and government carry out checking of all the registries by the land-mafia, Dy. registrar, Patwari and role of the document writer in the evasion of Stamp Duty and Registry fees, then it may reveal stamp duty



पंकज जैन



महावीर जैन

and registry fee theft worth crores.

As per information in this regard, Pankaj Jain and Mahavir Jaini got the registry of 0.272 hect land of seller Jai Mannikpuri, S/o Khilawan Manikpuri, Kawardha on Kh. No. 831/1 and P.H.No. 3 on 2 Jan 2023 at the Dy. Registrar's office in Kawardha. As per the sale value of the land and rate of Rs 29 lakh, the 'bhar mukth shulk' was Rs 1.45 lakh; Nagar Palika fees was Rs 29000 and 'upkar' at Rs 7250, totalling at Rs 1,81,250 worth of e-Stamp Paper No. IN-CG 36519785937414U that different fees was paid.

The above registry was executed by Pankaj and Mahavir Jain by hiding their relationship. For this registry, Pankaj Jain submitted an affidavit before the Public Notary in Kawardha on 30 Dec 2022 saying that his 'grand-pa' adopted him through 'Godnama' (adoption procedure) and due to which he is his adopted son and therefore in all my documents my Father's name is registered as Dalichand Bothara and this include the PAN Card as well.

At one place where Pankaj Jain accepted himself as adopted son of Dulichand Bothara, but at the time of registry, in order to save on stamp duty fees, both Pankaj and Mahavir Jain hiding this information,

hold Sampatraj Jain as their single father and being brother in relations and got the registry done. By doing so, instead of taking the market value of the property, the purchasers claiming themselves to be each other's brother, got the calculation done at hectare rate market rate. The registry to be done at the plot rate in nexus with the Dy. Registrar was done at hectare rate through a conspiracy and thereby causing loss worth crores to the government in terms of revenue by not paying actual stamp paper fees and registry fees.

As per information in this regard, for registry of 0.272 hect land with both being each other's brother, the market rate according to hectare was worked out at Rs 29 lakh and the registry was executed and for which stamp duty of Rs 1.81 lakh was paid. Whereas accord-

ing to the 'Godnama' (adopted son) procedure, both Pankaj and Mahavir not belonging to the same family, the market value of the land, instead of at the hectare rate would have been at the plot rate of 6300 sq. mts. and the cost of land would have been around Rs 1.36 crore, making the stamp fee worth Rs 11 lakh and an additional registry fees as well. So in this way in nexus with the Dy. Registrar and despite an affidavit of being an adopted son, both the persons used their biological father's name and cause loss to the tune of Rs 11 lakh of stamp duty and registry fees to the government exchequer.

It is notable here that as per section-21 of the Hindu Dattak-Grahan & Bharan-Poshan Adhinyam 1956, right from the date of adoption of the son, all other relations with the family giving birth to the son are treated as null & void and it is taken over by the family adopt-

ing the son. In such conditions as per the 'Godnama', the land-mafia brother would be in relationship of 'mama-bhanja' and therefore would not be eligible for waiver in the stamp fees and registry fees. So in order to save the registry and stamp fees, both the land-mafia brother made their biological father as the basis and became each-other's brother and become eligible for waiver in the stamp & registry fees and which is clear-cut violation of section 12 of the above Act. The land mafia brother has deliberately cause loss worth crore to the state government by hiding facts at the time of registry after the land purchase and claiming waiver in the stamp duty and registry fees and if the same is investigated along with checking of the affidavit and filing of a criminal case and cancelling the registry and mutation, FIR should be lodged against the land-mafia brother.

1. You have brought the case forward and after investigation a case would be file and recovery would be done. Vinod Koche - Regsitrar- Kawardha - Kabirdhaam.
2. Fault might have taken place and I cannot say anything more than this and otherwise you are free to lodge complaint. Sukhdev Dhruv- Dy. Registrar Kawardha.
3. In case if any person makes changes in the 'valdiyat' (will) in order to obtain financial benefits by not mentioning the name of the adopted family and thereby avoiding payment of lakhs in the form of stamp duty and registry fees, is directly a case of cheating and theft of stamp duty and loss to the government exchequer and comes under the category of serious crime. It is by giving false information and getting registry done affects the stamp duty and is direct loss of revenue to the govt. Shekhar Bakshi- Sr. Advocate- Kawardha- Kabirdhaam

Villagers demand action against two in conversion case



Reach Collectorate in large number
Charges two of promoting about adopting Christianity

Balod, Mar 31: Both the ruling and Opposition parties are now face-to-face on the religious conversion issue in the state and one

against them or else the villagers will be forced to take some firm action against the two families. This complaint of religious conversion is against one Tarachand Nishad and Pawan Kumar Bhaskar of the village. Hundreds of people reach Collectorate: Villagers from Gram Siwni in large number reached Collector's office here on Wednesday and entire work was closed down. It was made compulsory for one from the family in the village to reach there. Villagers informed that they all are against the religious conversion. The villagers of the village who have changed their religion are threat to the future of the village, as Hindu is our

basic religion and we live and die for it, they all added.

Peace getting shattered
Villagers informed that two persons of the village are shattering its peace and charged that they even promote about other religion among other people and which is leading to great deal of resentment among the villagers. The two families by promoting about other religion are motivating them to adopt Christianity and which has shattered the peace in the village and it may lead to any untoward incident.

Do not follow rituals and policies
Amidst the controversy over religious conversion, the villagers have now come forward to save their religion. Villagers say that

they have their own religion, tradition and culture and follow all rituals of Gods, Goddesses. But the religiously converted families look at our religion and rituals with difference and do not believe any of its traditions. Two persons have got religiously converted and are seen promoting in favour of Christianity and if no firm action is taken against these two, then days are not far off when all from the village would be converted into Christianity by the Missionaries. So in order to tackle the same, the villagers have folded up their sleeves and want to fight against religious conversion. During this Hardev Lal Sinha, Bahur Singh Netam and hundreds of other villagers were present.

BJP workers open front against illegal sale of liquor

Deoribangla, (Balod), Mar 31: In many villages of Gunderdehi assembly constituency, against the economic, mental and physical harassment caused to women due to illegal liquor sale, against the atmosphere of unrest in the villages due to illegal liquor sale, member of BJP State Working Committee and former District Panchayat Balod, under the leadership of Chairman Abhishek Shukla, hundreds of social workers and women from different villages under Gundardehi Assembly Constituency took out a rally at Marri Bangla bus stand and laid siege to Deori police station. Pawan Sahu, State President, Kisan Morcha, speaking fiercely against the Bhupesh government of Chhattisgarh, said that not only in the



Gunderdehi assembly, but in the whole of Chhattisgarh, many types of illegal activities are taking place under the protection of this government. Businesses are being operated, illegal liquor sales, gambling, betting traders are fearlessly exploiting the people of the entire state. District BJP President

Krishna Kant Pawar said that the entire Balod district is in the grip of drugs, liquor is being sold openly everywhere, the government and administration have no control over it, only and only illegal businessmen are in power in the district, illegal businessmen are exploiting the people of the district. They are engaged

in earning money, the development of the entire district has stopped, and the Congress government is completely unsuccessful in fulfilling the basic needs of the people, he said. Addressing the protest demonstration, Abhishek Shukla, a member of the State BJP Working Committee surrounded

Gunderdehi MLA Kunwar Nishad and said that under the patronage of Gunderdehi MLA Kunwar Nishad, illegal liquor business is spreading. Former MLA Virendra Sahu, Dr. Balamkund Dewangan, Rajendra Rai, Sandhya Bhardwaj, Pushpendra Chandrakar, BJP Khertha Mandal President Tineshwar Baghel, Poshan Banpela, Cheman Deshmukh, Shiv Dharamgude, ML Yadav, Chakkan Sahu, BJYM President Tuman Sahu etc. were present. The strike was called off after the assurance of A d d i t i o n a l Superintendent of Police Harish Rathore, SDOP Prateek Chaturvedi, and Station House Officer Arun Netam. The activists handed over a memorandum to Dharmendra Srivastava demanding strict action against illegal liquor.

Pick-up Van turns turtle, 7 got seriously injured

● Near 'Dhak Toll Plaza', 10 kms from city

Pithora, Mar 31: Total of 25 villagers got injured and seven were in critical condition including two women, when a Pick-up Van turned turtle near NH-53 'Dhak Toll Plaza' here on Thursday afternoon. Out of these, total 7 including three children, two woman and two man were sent in serious condition to Mahasamund Medical College and the police is investigating the case.



Laxmipur informed that they too were in the same pick-up which met with accident. Actually the pick-up drive used to drive tractor and since the pick-up driver was not there, he was sent for 'Chouthiya' programme. There were about 35-40 persons in the pick-up Van. The vehicle started from Laxmipur of Mahasamund was running at high-speed on NH-53 and while overtaking a truck, the driver could not control the vehicle the turn ahead and it turned turtle. This led to shouting and cry for help and the passer-bys called 112 and all the injured were taken to nearby CHC in 108 Ambulance vehicle.

As per information the accidents of goods vehicles overloaded with 'baratis' and labourers on NH-53 and being driven at high speed are meeting with accident quite frequently. After the Nartora accident, it was about 10 kms from city near 'Dhak Toll Plaza', a Pick-up Van overloaded with more than 25 villagers turned turtle. In this majority were small children and woman. Some youth from Gram

After the first-aid, the doctor referred seven persons including three children viz. Mahi S/o Naveen Patel (3); Preeti Patel D/o Naveen Patel (8) and Shiv Kumar, S/o Bhagau (1) and 2 woman viz.- Sirmotini (40) and Sewa Bai (55) all R/o Laxmipur and Labrakala (26) S/o Virendra in serious condition to Medical College Mahasamund.

According to the doctor, rest all the injured were asked to stay in the CHC after the first-aid.

It is notable here that driving in overloaded condition on this NH-53 has become a high-risk and the graph of accidents of overloaded pick-up Vans has increased over the last few months.

'Manokamna Jyoti Kalash and Jawara' immersed in city's 'Kai Talab'

● Marks conclusion of nine-day festival of 'Navratri'

Bemetara, Mar 31: 'Manokamna Jyoti Kalash' and 'Jawara' established on 'Ekam Tithi' of 'Chaitra Navratri' festival were immersed in a procession on 'Navami Tithi' here on Thursday. Women and men wearing white clothes joined in queues carrying Jyoti Kalash on their heads. Due to religious faith, many devotees were lying on the way, keeping their feet on them, the people carrying the Jyoti Kalash came out with caution.



The troupe was walking in front singing 'Jasgeet' with 'Dhol-Manjire'. To avoid any kind of disturbance in the procession, Baiga was walking in front and behind with a 'Bana' and he pacified the devotees on whom the goddess was riding by giving them 'humus and coconut'. The immersion was done at Kai Talab located in Bazar Para of the city. A large number of devotees gathered here to see the same. Taking blessings from the Goddess, everyone bid farewell with great enthusiasm.

First of all, after the Mahamaya temple, the lighted Jyoti Kalash was immersed in Maa Sheetla temple. Then the Jyoti-Kalash installed in homes and other places was immersed by the devotees. The police force was deployed to make arrangements for the route through which these processions came out. Jyoti Kalashs were installed in many temples of the city, but according to tradition, the lamps of many temples were extinguished in the room itself. In the rural areas too, the process of immersion continued from Thursday morning till evening. Jyot-Janwara Visarjan will be done at many places on Friday.

Prime Minister of the country took inspiration Minister Anila Bhediya also said that Millets Cafe

Millets Cafe inaugurated by Anila Bhediya

Central Chronicle News

Balod, Mar 31: Millets Café was inaugurated here by Women and Child Development Minister Anila Bhediya and addressing the congregation on the occasion she said that Chhattisgarh's Millets Cafe is being discussed till Delhi as well as the year 2023 is being celebrated as International Millets Year all over the world. In this episode, the first Millets Cafe in the district has now started in Balod and in this cafe, people will be able to relish the healthy dishes of Millets. Traditional dishes of Chhattisgarh with cookies, molds will be available to the people and all the products of millets are very beneficial for health, she said. MLA Sanjari Balod Sangeeta Sinha, President of Municipality Vikas Chopra, Collector Kuldeep Sharma, and Superintendent of Police Jitendra Kumar Yadav were also present.



What is millet?
Municipal President Vikas Chopra told that coarse grain is called millet. It is of two types, one is coarse grain and the other is small grain. In Millet, Jowar (Shabart), Bajra, Ragi (Madua), Jhangora, Bairi, Kangni, Kutki (small grain), Kodo, Chena (China), Sama or Sawa and Barley etc. come. Cafe and he also talked about opening Millets Cafe across the country inspired by this scheme of Chhattisgarh.

Trump indicted, 1st US ex-prez charged with crime

New York, Mar 31 (PTI):

Donald Trump has been indicted by a Manhattan grand jury over hush money payments made to a porn star during his 2016 campaign, making him the first former US president to face a criminal charge and upending his bid to retake the White House in 2024.



The office of Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, who has been pursuing the investigation, confirmed that it had contacted Trump's lawyers on Thursday evening to "coordinate his surrender" on unspecified charges.

"This evening we contacted Mr. Trump's attorney to coordinate his surrender to the Manhattan D. A.'s office for arraignment on a Supreme Court indictment, which remains under seal. Guidance will be provided when the arraignment date is selected," a spokesperson for District Attorney Bragg said.

The report termed it "a historic development that will shake up the 2024 presidential race and forever mark him as the nation's first former president to face criminal charges."

Trump, the 45th US President from 2017 to 2021, is expected to fly from his home in Florida to New York on Monday and be arraigned in court on Tuesday, two sources familiar with the matter told CBS News. The proceeding is expected to be brief. The charges in the indictment will be read to him at the hearing, which is set to last about 10-15 minutes.

Trump has denied all wrongdoing in connection with the payments made ahead of the election.

In a statement responding to news of his indictment, the former president called it "Political

persecution and election interference at the highest level in history," and accused Democrats of "weaponizing our justice system to punish a political opponent, who just so happens to be a President of the United States."

"The Democrats have lied, cheated and stolen in their obsession with trying to 'Get Trump,' but now they've done the unthinkable indicting a completely innocent person in an act of blatant Election Interference," Trump said.

He lashed out at the Manhattan district attorney, calling the prosecutor a "disgrace," and accused him of "doing Joe Biden's dirty work". "This is third-world prosecutorial misconduct. It is the opportunistic targeting of a political opponent in a campaign year," Trump's son Eric tweeted.

DINNER RECEPTION



In this photo released by the Taiwan Presidential Office, Taiwan's Foreign Minister Joseph Wu, center, attends a dinner reception in New York.

Ukraine marks grim Bucha anniversary

Bucha (Ukraine), Mar 31 (AP):

Russia used its long-range arsenal to bombard anew several areas of Ukraine on Friday, killing at least two civilians and damaging homes as Ukrainians commemorated the anniversary of the liberation of Bucha.



From second left to right, Slovakia's Prime Minister Eduard Heger, Moldova's President Maia Sandu, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Slovenia's Prime Minister Robert Golob, and Croatia's Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic attend a commemorative event on the anniversary of the liberation of the territories from the Russian troops in Bucha, on the outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine, Friday, March 31.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Bucha, a town near Kyiv, stands as a symbol of the atrocities the Russian military has committed since its full-scale invasion began in February 2022.

"We will never forgive," Zelenskyy said in a post on his Telegram channel. "We will punish every perpetrator."

Zelenskyy attended an official ceremony in Bucha, where he was joined by the president of the Republic of Moldova and the prime ministers of Croatia, Slovakia and Slovenia.

The Kremlin's forces occupied Bucha weeks after they invaded Ukraine and stayed for about a month. When Ukrainian troops retook the town, they encountered horrific scenes: bodies of women, young and old men, in civilian clothing, lying in the street where they had fallen or in yards and homes.

Other bodies were found in a mass grave. Over weeks and months, hundreds of bodies were uncovered, including some of children.

Russian soldiers on intercepted phone conversations called it "zachistka" cleansing, according to an investigation by The

Associated Press and the PBS series "Frontline".

Such organised cruelty used by Russian troops in past conflicts as well, notably in Chechnya was later repeated in Russia-occupied territories across Ukraine.

More than 1,400 civilian deaths, including 37 children, were documented by Ukrainian authorities, Zelenskyy said.

More than 175 people were found in mass graves and alleged torture chambers, Zelenskyy said. Ukraine and other countries, including the US, have demanded that Russia answer for war crimes.

Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin alleged on Friday that many of the dead civilians were tortured. Almost 100 Russian soldiers are suspected of war crimes, he said in his Telegram channel, and indictments have been issued for 35 of them.

Indian-American Richard Verma

US Senate confirms Indian-American Richard Verma for top State Department position

Washington, Mar 31 (PTI):

The US Senate has confirmed Indian-American lawyer, diplomat and executive Richard Verma as the Deputy Secretary of State, Management and Resources, a position which is normally seen as the CEO of the powerful State Department in the US government. Verma, 54, was confirmed by a vote of 67-26 on Thursday.

He served as the US ambassador to India from January 16, 2015, to January 20, 2017, and is currently the chief legal officer and the head of global public policy at Mastercard.

During the previous Obama administration, Verma served as the Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs.

Earlier in his career, he was National Security Advisor to United States Senator Harry Reid and was Democratic Whip, Minority Leader and then Majority Leader of the United States Senate.

Verma has served as Vice Chairman of The Asia Group, Partner and

Senior Counsellor at Steptoe and Johnson LLP, and Senior Counsellor at the Albright Stonebridge Group.

He is a veteran of the United States Air Force, where he served as a Judge Advocate.

Verma, who was born in 1968 to an Indian immigrant, grew up in Pennsylvania. He attended a private college on a US Air Force scholarship. He earned a B.S at Lehigh University, a J.D. cum laude at American University, an LLM with distinction at Georgetown University Law Center, and a PhD at Georgetown University.

He is the recipient of numerous awards and decorations, including the Distinguished Service Medal from the Department of State, the International Affairs Fellowship from the Council on Foreign Relations and the Meritorious Service Medal from the United States Air Force.

Verma was appointed to the President's Intelligence Advisory Board and is a former member of the Weapons of Mass Destruction and Terrorism Commission.

He serves as a trustee of The Ford Foundation and is on numerous other boards, including that of the National Endowment for Democracy and Lehigh University.

Members of Pakistan's Hindu community protest forced conversions

Karachi, Mar 31 (PTI):

Several members of Pakistan's minority Hindu community held a protest march here to draw attention to the menace of forced conversions and marriages of Hindu girls and women in the country.

The protest outside the Karachi Press Club and at the entrance of the Sindh Assembly building on Thursday was organised by Pakistan Darawar Ittehad (PDI), a Hindu organisation.

"We wanted to highlight this big problem facing the Sindh Hindus, especially in the rural areas where our young girls, some as young as 12 and 13 are abducted in broad daylight, forced to convert to Islam and then married off to older Muslim men," a member of the PDI said.

He said the protest on Thursday had left some impact as many people were not even aware of this crime but admitted they were expecting a bigger turnout. The protest went off peacefully with a large number of policemen standing at a distance from the protesters.

The protesters carried placards and banners which urged the government to pass a stalled bill against the forced conversion of Hindu girls and women. In recent months there has been a surge in

such cases in interior Sindh with the lower courts flooded with applications from affected parents seeking justice and the return of their daughters, sisters and wives.

Unfortunately, no representative from the provincial government came out to listen to the pleas of the protesters who dispersed peacefully.

In 2019, the issue of abducting and forcible conversion of Hindu girls in various districts of Sindh province was taken up in the Sindh Assembly. A resolution was debated and unanimously passed after it was modified over objections of certain lawmakers that it should not be restricted to only Hindu girls.

But the bill, which criminalised forcible religious conversions was later rejected in the assembly. A similar bill was again proposed, but it got rejected in 2021. In January this year, as many as 12 United Nations rights experts expressed alarm over the rising incidents of kidnapping, forced conversions and marriages of girls as young as 13 in Pakistan. Forced conversion and forced marriages are prohibited in Islam. According to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan's report, around 1,000 girls are forcibly converted to Islam every year.

Russia might put strategic nukes in Belarus

Tallinn, Mar 31 (AP):

Russian strategic nuclear weapons might be deployed in Belarus along with part of Russia's tactical nuclear arsenal, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said Friday.

Russian President Vladimir Putin announced last week that his country intended to deploy tactical, compara-

tively short-range and small-yield nuclear weapons in Belarus.

The strategic nuclear weapons such as missile-borne warheads that Lukashenko mentioned during his state-of-the-nation address would pose an even greater threat, if Moscow moves them to the territory of its neighbour and ally.

Belarus was a staging ground for amassing

Russian troops before the invasion of Ukraine a little over 13 months ago.

Lukashenko, the only person to have served as president since the country's independence from the Soviet Union, delivered his annual address amid escalating tensions over the conflict in Ukraine.

Both he and Putin have alleged that Western powers want to ruin Russia

and Belarus.

"Putin and I will decide and introduce here, if necessary, strategic weapons, and they must understand this, the scoundrels abroad, who today are trying to blow us up from inside and outside," the Belarusian leader said.

"We will stop at nothing to protect our countries, our state and their peoples," (AP)

Sri Lanka to opt for domestic debt restructuring post-IMF bailout: Government

Colombo, Mar 31 (PTI):

Cash-strapped Sri Lanka is exploring the options for domestic debt restructuring in the post-IMF bailout scenario to further stabilise its shaken economy, an official statement said on Friday.

Sri Lanka received USD 330 million this month as the first tranche of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout programme, which will pave the way for the debt-ridden country to achieve better "fiscal discipline" and "improved governance."

In a statement issued by the Sri Lankan government after making an investor presentation on Thursday, the Governor of the Central Bank and the Secretary to the Treasury said "the Authorities are also exploring options for a domestic debt optimisation (DDO) operation aimed at liquidity relief while preserving financial stability to avoid further eroding of Sri Lanka's repayment capacity". The

statement outlined that despite the ambitious fiscal consolidation efforts, Sri Lanka's public debt trajectory is set to remain unsustainable in the absence of comprehensive debt treatment. "Sri Lanka is also

facing a significant external financing gap over the IMF program period.

This financing gap will have to be covered through new external funding and external debt service relief," the statement said.

The IMF Board on March 20 approved Sri Lanka's IMF program which Sri Lanka claimed would enable them to unlock up to USD 7 billion in funding from the IMF and other lenders.

Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation Limited
(A Government of Chhattisgarh Undertaking)
ISO 9001 : 2015 Certified
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Phone : 0771-6621000 Fax : 0771-2583794
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NOTICE INVITING TENDER (2nd Call)
(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)
Raipur, Dated 31/03/2023

NIT No. 41/CSIDC/E.E./Division-III/2022-23

Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd., Raipur (CSIDC), a Government of Chhattisgarh Undertaking constituted under the Companies Act, engaged in Industrial Infrastructure Development & Other Related Activities in the State invites online tender for the following works:-

S. No.	Name to work	Registered Contractor in CGPWD or in appropriate class in other dept.	Probable Amount of Contract (PAC) (INR Lacs)	Last Date for Submission of Tender
A	Infrastructure development works including Road, Drainage, Culverts, Water Supply System & Street Light for Proposed Food Park at Village-Ramkrishnapur, Tehsil-Pakhanjur, District-Kanker (C.G.)	Class-B & Above	868.13	17/04/2023
B	Infrastructure development works including Road, Drainage, Culverts, Water Supply System & Street Light for Proposed New Industrial area at G-Jamgaon, Tehsil-Kurud, District-Dhamtari (C.G.)	Class-B & Above	599.85	17/04/2023

The tender document containing detailed terms & conditions, scope of works and other details can be downloaded from the web portal (website) <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> from 31/03/2023 Time 17:01 and shall be submitted online only. Amendment in tender, if any, will only be uploaded on the website and shall not be published in any newspaper.

NOTE: The interested tenderers for online submission of tender may contact CG e-Proc Helpdesk. Operated by Mjunction Services Limited, they may reach Helpdesk using 18004199140 (from 9AM to 11 PM) (therein press 2 for CG e-Proc) or you can email them at Helpdesk.eproc@cgswan.gov.in.

Executive Engineer (Division-III)
S-3612/2 कार्यालय एवं दृकान हेतु स्थान उपलब्ध, वेबसाइट देखें www.csidc.in

TENDER FOR DISPOSAL OF SALVAGE

Sealed tenders are invited for disposal of following items:

Description of Commodity	Salvage Value & Details	Earliest Money
Disposal of burnt/affected "Iron Scrap" (As is where is Basis at "Bilaspur")	Approximate Value: Rs 08-12 Lacs & above.	Rs 50,000/- (Rs Fifty Thousand Only) in form of Bank Draft drawn in favour of "The New India Assurance Co. Ltd." payable at "Bilaspur".
	Iron Angles, Beams, Sheds & Tank	

The tender document can be obtained by sending a request on Email: office.sk30@gmail.com or on Whatsapp no. 9893199443 (Mr. Sead Marfani) on all working days' payment of Rs 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred Only), non-refundable, in Cash/Phone Pe/UPI, towards the cost of one tender document. Last date of submission 11.04.2023 up to 3.30 PM (Tender Opening: 11.04.2023 at 4 PM)

Divisional Manager,
The New India Assurance Co. Ltd., Rama Trade Centre,
2nd Floor, UTI Building, Opp. Rajeev Plaza, BILASPUR (CG) 495001

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
"Khanij Bhawan", 10-25/31/A, Connaught Place, New Delhi, India. Phone: 011-26111111
CIN : L1310DT0159560001674

Employment Notification No 04/2023 Dated: 01.04.2023

NMDC Limited, a Navaratna Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Steel, Government of India and a multi locational, multi product and consistently profit making Mining & Mineral Exploration Organization with large turnover. NMDC Ltd is in the process of massive expansion and diversification both in India and abroad. NMDC Ltd is now inviting applications from eligible & willing candidates for the following post to be deployed in BIOM, Bachel Complex located at District Dantewada, Chhattisgarh.

Sl. No	Post	No. of Posts
1.	Blaster Gr II (Trainee) (RS-04)	02

For detailed notification regarding age, qualification, experience, scale of pay and other conditions etc, interested candidates may visit "Careers" page on NMDC website, www.nmdc.co.in. The last date for receipt of application is 22.04.2023.

हर एक काम देश के नाम
CGM (Personnel)

GURU GHASIDAS VISHWAVIDYALAYA
(A Central University established by the Central Universities Act, 2009, No.25 of 2009)
KONI, BILASPUR-495 009 (C.G.) INDIA
Tel. - +91-7752- 260342, Fax - +91-7752- 260154, 260148, website - www.ggu.ac.in

Ref. No. 1287 /Admission /Academic/23 **ADMISSION NOTICE (2023-24)** Bilaspur, Date:- 30.03.2023

Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur invites online applications for admission to the various PG level programmes for the academic session 2023-24 through **Common University Entrance Test CUET (PG) 2023 to be conducted by NTA.**

(a) Programmes available for admission:
- Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.), B.Ed. Special Education (Learning disability), B.Ed. Special Education (Hearing Impaired), Bachelor of Physical Education (B.P.Ed.), Bachelor of Library & Information Science (B.Lib. & I.Sc.).
- Postgraduate programme: M.Sc. — Botany, Chemistry, Bio-technology, Microbiology, Forensic Science, Computer Science, Rural Technology, Forestry, Physics, Electronics, Mathematics, Zoology, M.A. — Economics, Political Science, Hindi, English, History, Journalism & Mass Communication. Master of Education (M.Ed.), Master of Physical Education (M.P.Ed.), Master of Social Work (MSW), Master of Computer Applications (M.C.A.), M.A./M.Sc. in Anthropology, M.Lib. & Inf. Sc., M.Com., LLM, MBA
- Diploma programme: PG Diploma in Computational Linguistics, Certificate Course in Computational Linguistics

(b) For admission procedure, eligibility, number of seats, reservation policy, Entrance Test provisions, fees and mapping of programme- subject for test, please refer to "CUET PG Admission 2023-24" available on university website www.ggu.ac.in and <https://cet.nta.nic.in> for CUET (PG).

(c) As the entrance test will be conducted by NTA, therefore, the University will follow the admission procedure and syllabus for entrance test as notified by the NTA for CUET (PG). Interested candidates have to visit the links provided above for all updates regularly.

(d) Important dates:
Start of Online Application Process : 20.03.2023
Closing date of Online submission of Application forms : 19.04.2023

(e) Admission notice for M. Tech., M. Pharm will be notified separately. Candidates interested in M. Tech., M. Pharm. programmes need not apply against this advertisement.

Registrar (Acting)



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Combatting Hate Speech

Politics and Religion Must be Separated

Hate speech is on the rise in India, and the Supreme Court has rightly identified the mixing of politics with religion as a major cause. In a recent hearing, the court observed that most of the problems of hate speech will go away if politicians stop mixing politics with religion. It also criticized the State for being impotent and powerless in stopping hate speech and warned that it imperils India's secular ethos and democratic credentials. It is no secret that mixing politics with religion is a time-tested ploy to polarize voters and reap electoral dividends. This dangerous cocktail has also been used time and again to incite violence against one community or the other, as witnessed in an unending series of communal clashes all across the country. The Supreme Court is right to condemn this phenomenon, but it is not enough to simply blame fringe elements for it. It is not uncommon for ministers, MPs, MLAs, and other leaders of mainstream political parties to spew venom during their speeches. And rarely does their respective party leadership admonish or punish them for their inflammatory utterances. These rabble-rousers certainly don't represent the fringe. It's leniency or indifference on the part of their party bosses that emboldens them to relentlessly pursue their vicious agenda. A stern message to separate politics from religion has to come from the top brass and percolate down to the grassroots workers. If no such message is conveyed, communal polarisation inevitably holds sway. The Central and state governments have a huge role to play in ensuring that all merchants of hate are brought to book, irrespective of their political affiliation. It is essential that politicians in India take this issue seriously and work to separate religion and politics to end hate speech. The Supreme Court's observation is especially timely given the current political climate in the country. India is witnessing a rise in hate speech and communal tensions, which threaten the country's social fabric and democratic values. Politicians must understand that their words have consequences and that their speeches can incite violence and hatred. They must realize that the cost of their political ambitions cannot be the destruction of communal harmony and social peace. The court's observation that hate speech stems from intellectual depravement and intolerance is particularly apt. When people engage in hate speech, they are not just expressing their views. They are also betraying their lack of empathy and compassion for others. Hate speech is a symptom of a deeper malaise in society, where people are unwilling or unable to understand others who are different from themselves. It is a sign of an intellectual and moral bankruptcy that cannot be allowed to take root in India. The Central and state governments must take immediate action to stop hate speech and hold those who engage in it accountable. They must also work to create an environment where people feel safe expressing their opinions without fear of reprisals. The media and civil society must also play a role in this effort, by exposing hate speech and challenging those who engage in it. It is time for all Indians to pledge not to vilify anyone and to work towards creating a society where everyone is respected and valued. The time for action is now.

Perils of Tourism related pollution

Vijaykumar HK

As an industry prone to overconsumption, tourism also generates a significant amount of waste and pollution. Tourists can generate up to twice as much waste as locals in some areas. This can put a tremendous strain on local waste management systems, causing landfills and sewage treatment plants to overflow. Another major issue is tourists, hotels, cruise ships, and others, improperly disposing of trash, raw sewage, and toxic chemicals. In addition to making destinations less appealing, litter and pollution can harm local residents and wildlife. While tourism contributes to our global waste problem, it can also help to solve it. Tourism has the potential to raise awareness of the issues as well as spur waste infrastructure improvements. If we want to preserve the beauty and health of the places we visit, we must take action to reduce the amount of waste we create and practice proper disposal. Certain types of waste issues are more prevalent in tourism and pose a challenge for destinations to manage. Tourism generates a large amount of single-use plastic waste which poses a problem for local disposal systems and environments. An often overlooked type of waste, food waste is particularly a problem within the tourism and hospitality industry. Improper disposal of sewage and other toxic chemicals by the tourism industry pollutes our waterways and seas. Air travel and other travel activities generate carbon emissions and contribute to global climate change. Waste and pollution have far-reaching impacts on environments, wildlife, visitors, and communities. Litter along coasts transforms beaches into less desirable destinations and may wash out to sea. Sea debris and untreated sewage pose a grave threat to marine animals who may get entangled, sick, or die. Pollution can have serious health effects and diminish the quality of life of local residents. Trash that is left behind in parks and along trails detracts from the natural beauty of scenic areas. Contaminated freshwater can cause health problems, poison wildlife, and throw off ecosystem balance. Government should help destinations to manage waste and to create cleaner and healthier environments for residents and visitors alike. They also should inspire individuals to adopt eco-friendly travel habits that create less waste and to dispose of their garbage properly so that they leave no trace. Government should develop citizen science tool that will empower travelers and locals to contribute to conservation by reporting the marine pollution they see.

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

FIRE IN A FACTORY



People watch as smoke billows out after a fire broke out in a factory in Wazirpur Industrial Area, in New Delhi, Friday, March 31.

Unlocking India's Tourism Potential in Mission Mode

BY PUNEET CHHATWAL



As one of the fastest emerging tourist destinations in the world, India's travel and tourism sector offers promising growth; having crossed an inflection point, it is now poised for bigger things. India's Budget 2023 has outlined various initiatives and schemes to develop tourism in Mission Mode. The Hon'ble Prime Minister's re-iteration of the importance of the sector in driving India's growth in the post-budget session is a testimony to the enormous possibilities where-by tourism can contribute to both GDP growth and employment generation. There is a clear focus on collective action between industry stakeholders and government to shape an ever-brighter future for the sector; one that can make a positive impact to the economy and society at large.

Power of Collaboration

The basic premise for the Central Government's push to tourism is an acknowledgement of the fact that travel and tourism sector needs multiple means of support to prop it up. The union budget has listed convergence and public-private-participation as two of the six themes, underlining the thrust for collaboration. The importance of collaboration between the govern-

ment, private sector, and local communities in developing and promoting tourism cannot be emphasised enough. Beyond being a developmental tool, it also stimulates creativity, enhances competitiveness and achieves visionary results, which may be difficult if all parties concerned were to operate in isolation. The Kashi Vishwanath Dham temple, for instance, saw footfalls increase from 80 lakh a year on an average to 7 crore last year. The newly developed site around the Statue of Unity saw 27 lakh visitors within a year of its completion.

Tourism at a Tipping Point

Even the destination-centric approach, the first theme, in the list of six, talks about bringing together multiple power centres of governance in promoting 50 new destinations as tourism centres of the future. The Prime Minister gave the examples of locations like Kashi, Kedarnath, the Statue of Unity and Pavagadh, to show how this unified approach and coming together of different arms of the government led to a huge boost in the number of tourists visiting these locations.

As we have seen, the Prime Minister's call for Atmanirbhar Bharat and the initiative of Dekho Apna Desh spurred domestic tourism and led hospitality companies to add supply across all segments - from business and luxury properties, home stays, villas and to budget hotels. The development of these 50 new destinations will see not merely an evolution but a revolution of tourism in India in the years to come.

Tourism is a socio-economic activity and a long-term ap-

proach to development that balances social and economic objectives with environmentally sound management is the way forward. The dominant themes in this year's budget include subjects such as leveraging local culture, preserving heritage, promoting wellness and spiritual tourism and improving lives at the grass roots level with sustainability at the core of all decision making.

Leveraging Technology

There is, however, one more key takeaway from the list of themes, and that is the ongoing digitisation and innovation in the sector. Digital technologies, AR/VR, and artificial intelligence are set to revolutionize the travel and tourism industry. Travel experiences are becoming more personalized, immersive, and interactive. AR and VR can help travellers explore destinations before they even arrive, providing virtual tours and simulations of famous landmarks, historical sites, and cultural experiences. AI-powered chatbots and digital assistants can help travellers plan their trips, recommend personalized activities, and offer real-time assistance while traveling. The emerging technology will also be a key to help the sector keep a tab on its carbon footprint, its sustainability and the dangers of over-tourism.

A coordinated approach boosted by adoption of technology can also help India beat the bug-bear of low spending foreign tourists. On an average, we find, foreign tourists spend 33% less than what they would spend in the USA and when compared to Australia, it is lower by more than 60%.

The Need of the Hour

Ease of doing business approach now needs to come to travel, tourism and hospitality. Unlocking India's immense tourism potential requires a comprehensive strategy that addresses the six key pillars of Planning, Place, People, Policy, Process, and Promotion. It is great to note that the post-budget session addressed all the 6Ps effectively by covering destination planning and management, infrastructure development, sustainability and safety, development of human capital, policy and process interventions to align Centre & State as well as promoting the narrative of Indian tourism.

Constitutionally, too, tourism remains a state subject, and the central tourism department has been battling for it to be moved to the concurrent list, to allow policy making both at the central and the state level. For instance, some Indian states have already provided the industry-status to tourism, a key demand of the sector for decades now.

Granting tourism infrastructure status will provide further impetus to the growth of the sector. It is understood that the idea of a National Tourism Board is under consideration by the government. Matched with the right policies and initiatives, this is the ideal launch pad for India to be among the Top-3 Travel & Tourism economies globally.

The author is the President of Hotel Association of India (HAI) and Chairman, CII National Committee on Tourism and Hospitality. Views expressed are personal.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

China's Aggression

The recent history of military conflicts has demonstrated that powerful nations cannot always subdue weaker nations through aerial bombings or missile attacks. Inevitably, wars must be fought on the ground, which can result in significant losses in terms of both casualties and costs. The United States' experience in Afghanistan and Russia's involvement in Ukraine serve as cautionary tales for China if it has any intentions of invading Taiwan. Russia's Wagner Group has faced significant challenges in taking control of Bakhmut, where ground battles are fought on the streets. Additionally, the formation of Quad and AUKUS should deter China from making any rash moves. The world must come together to find peaceful solutions to conflicts, rather than resorting to violence and aggression.

Ashok Rao, Raipur

Surcharge on UPI payments

The proposed 1.1% surcharge on UPI transactions by NPCI is detrimental to both the public and the Indian economy. UPI has become the preferred mode of payment for most individuals and merchants due to its convenience and promotion of cashless transactions. Additionally, UPI's real-time transaction feature aids governmental agencies in preventing financial fraud and tracing black money. However, the surcharge would force individuals to resort to offline cash transactions, hindering the goal of a "Cashless India" and making it difficult to trace tax-evaded income. The government should maintain the status quo and not implement the surcharge, as it is in the best interest of both the public and the government.

Shivanshu K. Srivastava, Jankipuram, Lucknow

Importance of Hallmarking

I am writing in reference to the news article published on March 29, titled "Hallmark mandatory in gold and silver from April 1". While it is a good move by the central government to make Hallmark mandatory in jewellery, it is also important to educate consumers about its advantages. Hallmarking ensures that the gold or silver used in the jewellery is of the highest quality and purity. It guarantees that the ornaments meet the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) specifications and are free from any impurities. I urge the central government to promote awareness about the importance of Hallmarking and encourage more jewellers to get their ornaments Hallmarked. This will benefit both customers and the jewellery industry.

Prakash Verma, Raipur

Urgent need for study on glaciers melting and Global Warming



Yashpal Raihan

The recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria have highlighted the urgent need for scientists to study the effects of global warming and the melting of glaciers, which are closely linked. Shockingly, no government study has been conducted in the last seven decades to investigate the shrinking of glaciers. In response to this alarming situation, the parliamentary standing committee on water resources has issued a warning about the cataclysmic changes that could occur in the Himalayan region. As an individual concerned about the impact of climate change on our planet, I find the recent report

of the parliamentary standing committee on water resources on "Glacier Management in India" to be of great importance. The report highlights the lack of data and the urgent need for scientists to study the effects of global warming and the melting of glaciers, which are closely linked.

According to the panel's report the Indian Himalayan Region has 9,775 glaciers, and 1,306.1 cubic km of ice volume (about 1,110 cu km of water) is locked up in glacierised basins of the Indus, Ganga, and Brahmaputra. However, specific information about the separate volume of ice and snowwater is not available. It is evident that the melting of glaciers and global warming need to be studied thoroughly, given the potential catastrophic consequences for the Himalayan region and India as a whole.

It is alarming to know that no government study has been conducted in the last seven decades to investigate the shrinking of glaciers. The panel's report calls for an immediate establishment of a dedicated Mountain Hazard and Research Institute to address the dangers of the lack of data for predictions. This recommendation is essential, espe-

cially given the frequent disasters in the Himalayan region, including the most recent flash flood that occurred in Uttarakhand's Chamoli in February 2021 due to glacial lake outburst, resulting in the loss of many lives.

The ecologically fragile Himalayan zone is highly susceptible to the warming of glaciers, which can have significant impacts on lives, the environment, and the economy. It is worrying that by the end of this century, at least two-thirds of the glaciers in the region will disappear, which will have severe consequences for India's 1.3 billion population in terms of livelihood and water resource systems.

Despite an increase in extreme weather events in the Himalayan region, the government system has not conducted any study in the last seven decades to assess the loss of glacier volume or warming to be able to predict potential cataclysmic changes in the region. This lack of study and data regarding the warming of glaciers and its potential consequences is alarming. It is imperative that the government takes immediate action to establish a dedicated institute and coordinate efforts to address this issue. Otherwise, we risk losing not only our natural re-

sources but also our lives and the economy.

The panel's report on "Glacier Management in India" highlights the need for an overarching organization at the national level that can coordinate with others in handling different hydro-geological and hydro-meteorological hazards, including glacier-related hazards, bring findings at one place, maintain reliable database for everyone to access and issue timely alerts. It is essential to have such an organization to have specific information about the separate volume of ice and snowwater. Without such information, it will be impossible to predict the consequences of glacier melting accurately.

The lack of comprehensive information available about the volume loss of glaciers in the Indian Himalayan Region, nor has the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change conducted any study or awarded any project on the warming of Himalayan glaciers, according to the panel's report. The panel further notes that no study has been carried out by the GSI, ISRO, and Department of Science and Technology to even critically analyze the enlargement and origin of glacial lakes near human settlements and

their potential cause for a lake outburst.

It is essential to emphasize the importance of studying the effects of global warming and the melting of glaciers not only in India but also in other parts of the world. The recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria have highlighted the urgent need for scientists to study the effects of global warming and the melting of glaciers. The catastrophic changes that could occur in the Himalayan region if we do not take action should be a warning for the entire world.

It is evident that the melting of glaciers and global warming need to be studied thoroughly, given the potential catastrophic consequences for the Himalayan region and India as a whole. The lack of data and comprehensive information about the volume loss of glaciers and its potential consequences is alarming. It is imperative that the government takes immediate action to establish a dedicated institute and coordinate efforts to address this issue. Otherwise, we risk losing not only our natural resources but also our lives and the economy.

Writer is a retired bank manager, Bank of India. (Views are personal).

BRIEF

Elevation



New Delhi: The country's largest two-wheeler maker Hero MotoCorp on Thursday said it has elevated Niranjan Gupta as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Gupta, currently designated as Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Head - Strategy and M&A, takes over as the CEO with effect from May 1, 2023. The company's board has appointed Gupta as the new CEO elevating him from his current position as its CFO, Head - Strategy and M&A, the two-wheeler major said in a regulatory filing. Pawan Munjal will continue as executive chairman and whole-time director on the company's board, it added. The company said it will announce a new CFO in due course of time.

Panel formation



Chandigarh: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday said he has formed a committee under the chief secretary to look at alternative crops that require less water compared to paddy. Mann said sowing of the paddy crop over the years has led to several problems including depletion of underground water table and issues related to stubble burning. He said he has formed a committee under the chief secretary, which will meet farmers in different villages and see which crops consume less water and bring more income to farmers as a replacement of paddy. The committee will submit the report to him, he said in a video message.

Employees layoff



New Delhi: Edtech firm Unacademy will lay off 12 per cent or about 350 employees amid a funding crunch as it strives to make the core business profitable, a top company official said. In an internal note, Unacademy co-founder and CEO Gaurav Munjal mentioned that a decision has been taken to meet the goals in the current distressed global economic situation when funding is scarce. "We have taken every step in the right direction to make our core business profitable, yet it's not enough. We have to go further."

India unveils 'dynamic' foreign trade policy, eyes USD 2 trillion exports by 2030

New Delhi, Mar 31:

India on Friday came out with a 'dynamic and responsive' foreign trade policy with the objective of raising the country's outward shipments to USD 2 trillion by 2030, making Indian Rupee a global currency and incentivising e-commerce exports. The approach of Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023 is to move from 'incentive to remission' based regime; encourage collaboration between exporters, states, districts and Indian Missions; reduce transaction cost; and develop more export hubs. India is likely to cross USD 765 billion merchandise and services exports in financial year 2022-23 which ends on Friday. The total exports were USD 676 billion in previous fiscal year. Unlike the practice of 5-year FTPs, this time the government has come out with a dynamic and re-



Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal with Ministers of State Anupriya Patel and Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal releases 'Foreign Trade Policy 2023', in New Delhi, Friday, March 31.

sponsive trade policy without any end date, and will be updated as per the emerging global scenario. "We have ensured there is no end date to this policy, it will be updated from time to time," said Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Sarangi while briefing media on the salient features of FTP 2023 unveiled by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

Goyal said Department of Commerce will be making a massive focused outreach to the world, either sectorally or country-wise, over the next 4-5 months. Ministry of External Affairs and Indian Missions abroad will work with the department. "We have to meet our exports targets going forward. We will achieve USD 2 trillion in exports by 2030, but it should not be that mer-

chandise exports are outperformed by services exports," the minister said. The DGFT said India is likely to cross USD 765 billion merchandise and services exports in financial year 2022-23 which ends on Friday. In 2021-22, the total exports were USD 676 billion. The FTP aims at internationalisation of trade in Indian Rupee. It allows international trade settlement in INR and required changes have been introduced for grant of export benefits and fulfilment of Export Obligation (EO) for export realisations in the domestic currency as per RBI. "If there are countries where there is currency failure or dollar shortage we are willing to trade in the rupee with them," said Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal. He also stressed that Indian exporters will have to become globally competitive and need not depend on subsidies.

Fiscal deficit touches 82.8 per cent of full-year target in February: Govt data

New Delhi, Mar 31: The central government's fiscal deficit touched 82.8 per cent of the full-year target at the end of February due to higher expenses and lower revenue realisations, according to official data released on Friday. In actual terms, the fiscal deficit or gap between the expenditure and revenue collection during April-February period stood at Rs 14.53 lakh crore, as per the data from the Controller General of Accounts (CGA). The fiscal deficit in the comparable period of 2021-22 was 82.7 per cent of that year's Revised Estimate (RE) in the Budget. For the full year 2022-23, the government expects the deficit at

Rs 17.55 lakh crore or 6.4 per cent of the GDP. CGA data showed that the net tax collection in the first 11 months of this fiscal was at Rs 17,32,193 crore or 83 per cent of the RE for 2022-23. In the comparable period last fiscal, the collection stood at 83.9 per cent of the RE for 2021-22. Total expenditure incurred by the government was Rs 34.93 lakh crore (83.4 per cent of RE 2022-23), out of which Rs 29,03,363 crore was on Revenue Account and Rs 5,90,227 crore was on Capital Account. Out of the total revenue expenditure, Rs 7,98,957 crore was for interest payments and Rs 4,59,547 crore was on account of major subsidies.

Current Account Deficit narrows to 2.2 pc of GDP in Q3: RBI data

Mumbai, Mar 31:

India's current account deficit, a key indicator of the country's external sector, declined to USD 18.2 billion or 2.2 per cent of the GDP in the December quarter of the current fiscal. The decline was mainly due to narrowing of merchandise trade deficit, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday. The Current Account Deficit (CAD) was USD 30.9 billion or 3.7 per cent of the GDP in the second quarter of 2022-23 and at USD 22.2 billion or 2.7 per cent of the GDP in the December quarter of 2021-22. "Underlying the lower current account deficit in Q3:2022-23 was a

narrowing of merchandise trade deficit to USD 72.7 billion from USD 78.3 billion in Q2:2022-23, coupled with robust services and private transfer receipts," RBI said. Services exports reported a growth of 24.5 per cent on a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis on the back of rising exports of software, business and travel services. Net services receipts increased both sequentially and on a year-on-year basis. In the December quarter, net foreign direct investment decreased to USD 2.1 billion from USD 4.6 billion in the year-ago period. Net foreign portfolio investment recorded inflows of USD 4.6 billion in the December quarter as against an outflow of

India ready for rupee trade with countries facing currency crises: Commerce Secretary

New Delhi, Mar 31:



Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal on Friday said India is ready to trade in Indian Rupee with countries which are facing currency failure or have dollar shortage. Speaking after the unveiling of Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023 which seeks to increase India's exports to USD 2 trillion by 2030, the secretary also said the government is focusing on strengthening the rupee payment system. Changes have been made in the FTP to allow international trade settlement in Indian Rupee with a view to making INR a global currency. Addressing the gathering, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal exuded confidence that the export target of USD 2 trillion by 2030 will be met. He stressed that any industry cannot succeed only on the basis of subsidy or crutches. In the

coming days, the idea of exports will change in the country, Goyal said. FTP 2023 has been announced to provide policy continuity and a responsive framework, said Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Sarangi. The FTP has also introduced an amnesty scheme for one-time settlement of default in export obligation by Advance Authorisation and EPCG authorisation holders. All pending cases of the default in meeting export obligation (EO) of authorisa-

tions mentioned can be regularised by the authorisation holder on payment of all customs duties that were exempted in proportion to unfulfilled EO and interest at the rate of 100 per cent of such duties exempted. However, no interest is payable on the portion of Additional Customs Duty and Special Additional Customs Duty. Policy for export of dual use items under Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies (SCOMET) has been consolidated at one place for ease of understanding and compliance by industry. SCOMET policy emphasises India's export control in line with its international commitments under various export control regimes (Wassenaar arrangement, Australia group and Missile Technology Control Regime) to control trade in sensitive/dual use items/technology.

Govt clears 26th tranche of electoral bonds; sale from Monday

New Delhi, Mar 31:

Ahead of Karnataka assembly elections, the government on Friday approved issuance of the 26th tranche of electoral bonds that will open for sale on April 3. Karnataka will for polls on May 10. Votes, as per the Election Commission schedule, will be counted on May 13. Electoral bonds have been pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of efforts to bring transparency in political funding. State Bank of India (SBI), in the 26th phase of sale, has been authorised to issue and encash electoral bonds through 29 authorised branches from April 3-12, the finance ministry said in a statement. The

last phase of electoral bonds (25th tranche) was open for subscription between January 19-28, 2023. Usually, electoral bond tranches are open for sale between 1-10 of a designated month. However, the 25th did not follow this order. Sale of the first batch of electoral bonds happened from March 1-10, 2018. The authorised SBI branches include those in Bengaluru, Lucknow, Shimla, Dehradun, Kolkata, Guwahati, Chennai, Patna, New Delhi, Chandigarh, Srinagar, Gandhinagar, Bhopal, Raipur, and Mumbai. SBI is the only authorised bank to issue electoral bonds. An electoral bond will be valid for 15 days from the date of issuance.

Soch launches its new summer collection

Mumbai, Mar 31:

India's largest occasion and evening wear brand, Soch, has launched its latest Spring Summer Collection 2023. The new collection by Soch draws inspiration from the rich legacy of traditional Indian art and crafts that can be found in every nook and corner of the country. From the intricate mural crafts of Gujarat, the rich tradition of decorative art at door fronts to the age-old weaving techniques of Ikat, the collection pays homage to the diverse range of traditional art forms that have been a part of Indian culture for centuries- Kolam, Lippan art, and Ikat.



white rice powder in the form of Rangoli. The collection features intricate geometric patterns with embroidery inspired by the art of Kolam. The

"Muse of Mirrors" capsule is inspired by the traditional Lippan mural craft from Kutch, Gujarat, showcasing intricate patterns that have been used

on each piece to enhance necklines, sleeves, borders, and silhouettes in a delicate and tasteful way. Lastly, "Ikat Impressions" features sarees inspired by traditional Ikat weaves. The collection showcases patterns made by this complex and labor-intensive technique of tie-dye and weaving. It includes single and double Ikat pattern prints from Sambalpuri, Pochampally, and Patola. The colors of the Soch Summer Collection 2023 are light, summary with emphasis on pastels, that capture the essence of the season. The collection comprises sarees, salwar suits, kurtas, tunics, kurta sets, lehengas, kaftans and more in a broad spectrum of colors, making it perfect for any occasion.

Markets end last trading day of FY23 in style

■ Sensex Nifty rally nearly 2 pc on firm global trends

Mumbai, Mar 31:

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended the last day of 2022-23 fiscal with nearly 2 per cent jump on Friday in line with firm trends in the global markets and heavy buying in index major Reliance Industries. Fresh foreign fund inflows also added to the positive momentum in the equity market. The 30-share BSE Sensex zoomed 1,031.43 points or 1.78 per cent to finish at 58,991.52. During the day, it jumped 1,108.38 points or 1.91 per cent to 59,068.47. The broad-



er NSE Nifty climbed 279.05 points or 1.63 per cent to end at 17,359.75. Among the Sensex firms, Reliance Industries emerged as the biggest gainer as it jumped over 4 per cent. Nestle, Infosys, ICICI Bank, Tata Motors, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Technologies, Tech Mahindra and Axis Bank were the other major winners.

Sun Pharma, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finance and Titan were the laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul, Japan, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the green. European markets were trading with gains during the afternoon trade. The US markets ended in positive territory on Thursday. "As the financial year drew to a close, the market witnessed an upward trend marked by bullish moves in the banking and IT sectors driven by robust global cues. Notably, an increased interest from foreign institutional investors due to the moderation in Indian stock valuations also aided," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Over 1 crore mobile numbers linked with Aadhaar in Feb

New Delhi, Mar 31:

Over 1 crore mobile numbers were seeded in Aadhaar following requests from residents in the month of February, an official statement said on Friday. The linking of mobile numbers with Aadhaar jumped 93 per cent in February from 56.7 lakh registration in January, according to the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). "Over 10.97 million mobile numbers were seeded in Aadhaar following requests from residents in the month of February 2023, a jump of more than 93 per cent over the previous month," the statement said. Linking of Pan number with Aadhaar is considered to

be one of the key factors that pushed the growth of seeding mobile numbers with Aadhaar. Till date 90 crore Aadhaar holders are estimated to have linked their mobile numbers with their unique ID. "The UIDAI has been encouraging residents to link their Aadhaar with mobile number for better and effective communication while availing welfare services and accessing multitude of voluntary services," the statement said. Nearly, 1700 Central and State social welfare direct benefit transfer (DBT) and good governance schemes have been notified for use of Aadhaar. Aadhaar authentication transactions increased by 13 per cent to 226.29 crore in February over 199.

Global headwinds to deeply impact IT revenue growth in FY24, says Crisil

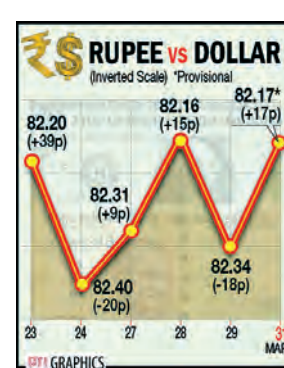
Mumbai, Mar 31:

Global macroeconomic and financial sector headwinds are set to take a deep toll on the domestic IT companies' revenue growth in FY24, a report said on Friday. The Rs 10 lakh crore sector is likely to witness revenue growth plunging by up to 9 percentage points to 10-12 per cent in FY24 as against the nearly 20 per cent growth estimated in FY23, Crisil Ratings said. "Headwinds in key markets, especially the BFSI (banking, financial services and insurance) segment in the US and Europe, will affect the revenue growth of domestic IT services companies," it's senior director Anuj Sethi said.

The BFSI segment, which has seen quite a few instances of stress after the Silicon Valley Bank collapse, will see revenue growth getting halved to mid-single digit, the agency said, adding that this impact would be marginally offset by 12-14 per cent growth in the manufacturing segment and 9-11 per cent growth in other segments. IT Industry lobby grouping Nasscom has ceased its practice of giving a revenue growth estimate for the next fiscal. The sector, which supports over 50 lakh people directly, has witnessed a slew of changes lately including some top companies reporting a decline in head count. The rating agency,

which analysed data from 17 companies which account for 71 per cent of the Rs 10.2 lakh crore Indian IT sector revenue, said the last two fiscals have been one of the best for the industry as it had put out a 19 per cent growth in FY22. Going ahead, healthy growth in cost-optimisation deals, along with strong digital solutions, cloud, and automation capabilities, and a wide range of offerings will support the demand scenario, it said. IT spends by clients are witnessing a shift towards cost optimisation and vendor consolidation away from discretionary spends by most end-user industries, the agency said.

Rupee rises by 17 paise to 82.17 against US dollar



Mumbai, Mar 31: The rupee appreciated 17 paise to 82.17 against the US dollar on Friday as foreign capital inflows and a rally in domestic stocks bolstered investor sentiment. Besides, easing global crude oil prices and rising appetite for riskier assets also supported the domes-

tic unit, forex traders said. However, a strong dollar against major rivals overseas ahead of US inflation data capped the rupee's gain, they added. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the domestic unit opened strong at 82.12 and touched an intra-day high of 82.09 and a low of 82.26 against the greenback. The local unit quoted at 82.17 at 1530 hrs, registering a gain of 17 paise over its previous close of 82.34. The forex market was closed on Thursday for Ram Navami. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, gained 0.25 per cent to 102.08 ahead of the release of the US inflation data later in the day.

Radhika Apte unveils her character in action-comedy 'Mrs Undercover'



Sandeepa begins prep for her next project

Sandeepa Dhar announced preparing for her next project with an Instagram story. The actress recently flew to Delhi to begin shooting for the project and her latest social media post further adds to the curiosity of the show.

Having impressed the audience with her diverse characters across varied shows in the recent past including Abhay, MumBhai, Bisaat, Mai, and Dr. Arora amongst others, Sandeepa Dhar has been consistently delivering impressive performances.

Taking on to her next already, Sandeepa has reached Delhi to start the shoot of her upcoming show, details of which are kept under wraps right now. A source reveals, "Sandeepa has arrived in Delhi on Monday, 27th March and will begin shooting for the show from 1st April. Currently she's



preparing for the role with script reading sessions, fittings and trials etc." In addition to being an actor, Sandeepa is also a trained dancer. Having lead the international musical West Side Story, Sandeepa Dhar was the only Indian artist in the show. The actress has also played pivotal parts in films like Heropanti, Dabangg 2 and Kagaaz amongst others.

Khushi Dubey gets injured on the sets on 'Aashiqana 3'

'Naaginn' actress Khushi Dubey, who is now seen playing the role of 'Chikki' in the third season of the web show 'Aashiqana', shared her experience of getting injured on the sets while performing an action sequence with co-actor Zayn Ibad Khan.

She said: "There was a very difficult sequence where Zayn and I had to come down along a building under construction using a harness. We had to keep our body balanced and were completely dependent on the ropes and the harness. I have not done this before. This was the most fun sequence because it gave me vibes like the ones in 'Khatron ke Khiladi'." Khushi, who is known



for her work in 'Kaisa Ye Pyar Hai', 'Baa Bahoo Aur Baby', 'Kasamh Se' and 'Rakhi, Atoot Rishthey Ki Dor', added that even after getting a deep cut on her skin, she was so involved in the scene that she continued to shoot without taking a break.

"Accidentally, a rope pierced through my flesh, near my upper arms. Zayn and I were being pulled up, which is why the rope tore my skin and I got a cut. Still, I was so much into the scene that I didn't realise it. I didn't feel the pain at that time, but later I could feel it. The pain was worth it. I am glad it worked out well."

Directed by Gul Khan, 'Aashiqana 3' is streaming on Disney+ Hotstar.

Acclaimed actress Radhika Apte talks about playing a housewife and undercover agent in the spy comedy 'Mrs Undercover'. Radhika will play the role of Durga, a former undercover agent who turns homemaker, and is called back on duty after ten years. She discovers that getting

back is not easy because after marriage she has forgotten everything, having devoted all her time to her family. The 37-year-old actress said: "For me, 'Mrs Undercover' is special for many reasons. Not only is spy comedy an unexplored genre in India, but at the very first narration of this film I fell for

my character. Durga is funny, kind, sincere, she is also clumsy and unsure of herself, and this film is her journey of discovering her own strength." Radhika said that every woman will relate to her on-screen character Durga as it is a story of every housewife who gives up her dreams of a

career for family. "Every household has a Durga, a woman who quietly goes about her work and doesn't get her due because she is considered 'just' a housewife," Radhika pointed out. "This film fights that mindset which prevails in our patriarchal society, and it's done

beautifully in the guise of humour." Directed and written by debutant director, Anushree Mehta, 'Mrs Undercover' features Radhika Apte in the lead role. It also stars Sumeet Vyas, Rajesh Sharma and Saheb Chatterjee. 'Mrs Undercover' will premiere on April 14 on ZEE5.

'I mostly perform my own stunts'



out. When I was signed on the show, I was extremely unwell and had lost around 6 - 7 kgs, so when shooting began I made sure to get in shape and put on some muscle. Prior to Alibaba - Ek Andaz Andekha, I had taken some kick-boxing classes to help with flexibility and those have helped for this show as well."

On performing his own stunts, Abhishek further added, "I mostly perform my own stunts. By God's grace, they come very easy to me. I don't have a background in acrobatics as such but it's a lot of fun to be able to do kicks and jumps. I'm looking forward to doing some more high intensity action sequences and learning more skills." "When it comes to sword yielding, as a kid I would often play around with sugarcane sticks pretending they were swords, so that helped in some way", he jokingly said.

Keep watching Alibaba Ek Andaz Andekha: Chapter 2, Monday to Friday at 7 PM only on Sony SAB.

Sony SAB's Alibaba - Ek Andaz Andekha is a family entertainer that follows Ali (Abhishek Nigam) through various adventures as he journeys the land to protect his people from great evils. Since Abhishek's entry, the show has seen a new chapter and more intense challenges for Ali. Owing to these slightly tricky scenes, the actors are required to go the extra mile and ensure they leave no stone unturned for their performances.

A self-proclaimed fitness enthusiast,

Abhishek Nigam is all game to perform his own stunts and take on these challenges with vigor. His love for working out translates seamlessly into his action sequences and keeps him at the top of his game. He opens up about his preparation and exercise regimen for these exciting sequences.

Talking about his exercise regimen, Abhishek said, "I make it a point to go home and exercise after shooting every day. Even though most days we wrap up at 9 in the night, I ensure to get in at least one-hour of work-

Varun Tej reveals new look from his Bollywood debut film

Telugu star Varun Tej, who is all set to make his Bollywood debut with 'VT13' opposite Manushi Chhillar, was recently spotted in Mumbai in a completely new look and seemed like it is from his upcoming project. He has not made clear, though, if this look is from his 'VT 13' or another upcoming project. Varun Tej is known for films such as 'Kanche', 'Fidaa', 'Tholi Prema' and 'Gaddalakonda Ganesh'. Opening up about his new look curated by celebrity stylist Aalim Hakim, Varun said: "It was a wonderful experience to be in Mumbai and meet some of my fans. I am overwhelmed by all the love that I have been receiving and can't wait to take my audiences by surprise very soon." "VT13" is a bilingual Telugu-Hindi action drama based on the Indian Air Force. Varun Tej essays the part of an Air Force pilot in the film.



Manoj Bajpayee: I find it challenging to work in formulaic films

Actor Manoj Bajpayee has shared what motivated him to come on board the documentary 'The Vial', which is all about the development of the Covid vaccine. The celebrated actor also talked about the kind of cinema he preferred to be a part of and how excited he is about his upcoming movie 'Banda'.

Bajpayee said: "There were three reasons that inspired me to become a part of 'The Vial'. First, it was the unwavering conviction of the producers, director, and channel that impressed me. Second, the documentary aimed to shed light on the pandemic that we all have experienced, and I wanted to pay homage to the health workers, frontline workers, and scientists who worked tirelessly to develop vaccines across all regions.

"And third, I was keen to work in this field as a way of showing my support and appreciation for these individuals." Discussing the most difficult aspect of creating this documentary,



Bajpayee said: "As for me, the most challenging part was memorizing all the information and lines that were required of me as an actor and narrator. Having already worked on two documen-

taries, 'Secrets of Sinauli' and 'Kohinoor', I was familiar with the narration aspect, but memorizing all the necessary information was a significant challenge."

When asked if he prefers commercial cinema or independent cinema, Bajpayee elaborated: "I don't prefer one over the other. For me, what matters most is the story. I find it challenging to work in formulaic films where I already know the beginning, middle, and end. I believe the story must be unique, and the character should be something that audiences have not seen before."

He concluded by sharing his excitement about his upcoming movie 'Banda' and said: "The film is directed by Apoorv Singh Karki. Its story is unique and inspired by true incidents. It revolves around a lawyer's journey as he fights a difficult case. It's a character that I've never played before, and I'm looking forward to the challenge." 'The Vial' is airing on History TV18.

Maestro Ilaiyaraaja's musical film 'Music School' announced

On Tuesday, 28th March at an event in Hyderabad, graced by presence of renowned film producer and distributor Dil Raju, the makers unveiled the first poster of the musical featuring Shriya Saran with a bunch of kids driving through the picturesque locations of Goa. Depicting the serious subject of academic pressure endured by young school kids in a light-hearted and entertaining approach via music, the film has a total of 11 songs that drive the narrative of the film. Three out of eleven songs are from The Sound of Music, which were woven



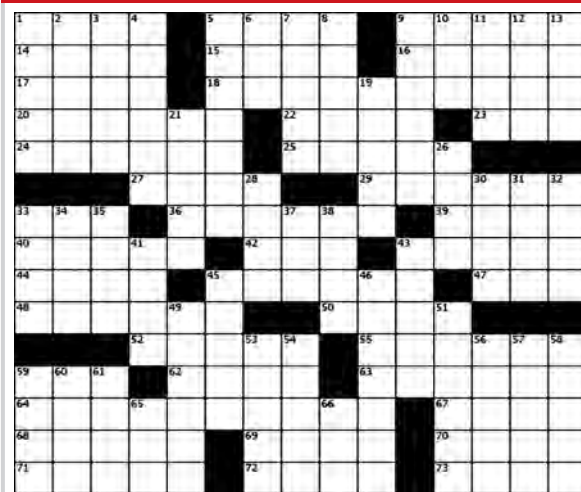
beautifully in to this Indian Musical. An IAS officer with an inspiring passion for cinema- Paparao Biyyala, who makes his debut as a writer and director with Music School shares, "The persistent pressure of performance on young students by parents, teachers and society, more often than not, be-

comes the main obstacle in the child's growth. Though it is serious subject, I have attempted to tell the story in entertaining way through a truly musical format", says the director of the film. The grandeur look of the film was captured by ace cinematographer Kiran Deohans. Graceful and vibrant

dances are choreographed by Adam Murray, Chinni Prakash and Raju Sundaram. Cast includes debutant Ozu Barua and Gracy Goswami in critical roles. Other cast comprises of Benjamin Gilani, Suhasini Mulay, Mona Ambegaonkar, Leela Samson, Bugs Bhargava, Vinay Varma, Srikanth Iyengar, Vaquar Shaikh, Phani Eggone and many other child actors. Presented by Yamini Films, Hyderabad, this multi-lingual film is shot in Hindi and Telugu, and dubbed in Tamil. It is releasing on 12th May 2023 by PVR in Hindi and Dil Raju in Telugu.

CROSSWORD

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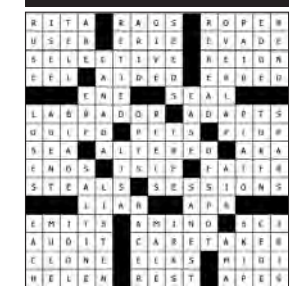
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- Facts
- Divya's speciality
- Lampreys

SOLUTION 603



IPL 2023

Injury-hit KKR, PBKS look to make positive start

Mohali, Mar 31 (PTI):

Plagued by injuries and unavailability of a few foreign players, both Punjab Kings and Kolkata Knight Riders would still look to put their best foot forward as they lock horns in their opening IPL encounter here on Saturday.

These are the two franchises, which over the years have flattered to deceive. Inconsistency in team selections seemed to have also affected the them badly.

While PBKS finished sixth, two-time champions KKR ended a rung below in the seventh spot in the 10-team competition last year. Both teams will be led by new skippers this season. While veteran Shikhar Dhawan will be at the helm of Punjab, domestic star Nitish Rana has replaced injured Shreyas Iyer as KKR captain. On paper, though, PBKS looks a tad more



Punjab Kings captain Shikhar Dhawan with coaching staff during a practice session.

stronger than KKR. But Englishman Jonny Bairstow's absence will certainly leave a big void in Punjab's team composition. Bairstow has been ruled out of the entire IPL as he continues to recover from a leg injury he had sustained while playing golf last September.

In Bairstow's place, PBKS has roped in BBL's player-of-the-tournament this season, Matthew Short who is expected to open the batting along side Dhawan. Other key PBKS players, who will miss Saturday's game are hard-hitting all-rounder Liam Livingstone, who is yet to

get clearance from the ECB, following a knee injury, and South African Kagiso Rabada who is on national duty. For two-time champions KKR, new coach Chandrakant Pandit will be the key man as it is now an open secret that he along with Mumbai stalwart

Abhishek Nayar are going to take all decisions from the dug-out and Rana's only job would be to implement them. KKR too have been hurt by injuries with regular skipper and batting mainstay Shreyas being almost ruled out of the tournament with a back problem. The two Bangladeshi Shikib Al Hasan and Litton Das are also going to miss the opening game due to national commitments.

KKR's strength too lies in the team's all-rounders with the likes of Andre Russell, Sunil Narine, David Weise, Vernkatesh Iyer and Shakib Al Hasan in their rank.

Even though both Tim Southee and Lockie Ferguson have joined the KKR squad, the latter is a doubtful starter on Saturday having injured his right hamstring last week.

Match starts at 3:30 PM IST.

Bollywood divas steal the show at IPL 2023 opening ceremony



Bollywood actress Tamannaah Bhatia performs during the IPL 2023 opening ceremony, at Narendra Modi Stadium, in Ahmedabad, Friday, March 31.

Ahmedabad, Mar 31:

The IPL 2023 season kicked off in spectacular fashion with a star-studded opening ceremony at the world's largest stadium. The event was graced by the presence of some of Bollywood's biggest names, who added to the glitz and glamour of the occasion.

The ceremony began with the iconic return of 90s heartthrob Mandira Bedi, who has since ventured into cricket broadcasting. Bedi made a stun-

ning comeback, capturing the attention of the packed crowd with her presence and charm.

The musical performances were equally impressive, with Arijit Singh belting out some of his chart-topping hits, including Kesariya, Channa Mereya, and Tujhe Kitna Chaahne Lagey Hum. Tamanna Bhatia followed with a stunning dance routine, further winning over the audience.

Rashmika Madanna closed the show with a

bang, leaving the fans cheering for more. The event also saw the presence of star cricketers MS Dhoni and Hardik Pandya, who arrived on the stage in chariot-like carriages carrying the IPL trophy.

The ceremony concluded with a group photograph of the captains with the trophy. Following the grand opening, the season opener will take place between defending champions Gujarat Titans and Chennai Super Kings at the same venue.

Black Caps win ODI series 2-0 against Lanka



Wellington, Mar 31 (AP):

New Zealand capitalized on another failure by Sri Lanka's batters and avoided one of its own to win the third one-day international by six wickets in Hamilton on Friday and to take the three-match series 2-0.

After being bowled out for only 76 in the first match which New Zealand won by 198 runs Sri Lanka was dismissed for 157 in 41.3 overs as it batted first

after winning the toss in Game 3. The second match was abandoned because of rain. New Zealand also was in trouble early when it lost two wickets in the second over of its innings and was 6-2, then 21-3. But Will Young, who had been out of form with only 30 runs from his last four ODI innings, ground his way back to form with an unbeaten 86, which guided New Zealand to victory with 17.1 overs remaining. Young and Henry

Nicholls (44) shared an unbroken partnership of exactly 100 runs for the fifth wicket.

Like all batters Friday, Young had moments of alarm in his innings and sometimes was tempted to dangle the bat outside off stump. But he persevered and eventually reached his half century from 71 balls, mostly from playing with sound technique rather than trying to hit out recklessly.

The New Zealand seamers set up the win with another excellent performance. Henry Shipley, who took 5-31 in the first match, returned 3-32 on Friday and has been a huge success in his first home series.

Matt Henry took 3-14 and produced an outstanding early spell in which he removed Nuwanidu Fernando (2) and Kusal Mendis (0) as Sri Lanka slumped to 23-3 by the end of the first 10-over powerplay.

Mumbai Indians name Sandeep Warrier as Jasprit Bumrah's replacement

Mumbai, Mar 31 (PTI):

Mumbai Indians on Friday replaced injured pacer Jasprit Bumrah with Sandeep Warrier for the 2023 Indian Premier League. Bumrah was ruled out of the entire tournament due to a back injury.

Sandeep Warrier, right-arm fast bowler, will join the Mumbai Indians squad as a replacement player for Jasprit Bumrah. Sandeep, who debuted for India in 2021, is an experienced player in the domestic circuit having played over 200 games with 69 of them in T20 format, taking 362 wickets in his career so far across formats," Mumbai Indians said in a statement on Friday afternoon.

The release added, "Sandeep will join the Mumbai Indians squad ahead of the team's first game of IPL 2023 against Royal Challengers Bangalore."



Warrier, who has played 66 First-Class, 69 List A and 68 T20 matches in the domestic circuit taking 217, 83 and 62 wickets respectively, made his debut for India in the shortest format at Colombo in July 2021 against Sri Lanka. He represented Kerala in domestic cricket before moving to Tamil Nadu in 2020.

Mumbai Indians will kick off their campaign with an away game against RCB at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore on April 2.

Delhi Capitals look to corner under-pressure Rahul's LSG

Lucknow, Mar 31 (PTI):

Mitchell Marsh's brute power with the willow will be Delhi Capitals' lethal weapon as they brace up for life without Rishabh Pant while starting their Indian Premier League campaign against Lucknow Super Giants, here on Saturday.

LSG, who will be playing at home for the first time, is an equally beleaguered outfit if not more, with skipper KL Rahul going through the toughest phase of his career and has been on a downward spiral for quite some time now. By the look of it, neither DC nor LSG look like outfits that give you the vibe of a champion side like Chennai Super Kings, Mumbai Indians or for that matter Gujarat Titans.

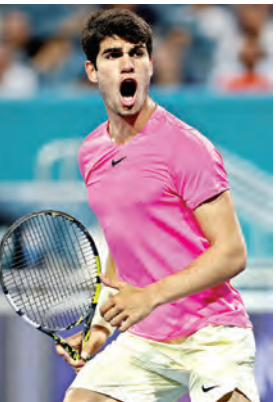
However in the shortest format, equations could change at the drop of hat as the margin that separates a master-stroke from a harakiri is as thin as a thread. So when DC begin



its journey on Saturday evening at the Ekana Stadium, it will be an Australian, who will hold the key to the kind of start that the franchise expects. And that Australian isn't stocky New South Wales man David Warner, who is leading the side but the giant from Western Australia, who has provided some sort of a trailer during the ODI series against India with 12 sixes in three games — 11 of which came in the first two encounters. It seems that Marsh has got a hang of Indian tracks and that

can only augur well for DC. Marsh, who hasn't bowled his medium pacers for some time, will be a vital cog in Powerplay overs if Warner and his flamboyant opening partner Prithvi Shaw, fail to get going. DC head coach Ricky Ponting expects a lot from Shaw and on his day, he can butcher any attack. Shaw also likes to work with pace of deliveries and Mark Wood in the opposition ranks, with a speed in excess of 150 clicks, gives him that opportunity.

Alcaraz blasts Fritz to reach Miami semis



Miami Gardens (US), Mar 31 (AP): The hopes of American men's tennis rest largely on the talented rackets of Taylor Fritz and Tommy Paul. But a Spanish roadblock named Carlos Alcaraz is in the way never more illustrated by the last few days at the Miami Open. Two days after routing the Australian Open semifinalist Paul, the top-ranked Alcaraz took his spectacular arsenal to the highest-ranked American man in No. 10 Fritz and blasted into the semifinals with a 6-4 6-2 victory at Hard Rock Stadium. In the women's draw, Elena Rybakina advanced to Saturday's finals with a 7-6 (3) 6-4 victory over Jessica Pegula in a match delayed twice by rain. Rybakina, the Wimbledon champion, won her 13th straight match and is seeking to become the fifth woman to achieve the "sunshine double" back-to-back titles in the hard-court tournaments at Indian Wells and Miami.

India's pace can challenge Australia: Taylor

Dubai, Mar 31 (PTI):

Former New Zealand skipper Ross Taylor has backed the Indian pace unit to cause trouble for Australian batters in the World Test Championship final scheduled at the Oval in London from June 7-11.

Taylor, himself a World Test Championship winner, feels Indian fast bowlers have the wherewithal to create problems for Australia even though Jasprit Bumrah will be sidelined due to a back surgery.

"Any time you play in England, conditions and the weather play a big part," Taylor was told ICC website.

"Any time you think of Australia and India, and also you're playing in a neutral ground, the seamers play a big part. The Australian seamers are renowned for bowling with the Dukes ball and have a lot of experience."

But Taylor didn't rule out India's chances. "I wouldn't rule out this Indian side. They have had a lot of success over there in the years gone past, they have a few of these seamers," he added. While spin played a key



role in the recent Border Gavaskar Trophy in India, Taylor expects pacers of both the teams to rule the roost in the WTC Final at The Oval.

Taylor is confident that even without Bumrah, India have enough options in the pace department to make an impact in English conditions.

"Very tough to replace someone like Bumrah. He has been fantastic in all three formats and is the leader of their bowling attack," he said.

"But I think there's still enough depth in this Indian line-up to trouble the Australian side. (Mohammed) Shami and co are fantastic in these conditions.

Sindhu cruises to semis, Srikanth bows out

Madrid, Mar 31 (PTI):

Double Olympic medalist PV Sindhu cruised to the semifinals even as compatriot Kidambi Srikanth crashed out of the Madrid Spain Masters here on Friday.

Sindhu got the better of world no. 19 Mia Blichfeldt of Denmark 21-14 21-17 to reach her first semifinal of the year.

Srikanth, on the other hand, lost to top seed Japanese shuttler Kenta Nishimoto 18-21 15-21 in the men's singles quarter-finals.

Sindhu, who is seeded second, has been struggling to find her feet since returning from a long injury lay-off.

The 27-year-old has slipped out of the top 10 in the world rankings and until now hadn't been able to cross the second round in the last few tournaments in 2023.

After a sedate start to the match, the former world champion completely dominated the second half of the play to take first game comfortably.

Sindhu was, however, trailing for most part of the second game. But she made an impressive comeback fighting from 6-12 to registering a straight game win.

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GADA YATRA



Mahant Raju Das of Ayodhya's Hanuman Garhi Mandir with members of Hindu Seva Parishad during the 'Gada Yatra', in Jabalpur, Friday.

SGPC takes out procession against arrest of 'innocent Sikh youths' during crackdown against Amritpal

Amritsar, Mar 31 (PTI):

The SGPC took out a procession on Friday in a bid to press the Punjab government to release "innocent Sikh youths" arrested during a police crackdown on radical preacher Amritpal Singh and his outfit Waris Punjab De.

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, the apex gurdwara body, also sought from the government to revoke the National Security Act (NSA) slapped against a few persons during the police action.

Led by its chief Harjinder Singh Dhani, the procession marched from the SGPC headquarters to the district adminis-



SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhani leads a march taken out from Golden Temple to DC office Amritsar in protest against the arrest of innocent Sikh youths by the Punjab police since the launch of its crackdown on Amritpal Singh, in Amritsar, Friday.

tration complex. The members submitted a memorandum to Additional Deputy Commissioner Surinder Singh, which included the demand for the release of "innocent Sikh youths" ar-

rested during the crackdown. The Punjab government has informed the Akal Takht, the supreme temporal body of Sikhs, that almost all the people taken into preventive cus-

tody 348 out of 360 have been released. The Akal Takht Jathedar's personal secretary Jaspal Singh said the government has informed them the rest would be released soon.

Earlier this week, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had hit out at Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh for "provoking" people through an ultimatum to the state government to release all the Sikh youths.

The Jathedar had responded that he has the right and duty to speak about "innocent Sikh youths". He had also condemned the state government for invoking the stringent NSA against some of those held.

Haryana arms recovery case

NIA seizes cash, car as 'proceeds of terrorism'

New Delhi, Mar 31 (PTI):

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has seized more than Rs 7.80 lakh in cash and a vehicle as "proceeds of terrorism" in a case related to the recovery of arms and explosives, smuggled from Pakistan by the proscribed Babbar Khalsa International, in Haryana last year, an official said on Friday. The cash and the Innova vehicle were seized on Thursday under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, a spokesperson of the federal agency said.

On May 5 last year, police had intercepted the vehicle at Bastara Toll Plaza

in Haryana and recovered three improvised explosive devices (IEDs), one pistol with two magazines, 31 rounds of ammunition, and Rs 1.30 lakh in cash which had been concealed in a specially designed cavity. Four terror operatives -- Gurpreet Singh alias "Gopi", Amandeep Singh alias "Deepa", Parminder Singh alias "Pinder" and Bhupinder Singh -- who were on their way to Adilabad in Telangana were arrested, the agency said.

The spokesperson said the NIA investigations have revealed that multiple consignments of arms, explosives and drugs had been sent from Pakistan by designated terrorist

Harwinder Singh Sandhu alias Rinda through drones to pre-decided locations near the India-Pakistan border. "Gopi, Deepa, Akash, Sukhbeer Singh alias Jashan" and Jarmalpreet Singh received the weapon and drug consignments. Gopi and others were tasked to collect the contraband and deliver part-consignments to...different places in the country to carry out attacks in the name of banned BKI (Babbar Khalsa International)," the NIA said.

It said the Innova car was used by the accused persons for transporting such consignments. "Gopi had also amassed a large amount of cash through

smuggling these contraband items. Investigations have exposed his modus operandi of depositing this money in bank accounts of others," the spokesperson said.

The official said an NIA team seized Rs 5.5 lakh from one such account and recovered Rs 1 lakh that Gopi had stashed away, raising the total recovery to Rs 7,80,000 in this case, besides the seized Innova vehicle. The NIA took over the investigation of the case on May 24 last year and filed the first charge sheet against six accused, including Rinda, in October. A supplementary charge sheet was filed against three more accused in March this year.

30 years after student's death in fake encounter

Court hands life term to retired UP policeman

Bareilly (UP), Mar 31 (PTI):

Over three decades after the death of a 21-year-old man in a fake encounter here, a local court on Friday sentenced a retired sub-inspector to life imprisonment.

Additional Sessions Judge Pashupatinath Mishra on Wednesday held Yudhisthir Singh, the then sub-inspector, guilty of killing Mukesh Johri alias Lali, on July 23, 1992 in Bada Bazar area of the city.

The court awarded life imprisonment to Singh

on Friday and also imposed a fine of Rs 30,000 on him, government counsel Ashutosh Dubey said.

It said the fine amount will be provided to relatives of the victim. According to police, Singh, who was posted at Thana Kotwali, claimed to have killed Lali in an encounter in self-defence. The then SI had filed a case of robbery and murderous attack against the victim.

In a report submitted by Singh, he had alleged that while returning after buying household items

from Bada Bazar on the fateful day, he saw three people having a dispute with a salesman of the Pink City Wine Shop and anticipating robbery, he challenged the accused and one of them opened fire on him, but he escaped narrowly.

The SI had said that if he had not fired, the miscreants would have killed him. He said he fired at one of them with his official revolver due to which he fell down bleeding.

Singh, however, was accused of killing Lali, a second-year BA student, by the victim's family.

Two hybrid militants arrested in connection with attack on journalist

Srinagar, Mar 31 (PTI): Two hybrid militants of the Resistance Front (TRF) were arrested in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir for their alleged involvement in an attack on a social media journalist last year, police said on Friday.

During the course of investigation of the case, a special investigation team (SIT) was constituted, which, on the basis of oral, circumstantial and technical evidences, rounded up a number of suspects, a police spokesman said.

During questioning, two suspects identified as Suhaib Reyaz and Anayat Ullah Iqbal, both residents of Saidapora Payeen village of Shopian, admitted their involvement in the terror attack, the spokesman said.

He said it also came to fore that the duo was working as hybrid terrorists of proscribed terror group TRF - an offshoot of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

On their disclosure, the weapon of offence - a pistol along with its magazine and five pistol rounds besides, an IED were recovered by the security forces in the orchards of Saidapora Payeen, the spokesman said.

Waseem Ahmad Wani (27), a resident of Heerpora area of Shopian, who ran a YouTube news channel, escaped unhurt after two motorcycle-borne militants shot at him on December 25 last year.

Man sentenced to 20 years in prison by Kerala court for sexual assault of minor

Palakkad (Kerala), Mar 31 (PTI):

A Kerala court on Friday sentenced a man to 20 years in prison for the repeated sexual assault of a minor girl whom he had befriended on social media. Pattambi Fast Track Special Court judge Satish Kumar sentenced the man to 20 years for the offence of repeated aggravated penetrative sexual assault of a minor under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The court also imposed a fine of Rs 1.5 lakh on the convict with a direction that the amount, if realised, be paid to the victim. Special Public Prosecutor Nisha Vijayakumar said. The

court also sentenced the man to two years in prison for the offence of house trespass under the IPC.

The man, hailing from Kollam, had befriended the minor girl on social media in 2021 and after they got close, he turned up at her house when her parents were not present and sexually assaulted her, the SPP said. Subsequently, he showed up at her house several times during that year in the absence of her parents and sexually assaulted her; the prosecutor added. As his sexual demands began increasing and he started making threats to make the victim comply, she told her parents who in turn informed the police, the SPP said.

Patna, March 31 (PTI):

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav on Friday scoffed at Union Home Minister Amit Shah's claim of having been under "pressure" from the CBI at the behest of the erstwhile Congress-led UPA government at the Centre. The RJD leader said he was unaware of Shah's comment but wondered whether it was an inadvertent admittance that central agencies were being "pressurised" under the Narendra Modi government.

Yadav was asked about Shah's claim of pressure to "frame" Narendra Modi, the then chief minister of Gujarat, in an al-

leged fake encounter case.

"I am unaware of the remarks and cannot say whether his claim has any truth in it. But, he has used the word pressure. So, by implication, does it not mean he admits to the central agencies being pressurised and not being allowed to function in a fair and impartial manner?" he asked.

Shah had made the claim at an event in Delhi on Wednesday. Yadav, the younger son and heir apparent of RJD supremo Lalu Prasad, was recently grilled by the CBI in connection with a case related to the period when his father was the railway minister and he was not old enough to be in active

Tejashwi scoffs at Shah's claim of 'pressure' from CBI under UPA



Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav addresses the media at Bihar Assembly during the Budget Session, in Patna, Friday.

politics. The CBI interrogation came close on the heels of ED raids on his

Delhi house and the residences of his married sisters. Yadav alleged on the floor of the Bihar assembly that the Enforcement Directorate officials had spent hours at his place despite having been through in 30 minutes, waiting for "clearance from above".

Yadav struck a philosophical note when he was asked about the disqualification from Lok Sabha of former Congress presi-

dent Rahul Gandhi, RJD's old ally. "Time is a great leveller. Let the wheel of time turn. All will be held to account (sabka hisaab ho jaega)," he said.

The deputy chief minister also slammed the Centre for paying no heed to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's plea for a 'one nation one tariff' policy in the power sector. "Under the current system, we are ending up purchasing power at rates far higher than the charges for wealthier states. As announced by the chief minister in Bihar Assembly, the state cabinet has approved a subsidy of over Rs 13,000 crore to ease the burden on consumers' pockets," Yadav said.

Govt trying to 'strangle' MGNREGS, other welfare schemes: CPI(M)

New Delhi, Mar 31 (PTI):

The government is trying to "strangle" the rural job guarantee scheme as well as other welfare programmes by periodically cutting budget allocations, the CPI(M) has alleged.

The latest editorial of the Left party's mouthpiece People's Democracy also criticised the introduction this year of the compulsory marking of attendance by workers under the scheme through mobile-based application 'National Mobile Monitoring Service (NMMS)'.

"This has led to chaos at worksites across the country. With patchy internet connectivity, workers are reported to be spending hours just to get their attendance recorded. It is a life and death issue for

them because failure to mark their attendance would mean loss of wages for the day," it claimed.

"Imposition of this kind of hi-tech measures is a well known ploy of this government, ostensibly to tackle fraud. It has been imposed earlier in PDS distribution, in marking attendance of government school teachers, etc - all with similar chaotic and tragic consequences for the people," the editorial in the mouthpiece of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) said.

Hitting out at the BJP government at the Centre, it said ever since the Narendra Modi government came to power in 2014, it has been "trying to somehow strangle the rural job guarantee scheme (MGNREGS)".

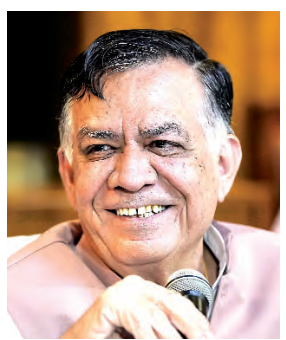
UP assembly to take suggestions from IIM profs for better management of House

Lucknow, Mar 31 (PTI):

Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly will take suggestions from IIM faculty on better management in the house in view of the changing technology, Speaker Satish Mahana said on Friday.

Speaking in a press conference held to mark the completion of his one-year term as Speaker, Mahana said many other schemes are also on the anvil including a 'Best Legislator Award' which will be given on the basis of conduct, activity, and participation of the assembly members.

"The role of management has increased in the changing era of technology therefore experts from Indian Institutes of



Uttar Pradesh Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana addresses a press conference after completing one year in his office at Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Bhawan, in Lucknow, Friday.

Management (IIMs) will be called in 'Legislative' (legislature) to take suggestions for better management," Mahana said. The other measures

completed his tenure on March 29. He said that earlier the public used to discuss governments, but it is for the first time they are discussing the changing nature of the Vidhan Sabha.

Mahana said that the construction of the new assembly will also start soon, for which a budget of Rs 50 crore has been made and the process of site selection has begun.

The 18th Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh was constituted on March 11, 2022 and Mahana was unanimously elected as its speaker on March 29, 2022.

Mahana, an MLA for eight consecutive times,

(NABH से मान्यता प्राप्त)

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