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BRIEF



PM Modi takes 'jeep safari' during his visit to the Assam's Kaziranga National Park, Saturday morning.

Defused

■ **Mendhar:** Three anti-personnel mines were detected and defused near the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Saturday, officials said. The powerful mines were noticed by Army troops while patrolling at different locations in forward areas of the Mankote sector in the Mendhar subdivision, the officials said.

MoU

■ **New Delhi:** The Centre has signed an MoU with SignAble Communications to enhance communication and accessibility for individuals with speech and hearing disabilities. According to a statement issued by the Department of People with Disabilities, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) marks a pivotal step toward improving support systems for 'Divyangjan' with speech and hearing impairments.

Hospitalised

■ **Noida:** As many as 93 people, including 17 in Noida and 76 in Greater Noida, were hospitalised due to suspected food poisoning in two separate incidents after consuming special meals for fast made of 'kuttu ka atta' on Mahashivratri, officials on Saturday said.

Metro services

■ **Kolkata:** Commercial services along the three newly inaugurated stretches of Kolkata Metro, including the underwater Howrah Maidan to Esplanade section, will commence on March 15, a statement issued by the Metro Rail said. The Howrah Maidan-Esplanade section of the Green Line under River Hooghly, Kavi Subhash-Hemanta Mukhopadhyay stretch of the Orange Line, and Taratala-Majerhat section of the Purple Line were inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 6.

Airlifted

■ **Jammu:** The Indian Air Force (IAF) airlifted over 700 stranded passengers between the twin union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh on Saturday, an official said. While 514 passengers were airlifted from Jammu to Leh in two sorties of IL-76, 223 persons were flown from Srinagar to Leh in another sortie, the official said.

Weather

High 33 Low 19

'Country's growth impossible without devp of farmers, villages'

Raipur, Mar 09:

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said the country's growth cannot be imagined without the development of farmers and villages, and asserted that the Modi government was standing shoulder to shoulder with the cultivators.

Addressing a mega farmers' rally at Government Science College ground in state capital Raipur, he also targeted the previous Congress dispensation in the state, accusing it of indulging in corruption and derailing the state's development.

"...I am the son of a farmer and hail from a village. Farmers can yield



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at a mega farmers' rally at Government Science College ground here.

gold from the soil with their efforts and hard work. My government is standing shoulder to shoulder with farmers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Centre has been taking several steps for the welfare of farmers," the

minister said. Without the development of farmers and villages, the growth of the country cannot be imagined, he said.

"In America, one bag of urea fertilisers is available for Rs 3,000...India is the only (place) where urea is

Rajnath's major declaration

Without the development of farmers and villages, the growth of the country cannot be imagined. "In America, one bag of urea fertilisers is available for Rs 3,000...India is the only where urea is being provided to farmers at Rs 300 per bag. Russia-Ukraine war resulted in price rise but the Modi government did not allow prices of seeds and fertilizers to go up. We will not allow the problems of farmers to increase at any cost," he added. Rajnath promised 300 units of free power to the farmers. PM's policy ensured that as many as 25 crore people in India were brought out of poverty. Not a single temporary hutment will be left in the country, he maintained.

being provided to farmers at Rs 300 per bag. "The Russia-Ukraine war resulted in price rise but the Modi government did not allow prices of seeds and fertilizers to go up. We will not allow the problems of farmers to increase at any cost," he added. Hitting out at the previous Bhupesh Baghel-led government in the state, Singh said, the Congress regime destroyed the state in five years. "Now I firmly believe that the Vishnu Deo Sai-led BJP government will bring the state back on the track of development with the support of the people. If anyone has the power to shape the destiny of Chhattisgarh, it is the Bharatiya Janata Party," he said.

Asif Ali Zardari elected Pak's President

Lahore, Mar 09 (PTI):

Asif Ali Zardari was overwhelmingly elected as the 14th President of Pakistan on Saturday, becoming the only civilian president of the coup-prone country for a second time.

Zardari, the co-chairperson of the Pakistan Peoples Party, was the joint candidate of the ruling alliance of the PPP and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

His rival, Mahmood Khan Achakzai, is the

head of his Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP). He was fielded by jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party and backed by the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC).

"Asif Ali Zardari is the first civilian president in the history of Pakistan who was elected for a second term," the PPP posted on X soon after the election results were announced by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

'Will be a sweep': Naidu after finalising poll deal with BJP

New Delhi, Mar 09 (PTI):

The BJP, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the Jana Sena Party have come to an understanding for stitching up an alliance for the upcoming Lok Sabha and Andhra Pradesh Assembly polls, former chief minister of the southern state N Chandrababu Naidu said on Saturday.

"Andhra Pradesh has been destroyed badly. The BJP and the TDP coming together is a win-win situation for the country and the state," Naidu told a group of reporters here while lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

The alliance will sweep the polls in Andhra Pradesh, he asserted, lashing out at the YSR Congress, which is in power in the southern state. The three parties sealed their alliance following a second round of talks involving their senior leaders on Saturday, sources said. They said the

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Jana Sena may together contest around eight and 30 Lok Sabha and Assembly seats in Andhra Pradesh.

The TDP will contest the remaining 17 Lok Sabha and 145 Assembly seats, they said, adding that an official announcement will soon be made.

The BJP may contest around six Lok Sabha and an equal number of Assembly seats in the southern state, the sources said.

Jolt to Cong as Gandhi family loyalist joins BJP

Bhopal, Mar 09 (PTI):

In a significant political development in Madhya Pradesh, veteran leader and former Union minister Suresh Pachouri bid adieu to his five-decade allegiance with the Congress, and joined the BJP on Saturday.

Pachouri, accompanied by former MP Gajendra Singh Rajukhedhi and a cadre of ex-MLAs, joined the BJP in a ceremony in presence of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, state BJP president V D Sharma and former CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan at the Bharatiya Janata Party's state headquarters. Reacting to Pachouri's exit, veteran



Congress leader and former Union Minister Suresh Pachouri joins the BJP in presence of MP CM Mohan Yadav, former CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan and BJP state president V D Sharma, at BJP headquarters in Bhopal, on Saturday.

Congress leader Digvijaya Singh accused him of deserting the Nehru-Gandhi family through whom he had earned name and respect. 'The development marks a notable setback for the Congress party in

Madhya Pradesh, as an increasing number of its members are opting to join the ruling alliance. Pachouri, 71, a long-time associate of the Gandhi family, had a notable political career within the Congress,

having served as minister of state for defence and as a four-time Rajya Sabha member. His criticism of the Congress post-defection highlighted the party's shift towards caste-based politics.

At the function, Pachouri said he had entered politics to serve the society and the Congress would talk about establishing a casteless society. "...But now they are talking about caste. In the last few days, the political and religious decisions (taken by the Congress) made me uneasy," he said, apparently referring to the party's move to decline the Ayodhya Ram temple consecration ceremony invitation.

'Sukhu govt to fall': 11 Himachal MLAs reach U'khand

Rishikesh, Mar 09 (PTI)

Six Himachal Pradesh Congress MLAs who voted against party nominee Abhishek Manu Singhvi in the Rajya Sabha elections, along with three Independent lawmakers, have shifted to a hotel in BJP-ruled Uttarakhand amid an ongoing rebellion against Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu.

Two BJP MLAs Vikram Thakur and Trilok Jamwal from Himachal Pradesh were accompanying the legislators, who arrived in Rishikesh from Haryana's Panchkula by a

chartered flight late on Friday and checked into Hotel Taj. Congress MLAs Sudhir Sharma, Rajinder Rana, Inder Dutt Lakhnpal, Devinder Kumar Bhuttu, Ravindra Thakur and Chaitanya Sharma have since been disqualified for defying the party whip on the state budget. They have approached the Supreme Court for relief in the matter. Three Independent MLAs Hoshier Singh, KL Thakur and Ashish Sharma were also with them when they arrived.

The Congress currently has 34 MLAs in the Himachal Pradesh Assembly while the BJP has 25. The three Independent MLAs had also sided with the BJP in the Rajya Sabha polls.

Security around the hotel has been tightened and no one is being allowed to enter the premises except those who have advance online bookings.

The hotel is located about 30 kilometres from Rishikesh along the Rishikesh-Badrinath Road. The Congress has already stepped up efforts to set its house in order in Himachal Pradesh and is holding parleys with senior ministers of the state.

'India's security dynamics involves multi-faceted threats'

Chennai, Mar 09 (PTI):

Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari on Saturday said warfare was undergoing a fundamental change with the emergence of new technology and radically newer doctrines. The IAF Chief was reviewing the passing out parade by the contingents at the Officers Training Academy here.

"India's security dynamics involves multi-faceted threats and challenges. It would require us to build multi-domain capabilities and execute operations simultaneously and in short-ened timeframes," he said and called upon the young officers to stay abreast with technological advancements. These officers were joining the



Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari noble profession when the country was at the threshold of a technological transformation, he said. "Our Armed Forces have invested heavily in acquiring the next generation war fighting machines. You, as future operators of these highly potent systems, need to be fully conversant with them, and this can be achieved only through rigorous training, dedication and a professional approach," the Air Marshal said.

JOY OF SUCCESS



A cadet celebrates with his family member after a Passing out Parade and Pipping Ceremony at Officers Training Academy (OTA), in Chennai, Saturday.

EC Arun Goel resigns

Ahead of Lok Sabha polls

New Delhi, Mar 09:

In a shock move weeks before the Lok Sabha polls, Election Commissioner Arun Goel has resigned and his resignation has been accepted by the President. The Election Commission of India already had a vacancy and will now be left only with Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar.

Just days before the Lok Sabha elections are ex-

pected to be announced, Election Commissioner Arun Goel resigned from the post on Saturday. His tenure was till 2027.

"In pursuance of clause (1) of Section 11 of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, the President is pleased to accept the resignation tendered by Shri Arun Goel, Election Commissioner with effect from the 09th March, 2024," a gazette notification by the Union Law and Justice Ministry said on Saturday.





श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी
प्रधानमंत्री



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हम ही संवारेगे



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मुख्यमंत्री
छत्तीसगढ़

महताशी कंबल

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योजना की पहली किस्त की राशि का अंतरण

प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी द्वारा 70 लाख से अधिक महिलाओं
को 700 करोड़ रुपए डीबीटी के माध्यम से बैंक खातों में

विवाहित महिलाओं के खाते में सालाना
₹ 12 हजार

- ▶ छत्तीसगढ़ में महिलाओं के लिए
आर्थिक आजादी का नया दौर
- ▶ अब छोटी-छोटी जरूरतों के लिए
नहीं होगी दूसरों पर निर्भरता



मुख्यमंत्री कार्यालय का
व्हाट्सएप चैनल
सब्सक्राइब करने के लिए
यह क्यूआर कोड स्कैन करें

(डीडी न्यूज पर कार्यक्रम का सीधा प्रसारण)



सबका साथ, सबका विकास, सबका विश्वास और सबका प्रयास

Govt to roll out Mahtari Vandan Yojana' scheme today

Raipur, Mar 09: The state government in state will launch its flagship Mahatari Vandan Yojana', under which a monthly financial assistance of Rs 1,000 will be provided to married women, an official said on Saturday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will join the programme virtually and interact with the beneficiaries on the occasion, he said.

About Rs 700 crore will be released as the first instalment under the scheme, which will benefit nearly 70 lakh women in the state, the official said. He said each registered woman will get Rs 12,000 a year, or Rs 1,000 a month. As part of another scheme, which will be launched on March 12, paddy farmers will be given financial assistance, he said. Under the scheme, Krishak Unnati Yojana', those farmers whose paddy has been procured at the minimum support price (MSP), fixed by the Centre, will get some additional amounts. Union Ministers Arjun Munda and Giriraj Singh will be present during the launch of this programme, he said. The Vishnu

MVY beneficiaries to get 1st installment



The amount of Mahtari Vandan Yojana will be transferred simultaneously to the accounts of beneficiaries in 146 development blocks, district headquarters and urban bodies of the state through DBT, said Health Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal, Finance Minister OP Choudhary and Women and Child Development Minister Smt.

Lakshmi Rajwade today, state government was going to fulfill another guarantee of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, they said. Government of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai is continuously working for the upliftment of farmers, poor, general public, women and youth, said Finance Minister OP Choudhary while giving information regarding the scheme. Under Modi's

guarantee, the state government is going to fulfill another promise within 100 days, he said. Sai government is fully dedicated and working in the interest of the general public, he said. Choudhary said that Prime Minister Modi will be present in the inauguration program of Mahtari Vandan Yojana on March 10 at 2 pm through virtual medium and will transfer the amount of the first phase while addressing the beneficiaries of the scheme. According to him this scheme is a continuous process and as the beneficiaries become eligible, the process of payment of the amount step by step will also continue.

Deo Sai government has decided to purchase paddy at Rs 3,100 per quintal from farmers in Chhattisgarh. This year, the state has made a record purchase of 1.47 lakh metric tonnes

of paddy for which farmers have already been paid the MSP at Rs 2,183 per quintal, the official said. "Through the scheme, the difference amount of Rs 917 per quintal will be deposited in the

bank accounts of the farmers," he said. The state government will deposit Rs 13,000 crore in the accounts of more than 24 lakh farmers on March 12, he added.

Raktveer campaign sets World Record in Rajim Kumbh Kalp 2024



Raipur, Mar 09: A large-scale free blood testing camp named "Raktveer" was organized through the collaborative efforts of the Dr Priyanka Bissa Vyas Team, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Magarlod Community Health Center, and Chhattisgarh Nursing College in the Rajim Kumbh Kalp. During the Virat Sant Samagam, the "Raktveer" campaign achieved a remarkable feat by distributing blood test cards to 23,180 individuals within a mere span of five days. These cards facilitated comprehensive health checks in-

cluding parameters such as height, weight, blood pressure, sugar levels, blood group, hemoglobin, sickling, and HIV. Sonal Sharma, the representative of the Golden Book of World Records, formally proclaimed the achievement of a new world record following a thorough check. The participants received commendations from dignitaries including the wife of Chief Minister Smt. Kaushalya Sai, Religious Affairs Minister Shri Brijmohan Agrawal, and Gariaband MLA Shri Rohit Sahu. Dr Sharda Thakur,

BMO of the Magarlod Health Department, stated that 65 per cent of the participants were unaware of their blood pressure and sugar levels before the testing, but through the Raktveer campaign, health information reached thousands of people. Arpit Tiwari, District Officer of Nehru Yuva Kendra, Bharvi Vaishnav, Administrative Officer of Chhattisgarh Nursing College, and Principal Shri Karsh played active roles in motivating and supporting the volunteers throughout the event. Dr Priyanka Bissa Vyas,

honoured by the President, stated that controlling blood pressure, sugar, and BMI are crucial for maintaining good health. To raise awareness among the people, thorough checks were conducted throughout the entire fairground, which proved to be the most challenging part of the campaign. The collaborative initiative saw significant contributions from 195 volunteers and associates, including individuals like Ajay Boral, Ankita Tandon, Aishwarya, Srishti, Vinay, Ashi, Muskan, and the lab team comprising Kishore Devangan, Santosh, Tarun, Gargishankar Sen, Ritesh, Sanjay, and Bhuvan.

Prior to this milestone, in 2018, the campaign introduced India's first blood test card, benefiting 11,551 individuals after comprehensive blood testing. This initiative garnered international acclaim with people from Italy and France undergoing testing procedures during Rajim Kumbh Kalp 2024.

Defense Minister Rajnath Singh welcomed at CM's residence



Raipur, Mar 09: Defense Minister Rajnath Singh received a warm welcome from Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and his wife, Smt. Kaushalya Sai, upon his arrival at the Chief Minister's residence in Raipur. Chief Minister Sai presented Defense Minister Rajnath Singh a shawl and memento. Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Speaker Dr Raman Singh, MP Sunil Soni, Deputy Chief Ministers Vijay Sharma and Arun Sao, MLAs Kiran

Singh Deo, Ajay Chandrakar, and Rajesh Munat, along with Smt. Priyamvada Singh Judev, Rohit Chahar, and other public representatives were also present on the occasion.

Former MLA Chunnilal Sahu joins BJP

Several Congress join saffron brigade ahead of LS elections

Raipur, Mar 09: Giving further jolt to the Congress ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, the former Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Akaltara Legislative Assembly constituency Chunnilal Sahu on Saturday joined the Bharatiya Janata

Party (BJP) here. State BJP President Kiran Singh Deo and Convenor of committee for inclusion of opposition leaders into party Ajay Chandrakar welcomed him into party fold at a function held at Government Science College ground. Apart from him, the Congress' OBC Cell President Choleswar Chandrakar also joined the BJP within hours after quitting the

Congress. Providing the above information, the State BJP General Secretary Sanjay Shrivastava said that Ajay Bansal of Congress Co-op-

erative Cell, Ashish Kumar Das, A Das Sahu, Sumit Raj Sahu, Ramsnehi Jangade, Brijmohan Sahu, Sohan Dadsena, Former

Raipur: Unrest is brewing among Congress office-bearers over being ignored in the Organisation. Congress General Secretary Chandrashekhar Shukla on Saturday resigned from the party post. He has sent his resignation from the party post to the Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee President Deepak Baij.

Corporators Harishanker Jaiswal and Ashok Sahu also joined the saffron brigade. Shrivastava claimed that several more senior leaders would join the BJP

soon as Congress is a sinking ship. Former MLA from Akaltara Chunnilal Sahu had quit Congress alleging being ignored in the Organisation.

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Mera Bharat, Mera Parivar



Four held for attempt to murder



Bhilai, Mar 09: Police arrested four ruffians on charges of attempted murder. Owing to some old rivalry, the accused attacked two persons and inflicted fatal injuries using a sharp knife and other weapons.

The victims were Kamal Deshmukh and America Deshmukh of Bandha Talab, Gajanpara Durg. They were stabbed on head, face, chest, abdomen and

other parts of the body by the accused Dhamendra Sahu, Mukesh Sahu, Devendra Sahu and Lakesh Sahu.

On information, a police team led by Sub Inspector Khagendra Pathare reached the spot and later police lodged an FIR under section 294, 506, 323, 324, 307, 34 of IPC at Durg City Kotwali.

A police team searched for the absconding accused and managed to

nab them soon. The accused Dhamendra Sahu (36) son of Narayan Sahu; Mukesh Sahu (25) son of Ramesh Sahu; Devendra Sahu (22) son of Rajkumar Sahu, residents of Bandha Talaab Ganjpara Durg and Lakesh Sahu (35) son of Tikamlal Sahu a resident of Harri Bori, Durg was arrested and produced before the court.

They have been sent to jail on judicial remand.

Numerous devotees participate in Bhole Baba Ki Baraat

Several records made in the 16th year of this event

Devotees danced to devotional music till late night

Bhilai, Mar 09: Lakhs of devotees participated in the Bole Baba Ki Baraat organised by Bol Bam Seva evam Kalyan Samiti on the occasion of Mahashivratri. More than 150 tableaux were part of Baba's wedding procession.

Once again, Bhilai created a record on Mahashivratri. The entire city dipped in a devotional mood. People were seen dancing in devotion. People from across the state attended the programme. All the dignitaries appreciated the organizer Daya Singh for this grand event for the 16th consecutive year. In this procession, ghosts, vampires and all the Gods and Goddesses were seen



as wedding guests. Local artists enthralled the audiences. The tableaux from all over the country captivated the devotees.

MP Vijay Baghel, MLAs Rikesh Sen, Doman Lal Korsewada, Padma Shri Surendra Dubey, Radhesyam Barle, Usha Barle, educationist IP Mishra, social worker Gopal Khandelwal, Ahiwara Municipal President Natwar Tamrakar and MLA Representative Satish Sahu were present as guests in the program.

VHP leader Ratan Yadav, BJP Mahila Morcha State Vice President Mamta Sahu, BJP District President Mahesh Verma, BJP Mahila Morcha District President Sweetie Kaushik, General Secretary Kanchan Singh, Vice President Yogendra Singh, Councilor Vinod Singh, Santosh Mourya, Nohar Verma, Shailja Raju, Lakshmi Bhola Sahu, Smita Dodke, Veena Chandrakar, Satya Devi Jaiswal, Vinod Chelak, Sanjay Singh, Lakshmi Diwakar, Ishwari Netam,



Shakuntala Sahu, Sarita Baghel and others were present. Daya Singh further informed that Central India's biggest Bhole Baba ki Baraat was taken out. Attractive tableaux and Dhumaal DJs playing bhajans were the centre of attraction of this procession. Other attractions of the procession were the fireworks and laser show at par with IPL; Lord Shiva's marriage, Gods and Goddesses in the tableaux of Kerala; Dhamalpuri (Maa Santoshi Melody) of

Sambalpur; 07 tableaux of Kerala, tableau of Lord Shiva performing Tandav; dance of Maa Kali, Garuna dance, Peacock dance, Lord Ganesha's dance tableau, Lord Hanuman's tableau, nine forms of Maa Durga, tableau of Shiva, Parvati, Aghora tableaux, ghosts and vampires performing difficult dances; tableau of Holi played by Radha Krishna in Brij, Aghori procession, etc. Artists from various districts of Chhattisgarh participated in the event.

New Press Club of Bhilai Nagar elections held



Bhilai, Mar 09: The elections of the New Press Club of Bhilai Nagar were held on Saturday at the Press Club Bhavan, Supela. A total of 16 office bearers including the President, General Secretary and Vice President were elected through secret ballot. A total of 99 members cast their votes in the elections. T Surya Rao was elected President while Khilavan Singh Chauhan was elected General Secretary. JM Tandi was elected Senior Vice President; Santosh Mishra was elected treasurer; Komal Dhanesar and Mohan Rao were elected

Vice Presidents; DK Sahu and Ratnakar Alva were elected Secretaries while Santosh Malik was elected Joint Secretary. Ajit Singh Bhatia, Anil Panda, Gaukaran Nishad (Ganesh), Ramzan Khan, Sunil Chauhan and Jai Prakash Arya were elected as working committee members. The elections of New Press Club of Bhilai Nagar were conducted peacefully by an ad-hoc committee led by Arvind Singh including Rajendra Sonboir, Umesh Nival, BD Nizami, Praveen Sharma, Abhay Jawade, Kamal Sharma, Ramesh Gupta and Mithlesh Thakur.

Shaildevi Mahavidyalaya organises workshop on menstruation



Bhilai, Mar 09: A two-day workshop on menstruation was organized by the Department of Yoga and Philosophy on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 6 and 7 at Shaildevi College, Anda Durg. The chief guest was Rajan Dubey, President, Shaildevi College and the keynote speaker was Durga Sahu, Urban Primary Health Center, Mathpuraina, Raipur. Inaugurating the program, Dr Rajni Rai, Head of the Department of Education, said that it is a boon given by nature which all women are familiar with at the beginning of adolescence.

However, they are not able to tell due to physical, mental immaturity or shyness and become victims of many diseases. Hence it is necessary to have proper information in this regard.

Keynote speaker Durga Sahu said that the menstrual cycle plays an important role in the life of every woman. It is important in her physical health, regenerative abilities and self-understanding. Typically, the menstrual cycle is 28 days. However, in some women it can be from 21 to 35 days. It depends on the physical health of the woman and her lifestyle. Through

yoga and philosophy, we can get a quick diagnosis of all types of physical and mental diseases because the science of Yoga is a gift given by God which our ancient sages knew, tested and understood. Our sages had explained how to treat many diseases. It is clear that through yoga and philosophy we can control the menstrual cycle and avoid gynecological diseases. Yogic activities have special importance during menstruation. Yoga can help in many ways and remove the imbalance in the menstrual cycle. She made the college students aware about the problems occur-

ring during menstruation and gave them information about various yoga asanas by which they can keep their menstrual cycle regular. By doing yoga during the menstrual cycle, females can avoid many problems. Women can practice Pranayam, Bhujangasana, Matsyasana and Marjari Asana in their daily routine. This keeps hormones in balance and provides relief from back and other pain. But before doing any yoga asana, expert advice must be taken.

Himanshu Kesharwani, Head of the Department of Yoga and Philosophy, said that to maintain physical and mental health, you must include yoga in your lifestyle because yoga is useful for the smooth functioning of all the body parts. This increases immunity and reduces the risk of infection. Yoga increases the level of prana vayu in the body. On this occasion, the chief guest thanked everyone for their participation and motivated them to organize similar programs related to social concerns in future.

Bootleggers nabbed with Mahua liquor



Bhilai, Mar 09: Excise Department nabbed two persons involved in illegal liquor trade on Saturday. In view of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections 2024, the Excise Department is taking action against the people involved in illegal sale, transportation and possession of liquor. The department is conducting patrolling in bus stations, railway stations, hotels and dhabas and crowded areas.

In the first case, the accused Prafulla Tandon son of Late Goverdhan Tandon was nabbed with illicit Mahua liquor in village Asoga of Police Station Ranitarai. A case was registered against Section

34(2) of the Excise Act and 23 bulk liters of raw Mahua liquor and 75 kg of Mahua Lahan were seized from him. In the second case, 26 quarters of country liquor was seized from the possession of accused Nakul Bharti son of Anand Ram in village Ausar. A case was registered under Section 34 (1) (b) of the Excise Act. Excise Sub Inspector Harish Patel is conducting further investigations. Nirmala Thakur (Assistant District Excise Officer), Harish Patel, Bhuvaneshwar Singh Sengar (Excise Sub Inspector), Dayaram Gote (Excise Head Constable) and Durgesh (Driver) played a vital role.

Bar & Rod Mill crosses annual rated capacity; sets new records

Bhilai, Mar 09: Bar & Rod Mill, Bhilai Steel Plant's Modex unit equipped with high level of automation and control systems, has crossed the milestone of its annual rated capacity of 0.9 million tonnes or 90 lakh tonnes on 5th March 2024, about 25 days before completion of the current fiscal year 2023-24. The milestone was crossed by Team BRM during the first shift of 5th March 24.



grades of cast billets to the Mill. These value added grades have also fetched higher net sales realization for the Plant. The Mill has during the current fiscal year also recorded its best ever monthly production of 1,01,111 Tonnes of TMT Bars in the month of Oct 23.

Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c Bhilai Steel Plant has congratulated Team BRM and all associated shops for the milestone achievement. Senior

officers of the Plant have also congratulated the BRM collective. Thanking the entire BRM collective for achieving the milestone, Shantanu Kumar Behra, General Manager and In-charge, Bar & Rod Mill said this could only be possible due to the combined efforts of Team BRM. He also thanked all associated shops and departments for their support.

Continuing its journey towards excellence, the

Bar & Rod Mill broke both the day and shift record on 7th March 24. The Mill recorded best ever day production in any profile by producing 3802 Tonnes of TMT Bars in 16 mm diameter on 7th March 24, surpassing the previous best record of 3757 T on 30th August 23. The Mill also recorded its best shift performance on 7th March 24 with as many as 675 billets rolled in C or night shift, surpassing the previous best of 651 billets.

CR&M Deptt observes safety awareness week

Bhilai, Mar 09: Bhilai Steel Plant's CR&M (Mech) Department observed the Departmental Safety Awareness Week from 01st March to 06th March 2024. Sanjay Kumar Gajbhiye, CGM (Mech) was the chief guest at the inaugural and valedictory functions.



Senior officials of the Projects Department including S Balraj, GM (CHM), Subrata Halder; GM (CHM-I&II), Rajesh Gaikwad, GM (BFs), Verghese P John, GM (CRM-Mech), SK Agrawal, GM I/c (SED), and J Thulasi Dasan, GM (SED) were also present on the inaugural and valedictory functions along with departmental personnel in large numbers.

Chief Guest Sanjay Kumar Gajbhiye hoisted the Safety Flag on the inaugural function, while the safety oath was administered by

the Departmental Safety Officer of CR&M (Mech) Department.

SK Gajbhiye, CGM (BF-MECH), in his address, appreciated the Safety Awareness Week initiative and urged the departmental employees and contractual workers to adhere to safety standards in the Plant and achieve the target of zero accidents.

Various competitions including safety programmes

Departmental employees participated in various competitions held as part of the week in large numbers and performed well. Winners of respective programmes and competitions including PR Patel, Rama Rao, Hemraj Sonwani and GK Sharma, and contractual workers Bhanuprakash and Vijay Thakur were felicitated by guests and dignitaries on the valedictory function of the departmental safety awareness week at CR&M (Mech) Department. A special prize was given to GS Rao, GM (CRM) for reporting the highest number of Near Miss Cases. Safety Awareness Week was organized by the team of the planning group headed by Anil Bhawe, DSO (CRM-Mech), assisted by Samuel Xavier and Ram Suresh (Chargemen).

Renewed ration cards distributed in Zone 3



Bhilai, Mar 09: Bhilai Municipal Corporation has started distribution of the renewed Ration Cards. Zone 3 President Jalandhar Singh and Assistant Revenue Officer Anil Meshram

distributed the ration cards in Zone 3. They distributed the cards at Government Fair Price Shop Numbers 431004064, 4061, 4058 in Ward Number 30 Pragati Nagar, Ward Number 31

Sunder Nagar and Ward Number 34 Shardapara Bhilai. 20 cards of Antyodaya category and 12 of primary category were distributed. An atmosphere of joy was seen among the citizens and ration card holders after the distribution of renewed ration cards. On this occasion, Keshav Sonare, Rahul Rajput, Dinesh Chauhan, Anil Deshmukh, Lakshmi Kumari and other employees and operators of the government fair price shop were present.



Free health camp organised in Chetwa

Bhilai, Mar 09: Bhilai Steel Plant conducts several public welfare activities as part of its organizational social responsibility towards the community in and around its areas of operations. The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department of the Plant organized a one-day free Health Camp, at Model Steel Village Chetwa on March 07.

Large number of villagers, from Chetwa, availed free health services at the day-long Health

Camp. Free medicines were also distributed to villagers attending the camp.

The Medical Team from the CSR department, comprising, Dr Ankit Ghosh, Medical Consultant, Rekha Dev, Nurse for Blood-Sugar and BP examination, Shashi Bhushan Rai, Pharmacist, and Shambhu Dayal for registration, volunteered their services for the Medical Camp at Village Chetwa. Budhelal from the CSR department was also pres-

ent during the Health Camp. It is noteworthy that conducting Health Camps is one of the prime initiatives, through which BSP's CSR Department has contributed substantially towards Public Health and medicine. The CSR Department of Bhilai Steel Plant conducts health camps from time to time in the adjoining areas or mines, with the aim of ensuring adequate Medical and health facilities to the communities within which it works.

KITTUR DECLARATION RELEASE



Social activist Shabhanam Hashmi (c) with others releases the Kittur Declaration during a function in Thiruvananthapuram, Saturday.

PM accuses Cong of ignoring NE development for decades

Itanagar, Mar 09 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday claimed that the Congress would have taken 20 years to do the kind of development work which was executed by his government in the last five years in the Northeast. The PM was addressing 'Viksit Bharat Viksit North East' programme in Arunachal Pradesh's Itanagar after unveiling development projects worth Rs 55,600 crore in the region.



PM Modi during inauguration and foundation stone laying of multiple development projects during the 'Viksit Bharat Viksit North East' programme, in Itanagar, Saturday.

"The Northeast is going to become a strong link in India's trade, tourism and other relations with South Asia and East Asia. Today, projects worth over Rs 55,000 crore have been unveiled here," he said. "The Congress would have

taken 20 years to do what we have done in the last five years in the Northeast," PM Modi said. The prime minister said that one can clearly see what "Modi's guarantee" is if he visits Arunachal Pradesh. "The

entire Northeast is watching how Modi's guarantee is working," he said. The PM also said when he was working for the development of the country, leaders of the opposition bloc INDIA were "attacking" him.

Modi on Saturday inaugurated the Sela tunnel that will provide all-weather connectivity to Tawang. The inauguration of the Sela tunnel after the foundation laying ceremony in 2019 was a "testimony to Modi's guarantee", he said. "Some people thought that I laid the foundation of the strategic tunnel as an election agenda but they were proved wrong today," Modi said.

The Sela tunnel, situated at an elevation of 13,000 feet, is strategically important due to its proximity to the Line of Actual Control (LAC), an official said. Speaking on the opposition leaders questioning about the prime minister's family, Modi said the entire northeast and the country is his family.

Scholarship exam tests academic capabilities of students

For JEE appearing candidates

Mumbai, Mar 09:

In a significant leap towards transforming the landscape of competitive exams in India, FIITJEE, a premier coaching institute in the country, proudly promulgates to conduct 'DRONACHARYA (II)' - the World's Biggest and one of its own kind Scholarship Exam in the History of Coaching with the Best Scientifically Designed Academic Diagnostic Tool.

with a scientific tool can certainly illuminate the path to success. There are many students who, besides having talent and skills, fail to select the appropriate career path as per their skills and interests, and as a result, do not perform well in their careers. So, it is of ultimate priority to evaluate the skills and interests of a child and the requirements to select the right career out of various career options available for professional success in life. The DRONACHARYA Exam unleashes the current and hidden potential of a child and broadens the academic perspective. This is a comprehensive test on par with most of the Competitive & Scholastic exams in the world. It also sets a benchmark for the coaching industry as well as the society.

Through all our programs, we are socially obliged to support the students both academically and financially, and this exam also assists the students through customised unique teaching methodologies and beneficial scholarship schemes. The exam will be conducted on 31st March 2024 across India except in Jaipur, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Students going to Class VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI & XII are eligible to participate.

Widow of IAF aviator, civil engineer become Army officers

Chennai, Mar 09 (PTI):

The widow of an IAF aviator, who perished along with India's first CDS General Bipin Rawat in a chopper crash in the Nilgiris, and a civil engineer from an agrarian family were among scores of cadets who underwent gruelling training at the Officers Training Academy here and become commissioned officers in the Indian Army on Saturday.

Shauryan Thapa, the sixth generation member of his family to don the Army uniform and the youngest (21 years) candidate in the academy, too, was among the 184 officer cadets, who completed the training. He was awarded the OTA gold medal at the passing out parade today.

'Mangal Lakshmi' is a refreshing take on usual daily soap dramas

Mumbai, Mar 09:

'COLORS' new show 'Mangal Lakshmi' has been making waves, drawing attention from homemakers, influencers, and media critics alike. This isn't just another run-of-the-mill television series; it is something that resonates perfectly with the realities of today's society making it more relevant for the audiences.

Led by stellar performances from Deepika Singh as Mangal, Sanika Amit as Lakshmi, Urvashi Upadhyay as Mangal's mother-in-law, and Naman Shaw as

Adit, the family drama is a mixed bag of relatable moments, heart-tugging emotions, and relevant themes.

Here are the reasons why 'Mangal Lakshmi' is a must-watch!

Do Behno ki Anokhi Kahani

On television we often see two sisters eyeing for attention from the same boy and can go against each other for the same, and hence, Mangal Lakshmi is different from your usual sister drama. It brings to light the empowering yet realistic journey of two sis-

ters, Mangal and Lakshmi, who defy societal norms and prioritize respect in their relationships for each other. While the eldest seeks a respectful groom for the younger one, the younger one encourages her elder sister to stand up against the humiliation she faces in her marriage to Adit. The show challenges the notion of tolerating disrespect in marriage and celebrates the courage of women who demand equal treatment.

New spin to the traditional Saas Bahu Dramas 'Mangal Lakshmi' offers a refreshing depar-

ture from the typical Saas-Bahu drama prevalent in television. Unlike the stereotypical negative portrayal of Saas characters dominating households, this show presents a unique perspective on familial relationships, challenging these social stigmas.

The show features not only relatable female protagonists, but a strong supportive character such as Mangal's mother-in-law, Kusum Saxena played by Urvashi Upadhyay. The way Mangal and her Saasu Maa tackle daily life challenges has resonated with audiences across every corner.

ECoR observes Int'l Women's Day in association with ECoRWWO

Bhubaneswar, Mar 09:

International Women's Day 2024 was celebrated by East Coast Railway on Saturday in association with East Coast Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (ECoRWWO). Addressing to the Women Railway Employees, ECoRWWO President Mrs Divya Sharma told that, every woman should know her hidden strength and fight out all hurdles to march ahead to achieve her goal and to expose her inherent talents.

Mrs Sharma also felicitated the outstanding Railway Women employees for their outstanding performances in their respective fields. Gracing the occasion, Additional General Manager M K Behera said that women are the warriors in every field of Railway Working and they have been contin-



uing significantly for transformation of Indian Railways.

Altogether, 76 Women Railway employees were felicitated to mark the occasion. 14 Women Railway Employees from different field were felicitated by ECoRWWO for their outstanding performance. 32 Women Railway Employees awarded by ECoRWWO for their performance in

various competitions. Apart from this, 30 Women Railway Employees awarded by the ECoR administration for their performance in various competitions.

Women's Day Celebrations were also observed at Divisional headquarters at Khurda Road, Waltair and Sambalpur along with at various important Stations over ECoR jurisdiction.

NLA resolves 5,83,143 pre litigation and 56,946 pending cases

Raipur/Bilaspur, Mar 09:

This year's 1st National Lok Adalat was organized across all District Courts, Tehsil Courts, Family Courts, Forum, Tribunal, Permanent Lok Adalat, Revenue Courts and High Court within the State on 09th March 2024, under directions of National Legal Services Authority and under able guidance of Chief Justice and Patron in Chief of Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority, Justice Ramesh Sinha and directives of Justice Goutam Bhaduri, Executive Chairman, CGLSA, wherein different cases comprising of labour Disputes, Motor Accident Claims Tribunal cases, Cheque Dishonor Cases under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, Civil Cases, Land Acquisition Cases,

pled under mutual terms of compromise across different Courts in the State in which total award of Rs 1,91,01,12,616 was passed. Similarly 96 cases were settled by three benches of High Court, Bilaspur in which total award of Rs 1,11,62,000 was passed.

National Lok Adalat is organized under the directives of National Legal Service Authority (NALSA) across all Courts, Tribunals and Forums throughout the Nation and upcoming National Lok Adalat is scheduled on May 11, 2024.

Bargaining, Criminal Compoundable Offences, Arbitration Cases, Matrimonial cases, and matters related to Electricity and Water Bills (excluding non-compoundable theft cases) were taken up and resolved. The said National Lok Adalat was organized with appearance of parties both in virtual as well as physical mode along with Special Sitting of Magistrates for disposal of cases related to petty offences.

In present National Lok Adalat 5,83,143 Pre litigation cases and 56,946 pending cases were set-

led under mutual terms of compromise across different Courts in the State in which total award of Rs 1,91,01,12,616 was passed. Similarly 96 cases were settled by three benches of High Court, Bilaspur in which total award of Rs 1,11,62,000 was passed.

National Lok Adalat is organized under the directives of National Legal Service Authority (NALSA) across all Courts, Tribunals and Forums throughout the Nation and upcoming National Lok Adalat is scheduled on May 11, 2024.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Regarding Lost Previous Regd. Sale Deeds)

By this Public Notice without prejudice we hereby inform the public at large to whom this may concern that, the applicant Smt. Rinki Sharma W/o Shri Vijay Sharma R/o Near Radha Krishna Mandir, Krishna Nagar, Lalpur, Raipur, Tah. & Dist. Raipur, wants to mortgage her own House Part of Plot No. 224/55, 225/53 & 225/53, After Mutation Kh. No. 224/55, 225/53 & 225/71, Area 500, 500 & 500 total 1500 sqft. situated at R. Vardhana Prasad, Ward No. 46, Piyush Colony, Village Anandhi, P.H. No. 114/53, R. I. Circle - Raipur-11, Tikrapara, Tah. & Dist. Raipur to our Client Bank of Baroda, Genral Chowk Branch, Raipur and avail the loan from BOB. The said property is presently mortgaged with Tarnetar Mercantile Bank, Raipur.

NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I, Anil Kumar Jain, S/O Kanwar Lal Jain, resident of H no 201, Behind Jain mandir Raipur Sadar Bazar, Raipur (C.G.) have changed my old name Anil Kumar Jain so in future I should be recognized by my new name that is Anil Jain in all Government and other documents.

Anil Jain
H no 201, Behind Jain Mandir Raipur Sadar Bazar, Raipur, (C.G.)

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD. Back Office: Usha Pride, 2nd floor, Vidhan Sabha Road, Mowa, Raipur, Chhattisgarh - 492001. Phone No. 0771-4904363, Mob: 9111009349, 9329101793, Website: www.lichousing.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Sale of immovable property mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 (No.54 of 2002) Whereas, the Authorized Officer of LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD had taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Sec 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 in the following loan accounts with our Branch with a right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS AND AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website: www.disposalhub.com

Table with columns: Sr. No., Name of the Borrowers & Loan Ac. No., Property Description, Date Of Demand Notice, Inspection Date & Time, A- Reserve Price, B- EMD (Rs), C- Bid In. Amt., Bank details EMD. Includes details for Loan No. 120600004598, 121200001046, and 121200001242.

Bank of Baroda Regional Office, Jeevan Prakash L.I.C. Building, Pandri, Raipur (C.G.) PH: 0771- 4222611, 4222612, E-mail: recovery.raipur@bankofbaroda.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF PROPERTIES 'APPENDIX-IV-A [See Proviso to Rule 8(6) & 9(1)]'

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable/movable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) & 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable/movable property mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" & "Whatever there is" for recovery of below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower(s) / Mortgagor(s) / Guarantor(s) / Secured Asset(s)/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Amount are mentioned below:

Table with columns: Sr. No., Name & Address of Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s), Give short description of the movable / immovable property with known encumbrances, if any, Total Dues, (i) Reserve Price, (ii) EMD and (iii) Bid Amount, Status of Possession (Constructive/ Physical).

Date & Time of E-Auction 16.04.2024, 2.00 P.M. to 6.00 P.M. & Property Inspection Date & Time 09.04.2024, 1.00 P.M. to 4.00 P.M. For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm and https://bapi.in. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer on Tel.No. 0771- 4222612.

Date: 10.03.2024, Place: Raipur, Chhattisgarh Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

Devotees throng Lord Shiva's temple

On occasion of Mahashivratri Festival celebrated with religious fervour both in urban and rural areas

Khairagarh, Mar 09:

On occasion of Mahashivratri, denizens of rural areas from Khaigarh, Chuikhadan and Gandai district celebrated the same with religious enthusiasm and fervour and offered special prayers to Lord Bholenath. The devotees celebrated the festival in different styles following the rituals with great enthusiasm.

'Shivaji ki Barat' from Khaigarh:

On occasion of Mahashivratri festival, in



the 'Mahotsav' organised by the city's Rukkhad Swami Trust Samiti (R S T S), 'Maharudrabhishekh' was held at Rukkhad Swami Mandir in the morning and prayers were offered to sacred 'Shivling' amidst playing of traditional musical instruments and DJ playing religious songs. Amidst this 'Shivji ki Barat' and massive 'Shobha Yatra' was taken

out and it was participated by devotees in large number. The 'Shobha Yatra' taken out from Rukkhad Baba Mandir concluded at ancient Vireshwar Mahadev Temple after making a complete detour of the city. The 'Shivalayas' established in the city also witnessed huge gathering of crowd and devotees continued to offer oblation to Lord Shiva and seek blessings.

On the auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri, the devotees right from urban to rural areas were found in large number in the temples throughout the day. In this the city's Vireshwar Mahadev Temple witnessed huge crowd of devotees and the 'siddha peeth Rukkhad Swami Mandir, Shetala Shiv Mandir at Itwari Bazar; Shiv Mandir at Turkari Para, and at Naya Tikrapara; Chodara Dhaam Shiv Mandir located in remote forest area on Palimeta road and Nathela mandir at Bazar Ataria and Shiva's temple in Chuikhadan and Gandai also witnessed huge crowd of devotees paying oblations to Lord Shiva. Even the temples in the rural areas witnessed huge crowd of villagers offering prayers in the temples and seeking blessings.

Vikrant Singh lays stone for 'pucca' road

From Khaprikalar to Dokrabhata road

Khairagarh, Mar 09:

The pace of development works in state has gained momentum with formation of BJP government in the state and the network of roads in rural areas has also increased. Under Khairagarh block of KCG district, it is after getting sanction of RCC road from Khaprikalar to Dokrabhata by the district administration, the state working committee member and Rajnandgaon District Panchayat V-P Vikrant Singh laid stone for the road to be constructed at the cost of Rs 1.84 cr in the presence of villagers from Gram Khaprikalar.

During the stone laying ceremony, villagers informed Vikrant Singh that during rainy season, the



Dokrabhata to Khaprikalar road made from 'murrum' becomes waterlogged and this hampers traffic on this road for six months. But now with the construction of the road, the students going to school for studies will get relief, apart from the people of the region.

Vikrant Singh directed the officers to ensure quality in the construction of road. After the foundation stone laying ceremony, Vikrant Singh reached the venue of 'Shiv Mahapuran' katha in Gram Khaprikalar and

during this Manbodh Sahu, Gram Patel Niranta, Tihar Sahu, Hemu Sen, Deendayal Sahu, Aatma Sahu, Mukund Sahu, Gendal Sahu, Fagu, Omprakash Sahu, Paltan, Mangalu, Duvasu Sahu and other villagers were present.

Celebrating women's spirit: Empowerment through sports

District level women sports competition and felicitation ceremony organized in Swami Vivekananda College

Manendragarh, Mar 09:

On the auspicious occasion of International Women's Day, Government Swami Vivekananda College in Manendragarh hosted a district-level women's sports competition and felicitation ceremony. The event, organized in collaboration with the District Administration, Sports and Youth Welfare Department, and Women and Child Development Department, aimed to celebrate the achievements of women in sports and foster a spirit of empowerment.

The felicitation ceremony commenced with Chief Guest Anil Kesharwani paying homage to



Chhattisgarh Mahtari. In his address, Kesharwani emphasized the significance of competition over rivalry, urging participants to strive for victory with integrity and sportsmanship. He shed light on the history of International Women's

Day, highlighting India's reverence for women and their pivotal role in society. Quoting the ancient scriptures "Yatra Narayastu Pujyante Ramante Tatra Devtaah" of the second chapter of Manusmriti, he underscored the importance of

honoring and respecting women, emphasizing that where women are revered, divinity prevails. The sports competition featured a diverse range of events including Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Volleyball, Athletics, 100-meter race, shot put, and tawa throw,

attracting girls and women aged 9 and above. The winners were recognized and awarded mementos and certificates by the Sports Department. Notable competitions included Volleyball, where Kharagwan emerged victorious over Manendragarh College, and Kabaddi, where Khadgawan exhibited exceptional performance. The tug of war witnessed fierce competition between New Leatheri and Manendragarh Rural, with the women of Nai Ledri emerging victorious.

Additionally, the event featured entertaining races such as Jalebi race, Lagdi race, and chair race, adding a fun-filled element to the celebration. Participants securing the top three positions in these races were also honored, further encouraging participation and sportsmanship among women.

Group of 64 'didis' from WSHGs leave for Delhi

To meet President of India and visit Delhi

Kawardha, Mar 09:

The Viceroy's residence in Delhi long way back is now the President's House in India and a woman from the tribal community is the President of India and women from the state's most backward tribal community are going to Delhi to meet her. They would tour the 'Kartavya Path' and see 'Amrut Garden', the way the ancestors held the dream of India and the country is surging ahead on that path. A group of 64 women from the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) of the state's most primitive tribes viz. Baiga, Birhor, Pahadir Korva, Kamar, and othor left for New Delhi by Air in a flight from Raipur to Delhi here on Friday. Dy. Chief Minister Vijay Sharma departed them from the Raipur airport. On reach-



ing the President's House, they would meet the President Draupadi Murmu and would hand-over to her a gift made by them. They would also visit the Amrut Udhyan in the President's house.

These women belong to SHGs from different districts of the state viz. Kabirdhaam, Balrampur, Raigarh, Dhantari, Korba, Gariyaband and Jashpur. Under the National Rural Livelihood Mission, the members of the Group by running their job, gives impetus to become independent and they were bid farewell by the Dy. CM Vijay Sharma to go to Delhi by flight from Raipur. Vijay Sharma as a gift handed

over to them a bag, jacket and box full of Chhattisgarhi cuisines. Dy. CM Vijay Sharma said that if the Mahatari of Chhattisgarh are to be seen live, then it is the 'didis' of SHGs of the state which is clearly reflected on their faces. He said that a total of 64 women from WSHGs belonging to primitive tribes are going to meet the President of India Drupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi and would hand-over to her the products made by WSHGs. The state government in order to empower women and to make them independent are providing them different platform and motivating them to move ahead.

SMM launches Shubhanjali Award to honour women volunteers

Innovative initiative recognizes contributions to social sector

On International Women's Day

Korba, Mar 09:

In a move to celebrate the spirit of International Women's Day, Sankalp Mahila Mandal at Hasdeo Thermal Power Station, Korba West, has introduced the Shubhanjali Award, an innovative initiative aimed at uplifting and motivating women volunteers engaged in various social causes.

The inaugural ceremony witnessed Niharika Sharma, the club president, bestowing the first



Shubhanjali Award upon Smita Karkare, co-secretary of Mahila Mandal, in recognition of her remarkable contributions to projects like Maa Sarvamangala Vanvasi Kalyan Hostel and other social service endeavors. Addressing the audience, Niharika Sharma emphasized the significance of International Women's

Day, stating its importance in promoting women's participation in society and advocating for their rights.

The Shubhanjali Award, conceived with the goal of amplifying women's roles in the social service domain, marks a significant step towards empowering women and fostering their active engagement in community development.

If a woman is educated then the whole family is educated: CM Sai

Dantewada, Mar 09:

"I was the Sarpanch of my village. My husband and I were active in improving the village. Both of us had to face threats for development work. We were pressurised to stop development works. We were asked to close our school and Anganwadi. I was deeply hurt by this. I decided to oppose Naxals. I felt the need to empower myself after understanding the problems of my society and I became a fighter. Today I feel more powerful than my husband. Bastar fighter Pokeshwari Salam of Narayanpur narrated her life story to the Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Friday.

On the occasion of International Women's

Decided to oppose Naxals and become a fighter: Pokeshwari

Showed courage by getting education even in difficult circumstances, CM saluted Sheetal's courage



Day, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai today interacted with the female police personnel of Danteshwari Fighters and Bastar Fighters in a program organized in the auditorium of Javanga Education City, Dantewada. They also shared their life experi-

ences with the Chief Minister.

Chief Minister Sai applauded the courage of Pokeshwari and said that, "I also started my political journey as 'Panch'. With public support, I became Sarpanch, MLA, MP, Minister at the Centre and now I am serving as the

Chief Minister of the state."

Sheetal informed the Chief Minister that her village was also afflicted by Naxal terrorism. Her family had to suffer the consequences of Naxal activities. She added that her Dada's brother was killed for supporting Salwa Judum and the Naxals kept pressurizing her father's sister to join their party. Uncle became insane due to constant stress. "I pursued education even under difficult circumstances because I believed in the power of education, but I am sad that I am still unable to return to my village," she said.

CM Sai, while consoling Sheetal said, "Sheetal Ji, I am very sad to hear about the tough times you and

your family went through due to Naxal terrorism. But you have raised an important issue which is very close to my heart. Education and that too women's education. I also believe in the power of education. And I believe that if a man is educated, only one person is educated, but if a woman is educated then the whole family is educated. This is the power of women's education. Our government is completely dedicated to women's education. I hope that after listening to your story, women of Chhattisgarh will be inspired to get education." Chief Minister also stated that the children of Silger and Tekalgudem Puvarti were taken on a tour of the capital Raipur which gave them new exposure.

NTPC Sipat celebrates International Women's Day with inspiring festivities

Sipat, Mar 09:

International Women's Day resonated with joy and fervour at NTPC Sipat on March 8, under the theme "Inspire Inclusion". The celebration saw the presence of esteemed figures including Project Head Vijay Krishna Pandey, Chief General Manager Srijit Kumar, and General Manager Anil Shankar Sharan, alongside department heads and representatives of the Union and Association.

The jubilant atmosphere was highlighted as women employees, joined by Project Head Vijay Krishna Pandey and other officials, commemorated the occasion by cutting a celebratory cake. Expressing their gratitude



towards NTPC, the women employees shared heartfelt experiences, acknowledging the positive impact the organization has had on their lives.

In his address, Project Head Vijay Krishna Pandey lauded the remarkable contributions of women across social, economic, and political spheres, emphasizing the evolving landscape where women are increasingly

empowered and making significant strides in various fields.

The program was graced by the presence of Deepmala Kashyap, Additional Superintendent of Police, Bilaspur, who shared in-spirational insights from her own journey, stressing the importance of perseverance in the face of challenges and advocating for a healthy work-life bal-

ance.

Symbolic insignias were presented to all women employees, associates, and agency members, including CISF personnel and women employees of Bal Bharti Public School. Additionally, heartfelt wishes accompanied tokens presented to women contract workers, reflecting the spirit of camaraderie and appreciation.

The event showcased a film crafted by women employees, featuring motivational quotes from department heads, which garnered widespread acclaim. Various engaging activities marked the culmination of the program, adding depth and significance to the day's festivities.

Women's safety program marks success at Hasdeo Thermal Power Station

Korba, Mar 09:

As part of the ongoing National Safety Week activities, Hasdeo Thermal Power Station, Korba West, conducted a comprehensive training and awareness program focused on women's safety. The initiative, held on International Women's Day, March 8, aimed to educate and empower all female employees within the plant premises.

Led by the Safety Department team, comprising Safety Officers Priya Mishra and Pramanand Jangade, the program provided insights into the Prevention of Sexual Harassment at



Workplace Act, 2013, ensuring that women officers and employees received essential information regarding their rights and avenues for support.

Executive Director (Production) Sanjay Sharma, in recognition of the invaluable contribution of women to the nation's progress, extended

warm greetings and best wishes to all on International Women's Day. The conclusion of the program witnessed Assistant Environment Manager Vikas Uike expressing gratitude to both regular and irregular women employees for their participation and contribution to the suc-

cess of the event.

The completion of this training and awareness program underscores the commitment of Hasdeo Thermal Power Station towards fostering a safe and supportive work environment, reaffirming its dedication to the well-being and empowerment of its female workforce.

Article 370' movie 'Tax-Free' in Ch'garh: Sai

CM watched the movie "Article 370" with his wife Kaushalya Sai

Raipur, Mar 09:

Chhattisgarh Government has made the movie "Article 370" tax-free in the state. Chief Minister announced the decision when he arrived at Magneto Mall to watch the movie. He was accompanied by his wife, Kaushalya Sai, Agriculture Minister Ramvichar Netam and Forest Minister Kedar Kashyap.

Chief Minister praised the movie "Article 370" and urged everyone to watch it. He stated that the idea of



revoking Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir was very difficult, and it was believed that its removal would bring unrest in the valley. However, with the firm determination and wisdom of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, Article 370 was revoked from Jammu and Kashmir. This not only es-

tablished peace and tranquility in the valley but also created an atmosphere of freedom and peace.

Chief Minister stated, "Our ideology revolves around "One nation, one constitution, one emblem". Article 370 for Jammu and Kashmir was incompatible with this fundamental ideology. Our leaders have opposed

Article 370 since independence. We had promised to remove Article 370, and under the leadership of our Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, this promise was fulfilled. Modiji has taken a milestone decision for the unity of India".

Chief Minister shared that the movie portrayed the situation in Kashmir very well and highlighted how Article 370 had hindered the development in Kashmir. The movie depicts the extent of the struggle the leaders underwent to abolish it.

On this occasion MP Sunil Soni, MLA Anuj Sharma, MLA Khushwant Saheb, and MLA Sampat Agrawal were also present.

Raipur district administration to create best and excellent startup ecosystem: Collector

For women entrepreneur 'She-Hub' started for women entrepreneurs in Raipur

Raipur, Mar 09:

As per the wish of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, Raipur District Administration is starting "She Hub" program in collaboration with Maitriya School to promote women entrepreneurship. Under this program, an accelerator program is being run for women entrepreneurs on the basis of "Zero to One" formula. Women associated with entrepreneurship can join this program by applying on the link <https://maytreeai.com/shehub/>.



Collector Dr. Gaurav Kumar Singh has said in this regard that the aim of Raipur district administration is to create a best and excellent startup ecosystem for women entrepreneurs in Raipur. This commitment is to encourage innovation programs and works in Raipur and provide sup-

port and guidance to access resources. The program aims to provide the necessary platform and guidance to empower women entrepreneurs on priority basis while creating an enabling environment for inclusive growth. The program is committed to determining economic growth and prosperity in

the field of entrepreneurship. Main benefits of the program to women - equity free support, mentorship by top industry mentors, training and guidance, access and guidance from founders, industry experts, networking with big startup founders, financial support through various government initiatives, technical financial support up to Rs 1 crore from private angels and venture capitalists (depending on assessment and selection) and Go-to-market strategy support. Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh said that from today this program has been started by Raipur District Administration and Municipal Corporation in collaboration with Maitriya School for the empowerment and development of women entrepreneurs.

Capacity enhancement of sub station to overcome voltage problem



Transmission company installed a new transformer at a cost of Rs 4.64 cr

Raipur, Mar 09:

Chhattisgarh State Power Companies is doing concrete work on power infrastructure to accelerate agricultural and economic development activities in the rural areas of the state. In this series, Chhattisgarh State Power Transmission Company installed a new 63 MVA transformer in the 132/33 KV ultra high pressure power substation located at Parrinala

(Rajnandgaon), which will provide uninterrupted and quality electricity to households and industries along with farmers of Balod, Durg and Rajnandgaon areas.

The new transformer installed in the power substation was energized by Rajesh Kumar Shukla, Managing Director of the Transmission Company. Shukla said that under the direction of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and Chairman of Power Companies P. Dayanand, special attention is being given to power infrastructure development.

A new 63 MVA transformer has been installed in the 132 KV sub-station Rajnandgaon located at Parrinala at a cost of

Rs 4 crore 64 lakh, increasing its capacity to 103 MVA. Has occurred.

33 KV from this sub-centre. Nine feeders have emerged. From this there will be power supply in Rajnandgaon feeder one and two, RK Nagar, Kanchanbagh, Durg one and two, Sai Chemical, Chikhali, Industrial Area and Parsuli feeder.

Due to which about 95 thousand consumers of Rajnandgaon city, Somni, Singhola, Durg, Balod areas will get uninterrupted and quality electricity.

On this occasion, Chief Engineer Substation Raipur G. Anand Rao and Chief Engineer of Distribution Company (Rajnandgaon Region) T.K. Meshram, Chief Engineer (Durg Region) M. Jamulkar and Superintending Engineer Sunil Bhauray and concerned Executive Engineer, Assistant Engineer and other officers and employees were present.

KNA honours its hardworking colleagues



By presenting Ramcharit Manas Ramayana Book

Raipur, Mar 09

Uttam Kumar Sahu, director of Kiran News Agency, congratulated Khanna News Agency Director Senapati Khanna and other hardworking colleagues Bombay Market Raipur Centre Tikaram Yadav and Chudamani Sahu and honoured them by presenting Ramcharit Manas Ramayana Granth. Circulation department

HNLU Pro Bono Club takes initiative on Sexual Health Awareness

On occasion of Int'l Women's Day

Raipur, Mar 09:

The Pro Bono Club HNLU, launched the sexual health awareness programme with the Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Upparwara on Mar 7th commemorating the International Women's Day. The faculty and students of the Pro Bono Club interacted with the girl students aged between 12-17 of the school on the basics of reproductive health, consent, contraception, and LGBTQ+ inclusivity.

The Programme had briefings from the HNLU Pro Bono club members and had a Q & A session with the students. The programme was also attended by the teachers of the School coordinated by Ms. Rekha Thakur, Principal of the school.



Dr. Parvesh Kumar Rajput, convener of the Prof Bono Club of HNLU remarked, "In our Pro Bono initiative, we focus on addressing women related issues. This programme is aiming to provide every young girl a safe space to discuss and understand topics which they may not feel comfortable to

talk in front of their parents or peers". The Prof Bono Club of HNLU is actively engaged in community development programmes on legal and social issues of the local community. The event on Mar 07 was assisted by Parvati Nambiar, Sarah Joy, Ayush Tiwari and other students of Pro Bono Club.

Training of polling parties is very important: Patel

Raipur, Mar 09:

Today, training was provided to the master trainers appointed for the Lok Sabha elections 2024 in the Red Cross Society meeting room located in the Collectorate premises. Under the instructions of Dr. Gaurav Kumar Singh Collector and District Election Officer and under the guidance of Chief Executive Officer in charge of training, District Panchayat Vishwadeep, 97 master trainers have been ap-

pointed for the Lok Sabha elections 2024. Master trainers were provided detailed training by Joint Collector Mr. Umashankar, Assistant Nodal Officer for Training Mr. Kedar Patel and Master Trainers Mr. Rakesh Dedhane and Mr. Ajit Hundait. Assistant Nodal Officer in training, Kedar Patel told the trainers that training of polling parties is very important. If the trainers train the polling teams well then the elections will be conducted smoothly and without any hindrance.

Pali Mahotsav gives distinct identity to culture of Ch'garh: Dewangan

Pali Mahotsav inaugurated in the presence of Industry, Commerce and Labour Minister and Rajya Sabha MP Saroj Pandey.

Raipur, Mar 09:

The two-day Pali Mahotsav, dedicated to International Women's Day along with Mahashivratri festival, was inaugurated by Industry, Commerce and Labour Minister Lakhlan Dewangan, Rajya Sabha MP Saroj Pandey and other guests by lighting the lamp

in village Kerajharia of Korba district. On this occasion, he congratulated women's on International Women's Day and Mahashivratri and said that the historical Shiva temple of Pali is an important part of the culture and heritage of Chhattisgarh. The culture here is getting a distinct identity through the Pali festival.

Chief guest at the festival, Minister Lakhlan Dewangan said that organizing Pali Mahotsav is related to the pride of the people of this region. It was started during the time of former Chief Minister Dr.



Raman Singh. National and local artists are given opportunities to celebrate it grandly. He said that by fulfilling the guarantee given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Chief Minister of the state, Vishnu Deo Sai has taken a decision in the interest of

the farmers. The promise of purchasing 21 quintals of paddy per acre and price of paddy at Rs 3100 will be fulfilled. Soon on March 12, the difference amount will be transferred to the accounts of the farmers. He said that the remuneration price of tendupatta has been increased from Rs 4,000 to Rs 55 hundred per standard bag. Through Mahtari Vandana Yojana, an amount of Rs 1000 will be provided every month in the accounts of all eligible women from March 10.

During this, Rajya Sabha MP Saroj Pandey said that the festival of

Mahashivratri is celebrated with great pomp. Lord Mahadev is an important part of faith and culture in our country and we all wish that Mahadev keeps all our countrymen happy and takes them forward in the path of success. May our Chhattisgarh and coun-

try continuously move forward on the path of development. She expressed happiness over organizing the program in connection with Women's Day and honoring women artists and said that women power is worth worshipping in our country.

Chief Minister to inaugurate 'Takshashila' reading zone cum library today

750 seater fully equipped library will operate 24 hours

550 youth confirmed their membership by paying the prescribed fee.

Raipur, Mar 09:

On the lines of Nalanda Campus Library, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai will inaugurate the newly constructed Smart Reading Zone cum Library "Takshashila" in Motibagh on March 10. On this occasion, Chief Minister Sai will discuss with the youth and distribute permanent membership cards to the members. The program will be presided over by Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao. Ministers Kedar Kashyap, Brijmohan



Agarwal, O.P. Chaudhary and MP Mr. Sunil Soni will be present as special guests. MLA Rajesh Munat, Purandar Mishra, Motilal Sahu and Anuj Sharma will also be present. The district administration has requested all the members to be present in the program.

With the aim of developing an educational center in the center of the city, the second largest library of the state has been constructed. With this, the

currently 10 thousand books are available. A digital reading zone has also been created in the library. Members will also get lift facility. They will also get the benefit of free Wi-Fi. There will be parking facility for 800 vehicles in the Takshila complex and a food zone has also been created in the parking area. Apart from students, disabled people will also get better facilities in this library.

From March 11, members will be able to take advantage of the reading zone cum library.

Youth will be able to study in a better environment on the rooftop of Takshila Library. Tables and chairs have been installed for the members to sit. Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh said that books will be purchased based on the demand of the members. Necessary instructions have been given to the officials for this.

Members will be able to study in a better environment on the rooftop of Takshila Library. Tables and chairs have been installed for the members to sit. Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh said that books will be purchased based on the demand of the members. Necessary instructions have been given to the officials for this.

Kala Kendra Raipur inauguration today

Raipur, Mar 09

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai will inaugurate 'Kala Kendra' behind the swimming pool of Nalanda Complex of Raipur on March 10. The program will be presided over by Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao and Forest Minister Kedar Kashyap. Ministers Brijmohan Agarwal, OP Choudhary and MP Sunil Soni will be present as special guests. MLA Rajesh Munat, Purandar Mishra, Motilal Sahu and Anuj Sharma will also be present.

Training will be given to small children and youth in Kala Kendra. Separate training rooms have been prepared in the campus, where training in musical instruments like drawing, sculpture, singing, classical dance, western dance, art and craft, tabla, harmonium, drum, keyboard etc. and other arts will be provided. Artists will be able to get training in various genres. A recording room

for recording songs has also been constructed in the Kala Kendra premises. There will also be a facility to present cultural programs from time to time on the stage of the campus. With the opening of Kala Kendra, a platform will be available to the artists and the inherent talent of the children will also come to the fore.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE FOR MODIFICATION WORK
 Tender Notice No.: Elect-R-2023-E22, Date: 04.03.2024. Name of Work: "Provision of Standard Regulated OHE in identified yards over Raipur Division in unregulated OHE territory PH-I". Tender Value: ₹ 2,42,64,521.42. Earnest Money Deposit: ₹ 2,71,300/-.
 Submission of Tender: Upto 12.00 hours on 04.04.2024. Opening of Tender: 12.30 hours on 04.04.2024.
 For further details of tender document, eligibility criteria and the complete details for the above work, please contact office of the Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD)/South East Central Railway, Raipur or refer/download tender document which is available on our website: www.ireps.gov.in
 Sr. DEE (TRD) & Dy. CEE (GSU) / PRR/TRD/IP/266 Raipur.
 South East Central Railway & @secrail

कार्यालय पुलिस अधीक्षक रेल रायपुर (छ.ग.)
 क्रमांक-पुअरेल/राय/एसी-1/एम-413A/2024 रायपुर दिनांक 23/02/2024
पुलिस अधीक्षक रेल कार्यालय रायपुर के द्वितीय तल के बायें तरफ रिक्त जगह में 05 नम्बर कक्ष/कमरा मध्य लेट-बॉथ के निर्माण कार्य हेतु निविदा विज्ञापित
 निम्नानुसार कार्य कराये जाने हेतु पुलिस अधीक्षक रेल कार्यालय रायपुर (छ.ग.) की ओर से सख्त शर्तों में प्रत्येक वर्ष 300.00 कोषागार में लेखा शीर्ष 0055 पुलिस मिस्त्रियेस पुलिस लिमिटेड के अंतर्गत अहोहाराकरा पुलिस अधीक्षक (रेल) रायपुर (छ.ग.) के नाम पर जमा कर वाचान की मूल प्रति प्रस्तुत कर दिनांक 23.03.2024 के 17.00 बजे तक कार्यालयीन दिवस में प्राप्त किये जा सकेंगे।
 1 निविदा विधि की अंतिम तिथि - 23.3.2024 को संध्या 17.00 बजे तक।
 2 निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि - 26.03.2024 को संध्या 15.00 बजे तक।
 3 निविदा खोलने की तिथि - 27.03.2024 को संध्या 16.00 बजे तक।
 नोट -
 1 संबंधित निविदा की नियम एवं शर्तें, कार्यालय पुलिस अधीक्षक (रेल) रायपुर (छ.ग.) से कार्यालयीन दिवस एवं समय में निविदा प्रत्येक के साथ प्राप्त किये जा सकेंगे।
 2 निविदा-पत्र डाक/कोरियर से स्वीकार नहीं किये जायेंगे।
 3 निविदा खोलने की तिथि में यदि अवकाश घोषित होती है तो निविदा अगले कार्यालयीन दिवस में खोली जावेगी।
पुलिस अधीक्षक (रेल), रायपुर (छ.ग.)

CAVEAT NOTICE
 Be it known to the public at large that the office of Government of Chhattisgarh, Home (Police) Department (C.G.) vide its order No. F2-04 Dated 06.03.2024 have transferred the Additional SPs on administrative basis.
 Anybody, who intends to assail the said transfer order dated 06.03.2024, issued by the Government of Chhattisgarh, Home (Police) Department (C.G.) may give prior notice on the below mentioned address, The present caveat is being published to make it known to all the before taking any steps against the said transfer order, an advance notice be served on the following address -
"The advocate General, office of the Advocate General, Chhattisgarh High Court Campus, Bodhi Bilaspur (C.G.)"
 G-08408/1



CENTRAL Chronicle

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Defending Democratic Dissent

SC's decision on Right to Criticize

The verdict by the Supreme Court, quashing an FIR against Professor Javed Ahmed Hajam for his critical comments on the abrogation of Article 370, is a reaffirmation of the fundamental right to criticize state actions. This ruling serves as a beacon of hope for safeguarding freedom of speech and expression, a cornerstone of any thriving democracy. The Maharashtra Police's invocation of Section 153-A of the IPC to silence Prof. Hajam's dissent is deeply concerning. It reflects a worrying trend of using legal mechanisms to stifle legitimate criticism and suppress dissenting voices. The judiciary's intervention to protect individuals' right to express dissent without fear of reprisal is a crucial step towards preserving democratic principles. The case of Prof. Hajam sheds light on the broader issue of government overreach and the need for greater accountability in law enforcement agencies. The Supreme Court's call to educate police personnel about the constitutional values of freedom of speech and expression is a step in the right direction. It underscores the importance of upholding democratic norms and ensuring that law enforcement agencies operate within the bounds of the law. Moreover, this verdict serves as a reminder of the role of the judiciary in safeguarding individual liberties and checking executive overreach. By holding the state accountable for its actions and upholding the rights guaranteed by the Constitution, the judiciary plays a vital role in maintaining the balance of power in a democratic society. In light of this ruling, it is imperative that all stakeholders, including the government, law enforcement agencies, and civil society, work together to foster a culture of tolerance and respect for dissenting opinions. Citizens must feel empowered to engage in constructive criticism without fear of reprisal, knowing that their voices will be heard and respected. Ultimately, the Supreme Court's decision in the case of Prof. Hajam is a victory for democracy and the rule of law. It sends a clear message that no individual should be persecuted for exercising their right to freedom of speech and expression. Moving forward, it is incumbent upon all of us to remain vigilant and uphold the values of democracy, ensuring that every citizen's voice is heard and respected.

Alliance Against Ambiguity

US-Led Coalition Seeks Stability Amidst China's Ascent

In his State of the Union Address, US President Joe Biden outlined a renewed commitment to fortifying partnerships with key allies, notably India, Australia, and Japan, in response to the escalating influence of China. Biden's assertion comes amid growing apprehension over Beijing's unfair economic practices and military posturing in the Taiwan Strait. Emphasizing a stance of competition rather than conflict with China, Biden underscored America's resolve to secure its position as a global leader in the 21st century. Central to this strategy is the revitalization of alliances with countries like India, where enhanced defense cooperation and joint military exercises serve as bulwarks against regional aggression and promote stability in the Indo-Pacific region. The Indo-Pacific, witnessing heightened geopolitical tensions, particularly surrounding Taiwan, underscores the urgency of collaborative efforts between Washington and New Delhi. By aligning their shared democratic values, the two nations can confront challenges to regional peace and uphold a rules-based order that safeguards sovereignty and freedom of navigation. The Quad alliance, comprising the US, India, Australia, and Japan, has emerged as a critical mechanism for countering China's expansionist agenda. With a focus on fostering a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific, the Quad provides a platform for coordinated action against coercion and intimidation. Moreover, it addresses a spectrum of global threats, from maritime security to cybersecurity, bolstering its relevance in an increasingly complex strategic landscape. President Biden's commitment to multilateralism underscores the importance of collective action in confronting common challenges. By leveraging the combined strengths of its allies, the US aims to assert its influence and deter Chinese assertiveness. The Quad's growing clout signals a shift towards a more cohesive and proactive approach to regional security, challenging Beijing's unilateral ambitions. As Biden reaffirms America's commitment to leading the competition for the 21st century, it is evident that strategic partnerships with like-minded nations, particularly India, will be instrumental in shaping the geopolitical landscape. By fostering stability and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, the US-led coalition aims to counterbalance China's rise and uphold a vision of a world governed by democratic principles and shared prosperity.

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.

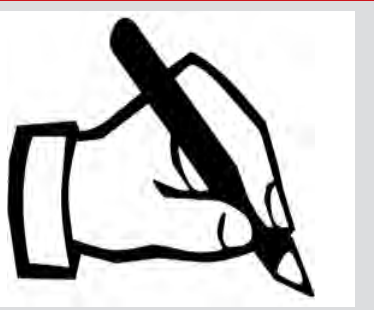
MAHASHIVRATRI FESTIVAL



Devotees at the Aluva Shiva temple on Mahashivratri, at the bank of Periyar river, in Kochi, Saturday, March 9.

Hindu Gotra System: Favours Genetic Variations & Biological Evolution

RAJENDER KUMAR SHARMA



Marriage in Hindu Sanatan Dharma

In Hindu religion, marriage is considered one of the sixteen sacraments. Marriage literally means bearing a special responsibility. The marriage ceremony is commonly known as Hindu marriage. Hindu marriage is a relationship between husband and wife for many births. By taking seven rounds of fire and keeping the Pole Star as witness, the two body, mind and soul get tied in a sacred bond. In Hindu marriage, there is more spiritual relationship between husband and wife than physical relationship and this relationship is considered extremely sacred. According to Hindu beliefs, out of the four ashrams of human life, the ceremony of betrothal i.e. marriage is absolutely necessary for the "Grahasth ashram".

Gotra matching before Hindu marriage

The relationship for marriage begins with the exchange of Gotra information. Which some people call conservative thinking or superstition. Gotra has great importance in Sanatan Dharma. According to beliefs, Gotra is the form of descendant of Saptarishi. In Hindu religion, marriage within the same Gotra is not allowed. Due to belonging to the same Gotra, the genetic structure is similar. It is said that the more the distance between the boy and the girl, the better

the marriage is considered. The children of such a couple are very talented and very strong. According to Vedic culture, marriage within the same Gotra is prohibited because due to belonging to the same Gotra, boy and girl have a relation just like brother and sister as they have same ancestors. According to astrological belief, the Gotra changes after seven generations. In such a situation, marriage can take place within the same Gotra. However, there are many differences of opinion regarding this notion also.

In Hindu communities, marriage within the same Gotra is considered inappropriate. Gotra has special importance among Hindus. According to the Vedas, mankind is the descendant of great sages like Vishwamitra, Jamadagni, Bharadwaj, Gautam, Atri, Vashishtha, Kashyap and Agastya. According to mythological beliefs, every sage has his own reputation. In such a situation, if a person marries in the same Gotra then he is considered to belong to the same family.

Gotra system is related to blood relations and genetic structure. In such a situation, marrying within the same clan may cause not only physical abnormalities but also psychological defects in the child due to absence of genetic variations. In marriages, some places 4 Gotras are left and in others there is a

rule of leaving 3 Gotras. According to traditions, the first Gotra is one's own. The second is the mother's clan and the third is the grandmother's clan. Many people also follow maternal Grandmother's gotra.

What is the meaning of having the same Gotra

Hindu society is divided into castes and there is a system of Gotra in each caste like Brahmin is a caste but in this the names of Gotras are given after their sages like the Gotra of the generations of Guru Vashishtha is Vashishtha, the descendants of Rishi Bharadwaj are of Bharadwaj Gotra. The gotra of the children of Rishi Gautam was Gautam etc. Similar system exists in other castes also. Panini has told in Ashtadhyayi that all the children of a person, including his grandchildren, will be said to be of the same Gotra. Now if both the boy and the girl belong to the same Gotra, then on the basis of their ancestors relationship they belong to the same family, in such a situation their relationship is considered as brother and sister on the basis of blood relationship and genetic makeup. The genetic structure of both is the same, hence if such marriage takes place, there will be no genetic diversity in the future generations and if any genetic error or disorder has been present in their ancestors, then there is a high possibility of that disorder continuing in the future generations also. These disorders can be mental, physical and genetic. According to the scriptures, endogamy increases the chances of problems like short life, low intelligence, lack of immunity and disability.

Scientific reason behind Gotra Matching

According to science, if a couple marries in the same Gotra or clan, their children may have genetic defects. K.Thangaraj, Senior Scientist at the Center for Cellular and Molecular Biology, has discovered in his study that consanguineous marriage increases the chances of birth of a boy who is born impotent. It has also been explained in

detail in the scriptures. Every seventh married couple in the world is a victim of impotence. Among the many causes of impotence, there is a disturbance in genes, one of which can be marriage within a Gotra.

According to Rakesh Kumar Mishra, director of the Center for Cellular and Molecular Biology, 'According to the World Health Organization, more than 8 crore people in India are suffering from genetic diseases. Among the many reasons for the birth of children suffering from such diseases, consanguineous marriage is a major reason among them. CCMB scientist K Thangaraj, after studying 973 impotent men, found that more than 29 percent of them had impotence due to genetic disorder. Studies show that the gene responsible for producing sperm was not present in the Y chromosome of such men. This is called azoospermia factor.

This shows the scientific basis of Hindu religion. 4-5 years ago, when lions started dying in the forests of Gir, the team of doctors did research and found out that due to physical relations in the same family, the immunity of the lions was not as much as it should be. To save the lions, male lions were brought from abroad and artificial mating was done so that a healthy breed of lions could be created.

In ancient times and in some places even today, marriage is prohibited even within the family of mother, grandmother and maternal grandmother. This is completely scientific because somewhere inside there is a trace of the DNA of their ancestors. The more distant the DNA, the better for a healthy child. Hindu religion and scriptures are compatible. Charles Darwin and Lemarck, great biologists also proved scientifically that genetic variations are the raw material for biological evolution.

(Writer is a Sr. Columnist, Dehradun, Uttarakhand)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Political Pivot

In the aftermath of shocking losses in the Pakistan elections, Nawaz Sharif of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) opts out of assuming the Prime Minister's role, signaling a strategic move. Despite an uneasy alliance with the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Sharif avoids leading a coalition government, preferring to wield influence from the sidelines. With Pakistan's economy faltering and Imran Khan's Tehreek-e-Insaf party posing a challenge, Sharif navigates the political landscape cautiously. Amid strained international relations, particularly with nations beyond China, Sharif's decision reflects a calculated stance to remain influential without shouldering the burdens of governance.

Dr Ganapathi Bhat, Akola

Sudha Murty's Nomination

On International Women's Day, President Draupadi Murmu nominates Sudha Murty, former Chairperson of Infosys Foundation, to Rajya Sabha, echoing PM Narendra Modi's praise for Nari Shakti. With over thirty books to her name and awards like Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar, Sudha Murty's nomination evokes hopes for impactful contributions. Despite concerns over her attendance, unlike Lata Mangeshkar, Murty expresses readiness to learn and serve. At 73, her potential to shape the nation's destiny is promising. Her appointment aligns with PM Modi's age limit policy, suggesting a dynamic shift in governance. Sudha Murty's induction offers optimism for effective representation and leadership in Parliament.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Disheartening Diplomacy

Despite India's significant contribution to Maldives' tourism economy through Indian tourists, President Mohamed Muizzu's anti-India stance reflects a misguided allegiance to China. His apparent animosity towards New Delhi overlooks India's support and goodwill. Muizzu's alignment with Beijing's interests disregards the island nation's gratitude towards India. It's imperative for Muizzu to reassess his position, and India must diplomatically engage with Maldives to ensure mutual cooperation and understanding.

MK Nair, Raipur

Liberating Women

Breaking free from entrenched social norms is crucial for women's empowerment. Accessible public transportation, equal resource allocation, and technological opportunities are essential for their advancement. Women deserve safe and sanitary health facilities, free from violence and discrimination. Educating men on the economic benefits of empowering women is key to societal transformation. By investing in women and fostering gender equality, we pave the way for universal prosperity, irrespective of gender.

Shiv Kumar Mishra

Being Baptised In Political Delinquency And Insensitivity



M.R.Lalu

When political rivalries convert college campuses into hotspots of crime and criminal behaviour, education takes a back seat. There has always been an epidemic of crime spreading exponentially in college campuses across the state of Kerala and I personally could witness many. It was on 17 September 1996, the state witnessed one of the most heart-wrenching campus brutalities carried out by a mainstream political party. In an attempt to silence political rivalry, three young boys from the BJP's students wing ABVP were brutally chased and killed by students from the same college and goons from outside the campus that belonged to the left parties. This heinous incident of abrupt brutality had taken place in the Devaswom Board College in Parumala. When being chased and tortured by a violent mob from the Students Federation of India (SFI), the students' wing of the CPI (M), the three jumped into River Pampa. The idea was to swim across the river and escape. But the barbarous goons began to pelt stones from the riverbed critically injuring the boys in

water and they had drowned. The local women who were busy washing clothes tried to rope out the hapless boys with their clothes. But they were chased away by the wanton brutes and all the three died in the river.

Campus politics has always been a parallel track played in tune with the dictums of parties that ruled the state. Most of the students gain merit for representing the ruling party and they are given a free hand by the police when chaotic skirmishes take place. There have been plenty of instances in which lives have been lost and many students have become victims of political insanity. The Kannur district of the state deserves a special reference here as it remained the most acrimonious landscape for the state politics where rivalries between the BJP and CPI (M) destroyed a number of families. Both parties have had consistent efforts to steer their presence in this district which is in the Malabar region. Situation became turbulent when the traditional stronghold of the CPI (M) had shatteringly faced a systematic ideological invasion from the BJP and the Sangh Parivar. This had absolutely been leading the entire region to break into a huge political turmoil that gained notoriety for decades. Hundreds of party workers got butchered by the violence unleashed by the parties. Many people died and many families perished.

This narration was necessary here to elaborate the quantum of political acrimony prevailed among parties in the state. But the present scenario turned this traditional enmity and acrimony more inhuman. Campuses are no more centers of learning. Across the state they have now been turning into breeding

grounds of goons. With the uninterrupted supply of drugs and being baptized in ruthless political indoctrination, a huge number of students have gone directionless. Kerala's universities have long been witness to violence and spine chilling horror of student politics. With the latest brutality of political indoctrination, the foot soldiers of Students Federation of India (SFI) have managed to kill J S Sidharthan, a 20 year old second-year student of veterinary college, Pookot, Wayanad, under the Kerala University. The punishment executed on the young boy by the brutal gang was beyond comparison and narration. It is reported that he was stripped naked and beaten up with belts and cable wires by his classmates and seniors in front of other students. His close friends were threatened and forced to beat him up when the show of cruelty was performed in broad daylight. The probe found the involvement of almost 31 students. This heart-breaking trial-cum-torture continued for almost three days leading the boy to commit suicide. His body was later found hanging lifeless in the hostel.

Governor Arif Mohammed Khan has suspended the Vice-Chancellor of the university ordering a judicial enquiry. Now, there is a crucial question that began to distressingly prickle the conscience of the people of the state. That why was the entire population of students and staff in the hostel silent on the inhuman torture of the boy? Why was the management of the college tight-lipped on violence inside its premises? This insensitivity indicates the depth of fear on this horribly rampant criminality that has been controlling the campus; it also finger-points at the failure of the ed-

ucation system. Evidently, the ruling class has been applying its political power to cripple the system with its notorious interference and the administration in universities and colleges have silently been forced to remain servile to their political masters. There has been a huge wave of violence infiltrating into the campuses with political groups and radicalized religious groups getting consistently active among students.

Should this incident be seen as a usual occurrence of ragging breaking all extremes of brutality or was there a terrible mindset emanating from the vacuum of organizations that the Government of India has recently banned? Could they successfully stretch their ugly claws into colleges and universities by systematically intruding into political parties? What was the real intent of the crime that the goons perpetrated on a hapless boy? Was this criminal justice system executed by the students motivated by the brutal depiction of cruelty being carried out by the Taliban or other outfits working in countries where the atmosphere is warm and fertile for barbarity? Violent means of murders in the state, especially among the youth, should have shaken the society long before, but there seems a lack of urgency and lethargy again and again dominating its value system. Trimming the aspirations of a state that once remained an excellent hub for quality education, its political system has certainly pushed it through the tunnel of hatred and inhuman retribution.

Schools and colleges have lost their lessons of empathy and the value system that we cherished once got deeply dented. The state of Kerala has lost its

sheen of being one of the most empathetic societies. Often being applauded for its socio-political awareness and excellent performance in various socio-economic indices, Kerala has maintained its status of being a good example for the rest of the country. But its terrible failure and inability to understand the need of maintaining values that would nurture its existence as a society is a reality. Irrespective of it being a society with good living standards, the state has grown into an insensitive terrain for moral values. With bigoted cries for free speech and scientific thinking being heard louder; the campuses in the state have lost the essence of a learning atmosphere well knit with compassion, tolerance and mutual acceptance. Overwhelmingly misguided by different political ideologies, religious radicalization and social media, young minds in the state have lost their purpose. Political parties being purposefully partial and supportive of regimentation in the society have further deepened the malaise. Mostly, the crisis was the artificial creation of the ruling class that kept dismantling the minds of young generations by viciously squandering their imaginations of progress. The crisis is deep as the malice is emerging thicker threatening the existence of the state. At this juncture, how sincere and action oriented is the government? Let us give room for Sidharthan, with this question reverberating in our minds repeatedly.

(Writer is a Freelance Journalist/Author. The views expressed above are the author's own. They do not necessarily reflect the views of Central Chronicle.)

BRIEF

Information centre



New Delhi: Union Agriculture Minister Arjun Munda on Friday inaugurated the Agriculture Integrated Command and Control Center at Krishi Bhawan here as part of its efforts to make farmers self-reliant. The centre has been established to empower farmers by equipping them with information, services and facilities using digital technology, according to an official statement. On this occasion, Munda said that this is an innovation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare to make the farmers self-reliant across the country.

CBG plants

Gorakhpur (UP): Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday said that Uttar Pradesh is poised to have 100 compressed bio-gas plants (CBG) plants soon. Speaking at the inauguration of a CBG plant here, the Union minister highlighted the significance of CBG plants and stressed their role in environmental conservation, augmenting farmers' income, and promoting energy self-sufficiency. The state at present has 10 CBG facilities. The newly inaugurated plant, set up by Indian Oil with an investment of Rs 165 crore, will daily utilize 200 metric tons of agricultural residue, 20 metric tons of press mud, and 10 metric tons of cow dung.

Service charges



Chandigarh: Power consumers in Punjab will now pay lower service charges for enhancing their electricity load under a new scheme, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said. Punjab State Power Corporation Limited has been directed to launch the scheme for consumers having agriculture, domestic and commercial power connections, an official statement said.

Competition law

New Delhi: The government has notified certain changes under the competition law with respect to mergers and acquisitions that are also expected to reduce the regulatory burden on the Competition Commission of India (CCI). Notifications have been issued by the corporate affairs ministry related to Section 5 of the competition law. Section 5 pertains to combinations. Vaibhav Choukse, Partner and Head of Competition Law at JSA Advocates and Solicitors, said it is an important development concerning M&As in the country.

Centre to take all measures to contain food prices: Goyal

New Delhi, Mar 09:

The Centre will pull all stops to ensure prices of essential food items from onion to tomatoes to pulses do not spike particularly during the elections, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said as he cited the Modi government's track record of controlling rates within days of any temporary hike. In an interview with PTI, Goyal, who is heading the food and consumer affairs ministry, asserted that the Modi government would continue to take measures to ensure that there is no stress on the household budget of



"our Nari-Shakti". Replying to a query regarding the government's strategy to ensure that there are no spikes in prices of food items when the general election kicks in, the minister said, "We are going to be on top of it. And I can assure the people of India that this gov-

ernment cares for the women of India." He highlighted that the government has spent in the last few years about Rs 28,000 crore to the price stabilisation fund to support the effort to fight against food inflation. "We will continue to be there with our sisters and mothers and make sure that we do not give stress...We are pro-actively on the job to make sure that we respect our Nari-Shakti and respect that they need to get a better household budget," Goyal asserted. The Election Commission is expected to announce the poll schedule soon and the Lok

Sabha elections are likely to be held in April-May. The minister spoke at length about the government's various measures in the last few years to check prices of food items like onion, tomato, and pulses. "When the whole world was facing severe inflation, particularly food inflation, and never seen before levels, some countries of the developed world were showing 40-year high inflation, India was a bright spot in the subject of inflation," he said. During the UPA-era, Goyal said, the inflation was at high levels and food prices were going haywire.

HMSI recalls GL1800 Gold Wing, CBR1000RR units to fix faulty fuel pumps

New Delhi, Mar 09:

Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) on Friday said it is recalling certain units of its super bikes GL1800 Gold Wing and CBR1000RR to inspect and replace faulty fuel pumps. Honda GL1800 Gold Wing manufactured between December 2017 and December 2023 and CBR1000RR manufactured between September 2017 and April 2020 are affected, the two-wheeler major said in a statement. HMSI,



however, did not provide an exact number of the units being recalled. "The fuel pump impellers may have been improperly molded, which can cause them to deform and result in fuel pump failure. If the fuel pump module becomes inoperative, the engine may not start or can stall without indication while riding," the company stated. The inspection and replacement of fuel pumps will be carried out at BigWing Topline dealerships across India, it added.

Govt directs 4 sectors to provide detailed info on warranty, service centres

New Delhi, Mar 09:

Amid consumer complaints regarding problems in repairs of goods purchased, the government on Friday directed four major industries, including automobiles and electronics, to provide information about products, service centres and warranty conditions in the best interest of consumers. The direction has been issued to ensure that consumers who are seeking repair of products are not deceived in the absence of relevant information, an official release said. To address the new as well as emerging concerns affect-



ing consumers regarding the repair of their products, Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh held a meeting with the major stakeholders of four sectors -- Automobiles, Consumer Durables, Mobile and Electronics, and Farming equipment -- to onboard the Right to Repair

Portal India. The portal has been set up to facilitate and work as a catalyst for providing relevant repair-associated information to consumers. Leading water purifier makers have been directed to furnish the average life span of their candles and other consumables based on specific geographies and water alkalinity, the statement said. The government also asked the industry to standardise product warranty forms in four sectors to foster consumer rights and to address the new as well as emerging concerns affecting consumers for the repair of their products.

10,000 GPUs under IndiaAI mission to be in place over 18-24 months: IT Secretary



New Delhi, Mar 09:

The graphics processing units approved under the IndiaAI Mission will be made available in the next 18-24 months, a top government official said. Speaking on the sidelines of Tie-Con Delhi-NCR, Electronics and IT Secretary S. Krishnan said that the government will invite bids from the industry under the mission and provide viability gap funding for GPU-based computing infrastructure. "Our target is that the GPUs under the AI machine should be available between 18 and 24 months and will not be directly available under this mission," Krishnan said. The Cabinet has approved the India AI Mission with an outlay of Rs 10,372 crore for five years to encourage AI devel-

opment in the country. Under the mission, supercomputing capacity, comprising over 10,000 GPUs (graphics processing units), will be made available to various stakeholders for creating an AI ecosystem. The demand for GPU-based servers has increased as they can process data at a higher speed compared to CPU-based servers. Krishnan said that 675 GPUs are available through CDAC's AIRAWAT which is ranked 75th in the world in terms of supercomputing power. He said that there is a need to quickly ramp up the AI supercomputing capacity in the country which will be done through public-private partnerships. "In order to make sure that this compute capacity is provided very rapidly and quickly, we intend to do it on a public-private partnership through a bidding transparent process whereby private entities will be selected on the basis of the viability gap funding to establish the compute facility which the government would require is made available to innovators, to startups and to research and for research purposes, at reasonable rates," Krishnan said.

India, EFTA to sign free trade agreement today

New Delhi, Mar 09:

India and the four-nation European bloc EFTA will sign a free trade agreement on Sunday with an aim to boost two-way trade in goods, services and investments, an official said. The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) mem-

bers are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. The pact received approval from the Union Cabinet on March 7, the official said. India and EFTA have been negotiating the pact, officially dubbed as Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), since January

2008 to boost economic ties. The agreement has 14 chapters, including trade in goods, rules of origin, intellectual property rights (IPRs), trade in services, investment promotion and cooperation, government procurement, technical barriers to trade, and trade facilitation. EFTA has 29 free

trade agreements (FTAs) with 40 partner countries, including Canada, Chile, China, Mexico, and Korea. Under free trade pacts, two trading partners significantly reduce or eliminate customs duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them, besides easing

norms to promote trade in services and investments. EFTA countries are not part of the European Union (EU). It is an inter-governmental organisation for the promotion and intensification of free trade. It was founded as an alternative for states that did not wish to join the European community.

Volvo Car India launches new variant of XC40 Recharge

At an introductory ex-showroom price Rs. 54.95 lakh

New Delhi, Mar 09:

Volvo Car India launched the single motor variant of XC40 Recharge at an introductory ex-showroom price of 54.95 lakh plus applicable taxes. Bookings for the XC40 Recharge will be exclusively online and can be done on the Volvo Car India Website. Reflecting the company's commitment to local production, the XC40 Recharge single motor is



assembled at the state-of-the-art facility in Hosakote, Bengaluru, Karnataka, along with the existing vehicle lineup. Pre-booking for the car begins from today. Customers can pre-book their car at their nearest Volvo Car India business partner. After a huge suc-

cess of XC40 Recharge launched in year 2022, we are delighted to unveil its single motor variant-the XC40 Recharge. The vehicle has been strategically priced so as to increase our customer base as well as to showcase our continued commitment to grow the Indian EV market. This launch is a significant milestone in our journey to provide Indian customers with an exceptional fusion of performance, sustainability, and convenience and reinforces our promise of introducing one new electric model annually in India.

Forex kitty jumps USD 6.55 bn to USD 625.63 bn

Mumbai, Mar 09:

India's forex reserves jumped USD 6.55 billion to USD 625.626 billion for the week ended March 1, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday. In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had risen by USD 2.975 billion to USD 619.072 billion. It can be noted that in October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion. The reserves took a hit as the central bank deployed the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments since last year. For the week ended March 1, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by USD 6.043 billion to USD 554.231 billion, the data said.

अग्रवाल	सामान्य	बंगाली	मैरिज ब्यूरो
<p>वधु चाहिये</p> <p>अग्रवाल वधु चाहिए- 20-युवक सी.ए., 40-डॉक्टर, 50-ईजीनियर, 150-ग्रेजुएशन, 100-सर्विस क्लास, 50-मेट्रिक, 25-माहेश्वरी, 40-जैन, 15-खंडेलवाल, 100-तलाकशुदा-विडोह, निःशुल्क साधारण परिवार कन्याएं हेतु मारवाड़ी वर-वधु फोटो बायोडाटा सहित संपर्क करें-मितल मैरिज ब्यूरो अरिहत काम्लेक्स, रेलवे स्टेशन के पास रायपुर. व्हाट्सएप-9302454825. (253684)</p>	<p>वर चाहिये</p> <p>वर चाहिये- 28 वर्ष, 5 फीट 5 इंच, गौर वर्ण, जाति-चमार, शिक्षा-एम.बी.बी.एस. पद- चिकित्सा अधिकारी, आय 55000 प्रतिमाह, डॉक्टर एवं राजपत्रित अधिकारी मान्य छ.ग. निवासी को प्राथमिकता. संपर्क करें- मो.-7974541182. (253678)</p>	<p>वधु चाहिये</p> <p>बंगाली वधु चाहिये- इंजिनियरिंग, एम.बी.ए. एकलौता लड़का हेतु सुन्दर, सुशील ग्रेजुएट लड़की चाहिए 31/5/4' हाइट रंग साबला पेशुक पंथ बंगाल वर्तमान बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)-7529977997, 9827954228. (55652)</p>	<p>मैरिज ब्यूरो-विवाह गारन्टी, न्यूनतम फीस विवाह एक महीने में, घर बैठे रिश्ते, विधवा, विधुर, तलाकशुदा, अविवाहित, सम्पन्न जाति, उग्र बंधन नहीं, शौच रजिस्ट्रेशन कराएँ. विवरण, फोटो व्हाट्सएप रकें-9403124401.</p>

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Bhilai : 0788-2294181, 98934-00617

ब्राह्मण

वर चाहिये

वर चाहिए- कान्यकुब्ज ब्राह्मण, आंशिक मांगलिक, 29वर्ष, 5फीट 2इंच सुंदर, सुशील, सांस्कृतिक, पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट बी.एड., शासकीय शिक्षिका के पद पर कार्यरत (छत्तीसगढ़ शासन) एवं पी.एस.सी., हेतु प्रयासत सभी पारिवारिक सदस्य क्लास वन ऑफिसर-9238632555. (55649)

गुजराती

वधु चाहिये

वधु चाहिए- गुजराती 44/5'11", स्वयं का व्यवसाय इनकम 40,000 मासिक, युवक हेतु कन्या चाहिए. उच्च जाति बंधन नहीं. संपर्क- मो.-98271-14645, 91311-39179. (253693)

सावधान

पाठकों को परामर्श दिया जाता है कि वे किसी भी विज्ञापन के अनुसार, कार्य करने से पूर्व समुचित जांच कर लें. वर/ वधु के स्तर, आय, संबंधी विवरण के संबंध में विज्ञापनदाताओं द्वारा किए गए दावों और वर्णनों के लिए यह समाचारपत्र समर्थक अथवा उत्तरदायी नहीं है.

FIR filed against villagers' unauthorized entry into collectorate

Khairagarh police registers case under IPC sections

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Mar 09: Khairagarh authorities have swiftly responded to an incident involving the unauthorized entry of village leaders and protesters into the Collectorate premises against the proposed cement factory, leading to the disruption of government proceedings and raising slogans against a proposed cement factory.

An FIR has been registered at Khairagarh police station against the village leaders and others who entered the Collectorate unauthorisedly and surrounded it, obstructing government work. The incident occurred during a crucial meeting chaired by the Secretary in-charge, where ongoing development works in the district were under review.



According to reports, farmers from villages Vicharpur, Pandariya, and Sandi entered the district office without prior notice to the respective Sarpanches and began raising slogans, causing disruption to the review meeting. Despite efforts by SDM Khairagarh

Tankeshwar Prasad Sahu to address their concerns and explain the importance of following due process, protesters persisted in their actions.

After the meeting, when the Secretary in-charge attempted to leave the office, protesters gathered at the main gate, further ob-

structing proceedings. Despite warnings and advice from administrative officials, protesters continued to block the road, causing inconvenience to government officials and the general public.

District Office Superintendent, Birendra Janghel, took prompt ac-

tion by filing an FIR at Khairagarh police station against the main accused and other protesting villagers. The accused, including Shrawan Janghel, Nohar Janghel, Narayan Janghel of village Vicharpur, Khelan Verma and Prahlad Verma of village Sandi, Bal Mukund Sharma of village Bundeli, Jyoti Janghel and others of Pandariya, now face charges under sections 341, 186, and 147 of the Indian Penal Code.

An offense has been registered for creating nuisance by entering the public office without authorization and willfully obstructing a public servant in the discharge of their duty.

- Tankeshwar Prasad Sahu, SDM Khairagarh

Ajay Chandrakar takes blessing from Bholenath

From newly constructed Shiva temple on Mahashivratri

Central Chronicle News

Kurud, Mar 09: Amidst the auspicious atmosphere of Mahashivratri, Kurud MLA Ajay Chandrakar graced the consecration ceremony of the newly constructed Shiva temple in Suncity Colony. Taking blessings from Bholenath, MLA Ajay Chandrakar engaged with the colony residents, extending his warm congratulations on this joyous occasion.

The inauguration of the stunning Shiva temple stands as a testament to the collaborative efforts of the colony residents, spearheaded by the Nagar Panchayat President, Tapan Chandrakar. The Pran Pratishtha puja spanned three days, with various rituals marking



each day's proceedings. The grand Kalash Yatra and installation on Wednesday set the tone, followed by Maha chanting on Thursday, culminating in the auspicious consecration of Lord Shiva with Havan puja on Mahashivratri day.

The ceremony witnessed the participation of five couples in the rituals: Kuleshwar Chandrakar-Trupti Chandrakar, Ghanshyam Mahawar-Megha Mahawar, Shyam Bajpai-Ritu Bajpai, Pankaj Naidu-Lakshmi Naidu,

and Vikram Mahawar-Anita Mahawar. The culmination of the ceremony with Purnahuti and the organization of Bhandara Prasad added to the festive spirit.

Dignitaries including Tapan Chandrakar, Arvind Guru, Sheshnarayan Dewangan, Om Prakash Chandrakar, Rekhranj Ganjir, Murari Lal Mahawar, and many others graced the occasion, reinforcing the significance of communal harmony and devotion in the community.

Collector launches district level sports competition for girls and women

On International Women's Day

Central Chronicle News

Bemetara, Mar 09: In celebration of International Women's Day, Collector Ranbir Sharma inaugurated a district-level sports competition for girls and women on March 8, aiming to promote sports among them. The event commenced at 8 am at PG College in the district headquarters, where Collector Sharma personally flagged off the program and wished the participants on the occasion of International Women's Day.

Promoting sports and inclusivity
Organized by the District Sports and Youth Welfare Department, the



one-day competition aimed to encourage and promote sports among girls and women in the region. Various sports including Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, athletics, 100-meter race, shot put, tawa throw, long jump, and tug of war were featured in the college grounds.

Community participation and support
Notably, participants

from all four development blocks of the district, including Bemetara, Navagarh, Saja, and Berla, actively engaged in the sports competitions. The event garnered enthusiastic support from sports enthusiasts and community members, who cheered on the players, fostering an environment of encouragement and empowerment.

Kurud police crack theft case, arrest accused with stolen goods

Central Chronicle News

Kurud, Mar 09: Kurud police have achieved a significant breakthrough in a theft case that occurred in Biretara village under the Kurud police station. The diligent efforts of law enforcement resulted in the arrest of the accused individuals and the recovery of stolen gold, silver jewellery, and cash, albeit with some discrepancies in the quantity of recovered items compared to those reported missing in the FIR.

According to the FIR lodged by the victim, Bhedral Sahu, the stolen items included a gold Gulbandh (15 grams) worth Rs 15,000, a mangalsutra (10 grams) worth Rs 10,000, a pair of eye rings (5 grams) worth Rs 5,000, a pair of Jhumki earrings (10 grams) worth Rs 10,000, a ring (3 grams) worth Rs 5,000, two earrings worth



Rs 4,000, 1 earring worth Rs 1,000, a silver belt (35 tola) worth around Rs 7,000, four pairs of anklets (30 tola) worth around Rs 5,000, a pair of toe rings worth around Rs 500, and a cash amounting to Rs. 25,000, totaling approximately Rs. 87,500.

The theft reportedly occurred between 22:30 pm and 1:50 am on February 22, when unidentified individuals entered the victim's house and stole the aforementioned valuables. Subsequently, a case under

sections 457 and 380 of the Indian Penal Code was registered at the Kurud police station, and an investigation was initiated.

Under the guidance of Anjaneya Varnay, Superintendent of Police, Dhantari, and the direction of Madhulika Singh, Additional Superintendent of Police, Dhantari, the officers, personnel of Kurud police station, and a special team commenced a thorough investigation into the matter. After jointly interrogat-

ing the suspect Gulshan Yadav and two minors, the investigation revealed pivotal details based on CCTV footage and the surrounding area. It was discovered that on February 21, Gulshan Yadav planned to travel from village Doma to Biretara. Upon arrival, he climbed onto the roof of a house and entered a room through an open entry door. Subsequently, he accessed a key to a cupboard atop a cooler, from which he stole gold, silver jewellery, and cash.

Following the theft, Gulshan Yadav fled through the main gate and returned to village Doma, where the stolen items were divided among the perpetrators.

The commendable efforts of Kurud police, led by Inspector Arun Sahu, with the support of constables and personnel from Kurud police station, as well as members of the special team, contributed significantly to the swift resolution of the case.

However, despite the partial recovery of stolen property, including jewelry and cash, certain items, such as a mangalsutra, a gold ring, a gold earring, and a silver waist belt, remain unrecovered.

Kurud SDOP Vajpayee emphasized that the investigation remains ongoing to locate the remaining stolen items and ensure justice for the victim.

Empowering Women: Gaurela Pendra Marwahi leads by example

Central Chronicle News

Gaurela Pendra Marwahi, Mar 09: As the world celebrated International Women's Day on March 8, highlighting the importance of women's empowerment and equality, attention turns to Gaurela Pendra Marwahi (GPM), a newly formed district in Chhattisgarh. Established on February 10, 2020, this district has set a remarkable precedent by appointing women to key administrative positions. Since its inception, GPM has seen women holding the reins of district administration for five out of six terms, with women collectors at the helm. Moreover, the district's top police official is also a woman. This progressive approach underscores the capability of women to handle significant responsibilities, including leadership roles. Over the past four years, under the guidance of women leaders, GPM has witnessed rapid development initiatives. The consistent appointment of women officers to lead the district reflects a commitment to gender equality and demonstrates that women are equally capable of steering administrative affairs.

Shikha Rajput Tiwari (IAS)**Shikha Rajput**

The honor of becoming the first collector of the district went to 2008 batch IAS Shikha Rajput Tiwari. Under her leadership, the district gained momentum of development. Before getting the responsibility of the post of Collector, Shikha Rajput Tiwari was appointed Officer on Special Duty in the district, under whose leadership arrangements for building, furniture, staff etc. were made in the new district for running the administrative office. After her transfer, Doman Singh was made Collector for a few months.

Namrata Gandhi (IAS)**Namrata Gandhi**

After that, Namrata Gandhi was appointed as woman collector, whose tenure was till January 15, 2022. Namrata Gandhi's image remained as a sharp collector as well as an officer who took prompt action on any complaint. Due to her initiative, the inauguration of the library containing 26 thousand 640 books of stories in 222 villages of the district was memorable. Collector Namrata Gandhi had made an ideal arrangement for selling paddy to the farmers of the district in a convenient manner during paddy procurement, under which day-wise and village-wise tokens were cut for the sale of paddy, due to which no farmer had to stand in the queue for long, whereas in earlier years the farmer had to stand in line from midnight to cut the token.

Richa Prakash Chaudhary (IAS)**Richa Prakash Chaudhary**

After Namrata Gandhi, the command of the district came into the hands of woman collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary. Under the leadership of Richa Prakash, a new chapter of development was written in GPM district. Special efforts were made by Collector Richa Prakash to improve the educational system in the district. Special efforts were made by her to teach the children of first and second class in the schools of Pendra and Gaurela block through EGL method, which improved the educational level of the children.

Priyanka Rishi Mahobia (IAS)**Priyanka Rishi Mahobia**

After Richa Prakash Chaudhary, on January 31, 2023, the command of the district came into the hands of woman collector Priyanka Rishi Mahobia. Mahobia also ran the administration very well. Even under her leadership, development work took place at a fast pace in the district. Especially under her leadership, the assembly election work was completed peacefully and systematically.

Leena Kamlesh Mandavi (IAS)**Leena Kamlesh Mandavi**

After Priyanka Rishi Mahobia, woman collector Leena Kamlesh Mandavi has once again taken over the reins of the district from February 29. After the command of GPM district with 57% tribal population comes into the hands of a tribal woman collector, all the schemes related to tribal upliftment including PM Janman Yojana, Viksit Bharat Yojana, operated for special backward tribes, are likely to be implemented effectively at the grassroots level.

Bhavna Gupta (IPS)**Bhavna Gupta**

Superintendent of Police Bhavna Gupta, who is commanding the police of GPM district, is the first woman IPS of Chhattisgarh to be honored with the prestigious international IACP award. America's international policing organization International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) honored Bhavna Gupta with the IACP Award in 2023 in Sandiago, United States. IPS Bhavna Gupta, who gives a sensitive image to the police, is a 2014 batch Indian Police Service officer. Bhavna Gupta is the first woman police captain of GPM district.

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Devotees flock to temples for Mahashivratri celebrations

Historic temple draws record crowds in Anwari

Central Chronicle News

Anwari, Mar 09: The spirit of devotion swept through Anwari on Friday as devotees thronged to temples to offer prayers and reverence to Lord Bholenath on the auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri.

From the early hours of the morning, long queues formed outside temples as devotees eagerly awaited their turn to offer flowers, Bel leaves, and water brought from home and the nearby river.

Mahashivratri, celebrated with grandeur on March



8, witnessed a plethora of programs organized throughout the day, ranging



from traditional rituals to the inauguration ceremonies of new temples. The

Pran Pratishtha ceremony, symbolizing the consecration of divine energy,

graced many temples as Shivlingas were established at various locations.

A historic surge of devotees was observed at the Swayambhu Shivlinga temple, with crowds gathering even before dawn. The line stretched from the temple to the idol immersion site, reflecting the fervent devotion of the worshippers.

Devotees poured into both small and large Shiva temples across the village, including Budheshwar Temple, Nageshwar Temple, Ardhanarishwar Temple, Makeshwar Temple, Nagdev Temple, and Batukeshwar Temple. Notably, the village of Kauhi boasts a unique temple where Goddess Kali is worshipped alongside Mahadev.

The highlight of the festivities was the Swayambhu Shivlinga, renowned for its remarkable growth in size over time. Presently standing at six feet in height with a circumference of five meters, the Shivlinga continues to mystify worshippers with its ever-expanding dimensions.

Situated on the banks of the Kharun river, the ancient Shiva temple in village Kauhi has emerged as a symbol of religious and social unity, drawing devotees from far and wide.

Legend has it that Swami Mohananand, son of the local Jagirdar Vishal Prasad Tiwari, discovered the Shivlinga during excavation, adding a layer of mystique to the temple's origins.

India hammers Eng by innings and 64 runs, claims series 4-1

Dharamsala, Mar 09 (PTI):

Ravichandran Ashwin took a famous five-wicket haul in his 100th Test as India thrived on the impatience of England batters for an emphatic innings and 64-run victory in the final chapter of an action-packed five-match contest, handing the visitors their heaviest defeat in the 'Bazball' era.

With the series already in bag, India were playing for crucial World Test Championship points and England made their job simpler by self-implosion on day three here.

England were bowled out for 195 towards the end of the afternoon session with Ashwin running through their reckless batting line-up to end with a match haul of nine wickets. Joe Root was the lone ranger for his team and batted beautifully for his



184 off 128 balls. He was the last batter to be dismissed. England's second in-

nings moved at a rather frenetic pace as the batters went on the offensive in

their bid to survive against the Indian spinners but failed yet again. The game

appeared to be going only one way when India took a huge 259-run first innings

lead in the morning session by posting 477 all out in response to England's

218 on day one. Ahead of the final game of their long tour, Stokes

had dismissed theories of the departure lounge syndrome but with the way his batters performed, it seemed they were in a hurry to get back home.

The attack at all costs approach clearly did not work for them in India and the debacle has given them plenty to ponder before the start of the English summer.

For India, the series was a remarkable success considering they had the likes of Virat Kohli and Mohammed Shami unavailable throughout.

The youngsters, led by Yashasvi Jaiswal, grabbed the opportunities in the seniors' absence to give the team management more options for the future.

The writing was on the wall after Ashwin ran through England's self-destructing top-order to leave them reeling at 103 for five at lunch.

I was just thinking of taking the bowlers down: Yashasvi Jaiswal



The Player-of-the-Series award winner Yashasvi Jaiswal on Saturday attributed his overwhelming success in the five-Test rubber against England to his uninhibited approach while opening the innings.

Jaiswal ended the series with 712 runs with two

hundreds and three fifties, averaging 89 and striking at 80. "I was just thinking if I can take a bowler down, I will take him down. That's the plan and there was no backing out," said Jaiswal during the post-series presentation.

However, the left-hander, who became only the sec-

ond Indian to score over 700 runs in a series after Sunil Gavaskar, said he wanted to keep his feet planted on the ground.

"I really enjoyed the series. I am trying to take it one game at a time and always thinking of how I can contribute to my team so that I can keep the team in a winning position," he added. Skipper Rohit Sharma too reminded Jaiswal of the need to remain humble and focussed.

"He's got a long way to go, but it's amazing to be in this position. When a guy's got talent like that who can put pressure on the bowlers from the word go, there will be lots of challenges going forward. He is a tough guy and loves the challenges," said Rohit.

I am least insecure about what people feel about me experimenting: Ashwin

Ravichandran Ashwin worked on different actions and speeds throughout the Test series against England and the master off-spinner said experimenting while shutting out external noises was integral for his success in the varied Indian conditions. Ashwin, who played his 100th Test here, finished the five-match series as the top wicket-taker, bagging 26 wickets. "Throughout the series I have gone to different actions, speeds and releases. India is different, each ground has a challenge. I am least bit insecure about what people feel about me," Ashwin said at the post-match presentation. The 37-year-old said the mindset to



add new dimensions to his bowling has worked well for him. "If I am confident that I can try something, I don't hold back. I have kept my ears and eyes open to listen to good feedback.

I was trying to keep ball on good length: Kuldeep

Kuldeep Yadav was adjudged player of the match for his seven-wicket haul and a feisty 30 down the order that helped India stretch the lead. The left-arm wrist spinner said he was just trying to keep the ball on a good length throughout his spells.

"I just focus on keeping it on a good length and that is very important for a spinner in this format. I was not thinking too much about what the batter was trying to do," he said. Kuldeep picked the wickets of Ben Stokes at Ranchi and Zak Crawley here as his favourite dismissals from the series.

"I really bowled well in Ranchi. The wicket was



slow and the way I used the drift over there was fantastic. I liked the Stokes wicket in Ranchi.

"I also liked the Crawley wicket here (Dharamsala), that was a beautiful ball. I really liked my rhythm," he

said. Kuldeep bowled England captain Stokes with a delivery that spun in from off-stump while right-hander Crawley got castled by his stock ball that turned in sharply from the fifth-stump line to disturb his stumps.

Iga Swiatek beats Danielle Collins at Indian Wells

Indian Wells, Mar 09 (AP):

Top-ranked Iga Swiatek moved on at the BNP Paribas Open with a 6-3, 6-0 victory over power-hitting Danielle Collins.

Swiatek improved to 15-2 this season and earned her fifth straight win over the 30-year-old American, who previously announced that she intends to retire after the season, on Friday.

The two met in January in the second round of the Australian Open, with Swiatek winning 6-3, 3-6, 6-4. This one was much easier. Swiatek, a four-time major champion, won 71.1% of her first-serve points, compared to Collins' 50%. Collins did herself no favors with unforced errors and seven double-faults. Swiatek now faces either Linda Noskova or Camila Giorgi, who were playing



later Friday night. Swiatek lost in the third round at Melbourne Park to the 19-year-old Noskova. In other women's action, Angelique Kerber battled back to beat Jelena Ostapenko 5-7, 6-3, 6-3 in a matchup of former Grand Slam champions. It was similar to Kerber's three-set win in Cincinnati in 2021 before she became a mother and returned to action this year.

BCCI triples per match incentive to Rs 45 lakh for playing red-ball format

New Delhi, Mar 09 (PTI):

Living up to its promise of giving highest priority to Test cricket, the BCCI has decided to give an incentive of Rs 45 lakh per game to all those who would play 75 per cent or more of the scheduled red-ball games in a particular season, Board secretary Jay Shah said on Saturday.

A Test player, who appears in a possible 10 Tests in a season will be richer by a whopping Rs 4.50 crore as incentive apart from a possible Rs 1.5 crore (15 lakh per game) in usual match fee. The top cricketers also get an assured retainer fee from their annual central contracts. "I am pleased to announce the initiation of the 'Test Cricket Incentive Scheme' for Senior Men, a step aimed at providing

financial growth and stability to our esteemed athletes," Shah stated on 'X'. "Commencing from the 2022-23 season, the 'Test Cricket Incentive Scheme' will serve as an additional reward structure on top of the existing match fee for Test matches, set at Rs 15 lakh," he further stated. The incentives will be retrospective and would factor in players, who were part of Test cricket during the 2022-23 season.

How the math works
To put things in perspective, one can take the example of Indian skipper Rohit Sharma, who has appeared in all 10 Tests (World Test Championship final, 2 vs West Indies, 2 vs SA, 5 vs England) during the 2023-24 season. Rohit will get Rs 1.5 crore (Rs 15 lakhx10) in usual match fee and for giving priority to Test

cricket, he will get another Rs 4.5 crore (Rs 45 lakhx10). Hence, his earnings from Test cricket alone would stand at Rs six crore. Add to it, he has an annual retainerhip of Rs seven crore per season, which takes his earnings to Rs 13 crore. This obviously excludes his match fees for playing ODIs (Rs 8 lakh per game) and T20Is (Rs 4 lakh per game) in a season. The BCCI, in its explainer, has taken an average of nine Tests in a season. If someone has played less than 50 per cent of the games (4 or less in this case), then he will only get a standard match fee of Rs 15 lakh (for being in playing XI) and half that amount for reserves. However, the moment he plays between 50 to 75 per cent of the games (five to six in case the base figure is nine), then

there would be an additional match fee incentive of Rs 30 lakh per game. So a player, who has played six Tests in a season, would get Rs 90 lakh as existing match fee (Rs 15x6) and incentive of Rs 1.8 crore (Rs 30x6), which takes his match fee plus incentives to Rs 2.70 crore.

Dravid calls it 'reward' not 'incentive'
Head coach Rahul Dravid welcomed the move from BCCI and termed it as a reward for playing the toughest format. "Hope money is not going to be the incentive to play Test cricket. It is nice to see that it is a recognition that it is a hard format. Nice that BCCI is recognising that. It is a reward not an incentive," Dravid said at the end of the 4-1 Test triumph over England in Dharamsala.

'Fantastic to see players gravitate towards terrific leader Rohit'

Dharamsala, Mar 09 (PTI):

Rohit Sharma's captaincy was rather understated vis-à-vis Ben Stokes' on-the-edge methods, but India head coach Rahul Dravid was delighted to see the players identify themselves with the Mumbaier's leadership principles.

Under Rohit, India never made tall claims even once but silently and categorically nullified the visitors' much-talked-about 'Bazball' and grabbed the five-match series 4-1.

"I'm privileged to work with a lovely team. I'm learning from them all the time. Rohit has been fantastic to work with. I think he's a terrific leader, and the guys gravitate towards him phenomenally, which is fantastic to see," said Dravid told broadcasters



after the match. Dravid said India's series win was dotted by several shining moments but acknowledged that the return of Ravichandran Ashwin from a personal emergency underlined the character of this outfit.

Anderson captures 'Peak 700'

Tendulkar terms it 'magnificent'



Dharamsala, Mar 09 (PTI): England veteran James Anderson added another glorious chapter to his remarkable tale of longevity when he became the first pacer and the third bowler overall to take 700 Test wickets here on Saturday. Anderson reached the milestone in his 187th Test by removing India's Kuldeep Yadav, caught behind on day three of the fifth Test here. He lured the Indian tail-ender into a drive and induced the outside edge. The 41-year-old was on 699 scalps overnight after dismissing Shubman Gill with a beauty on day one. The only other pacer to have taken 600 Test wickets or more is his former teammate Stuart Broad, who retired last year with 604 in the bag. Sri Lankan spin great Muttiah Muralidaran has 800 scalps to his name, the most in Tests, followed by the late Shane Warne (708). India spin great Anil Kumble is fourth in the all time list with 619 wickets in 132 Tests. No one could have put it more aptly about his longevity than Sachin Tendulkar. "The first time I saw Anderson play was in Australia in 2002, and his control over the ball looked special. Nasser Hussain spoke very highly of him back then and today, I am sure, he would say, 'Maine bola tha' that he had called it so early," Tendulkar wrote on his official 'X' handle. "700 test wickets is a stellar achievement. A fast bowler playing for 22 years and performing so consistently to be able to take 700 wickets would have sounded like fiction until Anderson actually made it happen. Simply magnificent," the legend further added.

Para shooter Mona Agarwal wins 10m air rifle gold

■ Clinches Paris Paralympic quota for India

New Delhi, Mar 09 (PTI):

India's Mona Agarwal, competing in only her fourth international competition, won the gold medal in women's 10m air rifle SH1 category at the WSPS Para Shooting World Cup to clinch a 2024 Paris Paralympic quota place for the country here on Saturday.

Avani Lekhara, the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics gold medalist, won the bronze medal in the event. Mona, 37, who took up shooting sport in December 2021 after making a mark at the state

level in shot put and powerlifting, has become the ninth Indian para shooter to secure a Paris berth.

The mother of two children shot a modest 618 in the qualification round at the Karni Singh ranges here to enter the eight-shooter final placed seventh. Avani showed fine touch in qualification, scoring a remarkable 623.9 to be placed fourth going into the finals.

In the final, Mona's resoluteness came to the fore as she beat back the challenge of China's Zhang Cuiping to bag the top podium finish with a score of 250.7. Zhang shot 248.8 for her silver, while Avani, who booked a Paris quota in 2022, finished third with a score of 227.0.

Ace gymnast Dipa finishes 4th in Baku Apparatus World Cup

New Delhi, Mar 09 (PTI):

Star Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar finished a creditable fourth in the women's vault event at the ongoing Baku Apparatus World Cup in the capital city of Azerbaijan. Dipa, who finished fourth in the vault event at the 2016 Rio Olympics, scored 13.716 points in the event which concludes on Sunday. Bulgaria's Valentina Georgieva won the gold with a score of points ahead of Korea's Ok An Chang, who scored 13.783 points. Panama's Karla Navas finished third with 13.733 points. Dipa was left out of the Indian squad for the last Asian Games as she didn't fulfil Sports Authority of India's (SAI) criteria of a top-eight finish in the last 12 months preceding to the Hangzhou continental event despite topping the trials.

Williamson makes 51 in his 100th test



Christchurch, Mar 09 (AP): Kane Williamson gave the fans what they came for with a fighting half century in his 100th test Saturday on the second day of the second test

between New Zealand and Australia. After his first innings ended in disappointment, Williamson delivered in his second with his 34th test half century from 105 balls in a 105-run partnership for the second wicket with Tom Latham. The pair steered New Zealand from 6-1 to 111-2, erasing Australia's first innings lead of 94, before Williamson was out for 51. At stumps New Zealand was 134-2 and led by 40 runs. Latham was 65 not out, his highest test score against Australia, and Rachin Ravindra was 11. "They are quality bowlers and obviously the pitch has offered a little bit throughout, so it's nice to put together a bit of partnership and hopefully tomorrow we can put a few more on there and have another go," Williamson said.

Fire breaks out inside MP secretariat complex

● Nobody injured

Bhopal, Mar 09 (PTI)

A major fire broke out on the third floor of a building in the Madhya Pradesh secretariat complex 'Vallabh Bhawan' here on Saturday morning, but no one was injured and the flames were extinguished after five hours, officials said.

Personnel of the Army, National Disaster Response Force and police firefighters joined the municipal fire brigade in fire-dousing operation.

It being a Saturday, the government offices inside were almost empty when the fire broke out around 9.30 am, sources said. While Chief Minister Mohan Yadav directed officials to take necessary steps to pre-



Smoke billows out after a fire broke out, at Madhya Pradesh Secretariat, in Bhopal, Saturday.

vent such incidents in the future, state Congress chief Jitu Patwari claimed it was a "conspiracy" to destroy the evidence of corruption.

Patwari and Leader of Opposition in the assembly

Fire Officer Rameshwar Neel told PTI around 3 pm. Around 40 to 50 fire tenders and water bowers (tankers) including a few from the Army fought the blaze, he said. Asked if sacks containing papers lying on the secretariat premises had been removed before the fire started, Neel said he had no information in that regard. Some sanitation workers near gates 5 and 6 noticed smoke coming from the building around 9.30 am and alerted authorities, sources said.

"I was in Bhopal, and I learnt that a fire has broken out on the third floor of the old building of Vallabh Bhawan. I sought information from the collector and asked the chief secretary to monitor the situation. The fire has been brought under control," chief minister Yadav told reporters.

Maharashtra Gov distributes Wheelchairs to Divyang children



Mumbai, Mar 09: Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais distributed Wheel Chairs to divyang children and youths at a programme organised by Shanta Siddhi Charitable Trust in Mumbai on Sat (9 Mar). The programme was organised by the Trust in association with the All India Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AIIPMR) at the campus of AIIPMR at Haji Ali, Mumbai.

Speaking on the occasion Governor Bais said observance of traffic rules will help reduce the fatal accidents in the country that affects the mobility of

a large number of persons. He expressed the need to strengthen institutions like All India Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation to cope up with the rising number of the elderly people in the country.

President of the Trust and well known Neurosurgeon Dr P S Ramani, Director of AIIPMR Dr Anil Kumar Gaur, Trustee of Shanta Siddhi Charitable Trust Dr Tushar Rege, Honorary Secretary Bhushan Jack, Head of Medical Social Work Wing Dr Anjana Negalur and officials and invitees were present.

PM unveils projects worth over Rs 4,500 cr in northern WB

Siliguri (WB), Mar 09 (PTI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday unveiled infrastructure projects worth more than Rs 4,500 crore in northern West Bengal.

The PM unveiled the projects at a programme in Siliguri, the region's largest city, during his third visit to the state this month.

Governor CV Ananda Bose was among those present at the programme. Addressing the function, Modi said eastern India had been ignored after Independence but his government considers it as the growth engine of the country.

"Over the last 10 years, development of the state, especially its northern region, has been a priority for our government. We need 21st century infrastructure for the development of this area," he said.

That will benefit the people of northern West Bengal and nearby areas, an official statement said.

These railway lines are the Eklakhi-Balurghat, Barsoi-Radhikapur, Raninagar Jalpaiguri-Haldibari sections, Siliguri-Aluabari section via Bagdogra, and the Siliguri-Sivok-Alipurduar Junction-Samuktala section, it said.

"We have completed the electrification of railways here, which will not only enhance the pace of connectivity but also save the surrounding areas from pollution," Modi said.

"The benefits of the electrification process here will be reaped by the people of neighbouring Bihar as well," he said.

The projects inaugurated during the day are steps we are taking towards 'Viksit Bengal', he said.

HOLI PREPARATIONS



Women dry 'gulaal' at a field in preparations for the Holi festival, in Sambhal, Saturday.

Stone of NTPC REL's Barethi Solar Power Proj to be laid today



Central Chronicle News

Barethi, Mar 09: Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy, R K Singh and Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar will lay the foundation stone of NTPC REL's Barethi Solar Power Project in Madhya Pradesh on 10th March 2024. Located at Barethi RE Park in Chhatarpur District of Madhya Pradesh, the 630-MW solar project entails an investment of Rs 3,200 Crore and would be sufficient to light over 3 lakh households upon completion. It is

being developed as part of MNRE RE park under UM-REPP Mode-8.

A step towards sustainable power generation, the project will reduce 12 lakh tons of CO2 emission annually, thereby helping in achieving country's climate commitments and green energy targets.

Commissioning of this project will not only supply green power to the grid, but will also ensure affordable power to the beneficiaries. Meanwhile, the construction of the project is helping in creation of direct and indirect employment opportunities in the region.

'Mutual fraternity is necessary to maintain equality in country'

Jaipur, Mar 09 (PTI)

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on Saturday said mutual fraternity is necessary to maintain equality in the country.

Addressing a state-level 'Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman' campaign in Bikaner, the CJI asked how will the country progress if people fight with each other.

"We should have respect for each other in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution," he said.

Justice Chandrachud said that "human dignity was of supreme importance in the minds of the makers of our Constitution".

"Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar, as Chairman of the Drafting Committee, ensured that the Constitution promoted the values of justice, liberty and equality as well as the spirit of fraternity and dignity of the individual," he added. Justice Chandrachud said what it means to say is that "mutual brotherhood is necessary to maintain equality in the country. How will the country progress if people fight each other? Therefore, when we say



CJI D Y Chandrachud

"Our Constitution, Our Honour", we also have to emphasize that we should also promote fraternity and brotherhood in the country. Imbibe these feelings in your personal life," he added.

Justice Chandrachud said the country's citizens also have to understand that on one hand the Constitution talks about their rights, on the other hand it also expects them to discharge their responsibilities. The CJI said that the Indian Constitution was made inclusive.

"The Constitution gives the right to equality before law. The principles and rights contained therein apply to all citizens irrespective of their background, religion, caste, sex

or any other characteristic," he added.

The CJI said the Constitution ensures that all persons are treated equally and have equal opportunities. Countering the theory that Indian Constitution is a paradise of lawyers, he said that it would be wrong to say that the Indian Constitution was created by just a few lawyers together.

"Many social and political movements contributed to the making of the Indian Constitution. On one hand, there was a political movement going on in India against the British, on the other hand, a social movement was also going on to remove the social inequality prevailing in India. The result of both these movements was that many such provisions were included in the Indian Constitution due to which the direction of the country changed," he said.

The Chief Justice of India (CJI) said that many efforts are being made to improve the condition of district courts. "We want to sensitize the district courts because this is the first step towards justice. We are making many efforts to improve the condition of the district courts

and to transform their buildings to suit the modern era," he added.

Highlighting the technological advancements over the years, the CJI said the potential of technology is also being used to spread legal awareness and legal services. "The Supreme Court of the country has worked to enhance its capacity through technology," he added. The CJI said that hearing through video conference was started a few years ago and many lawyers attend the hearing and argue through video conference. He said the judgements are being translated through technology and it is his endeavour to make judgements available in more regional languages. "The Supreme Court is translating its decisions into different languages of the country. The help of technology is being taken in this. Our aim is that whatever decisions are being given in the courts of the country, they should be delivered to the common people in their language. By making Artificial Intelligence user-friendly, we can bring both awareness and access to legal services to every home," he said.

NCB arrests ex-DMK functionary in global drugs trafficking case

● Top party leader may get summons

New Delhi, Mar 09 (PTI)

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Saturday arrested 36-year-old Jaffer Sadiq, an expelled DMK party functionary in Tamil Nadu, in connection with an international drugs trafficking racket investigation estimated to be worth more than Rs 2,000 crore.

NCB deputy director general (operations) Gyaneshwar Singh told reporters here that Sadiq's linkages with the Tamil and Hindi film industry, some "high-profile" people apart from some instances of "political funding" were under the scanner of the agency. Sources told PTI that a high-profile DMK leader could soon be summoned by the NCB for questioning with regard to some monetary transactions worth a few lakhs.

Sadiq was arrested in Delhi on the basis of specific intelligence inputs and he is the "mastermind and kingpin" of a trans-national pseudoephedrine smuggling racket spread across Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia from India, Singh said.

"The NCB believes in doing an unbiased and lawful investigation. A criminal has no caste, religion or political party. Whoever violates the NDPS law is an offender and we will investigate any such entity.

"We will intensely investigate the drug money trail in this case," Singh said when asked if any political persons were under the scanner of the agency.

He said Sadiq, whose full name is Jaffer Sadiq Abdul Rehman, went into "hiding" soon after the agency conducted raids in Delhi in this case in February and he travelled from Chennai to Thiruvananthapuram, Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad and Jaipur before being taken into

custody following his brief questioning by the NCB.

Sadiq, a producer of Tamil films, was recently expelled by the ruling DMK from the party after his name and purported links to the drugs network were mentioned by the agency.

Singh said Sadiq told the NCB that he was the Chennai West deputy organiser of the DMK's NRI wing.

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Helps to treat chronic constipation and to improve digestion
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