



Modi sarkar ki Guarantee

Means Guarantee to root out corruption

Over ₹ 32 lakh crore transferred directly to beneficiaries' accounts through DBT

Hamara Sankalp
Viksit Bharat



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BRIEF



24-year-old Krystyna Pyszkova of the Czech Republic was crowned winner of the 71st edition of the contest in a dazzling ceremony held at Mumbai's Jio World Convention Centre, Saturday night.

Oath

New Delhi: Former Supreme Court judge Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar was administered the oath of office as the Lokpal chairperson by President Droupadi Murmu on the Rashtrapati Bhavan here on Sunday, officials said. Justice (retired) Khanwilkar, 66, served as a judge of the apex court from May 13, 2016 to July 29, 2022.

Dismissed

Mumbai: Two Railway Protection Force constables have been dismissed from service in connection with the shoot-out allegedly carried out by their colleague Chetansinh Chaudhary onboard the Mumbai-Jaipur Express train in July last year, an official said on Sunday.

Mishap

Rangia: One person was killed and 10 others were injured in a road accident near Hajo in Kamrup district of Assam on Sunday, police said. According to a police officer, the accident took place early in the morning when a speeding pick-up van carrying fish collided head-on with a motorcycle at Borni.

Greet

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday lauded the Central Industrial Security Force on its raising day, saying their dedication and vigilance in protecting the nation's critical infrastructure are unparalleled. One of the central armed police forces in India, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) was set up in 1969 and is tasked with the security of vital government and industrial buildings.

Arrest

Pilibhit: Five people suspected of killing gangster Rajesh Dogra in Mohali were arrested by a team of Punjab Police officials from Pilibhit district of Uttar Pradesh, local police officials said. According to them, the accused, residents of Jammu, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh's Meerut and Pilibhit districts, were arrested from the Madhotanda police station area.

Weather
High 36 Low 21

Centre aims to make 3 cr women 'lakhpati didi': PM

Raipur, Mar 10:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said his government has resolved to make three crore women in the country "lakhpati didi" and asserted that women's welfare is their priority.

The PM was speaking after virtually inaugurating the 'Mahtari Vandan' scheme in Chhattisgarh to provide monetary assistance to women.

"It is fortunate that today I got an opportunity to dedicate the Mahtari Vandan scheme aimed at empowering 'hari shakti'. Under the scheme, we had promised to give Rs 1,000 per month to more than 70 lakh women and today, the BJP government has fulfilled it," Modi said addressing the function via video conference.

The first installment of Rs 655 crore was deposited into the bank accounts of beneficiaries (married women) under the scheme on Sunday, he said.

"I should have been among you today for this programme, but due to some other engagements I



PM Modi digitally attends the launch of 'Mahtari Vandan Yojana', on Sunday.

Govt working on 'Namo Drone Didi Yojna'....

The government is also working on the 'Namo Drone Didi Yojna', under which drones as well training as drone pilot training will be provided, he added. The scheme by the Centre aims to provide drones to 15,000 select women self-help groups to provide rental services to farmers for agricultural purposes. PM Modi said the BJP has given a guarantee of happiness and prosperity and the Chhattisgarh government led by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai has started working on it, he said. "We had given guarantees that we will construct 18 lakh pucca houses. The Sai-led government started work on it on the very second day of the government's formation," Modi said.

Rs 655 cr transferred under 'Mahtari Vandan' scheme

Under the 'Mahtari Vandan' scheme, Rs 655 crore was transferred into the bank accounts of 70.12 lakh beneficiaries. Each beneficiary will get Rs 1,000 per month under the scheme, as per the state government.

am in Uttar Pradesh. I am speaking from Kashi, the land of Baba Vishwanath, who is also showering his blessings on you," he said. The PM said he offered

prayers to Lord Vishwanath on Saturday night and prayed for the well being of the country's people. "When mother and sisters are empowered,

then the entire family gets empowered. Therefore, the priority of the double-engine government (of BJP at the Centre and in the state) is the welfare of mothers and sisters," he said.

"Today, families are getting pucca houses and that too in the name of women," the prime minister said. Through the Ujjwala scheme, women have been getting cooking gas cylinders at cheaper rates. More than 50 per cent of the Jan Dhan accounts are in the name of women. More than 65 per cent of Mudra loans were taken by women, he said.

"In the last ten years, our government has changed the lives of more than 10 crore women through self-help groups," Modi said.

Maoist camp busted

Phulbani, Mar 10 (PTI):

The Odisha Police busted a Maoist camp in Durgapanga reserve forest area in Kandhamal district and recovered a huge cache of grenades and other explosives, an official said on Sunday. The camp was unearthed following an exchange of fire between a team of the Special Operations Group (SOG) and the Maoists during a combing operation in the forest along the Kandhamal-Rayagada border area, Kandhamal SP Subhendu Patra said.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

India, EFTA ink free trade agreement

■ USD 100 bn investment target in next 15 yrs

New Delhi, Mar 10 (PTI):

India and the four-nation European bloc EFTA on Sunday signed a free trade agreement under which New Delhi has received an investment commitment of USD 100 billion over the next 15 years to facilitate the creation of one million jobs.

The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) members are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.

The agreement was signed after a gap of al-

most 16 years as negotiations, started in 2008, but were put on hold in November 2013. Talks resumed in October 2016, and after 21 rounds of negotiations were held before its conclusion.

For the first time in the history of FTAs (free trade agreements), a legal commitment is being made to promoting target-oriented investment and the job creation.

Almost all the domestic industrial goods would get duty-free access in EFTA nations under the agreement, besides duty concessions on processed agricultural products. Switzerland, the major trading partner of India in

the bloc, already removed duties from January this year on almost all industrial goods. On the other hand, India is offering 82.7 per cent of its tariff lines or product categories, which covers 95.3 per cent of EFTA exports of which more than 80 per cent of imports is gold. On gold, India has not touched the effective customs duty (which is 15 per cent) but has reduced the bound rate by one per cent to 39 per cent. Bound and applied rates are used in international trade parlance. While bound tariffs or duties refer to the ceiling, the applied tariff is the duty, which is currently in place.

'Two ECs to be appointed by March 15'

New Delhi, Mar 10 (PTI):

Two election commissioners are likely to be appointed by March 15 to fill the vacancies created by the retirement of Anup Chandra Pandey and the surprise resignation of Arun Goel, sources said on Sunday.

Days before the poll panel is expected to announce the schedule for the Lok Sabha polls, Goel resigned on Friday morning. His resignation was accepted by President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday and the Law Ministry issued a notification to announce it.

This leaves Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar as the sole member of the poll authority.

Pandey had demitted office on February 14 on attaining the age of 65 years.

A search committee

under Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal and comprising the Home Secretary and the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) Secretary will first prepare two separate panels of five names each for the two posts.

Later, a selection committee headed by the prime minister and comprising a Union minister and Leader of the Congress party in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury will then name two persons for appointment as election commissioners.

The election commissioners will be appointed by the President.

Sources said the selection committee could meet either on March 13 or 14 depending on the convenience of the members and the appointments are likely to be made by March 15.

Trouble for INDIA in Maha? Cong leader jabs Uddhav

Mumbai, Mar 10 (PTI):

A day after Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray announced his party candidate for Mumbai-North West Lok Sabha seat, Congress leader Sanjay Nirupam asked if it was violation of the "coalition dharma" or an attempt to show his party in poor light.

Even as seat-sharing talks are still going on between the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) partners Sena (UBT), NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) and Congress, Thackeray on Saturday said Amol Kirtikar would be his party's candidate for the Mumbai North-West seat for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. Amol's father and sitting MP from the seat Gajanan Kirtikar is affiliated to the rival Shiv Sena

■ Over announcement of Mumbai-North West LS seat candidate

headed by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. Nirupam, who unsuccessfully contested the 2019 Lok Sabha poll from this seat, in a post on X said, "Chief of the leftover Shiv Sena announced his candidate as MVA nominee from Mumbai-North West. Despite having over two dozen meetings, the seat-sharing deal of MVA hasn't been finalised yet. I am told that whatever 8 to 9 seats are pending, this constituency is one of them."

He sought to know if the unilateral announcement was violation of the "coalition dharma" or was it deliberately done to show the Congress in poor light. The Congress leadership should intervene in the matter, he said. "The candidate

announced yesterday is an accused in the khichdi scam. He took bribe by way of cheque from a supplier," Nirupam alleged.

"What is khichdi scam? During the COVID-19 pandemic, BMC (Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation) provided free food to labourers in transit and the candidate took commission in the scheme meant to provide relief to poor people. The ED is probing the case," Nirupam claimed in his post.

In the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the Congress lost all the six seats in Mumbai. In 2019, the then undivided Shiv Sena contested three seats in alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and won all of them.

Man dies after falling into borewell

New Delhi, Mar 10 (PTI):

The body of a man who fell into a 40-foot-deep borewell at a Delhi Jal Board sewage treatment plant here was pulled out after a nearly 14-hour-long operation on Sunday, police said. The man is yet to be identified. Sources said the borewell was in a locked room and was abandoned.

Delhi Water Minister Atishi visited the spot to take stock of the situation while the BJP targeted the AAP dispensation over the incident, calling it "shameful" and demanding compensation for the victim. Later, Atishi directed the Delhi Chief Secretary to conduct a time-bound enquiry and take strong and exemplary action against any officers found responsible for the incident.

No tie-up with Cong? TMC names all 42 LS candidates

■ 7 MPs dropped, cricketer Yusuf Pathan among nominees

Kolkata, Mar 10 (PTI):

Trinamool Congress on Sunday announced candidates for all 42 Lok Sabha seats in Bengal, snubbing Congress which had just days earlier said that "doors are still open" for seat-sharing talks for the upcoming elections. The Congress and Trinamool are part of the INDIA bloc - an alliance of opposition parties that had come together to challenge the BJP in the upcoming elections. The snub today is in line with Mamata

SC to hear contempt plea against SBI today

New Delhi, Mar 10 (PTI):

The Supreme Court will on Monday hear the application filed by the State Bank of India (SBI) seeking extension till June 30 to disclose details of each electoral bond encashed by political parties before the scheme was scrapped last month.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud will also hear a separate plea, which has sought initiation of contempt action against the SBI alleging, it "wilfully and deliberately" disobeyed the apex court's direction to submit details of the contributions made to political parties through electoral bonds to the Election Commission by March 6. The apex court bench, also comprising justices Sanjiv Khanna, B R

Gavai, J B Pardiwala, and Manoj Misra, will assemble at 10.30 am to hear the two petitions. In a landmark verdict delivered on February 15, a five-judge constitution bench scrapped the Centre's electoral bonds scheme that allowed anonymous political funding, calling it "unconstitutional" and ordered disclosure by the Election Commission of the donors, the amount donated by them, and the recipients by March 13.

The top court subsequently directed the SBI, the authorised financial institution under the scheme, to submit by March 6 the details of the electoral bonds purchased from April 12, 2019 till date to the Election Commission, which was asked to publish the information on its official website by March 13.

Jets, helicopter demand to see 40% jump

New Delhi, Mar 10 (PTI):

As political parties prepare to fight it out in the Lok Sabha polls, the demand for chartered planes and helicopters is expected to jump by up to 40 per cent compared to the previous general elections, according to industry experts. Helicopters are anticipated to be more in demand compared to fixed-wing aircraft as choppers will help in providing accessibility to rural and remote areas in a shorter time. "There will be an exponential demand for private jets and the demand is expected to outstrip the availability of chartered planes and helicopters. There is a limited supply of chartered planes and helicopters," Club One Air CEO Rajan Mehra told PTI.



Students of Law College Peroorkada celebrate their victory in the Oppana competition at the Kerala University Youth festival, in Thiruvananthapuram, Sunday.



श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी
माननीय प्रधानमंत्री



मोदी की गारंटी
विष्णु देव साय का सुशासन



श्री विष्णु देव साय
माननीय मुख्यमंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़

राज्य स्तरीय महापंचायत

11 मार्च 2024,
साइंस कॉलेज मैदान, रायपुर

श्री कपिल मोरेश्वर पाटिल

राज्यमंत्री, पंचायती राज मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
की गरिमामयी उपस्थिति में

विभिन्न योजनाओं की राशि का अंतरण

- प्रधानमंत्री ग्रामीण आवास योजना के हितग्राहियों हेतु राशि का अंतरण
- 833 ज्ञानोदय वाचनालय हेतु 25 करोड़ रुपए की राशि का अंतरण
- अनुसूचित क्षेत्र की 600 ग्राम पंचायतों में कंप्यूटर प्रदाय हेतु राशि का अंतरण

सम्मान समारोह

- सतत विकास लक्ष्यों के स्थानीयकरण के विविध कार्यों के लिए सरपंचों का सम्मान
- लखपति दीदियों का सम्मान
- ड्रोन दीदी का सम्मान
- नियद नेल्लानार ग्राम पंचायतों के सरपंचों का सम्मान

सशक्त पंचायत | मजबूत छत्तीसगढ़ | सुदृढ़ भारत



मुख्यमंत्री कार्यालय का
काटसाएप वेनल सक्साइडब
करने के लिए
यह क्यूआर कोड स्कैन करें



सबका साथ, सबका विकास, सबका विश्वास और सबका प्रयास

Our govt has fulfilled another Modi's Guarantee: CM

Raipur, Mar 10: CM Vishnu Deo Sai expressed gratitude towards the PM Narendra Modi for dedicating his time to launch the Mahtari Vandan Yojana, stating, "The day for which these women were eagerly waiting has arrived today. Our visionary Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji, had pledged that if our government were formed in Chhattisgarh, we would initiate this scheme. Today, the first installment is being transferred to the bank accounts of 70 lakh 12 thousand 600 women."

Devp of Ch'garh is crucial for a prosperous India:

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai mentioned that our Sanatan tradition states, "Yatra Naryastu Pujyante Ramante Tatra Devta," which implies that where women are accorded respect, even deities prefer to reside, and where they are not respected, all endeavours remain fruitless. This adage is reflect-



ed in the Mahtari Vandan Yojana. This bold step towards women empowerment represents a significant stride towards realising the aspirations of half the population of Chhattisgarh.

Chhattisgarh's Minister of Women and Child Development, Laxmi Rajwade, stated that the Mahtari Vandan Yojana will be beneficial for women to achieve economic self-reliance as well as for continuous improvement in health and nutrition levels. This will greatly assist in empowering women. The scheme is a symbol of commitment to equal opportunities and social justice.

School Education Minister Brijmohan Agrawal stated that launching the Mahtari Vandan Yojana is a significant step towards enhancing the dignity of women in the state. This amount will be useful for small joys for women.

Agriculture Minister Ramvihar Netam also addressed the gathering on this occasion. He stated that, in consonance with Prime Minister Modi's guarantee, the state government has promptly taken action and provided concrete shape to the Mahtari Vandan Yojana.

Chief Minister Sai unveiled the "May Mahtari Haw" coffee table pictorial

book dedicated to Chhattisgarh Mahtari, prepared by the Public Relations Department. This coffee table book features 36 stories of 'Khushiyo ke notifications'. On this occasion, the Chief Minister also pledged to eradicate child marriage in Chhattisgarh. Before the conference, the Chief Minister also visited the stalls set up by women's self-help groups and encouraged them. MP Sunil Soni, MLAs Guru Khushwant Saheb, Purandar Mishra, Indrakumar Sahu, Anuj Sharma, various public representatives, and a large number of women were present.

Police issues traffic advisory for March 11

For Panchayat representatives sammelan at Science College ground

Raipur, Mar 10: The Panchayat representatives conference is going to be organized at Science College ground on March 11 and in this Chief Minister along with the Union Panchayat Minister are expected to take part. Apart from this, in this conference Panchayat representatives from many districts of the state too

are expected to take part and for safe and convenient arrival and parking of vehicles for VVIPs and Panchayat representatives, the district administration and police has traffic advisory with fixed route plan and parking venue for vehicles coming to state capital from different places.

For the vehicles coming from Durg, Bhilai and Rajnandgaon the vehicle route is from Tatibandh Chowk in front of AIIMS to NIT ground and parking there.

For the vehicles coming

from Bilaspur route, the vehicles should come from Siltara by-pass and reach Tatibandh Chowk and park vehicle at NIT premises coming via AIIMS hospital road to NIT.

For the vehicles coming from Balodabazar, the vehicles should come from Ashram triangle to Anupam Garden and reach CSEB office ground and park their vehicle.

For the vehicles coming from Mahasamund, Dhamtari, and Bastar; the vehicles should come from Pachpedhi Naka chowk to Ring Road-1, to Sarona

Chowk to Kanger Valley School and reach University Ground to park their vehicles.

The general public has been issued information in advance that due to this Panchayat representatives conference, there could be heavy pressure of traffic from AIIMS to Ashram triangle from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm do not use the road from Ashram triangle to Science College Road, Tatibandh, AIIMS from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm and use alternative routes or diverted routes to reach respective destinations.

Ch'garh's Raghavendra Singhania elected AICF Vice President

Raipur, Mar 10: Raghavendra Singhania, President of Chhattisgarh State Chess Association, has been elected Vice President of All India Chess Federation (AICF). The election of AICF was held on March 10 at Hotel Leela Ambience Convention, Delhi. Raghavendra Singhania's election into the All India Chess Federation will give a new impetus to the state's chess players and the game.



"We are determined for the development of chess. In the coming days, we will set a new record of

budding players of Chhattisgarh in an effort to help them enhance their talent. Talented players will make the state and the country proud by winning medals in chess competitions. To connect players from remote and tribal areas, division level competitions will be organized for Bastar and Surguja divisions and in the coming days, chess will be organized at school levels, he said.

Vinod Rathi, General Secretary, Chhattisgarh State Chess Association hoped that hardworking, loyal and dedicated play-

ers will work with more enthusiasm. Chess will now develop at a faster pace in the state, he said. "Our journey together has been remarkable and we are all committed to building on the progress we have made. Together, we will explore new avenues of development, strive to win more medals and achievements at the highest level competitions by providing world-class facilities", he said. Chhattisgarh State Chess Association office bearers have congratulated the newly elected office bearers of AICF.

MiC meeting today

Raipur, Mar 10: Mayor-in-Council (MiC) meeting of Municipal Corporation Raipur is scheduled on Monday, March 11, 2024 at 4 pm. Mayor Aijaz Dhebar will preside over the meeting to be held at Municipal Corporation Headquarters, said Vinod Pandey, Additional Commissioner and Secretary of Municipal Corporation.

Party workers demand cancellation of ticket to Tamradhwaj Sahu

For LS seat from Mahasamund; instead raise demand for ticket to Dhanendra Sahu

Raipur, Mar 10: The problems in Congress are not coming an end after losing the last Vidhan Sabha polls. With hardly a day after issuing of list for Lok Sabha (LS) polls, there is unrest among other viable candidates for

Congress for few LS seats and party workers have started openly protesting against the ticket distribution. There is demand to cancel the ticket to Tamradhwaj Sahu from Mahasamund LS seat and instead the party workers are demanding ticket to Dhanendra Sahu.

It is learnt that party workers and supporters of Dhanendra Sahu reached party's head office in Raipur on Sunday and demanded

PCC Chief Deepak Bajj to cancel ticket of Tamradhwaj Sahu from Mahasamund Lok Sabha (LS) seat. On the other hand, Congress has already opened its cards for LS Polls and it has declared list of six out of 11 candidates so far and fielded many stalwarts in the first list issued. The most crucial is that the former CM Bhupesh Baghel would be contesting LS polls and he has been fielded from Rajnandgaon LS seat.

Girl's body found hanging from the noose

Panic spreads in the area

Raipur, Mar 10: The dead body of a girl was found hanging in 'Babul' (acacia) tree in Abhanpur area of Raipur today. The news about the dead body hanging in a tree caused panic in the area. The cause be-

hind the incident has not been known yet. The police are investigating the matter thoroughly.

According to information available body of a girl was found hanging from the noose of her dupatta in a tree near Kopedih Khar of village Chandi of Abhanpur po-

lice station area. Abhanpur police reached the spot and started investigation. Abhanpur police station in-charge Aditya said that prima facie the case seemed to be a suicide. The cause of death will be known only after investigation of the case. During police investiga-

tion, the girl was identified as Jitendri Sahu, a resident of Dhamtari district. According to the information, the girl's missing report was lodged with Rudri police station on 9th March. Whether it is a case of suicide or murder will become clear only after the PM report.

In time of difficulties anywhere in the world

You bring our children

safely to home

Operation Vande Bharat

2.17 lakh flights, helping 1.83 crore passengers during the Corona crisis

Operation Raahat (Yemen)

Safe return of 4,748 Indians

Operation Ganga

Safely brought home 18,282 Indians from the Russia-Ukraine conflict

Operation Kaveri

Safe return of 3,900 nationals from Sudan

India's rising glory in the world

Mera Bharat, Mera Parivar



सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India



4.05 lakh women in Durg receive first DBT of Mahtari Vandan Yojana

District level program organised in Swami Vivekananda Auditorium

Bhilai, Mar 10:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually joined the Mahtari Vandan Sammelan program organized on Sunday in Chhattisgarh and launched Chhattisgarh's ambitious scheme Mahtari Vandan Yojana. Under this scheme, the married women in Chhattisgarh will get Rs 1000 per month and Rs 12,000 per year. 4 lakh 5 thousand 319 women beneficiaries of Durg district will be benefited from the scheme. District level Mahtari Vandan Sammelan was held at Vivekananda Auditorium



in Padmanabhpur. MLA Gajendra Yadav graced the function as Chief Guest. Divisional Commissioner SN Ashwani Dewangan, Municipal Corporation Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal and other officials participated in the programme. Chief Guest MLA Gajendra Yadav formally inaugurated the programme lighting the lamps. The Prime Minister virtually addressed the programme. He spoke about Mahtari Vandan Yojna, Ujjwala Scheme, Jan Dhan bank accounts, Mudra loans, Lakshmi Didi, NaMo Drone Didi scheme and other schemes introduced for women empowerment. He congratulated Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai and his team for fulfilling the promise of Mahtari Vandan Yojana in such a short time of formation of the government.

MLA administers pledge to end child marriage



Bhilai, Mar 10:

A large number of women present in the Mahtari Vandan Yojana programme took a pledge to end the child marriage in Chhattisgarh. MLA Gajendra Yadav asked the women to prevent child marriage in their family

and neighbourhood. They took an oath to remain committed to not performing child marriage, to always oppose the evil prevailing in the society in the form of child marriage and to make the common people aware to stop child marriage. He said that child mar-

riage destroys childhood. Child marriage has a negative impact on children's education, health and protection. Child marriage has a direct impact not only on girls, but also on their families and communities. The marriage of a boy and a girl should be done after they become capable.

Women thank PM and CM for MVY 65000 women of Vaishali Nagar get MVY benefit

Bhilai, Mar 10:

Sharda Nagarchi, resident of village Ranitarai, Tehsil Patan, is very happy after receiving Rs 1000 as the first installment of Mahtari Vandan Yojana. The amount of the first installment of the scheme was transferred to the bank accounts of more than 70 lakh women of Chhattisgarh. Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually joined the programme and transferred the amount under Mahtari Vandan Yojana. As soon as the Prime Minister transferred the amount, a wave of happiness appeared on the faces of all the women beneficiaries.



worker. After receiving Rs 1000 per month and Rs 12 thousand annually, she has planned to deposit this amount in the name of her daughter under Sukanya Yojana and will spend the remaining amount on the education of her children. The amount received will

strengthen their financial condition and they will be able to take good care of their family, she said. Neera Bai Verma, resident of village Dhuma, is a 63 year old destitute elderly and separated woman. No help was available for her even from her pater-

nal family. She will use the Rs 1000 received from Mahtari Vandan Yojana every month for general and medical expenses. Now, she will not have to take help from anyone. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Mahtari Vandan Yojana program by joining virtually and transferring the amount. A total of 404556 applications were verified in Durg district. An amount of Rs 655 crore 57 lakh was transferred to the state. By fulfilling the guarantee of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chhattisgarh government strengthened the middle and lower class women and increased respect for women. The women have expressed gratitude towards the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister.

Bhilai, Mar 10:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi joined the Mahtari Vandan Sammelan program virtually and transferred the amount of Rs 1000 to the accounts of eligible women of Chhattisgarh through DBT. Bhilai Municipal Corporation had organised a programme at Dr BR Ambedkar Bhavan in Santoshipara where the main event was telecasted live. Hundreds of women attended the programme. The auditorium was filled with loud applause and echoed with slogans as soon as the amount was transferred to the bank accounts of women.

Addressing the women gathered at Ambedkar Bhawan, Vaishali Nagar MLA Rikesh Sen said that they are fortunate to have a Prime Minister like



Narendra Modi, who fulfills what he says with a guarantee. 65000 women of Vaishali Nagar assembly constituency, more than 4 lakh women of Durg district and 70 lakh women of the state have been benefited. Sen said that this day is being celebrated as the festivals like Holi and Diwali.

Bhilai District BJP President and Corporator Mahesh Verma and BMC Leader of Opposition Bhojraj Sinha said that BJP never fails to keep its promises. They extended best wishes to the women and

said that the benefits have been directly transferred to the bank accounts of women. They urged the women to make the Prime Minister stronger. In the beginning of the program, school children presented cultural programs.

MLA Rikesh Sen, Councilor Santosh Maurya, former BMC Speaker Rajendra Arora, Yogendra Singh, Vijender Singh, Sweety Kaushik distributed the new ration cards issued by the Chhattisgarh government to the beneficiaries. 155 ration cards were dis-

tributed from all the zones of Corporation Bhilai. Earlier, the MLA administered an oath to the women to prevent child marriage under the Child Marriage Free Chhattisgarh campaign of the Women and Child Development Department.

Commissioner Devesh Kumar Dhruv, SDM Mr Dhruv, Additional Commissioner Ashok Dwivedi, Tehsildar Panchbhai Gurudutt, Zone Commissioner Amitabh Sharma, Preeti Singh, Motilal Srivastava, Nikhil Soni, Shashi Bhagat, Shobha Sao, Sugandhi Soni, Kanchan Soni, Saroj Singh, Anupama Shukla, Anganwadi worker, assistant, members of Women SHGs, citizens, public representatives and BMC officials were present.

St Thomas College observes National Science Day



Bhilai, Mar 10: Students of St Thomas College Bhilai participated in the poster competition held at SOS in Chemistry, PRSU Raipur. 10 students from the Department of Chemistry and 4 students from the Department of Botany participated. The program was held on February 28 in connection with the National Science Day. Roshani Dhankar of MSc 1 stsem Chemistry Department won First prize, Namrata Sahu of MSc 1 stsem Chemistry Department won Second prize, and Raditya Chandra Sahu of MSc 1 stsem Chemistry Department won Third Prize which included cash prize and certificate. They also participated in the International Seminar on Indegenous Technology for Viksit Bharat held at Shankaracharya Professional University, Bhilai. Roshani Dhankar of MSc 1 st sem Chemistry Department won second Prize in poster competition and Raditya Chandra Sahu of MSc 1st sem Chemistry Department won second Prize in Model competition. Dr Arvind Sahu Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry with the help of Tejprakash Yadav and Anil Varghese, supervised all the participants from selecting the topic till preparing the poster. The overall guidance of the program was given by Dr James Mathew HOD and Dr Chanda Verma Additional Head Department of Chemistry. Students participated in Competition by the inspiration of RevFrDrJoshiVarghese, Administrator and motivated by Principal Dr MG Roymon, St Thomas College.

Shankaracharya stages dharna against cow slaughter

Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati Ji Maharaj demands Rashtra Mata status for Gau Mata

Bhilai, Mar 10:

Paramaradhyia Paramadhar madhish Uttaramnaya Jyotishapeethadhiswar Jagadguru Shankaracharya Swami Shri Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati '1008' Maharaj ji staged dharna at Chhawani Chowk in protest against cow slaughter. He demanded to give the status of Rashtra Mata to Gau Mata. To fulfill this resolution, the biggest religious leaders of Sanatanis will now take to the streets. They started it from Bhilai and held a token protest for 10 minutes on Sunday. On his call, lakhs of countrymen observed a symbolic Bharat Bandh of 10 minutes while staying at their respective places.

Pujya Gurudev Swami Shri Avimukteshwarananda Saraswati Ji Maharaj was in Chhattisgarh on his eight-day stay. During this stay, he reached religious programs organized in various districts of the state and sought support from the Sanatanis for the ongoing movement to declare Gau Mata as the Rashtra Mata (Mother of the Nation).

It needs to be mentioned here that in the past, the Gaumata Rashtramata movement was started by Jyotishapeethadhiswar Jagadguru Shankaracharya by organizing the Gau Sansad in Vrindavan. Thereafter, a three-day Gau Sansad was organized in an auditorium in Delhi and a demand letter related to it was issued before the media. Shankaracharyas of all



four Peethas are involved in this movement. Shankaracharya Maharajshree had called for Bharat Bandh on Sunday at 10:10 am for ten minutes. The devotees while staying at their respective places, supported the bandh in a peaceful manner.

MLA Devendra Yadav and Mayor Neeraj Pal accompanied Shankaracharya Ji Maharaj during the dharna. Shankaracharya Ji said from the dharna spot that he is sitting on dharna to protest against cow slaughter and to give the status of Rashtra Mata to the Gau Mata. Now, Hindus will elect only that party which declares that after coming to power, they will impose a total ban on cow slaughter and provide the state of Rashtra Mata to Gau Mata.

He further said that it is unfortunate that the government is not listening to the voice of 100 crore Indians and hence this time we have to be strong. Ram ji has come to the country but till now cow slaughter has not stopped. Hundreds of devotees including Jyotirmath CEO Chandraprakash Upadhyay, Brahmachari Jyotirmayanand, Dharmendra Yadav, MLA Devendra Yadav, Mayor Neeraj Pal, Rajesh Shukla and others were present.

Steel Zone team celebrates International Women's Day

Bhilai, Mar 10:

The International Women's Day was celebrated on March 08 in the conference hall of Works Building-5 of SMS-3, by Steel zone women team. SK Ghoshal, CGM, SMS-2, was the chief guest on this auspicious celebration. AB Srinivas GM I/c (SMS-3) chaired the occasion. The program started with lighting of lamp and chanting of mantra. Women members were present along with their male counterparts and the occasion witnessed the male colleagues encouraging their women counterpart for shouldering difficult and important task which are essential for smooth running of shop. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest insisted from every woman to be a visionary and to come up with ideas that will inspire their growth and in turn



will take organisation to new heights, as he viewed. Women has the potential to do it. HOD AB Srinivas GM I/c (SMS-3) shared his views on women leadership and appreciated the preciseness with which women does all her work.

Various games were held (In pair of two) for the entire house and also there was a quiz programme open for all which was well appreciated and enjoyed by everybody present in the house.

Present on the occasion were SK Ghoshal, CGM, SMS-2, Chief Guest, AB Srinivas GM I/c (SMS-3) with colleagues for SMS-3

Yatendra Kumar, PK Singh, Rajeev Verma, T Baitha, P Satapathy, DK Varshney, Ajit Narayan, Manish Swarnkar, SK Mishra, Sanjeev Soni, Sajju Thomas, Rakesh V, Tuskar K, and Colleagues from SMS-2 - Deb Sikdar, Alok Mathur, Satish and Nishant. The programme was graced by all women employees of SMS-2 & SMS-3. The programme was organised by Archana Atika Singh, Deepa Rawat, Shruti Pandey, and Pushpa Garhe under the guidance of Pushpa Ambrose, GM, SMS-3. Programme was conducted by Saraswati, AM, SMS-3.

'SHAKTI -2024' quiz held at HRDC to celebrate International Women's Day

Bhilai, Mar 10:

The Human Resource Development Department at SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant organised the 'SHAKTI -2024' Programme to mark the International Women's Day 2024, at HRD Centre, on March 09, 2024. Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) was the Chief Guest on this occasion. This programme is aimed at advancing gender equality and celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.



Speaking on the theme for International Women's Day 2024 - "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress" Chief Guest S Anjani Kumar stated that our women are indeed Shakti (Energy) personified. We need not dedicate a special day to reiterate the society about contribution of women, but rather we should celebrate this day for women's contribution to society which is immense. The percentage of participation we have at BSP, an institution which comprises a core heavy-work and hazardous working conditions,

is indeed commendable, and likely to increase in future. Women are excellent managers, be they at home or work, Anjani Kumar said. Nisha Soni, CGM (HRD&BE) gave the Inaugural Address and greeted the women employees from BSP Collective present on the occasion of International Women's day celebrations and addressed them. The main attractions of the celebration were Poetry Recitation, Elocution Competition, 'Shakti' Quiz, and 'Be Aanya & Elevate Yourself' Special

Programme, followed by Prize distribution and Lucky Draw by the Chief Guest. The bilingual Elocution Competition was themed "Rise of women is not about the fall of men", wherein several women participants expressed their poignant thoughts on the topic. The competition was adjudicated by Roopam Kumar, GM (projects), and Paramita Mohanty, DGM (CET). The winners of Poetry Competition include, Yamini Tamrakar, in the first position, whereas Dr Akanksha Sharma, and Vaishnavi were ranked second jointly and Smita Jain, stood third, respectively. Amrita Gangrade, Aparna Chandra and Eva Bakhla were adjudged first, second and third in the Elocution Competition, among 11 contestants. The SHAKTI Quiz Grand

Final was conducted by Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC) Quiz Game Show finalists Harpreet Singh, GM (Projects), and Umesh Kumar Sahu, AGM (Projects), wherein a total 06 teams qualified for the finals after the preliminary written round. The teams comprising Sushmita Patla, and Shalini Chaurasiya bagged the first position, while teams comprising Smita Jain and Monisha Mishra, stood second and the third position was bagged by the team comprising Manju Maurya and Khilanjali Temre. Audiences of the programme also took part in the quiz and were rewarded immediately. Smita Jain, AGM (F&A), Komal Mehra, AGM (Contract cell) and Neeraja Sharma, AGM (INCOS) gave a special presentation on 'Be Aanya & Elevate Yourself', focused on encouraging personal and

professional growth, and empowering women in all facets of life. During the valedictory function of Shakti-2024, the winners of the respective competitions and participants were felicitated by the Guests and dignitaries. Chief Guest Shri. Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) also took out a lucky draw for 08 lucky women employees of the Plant, on this occasion. A Short film themed on International Women's Day, made by BSP's Public Relations Department was also displayed on this occasion. Amulya Priyadarshi, GM (HRD) gave the Welcome Address and proposed the vote-of-thanks, while Aparna Chandra, AGM (Public Relations) and Sushmita Patla, DM (HRD) compered the Shakti-2024-International Women's Day programme.

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Chronicle



Government of India

Sashakt Nari - Viksit Bharat

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** interaction with **Lakhpati Didis** and **Namo Drone Didis**

and distribution of bank loans of **₹8000 crore** at low interest rates and capitalization support of **₹2000 crore** to SHGs along with distribution of **1094 drones** to **Namo Drone Didis**



Namo Drone Didi

- Connecting SHG women with technology and modern farming techniques
- Effective spraying of fertilizers and pesticides in lesser time and labour saving with Nammo drones
- Financial empowerment of Nammo Drone Didis by enabling them to become Nammo Drone Pilot



Lakhpati Didi

- Commitment to enable 3 Cr SHG women as Lakhpati Didis
- Training and assistance for economic self-reliance
- Promotion of several livelihood opportunities

Guest of Honour

Giriraj Singh

Union Minister for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj

Arjun Munda

Union Minister for Tribal Affairs & Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya

Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers

Time:- 10:00 am, 11th March 2024

Venue:- C. Subramaniam Auditorium, PUSA, New Delhi

Watch the programme live on DD News and webcast on <https://pmindiawebcast.nic.in/>

Political turmoil grips Dhamdha panchayat

Disunity among BJP councillors raises concerns

Dhamdha, Mar 10:

The Nagar Panchayat of Dhamdha finds itself embroiled in a political storm as a no-confidence motion against its President has sparked tensions between the BJP and Congress factions. Scheduled for voting on March 7, the motion was unexpectedly postponed, eliciting accusations and speculation from Congress leaders.

Allegations abound that the ruling BJP's inability to sway councillors from the Congress camp led to the postponement, allegedly orchestrated through political maneuvering and deception. This delay, it is claimed, has thrown the BJP's plans into disarray, as



Election irony

Where the elections were to be held on March 7, with better performance and organizational implementation, BJP could have won. Due to minor issues, the election date may now be rescheduled, subject to adherence to administrative protocols. With the possibility of a ten-day delay, the looming implementation of the code of conduct for Lok Sabha elections further complicates the situation.

Congress members purportedly remain steadfast in their support for the party.

Amidst these developments, reports suggest that disunity among BJP councillors has emerged

as a significant concern. Observers note a lack of cohesion within the BJP ranks, with murmurs of dissent and distrust among its members. While the BJP councillors face

criticism for their alleged inaction and detachment from the community, the party's challenges in garnering support for the no-confidence motion underscore broader fissures

BJP's uncertain future

Observers arrived on the day of the election itself, but prospects for BJP's victory were not evident, casting doubt on the effectiveness of the local BJP organization chief. The looming question is whether the state BJP organization will address this significant issue and implement changes within the local organizations.

within its leadership.

Moreover, questions arise regarding the legitimacy of the grievances cited by BJP councillors in their push for the no-confidence motion. Some speculate that technical issues and internal discord may have overshadowed substantive concerns, casting doubt on the motives driving the motion.

State-level Panchayati Raj conference set to empower local governance

MLA Yogeshwar Raju Sinha highlights government's commitment to development

Mahasamund, Mar 10:

The state government's dedication to the enhancement and empowerment of Panchayati Raj institutions was emphasized by Mahasamund MLA Yogeshwar Raju Sinha during a press conference held at the District Panchayat meeting room today. He announced the upcoming State-Level Panchayati Raj Conference scheduled for March 11 at Science College Ground, Raipur.

Highlighting the government's commitment to local governance, MLA Yogeshwar Raju Sinha expressed delight in the decision to organize a



state-level conference for Panchayati Raj representatives. Under the guidance of Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, and Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma, the initiative underscores the government's resolve for the holistic development and empowerment of these institutions.

The state-level conference will bring together approximately 400 District Panchayat members, including all 27 District Panchayat Presidents and Vice Presidents, alongside 2979 District members from

146 districts, and around 26000 Panchayat representatives, including 11647 Sarpanchs and U p s a r p a n c h e s . Representatives from Mahasamund district, including District Panchayat Presidents, Vice Presidents, and Panchayat members from all districts, will actively participate in the event.

Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat S. Alok graced the occasion, highlighting the significance of the conference in advancing the objectives of decentralized governance and grassroots democracy.

Rituals and offerings enrich spiritual Mahashivratri celebrations

Birkoni, Mar 10:

The spirit of Mahashivratri permeated the air as devotees gathered in large numbers at Shiva temples across Birkoni, offering prayers and performing sacred rituals in reverence to Lord Bhole Baba. From the crack of dawn, the melodious chants of "Om Namah Shivay," "Har Har Mahadev," and "Bam Bam Bhole" echoed through the Shivlalayas, resonating with the devotion of the worshippers.

The day unfolded with devotees adorning Shivlingas with Bel leaves, anointing them with milk and holy Ganga water, and offering heartfelt prayers. Women, men, and children congregated at temples, seeking blessings and partaking in the spiritual ambiance. Rudrabhishek,



D u g d h a b h i s h e k , Mahamrityunjay, and Shiv Manas Path ceremonies were organized at various places, enriching the divine celebrations.

The festivities continued with rituals such as bath, Rangoli decoration, lamp donation, and circumambulation around the temple premises. Mahaprasad distribution at Nandishwar, Bhandara

at Bhuteshwar, and grand Prasad offerings following Shivling Pran Pratishtha ceremonies added to the communal joy and unity.

Devotees immersed themselves in worship at prominent temples including Chandri Temple Shivling, Mauli Mandir Shivling, and Hospital Chowk Shivling, chanting fervently and participating in abhishek cere-

monies. The atmosphere reverberated with the echoes of devotion as devotees fervently chanted "Har Har Mahadev" and prayed for familial happiness and well-being.

From Bhatapara Ward Shivlinga temple to Bhuteshwar Mahadev at Gopi Talab, devotees partook in traditional rituals, anointing Shivlingas with offerings of Bel leaves, milk, and Ganga water. The day culminated with the immersion of faith, as women and children encircled temples, chanting prayers and expressing their devotion.

In the midst of rituals and offerings, the Mahashivratri celebrations exemplified the deep-rooted faith and communal spirit of the devotees, fostering a sense of unity and devotion that resonated throughout the region.

Mahashivratri celebrations enthrall devotees in Kurud

Vibrant processions and rituals illuminate festivities

Kurud, Mar 10:

The fervour of Mahashivratri resonated throughout Kurud as devotees thronged to Bholenath temples, ushering in the auspicious occasion with reverence and zeal. From dawn till dusk, devotees poured into the temples, offering prayers and performing rituals such as J a l a b h i s h e k , Dugdhabhishek, and presenting fruits and sacred offerings to Lord Shiva.

The festivities unfolded with Havan puja, Bhandara Prasad distribution, and elaborate adornments adorning Shiva temples across the city. Special worship ceremonies were conducted,



and Prasad was distributed among devotees, enhancing the spiritual ambiance of the occasion. Meanwhile, devotees also observed special rituals at home, beseeching blessings for the welfare and prosperity of all.

Mahashivratri holds profound significance, marking the auspicious

union of Lord Shiva and Mother Parvati. Devotees fasted in reverence, seeking divine blessings from their beloved deity. The ritual of Jalabhishek continued uninterrupted throughout the day, symbolizing the devotion and adoration of the devotees.

The ancient Jaleshwar Mahadev temple wit-

nessed a continuous influx of devotees, while Shiv temples at Jalsan pond, Shankar Nagar, Vrinda Van Sarovar Priyanka Colony, Chandrakar Bhawan Teacher Colony, Sanjay Nagar, Sadha Chowk, and the newly constructed temple in Sun City also drew large gatherings. Children eagerly participated in the rituals, carrying water to the Shiva temples with great enthusiasm.

Adding to the festive spirit, captivating processions featuring vibrant tableaux adorned with 3D lights paraded through the city. Accompanied by melodious bhajans and chants of "Har Har Mahadev," the celebrations reverberated with the joyous fervor of devotees, epitomizing the spirit of devotion and unity among the citizens.

International Women's Day celebrated at district hospital

Korea, Mar 10:

In observance of International Women's Day, a significant program unfolded at the District Hospital under the guidance of Collector Vinay Kumar Langeh. The event, attended by admitted PNC and ANC mothers, duty doctors, ward in-charges, and staff nurses, served as a platform to commemorate women's rights, protection, and equality.

Dr. R Bansaria, during the program, shared vital information like women's rights, protection and equality with all attendees, emphasizing the importance of women's rights and equality. District Conservation Officer Vitabala Srivastava further elucidated on the Sakhi Van Staff Center departmental



scheme, simplifying its details for the audience's understanding.

Marshal Sona, the District Nutrition Coordinator of AIIMS Raipur, shed light on this year's theme, 'Inspire Inclusion,' underscoring its relevance to all present at the hospital. Notably, women in delivery and NRC wards received insights into anemia management from District Nutrition Coordinator Marshal Sona, emphasizing the regular intake of

iron tablets.

The event saw the presence of esteemed medical professionals including Dr. R. Bansaria, Dr. S. Bansaria, Dr. S. Sharma, Dr. Srishti, Dr. Shilpa, Dr. Premilata, and Dr. Kanchan, alongside Special Assistant Ward Incharge Saraswati Patel, ward incharges, and staff sisters. Their collective presence and participation exemplified the hospital's commitment to women's health and empowerment.

Lokpal penalizes officials for financial irregularities in plant distribution

Korea, Mar 10:

The Lokpal has passed a significant decision following complaints of financial irregularities in plant distribution and the purchase of Rhizome Root Shoot under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA). After thorough investigation, the Lokpal found discrepancies in the actions of the then Deputy Forest Officer and the then Forest Range Officer of Manendragarh, Kelhari, Kunwarpur, Janakpur, and Baharsi.

Chandrakant Paragir from Baikunthpur filed a complaint with the MNREGA Ombudsman on April 18, 2023, alleging corruption in the distribution of saplings under the plantation and greenery propagation scheme in the Manendragarh forest division for the years 2021-22 and 2022-23. In response, Lokpal Malkhan Singh initiated an inquiry, which revealed admin-

istrative irregularities in the allocation of funds and distribution of plants.

The Lokpal discovered that administrative approval had been granted for the procurement of bamboo saplings worth Rs 9,99,000 in various forest areas. However, upon inspection, it was found that the plants had not been distributed as intended under the Hariyali Prasar Yojana. Furthermore, financial discrepancies were uncovered in the purchase of Rhizon root shoots.

Consequently, the Lokpal imposed fines of Rs 5 lakhs each on the then Deputy Divisional Forest Officer and the then Forest Range Officers of Manendragarh, Kelhari, and Baharsi. The officials have been directed to deposit the compensation within 90 days into the State Employment Guarantee Fund. Additionally, a fine of Rs 1,000 has been levied on them.

Women should be respected every day: Collector

District-level program marks International Women's Day

Outstanding women honoured for contributions to district's progress

Gaurelaendra Marwahi, Mar 10: On the occasion of International Women's Day, a district-level 'Abhivyakti Jagarookata' program and felicitation ceremony took place in the Arpa Sabha room of the Collectorate today, graced by local women representatives.

Collector Leena Kamlesh Mandavi extended congratulations to the women representatives, officers, employees, and women from all walks of life present at the event, emphasizing that women deserve respect not just on International Women's



Day but every day. The program saw addresses by Additional Collector Namrata Anand Dongre, Superintendent of Police Manisha Thakur Raote, and other esteemed guests.

The event featured success stories shared by NRLM cadres, highlighting the concept of women empowerment. Furthermore, women excelling in various fields across the district were honored for their remarkable contributions. Among the honored individuals were Shyam Kumari, Mamta Puri, Bhuneshwari, Rajkumari,

and others, recognized for their outstanding work and dedication.

The program commenced with floral tributes to Ma Saraswati's photograph and a welcoming song by Lata Panika. Attendees included Ranu Namdev, Manisha Lakra, Mandakani Kosaria, and Preeti Dubey, along with members of the National Rural Livelihood Mission Bihan. Megha Kashipuri adeptly conducted the proceedings, ensuring a memorable and impactful event celebrating the achievements and resilience of women in the district.

Madhuri shines in state-level Word Power championship

Korea, Mar 10:

In a heartening tale of triumph against all odds, Madhuri Kurre, a class 3 student hailing from the remote village of Tarra in the Sonhat development block, has brought pride to the district by securing the third position in the state-level Word Power Championship.

The daughter of Anil and Kalavati Kurre, both agricultural laborers, Madhuri's journey to success underscores the power of dedicated efforts and perseverance even in the face of adversity. Despite the challenges posed by their rural background, Madhuri's parents have instilled in her the values of hard work and determination.

Madhuri, a student of Government Primary School, Tarra, exemplifies the remarkable progress seen in the state's govern-



About Word Power Championship

The Word Power Championship is the only English competition in India designed exclusively for regional language school students. It aims to remove the hesitation of students and provide them with a platform to showcase their English language skills. These competitions not only increase students' interest in the English language but also foster healthy competition among them. The Word Power Championship is an annual event that celebrates the achievements of students and teachers who have excelled in Leap for Word's English literacy program. It holds particular significance for Hindi medium schools, providing them with an opportunity to participate in and excel at English-focused competitions.

ment schools, where a shift from rote learning to experiential education has empowered students to excel. The Word Power Championship saw participation from students across government schools in classes II to V, showcasing the talent and potential nurtured within these institutions.

Recognizing Madhuri's achievement, District Education Officer Jitendra Gupta facilitated a meeting between Madhuri and District

Collector Vinay Kumar Langeh on March 7. Collector Langeh commended Madhuri's remarkable feat and extended his heartfelt wishes for her continued success. He emphasized the importance of nurturing and encouraging the talents of children, urging teachers to play an active role in their holistic development.

In his address, Collector Langeh congratulated teacher Kedarnath Dindore for his commendable contribution to Madhuri's success and called upon all educators in the district to fulfill their responsibility in shaping the future of children. He underscored the need for dedicated efforts towards the mental, intellectual, and overall development of students, emphasizing the pivotal role of teachers in this endeavor.

Vibrant celebrations mark Mahashivratri in Dongargaon

Dongargaon, Mar 10:

The fervour of Mahashivratri gripped Dongargaon as city residents enthusiastically participated in a grand procession honoring Lord Mahadev on Friday. Organized by the Mahakal Devotee Group, the procession traversed through various main roads of the city, culminating at the Hanuman temple amidst joyous celebrations.

Since the early hours of the morning, a steady stream of devotees thronged to Shiva temples across the city, engaging in rituals of Pooja, Havan, and the distribution of Mahaprasad. The consecration of Mahadev and other religious ceremonies continued late into the night, embodying the spirit of devotion and reverence.

Thousands of elders,



women, and children actively took part in Baba's procession, which commenced from the local Hanumanji temple. The procession, adorned with vibrant colors and resonant chants, wound its way through Sadar Line and Fountain Chowk before reaching its destination.

During the procession, members of the Trinayan Group portrayed the majestic

form of Mahakal, captivating devotees with the divine presence of Lord Shiva and Parvati seated on Nandi. Devotees were enthralled by the spirited devotion of the messengers of Bhoot Baba, adding to the festive ambiance.

As the procession traversed the main road, the joy of the devotees soared to new heights, with enthusiastic participation and warm welcomes at every turn. Refreshments including water, sherbet, and food items were distributed generously, spreading the spirit of camaraderie and joy.

Passers-by joined in the festivities, dancing and reveling in the celebration of Baba Mahadev, reflecting the unity and communal spirit that permeated the auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri in Dongargaon.

Ch'garh Govt is committed to safeguarding women's dignity and respect: Verma

● First installment of the MVY was disbursed into the accounts of more than 3,30,000 women in the Balodabazar-Bhatapara district

● Revenue Minister participated in the MVY organised in the Balodabazar-Bhatapara district



through DBT into the accounts of 3,30,901 women in the Balodabazar-Bhatapara district. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai launched the 'Bal Vivah Mukh Chhattisgarh Abhiyan' in the state-level program.

In the district-level event held at the Nagar Bhawan in Balodabazar, the state's Revenue and Disaster Management Minister, Tankram Verma, graced the event as chief guest. Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addressed the people and was displayed on LED screens during the program.

Signatures were taken

by ministers, including Verma, along with other representatives and officials to initiate the 'Bal Vivah Mukh Bharat Abhiyan' in the district. Additionally, new ration cards were distributed to 12 beneficiaries.

Addressing the program, Minister Tankram Verma stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has implemented several schemes for the empowerment of women. The Chhattisgarh Government is also committed to safeguarding women's dignity and respect.

The launch of the Mahtari Vandan Yojana

(MVY) is another step towards women's empowerment. Under this scheme, an amount of Rs. 1000 will be deposited into the accounts of women every month, enabling them to fulfill their small needs easily.

If any woman hasn't received the money in their account after filling out the form, there's no need to worry. They can contact the toll-free number and report their issue. He mentioned that the Chhattisgarh Government is fulfilling all the promises made under Modi's Guarantee.

Everyone's participation is essential to making

India a developed nation by 2047, and Chhattisgarh's role is very crucial to this. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a leader who communicates with individuals from every section of society. Wherever he cannot personally reach, he connects through virtual mediums.

Collector K.L. Chouhan stated that there are 11,901 women self-help groups formed in the district, with approximately 130,911 women associated with them. There are 7,882 lakhpati didis, and to increase this number, lakhpati didis have to inspire others.

Zilla Panchayat President Rakesh Verma, Municipal Corporation Chairman Chittawar Jaiswal, Janpad Vice President Ishan Vaishnav, CEO Zilla Panchayat Namrata Jain, Vijay Kesharwani, Ashok Jain, Naresh Kesharwani, Tesu Lal Dhurandhar, various public representatives, officials, and a large number of women were present.

Promotional material distributed at MVY



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 10: On the occasion of the launch of the government's flagship scheme, Mahtari Vandan Yojana (MVY), in Chhattisgarh and the disbursement of the first installment to the beneficiaries of the state at the Science College ground in Raipur, the Public Relations Department is distributing free materials on the welfare schemes and programs of the state government.

These materials include the 'Modi ki Guarantee' Pocket Book, 'Vishnu Deo ke Tavatrit Nirnay Se Ho Raha Hai Sushasan Ka

Suryodaya' (the dawn of good governance through Vishnu Deo's prompt decisions), 'Matritva Jatan Mahtariyan Ka Vandan', 'Ramo Vighrahavan Dharmaha', and a pictorial calendar. Additionally, attendees are receiving a two-month book on good governance and the latest issue of Chhattisgarh Janman's monthly magazine.

A massive gathering of mothers and sisters eagerly received promotional material at the Mahtari Vandan Sammelan. Upon reviewing the distributed books, the people expressed commendation for the Shri Vishnu Deo Sai-led government's

prompt decisions aimed at benefiting the populace, resulting in tangible improvements in the lives of common people.

Notably, just a day after assuming office, the state government, led by Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai, approved 18 lakh houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana for eligible beneficiaries in the state. Furthermore, on the occasion of Atal Ji's birth anniversary and Good Governance Day, the state government distributed the two-year pending bonus of paddy procurement directly into the accounts of farmers across the state.

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 10: To commemorate International Women's Day, Mahtari Vandan Sammelans were organised in the district headquarters, block headquarters, and municipal areas of Balodabazar-Bhatapara on March 10. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Mahtari Vandan Yojana virtually by pressing a button.

Under this scheme, the first installment of Rs. 1000 was disbursed

Chh'garh State Open School Examination starts

● 96 thousand candidates appeared in the exam

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 10: Chhattisgarh State Open School examination started from March 9. For this, 264 examination centers have been created across the state. According to the information, Higher Secondary examination is being held from March 9 to April 6 and High School examination will be held from March 11 to April 3.

The exam time has been scheduled from 1.45 pm to 5 pm. This time, 41,000 candidates have registered for the 10th class examination. Similarly, 55 thousand candidates have registered in



class 12th. The first paper of class 12th is Home Science.

The examination is being conducted in Hindi and English medium. It is noteworthy that last year a total of 65,557 students had registered for the class 10th examination, out of which 62,051 students appeared and the result of 57,105 students was declared.

Similarly, in class 12th, a

total of 37,471 students had registered for the examination, out of which 34,161 appeared. Board Secretary VK Goyal said, preparations for the open examination have been completed.

A flying squad team has been formed to prevent cheating in this examination also. The examination is also being monitored at the state level.

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Mar 10: Former MLA and Parliamentary Secretary, Rekhchand Jain, has issued a resolute call to the state government to honor its commitment to fulfill all 178 promises outlined in the BJP's manifesto, endorsed under the banner of Modi's guarantee. Expressing concern over the BJP's failure to deliver on its electoral pledges, Jain highlighted critical areas where citizens are left disillusioned and betrayed.

Jain has pointed out that the BJP's pre-election tactics to mislead voters are becoming increasingly evident, with the Mahtari Vandan Yojana serving as

Rekhchand Jain calls for fulfillment of BJP's manifesto promises

a prime example. Under this scheme, all daughters and sisters above 18 years of age were promised inclusion by filling out a form, with every married woman guaranteed Rs 12,000 annually under Modi's guarantee. However, following the party's ascension to power in the state, the implementation of the scheme has been rushed, accompanied by the imposition of numerous rules and conditions. Jain has emphasized the urgency for the BJP government of Chhattisgarh to fulfill all 178 promises made by Modi. Notably, the discrepancy in the payment for paddy remains unresolved, as farmers continue to be deceived into sell-



Rekhchand Jain

ing their produce at a lower rate of Rs 3100 per quintal, highlighting the failure of the government to deliver on its commitments to the agricultural community.

In a statement to the media, Jain emphasized the imperative for immediate action to uphold the promises made to the elec-

torate. He underscored the plight of women who have yet to receive essential benefits promised by the BJP, such as affordable gas cylinders for Rs 500 and the implementation of schemes like the Rani Durgavati Yojana. Jain condemned the half-hearted implementation of welfare schemes, stressing that women, in particular, remain aggrieved and disillusioned by the government's apathy.

Furthermore, Jain castigated the BJP's neglect of marginalized communities, particularly tribal families, who were assured support for livelihood enhancement through the provision of two goats per household. He urged the state govern-

ment to take concrete steps to fulfill this commitment and address the grievances of tribal communities, underscoring the urgent need for tangible action rather than mere rhetoric.

Highlighting the broader discontent among various sections of society, including farmers, unemployed youth, and government employees, Jain criticized the government's failure to meet expectations in areas such as agriculture, education, healthcare, and employment. He emphasized that the BJP's manifesto promises must translate into substantive initiatives that genuinely uplift the lives of citizens, rather than mere cosmetic enhancements.

Mahesh Kashyap's reverence for Lord Shiva



Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Mar 10: Mahesh Kashyap, the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Lok Sabha candidate for the Bastar parliamentary constituency, embarked on a spiritual journey on the auspicious oc-

casation of Mahashivratri. His pilgrimage took him to revered Shiva temples across various areas, where he fervently offered prayers and sought blessings for the prosperity and welfare of Bastar.

Commencing his divine quest, Mahesh Kashyap

visited Baba Lingeshwar in Rampal, Baba Jhadeshwar in Deora, Kudalgaon, Kinjoli, and other sanctified Shankar temples, humbly bowing before Lord Bholenath. His reverence for the divine manifested in heartfelt wishes for the well-

being and advancement of Bastar, reflecting his deep-rooted commitment to the region's prosperity.

Amidst the spiritual ambience, Mahesh Kashyap engaged with devotees, extending gratitude for their unwavering support and soliciting their love and cooperation. His interactions with the faithful exemplified his dedication to fostering unity and inclusivity within the community. Accompanied by prominent figures such as Nagarnar Mandal President Subroto Biswas, Radheshyam Pendre, Ganesh Nagvanshi, Kirti Padhi, Shekhar Biswas, and others, Mahesh Kashyap's pilgrimage resonated with reverence and devotion, symbolizing his holistic approach to leadership rooted in spirituality and faith.

Ajay Tiwari elected President of Bal Ashram



Raipur, Mar 10: Noted social worker Ajay Tiwari has been unanimously elected President of the Bal Ashram Samiti here on Saturday. Social workers Devichand Shrishrimal and Gokul Das Daga proposed the name of Ajay Tiwari for the post of President which was unanimously approved by the members present on the occasion. Providing the above information, the Samiti Manager Anil Chandrakar said that former MLA Satyanarayan Sharma and others members were present on the occasion.

Women's felicitation ceremony held

● On International Women's Day

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Ma 10: In commemoration of International Women's Day, a women's felicitation ceremony took place at the Rajput Kshatriya Bhawan in the district headquarters on Friday. The event aimed to spread the message of women empowerment and upliftment. Women from diverse fields gathered to celebrate their achievements and discuss the path towards greater empow-

erment. The dialogue session, spearheaded by members of the Mahila Mukti Mandal, commenced with introductions, fostering a sense of camaraderie among attendees. Vandana Tandekar extended warm wishes for International Women's Day and highlighted the remarkable strength of women. Subsequently, esteemed guests including SI Bilkis Khan and Sanjulika Manoj Danil shared insights on the importance of economic empowerment and employment opportunities for women. During the event, Sheela



Uike emphasized women's immense potential for progress and development, stressing the significance of education and cottage industries in fostering economic independence. Dr. Khushboo Bisen provided valuable health-related information

to attendees, underlining the importance of wellness for women and girls.

Various speakers, including Khilleshwari Sahu, Dr. Anuradha Verma, and Dr. Durgesh Nandani, delivered motivational speeches, en-

couraging women to pursue their aspirations with determination and resilience. The participants shared their thoughts on Women's Day, expressing gratitude for the recognition of women's contributions to society.

In a reflective activity, women described their personalities in one word, associating them with strength and positivity. The event concluded with a renewed sense of empowerment and solidarity among the attendees, symbolizing the collective journey towards gender equality and women's advancement.

Alok Singh appointed Press Officer to CM

Raipur, Mar 10: Alok Singh from Raigarh has been appointed as Press Officer to the Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai. General Administration Department (GAD) on Saturday issued posting orders of Alok Singh as Press Officer to CM. As a Press Officer, Alok Singh would be associated with CM on Press related issues. Meanwhile, the Jashpur resident Tulsi Kaushik has been posted as Personal Assistant to the Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai. Kaushik is a resident of Kansabal region of Jashpur and has been associated with Vishnu Deo Sai for several years.

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LAN: LXRAI00117-180087870 Branch: RAIPUR Borrower: PUSPA BRIJESH KESHERWANI Co-Borrower: BRIJESH KUMAR PRASAD KESHERWANI	26-06-2023 for Rs: 385408/- (Three Lakh Eighty Five Thousand Four Hundred & Eight Only)	Plot Kh No.589/7, P. H. No- 108/38, R. N. M. Raipur-1, Ward No-04, Yatiyan Lal Ward, Mouja-Gondwara, Near Gondwara Railway Crossing, Raipur Chhattisgarh 492001	Reserve Price: Rs.350000/- (Three Lakh Fifty Thousand Only) EMD: Rs. 35000/- (Thirty Five Thousand Only) Last date of EMD Deposit:15-04-2024	Date: 16-04-2024 Time: 11:00 Am to 5:00 Pm (with unlimited extensions of 5 minute each)
Terms and Conditions of E-Auction: 1. The Auction is conducted as per the further Terms and Conditions of the Bid document and as per the procedure set out therein. Bidders may go through the website of Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited (Earlier Known as Aspire Home Finance Corporation Limited), www.motilaloswalhf.com and website of our Sales & Marketing and e-Auction Service Provider, https://auctions.invention.in for bid documents, the details of the secured asset put up for e-Auction and the Bid Form which will be submitted online;				
Place : Raipur Date : 11.03.2024				
Sd/- Authorized Officer (Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited)				



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New Economic Dawn

India-EFTA Free Trade Agreement

In a momentous leap forward for India's economic landscape, the signing of a free trade agreement with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) nations marks a significant stride towards fostering robust international trade relations. Led by the visionary guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the dedicated efforts of Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, this landmark agreement underscores India's commitment to embracing global economic integration and fostering shared prosperity. The culmination of extensive negotiations and meticulous planning, the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) between India and the Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, and Liechtenste in EFTA bloc signifies a turning point in our economic trajectory. With the aim of attracting substantial investments totaling \$100 billion over a span of 15 years, this agreement is poised to unleash a wave of economic opportunities, driving growth and employment generation across diverse sectors. At its core, the TEPA embodies the principles of openness, fairness, and mutual benefit. By streamlining customs procedures and reducing trade barriers, the agreement promises to create a conducive environment for businesses to thrive, facilitating seamless trade and investment flows between India and the EFTA nations. Moreover, the inclusion of provisions aimed at promoting sustainable development and safeguarding the interests of all stakeholders underscores a commitment to fostering inclusive growth and prosperity. The significance of this agreement extends beyond mere economic transactions. It symbolizes a deeper commitment to fostering strong bilateral ties and promoting dialogue and cooperation between India and the EFTA nations. As Prime Minister Modi aptly noted, this agreement represents not just a trade deal but a "new turn" and a "watershed moment" in India's engagement with the global economy, laying the foundation for a more robust and inclusive partnership. The sectors poised to benefit from this agreement span a wide spectrum, ranging from pharmaceuticals and medical devices to processed agricultural products and textiles. With enhanced market access and reduced tariffs, Indian exporters are poised to gain a competitive edge in the EFTA markets, while consumers stand to benefit from a greater variety of high-quality goods at competitive prices. Indian processed agricultural products may also receive greater market access in the four nations under the EFTA. Also, sectors such as pharma, medical devices and processed food items are likely to figure in the agreement. Under free trade agreements, two trading partners significantly cut down or omit customs duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them, besides easing norms to foster trade in services and investments. It is imperative to acknowledge the pivotal role played by Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein in forging this agreement. As key trading partners of India, these nations have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to fostering deeper economic ties and promoting mutual prosperity. The significant investments and trade volumes between India and the EFTA nations underscore the immense potential for further collaboration and growth.

India's Test Glory

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee



India's triumph over England in the five-match Test series deserves hearty applause and commendation. The victory, under the leadership of Rohit Sharma, showcased India's dominance and prowess in the realm of Test cricket. Indeed, India stands as a formidable force, particularly on home soil, and this victory reaffirms their status as one of the toughest teams to beat in the Test format. A significant factor contributing to India's success is their world-class bowling attack. From spin maestros like Ravichandran Ashwin and Kuldeep Yadav to pace sensations like Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj, India boasts a diverse and skillful bowling arsenal. Each time the team faced adversity, there emerged a hero to steer them to victory. Notably, Ashwin's remarkable performance, clinching a five-wicket haul in his 100th Test match, places him in the esteemed company of spin legends like Muttiah Muralidaran, Shane Warne, and Anil Kumble. In the batting department, India has unearthed promising talent that bodes well for the team's future. Players like Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Sarfaraz Khan, Dhruv Jurel, and Devdutt Padikkal exhibit immense potential and offer hope for sustained success in the years to come. However, the series also sheds light on England's shortcomings. With a 4-1 defeat, it is evident that the English side fell short of expectations. This marks England's first series defeat under the captaincy of Ben Stokes, reflecting a disappointing performance overall. The middle-order batting proved to be lackluster and uninspiring, with players like Ollie Pope and Jonny Bairstow failing to make significant contributions. Even the seasoned campaigner Joe Root struggled to find his form in the initial matches. Moreover, England's batting lineup faced scrutiny, particularly the opening partnership, where Rory Burns failed to impress. While there were glimpses of promise from players like Tom Hartley and Baseer Ahmed, the team's overall batting display was underwhelming. On the bowling front, however, England had a standout performer in Jimmy Anderson, whose skill and experience continue to shine bright even at the age of 41. Anderson's pursuit of 700 Test wickets is a testament to his remarkable career and enduring impact on the game. Looking ahead, India's triumph, achieved even in the absence of key players like Virat Kohli and KL Rahul, instills confidence and optimism for the team's future endeavors. As they continue to strive for excellence, let us rally behind our team and wish them continued success on the international stage.

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 editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com.

EXERCISE CUTLASS EXPRESS



INS Tir, the lead ship of First Training Squadron (1TS) participated in Exercise Cutlass Express - 24 (CE - 24) held at Port Victoria, Seychelles from 26 Feb - 08 Mar 24.

Focus on Amrit Peedhi: Empowering Youth through Education and skills



A. SRIJA



The overarching theme of the Union Budget 2024-25 centers around transforming India into a developed nation, referred to as "Viksit Bharat," by the year 2047. The budget places a special emphasis on the Amrit Peedhi—the youth—and highlights the significance of the National Education Policy 2020 in initiating transformative reforms to skillfully equip and empower the younger generation. In pursuit of this objective, considerable attention has been directed towards the PM SHRI Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI), designed to provide high-quality education, foster holistic development, and shape well-rounded individuals. Approved in September 2022, the PM SHRI scheme is designed to serve as a model for the effective implementation of the National Education Policy 2020. These schools are envisioned to evolve into exemplar institutions, setting a benchmark over time, while also assuming a leadership role by guiding other schools in their vicinity. The mandate extends to offering leadership in their respective regions, ensuring

the provision of high-quality education within an environment that is equitable, inclusive, and imbued with joy. This educational approach caters to the diverse backgrounds, multilingual needs, and varying academic abilities of students, actively engaging them as participants in their own learning journey, aligning with the vision outlined in the NEP 2020. The scheme provides for setting up of more than 14500 PM SHRI Schools by strengthening the existing schools from amongst schools managed by Central government/State/UT Government/local bodies. The first phase of selection process of PM-SHRI Schools has already been completed and a total number of 6,207 schools have been selected as PM-SHRI schools. A total of Rs. 3395.15 crore has been approved for 6,207 PM SHRI Schools in 27 States/UTs along with KVS/NVS in the Project Approval Board (PAB) Meeting for FY 2023-24. The 1st installment of Central share of Rs. 630.11 crore for FY 2023-24 has been released to all the States/UTs/KVS/NVS for implementation of the scheme.

The Budget Estimates for FY 2023-24 has been revised from Rs.4000 crore to Rs.2800 crore. The Budget Estimates for FY 2024-25 is 6050 crore.

Apart from PM-Shri, the total budget approved for the Department of School Education & literacy is Rs.73008.10 crores in 2024-25 as compared to Rs.72473.80 crores in 2023-24.

Table 1 Outlay for Major schemes in the Budget 2024-25 (Rs. In Crores)

Program	R.E 2023-24	B.E 2024-25
Samagra Shiksha	33000	37500
PM-Poshan	10000	12467.39
STARS	700	1250
PM Shri	2800	6050
NILP	100	160
National Means cum Merit Scholarship Scheme	358.00	377.01
Autonomous Bodies	14470	15638.67
Total	72473.80	73008.10

The Budget also highlights the Skill India Mission through which 1.4 crore youth have been trained, 54 lakh youth have been upskilled and reskilled, and 3000 new ITIs have been established. A large number of new institutions of higher learning, namely 7 IITs, 16 IIITs, 7 IIMS, 15 AIIMS and 390 universities have been set up. Skilling of youth in the new age technology models will pave the way for new start-ups and entrepreneurship on the part of our youth. As the budget focuses on new avenues such as digital infrastructure, innovation, conference tourism, spiritual tourism, gati shakti, food processing etc., skill training emerging from

the job profiles related to these upcoming sectors need to be focused upon in the curriculum for skill training in senior secondary schools as well as in ITIs.

The budget also highlights the increase in female enrolment in higher education by 28 percent over ten years. In STEM courses, girls and women constitute 43 per cent

of enrolment - one of the highest in the world. All these measures are getting reflected in the increasing participation of women in workforce which is reflected in the increase in female participation rate in the labour force rising from 23.3 percent in 2017-18 to 37 percent in 2022-23. (PLFS). In short, for India to become Viksit Bharat by 2047 education and skilling of the youth is the foremost task, where our demographic advantage lies.

(Author: Smt. A. Srija, Economic Adviser, Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ban packaging of hot food in plastic bags

Despite the ban on plastic bags and compostable plastic bags for carrying or dispensing commodities across the country, they are still extensively used, especially for packaging food in hotels. Items like tea, coffee, milk, sambar, rasam, and hot curry are commonly packed in plastic bags within hotels. Many doctors cite a worry that there is an increase in the number of people suffering from kidney and throat ailments, cancer, and infertility in the city due to the consumption of hot food items carried in low-quality plastic bags or boxes. When hot food or liquid is packed in a plastic bag, toxic chemicals like styrene and bisphenol can leach into the food, potentially leading to cancer, heart diseases, and other reproductive problems. Therefore, the Department of Food Safety must enforce a ban on packing hot edible items, including beverages, in plastic bags and harmful containers, particularly in cities.

Dr. Vijaykumar H K, Raichur, Karnataka

Migration Realities: Answering Hypocrisy

If migration by Bengalis to other Indian states get dubbed as "failure of Bengal"; then the hypocrites of BJP must answer whether mass migration of poor Indians towards civil-war raged Israel and violence-prone West Asia and North/Central Africa to take up menial jobs, by risking their own precious lives, bear proof of the "Vikas" engineered by the harbingers of "Good Days" in "New India". What a disgrace to notice the country which can't ensure livelihood and other basic human necessities for its citizens, thereby compelling them to leave the shore by endangering their lives; shamelessly squandering precious time energy and resource towards Temples, Cows, Statues, Bullet trains, VISTAS and all things which glitter just to draw applause of the privileged class.

Kajal Chatterjee, Kolkata

Reinstating J&K Statehood

The abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 led to both praise and protest, yet notably improved law and order in Jammu and Kashmir. Stone-pelting incidents have decreased, aiding in counterterrorism efforts. However, it's now crucial to restore J&K's statehood and conduct elections by September. This move will further integrate the region into India's democratic framework, ensuring local governance and representation. Restoring statehood honors the region's historical status while fostering stability and progress.

MK Nair, Raipur

India's Quadruple Triumph

Reigning Supreme in Cricket's Global Arena

Manoj Kumar Nair

In a cricketing saga that unfolded like a thrilling epic, Team India scripted a remarkable tale of triumph, conquering the cricketing world across all formats and etching their name in the annals of sporting history. With a series of scintillating performances, India's cricketers showcased their mettle, resilience, and unyielding spirit, capturing the imagination of millions of fans and reaffirming their status as the undisputed champions of the game. The journey to this historic triumph began with a captivating series against England, where India faced a stern test of character and skill on their home turf. After a heart-wrenching defeat in the opening Test in Hyderabad, the Indian team, led by the dynamic Rohit Sharma, rose from the ashes like a phoenix, displaying a masterclass of cricketing prowess in the subsequent

matches. Wins in Vizag, Rajkot, Ranchi, and Dharamsala propelled India to a resounding 4-1 series victory, catapulting them to the summit of the ICC Test Team Rankings enabled them to overtake Australia with an impressive tally of 122 rating points. Australia now trails behind India, occupying the second position with 117 rating points, while England follows closely at third with 111 rating points. India will remain at the top regardless of the outcome of the second New Zealand-Australia Test in Christchurch. The ICC World Test Championship 2023 winners Australia currently lead the two-Test series 1-0 following their 172-run victory in Wellington. With this, India is now at the summit of rankings in all three formats. They have 121 rating points in the ODI rankings, with Australia sitting a close second with 118 rating points. In the T20Is, India has

266 rating points, with England (256) at the second place. India is also at the top of the ICC World Test Championship Standings table, with a points percentage of 68.51. At the heart of India's success was their formidable batting lineup, led by the indomitable Rohit Sharma. The skipper's sublime century in the final Test epitomized his class and leadership, providing the perfect platform for India's dominance. Alongside him, the precocious talent of Yashasvi Jaiswal, the audacity of Devdutt Padikkal, and the solidity of Sarfaraz Khan bolstered India's batting arsenal, laying waste to the opposition's bowling attack with consummate ease. But it was not just the batsmen who stole the show. India's spin twins, Ravichandran Ashwin and Kuldeep Yadav, spun a web of intrigue and deception, bamboozling the English batsmen with their guile and craft.

Their relentless pursuit of wickets and unwavering accuracy made life miserable for the visitors, ensuring India's dominance with the ball. As the dust settled on the Test series, India's supremacy extended beyond the traditional batting format of the game. With towering ratings in the ODI and T20I rankings, India's dominance in white-ball cricket was undeniable. The likes of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, and Jasprit Bumrah spearheaded India's charge, stamping their authority on the global stage with their breathtaking performances. Moreover, India's impeccable record in the ICC World Test Championship reaffirmed their status as the torchbearers of Test cricket. With a commanding points percentage and a string of emphatic victories, India surged ahead in the race for supremacy, leaving their opponents in awe of their cricketing prowess.

But beyond the statistics and rankings, India's triumph was a testament to their unwavering passion, dedication, and team spirit. It was a collective effort, fueled by the relentless pursuit of excellence and a burning desire to succeed against all odds. The coaching staff, support staff, and players worked tirelessly behind the scenes, pushing the boundaries of their capabilities and striving for greatness with every passing game. Looking ahead, India's quest for cricketing glory shows no signs of abating. With a wealth of talent at their disposal and a hunger for success that knows no bounds, Team India is poised to scale even greater heights in the years to come. As they continue to inspire millions of fans and redefine the parameters of excellence, India's cricketing saga is set to unfold as a captivating tale of triumph, resilience, and unbridled passion.

BRIEF

IFL rates to drop

Chandigarh: Prices of imported foreign liquor (IFL) will drop while there will be no increase in the rates of country liquor, Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema said on Saturday as the state cabinet gave its nod to the excise policy for 2024-25. The new excise policy is aimed at garnering revenue to the tune of Rs 10,145.95 crore from the sale of liquor. A decision to this effect was taken at a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann here. Addressing reporters after the meeting, Cheema said the cabinet has approved the new excise policy - the third such policy of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government.

CBIC

New Delhi: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has asked field offices to support in upskilling women logistics service providers and custom brokers as well as for custodians of freight stations to ensure safe and secure working environment. The CBIC has issued two circulars coinciding with International Women's Day on March 8. One relates to encouraging women participation in international trade, while the other is on inclusion of gender specific infrastructure facilities to be provided by the custodians of Inland Container Depot (ICD), container freight station (CFS) and Air Freight Stations (AFS).

Tata Technologies

Hyderabad: Tata Technologies Limited signed a MoU with the Telangana government to establish "Advanced Technical Skill Training Centres (skilling centres)" in 65 Industrial Training Institutes in the state. An official release said the Tata Group company and the state government signed an agreement under which TTL will upgrade government ITIs as advanced technology centres. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy held a meeting with the representatives of Tata Technologies at the Secretariat here. Deputy Chief Minister Bharti Vikramarka, IT Minister D Sridhar Babu, Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari and other officials also participated.

Stone Sapphire India

New Delhi: Toys and stationery manufacturer Stone Sapphire India will invest Rs 1,000 crore to set up a manufacturing facility for homewares like glassware, sippers, dinnerware etc, in Baroda. Talking with PTI, Stone Sapphire India Pvt. Ltd. (SSPL) Chairman Vick Rana said that homeware products available in India are either for the lower class or very high-end for the elite and leave a huge vacuum for middle-class consumers. "Our work on new plant and capacity expansion has already begun in Baroda which is focused on the homeware segment. We are investing Rs.1000 crore on this expansion," Rana said.

India not to tailor policy for Tesla: Goyal

EV maker as also other global players welcome in India

New Delhi, Mar 10 (PTI):

India will not tailor its policies to suit US EV maker Tesla, and its laws and tariff rules will be formulated to attract all-electric vehicle manufacturers from across the world to set up a base in the world's fastest-growing economy, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said. Tesla has been seeking an initial tariff concession that would allow it to offset 70 per cent customs duty for cars priced less than USD 40,000, and 100 per cent for cars of higher value. In an interview with PTI, Goyal said the govern-



ment recognises the need for a vibrant EV ecosystem as greater use of battery-run vehicles will cut carbon emissions as well as the staggering oil import bill. But for this, it will not tailor policies that suit any one company and would rather frame ones that will encourage all-electric vehi-

cle manufacturers from across the world to set up shop in India, he said. "We are working on several initiatives where we are having inter-ministerial (consultations) and a dialogue with the stakeholders, with potential investors from across the world from Europe, from the United States, from the

Far East, from Japan, from Korea," he said. Tesla made the concession demand a precondition to build a plant in India. High tariffs on motor vehicles, meant to boost local production, have been a lingering issue for foreign carmakers too. "Government does not tailor policy for any one individual company or its interests. Everybody is free to make their demands. But that does not mean that the government will necessarily take a decision (based on) what you demand," he said. Goyal was replying to a question about whether the government is looking at giving any concessions to Tesla for setting up a manufacturing facility in India. The Indian factory, as and when it happens, would be Tesla's sixth vehicle plant.

IndianOil set to join high table of F1 fuel producers

New Delhi, Mar 10 (PTI):

After delivering back-to-back innovations in fuel grades, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has now set sight on the Grand Prix and will in next three months start producing fuel used in adrenaline-pumping Formula One or F1, motor racing. The firm's refinery at Paradip in Odisha will in three months produce the petrol used in F1 car racing, its chairman Shrikant Madhav Vaidya said. IOC, the country's largest oil firm controlling roughly 40 per cent of fuel market share, will be the first Indian company and only a handful globally that will produce fuel used in F1 racing. Vaidya said the company expects to get its Formula 1 fuel certified in around three months, after which it will start compet-

ing with other global majors like Shell to supply it to the F1 teams. F1 fuel is essentially high-octane petrol and the standards are heavily regulated by global motor sport governing body Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) on various counts, including permissible additives and blending agents. IOC had in October last year helped India join a select league of nations when it began producing highly specialised 'reference' petrol and diesel that are used for testing automobiles. There are only three suppliers of reference fuels globally including US giant Chevron. IOC's Paradip refinery in Odisha is producing 'reference' grade petrol and its Panipat unit in Haryana produces similar quality diesel.

Signature Global to invest Rs 1,000-1,200 cr per year to buy land for housing projects

New Delhi, Mar 10 (PTI):

Realty firm Signature Global will invest Rs 1,000-1,200 crore per year to purchase land for the development of housing projects and encash strong consumer demand, its Chairman Pradeep Aggarwal has said. In an interview with PTI, he highlighted that housing demand has been very strong in the past two years across all segments, be it affordable, mid-income, premium, luxury or super luxury. Aggarwal expects the demand momentum to sustain on better economic growth. "We will be investing Rs 1,000-1,200 crore every year for outright purchase of land to achieve our growth plan," Aggarwal said. Apart from outright land acquisition, he said the company would also be



open to partnership with landlords for the development of housing projects. "We will continue to focus on the Gurugram property market for short to medium term," he said. On sales bookings, Aggarwal said the company is expecting to reach around Rs 7,200 crore this fiscal against Rs 3,430 crore in the previous financial year. Recently, the company launched a new luxury housing project in Gurugram with an invest-

Nothing launches Phone (2a)

New Delhi, Mar 10:

Nothing today announced Phone (2a), its highly anticipated new smartphone offering. Phone (2a) is here to provide the optimal daily smartphone experience, doubling down on core user needs with all of Nothing's expertise, engineering and craftsmanship. A device for people who love to explore new innovations and designs but also know what they want (and don't want) from their smartphone. Including a powerfully unique processor, an exceptional 50 MP dual rear camera, an extra bright flexible AMOLED display, and an intuitive OS that delivers a fast and smooth experience with every interaction. "This year is all about accelerating our progress, and Phone (2a) is our first big step forward. Phone (2a) is going to enable more people to experience the Nothing innovations that many have come to love, and we're confident it will become our best selling product ever," said Carl Pei, CEO and Co-founder of Nothing.

Mobile phone manufacturing jumps 21 times to Rs 4.1 lakh cr in 10 yrs: ICEA

New Delhi, Mar 10 (PTI):

Mobile phone manufacturing in value terms jumped 21-fold to Rs 4.1 lakh crore in India in the last 10 years as government policy measures like PLI played a critical role in attracting global players to boost local production, industry body ICEA said in a statement. India now produces 97 per cent of its total mobile phone demand locally and 30 per cent of the total production in financial year 2024 is meant for export, the India Cellular and Electronics Association said. "Mobile phone production surged from Rs 18,900 crore in 2014-15 to an estimated Rs 4,10,000 crore in FY'24, registering an increase of 2000 per cent. In 2014-15, mobile phone exports from India were a mere Rs 1,556 crore. The



industry expects to end FY24 with an estimated export of Rs 1,20,000 crore. This would mean a 7500 per cent increase in exports over a decade," ICEA said. According to a note on manufacturing, in the field of smartphones, Apple and Samsung, have played a crucial role in boosting mobile phone exports from the country. India manufactured devices are being exported in large volumes to the UK, Netherlands, Austria, and Italy besides Middle East and North Africa and South American markets, the note said.

BYJU's releases full payment of 25 pc employees

New Delhi, Mar 10 (PTI):

Edtech major Think and Learn, which owns BYJU's brand, has released the full salary of 25 per cent of employees in the lower pay scale while it has made partial payment to the rest of the workforce, according to sources. BYJU's management wrote two sets of letters to employees on Sunday, informing them about salary payment through alternate fund arrangements and mentioning financial constraints the company is facing due to the blocking of funds by a select group of investors. "We processed your salary for February late at night on Friday. However, due to yesterday being a second Saturday and on account of the long weekend, we

expect the salaries to be reflected in your accounts on Monday. We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience caused by this delay and are grateful for your understanding," BYJU's management said to employees whose full salary has been released. According to sources, 25 per cent of employees in the lower pay scale will get full payment. "As you know, a group of investors has blocked the funds raised through the rights issue, rendering them temporarily unavailable for our business purposes. This situation has created an immediate financial constraint for the company. However, we assure you that we are actively working to resolve this matter and restore normalcy," the company said.

GLOBAL DIPLOMATIC TALK



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Union Minister for Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iceland Bjarni Benediktsson, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Liechtenstein Dominique Hasler and other dignitaries, in New Delhi, Sunday, March 10.

ONGC's first oil from 98/2 block goes to MRPL

New Delhi, Mar 10 (PTI):

First oil from state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) just-started KG deepsea oilfield has gone to its subsidiary Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) for processing into fuels like petrol and diesel, the two firms said. ONGC in January started oil production from its Krishna Godavari basin KG-DWN-98/2 (KG-D5) block, lying in Andhra offshore. The field is producing some 12,000-12,500 barrels of oil per day currently using a floating production and storage offloading (FPSO). The oil is stored on the FPSO, and once it reaches a critical level, it is transferred to a ship, which carries it to a refin-

ery. "The first crude oil cargo from #ONGC Deepwater Krishna Godavari basin has reached ONGC subsidiary @Ongc_Mrpl Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited," ONGC said in a post on X. MRPL received the first cargo, loaded on a ship Swarna Sindhu on March 9. Crude oil was loaded on the ship in the Bay of Bengal, and it travelled around the southern tip of India to reach Mangalore on the west coast. The ONGC subsidiary was also the first to receive oil produced from the firm's Sudan property in 2003. It also received its first oil from the Russian far-east field of Sakhalin-1 in 2006 and the waxy crude Cairn's Rajasthan block started producing in 2009.

KSB Limited registers outstanding sales revenue

New Delhi, Mar 10:

The sales revenue of 2023 is registered as Rs 2247 crores which is a 23.3% increase over the previous year. The sales revenue of quarter four recorded 14.9% growth, compared to same period last year, closing the quarter with sales revenue of Rs 602.6 crore. Summarizing on the business highlights, Prashant Kumar, Vice President of Sales and Marketing, KSB Limited said, "This year we have registered an exceptional sales revenue with 23.3% YoY growth. We have also observed an increase in order inflow from all segments, including Energy, Solar, Valves, General Industry, Water & Wastewater, and Building Services, and with our success driven approach, we are ready to penetrate deeper in all our segments in the upcoming year."

EaseMyTrip PAT increased by 9.5%

Mumbai, Mar 10:

EaseMyTrip.com, a leading online travel platform in India, continues its strong financial performance, reporting INR 1,607.9 million in revenue for Q3FY24, marking an 18.1% year-on-year increase. EBITDA reached INR 653.7 million, up by 10.9% year-on-year; with a Profit After Tax of INR 456.6 million, reflecting a 9.5% year-on-year growth. Gross Booking Revenue (GBR) for Q3FY24 stands at 20,260.7 million. Following a successful quarter, EaseMyTrip acquired a stake of approximately 13% in ECO Hotels

and Resorts, diversifying its portfolio beyond online travel services. This move aligns with the company's commitment towards organic and in-organic growth and sustainability by promoting environmentally friendly practices within the travel and hospitality sector. In a significant milestone, EaseMyTrip and the Government of Uttarakhand have signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) during the Global Investors Summit in London. This partnership aims to elevate Uttarakhand's global tourism appeal.

ICICI maintains industry-leading claim settlement ratio

Mumbai, Mar 10:

Life insurance is an essential component of financial planning, providing financial security to the family and/or dependents. It is a promise made by the company to ensure the financial well-being of the family in case of untimely demise of the policyholder. It is a tool to alleviate the financial distress caused by the loss of a loved one. Claims are the moment of truth for the industry and therefore one must purchase a policy from a brand they trust. Evaluating the claims settlement ratio and the average time taken to settle a claim can be a good indicator of a customer-friendly life insurer.

Delhi airport expects 72 mn passenger traffic this fiscal

New Delhi, Mar 10 (PTI):

The Delhi airport is expected to handle more than 72 million passengers in the current fiscal ending March 31, the highest-ever annual traffic, and the expanded Terminal 1 is likely to be operational in May, its CEO Videh Kumar Jaipuria said on Sunday. The expanded T1 terminal, the capacity of which has increased to 40 million, was inaugurated virtually by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday. Now, its total area has tripled to 2,06,950 square metres. The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national capital, operated by the Delhi



Delhi airport's expanded Terminal 1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday, March 10, inaugurated the expanded Terminal.

happening. "When you are operating an airport, you have got different stakeholders. You have airlines, ground handling operators... all these people need to get familiar with all these operations... We are in that proper process of ORAT," he said. To a query from PTI on the traffic expected for the current financial year, Jaipuria said, "We will cross 72 million passengers. It will be the highest-ever. We have done the maximum of 69.3 million (passengers) before Covid". According to him, international traffic is doing well and is anticipated to be around 27-28 per cent of the 72 million passengers in the current financial year.

International Airport Ltd (DIAL), now has an annual passenger handling capacity of 100 million spread across three terminals -- T1, T2 and T3. Speaking to reporters after the inauguration at the Delhi airport, DIAL CEO Jaipuria said the expanded T1 is expected to be operational in May before the peak summer season. Currently, the process related to ORAT (Operational Readiness and Airport Transfer) is

Students expose teachers' misconduct in exam center

Habitual thieves arrested in theft at bank

Central Chronicle News



Anwari, Mar 10: In a daring daylight robbery at the District Cooperative Bank, Bhateli, on February 14th, culprits targeted a 70-year-old farmer, Ganpat Sahu, as he withdrew money for paddy cultivation.

The thieves, known for their habitual crimes along the banks of Charama, Daundi, and Singa, seized the opportunity making off with Rs 50,000 from Sahu's pocket as he was momentarily distracted by a phone call from his daughter.

Bhakhara police swiftly sprang into action, launching an investigation based on Sahu's report and footage retrieved from the bank's CCTV camera. Their diligent efforts led to the apprehension of two suspects: Sanjay Gauria, 26, and Firoz God, 35, both identified as habitual thieves with a his-

tory of extorting substantial sums from unsuspecting farmers and businessmen in the region. The meticulous planning of the thieves became evident as police pieced together the sequence of events. Gauria, stationed outside the bank on a motorcycle, acted as the lookout, while God executed the theft inside. With precision timing, they fled the scene before Sahu realized his loss. Thanks to the coordina-

ed efforts of Bhakhara police and the crime branch, led by Station In-charge Lekhran Thakur and his dedicated team, the perpetrators were swiftly brought to justice. Working tirelessly, officers including ASI Nehru Ram Sahu and constables Ram Singh Sahu and Ashwin Banjara, among others, tracked down the stolen cash along with the unregistered motorcycle used in the crime.

Students demand paper cancellation

Courageous students, who exposed the cheating scandal in the girls' school, have demanded the cancellation of the mathematics paper held on March 9. They seek an investigation into the cheating issue and suspension of the involved teachers. However, the District Education Officer's response has not been positive. Following the Collector's instructions, the District Education Officer has ordered the removal of the Center President. When contacted, District Education Officer Fattaram Kosaria declined to comment, stating he was driving.

were openly provided with copying materials, aiming to pass the exam with extra marks. They disclosed that special arrangements had been made in different rooms to facilitate copying. This scandal has tarnished the reputation of Kanya Shala, once regarded as prestigious, drawing parallels to scenes from the movie "Munna Bhai."

The matter of copying has come to notice, the DEO has been instructed to remove the center president. A complete investigation will be done in the matter and action will be taken.

- Chandrakant Verma, Collector KCG.



Collector and the District Education Officer.

It has been revealed that some teachers, including the center president, were involved in facilitating cheating within the board examination center of the girls' school. Additionally, reports suggest that teachers were demanding significant sums of money from students in exchange for cheating assistance.

Despite efforts by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide guidance to students through initiatives like "Pariksha Pe Charcha" and the administration's attempts to ensure fair exams, corrupt individuals are exploiting the system for personal gain.

The victim students reported that at the examination center of Kanya Shala, certain students

88th Trimurti Shiv Jayanti celebrated in Bhakhara

Celebration of spirituality and women empowerment

CMSS program organized in Chhadia school

Central Chronicle News



Kharora, Mar 10: The Chief Minister's School Safety Program took center stage at Government Pre-Secondary School Chhadia, hosted under the Sankul Center Pachari.

Focused on the imperative theme of "Environmental Pollution Control and Solutions," the program witnessed active participation from students and educators alike, advocating for a cleaner and healthier environment.

Students, including Diya Verma, Bharti Verma, Gajendra Yadav, Gautam Yadav, Lily Mahilang, Chetna Banjara, Lucky Ratre, Dameshwari Sahu, Madhuri Sahu, and Santoshi Sahu, captivated the audience with a thought-provoking drama highlighting the escalating challenges posed by

pollution in contemporary society. They emphasized the urgent need for collective action to address this pressing issue, which threatens the well-being of humanity and the planet.

Addressing the gathering, SK Dewangan, the school's Principal, underscored the detrimental impact of pollution on the environment and human health. He emphasized that pollution disrupts the

natural balance of ecosystems, leading to adverse consequences such as extreme weather conditions and widespread illnesses.

Highlighting the intrinsic purity of nature, Dewangan stressed the importance of preserving and safeguarding the environment for future generations. Dharendra Kumar Verma, a dedicated school teacher, elucidated practical measures to mitigate

environmental pollution. He advocated for reducing reliance on private vehicles in favour of public transportation to curb vehicular emissions. Additionally, Verma encouraged students to utilize school buses and bicycles as eco-friendly alternatives, promoting sustainable commuting practices that prioritize environmental conservation and personal health.



come extended to all guests followed by an enchanting welcome dance performed by children. In her address, Sushila Nirmalkar emphasized the significance of Mahashivratri and International Women's Day, urging women to embrace their strength and resilience amidst challenges. She emphasized the need for women to stride forward, standing on their own feet, and wished everyone a joyous Women's Day.

Pushpalata Dewangan elaborated on the importance of Mahashivratri and extended heartfelt congratulations on Women's Day. B.K. Saras sister shed light on the spiritual significance of Mahashivratri, emphasizing that true worship of Lord Shiva transcends mere offerings of material possessions. She elucidated that in the present Confluence Age, spiritual purification entails relinquishing negative traits

and embracing purity of thought and action to attain divine blessings and eternal happiness.

Santoshi Nishad and Bharti Sahu extended warm wishes for Shivratri and Women's Day, fostering a spirit of unity and celebration among the attendees. Following worship rituals dedicated to Lord Shiva, a ceremonial flag hoisting and pledging ceremony ensued, symbolizing collective devotion and commitment to righteousness.

The highlight of the event was a vibrant procession featuring representations of Shiva-Shankar, Lakshmi-Narayan, and Ram-Krishna, captivating the city's attention and infusing the atmosphere with divine fervor and spiritual consciousness.

Central Chronicle News

Anwari, Mar 10: The 88th Trimurti Shiv Jayanti was celebrated with fervor and devotion at the Prajapita Brahma Kumari Ishwariya Vishwavidyalaya Tapasya Bhawan, Bhakhara, marking the auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri.

Distinguished guests, including Pushp Lata Dewangan (Nagar Panchayat President Bhakhara), Santoshi Nishad (Councillor Bhatheli), Sushila Nirmalkar (Mitandin Supervisor), Bharti Sahu (Councillor Bhakhara), and respected Saras sister (senior Rajyoga teacher Dhamtari), graced the event with their presence.

The festivities commenced with a warm wel-

Online application for free education launched

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Mar 10: The government has launched the online application process for free education under the Right to Education Act 2009 (RTE), aiming to provide equal opportunities for all children. As per the government's directive, private schools in the Rajim area are mandated to offer 25% free admission in the first admission class.

Sanjay Kumar Ekka, the Nodal Principal of Government Rambhishal Pandey Excellent English Medium School in Rajim, disclosed the list of private schools falling under the Rajim nodal area, including Saraswati Shishu Mandir Rajim, Saraswati Shishu Mandir Kumhi, Multimove English



Medium School Rajim, Davra International School Rajim, and Tejaswi Vidya Mandir Rajim. These schools are obligated to admit 25% of eligible children under the Free Education (RTE) scheme.

The admission process involves parents filling out online forms, following which eligible children are selected by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) through

an online lottery system administered by Raipur. Beneficiaries admitted under this scheme receive free education from admission up to class XII.

The application window for this scheme is currently open, with the deadline set for April 15, 2024. Eligible beneficiaries are urged to seize this opportunity by submitting their applications online at any designated or computer center before the stipulated deadline.

Subsequently, applicants must submit hard copies of their forms, along with supporting documents, to RTE in-charge Santosh Kumar Suryavanshi, a lecturer at Government Ram Bishal Pandey Excellent English Medium School in Rajim.

Central Chronicle News

Kasdol, Mar 10: The auspicious occasion of the inauguration of the Bada Dev temple and the consecration of the Shivlinga saw the esteemed presence of Minister Tank Ram Verma, Chhattisgarh's Sports and Revenue Minister, at Gidhauri near the banks of Mahanadi in Vishram Vat. Organized under the auspices of the All India Gond Samaj United Katgi, Kasdol, the event was marked by traditional fervour and communal unity.

The ceremony commenced with vibrant cultural performances by talented youngsters, evoking a sense of pride and cultural heritage among attendees. As the distinguished guests arrived, including Minister

Tank Ram Verma, the newly constructed Bada Dev temple near Vishram Vat was inaugurated amidst chants and rituals, signifying the sanctity of the occasion.

Amidst the proceedings, Minister Tank Ram Verma's humility and approachability were hailed as he personally greeted and interacted with attendees, earning praise for his down-to-earth demeanour. In subsequent speeches, representatives of the community shed light on tribal customs and traditions, emphasizing the significance of the Bada Dev temple as a symbol of cultural preservation and reverence for nature.

During the series of speeches, Kamlash Dhruv, representing the societal voice, provided insights into prevalent customs and tradi-



tions, aiming to dispel common misconceptions. He elucidated that many individuals harbor misconceptions regarding the distinction between "Budha Dev" and "Bada Dev."

Clarifying this, he explained that within households, the deity revered as the family or clan deity is referred to as "Budha Dev." Conversely, "Bada Dev" pertains to deities worshipped in natural elements such as water bodies, forests, and

lands, symbolizing reverence for nature and its manifestations.

Former Speaker of the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly, Gaurishankar Agarwal, lauded the tribal society for its role in environmental conservation and cultural heritage preservation. In response to community demands, Tank Ram Verma announced financial support of Rs 10 lakh for the construction of a social building near the temple

and for embankment projects along the Mahanadi riverbank, demonstrating the government's commitment to community welfare.

In his address, Tank Ram Verma underscored the pivotal role of tribal communities in the state's development, acknowledging their resilience and contribution to traditional values and societal progress. He urged for collective efforts to combat social vices such as addiction to drugs and to embrace mainstream societal integration.

The program concluded with expressions of gratitude by Naveen Mishra, Chairman of the Balodabazar District Panchayat, reflecting on the collective spirit of community engagement and commitment to shared prosperity.

Domestic violence dispute resolved in minutes by Lok Adalat

Central Chronicle News

Pithora, Mar 10: Amidst a dispute between a husband and wife escalating into domestic turmoil, an innocent child endured distress. However, within minutes, the domestic violence dispute was amicably settled in Lok Adalat, marking a swift resolution to the tumultuous situation. The dispute arose over trivial matters, leading the wife to seek refuge in her maternal home, leaving behind a small child. With reconciliation seeming unattainable, the woman presented a case of domestic violence in the Pithora court.



providing free legal counsel from the Legal Services Authority. Through separate consultations and engagement with their families, mutual understanding was fostered, paving the way for a peaceful compromise. Consequently, the fractured family embarked on a new journey with smiles, leaving behind the shadows of discord. Similarly, an altercation between an elderly gentleman and local youth,

stemming from a casual exchange of advice, resulted in a police report and subsequent legal proceedings spanning three years. However, in the Lok Adalat, convened under the purview of Judicial Magistrate, the accused youth were counseled to respect their elders. Expressing remorse, the youth apologized, swiftly concluding the prolonged dispute, thus restoring harmony within the

community.

The Lok Adalat, an alternative mechanism for expedited and cost-effective justice, empowers public participation and promotes settlement outside the formal legal framework. Recognized under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, judgments rendered by Lok Adalat hold statutory status, binding on all parties with no avenue for appeal.

In the National Lok Adalat held today, Pithora Court witnessed the resolution of 16 criminal cases, 2 civil cases, 1 check bounce case, and 200 summary cases, further highlighting the efficacy of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in ensuring equitable justice delivery.

1,684 pending cases resolved in National Lok Adalat

• Awards worth Rs 9,32,69,439 passed

Central Chronicle News



Chandra, Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority reported that the National Lok Adalat facilitated the resolution of 1,684 pending cases. These cases spanned various domains, including labour disputes, bank recoveries, electricity bill arrears, and other compoundable offenses. Additionally, cases related to revenue courts, compoundable criminal offenses, complaints under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments

Act, motor accident claims, and electricity theft under Section 135 (a) of the Electricity Act 2003 were also addressed. In a coordinated effort, a total of 1,684 cases involving civil suits, criminal cases, motor accident claims, and check dishonor cases, among others, pending in district and tehsil courts, were resolved through reconciliation and compromise during the National Lok Adalat organized on March 9. These resolutions resulted in awards

amounting to Rs. 9,32,69,439 being passed.

Additionally, 367 cases related to pre-litigation were successfully resolved, with an award of Rs. 52,23,996 being passed. Moreover, 48,208 cases pertaining to Revenue Court and District Panchayat MNREGA were effectively addressed. The National Lok Adalat, which was organized simultaneously across the state from the Top Court to the Tehsil level, marked a significant milestone in the judicial calendar. Months of meticulous preparations ensured the seamless execution of this event, with parties being duly notified and encouraged to seek resolutions through pre-setting prior to the hearing date.

Ranji Trophy Final

All-round Shardul helps Mumbai claw back

Mumbai, Mar 10 (PTI):

Seasoned duo Shreyas Iyer and Ajinkya Rahane's run drought continued but Shardul Thakur's all-rounder utility helped hosts Mumbai to claw their way back against a gutsy Vidarbha on the opening day of the Ranji Trophy final.

After scoring a counter-punching 75 off only 69 balls to give Mumbai's below-par first innings score of 224, some semblance of respectability, Thakur also dismissed veteran opener Dhruv Shorey (0) with an angular delivery which got him a favourable DRS result.

Vidarbha were 31/3 at stumps with another 193 runs in arrears in the first innings with Atharva Taide (21 not out) and night-watchman Aditya Thakare at the crease.

Playing the last first-class game of his career, medium pacer Dhawal Kulkarni bowled his customary late outswingers which had Aman Mokhadde (8) and Test triple centurion Karun Nair (0) nicking it to



Mumbai's batter Shardul Thakur celebrates his half century.

Hardik Tamore behind stumps. Mumbai's top guns Rahane and Iyer were both dismissed for identical scores of 7 in a shocking collapse that saw

the 41-time champions slipping from 81/0 to 111/6 on either side of the lunch break.

His achievement as a leader notwithstanding,

Brief scores

Mumbai 224 in 64.3 overs (Prithvi Shaw 46, Bhupen Lalwani 37, Shardul Thakur 75; Umesh Yadav 2/43, Harsh Dubey 3/62, Yash Thakur 3/54) lead Vidarbha 31/3 in 13 overs (Atharva Taide 21*; Shardul Thakur 1/14, Dhawal Kulkarni 2/9) by 193 runs.

Rahane's miserable run in the Ranji Trophy continued when the Mumbai skipper played one meekly to mid-on to be dismissed at a time when his team needed him to drop the anchor.

During the morning session, Umesh Yadav (2/43 in 13.3 overs) was as wayward as one could be spraying the new ball all over and mostly drifting on the pads of openers Prithvi Shaw and Bhupen Lalwani.

But the pacer with 170 Test victims did get the prized scalp of Iyer to compound Mumbai's problems during post lunch session. Expecting a short ball, Iyer remained rooted to the crease and in double

mind as the ball bounced a tad more than he anticipated. With no footwork, Iyer went on a fishing expedition and the resultant catch was taken by Karun in the slips.

Having lost six wickets for a mere 40 runs, Mumbai also went through a phase in which no boundary was hit for as many as 18 overs. But the complexion of the game changed drastically upon the arrival of Thakur in the middle, who hit a few fours to put the pressure back on Vidarbha and maintained the tone.

Thakur displayed adroit use of both hands and his feet to inch closer to what would have been his second consecutive ton, but kept running out of partners.

Thakur was the last batter dismissed, caught by the man at deep square leg after a superb 75 off just 69 balls with eight fours and three sixes. The troika of Tanush Kotian (8), Tushar Deshpande (14) and Shams Mulani (13), which bailed Mumbai on numerous occasions with useful runs also fell cheaply.

Chopra backs govt talent-identification programme

New Delhi, Mar 10 (PTI):

Ace Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has backed the government's nationwide sports development initiative 'Kirti', saying it has the potential to bring about big changes in the country's educational ecosystem.

The Sports Ministry has launched 'Kirti', a grassroots-level talent-identification programme aimed at school-going children.

The programme will identify and nurture talent and bridge the gaps in sports across the country.

Chopra, the Olympic and world champion javelin thrower said that a strong base for school-going children will pave the way for a perfect future.

"We need to tell children in the age group of 13-14 that they need to give attention to both sports and education. And if the schools can also support and balance things for them, it would be great," said Chopra in a video posted by SAI Media.

"School can plan their regimen properly, how they will select children (for sports) and how they will manage their academics and sports," said Chopra, the 2020 Tokyo Olympic gold medallist.

"I think that this (education system) should change so that both sports and academics can be balanced. If that happens then it will bring about great changes in our country," said Chopra.

Satwik-Chirag duo sails into French Open final



Paris, Mar 10 (PTI):

India's world number one pair of Satwik Patil and Chirag Shetty stormed into the men's doubles final of the French Open Super 750 tournament after beating South Korea's Seo Seung Jae and Kang Min Hyuk in straight games here.

This is the duo's third consecutive final of the year and the third time in this tournament. They won 21-13, 21-16 in the men's doubles semifinal on Saturday.

However, Lakshya Sen's campaign in the tournament ended after he lost to reigning world champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand. Kunlavut won 20-22, 21-13, 21-11 in an hour and 18 minutes in his men's singles semi-finals.

In a face-off between the

two best pairs in the world, the Indian team of Rankireddy and Shetty dominated most of the match against the reigning world champions to get one back, after losing against the same pair in the India Open final earlier this year. After winning the first game comfortably, Rankireddy and Shetty gained the upper hand in the second game as well.

Kang Min Hyuk and Seo Seung Jae tried to put up a fight after the mid-game interval, but a substantial early lead helped the Indians pocket the match in 40 minutes.

The Indian duo will take on Chinese Taipei's Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan in the final on Sunday, who defeated Japan's Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi in their semifinal.

Bajrang Punia, Ravi Dahiya eliminated from Paris Olympics qualification race



Sonepat, Mar 10 (PTI):

Bajrang Punia and Ravi Dahiya - the Tokyo Games medallists - were on Sunday eliminated from the race for the Paris Olympics qualification after losing their respective bouts in the selection trials for the national team. Punia, who was a prominent face of protest against former WFI President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, suffered a crushing 1-9 defeat in the men's freestyle 65kg semifinal against Rohit Kumar.

This was after he barely managed to win against Ravinder (3-3 on criteria) in the opening round. If Ravinder had not conceded a caution point in the bout, Punia would have been eliminated in the opening bout itself. Punia had trained in Russia to prepare for the trials, which are being organised by the IOA ad-hoc panel.

Punia though won a case in the Delhi High Court after contending that the suspended Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) had no authority to conduct trials.

We just get lost with this term bazball, fumes Nasser Hussain

Dharamsala, Mar 10 (PTI):

Miffed at England's 4-1 shellacking by India, former captain Nasser Hussain has advised the team's misfiring batters to work on individual performances and eschew their obsession with bazball.

Bazball, which is derived from England Test coach Brendon McCullum's nickname Baz, fell flat as the tourists capitulated in three days in the fifth and final Test here, helping India secure their 17th straight Test series triumph on home soil. "We just get lost with this term Bazball. The team, the management does not like the term Bazball. They need to look at their own individual performances," Hussain, who led England in 45 Test matches from 1999 to 2003, wrote in his column for Sky Sports. He added, "Look at the opposition. Like in anything in life, try and learn.

Djokovic wins in return to Indian Wells after 5-year absence

Indian Wells, Mar 10 (AP):

Novak Djokovic made a winning return to the desert, beating Aleksandar Vukic 6-2, 5-7, 6-3 on Saturday in his first match at the BNP Paribas Open in five years.

The 24-time Grand Slam singles champion joined Rafael Nadal as the only players to win 400 matches in ATP Masters 1000 series events. The top-ranked Djokovic is a five-time champion at Indian Wells, tied with Roger Federer for most by a male, but hadn't played in the event since 2019. Coco Gauff and Aryna Sabalenka also won barely rallying to win their opening matches in third-set tiebreakers.

Gauff edged Clara Burel 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (4). The U.S. Open women's champion trailed 4-0 and then 5-2 in the third set, leaving her a game away from becoming the



second top American upset by Burel this year. The No. 47-ranked player from France beat No. 5 Jessica Pegula in the second round of the Australian Open.

Sabalenka, the two-time Australian Open champion who lost to Gauff in the final at Flushing Meadows, fought off four match points before outlasting American Peyton Stearns 6-7 (2), 6-2, 7-6 (6). The No. 2 seed will face Emma Raducanu, the 2021 U.S. Open women's champion who reached the third round when No. 30-seeded Dayana Yastremska had to retire after Raducanu had taken a 4-0 lead.

Henry and Sears new ball surge gives New Zealand hope of famous win

Christchurch, Mar 10 (AP):

Australia needed 202 runs and New Zealand six wickets to win the second cricket test in what should be a thrilling finish after both teams had highs and lows on the third day Sunday.

Rachin Ravindra made 82, Tom Latham 73 and Daryl Mitchell 58 before New Zealand was out for 372 in its second innings after trailing by 94 on the first.

That left Australia needing 279 to win the match and complete a 2-0 sweep of the series. The target, if achieved, will be the 14th-highest successful fourth-innings run chase in test history.

At stumps, Australia was 77-4 with Mitch Marsh 27 not out and Travis Head 17. Head and Marsh batted through the last 10 overs of the day to save Australia from further loss.



New Zealand's Ben Sears (C) is congratulated by teammates after taking the wicket of Australia's Marnus Labuschagne on day three of the second Test cricket match between New Zealand and Australia at Hagley Oval in Christchurch on March 10.

Matt Henry and Ben Sears took two wickets each in the final session as New Zealand reduced Australia to 34-4 before it staged its late recovery.

New Zealand heads into the final day in a strong

position to continue its streak of unbeaten test series at home. After the current pair, Australia has wicketkeeper Alex Carey to come, then captain Pat Cummins and the rest of the bowlers.

Young and old combine to script one of India's finest series wins at home

Dharamsala, Mar 10 (PTI):

The thumping series win over England on sporting pitches was not only one of India's finest at home, it also reaffirmed their supremacy in the longest format with young and old combining to smash 'Bazball' out of the park.

The likes of Virat Kohli and Mohammed Shami were not available throughout and injuries to KL Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja after the shock loss in the series opener threatened India's enviable dominance at home but Rohit and Co found a way to put pressure back on their aggressive opposition over the next four games.

Four out of the five debutants Sarfaraz Khan, Dhruv Jurel, Akash Deep and Devdutt Padikkal showed they were ready for the big stage while the pillars of the team like the captain himself, Jasprit Bumrah and R Ashwin also stood tall with timely performances. The future does look bright for a team in transition. The stand-out performers that al-



India's R Ashwin shows the ball as he takes a five-wicket haul during the 3rd day of the fifth Test cricket match between India and England, in Dharamsala, Saturday.

lowed India to maintain their upper hand over England were young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal and wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav. It was India's 17th straight series triumph at home, a remarkable feat that is often taken for granted. "I think sometimes we just take it for granted. What is especially heartening is over the

last 10 years or a decade or so, India have had this dominance and has been able to string together successful series and have not lost a lot of Test matches in spite of the fact that the exposure that the foreign players get in this country, compared to what they would get in the 90s or the 80s or even early 2000s, before the IPL is not compa-

table," said head coach Rahul Dravid. He was speaking after the innings and 64-run victory in the fifth and final Test here on Saturday, which gave India a 4-1 series win.

"I know it is a different format but it is about familiarity. A lot of the English players or Australian players spend a lot of time here in these

Jaiswal trumps Bazball

Jaiswal came of age in the series and ended up with as many as 712 runs, becoming only the second India batter to scale the 700-run peak in a series after the great Sunil Gavaskar. However, the gargantuan numbers won't be enough to measure the decisive impact he made in the series. His back-to-back double hundreds in Vizag and Rajkot went a long way in keeping the English at bay. Especially in the second Test in Vizag, his 209 was the only reason India got to 396 in the first innings, with the next best score being 34. The way he was able to absorb pressure and change gears was the hallmark of his batting and a phenomenal 26 sixes in the series spoke a lot about his power game.

Bumrah goes ballistic in Vizag

It was a highly watchable five-match series and at the top of the spectacular moments were Bumrah's spell of reverse swing in Vizag. He got the 25-over ball to reverse and ended up with a sensational six-wicket haul. The booming reverse swinging yorker to shatter Ollie Pope's stumps will not be forgotten anytime soon.



conditions, they know people. So that's made it a

lot easier. But in spite of that, the fact that we've

Fitter and stronger Kuldeep

Ravindra Jadeja and R Ashwin bowling in tandem in home conditions instill fear and doubts in the mind of any opposition and they lived up to their reputation with 26 and 19 wickets respectively. Kuldeep Yadav operating at his best in the last four Tests also added to the lethality of the spin attack, not giving any breathing space to the confused opposition. His performance in Dharamsala summed up his invaluable contribution to the team's cause. On a flat day one track, he got the ball to turn a lot more than others to end with a five-wicket haul as England collapsed to 218 all out from a promising 100 for one. His improved fitness has allowed him to bowl at a faster pace with a straightened run up and that has made all the difference.

Debutants make it count

Wicket-keeper batter Dhruv Jurel and Sarfaraz Khan made instant impact in their debut game in Rajkot. Jurel got a handy 46 at the back end of the first innings before effecting a sharp run out of Ben Duckett in the second. He then secured himself a spot in India's next Test series with a rearguard 90 that allowed the hosts to get close to England's first innings score of 353. Sarfaraz, who had to wait for years for his big break, felt at home from the get-go as he made a fifty in each innings of the Rajkot Test. His play against spin was sublime and in Dharamsala, he showed he can also handle the express pace of Mark Wood. Pacer Akash Deep had the morning of his life as he ran through England's top-order on day one in Ranchi while Devdutt Padikkal, who made an unexpected debut in Dharamsala, was all class in his 65 off 103 balls.

been able to maintain that record and the standard is

a real tribute to the players."

'PM, what he stands for, will be at centre of LS polls'

New Delhi, Mar 10 (PTI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be at the centre of the Lok Sabha polls and whether what he stands for is for the good of the people of the country would be the subject matter of the elections, Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal said on Sunday. In a video interview with PTI, Sibal also said the opposition INDIA bloc needs to come out with a joint vision document which entails what key issues are there before the country which need to be addressed.

Asserting that no election is a done deal, Sibal quipped, "I don't know whether picture baki hai ki nahi lekin jo picture chahi hai woh desh ke liye theek nahi hai (I don't know whether or not there is more to the film but the one that is playing is not good for the country)."



Kapil Sibal

Asked about the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) losing its way with JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar crossing over to the NDA and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee saying her party will go solo in the polls, Sibal said negotiations with Banerjee were still on and that was not an issue.

"As far as Nitish Kumar is concerned, the nature of politics in this country

today allows for all this to happen, nobody trusts anybody else. It is unfortunate that the level of politics has reached its nadir as reflected by not just one individual but by the nature of politics in this country where people just cross over for reasons you and I know which need not be stated publicly," the Rajya Sabha MP said.

"As long as politics of this nature thrives in India, I don't think we have much hope for the delivery of essentials to those people who are at the bottom of the pyramid," he asserted. Expressing confidence that the INDIA bloc has the wherewithal to take on the BJP in the Lok Sabha polls, Sibal said battles will be fought depending on the kind of candidates the opposition fields in particular constituencies and the narrative it would project. Noting that seat sharing among opposition

parties will be over soon, Sibal said they will have to get together to build a narrative with which they can persuade the people to vote for them in the course of this election.

That narrative has not yet started being built, he added.

Sibal asserted that the INDIA bloc needs a vision for the future which is different from what the BJP is relying on.

Asked if the opposition needs a joint vision document, Sibal said, "I think they need something like that. I think they are talking about a joint minimum programme. A joint minimum programme, according to me, is not enough."

"It is a minimum programme as far as what you will do. A broad vision of what the issues are before this country that needs to be addressed (is what is required)."

TIBETAN UPRISING DAY



Members of the Tibetan community during a rally to commemorate the 65th anniversary of Tibetan National Uprising Day, in Dehradun, Sunday.

Oppn 'concerned' as Arun Goel resigns abruptly as EC

New Delhi, Mar 10 (PTI):

A day after Arun Goel resigned as election commissioner, the Congress and other opposition parties on Sunday asked whether he did so due to any differences with the chief election commissioner or the Narendra Modi government.

Taking potshots at the BJP, some opposition leaders also wondered if Goel resigned to contest the Lok Sabha polls on its ticket like former Calcutta High Court judge Abhijit Gangopadhyay.

"The resignation of Arun Goel as Election Commissioner last evening raises three questions," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said.

"Did he actually resign over differences with the Chief Election Commissioner or with the Modi Government, which does the front-seat driving for all supposedly independent institutions? Or did he resign for personal reasons?"

"Or did he, like the Calcutta High Court Judge a few days back, resign to contest the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls on a BJP ticket," Ramesh said in a post on X.

The Congress leader said the Election Commission has for eight months now refused to meet with INDIA parties on the issue of

the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) that is essential to prevent "electronic voting manipulation".

"Each passing day in Modi's India deals an added blow to democracy and democratic institutions," he alleged.

Asked about Goel's resignation, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said one has to wait to see what he does in the coming days.

"I was thinking that after the high court judge resigned and joined the BJP the next day and started abusing the TMC. It shows that the BJP has appointed people with such a mindset.

"Now the election commissioner has resigned, let us wait for some time to see what he does," he said.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut alleged the Election Commission has become an "extended branch of the BJP".

It is not the same Election Commission that it was during TN Seshan's time, which functioned as a watchdog over the elections and remained impartial, he claimed.

"In the last 10 years, the Election Commission has been privatised. It has become a branch of the BJP," he alleged.

He said two people have gone and only one remains in the Election Commission.

Stone laid for Barethi Solar Power Project

● OF NTPC REL

New Delhi, Mar 10: Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy, R K Singh and Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar together laid the foundation stone for Barethi Solar Power Project of NTPC REL 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 UMREPP 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.

On the occasion, Hon'ble Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy spoke about the need to keep adding further power capacity in line with the growing power demand. He said



"Ours is the fastest growing large economy in the world and our power demand too is growing fast. We need to add more power capacity to meet the growing demand. The Barethi solar power project is very important since it is 630 MW and further it is clean energy".

He further said that "NTPC is among the world's biggest power companies which is setting up renewable energy plants in addition to thermal plants".

Addressing the occasion, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment said "Barethi

Solar Power Project will help power the development of the region. He also mentioned that besides setting up solar power plants, the government is also promoting the use of solar power in agriculture."

Rajesh Kumar Shukla, MLA (Bijavar); Mrs Lalita Yadav, MLA, (Chattarpur); and Arvind Pateria, MLA (Rajnagar) were present at the programme.

Surdeep Singh, CMD NTPC also graced the occasion virtually along with senior officials from MoP, Govt of Madhya Pradesh, and NTPC Limited.

NTPC Limited is India's largest integrated power utility having 75+ GW installed capacity that contributes 25% of total electricity demand in India. By 2032, NTPC is looking to expand its non-fossil based capacity to 45-50% of the company's portfolio that will include 60 GW RE capacity with a total portfolio of 130 GW.

DMK now 'Drug Marketing Kazhagam': BJP

New Delhi, Mar 10 (PTI):

A day after a former DMK functionary was arrested in connection with an international drugs trafficking racket, the BJP on Sunday demanded that party chief and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin explain his relationship with the accused.

The party charged that the arrest shows that the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) has now become "Drug Marketing Kazhagam".

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Saturday

arrested 36-year-old Jaffer Sadiq, an expelled DMK functionary in Tamil Nadu, in connection with its investigation into the drugs trafficking racket estimated to be worth more than Rs 2,000 crore.

Reacting to the development, BJP Mahila Morcha chief Vanathi Srinivasan targeted Stalin and alleged that "it seems" the Tamil Nadu chief minister's family members are closely associated with the accused.

"Kiruthiga Udhayanidhi, daughter-in-law of Chief Minister M K Stalin has directed a film produced by

Jaffer Sadiq. All his social media posts show how close he was with Tamil Nadu sports minister

(Udayanidhi Stalin), son of M K Stalin," she told a press conference at the BJP headquarters here. "Some of the ruling party (DMK) ministers seem to be very close to Jaffer," she alleged and demanded that Stalin explain his relationship with the alleged "mastermind" of a trans-national pseudo-phedrine smuggling racket. "We believe that Jaffer Sadiq used all his political connections in illicit drug trafficking in various

countries. It seems that while being an office-bearer of the ruling party (DMK), he developed a very strong network with the police. In one picture, DGP is seen presenting some kind of award to this accused," Srinivasan said. After Jaffer Sadiq's NCB deputy director general (operations) Gyaneshwar Singh told reporters here that Sadiq's linkages with the Tamil and Hindi film industries and some "high-profile" people apart from some instances of "political funding" were under the scanner of the agency.

NGOs receive grants for sustainable rural development

Noida, Mar 10:

HCLFoundation, which drives the corporate social responsibility agenda of global technology company HCLTech in India, announced the winner NGOs of the 2024 edition of its flagship program HCLTech Grant. HCLTech Grant supports pioneering projects in sustainable rural development in India across the themes of environment, health and education. So far, ₹146.95 crore (appx. \$18 million) has been committed by the HCLFoundation through HCLTech Grant. The program has helped transform nearly 2 million lives in over 27, 500 villages in India. This year, three NGOs — The Corbett Foundation (environment), Sangath (health) and Makkala Jagriti (education) — will receive ₹5 crore (appx. \$609,000) each for their projects of four-year duration. For Health: ECHO

India (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) and Social Revival Group of Urban Rural and Tribal – Korba will receive grant of Rs 25 lakh for their project of one-year duration.

"HCLTech Grant is not just about a CSR fund; it is about providing global exposure to Indian NGOs that are doing path-breaking work in the field of rural development. It promotes sharing of best practices in the field of Environment, Health and Education — practices that are transformative in nature.

A robust year-long application process comprising shortlisting of applications, due diligence, field visits, audits and jury proceedings ensures complete transparency in the selection of the winners," said Ms. Robin Ann Abrams, Chairperson, HCLTech Grant Jury and Board Member, HCLTech.

Nita Ambani receives Humanitarian Award

● A Testament to the Power of Compassion

Mumbai, Mar 10:

Founder & Chairperson Nita Ambani received the prestigious 'Beauty With a Purpose Humanitarian Award' on the occasion of the 71st Miss World Finals, held at the Jio World Convention Centre.

Accepting the highest award conferred by the renowned international pageant, she highlighted the importance of empowering women in making the world a better place, reaffirming her own lifelong commitment to the cause.

With illustrious former recipients such as Late South African President Nelson Mandela and Founder of Operation Hunger Ina Perlman, the



Nita Mukesh Ambani after receiving the prestigious Humanitarian Award during the grand finale of the 71st Miss World pageant at the Jio World Convention Centre, in Mumbai.

award serves as an acknowledgment of Nita Ambani's work with Indian women and girl children across the spheres of education, healthcare, art and culture, sports, philanthropy and beyond.

Cheetah Gamini gives birth to five cubs



● At Kuno National Park

Bhopal, Mar 10 (PTI):

Cheetah 'Gamini' on Sunday gave birth to five cubs in Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh, taking the total number of the big cats in the country to 26, Union Minister Bhupendra Patel said. Taking to social media platform X, the Union Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change said, "High Five, Kuno! Female cheetah Gamini, aged about 5 years, brought from Tswalu Kalahari Reserve, South Africa, has given birth to 5 cubs today." The number of cheetah cubs born in India now stands at 13, the minister added. This is the fourth cheetah litter on

Indian soil and the first litter of cheetahs brought from South Africa, Yadav informed.

Congratulations to all, especially the team of forest officers, vets, and field staff who have ensured a stress-free environment for cheetahs, which has led to successful mating and birth of the cubs.

TMC PUBLIC RALLY



WB CM supremo Mamata Banerjee walks with party candidates for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, during party's 'Janagarjan Sabha' rally, at Brigade Parade Ground, in Kolkata, Sunday.