

BRIEF



PM Modi with the King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck waves to the gathering at the Paro International Airport as he departs for New Delhi, in Paro, Bhutan, Saturday.

Detained

Puri: A Polish woman was detained on Saturday for allegedly entering the Jagannath Temple in Odisha's Puri unauthorised, police said. She was detained after a servitor spotted her near 'Baishipahacha' in the temple and informed the police, they said.

Seized

Mumbai: Authorities have seized Rs 23 crore cash, 17 lakh litre liquor, and 699 kg drugs from different parts of Maharashtra since March 1, state Chief Electoral Officer S. Chockalingam said on Saturday.

Rejoin

Patna: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U) on Saturday re-inducted former MLA Ramesh Singh Kushwaha, who had quit the party a few years ago and joined fellow NDA partner Rashtriya Lok Morcha headed by ex-Union minister Upendra Kushwaha. The induction of the former MLA, who had represented the Ziradei seat in Siwan district, along with his wife Vijay Laxmi, was announced before the press at the JD(U) office.

Forfeit

Gurgaon: Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) has forfeited security deposits of around Rs 7 crore of 20 city-based builders for non-compliance with registration norms, an official said on Saturday. The real estate promoters had been granted conditional project registration certificates. The promoters, however, failed to meet the conditions within the stipulated time, leading to violations, a RERA (Gurgaon) order said.

Drone

Chandigarh: A drone was recovered from a field near the India-Pakistan international border in Punjab's Tarn Taran district on Saturday, a BSF spokesperson said. The Border Security Force (BSF) troops along with the Punjab Police personnel recovered the unmanned aerial vehicle from a wheat field near Mehandipur village, the spokesperson said.

Arrest

Balaso: Police have arrested 15 poachers and seized as many as 20 country-made firearms from them during a raid in Kuldhia forest range area in Odisha's Balasore district. The joint operation was conducted by officials from Kuldhiha Forest Range, Similipal Tiger Project and Nilgiri police. "After three days of operation, 15 poachers were arrested and 20 country-made rifles seized," a police officer said.

Weather

High 36 Low 22

RUSSIA TERROR ATTACK

115 dead; 4 gunmen among 11 arrested

Moscow, Mar 23 (AP):

Russian authorities detained 11 people, state media reported on Saturday, after gunmen stormed a concert hall in Moscow in a grisly attack that left at least 115 people dead.

Russia's Investigative Committee said four of those detained were directly involved in the attack that left the sprawling shopping mall and music venue smoldering with a collapsed roof.

Russian agencies appeared to suggest the attack was linked to Ukraine even though the Islamic State group claimed responsibility in a statement. A US intelligence official told The Associated Press that US agencies had confirmed that that group was re-



In this photo taken from video released by Investigative Committee of Russia on Saturday, a Kalashnikov assault rifle lies on the ground.

sponsible for the attack.

The four suspects were stopped in the Bryansk region of western Russia, "not far from the border with Ukraine", Russia's Investigative Committee said. They planned to cross the border into Ukraine and "had contacts" there, state news agency Tass said, citing Russia's FSB. The head of the FSB briefed President

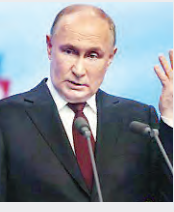
Vladimir Putin on the arrests on Saturday, according to Tass.

The attack came just days after Putin cemented his grip on power in a highly orchestrated electoral landslide. The attack was the deadliest in Russia in years and came as the country's fight in Ukraine dragged into a third year.

Shortly after the attack,

'Ukraine linked to the attack'

In an address to the nation on Saturday, Russian President Vladimir Putin suggested that Ukraine was linked to the attack on Moscow's Crocus City Hall. The death toll in Friday's attack has now risen to 143, news agency Reuters reported. All those responsible for the deadly attack would be punished, Putin said, declaring March 24 "a day of national mourning." So far, 11 people including four suspected gunmen have been arrested, the Kremlin said. Earlier, the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement posted on affiliated channels on social media.



some Russian lawmakers pointed the finger at Ukraine. Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, denied any involvement.

"Ukraine has never resorted to the use of terrorist methods," he posted on X, formerly Twitter. "Everything in this war will be decided only on the battlefield."

Images shared by Russian state media Saturday showed a fleet of emergency vehicles still gathered outside the ruins of Crocus City Hall, which had a capacity of more than 6,000 people in Krasnogorsk, on Moscow's western edge.

Videos posted online showed gunmen in the venue shooting civilians at point-blank range.

Gangster Prasad Pujari brought back from China

Placed under arrest by Mumbai cops

New Delhi, Mar 23 (PTI):

Gangster Prasad Pujari, accused of being involved in several serious crimes including murder, extortion and kidnapping, was brought back to India after his deportation from China in the early hours of Saturday, and was then placed under arrest by Mumbai police, an official said.

Pujari alias Subhash Vitthal Pujari alias Siddharth Shetty alias Siddhu alias Sidh alias Johny is a former member of gangs led by mob-

sters Kumar Pillai and Chhota Rajan. He was staying in China having an Interpol Red Notice against him, and was arrested there last year. After that, Mumbai police's Crime Branch continuously tried to bring him back to the country, the official said.

The CBI got issued a Red Notice against him from the Interpol on February 14, 2012 and also provided coordination assistance to Mumbai Police and Ministry of External Affairs in return to India from China, CBI Spokesperson said in a statement on Saturday.

A Red Notice alerts all Interpol member countries about an absconding

accused who should be detained when spotted in their jurisdiction.

Pujari is allegedly involved in eight serious cases in Mumbai, including firing, extortion and murder. A resident of Tagore Nagar in Vikhroli, he had fled from the country some years ago. He had allegedly targeted builders and businessmen in eastern Mumbai, the crime branch official said.

Pujari's name came up in the case of firing on Shiv Sena worker Chandrakant Jadhav, who lived in the Vikhroli area, in December 2019. He was apprehended by authorities in Hong Kong in February 2023.

Two Naxalites killed; two jawans sustain injuries

Dantewada, Mar 23:

Two Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Bijapur district, while two jawans were injured in an IED blast in the neighbouring Sukma district, a police official said on Saturday.

The gunfight took place around 8.30 am on Saturday in a forest under the Gangaloor police station area when a team of personnel from different security forces was out on an anti-Naxal operation, Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P told PTI.

The operation was carried out at the tri-junction of Bijapur, Dantewada and Sukma districts, considered a Maoist bastion, he said. Personnel belonging



Injured jawan under treatment in Raipur.

to the state's District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Bastar Fighters', Central Reserve Police Force and its elite unit CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) and a Special Task Force (STF) from the three districts took part in the operation

that was launched on Friday evening, he said.

Naxalites opened fire when security forces were cordoning off a forest near Pidia village, over 450 km from the capital Raipur, triggering a gun battle between two sides, he said. "After guns fell silent,

the bodies of two Naxalites along with weapons were recovered from the spot," the official said.

The identity of the two Naxalites was yet to be ascertained, the IG said, adding that a search operation was still underway in the area. As part of the same operation on Friday night, two jawans of Bastar Fighters were injured after a pressure improvised explosive device (IED) planted by Naxalites went off along the Dantewada-Sukma border, IG Sundarraj said.

The blast occurred in a forest near Doditumnar village under the Jagargunda police station area in Sukma district when the forest along the inter-district border was being cordoned off, he said.

SURVEY REPORT

'Arbitration preferred over litigation'

New Delhi, Mar 23 (PTI):

Arbitration is the preferred method of dispute resolution over litigation in the country because of the speed of resolution, confidentiality and cost effectiveness but there is still scope for improvement, a survey has found.

Conducted by law firm Khaitan & Co, the survey, which focused on the experience of parties rather than advocates and experts involved in domestic arbitration in the country, asserted that most arbitrations take 24 to 36 months to complete while a majority wanted the exercise to be over within 12 months.

According to a press release, a large majority of those covered under the survey 'Current Trends in Domestic Arbitration in India', said they intended to use domestic arbitration in the future for both small and large disputes.

"Arbitration is the preferred method of dispute resolution over litigation because of the speed of resolution, confidentiality, cost effectiveness, and process with speed of resolution being the most important. Most arbitrations are taking 24 to 36 months to complete instead of 12 months, which is what parties expect," according to the findings shared in the release.

PLAYING WITH COLOURS



A young woman plays with colours, in the backdrop of the Taj Mahal, ahead of upcoming Holi festival, in Agra, Saturday.

Kejriwal challenges arrest in HC

Seeks immediate release

New Delhi, Mar 23 (PTI):

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday moved the Delhi High Court challenging his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in the money laundering case linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam.

Sources in his Aam Aadmi Party said his legal team would request the high court to hear the matter urgently, preferably on Sunday.

On Friday, a trial court had remanded him in ED's custody till March 28 "for his detailed and sustained interrogation".

'No urgent hearing'

The Delhi High Court has turned down Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's request for an urgent hearing on his petition in which he has challenged his arrest as well as a lower court's order granting the Enforcement Directorate his custody for seven days. The AAP chief was arrested on Thursday in the liquor policy case and, the next day, the Rouse Avenue court had remanded him in the ED's custody till March 28. The petition against his arrest had been filed by Mr Kejriwal on Saturday and he had also sought an urgent hearing of the case by Sunday. The Delhi High Court has, however, said the matter will be listed for reopening on Wednesday, the first working day after the two holidays for Holi.

CBSE ANNOUNCEMENT

New curriculum, books for grades 3-6 from 2024-25

No change in syllabus for other classes

New Delhi, Mar 23 (PTI):

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) will release a new syllabus and textbooks for Classes 3 to 6 while there will be no change in the curriculum and textbooks for other grades for the academic year 2024-25 commencing from April 1, according to CBSE officials.

The NCERT has informed the Central Board

of Secondary Education (CBSE) that new syllabi and textbooks for classes 3 and 6 are currently under development and will soon be released, the CBSE said in a communication sent to affiliated schools.

"Consequently, schools are advised to follow these new syllabi and textbooks for classes 3 and 6 in place of textbooks published by NCERT till the year 2023," said Joseph Emmanuel, Director (Academics), CBSE. "Additionally, a bridge course for class 6, and concise guidelines

for class 3 are being developed by the NCERT for facilitating a seamless transition for students to new pedagogical practices and areas of study aligned with new curriculum framework, 2023. These resources will be disseminated to all the schools online once they are received from NCERT. "The Board will also organize capacity-building programs for school heads and Teachers to orient them with the new teaching learning perspectives as envisioned in NEP-2020," he added in the letter.

BJP ends ties with SKM

Gangtok, Mar 23 (PTI):

The BJP on Saturday called off its alliance with the ruling Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) and announced that the party would go alone in the simultaneous Lok Sabha and assembly elections in the Himalayan state. The SKM, on the other hand, did not rule out the possibility of a post-poll alliance with the BJP on the lines of a similar arrangement made after the 2019 polls. The announcement to fight the upcoming polls alone was made by state BJP president D R Thapa, who returned to Sikkim after attending a meeting with the party's central leadership in Delhi on seat-sharing with SKM.

Cong has multiple bank acs, just 3-4 attached: BJP

New Delhi, Mar 23 (PTI):

The Congress has multiple bank accounts and just three-four of them have been attached, "not frozen", for non-payment of tax dues, the BJP said Saturday, accusing the opposition party of making misleading statements on the issue sensing its "imminent" defeat in the Lok Sabha poll.

"These bank accounts have not been frozen, they are operational. You (Congress) can deposit money in these accounts and withdraw too, except Rs 125 crore, which has been attached by the Income Tax department due to the non-payment of dues as per



Sambit Patra

Income Tax rules," BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra said.

Referring to media reports, he said the Congress has about Rs 1,000 crore in its multiple bank accounts, opened with "multiple PAN" numbers in "violation of its own party constitution". The Congress also has a fixed asset of worth Rs 500 crore, the BJP leader

claimed. He said the Income Tax Department has attached three-four bank accounts of the Congress due to the non-payment of outstanding Rs 135 crore as per rules. He slammed senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his claim that the party doesn't have funds to even book train tickets following the freezing of its accounts.

"Rahul Gandhi is saying there is no money with the Congress to even buy train tickets while he is seen travelling by chartered plane every day," the BJP leader charged and demanded the Congress leader give a "technical answer, instead of political" on the issue.

Police recovers truck stolen from Maharashtra; thief nabbed

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 23: After receiving information about a stolen truck moving across Bhilai city, the Highway patrolling party intercepted the vehicle and nabbed the thief in the Power House area. The accused had stolen the vehicle from Maharashtra and was taking it towards Raipur.

Under the direction of SP Jitendra Shukla and leadership of DSP (Traffic) Satish Thakur and Sadanand Vidhyaraj, the Traffic Police is operating four vehicles for Highway Patrolling round the clock. These parties respond immediately in case of mishaps, traffic jams and other situations.

On March 21 around 20:00 hrs, the Police



Control Room gave information on wireless that a white truck bearing registration number MH 40 N 3797, which was stolen from Maharashtra, is moving towards Bhilai. Constable Jitendra Markandey and Constable Narendra Yadav, positioned on Highway Patrol #2, spotted the vehicle and tried to stop it near Supela around 23:30 hrs.

The truck driver did not stop and sped towards Power House. The Highway Patrolling party chased the vehicle and the stolen vehicle was intercepted near Highway Canteen in Power House. The accused truck driver was taken into custody. The stolen vehicle and the truck driver have been handed over to Chhawani Police Station for further action.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 23: World Oral Health Day is observed on March 20 every year. It highlights the global focus on oral health and empowers individuals with essential knowledge and tools for effective dental care. With this intent 'World Oral Health Day' was observed at JLNH & RC. The programme was organized by the Department of Dental Surgery

The inauguration of ceremony was done by Dr Ravindranath M, CMO I/c (M & HS) with lamp lighting. He was accompanied by Dr Pramod Binayake CMO(M & HS), Dr Vineeta Dwivedi CMO(M & HS) and Dr K Thakur CMO(M & HS). It was followed by welcome speech by Dr



Annappoorani HOD and ACOMO(M & HS) who explained the role of diet and oral hygiene care in prevention of dental decay and gum diseases.

Dr Ravindranath M CMO I/c(M & HS) and Dr Pramod Binayake CMO(M & HS) emphasized the need of such programmes to improve public awareness about oral health. Best posters in the poster competition

were awarded. The inaugural ceremony was conducted by Dr Vanita Sharma, Asst CMO(M & HS). The doctors of Dental surgery department Dr Harshwardhan, Dr Palash Tiwari and HODs of other departments were also present.

There was a poster competition for medical and nursing staff and a skit was performed by the students of PG College of

Nursing. Through posters and skit, it was explained that dental caries and periodontitis are a major cause of tooth loss and how heart diseases, arterial blockage and stroke might be linked to oral infections and inflammation. Gum diseases can also cause birth complications like low birth weight and premature birth.

Malnutrition, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, immunosuppression, stress and osteoporosis have shown adverse effect on dental conditions. It was also displayed in posters that how change in eating habits and oral hygiene care can help to improve our general health and make our lives better. Dr Ishita Dwivedi, RHO Dental, proposed the Vote of Thanks.

Youth arrested for brutally abusing street dog



Bhilai, Mar 23: Police arrested a youth on charges of brutally abusing a street dog. Khursipar Police received a complaint on March 21 that a youth has brutally beaten and injured a street dog at Khursipar. When the locals raised objections, the youth misbehaved with them using abusive words. Acting on the complaint, Police collected the CCTV footage and traced the accused. He was arrested on charges of cruelty with animals and abusing the local people. A case was registered against the accused Lucky Rao of Khursipar under section 429 IPC and section 151 CrPc. He was produced before the court and has been sent to jail. Durg Police appealed to the people to not to attack or torture animals. During the Holi festival, people must take special care of the animals and do not throw colors on them.

Youth stoned to death; assailant nabbed

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 23: Police arrested a 30-year-old man on charges of murder. After a petty dispute, the accused bludgeoned a youth to death in Amapara area of Durg.

CSP (Durg) Chirag Jain informed that around 19:00 hrs on March 22, police received information on Dial 112 that a youth was fatally injured in a clash with another person. The victim was taken to the hospital, where he was declared brought dead.

The team of Mohan Nagar Police Station led by Trainee DSP Akanksha Pandey (SHO, Mohan Nagar) swung

into action and reached the crime scene. The scene of the crime was preserved and the cops collected evidence. The deceased was identified as Rajesh alias Gandol.

On the basis of information provided by the eye witnesses, police searched for the accused Ganesh Yadav alias Genda, a resident of Amapara Durg. After a dispute, Ganesh Yadav had attacked Rajesh Yadav alias Gandol with a cement concrete stone on the head.

The accused was absconding after the incident. Police teams were sent in different directions to search for the accused. Soon the cops



managed to trace and arrest the accused.

During interrogation, the accused Ganesh Yadav confessed to committing the crime. Police arrested the accused Ganesh Yadav alias Genda (30) son of Kushal Yadav, a resident of

Amapara Azad Chowk, Mohan Nagar under section 302 of IPC. The cement concrete stone used in the incident was seized. The accused was produced before the court and has been sent to jail on judicial remand.

Trainee DSP Akanksha Pandey, Sub Inspector Laxman Singh Thakur, ASI Gupteshwar Yadav, Head Constable Santosh Sharma, Ajay V i s h w a k a r m a , Constable Omprakash Deshmukh, Vedram Bande, Murlidhar Verma, Kranti Sharma, Sachin Singh, Abhishek Yadav and Bhushan Joshi played a vital role.

Cops deployed at 26 fixed points for vehicle checking

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 23: Traffic Police have made 26 fixed points for vehicle checking in the view of Holi festival. They will take action against drunk drivers, modified silencers, rash driving and other violations. Drivers will be checked with breath analyser machines at all 26 points.

In case of drunken driving, the vehicle will be seized and the case will be produced before the court. Traffic Police will also prepare a case for licence suspension against such violators. In view of the upcoming Holi festival on 25th March, SP Jitendra



Shukla has given instructions to the traffic police. Accordingly, Traffic Police

Durg has formed teams led by Inspector ranked officers for vehicle checking at fixed points.

These teams will continuously conduct checking from March 24. Vehicles will be impounded if any driver is found drunk, moving with two pillions riders, vehicle without number plate, modified silencer, etc.

Hefty fine will be imposed and the vehicle will be released only after Holi. Special action will be taken against suspicious and black film vehicles. Traffic Police will set up checking points at a total of 26 places in which a total of 153 officers / personnel will be deployed.

Safety Awareness Week Prog concludes at Sinter Plant-3



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 23: Safety Awareness Week Programme concluded at Sinter Plant-3 on March 21, 2024. The Chief guest of this programme was Tapas Dasgupta, CGM I/c (Iron). In the program, MRK Shariff (GM and Incharge SP-3), Jagendra Kumar (GM and Incharge SP-2) along with a large number of officers and employees were present on the occasion. The Safety Awareness Week was inaugurated earlier by Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) on March 16, 2024. During

the programme, a short play "Suraksha Ghar Se Ghar Tak" written and directed by Rajesh Dewangan, DSO (Sinter Plant) was staged. Winners of various competitions were felicitated including Best Conveyor Gallery, Best Technology Building, Best organized room, Best Junction House, Best Tool Box Talk, Best Brigade Reporting of Near Miss, Poster, Poem, Safety Stewards, Safety exhibition etc. Pawan Kumar, ED (P&A), and other Senior officers also visited and appreciated the Safety exhibition.

Belt Conveyor J8C1 inaugurated at OHP

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 23: The inauguration of Belt Conveyor J8C1 on March 21, 2024 in OHP, marked a significant advancement in material handling efficiency. Led by Anjani Kumar, Executive Director (Works), the ceremony was attended by key personnel including PK Sarkar CGM I/c (Services), Tapas Dasgupta CGM I/c (Iron), SK Gajbhiye CGM (Mechanical), HK Pathak CGM (OHP), AK Singh GM (OHP) Operation, M Hussain GM (OHP) Mechanical, and NG Halder GM (OHP) Electrical.

The conveyor system revolutionizes the transportation of flux materials like Limestone and Dolomite to SP3 and RMP 3. Unlike traditional meth-



ods involving storage and reclamation, Belt Conveyor J8C1 enables direct dispatch of flux material from railway wagons to SP3 and RMP 3 via J8C1 belt conveyor, reducing handling steps and turn-

around time.

This innovation done by in-house resources of the Shop, optimizes resource utilization, and aligns with environmental sustainability goals. By streamlining material

flow and minimizing energy consumption, Belt Conveyor J8C1 exemplifies a commitment to innovation and efficiency in industrial operations, paving the way for a more resilient and agile future.

Free Health Camp organised at Village Pusewada



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 23: The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department of Bhilai Steel Plant organized a one-day free Health Camp, at Village Pusewada near Dulki mines on March 21, 2024. A total of 64 villagers, from Pusewada, availed free health services at the Health Camp. Free medicines were also distributed to villagers attending the camp.

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

IG Ram Gopal Garg gives tips for conducting free and fair elections

Over 220 cops attend Range-level seminar at Mahatma Gandhi Kala Mandir



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 23: Inspector General of Police (Durg Range) Ram Gopal Garg and Superintendent of Police (Durg) Jitendra Shukla asked the cops to ensure compliance with the instructions of the Election Commission to conduct free and fair polls. On Friday, a range-level seminar was organized at Mahatma Gandhi Kala Mandir, Civic Center. More than 220 officers and personnel of Durg Range were physically present while about 100 officers / personnel of districts Durg, Balod and Bemetra virtually attended the

seminar. This event became an important platform for discussion of crimes related to the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. At the outset, IG Ram Gopal Garg and SP Jitendra Shukla lighted lamps at the portrait of Goddess Saraswati to formally inaugurate the programme. In his welcome address, Superintendent of Police (Durg) Jitendra Shukla explained about the topic of the workshop and its importance. He directed the cops to study the booklet of instructions issued by the Election Commission. Inspector General of Police (Durg Range) Ram Gopal Garg said that with the announce-



ment of election dates on March 16, 2024, the Model Code of Conduct has come into force. Polling will be held in Kanker on April 27 and in Durg on May 7. Balod district of Durg Range is included in Kanker Lok Sabha constituency. The police have to play an important role in conducting this election in a fair and undisputed manner. He gave information regarding force deployment, force rotation planning, preparation for the arrival of central forces and state armed forces, their stay and preparation of basic facilities along with the honorarium. Garg said that with the Model

Code of Conduct coming into force and implementation of Section 144 CrPc, the cops have to work to ensure law and order. He spoke about the role of cops in FSTs and SSTs and asked them to regularly dispatch LOR. He discussed the security of strong room and resolution of election related crimes. The keynote speaker of the program, DSP Devansh Singh Rathore and ASP Padmashree Tanwar shared important information about election related crimes and their interpretation. They discussed the provisions of the Representation of the People Act 1951 in detail and

spoke about the restrictions in the use of loudspeakers. Ajay Tiwari (Lecturer, Khursipar) and HS Bhusaval (Lecturer, Dhamdha) also addressed the seminar and spoke about the transparency of voting and about making efforts to increase awareness and capability among the public to strengthen social security and democracy. Along with this, many other important issues were explained through PPT. They answered the queries of the officers / personnel. At the end of the program, Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural) Vedvart Sirmour thanked all the guests and expressed confidence that all the officers will be able to work effectively in the Lok Sabha elections. SP (Durg) Jitendra Shukla, SP (Bemetara) RK Sahu (virtually), ASP (Durg) Abhishek Jha, ASP (City) Sukh Nandan Rathore, ASP (Rural) Vedvart Sirmour, ASP (Bemetara) Jyoti Singh, ASP (IUCAW) Padmashree Tanwar, and more than 200 gazetted officers and police station / chowki in-charges were present.

ICAI Bhilai branch organises workshop on important technical tools



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 23: ICAI Bhilai branch organised a one day workshop for the students under the joint aegis of Shaildevi College. Students were given important information about subjects like Income Tax, GST etc. Also, how the existing technical facilities can be

used was highlighted.

Giving information, Chairman CA Rahul Batra said that in the workshop, students were given necessary information about important technical tools including Income Tax, GST. Children were given tips on its practical approach as well as how the help of Artificial Intelligence

can be taken in tasks like accounting etc. The convener of the program was CA Chinay Solanki. Mainly CICASA team members including Jitesh Mishra, Commerce Head of the college were present in the program. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by CA Ankesh Sinha.

Development can be achieved in BJP rule only: Arun Sao

● **BJP holds workers convention in Mahasamund LS segment**

Raipur, Mar 23: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao on Saturday said that people have expressed confidence on the guarantee given by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to dethrone the Bhupesh Baghel-led Congress government in Chhattisgarh in the last Legislative Assembly polls which shows that the development can be achieved in the BJP rule only.

Addressing a BJP workers convention at Mahasamund Parliamentary segment, the DCM Sao said that the Vishnu Deo Sai led government has delivered the promised it had made to people within 100 days.



Farmers have received Rs 3100 per quintal against the paddy procurement apart from getting pending bonus of 2 years whereas nearly 70 lakh women have started receiving monthly assistance of Rs 1000 under Mahtari Vandan Scheme. He said that people have been supporting the Prime Minister Narendra Modi which

would help the BJP achieve the target of 400 Lok Sabha seats in the upcoming Parliamentary polls.

Similarly, the Minister for Sports & Youth Welfare Tankram Verma said India can achieve self-reliant only when Narendra Modi becomes Prime Minister for the third time after victory in the polls.

Mahasamund Lok Sabha in-charge and MLA Motilal Sahu said that the upcoming polls is to create a nationalism within the country.

MLA Bhawna Bohra and Yogeshwar Raju Sinha and several others were also present during the meeting aimed to create momentum in favour of the BJP ahead of the April 26 polls.

NIT Raipur's students shine bright in national hackathon

Raipur, Mar 23: National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur's students have brought laurels to the institute by achieving top honors in the prestigious Hero Campus Challenge Season 9. The nationwide competition, spanning nearly three months, attracted an overwhelming response with over 1,00,000 registrations from all over India. Out of the multitude, 950 teams hailing from 250 campuses showcased their skills in the online test, resulting in a challenging competition where only the most skilled succeeded. The talented members of the Team Case Curious, comprising Rajasi Pandey and Nikhilesh Agrawal from the 8th Semester, Electronics & Communication Engineering, and Hridayansh Jain, 8th Semester, Chemical Engineering emerged as the winners in the Engineering track. Their exemplary performance earned them not



only the admiration of their peers but also a substantial cash prize of Rs. 2 lakh and Pre-Placement Offers (PPOs) from Hero Motocorp. Their dedication, coupled with their technical acumen, propelled them to

the forefront of this fiercely contested challenge. Following closely behind, Team Sheroes, represented by Ansh Shrivastava, Somya Kabra, and Smriti Priya from the 6th Semester, Metallurgical and Materials

Engineering secured the esteemed position of runners-up in the Engineering track. Their commendable effort and strategic prowess were duly recognized, earning them a cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh and Pre-Placement Interviews (PPIs) from Hero Motocorp. Their achievement stands as a testament to the institute's commitment to nurturing talent and fostering excellence.

In another event NIT Raipur's pre-final year students Raj Motwani, Harsh Agrawal, and Kartik Dwivedi from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, along with Shivam Gupta from the Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, and members of The Cosmos team, clinched the first runner-up position along with a cash prize of Rs. 2 Lakhs in the 30 Hacks National Level Hackathon by Globallogic, sponsored by Hitachi Group.

SECR Raipur Division's best performance in freight earnings

● **Achieves revenue of Rs 5000 cr**

Raipur, Mar 23: Raipur Division has earned the highest freight loading income due to the combined, continuous and disciplined efforts of its dedicated railway workers who worked hard even in adverse circumstances. In the current financial year 2023-24 till March 23, 2024, Raipur Railway Division has performed outstandingly so far and has achieved a historic freight loading revenue of Rs 5000 crore.

This record of achieving Rs 5000 crore freight load-



ing income in the current financial year 2023-24 is the best performance of

Raipur Division so far. Raipur Railway Division has played a helpful role in

the progress of the country by providing this unprecedented service to various states of the country. Goods loading during this period include steel, rice, coal, clinker, iron ore, cement, food grains, dolomite, lime stone etc.

This achievement was possible due to the direction of Divisional Railway Manager Sanjeev Kumar and the efficient guidance of Indian Railway Traffic Service officers. Divisional Railway Manager Sanjeev Kumar has congratulated employees and officers for this achievement and encouraged them for better work.

PUBLIC MEETING



Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai being garlanded during a public meeting ahead of Lok Sabha elections, in Bakaband tehsil, in Bastar district, Saturday.

BJP Traders Cell to hold convention in 90 Legislative Assembly segments

Raipur, Mar 23: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has taken decision to organise joint convention of the Traders Cell, Commercial Cell and Economic Cell of the party in all the 90 Legislative Assembly segments with the pledge to ensure victory in all the 11 Lok Sabha segments of Chhattisgarh.

Above decision was taken at the joint meeting held at Ekatma Parishad here on Saturday. Providing the above information, the former Parliamentary Secretary Labhchand Bafna said that joint tour of the office-bearers of all the 3 Cell would be held. He further added that they would reach people with the pledge to increase 370 votes in favour of BJP in every polling booths. Former MLA Shrichand Sundrani and several others were also present on the occasion.

Answer-sheet evaluation for 10th, 12th exams begins



Raipur, Mar 23: The evaluation of answer sheets of high school and higher secondary examinations conducted by Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education

(CGBSE) has started from today. As many as 36 examination centers have been set up for evaluation of the answer sheets in the state.

On the first day, IAS

Pushpa Sahu, Secretary of the Board of Secondary Education, reached the center located at Government Adarsh ??Girls High Middle School and

Swami Atmanand JRD High Middle School of Durg district to take stock of the evaluation arrangements and gave necessary guidelines to the evaluators. Keeping in view the future of the children, there should not be any carelessness in the evaluation, she said. She also instructed to maintain confidentiality in the evaluation. During inspection, it was found that stickers had been removed from the answer sheets by some evaluators. Expressing displeasure over this, the Secretary directed to take action against the four evaluators. Guidelines regarding evaluation had already been issued by CGBSE.

Vijay Bahadur and Raj win title in Power Lifting & Body Building championship

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 23: Raipur and Durg Region teams win the championship titles in the two-day Inter Regional Power Lifting & Body Building event being organized at Chhattisgarh State Power Company here. Vijay Bahadur from Raipur was adjudged Best Body Builder whereas Raj Vasnik from Durg won the title of Best Power Lifter title. Executive Director Power Distribution Company Bhim Singh Kanwar and Chairman of Regional Sports & Arts Council JS



Netam, KS Manothia presented awards to the winners at the concluding ceremony. Senior player Lakhpati Sindur from the Power Company was felicitated with the Lifetime Achievement award for his

contribution in the field of Power Lifting & Body Building. Providing the above information, Secretary Vinay Chandrakar said that RK Patkar from Korba West, Balram Vastavakar from

Mandava Region, Tejuram Netam from Raipur, Sanjay Kumar Rathore from Korba West, Raj Vasnik from Durg and Mahendra Sahu from Raipur won the Power Lifting event.

He further informed that Dinesh Kumar Nag from Jagdalpur, Vijay Bahadur Singh from Raipur Central, Tikesah Kumar Sahu from Durg and Adrin Rodrigues from Korba West won the titles in Body Building event. Umpires Rakesh Sahu, Amit Banchor, Vaidehi Maitri, Manish Janghel and Sanjay Sahu were felicitated on the occasion.

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Safeguard eyes from dry colors and gulal: Dr Mishra

● Free 66th Eye Camp on Mar 25

Raipur, Mar 23: Senior Ophthalmologist and Contact Lens Specialist Dr. Dinesh Mishra has advised playing with colors while protecting the eyes and other sensitive body parts during Holi. He emphasized that while playing Holi, dry colors and gulal should not enter the eyes, and special care should be taken to prevent this.



body. Synthetic colors, made from chemical substances, tend to be acidic or alkaline according to their chemical properties. These chemicals can have adverse effects on the skin, eyelids, and eyes, causing reactions such as burning, itching, swelling, pimples, allergies, etc. These effects can vary among individuals. Adding abrasive substances to colors and gulal for shine can cause harm to the skin and eyes. Mixing clay and finely powdered sand in gulal can cause abrasions in delicate parts of the face and eyes.

Dr. Dinesh Mishra said that efforts should be made to prevent dry colors and gulal from entering

Symbolic Holika Dahan today

Dr. Dinesh Mishra, President of the An d h a s h r a d d h a Nirmoolan Samiti, said as part of every year this year too, has eradicated various superstitions and social evils will be organized in Raipur on 24th March at 5.30 pm Near Mahakoshal Art Gallery Complex, Nagar Ghadi Chowk will be organized in Raipur.

dowry system, Sati system, alcoholism, social boycott etc. a Holi Milan is being organised, under which symbolic burning of superstitions and social evils will be organized in Raipur on 24th March at 5.30 pm Near Mahakoshal Art Gallery Complex, Nagar Ghadi Chowk will be organized in Raipur.

the eyes. If color or gulal enters the eyes, they should not be rubbed but gently washed out from the eyes.

Dry colors and gulal can cause injuries to the skin, cheeks, eyelids, and even corneal ulcers and conjunctivitis due to chemical substances. Wash off colors gently using dry cloth or handkerchief and then thoroughly wash with water. Forceful splashing of water or throwing water balloons with force can cause injury to the eyes. If there is severe pain, tears, red-

ness, or blurred vision in the eyes after washing, do not rub them; instead, consult a nearby ophthalmologist after washing the eyes. Avoid using cow dung, coal, ash, paint, grease, resin, and varnish as they can be harmful to the body. Moreover, they can damage the rainbow colors of Holi. Dr. Dinesh Mishra will be available for free consultation and treatment for the problems arising from playing Holi at his Phool Chowk Hospital on March 25th from 12 pm to 2 pm.

Engineering student gets new life after undergoing complex surgery

● AIIMS-R Consultant Managed Life Threatening Injuries by Self-Made firearm

Raipur, Mar 23: A 19-year-old engineering student who suffered injuries due to a self-made firearm was finally discharged by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences after 35 days of rigorous efforts in collaboration with different departments led by the surgery team. He is now out of danger with minimal risk of complications. The patient is on a feeding tube, and consultants are now planning to restore oral feed in the next few days. The 19-year-old male engineering student was brought to the emergency department of AIIMS, Raipur, in a case of alleged self-inflicted firearm injury with a self-made weapon (a combination of high-impact penetrating and explosive devices) to the left upper abdomen on January 30, 2024.

At the time of presentation, the patient was alert and conscious, but his heart rate was in an increasing trend even after all management efforts, with gradual distension of the abdomen.



Consultants and nursing staff with the patient.

After getting a call from Dr. Shivraj of Emergency, the operating surgeons, led by Dr. Radhakrishna Ramchandani, Associate Professor, Surgery Dept., along with Dr. Krishna Jangid, Dr. Tokho, and Dr. Aisharya, rushed into emergency and took the decision to operate the case immediately.

There were two wounds, one in the left middle abdomen (2 x 2 cm) with active oozing of blood and another (1 x 1 cm) just below the costal cartilage with tattooing of the left anterior abdominal wall. The exit wound was at the back, lateral to the spine. After seeing the device by the operating surgeon without delay, the decision for surgery,

which is exploratory laparotomy, was made. The surgery was performed by Dr. Ramchandani along with Dr. Jeevan Verma, Dr. Vishal Mohanty, Dr. Teja, and nursing officers Ms. Abhi and Ms. Moti. Anaesthesia was given by Dr. Mussavir and Dr. Prashant under the guidance of Dr. Chandan Dey, Assistant Professor of Anaesthesiology in Trauma and Emergency.

Though the patient became hemodynamically stable after operation with support, he was kept in the ICU for 5 days in closed monitoring under the guidance of Dr. Chinmay Panda, Assistant Professor, Department of Anaesthesiology; Dr.

Devendra; Dr. Balji; Dr. Sneha; and Dr. Hrishikesh; Dr. Abhinav; and Dr. Faizal, who were involved in post-operative management. According to Dr. Ramchandani, the next plan is to remove the feeding tube inside the intestine inserted through the abdominal wall only after a complete restoration of oral feed in the next few days. 'This is one of the unique cases where the patient not only could have been saved, but he also recovered without any complications or comorbidities,' he said. Lt Gen Ashok Jindal, Executive Director, congratulated the team for their collaborative efforts to save a precious engineering student's life.

CEO holds meeting of nodal officers of departments notified as 'essential service'

● Information given about eligibility and process of voting by postal ballot

Raipur, Mar 23: Chief Electoral Officer Reena Babasaheb Kangale on Friday informed in the meeting organized of state level departmental nodal officers of "Essential Services" notified under Lok Sabha Elections 2024 that 10 services have been notified as "Essential Services" for the state of Chhattisgarh by the Election Commission of India. These 10 services include Health Department, Electricity Department, Railway Transport, Posts and Telegraph Department, BSNL, All India Radio, D o o r d a r s h a n , Chhattisgarh State Cooperative Milk Union Limited, media persons who will be issued authorization letters with the permission of the Commission and Food



Corporation of India. Chief Electoral Officer Mrs. Reena Baba Saheb Kangale said that due to being notified as an essential service as per the instructions of the Commission, such employees of these services, who due to their official duty are not able to go to the polling station on the polling day, can only cast their vote. Voting facility is provided for them through postal ballot paper. All such personnel have to submit their application on Form 12D to the concerned Assistant Returning Officer within five days of the issue of election notification. Lok Sabha elections in the state of Chhattisgarh will be held in three phases. Last date for submission of Form 12D for Bastar Lok

Sabha constituency is March 25, 2024, in Rajnandgaon, Kanker and Mahasamund last date is April 2, 2024, in Surguja, Raigarh, Janjgir-Champa, Korba, Bilaspur, Durg and Raipur last date is April 17, 2024.

The employee applying in Form 12D will have to enter his mobile number, voter ID number, part number and simple number in the voter list correctly in the application. They will also have to attach a photocopy of the Voter ID card. To find out the updated part number and simple number of the employee in the electoral roll, Voter Helpline App can be used, in which it can be searched by entering the Voter ID card number. In the meeting, instructions were given to

all the state level nodal officers to appoint nodal officers at the district level. It will be mandatory for the nodal officers at the district level to verify the applications received in Form 12D in Part 2 of it.

In the meeting, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, Vinay Agarwal informed that all the eligible absentee mandatory category voters received till the stipulated time will be made to vote through postal ballot by setting up a postal voting center in the district. Postal Voting Center will be operated from 9 am to 5 pm for 3 consecutive days as determined by the Returning Officer in the district. All the candidates contesting the election will be informed about the establishment of Postal Voting Center so that they can observe it by being present during the voting proceedings themselves or through their authorized representative. Along with this, videography of the entire process will also be done. Every day after vot-

ing, all the postal ballots received from the Postal Voting Center will be kept in the strong room located at the Treasury and the ballot box will be sealed.

On receipt of application in Form 12D and its acceptance, voters will be provided information regarding the date and place of establishment of Postal Voting Center so that they can come and cast their vote. All such voters will not be able to cast their vote at the polling station on polling day. Therefore, such persons of these services who are able to go to the polling station and cast their vote on the day of polling will not be eligible for this facility and will not have to fill application form 12D. In the meeting, Additional Chief Electoral Officer Mr. Nilesh Kumar Mahadev Kshirsagar, Joint Chief Electoral Officer Mr. P.S. Dhruv, Assistant Chief Electoral Officer, Sharda Agarwal and nodal officers of various departments were present.

Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh administered oath for voter awareness



● Schools and colleges are urged to do constructive work for voter awareness

Raipur, Mar 23: Collector and District Election Officer Dr. Gaurav Singh on Friday participated in the workshop of school and college representatives under the voter awareness campaign and also administered oath to the representatives present to make the voters aware. Collector Dr. Singh said that schools and colleges should do more and more creative work for voter awareness. Creative

work will create the identity of the school and college and the administration will also encourage it. Competitions should be organized for voter awareness. Also, during the Code of Conduct, special care should be taken to ensure that the Code of Conduct is not violated in any government offices.

Addressing the workshop, District Panchayat Chief Executive Officer, Vishwadeep said that young voters should not be deprived of voting in any way. He said that the role of schools and colleges is important for voter awareness. Tournaments should

be organized by schools and colleges for voter awareness.

Information was given about the SVEEP action plan for voter awareness. It was told about campaigning for voter awareness in various streets of the city and wards, on social media, in colleges, schools, urban areas, disabled voters, other urban areas and rural areas. Besides, information was also given about Saksham App, Voter Helpline App and C-Vigil App. Representatives of government and non-government schools and colleges were present on this occasion.

Online approval will be given to all types of bills of govt depts in treasuries

● Finance Secretary Mukesh Kumar took stock of the preparations

Raipur, Mar 23: Apart from the salary bills of officers and employees in all the treasuries of Chhattisgarh, other bills will also be approved online through e-fund, preparations for this have been started by the Finance Department.



The Withdrawal Disbursement Officers of all departments are also being provided the facility of digital signature to send online bills to the treasury. With the entire process of approval of bills being online, the work will be easier and the approval of bills will be done faster. The work of approval of bills will also be done in a transparent manner.

At present, online software e-Kosh is being used in all the treasuries of the

state for the approval of salary bills of officers and employees of government departments, along with this, hard copies of the bills are also sent to the treasuries through the departments after the signature of the Withdrawal Disbursement Officers. are being deposited in. Now that the entire process of withdrawal of bills in treasuries is on-

line, departments will not need to deposit hard copies of bills in treasuries nor will they have to submit BTR. The paperless process will also protect the environment. Officials of the Directorate said that after the entire process of withdrawal of bills becomes online, work like approval of bills in treasuries and raising objections in the

bills will also be online. Resolution of objections raised on bills will also be online. With this, there will be no need for the employees of the departments to go to the treasury again and again. Officers and employees of the department will be able to approve the bills and resolve the objections from their office itself. Apart from salary, all

necessary preparations are being made by the Directorate of Treasury Accounts for online acceptance of other bills also.

A separate server for e-fund has also been installed in the Accountant General Office. For the online approval process of bills, officers and employees of the Finance Department have been trained in all the processes related to software operation. All the reports sent by the Directorate of Treasury and Accounts to the Accountant General will also be sent online, separate software has been developed for this.

Finance Department Secretary, Mukesh Kumar took complete information regarding various modules of e-Kosh software at the Treasury and Accounts Directorate located in Indravati Bhawan. The officials informed him about the en-

tire process of bill passing in the treasury. Kumar instructed the Director of Treasury and Accounts to make necessary preparations to start paperless work in treasuries from July 1, 2024. During this, a power point presentation regarding Public Finance Management System and Single Nodal Agency was also presented.

On this occasion, Director (Budget) Mrs. Sharda Verma, Director, Treasury and Accounts Mr. Mahadev Kavre, Director Institutional Finance Mrs. Sheetal Shashwat Verma, Finance Controller Mr. Tilak Sori and Mr. Akhileshwar Singh, Additional Director e-Treasury Ms. Alpana Ghosh, Additional Director Institutional Finance, Amitesh Singh, Deputy Secretary (Finance), Rishabh Parashar and P.L. Sahara senior treasury officers were present.

Holi festival sees business worth more than 50 thousand crore rupees across country: Amar Parwani

Raipur, Mar 23: CAIT National Senior Vice President Amar Parwani, chairman Magelal Maloo, Amar Gidwani State President Jitendra Doshi, States Working President Vikram Singh Deo, Parmanand Jain, Vasu Makhija, State General Secretary Suriender Singh, State Working General Secretary Bharat Jain, and State Treasurer Ajay Agrawal informed that this year, there's a new enthusiasm and excitement among traders across the country, including Delhi, towards the festival of Holi, with hopes for a better future in business once again.

Compared to previous years, there's an estimated increase of nearly 50 percent in business during the Holi season nationwide, resulting in a business worth more than 50 thousand crore rupees. In Delhi alone, the expected business is around 5 thousand crore rupees. Similar to previous years, both traders and common people have completely boycotted Chinese goods sold during Holi. The import of Holi-related items in the country is approximately 10 thousand crore rupees, which was negligible this year. CAIT National

Senior Vice President Mr. Amar Parwani State President Mr. Jitendra Doshi stated that this year, traders and consumers have boycotted goods made in China, and only herbal colors, gulal, water guns, balloons, sandalwood, puja items, clothing, and other items made in India are being sold in abundance. Additionally, there is a huge demand for sweets, dry fruits, gift items, flowers and fruits, clothes, furnishing fabrics, groceries, FMCG products, consumer durables, and various other products in the markets. Mr. Parwani and Mr. Doshi mentioned that this year, large-scale Holi events are being organized across State and the rest of the country, resulting in a boost for banquet halls, farmhouses, hotels, restaurants, and public parks, witnessing good business after two years, where people are experiencing a new joyous and enthusiastic atmosphere.

As the festival of Holi approaches, all wholesale and retail markets in are fully adorned. There is a rush of people in all markets to purchase not only colors and water guns but also other Holi-related items.

Raghavendra Singh's efforts recognized by IGAU

Central Chronicle News

Masturi, Mar 23: Raghavendra Singh, a dedicated member of the Farmer Seed Cooperative Society in Risda Bilaspur, has been chosen for recognition by the prestigious Indira Gandhi Agricultural University for his special preservation of seeds named Ranbir Barbatti. Barbatti, known for his meticulous preservation of various seed species, has been actively involved in safeguarding endangered seeds, contributing significantly to agricultural biodiversity.



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species, has been actively involved in safeguarding endangered seeds, contributing significantly to agricultural biodiversity. At the helm of the Farmer Seed Cooperative Society is Raghavendra Singh Chandel, a visionary farmer from Masturi village in the district. Chandel, acclaimed

for his pioneering work in organic farming practices, serves as the President of the cooperative. Under his leadership, farmers are encouraged to cultivate a diverse range of crops, including fruits, tubers, vegetables, sorghum, and paddy seeds, all nurtured through organic fertilization techniques. In

the face of climate change challenges, Raghavendra has taken proactive measures to collect seeds of various endangered species, inspiring farmers worldwide to embrace seed preservation and organic farming methods. Notably, Raghavendra's remarkable contributions to agriculture

earned him the prestigious Krishak Ratna Award from former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. Furthermore, Raghavendra has made significant strides in formalizing his efforts by registering 25 distinct varieties of fruits, tubers, vegetables, and paddy seeds with the Plant Varieties and Rights Protection Authority, a governmental organization in India.

Ananya Pandey excels in annual exams

Central Chronicle News

Masturi, Mar 23: Ananya Pandey, a dedicated student of class 8th at DAB Chief Minister Public School in Vedparsada village, has once again illuminated the school's name with her outstanding academic performance.

Scoring an impressive 79% in her annual examinations, Ananya continues her streak of excellence, having secured the first position in every examination since her first year at the school.

Expressing jubilation over Ananya's achievement, the school's Principal, Shweta Srivastava, felicitated her with a pen and notebook during a special ceremony at the school, where sweets were also distributed in celebration of her success.



Ananya, known for her prowess in reading and writing, has brought immense pride not only to her family but also to the

entire school community. Hailing from Malhar, Ananya Pandey is the daughter of Rakesh Pandey.

Experts focus on building a sustainable future for coal

Central Chronicle News

Kolkata, Mar 23: India's largest B2B e-commerce company, mjunction services limited, kicked off its two-day 17th Indian Coal Markets Conference at Taj Bengal in Kolkata.

The theme of the conference is "Black to Green: Building a sustainable future for coal" and provides a platform to industry leaders to capture the essence of the transformational changes the coal sector is undergoing.

The conference discussed key issues facing

the energy and the coal sector in times of global geopolitical crisis and drive towards emission control and decarbonisation. How India's energy transition journey is evolving and what would be the optimum mix of fossil-fuel and renewable energy are some of the key issues that were discussed during the first day of the conference.

There were also dedicated sessions on commercial coal mining and dynamics of global energy trade. Delivering the welcome address, Vinaya Varma, MD & CEO of

mjunction Services Limited said, "Today coal is in demand not only for power generation but for other usages like coal gasification, steel making and other purposes.

But as we go back to coal to meet the accelerated growth in demand for thermal energy, concerns over carbon emission keep raising their heads. It is in this context; the theme of this year's conference has been chosen."

In his keynote address, Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Govt of India, Amrit Lal Meena, said:

"Coal consumption in India will continue to grow for many years but will peak by 2040. We are now seeing many private sector companies taking up underground (UG) mines in commercial coal mine auction.

For just transition, coal mine closure needed to be handled scientifically to protect livelihood by adopting forestations, setting up solar parks, pump storage projects. The entire coal transition is a complex process which would need adoption of global best practices."

SSMHSS radiates joy with colorful Holi celebrations

Central Chronicle News

Kharora, Mar 23: The spirit of Holi resonated through the corridors of Saraswati Shishu Mandir Higher Secondary School in Kharora as students and staff came together to celebrate the vibrant festival of colors.

Amidst a palpable atmosphere of enthusiasm, the school witnessed a joyous celebration of Holi, a festival deeply entrenched in Indian culture. With just a day left until Holi, preparations for Holika Dahan were underway at select locations. The festivities commenced early as people exchanged greetings, applying Chandan tilak and



Abir Gulal, spreading joy and warmth. In line with the spirit of the festival, a message of environmental conservation echoed through the celebrations. Participants emphasized the importance of water and tree conservation, urging everyone to enjoy Holi

responsibly while safeguarding the environment. This year's Holi celebrations hold a special significance as the conclusion of board and local class examinations prior to the festival has elevated the festive spirit. With exams out of the way, children and youth

eagerly anticipate a Holi filled with exuberance and merriment. Principal Ashwani Patkar conveyed his heartfelt congratulations to all students and teachers on the occasion of Holi, extending warm wishes for the upcoming New Year.

Teachers and students come together for colorful Holi festival

Festivities promoting harmony and brotherhood



Central Chronicle News

Kharora, Mar 23: In a display of camaraderie, Government Pre-Secondary School in Bharuwadih Kala orchestrated a Sankul level Holi milan ceremony, fostering unity and goodwill among teachers and students from neighbouring Mohrenga and Pachari Sankuls.

The festivities com-

menced with the reverent worship of the divine duo, Radha Krishna, setting the tone for a day filled with joy and merriment. Teachers and students alike enthusiastically adorned each other with colors and gular, immersing themselves in the spirit of the season while joyfully singing the uplifting melody, 'Ganpati Ko Manav'. The event, meticulously coordinated by

program coordinator Dinesh Kumar Verma and head teacher of school and Nemchand Dhiwar, served as a beacon of unity and brotherhood within the community. Dinesh Verma expressed his belief that such gatherings not only cultivate mutual harmony but also nurture happiness among children, advocating for their continuation as an annual tradition in all schools.

Actors reflect on childhood Holi memories

Central Chronicle News

Mumbai, Mar 23: As the vibrant festival of Holi approaches, Watcho Exclusives actors Brijendra Kala, Ashmit Patel, Mudassar Bhat, and Lokesh Batta take down the memory lane, recalling their cherished childhood Holi celebrations. From playful water fights to indulging in traditional sweets, their stories will ignite nostalgia and paint a picture of the cherished moments that define this festive occasion.

Veteran Actor Brijendra Kala who played Madan Lal in the anthology series Luck Shots expressed, "In my childhood, I lived in Mathura, where the best Holi is played. It is still celebrated, but the vibe was completely different back then. The festivities began much earlier than the actual festival date. I have fond memories of enjoying Holi with my friends during those days. We would engage in all sorts of fun activities. During the Holika Dahan ceremony, we would collect wooden items from here and

there and throw them into the bonfire, which would burn throughout the night. Sometimes, we would even fill our water guns (pichkaris) with hot water because the weather was still quite cold despite Holi marking the onset of summer. Splashing hot water from the pichkaris on people was great fun; their reactions were priceless. We would also fill balloons with hot water and splash them on people. These memories are some of the most enjoyable ones from my childhood." Ashmit Patel who returned to the screens after a brief hiatus with the series State vs Ahuja, where he played Bollywood actor Ansh Ahuja, shared, "As a kid, we didn't follow specific traditions for Holi, but I do remember how it was celebrated in my building. All the kids from both wings would gather together for a big celebration. It was a lot of fun because we could let loose and express ourselves by throwing water colours, water balloons, and using water guns (pichkaris) on each other.

Peace committee meeting held

Central Chronicle News

Fingeshwar, Mar23: On the invitation of the newly appointed police station in-charge Faizul Shah, a meeting of the peace committee was held in the police station premises on Thursday to celebrate Holi festival peacefully with full enthusiasm and harmony.

In the meeting people responsible for the Holika Dahan were told to do Holika Dahan peacefully with full customs and gaiety, following the guidelines received from the government.

Officials said that the code of conduct for Lok Sabha elections has been imposed, hence no DJ should be played after 10:00 pm and the guidelines received from the government were read out in the meeting.

Instructions were given to strictly follow traffic rules on the day of Holi and in case of any unexpected incident or acci-



dent anywhere, instructions were given to inform the police station immediately and the mobile number of the newly appointed police station in-charge was also made available.

Shopkeepers selling Holi items were strictly prohibited from selling masks and instructions were also given not to sell colors that harm the body. Information about the ban on sale of liquor by the administration from the night of March 25 to the morning of March 27 was also given in the meeting.

Many people put for-

ward various suggestions and problems in the meeting, on which the administration assured to take all necessary precautionary measures.

Tehsildar Gaidndal Sahu, newly appointed Chief Executive Officer Fingeshwar SK Vishwakarma, Nagar Panchayat President Jagdish Yadav, senior BJP leader Poonam Yadav, Councillor Anil Chandrakar, Deepak Srivasi, Santosh Puri Goswami, Beni Sonwani, Naresh Lahare, Manju Harit, Sunita Srivas Arun were present in the meeting.

Eco-friendly Holi celebrations blossom in Korea

- Herbal gulal stall paves way for sustainable festivities
- Self-Help Group empowers women, nurtures local economy



Central Chronicle News

Korea, Mar 23: As the vibrant festival of Holi approaches, the streets of Baikunthpur are bustling with preparations, with many individuals indulging in shopping for colors, gulal, water guns, and sweets.

Amidst this festive fervour, Kusum Singh from the Jai Seva Sahayata Mahila Group has taken a commendable initiative by setting up a stall offering Herbal Gulal within the premises of the District

Collectorate. Highlighting the distinctive qualities of their product, Kusum Singh shared that the Herbal Gulal is meticulously crafted from a variety of flowers, completely devoid of any chemicals or artificial scents. This natural alternative, handcrafted by the women

of the self-help group, promises a delightful sensory experience while also promoting locally sourced goods in the market. Residing in Dongripura, a village under the jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat Ratga, Kusum Singh elaborated on the diverse range of culinary delights offered by the self-

help group, including homemade pickles, papads, lentil-based snacks, and millet-based items, available for purchase at Seamart outlets.

Expressing pride in their products, Kusum Singh revealed that their offerings have garnered significant demand in urban centers such as Raipur and Bilaspur, contributing substantially to the group's collective income, which ranges between Rs 60,000 to Rs 1 lakh. In a heartfelt appeal to the district's residents, Kusum Singh urged everyone to embrace herbal gulal this Holi season, advocating for the promotion of local artisans and the propagation of goodwill through the aromatic essence of their natural colors.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all people that Shri Kedamath Kalyan, S/o Late Shri Raghunath Dayal, R/o Mungelli Road Bilaspur Who has Sold the Property A Open land bearing the Part of Kh. No. 211/2, & 213/2, 214/1, 214/2, Area 0.940 Hect. Situated at Mauja- Gadhumatya, P.H. No. 07, Tah- Pussur, Dist Raigarh to Shri Gopal Sharma, S/o Late Shri Sawanya Sharma, R/o Kolara Road Raigarh by registered Sale Deed Doc. No. 3222 Di-09.03.2020.

After that above named owners Shri Gopal Sharma, S/o Late Shri Sawanya Sharma, Who has Sold the above said property in Fio Shri Uttam Kumar Agrawal by registered Sale Deed Di-19.03.2021.

That the original Previous Sale Deeds date 09-03-2020 is lost somewhere. Whose report is complained in related police station City Kotwali Raigarh, Di. 21.03.2024.

That Shri Uttam Kumar Agrawal, desire to mortgage the same property forgetting loan to my Client Axis Bank Ltd.

Whose ever whether individual society, Association, Bank or housing board have any claim right authority are title over it, he should within 07 days of publication of this public notice approach and apprise this office under the following address of his claim and objections.

After expiry of 07 days no objection shall be entertained, such objection deemed invalid and void and shall be not tenable.

Please take notice
Date:-23.03.2024

Yours truly,
Vijay Rathore, Advocate
ADVOCATE
Off. Cum Res. - Behind of Barot Gas Godam
Laxmi Nagar, Pachpadi Naka, Raipur (C.G.)
Mob. 9425202167

HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES

Regd. Office: Radhika, 2nd Floor, Law Garden Road, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad, Gujarat-380009
Regional Office: 1st Floor, Wilson House, Old Nagardas Road, Near Amboli Subway, Andheri (E), Mumbai 400069 And Its Various Branch's In Maharashtra And Chhattisgarh.

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

You, below mentioned borrowers, co-borrowers and guarantors have maintained loan(s) facility(ies) from HDB Financial Services Limited branch by mortgaging your immovable properties (secureties) you have not maintained your financial discipline and defaulted in repayment of the same. Consequently to your defaults your loans were classified as non-performing assets as you to avail the said loan(s) along with the underlying security interest created in respect of the securities of the same. The HDBFS has right for the recovery of the outstanding dues, now issued demand notice under section 13(2) of the securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the Act), the contents of which are being published herewith as per section 13(2) of the act read with rule 3(1) of the security interest (enforcement) rules, 2002 and by way of alternate service upon you. Details of the Borrowers, Co-borrowers, Guarantors, Loans, Securities, Outstanding dues, Demand Notice sent under section 13(2) and Amount claimed there under are given below:

1. Borrower And Co-borrowers: Hotel Mezban (Applicant / Borrower) & Bano Nasreen & Hotel Mezban Spicy & Ayyub Raza Mohammad & Mezban Regency & G Ten Garments And Cloth & Mohd Ahtesham Raza (Co-borrowers / Guarantors). All Are Reside At: (A) Hotel Mezban Bajinath Para Near Evergreen Chowk Raipur-492002 Chhattisgarh. (B) Municipal House No. 40/491, 40/492, Ward No. 40, Babu Jagjeevan Ram Ward, P.H.No. 106, Abadi KH.NO. 615 (Part) Raipur-492002. (C) @Wo Mohammad Ayyub Raza, Near Mahima Hospital, Shanti Nagar Raipur-492002 Chhattisgarh. (D) Hotel Mezban Spicy Aamapara Chowk G.E. Road Raipur-492002 Chhattisgarh. (E) Near Mahima Hospital, Shanti Nagar Raipur-492002 Chhattisgarh. (F) G Ten Garments And Cloth Bajinath Para Evergreen Chowk Raipur Chhattisgarh Raipur-492001 Chhattisgarh. (G) Mezban Regency Near Shashtri Market Evergreen Chowk Raipur Chhattisgarh Raipur-492001 Chhattisgarh. (H) Loan Account Number: 1513003 And 7965474. (I) Loan Amount In Inr: Rs.3,22,03,714/- (Rupees Three Crores Twenty Two Lakhs Three Thousand Seven Hundred Fourteen Only) For Loan Bearing No 1513003 And Rs.69,01,710/- (Rupees Sixty Nine Lakhs One Thousand Seven Hundred Ten Only) For Loan Bearing No 7965474. (J) Detail Description Of The Security: Mortgage Property - All That Piece and Parcel of House Bearing Municipal House No. 40/491, 40/492, Comprised In Part of Abadi Khasra No. 615, Comprising Area 3600 Sq. Ft., Situated At Moja Raipur Khas, Babu Jagjeevan Ram Ward, Ward No. 4, P. H. No.106, R.I.C. Raipur, Tahsil and District Raipur (C.G.). 5) Demand Notice Date: 14.03.2024 .

6) Amount Due In Inr: Rs.2,67,90,066.74/- (Rupees Two Crore Sixty Seven Lakhs Ninety Thousand Sixty Six And Paise Seventy Four Only) as of 11.03.2024 and Future Contractual Interest Till Actual Realization Together With Incidental Expenses, Cost And Charges Etc.

1. The Borrower and Co-Borrowers/Guarantors are called upon to make payment of the above mentioned demanded amount with further interest as mentioned herein above in full within 60 days of this notice failing which the Undersigned Authorised Officer of HDBFS shall be constrained to take action under the Act to enforce the above mentioned securities. Please note that, as per section 13(13) of the said Act 2. Mortgagors are restrained from transferring the above-referred securities by way of sale, lease, Leave & License or otherwise without the consent of HDBFS. 3. For any query of Full and Final Settlement, Please Contact: Mr. Bharat Rajoriya Mobile No: 920000522 Authorised Officer or Mr. Aman Kumar Mobile No. 880063718 HDB Financial Services Limited.

SD/- For HDBFS
Authorised signatory

PLACE : Raipur, DATE : 24.03.2024

City gears up for vibrant Holi celebrations

Agarwal Samaj embraces sustainable practices

Kharora, Mar 24:

The city of Kharora is ablaze with anticipation as it prepares to immerse itself in the vibrant hues of Holi festivities. With Holika Dahan slated for March 24 and Rangotsav on March 25, the atmosphere is brimming with excitement.

The market streets have undergone a transformation, adorned with an array of colors, gulal, and pichkaris, each display more enticing than the last. Particularly catching the eye are the pichkaris



featuring beloved characters like Doraemon and Chhota Bheem, charming the hearts of children and adults alike. Despite a slight uptick in prices by around 10 percent, traders remain optimistic, expecting footfall to increase in the coming days.

In a commendable move

towards environmental conservation, the Agarwal Samaj has decided to utilize cow dung cakes instead of wood for the traditional Holika Dahan, showcasing their commitment to sustainable practices. Moreover, preparations are underway to infuse the festival with spiri-

tual fervor, with special arrangements being made in the city's temples.

The excitement isn't limited to the market streets; Tigda Chowk boasts a dozen beautifully decorated shops, with the old bus stand also joining in the festive spirit. Gulal, available in an assortment of colors including fragrant and herbal varieties, is flying off the shelves. Pichkaris, ranging from Rs 20 to Rs 200, offer something for every budget, while gulal packaged in eco-friendly plastic foil is a hit at Rs 10.

With each passing moment, the anticipation grows, promising a Holi to remember, filled with laughter, joy, and vibrant colors.

BJP's 100-day governance packs more punch than 5 years of INC: Shyam Bihari

Chirmiri, Mar 23:

Whatever BJP says, it does. Our Prime Minister fulfills what he says and the Chief Minister is also implementing what he had announced. Health Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal said the above things while addressing the journalists in a press conference organized at Chirmiri Press Bhawan today on completion of 100 days of Vishnu Sai government in Chhattisgarh. He further said that Vishnu Dev government has worked very fast to fulfill the guarantee given by the country's Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In this short time, our government has taken big decisions in the interest of poor farmers, women and youth, which include housing to homeless families. The Minister said that the Chief Minister had decided to provide housing to 18 lakh families of the state and under the



Mahtari Vandan Yojana, Rs. 655 crores were transferred directly into the accounts of more than 70 lakh women for economic independence and empowerment of the state. He also said that according to the promise, Rs 13320 crore was given to more than 24 lakh 70 thousand farmers by keeping the promise of purchasing paddy at the rate of Rs 3100 per quintal along with the input assistance amount of Rs 19257

per acre in paddy purchased at support price. Under the Landless Agricultural Labor Scheme, financial assistance of Rs 10,000 will be given every year to the landless families. For this, a budget provision of Rs 500 crore has been made. Shaheed Veer Narayan Health Scheme will be operated along with Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Aayog Yojana, for this a budget provision of Rs 1526 crore has been made.

While discussing about health facilities, the Health Minister said that a provision of Rs 100 crore has been made for Chirmiri Manedragar District Hospital. The district hospital of Chirmiri will be built either near Lahri College or near the Municipal Corporation of the state. A provision of Rs 1500 crore has been made for the development of big medical colleges established in major cities of India. Addressing the press conference, Korba Lok Sabha in-charge and senior BJP leader Dharamlal Kaushik said that candidates are not ready to contest elections on Congress ticket in the state and candidates have not been declared in many parliamentary constituencies yet. Former Parliamentary Secretary Champa Devi Pawle, Mrs. Praveen Singh, Sanjay Gupta, Dharmendra Patwa, Rahul Singh, Arunodai Pandey, Ramcharit Dwivedi were present.

District Hospital a boon for cancer and kidney patients

Kawardha, Mar 23:

The health services being provided in the District Hospital have created a new record, because as per information, the health services which were running on paper in the previous government have started appearing on the ground and this has happened due to continuous improvement in health services due to the appointment of specialist doctors. In the orthopedic department of the district hospital, all types of surgeries including plaster surgery are being done by expert doctors. Similarly, from January 2024 till date, more than 800 safe deliveries have been made in which 600 were normal deliveries and more than 200 were cesarean deliveries. Kidney patients have been dialyzed approxi-

mately 923 times in the district hospital from December 23 to February 24 and patients suffering from these serious diseases are also getting a lot of relief by getting treatment and services for cancer and kidney diseases. Cancer specialist Dr. Harshit Tuwani said that currently 20 cancer patients are undergoing treatment in the district hospital, to which more than 51 chemos have been given. Among cancer patients, there are 7 stomach cancer, 3 blood cancer, 4 ovarian cancer, 4 breast cancer and 5 cervical cancer patients. Dr. Harshit Tuwani told that it is important for people to be aware about cancer and in case of cancer; timely treatment can save the life of the patient. People should avoid fanfare for cancer.

Mother's Pride World School achieves unprecedented success

With 168 medals in Olympiad Triumph

Chakrabhata, Mar 23:

Mother's Pride World School, a beacon of academic excellence, has once again set a new standard by clinching a staggering total of 168 medals in the recent Olympiad exams. The school's exceptional achievement underscores its commitment to nurturing young minds and fostering a culture of excellence in education.

In this extraordinary feat, the students of Mother's Pride World School exhibited unparalleled prowess, securing a remarkable 102 Gold medals, 37 Silver medals, and 29 Bronze medals across various Olympiad categories. This outstanding



performance not only reflects the dedication and hard work of the students but also highlights the school's unwavering commitment to providing a conducive learning environment.

This unprecedented achievement positions Mother's Pride World School as a leading institution in academic excellence, not only within our city but on a national level. The school remains committed to fostering an

environment that encourages intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and a passion for continuous learning.

Mrs. Vandana D'Souza, Principal, Ramkumar Arya, Vice Chairman and Sabino D'souza, Chairman of Mother's Pride World School, expressed their elation, saying, "This achievement is a testament to the relentless efforts of our students and the guidance of our dedicated faculty. It re-

fects our school's emphasis on holistic education and the pursuit of excellence in all endeavors."

As the school continues to celebrate this momentous accomplishment, it looks forward to even greater achievements in the future. The success of Mother's Pride World School in the Olympiad is a testament to its vision of empowering students to reach new heights and make a mark on the global stage.

Meeting of coordination committee of BJP held

Kurud, Mar 23:

A meeting of the coordination committee of Bharatiya Janata Party was held in which all the top leaders including Ajay Jamwal, Pawan Singh, Chunnillal Sahu and Ajay Chandrakar taught the tricks of booth management to the Mandal and Shakti Kendra in-charges and talked about increasing the number of voters in each booth by 379. The team asked the workers to have constant contact, discuss with the beneficiaries and share their experiences. Ajay Jamwal said that India will become a world leader and PM Modi is working on the road map till 2047. Also Organization General Secretary Pawan Sai, Kurud MLA Ajay Chandrakar, MP Chunnillal Sahu asked the workers to do their public relations, and explain the schemes and discuss with the beneficiaries at all 237 booths of Kurud assembly constituency. On this



occasion, General Secretary District President Prakash Singh Bains, State Minister Niranjan Sinha Daya Ram Sahu Shyam Sahu Ravikant Chandrakar, Malkram Sahu, Bhanu Chandrakar, Jyoti Chandrakar, Kuleshwar Chandrakar, Trilok Chand Jain, Pushpendra Sahu Jagriti Tikesh Sahu Sindhu Bais Anand Yadu Hori Lal Sahu Aadarsh BJP workers including Chandrakar Digeshwar Sonkar Virendra Sahu were present.

City awaits festival holi with colour and toy shops decorated

Rajim, Mar 23:

The Holi of Dharmanagari Rajim is no less than the Holi of Barsana, as every year it is celebrated with great pomp. Especially in Lord Rajeev Lochan Temple, Holi has its own unique flavor; as from early morning till late night, the palate of Holi colors cover the body and mind of every person during the days of the festival. Rang Gulal and Pichkari shops have been decorated in the city and many shops on Rajdhani Rajpur Main Road, Rajiv Lochan Marg, Gariaband Devbhog Marg, Mahasamund National Highway have been prepared temporarily and they are only waiting for customers. Bhavani Shankar Sahu, the opera-



tor of the Rang Pichkari shop, said that I set up this shop every year and use the income from it to support my family. This time the price of Pichkari ranges from Rs 10 to 500, while the price of colours also vary depending on the range and ingredients used to prepare. Here it takes a note that according to the Vedic calendar, four very auspicious yogas are being formed on the day of Holi festival. On this day Vriddhi Yoga will last till

9:29 pm, after this Dhruva Yoga will start and Uttara Phalguni and Hasta Nakshatra are also being formed. Uttara Phalguni Nakshatra will last till 10:40, after which Hasta Nakshatra will start and in astrology, all these days have been described as the best times for worship. Also it is said in the scriptures that pregnant women should not look at the fire of Holika Dahan, as it can have a negative impact on the health of the baby.

Teachers spread joy with festive Holi celebrations

At Government Pre-Secondary School Chhadiya

Kharora, Mar 24:

In a display of cultural celebration, teachers at Government Pre-Secondary School Chhadiya, nestled within the Sankul Center Pachari, joined hands with their students to mark the joyous occasion of Holi.

Teacher Dhirendra Verma shared that the school's educators chose to celebrate a dry Holi with their students, aiming to instill in them the spirit of happiness and camaraderie associated with this vibrant festival. By actively participating in the festivities, teachers served



as role models, inspiring students to embrace the traditions of Holi with enthusiasm and joy.

Head teacher SK Dewangan extended warm Holi greetings not only to the students but also to public representatives and members of the school management committee, fostering a sense of inclusivity and community spirit.

Authorities ensure peaceful Holi celebrations

With stringent measures against disruptions

Kharora, Mar 24:

With Holi festivities just around the corner, authorities in Kharora convened a crucial meeting at the police station premises to strategize and ensure a peaceful and orderly celebration of the upcoming Holika Dahan and Rang Parv.

Led by DSP Vidhansabha Kesari Nandan and Tehsildar Babulal Kurre, the meeting brought together key stakeholders including police personnel, municipal officers, and community representatives. Discussions centered on maintaining public safety, promoting responsible conduct, and preventing

any disturbances during the festivities.

Tehsildar Babulal Kurre appealed to attendees to embrace the spirit of Holi in a peaceful and harmonious manner fostering an environment of mutual respect and understanding.

DSP Vidhansabha Kesari Nandan reiterated the importance of adhering to traffic regulations, ensuring safe celebrations, and refraining from engaging in any form of misconduct or harassment.

Police station in-charge Surendra Srivastava underscored the readiness of law enforcement authorities to respond promptly to any emergencies, urging citizens to report any incidents or concerns to the police or emergency services without hesitation. He emphasized the collective responsibility of

citizens in maintaining a tranquil and secure environment throughout the festivities.

Strict measures were announced against individuals who disrupt the peace, with assurances that stringent action would be taken against any offenders. Additional police personnel were deployed at key locations across the city, and continuous patrolling efforts were planned to uphold public safety.

The meeting witnessed the active participation of community leaders, including Nagar Panchayat President Anil Soni, District President representative Anil Sonwani, Vice President Chamber of Commerce Sachin Aggarwal, and other esteemed members of the Peace Committee and city residents.

Cyber awareness, career sensitization program organized

Khairagarh, Mar 23:

As per the instructions of Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority and Alok Kumar President, District Legal Services Authority Rajnandgaon, an inter-cluster cyber awareness and career sensitization program was organized in Government Higher Secondary School Madrakohi for the bright future and guidance of children. During this, successful people of their respective fields guided the children to move ahead. The program was inaugurated by Chandra Kumar Kashyap. Additional District and Sessions Judge Khairagarh and Guru Prasad Dewangan Judicial Magistrate First Class, Mahesh Kumar Sahu, PLV Goludas, Principal Shival Sahu by jointly lighting the lamp.



In the program, ADJ Kashyap, while addressing the students regarding career, said that dreams are not fulfilled in a day, one has to make continuous efforts for them. He told that it is very important to know some factors before choosing a career,

which includes reasons, salary, respect, job security, pleasure time, health issues, self-confidence and circumstances etc. Children were explained about choosing a career through various examples and stories. Further, Shri Kashyap provided de-

tailed information regarding POCOA Act, Motor Vehicles Act, Cyber Crime, Chhattisgarh Torture Prevention Act, and Domestic Violence. Further in the program, JMFC Guru Prasad Dewangan told the students that every person

sets a goal for some job since childhood, but as one grows up with education, his attitude towards job changes. Students should keep an eye on competitive examinations to get a good job; they should set their goals and give competitive examinations. Concluding the program, Principal Shival Sahu inspired the students to keep trying to make their lives successful by adopting the points mentioned in the guidance and counselling. In the said program, teachers of the organization including Hirendra Kumar Sahu, Mahesh Kumar Sahu, Seema Delhiwar, Dr. Priyanka, Dehuti Sahu, Chhaviraj, Pushpa Soni, Rakhi Mishra, Sangeeta Bais, Shashi Lata, were present to provide guidance to the children regarding career.

Tehsildars ignore court decisions and issue decrees and orders

Sheorinarayan, Mar 23:

The main religious and historical place of the state has dictatorial laws even after installation of democracy as here Tehsildars ignore court decisions and decrees and issue orders in complete disobedience, to the judiciary. A sample of the non obedience to the judiciary is being exemplified in one such case, in which the applicant Hari Prasad Sharma (Hemant) had applied in Shivrinarayan Tehsil for implementation of the court in first class 1 judge Deepak Tiwari Janjgir decision number 382 A/2005 decision dated 25/7/2005, but the decision was declared invalid by the then Naib Tehsildar. While disobeying himself, the order dated 18/4/2007 was passed and after this again coming to the notice of the Court First

Class 1 Janjgir, the said order of Tehsildar Shivrinarayan was declared void. Regarding the same matter, the decision and decree was passed on 26/2/2018 by the Court First Class 1 Judge Uday Lakshmi Parmar in the behavioral case number 25 A/2018, instead of following which, Tehsildar Shivrinarayan again issued an order dated 30/1/2019. Taking cognizance of this, the competent officer of the authority had also issued instructions to the then Tehsildar to act lawfully, but angry with the complaint of the applicant and upset with the advice of the judge, the then Naib Tehsildar Aradhana Pradhan appealed against the order passed by District and Sessions Court Rajesh Srivastava Janjgir. In this misbehavior of his, he took subordinate Patwari Prakash Das Manikpuri along with him

and made unauthorized persons encroach on the applicant's rights and rights by doing illegal sharing. It is noteworthy that the Honorable High Court Bilaspur has also issued an order wpc regarding this matter No.2763of 2019 dated 09/08/2019 has been passed on which application has also been given by the applicant to Tehsildar Shivrinarayan, which has not been followed even in four years instead of four months. Meanwhile as the city is the main religious and commercial area of the district and is moving towards progressive progress and the price of land is skyrocketing, construction of plots and colonies is also happening at a rapid pace but unfortunately, most of the citizens here are dependent on land brokers, land mafia and corrupt officials.

Russia launches sweeping attack on Ukraine's power sector

Kyiv, Mar 23 (AP):

Russia unleashed one of its most devastating attacks against Ukraine's electric sector on Friday, an aerial assault it said was retaliation for recent strikes inside Russia and which could signal an escalation of the war just days after President Vladimir Putin cemented his grip on power in a pre-ordained election.

Many Ukrainians were plunged into darkness across several cities, at least five people were killed, and damage to the country's largest hydroelectric plant briefly cut off power to a nuclear plant that has been a safety risk throughout the war.

Russia fired off more than 60 exploding drones and 90 missiles in what Ukrainian officials described as the most brutal attack against its energy infrastructure since the full-scale war began in early 2022.

Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, sustained the most damage, officials said, and the attack came a day after Russia had fired 31 missiles into the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was urging Western allies for weeks to provide it with additional air-defense systems and ammunition, a period in which \$60 billion in US aid has been held up by divisions

in Congress. "With Russian missiles, there are no delays, like with aid packages to our state," Zelenskyy said. "It is important to understand the cost of delays and postponed decisions."

Russia's defence ministry called Friday attacks "strikes of retribution". Ukraine has increased shelling of Russia's Belgorod region along its northeast border and has launched drone strikes targeting Russian oil refineries and other energy facilities.

Ukraine's latest strike inside Russia on Friday killed one and injured at least three, according to local officials.

Putin has described

Ukrainian attacks on Belgorod and other regions as an effort to frighten residents and derail the highly orchestrated election that ended Sunday. And he vowed to strike back.

The day after he declared victory, Putin said Russia would seek to create a buffer zone inside eastern Ukraine to help protect against long-range strikes and cross-border raids.

Russia has made progress on the battlefield in recent months against exhausted Ukrainian troops struggling with a shortage of manpower and ammunition along the front line that stretches over 1,000 km (620 miles).

VASANT MELA FESTIVAL



Artists perform at the Vasant Mela festival at Embassy of India, in Beijing, China.

Pakistan launches bid for non-permanent seat on UN Security Council for 2025-26

New York, Mar 23 (PTI):

Pakistan has formally launched its bid for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council for a two-year term from 2025 to 2026, a media report said on Saturday with a promise to "contribute meaningfully" to the council's mandate for international peace and security.

Pakistan's Permanent Representative to UN Ambassador Munir Akram formally announced the cash-strapped country's candidacy at a reception organised in connection with Pakistan Day celebrations at the UN on Thursday. The Express Tribune newspaper reported. Seeking support from the international



Pakistan-made surface-to-surface missiles Fatah-I and launcher are displayed during a military parade to mark Pakistan National Day in Islamabad, Pakistan, Saturday, March 23. Pakistanis celebrated their National Day with a military parade that's showcasing nation's elite army units and high-tech weaponry, including short, medium, and long-range missiles, tanks, fighter jets and other hardware.

community for Pakistan's UNSC bid, Ambassador Akram expressed confidence in Pakistan's ability to "contribute meaningfully to the UNSC's mandate for international peace and security".

The reception, which was held at the Pakistani Mission to the UN in New York, was attended by UN General Assembly (UNGA) President Dennis Francis, top diplomats from the UN permanent missions and others, the report said.

The envoy emphasised Pakistan's consistent efforts to champion the causes of the Global South and promote cooperative multilateralism. He also highlighted the country's contributions to the UN, the report said.

Pakistan sponsoring terrorism at 'industry level': Jaishankar



Singapore, Mar 23 (PTI):

Underlining that Pakistan is sponsoring terrorism almost at an "industry level", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday asserted that the mood in India now is not to overlook terrorists and it "will not skirt this problem anymore". Jaishankar, who is on a three-day visit to Singapore, made these remarks during a Q&A round held post his lecture session on his authored book 'Why Bharat Matters' at Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) of National University of Singapore (NUS). "Every country wants a stable neighbourhood...if nothing else, you want at least a quiet neighbourhood," he said in response to a question on India's ties with Pakistan. However, unfortunately, it is not the same with India, he said. Underlining that Pakistan has been sponsoring terrorism against India, Jaishankar asked,

● India 'will not skirt' this problem anymore

"How do you deal with a neighbour who does not hide the fact that they use terrorism as an instrument of statecraft?" "It's not a one-off happening...but very sustained, almost at an industry level...So what we have come to conclude is that we have to find a way of addressing (the menace), that dodging the problem gets us nowhere, it only invites more trouble," he said.

"I don't have a quick instantaneous fix (to this issue). But what I can tell you is that India will not skirt this problem anymore. We are not going to say, 'well, that happened and let's continue our dialogue'...we have a problem and we must be honest enough to face up to that problem, however difficult it is...we should not give the other country a free pass, saying there's nothing they can do about it or it's a very hard problem, or there's so much else at stake that let us overlook," he asserted.

Chinese coast guard blasts Philippine boat with water cannon

● In disputed sea for 2nd time this month

Manila, Mar 23 (AP):

Two Chinese coast guard ships fired at a Philippine supply boat with water cannon on Saturday in the latest confrontation near a disputed South China Sea shoal, causing heavy damage to the wooden vessel, Philippine officials said.

It was not immediately clear if the

Philippine navy crew was injured, or whether their damaged boat, the Unaizah May 4, managed to maneuver past the Chinese coast guard blockade to deliver supplies to Philippine forces manning a territorial outpost in the nearby Second Thomas Shoal. It's the second time this month the Unaizah May 4 has been damaged during an attempt to resupply the outpost.

President Zardari urges political parties to unite to tackle challenges faced by Pakistan



Islamabad, Mar 23 (PTI):

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday

urged all political parties to set aside their differences to tackle the multiple problems faced by the cash-strapped country amidst increasing political polarisation and a spike in terror attacks.

Zardari was addressing the 84th Pakistan Day celebrations and army parade held at the Parade Ground area here.

The day marks the adoption of the historic

Lahore Resolution on this day in 1940 which provided a framework for the realisation of the goal of a separate homeland for

Muslims of South Asia. Saudi Defence Minister Khalid Bin Salman was the guest of honour on the occasion.

India provides more grants to build houses in Buddhist sacred town of Sri Lanka

Colombo, Mar 23 (PTI):

India has signed an additional grant of Sri Lanka Rupees 150 million to build houses and infrastructure facilities in the Buddhist sacred town of Anuradhapura, the Indian High Commission has said. Santosh Jha, the High Commissioner of India, and the relevant Sri Lankan officials on March 21 exchanged letters about the grant to the island nation.

With this, the Indian government's total commitment to the project currently stands at SLR 450 million for the construction of houses and infrastructure facilities in Sobitha Thero village of Anuradhapura.

The late Sobitha Thero was an iconic Buddhist monk in the island nation's good governance movement.

projects, while also minimising the impact of the sharp rise in the cost of construction materials on the original scope of projects.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE FOR MISCELLANEOUS WORK

Tender Notice No. 12-SNT-GSU-24

Date: 14.03.2024

Name of Work: Indoor/Outdoor Signalling & Telecom work in connection with i) Cable clearance to facilitate Engineering work of ROB & RUB in lieu of Railway crossing gate LC 321 (at km 634/25-27 at Sakti yard) and LC 361 (at km 706/21-23 between JRMG-GTW), ii) Alteration/modification in the existing EI for elimination of LC 354 (at km 694/21.23 between JRMG-AKT at Latia yard) and C 321 (at Sakti yard) and iii) Alteration in signalling gummy and date fogger to eliminate gate of LC-355 (at km 695/5-7 between LATIA-KOTMI SONAR) and LC 361 over the JSG-BSP section of Bilaspur division of S.E.C.Railway. Tender Value: Rs. 1,12,63,579.80/- (Rs. One crore twelve lacs sixty three thousand five hundred seventy nine and eighty paise only) EMD: Rs. 2,06,300.00/- (Rs. Two lakh six thousand three hundred only) Tender Closing Date: Up to 15:00 Hrs. on 10.04.2024.

For further details/purchase of tender document, eligibility criteria & the complete details for e-tender document, please contact website <http://www.irps.gov.in>. The tender is floated by Gati Shakti department of Bilaspur Division.

Dy. Chief Signal & Tele. Eng. (GSU)

S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur

CP/R/10/482 S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur

South East Central Railway @secrail

National Highways Authority of India Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Govt. of India

PUBLIC NOTICE ON USER FEE (TOLL) RATES AT JHALMALA TOLL PLAZA APPLICABLE FROM 01.04.2024

The public are hereby informed that pursuant to Fee Notification published in the Gazette vide S.O. No. 949 (E) dated 02.03.2022 by MoRTH and approval of user fee rates vide e-office (Computer No. 196718) Note#75 dated 20.03.2024 of NHAI, the user fee for the use of section from km. 216.334 to km. 276.786 of Masanikakala to Rengapali village/Odisha Border section of NH-49 is going to be started w.e.f. 01.04.2024 at Jhalmala Toll plaza (Km.270.045, near village Jhalmala, District Raigarh) in the State of Chhattisgarh at the following rates:

Category of Vehicle	Fee for Single Journey	Fee for Return Journey within a day	Fee for Monthly Pass valid for 50 Journeys	Fee for Commercial vehicles registered in district
Car, Jeep, Van or Light Motor Vehicle	70	105	2385	35
Light Commercial Vehicle, Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	115	175	3850	60
Bus or Truck (Two axle)	240	365	8070	120
Three Axle Commercial Vehicles	265	395	8800	130
Heavy Construction Machinery (HCM) or Earth Moving Equipment (EME) or Multi Axle Vehicle (4 to 6 Axle)	380	570	12655	190
Oversized Vehicles (7 or more axles)	460	695	15405	230

The rates for monthly pass applicable for local non-commercial vehicle residing within a distance of 20Km from the toll plaza shall be Rs. 340/-

2. The above section was developed under public funds (The above section was developed as per provision of Contract Agreement dated 17.01.2023 on EPC basis for putting on commercial operation). The above rates are applicable for a completed length of 60.452 Km. which comprises of following:

Type of Section	Length (Km.)	Equivalent Length (Km.) for which use fee is to be levied	Lane Configuration
Straight Section	27.674	16.6044	2 lane
	9.767	9.767	4 lane
Bypasses (Costing>Rs.10.0 Cr.)	21.501	19.3509	2 lane
	0.507	3.042	2 lane

- The following concessions are available at above Toll Plazas.
 - Return Journey within 24 hours from time of payment for all categories of vehicle (discount 25%)
 - 50 single journeys in a month from date of payment for all categories of vehicle (discount 33%)
 - Pass at Rs 340/- per calendar month for non-commercial vehicle residing within 20 km from Toll Plaza.
 - Commercial Vehicle (excluding those plying under national permit) registered in the District of Toll Plaza (discount 50%)
- The list of exempted vehicles is given in the Amendment of Fee Rules dated 03.12.2010 vide GSR 950(E).
- The vehicle, which is loaded in excess of permissible load, shall pay 02 to 10 times the applicable fee rates as per Gazette notification No.G.S.R.920(E) Dated 25.09.2018.
- The Capital cost of the project is Rs. 634.299 Crore. The user fee (toll) rates shall be reduced to 40% on recovery of capital cost.
- For viewing the fee notification dated 02.03.2022 published in the Gazette, e-office note of NHAI dated 20.03.2024 containing approval of rates, etc, the website <http://nhaitis.org> may be visited.
- For any enquired and/or giving complaints/suggestions, please contact.

Name of Representative D.D. Parlawar/Project Director, NHAI, PIU-Korba (C.G.)
Address MIG II/12, M.P. Nagar EXTN, HeliPad Road, Near Ghanatghar, Niharka, Korba-495677
Contact No. 07759-351000

Kind Attention: From 15th February 2021 onwards, User Fee payments is mandatory via "FASTag ONLY" and All the lanes have been declared as "FASTag ONLY".

National Highways Authority of India Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Govt. of India

PUBLIC NOTICE ON USER FEE (TOLL) RATES AT PACHIRA TOLL PLAZA APPLICABLE FROM 01.04.2024

The public are hereby informed that pursuant to Fee Notification published in the Gazette vide S.O. No.70 (E) dated 03.01.2020 by MoRTH and approval of user fee rates vide e-office (Computer No. 67104) Note#115 dt. 20.03.2024 of NHAI, the user fee for the use of section from km.331.000 to 363.400 of Katni-Gumla Section of NH-43 is going to be started w.e.f. 01.04.2024 at Pachira Toll Plaza (Km.348.860, near Pachira village, Surajpur District) in the State of Chhattisgarh at the following rates:

Category of Vehicle	Fee for Single Journey	Fee for Return Journey within a day	Fee for Monthly Pass valid for 50 Journeys	Fee for Commercial vehicles registered in district
Car, Jeep, Van or Light Motor Vehicle	35	50	1145	15
Light Commercial Vehicle, Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	55	85	1855	30
Bus or Truck (Two axle)	115	175	3885	60
Three Axle Commercial Vehicles	125	190	4235	65
Heavy Construction Machinery (HCM) or Earth Moving Equipment (EME) or Multi Axle Vehicle (4 to 6 Axle)	185	275	6090	90
Oversized Vehicles (7 or more axles)	220	335	7415	110

The rates for monthly pass applicable for local non-commercial vehicle residing within a distance of 20Km from the toll plaza shall be Rs. 340/-

2. The above section was developed under public funds (The above section was developed as per provisions of Contract Agreement dated 23.12.2015 on EPC basis and AE vide letter dated 31.12.2018 certified the completed length of 32.00 Km. for putting on commercial operation). The above rates are applicable for a completed length of 32.00 Km. which comprises of following

Type of Section	Length (Km.)	Equivalent Length (Km.) for which use fee is to be levied	Lane Configuration
Straight Section	23.802	23.802	2-lane
	8.00	8.00	4-lane
Bypasses (Costing>Rs.10.0 Cr.)	0	0	0
	0.198	1.188	2-lane

- The following concessions are available at above Toll Plaza.
 - Return Journey within 24 hours from time of payment for all categories of vehicles having FASTag (discount 25%)
 - 50 single journeys in a month from date of payment for all categories of vehicles having FASTag (discount 33%)
 - Pass at Rs 340/- per calendar month for non-commercial vehicle having FASTag residing within 20 km from Toll Plaza.
 - Commercial Vehicle having FASTag (excluding those plying under national permit) registered in the District of Toll Plaza (discount 50%)
- The list of exempted vehicles is given in the Amendment of Fee Rules dated 03.12.2010 vide GSR 950(E).
- The vehicle, which is loaded in excess of permissible load, shall pay 02 to 10 times the applicable fee rate as per Gazette notification No.G.S.R.920(E) Dated 25.09.2018.
- The Capital cost of the project is Rs.132.545 Crore. The user fee (toll) rates shall be reduced to 40% on recovery of capital cost.
- For viewing the fee notification dated 03.01.2020 published in the Gazette, e-office note of NHAI dated 20.03.2024 containing approval of rates, etc, the website <http://nhaitis.org> may be visited.
- For any enquired and/or giving complaints/suggestions, please contact.

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CENTRAL Chronicle

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Kejriwal's Arrest

Perilous Nexus of Power and Justice

The arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), a precarious balance between justice and political maneuvering comes into sharp focus. While the legal intricacies of the case unfold, it behooves us to examine not only the allegations laid forth but also the broader implications for our democratic fabric. The arrest of a prominent political figure inevitably draws attention to the intersection of law enforcement and political agendas. It is imperative to tread cautiously in such matters, ensuring that due process is upheld and justice is pursued without fear or favor. The principle of equality before the law must remain inviolable, irrespective of one's political affiliations or stature. At the heart of this controversy lies the integrity of our investigative agencies and their adherence to constitutional principles. The ED's pursuit of allegations against Kejriwal must be conducted with utmost transparency and diligence, free from any external pressures or ulterior motives. The onus is squarely on the agency to substantiate its claims with concrete evidence, thereby upholding the tenets of justice and fair play. While accusations and counter-accusations may dominate the political discourse, it is essential to maintain a nuanced perspective devoid of partisan biases. The sanctity of our democratic institutions hinges upon their ability to function independently, insulated from the vagaries of political expediency. Any erosion of this independence undermines the very foundation of our democracy, imperiling the rights and liberties of every citizen. In light of these developments, it is incumbent upon all stakeholders to reaffirm their commitment to upholding democratic values and constitutional norms. The judiciary, as the guardian of our fundamental rights, must ensure that the rule of law prevails, undeterred by external pressures or populist rhetoric. Similarly, the executive must exercise restraint and refrain from undue interference in matters of law enforcement, allowing investigative agencies to discharge their duties impartially and without prejudice. As citizens, everybody have a vital role to play in safeguarding the integrity of our democracy. We must demand accountability from our elected representatives and hold them to the highest standards of ethical conduct. At the same time, we must remain vigilant against attempts to subvert the rule of law for political gain, recognizing that the strength of our democracy lies in our collective resolve to uphold its principles.

Congress Under Siege

The recent saga surrounding the freezing of Congress' bank accounts unveils a disquieting narrative about the health of India's democracy. Former party chief Sonia Gandhi's allegations of government manipulation hint at a concerted effort to financially debilitate the principal Opposition party just ahead of the impending Lok Sabha elections. This maneuver by the Income Tax (I-T) Department, dredging up purported 'tax lapses' spanning three decades, not only undermines the essence of a fair electoral battleground but also raises serious questions about the integrity of our democratic process. By withholding access to its funds at this crucial juncture, the I-T Department's action threatens to disrupt the Congress' capacity to conduct electoral campaigns effectively. Such interference not only undermines the democratic principles of a level playing field but also poses a grave threat to the very foundation of our electoral democracy. It sets a troubling precedent of pre-poll harassment, casting a shadow of doubt over the fairness of the electoral process. These troubling developments unfold against the backdrop of the Supreme Court's directive for the State Bank of India to disclose details of electoral bonds. This revelation has sparked renewed concerns about the transparency and integrity of political funding, particularly in light of the glaring disparity in bond distribution. With over 50 percent of the electoral bonds' funds reportedly flowing into BJP coffers, the ruling party, which garnered 38 percent of the vote share in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, enjoys a significant financial advantage over its counterparts. The Congress, with a vote share of approximately 20 percent, finds itself disproportionately impacted by this skewed financial landscape. In the face of such blatant asymmetry, it becomes imperative to fortify the regulations that safeguard the rights of all political actors to engage in the electoral process freely and fairly. Any attempts aimed at weakening the ability of Opposition parties to participate effectively must be vehemently opposed. Central to this endeavor is the urgent need to address the glaring disparities in political financing and ensure equitable competition. The principles of democracy dictate that every voice, regardless of its political affiliation, must have an equal opportunity to be heard. By weaponizing state machinery to undermine the financial viability of the Opposition, we risk subverting the very essence of democracy.

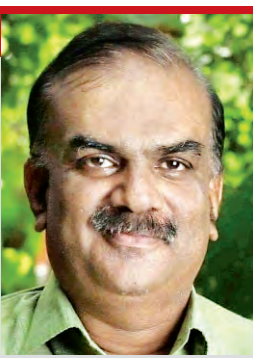
Central Chronicle invites articles, write-ups, and comments on a wide range of issues for our editorial page. Submissions should be between 800-900 words in length. In addition, we welcome letters to the editor for this page. While letters may be edited for clarity, we aim to preserve the integrity of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

MASKS FOR HOLI FESTIVAL



A vendor sells masks ahead of upcoming Holi festival, in Nadia, Saturday, March 23.

Birth of a Democratic Movement: Congress for Democracy



DR. VASISHT M.C



In a watershed moment in Indian politics, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's announcement of Lok Sabha elections on January 18, 1977, set the stage for a seismic shift. Within days of this proclamation, a trio of senior Congress leaders dealt a significant blow to the ruling party. Jagjivan Ram, Hemavati Nandan Bahuguna, and Nandini Satpathy parted ways with the Indian National Congress, heralding the inception of a new political entity - The Congress for Democracy (CFD). Founded in 1977, the CFD emerged as a beacon of democratic dissent, challenging the authoritarian grip of the Congress party during the tumultuous Indian Emergency.

Led by stalwarts who believed in the ideals of democracy and pluralism, including K.R. Ganesh, Dwarka Nath Tiwari, and Raj Mangal Pandey, the Congress for Democracy was officially launched on February 2, 1977. Its formation marked a pivotal moment in India's political landscape, as the CFD joined forces with the Janata alliance, a coalition committed to upholding democratic values and principles. The 1977 general elections witnessed a historic upheaval, with the Janata alliance clinching victory over the INC, thus ending Congress's decades-long dominance. The Congress for Democracy played a crucial role in this electoral triumph, underscoring its commitment to democratic governance and accountability. Following the elections, the CFD merged with the Janata Party, consolidating its efforts to usher in a new era

of participatory politics and inclusive governance.

The genesis of the Congress for Democracy stemmed from a deep-seated concern over the Congress party's authoritarian tendencies, epitomized by the centralized control wielded by figures such as Indira Gandhi and Sanjay Gandhi. This concentration of power marginalized senior party leaders, leaving them disenfranchised within their own ranks. The formation of the CFD represented a collective response to this stifling atmosphere, as leaders rallied behind the banner of democracy and dissent.

In retrospect, the Congress for Democracy's brief yet impactful journey serves as a testament to the resilience of India's democratic ethos. Its founding members, buoyed by the spirit of democratic pluralism, challenged the status quo and paved the way for a more inclusive political order. As India continues its democratic evolution, the legacy of the Congress for Democracy remains a poignant reminder of the power of collective action and the enduring quest for democratic ideals.

Pioneers of the Congress for Democracy

Jagjivan Ram (1908-1986): Fondly known as Babuji, Jagjivan Ram was a stalwart of Indian politics, championing the cause of Dalits and serving in pivotal ministerial roles. His legacy as a defender of social justice and parliamentary democracy remains indelible, making him a towering figure in the annals of Indian history.

Hemavati Bahuguna Nandan (1919-1989)

Hemavati Bahuguna Nandan, fondly remembered as H.N. Bhuguna, was a towering figure in Indian politics hailing from the state of Uttar Pradesh. Renowned for his astute leadership and unwavering commitment to public service, Bhuguna left an indelible mark on the political landscape of his time. Ascending to the role of Uttar Pradesh's Chief Minister in 1973, Bhuguna embarked on a transformative journey aimed at advancing the state's socio-economic development. However, his tenure was abruptly cut short after just two years, following an order from Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1975. Despite the challenges he faced, Bhuguna's legacy endured through the political pursuits of his progeny.

His eldest son, Vijay Bahuguna, assumed leadership as Uttar Pradesh's sixth Chief Minister from 2012 to 2014, carrying forward his father's legacy of dedicated service and leadership. Additionally, Rita Bahuguna Joshi, his daughter, made significant strides in her political career, serving as the Mayor of Allahabad from 1995 to 2000 before being elected to the Lok Sabha from the Prayagraj seat in the 2019 elections. Furthermore, Saurabh Bahuguna, the son of Vijay Bahuguna, continues to uphold the family's political lineage, currently serving as a minister in Pushkar Singh Dham's ministry.

Nandini Satpathy (1931-2006):

Nandini Satpathy was the first female Chief Minister of Odisha from 1972 to 1976. She was the author of many poems and short stories and the editor of Odia monthly 'Kalana'. She joined the Indian National Congress in 1956 and rose to prominence in the party. She was chosen in 1962 to serve two terms in the Rajya Sabha. In the Indira Gandhi administration, she was named a minister of state in 1966 and was in charge of a number of departments, including education, health and family planning, information and broadcasting, and information.

In 1972, she went back to Odisha and was appointed as the state's chief

minister. The Congress won the 1974 assembly elections with a resounding win under her leadership. She rejected Indira Gandhi's 1975 Emergency's abuses and declined to detain or persecute her political rivals. (Her second son Tathagata Satpathy was also an active politician. He was a member of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and also a member of the 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, and 16th Lok Sabha of India)

CFD's Impact on Indian Politics

Aligned with the Janata Party, the Congress for Democracy contested the historic 1977 Lok Sabha elections, presenting a formidable challenge to the Congress party's hegemony. Winning 28 seats, the CFD, alongside the Janata Party's 298 seats, dealt a decisive blow to Congress, heralding the advent of a new political era. In Bihar, Jagjivan Ram's pivotal role in mobilizing Dalit voters contributed significantly to the Janata Party's landslide victory.

CFD's Role in the Janata Government

Following the elections, Jagjivan Ram emerged as a key contender for the prime ministerial post, alongside Morarji Desai and Charan Singh. Despite internal divisions within the Janata alliance, Jagjivan Ram's appointment as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence underscored his commitment to national unity and democratic governance. H.N. Bahuguna's entry into Desai's cabinet further solidified CFD's presence in the corridors of power.

Conclusion: A Legacy of Democratic Dissent

The Congress for Democracy's brief yet impactful journey remains etched in the collective memory of Indian democracy. Its founding members, guided by the principles of secularism and social justice, challenged the authoritarian excesses of the Emergency era and paved the way for a more inclusive political landscape. As India continues its democratic journey, the legacy of the Congress for Democracy serves as a beacon of hope, inspiring future generations to uphold the values of democracy, pluralism, and egalitarianism.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lakshya shines again

Indian badminton star Lakshya Sen was ranked sixth in the world for a brief period in 2022. Then he was on a high after entering the final of the prestigious All England badminton. But a series of early exits and injuries ensured he plunged to a lowly 25 only to cling on to world number 19 ranking later. The 23-year-old hit a purple patch in his career again by lifting the men's singles trophy in the Canadian open BWF series. However, by entering the semis of the 2024 All England, where he lost to the eventual champion Indonesia's Jonatan Christie, Lakshya has sent signals that he is here to stay. Lakshya scalped fourth seeded Anders Antonsen and World number ten Lee Zii Jia enroute to the semifinals. Lakshya is a giant killer, he has the knack of coming from behind to outfox his opponents. Coaches Vimal Kumar and the great Prakash Padukone are keen that Lakshya improves upon his all round game.

Dr. Giranapathi Bhat, Akola

Border Tensions

Beijing's renewed assertions regarding Arunachal Pradesh not only lack validity but also jeopardize border peace. Arunachal Pradesh unequivocally belongs to India, historically and administratively. Both nations must prioritize dialogue and diplomacy to settle disputes, securing regional stability and prosperity.

MK Nair, Raipur

Sovereignty Standoff

New Delhi's resolute response to Beijing's groundless assertions on Arunachal Pradesh underscores India's steadfast sovereignty stance. China's unfounded claims demonstrate a blatant disregard for historical realities and global standards. The inauguration of the Sela Tunnel signifies progress and connectivity, not provocation as portrayed by China. Amid simmering border tensions, preserving peace and stability is paramount. India's unwavering commitment to defending its territorial integrity remains steadfast, despite historical conflicts.

Rakesh Gupta, Korba

Cultural Harmony

Indian culture thrives on diversity, safeguarded fiercely by the Constitution. Undermining this richness erodes the secular fabric. Embracing teachings from saints, Sufi poets, and Gandhi, citizens should cherish our shared heritage. Instilling a scientific mindset in youth can combat prejudices and superstitions. Fostering open discourse fosters understanding and unity.

Krishna Kumar Nambiar, Kannur

HUMMINGBIRDS: Minimum Means Maximum Joy



Dr. ARVIND NERAL

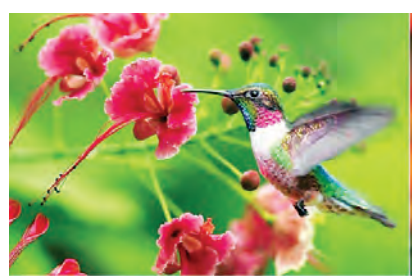
Use to imagine, a flash of iridescent orange zip by the kitchen window and hover in midair at the lip of a flower. A hummingbird threads its long, delicate bill into the center of the flower, not even touching the petals, and sips its breakfast. A moment later it is gone, having drunk only what was necessary and leaving the flower pollinated. Precise, efficient, agile, re-

spectful: I think humanity can find no better teacher in the art of living.

To me, the hummingbird holds out a promise: this is how we all can live, gradually outgrowing a way of life in which we gulp down all the nectar, spoil the flower by pulling off the petals, and finally uproot the plant. "Such a way of life," writes E. F. Schumacher, referring to our overuse of fossil fuels, "could have no permanence and could therefore be justified only as a purely temporary expedient."

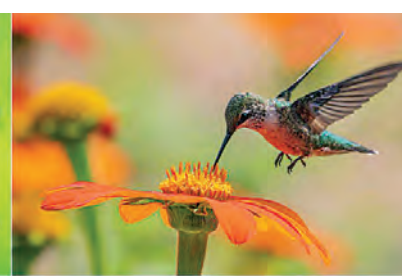
As the world's resources of non-renewable fuels - coal, oil, and natural gas - are exceedingly unevenly distributed over the globe, and undoubtedly limited in quantity, it is clear that their exploitation at an ever-increasing rate is an act of violence against nature, which must almost inevitably lead to violence betweenmen." The same could be said about any of our precious resources, from bauxite to rainforests.

To put it in economic terms, we are frittering away our capital when we



should be living wisely on the interest, leaving the capital to bear rich dividends for future generations. This is "commerce without morality," a way of life in which all our nobler goals and aspirations are subsumed in the desire to produce and consume more and more.

Just as "science with humanity" is not solely the concern of those who wear white coats and work in laboratories, the ultimate responsibility for commerce with morality does not fall only on multinational corporations or governments. No attempt to protect the environment will be successful in the long run unless ordinary people - the housewife, the peasant, the facto-



ry worker, the farmer are willing to adjust their life-styles. Our wasteful, careless ways must become a thing of the past.

Trusteeship as a way of life is an artistic combination of great comfort and great simplicity: using minimum means to achieve maximum joy, without ever hurting nature. The personal benefits are enormous. When you spend less money on unnecessary things, you don't need to spend so much time working to pay for them. You can slow down a little. You have time to go to the beach with your children and bask in the beauty of the sea, to listen to the birds and admire the sunset, to watch the stars appear in

the evening sky. It is just theoretical. A group of Friends while enjoying all the benefits of modern life, making little changes best to live this way, bring them together as Friends and make them healthier and more secure. It also help to make the Earth a little greener for all the children to grow up in.

The lesson of the hummingbird is that beauty and nobility are to be found not in having more but in having just what is necessary. I always make it clear that I am no fan of poverty; I don't think anyone should live in poverty. But isn't it a little vulgar to pile up material possessions as an indication of our own worth when more than half the world lives in aching need and when the very production of those things often harms the environment for our own children?

(Writer is Professor & H.O.D. Department of Pathology, Pt. J.N.M. Medical College, Raipur (C.G.))

BRIEF

No cancellations



Mumbai: Seeking to assuage pilot shortage concerns, Akasa Air's chief executive Vinay Dube on Friday said the carrier has sufficient pilots and flyers should not expect any flight cancellations. "We have plenty of pilots. We have given numbers like 700 in the past. I don't think this is something from an Akasa perspective people need to worry about because we have got this plan in place where we have pilots not just for our current set of aircraft but we have got pilots for the foreseeable future in terms of growth," Dube told PTI at the sidelines of a CII event. The overall employee strength of the company is 3,700, he said.

IPO opening

New Delhi: Integrated packaging ecosystem player Creative Graphics Solutions India Ltd on Friday said its Rs 54.4 crore initial share-sale will open for public subscription on March 28. The public issue will conclude on April 4 and the bidding for anchor investors will open for a day on March 27, the company said in a statement. After the completion of the Initial Public Offering (IPO), shares of the company will be listed on the NSE's Emerge - a platform for small and medium enterprises. The Noida-based company's IPO comprises a fresh issue of 64 lakh equity shares worth Rs 54.4 crore at the upper end of the market. The price band for the issue has been fixed at Rs 80-85 per share.

Readymix concrete



New Delhi: Shree Cement, one of the top three players in the segment, on Friday announced entry into the ready mix concrete (RMC) segment with the commissioning of its first greenfield in Hyderabad. The new RMC plant has a capacity of 90 cubic metres per hour and would help the Bangur family-promoted firm to emerge as a multi-product player in the cement business, as per a company statement. "As part of this strategy, Shree Cements had acquired five operational plants of StarCrete LLP in Mumbai earlier this month for a consideration of Rs 33.5 crore. The company's combined RMC capacity now stands at 512 cubic metres per hour," it said. Shree Cement Managing Director Neeraj Akhoury said the venture into the RMC segment marks Shree Cement's entry into a new line of business.

India to stand by Bhutan's quest for development: PM Modi

Thimphu, Mar 23:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi assured Bhutan's top leadership that India will stand by the Himalayan kingdom in its quest for development and that their unique bilateral ties would create avenues for greater cooperation in connectivity, infrastructure, trade and energy sectors. Prime Minister Modi is here on a two-day State visit to further cement India's unique relations with Bhutan as part of India's 'Neighbourhood First' Policy.

The two countries exchanged several MoUs and signed agreements in the fields of energy, trade, digital connectivity, space and agriculture, and finalised the MoU on the establishment of rail links between



the two nations. Modi called on the King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and held talks with Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay. "Glad to have met His Majesty the King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. We talked about ways to improve bilateral relations between our nations," Modi posted on X. "In Bhutan, held productive

talks with PM @tsheringtobgay. We reviewed the complete range of India-Bhutan friendship, and agreed to boost our developmental partnership as well as deepen cultural linkages," he wrote on his meeting with his Bhutanese counterpart.

This was Modi's second meeting with his Bhutanese counterpart this month. Tobgay visited New Delhi last week, his first foreign trip after assuming the charge of the top office in January. Modi said the MoUs and agreements will add momentum to India-Bhutan relations. "To fulfil your goals, India stands with you for BB - Brand Bhutan and Bhutan Believe. I assure you that the upcoming 5 years will give a new energy to our relations. We will

work to create avenues in the connectivity, infrastructure, trade and energy sectors," Modi said in his address after being bestowed Bhutan's highest civilian award.

"Aspirations of Bharat and Bhutan are similar. We've decided to build Viksit Bharat by 2047; Bhutan has decided to become a 'high-income' nation by 2034. To fulfil your goals, India stands with you in 'Brand Bhutan' and 'Bhutan Believe'," Modi said.

"The Bharat-Bhutan partnership is not limited to land and water... Bhutan is now a partner of Bharat in its space missions. Scientists of Bhutan have launched satellites in collaboration with ISRO. We celebrate each other's achievements," he said.

India has robust regulatory, safety framework for seafood units: Commerce min

New Delhi, Mar 23:

India has a robust regulatory framework for its 548 seafood units and it has set up world-class facilities in the fish processing sector, which are regularly inspected and monitored by various government agencies, the commerce ministry said on Saturday. The statement comes in the backdrop of some reports alleging food safety and bad labour conditions in the Indian shrimp industry. It said that all its units are registered with MPEDA (Marine Products Export Development Authority) and FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) and approved by EIC (export inspection council) as mandated by the law.

Additionally, 46 independent pre-processing units are registered by the

authority. The shrimp hatcheries and aquaculture farms are registered with the Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA) and State Fisheries Departments based on their respective locations. MPEDA also enrolls aquafarms to bolster the traceability system of aquaculture products and adhere to national and international regulatory provisions, including Seafood Import Monitoring Programme (SIMP) of the US. "The production and processing systems are regularly monitored by regulatory agencies in India and are subjected to audits by inspectors of the US FDA (Food and Drug Administration), European Commission, GAC of China, Export Inspection Agency, MPEDA, etc., in addition to scores of private and certification audits," it said.

Sebi lays guidelines for beta version of T+0 settlement cycle

New Delhi, Mar 23:

Capital markets regulator Sebi put in place a framework to introduce the beta version of the T+0 trade settlement cycle on an optional basis. To begin with, this option will be available for a limited set of 25 scrips and with a limited number of brokers. This will be in addition to the existing T+1 settlement cycle in the equity cash market. The new framework will come into force with effect from March 28, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular. "Pursuant to deliberations and approval of the Board, it has been decided to put in place a framework for the introduction of the Beta version of the T+0 settlement cycle on an optional basis in addition to the existing T+1 settlement cycle in the equity cash market, for a limited set of 25 scrips and with a limited number of brokers," Sebi said. It further said that a shortened settlement cycle will bring cost and time efficiency, transparency in charges to investors and strengthen risk management at clearing corporations and the overall securities market ecosystem. T+0 would mean settlements on the same day. Sebi, in its effort to keep pace with the changing times and carry out its mandate of development of securities markets and investor protection, shortened the settlement cycle to T+3 from T+5 in 2002 and subsequently to T+2 in 2003. With regards to eligibility, the regulator said that all investors will be eligible to participate in the T+0 settlement cycle if they are able to meet the timelines, process and risk requirements as prescribed by the market infrastructure institutions.

Govt extends ban on onion exports till further orders

New Delhi, Mar 23:

The government has extended the export ban on onion till further orders to increase domestic availability and keep its prices under check.

Earlier, it was prohibited till March 31 this year. "Export prohibition on export of onions valid till 31st March 2024, is extended until further orders," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has said in a notification dated March 22. DGFT is an arm of the ministry which deals with exports and imports-related issues. On December 8, 2023, the government banned export of onions. In the 2023 rabi season, onion production was



estimated to be at 22.7 million tonnes. The export of onions to friendly countries is allowed on a case-to-case basis after approval from the inter-ministerial group.

The government has permitted exports of 64,400 tonnes of onion to the UAE and Bangladesh through the

National Cooperative Exports Ltd (NCEL). Earlier, the Centre, in October 2023, had decided to step up the sale of buffer onion stock at a subsidised rate of Rs 25 per kg in retail markets in order to provide relief to consumers. To control prices, the government has earlier taken several steps.

Vedanta says projects pipeline in place to add \$6 bn to topline, \$2.5-3 bn to EBIDTA

New Delhi, Mar 23:

Mining conglomerate Vedanta Ltd has a pipeline of more than 50 active projects and expansions to drive growth, which is expected to generate incremental revenue of over USD 6 billion and incremental EBITDA of 2.5-3 billion upon completion, a top company executive said at an investor event.

These growth initiatives, which the company categorises into the 'Discovery' stage, 'Concept' stage and 'Execution' stage, are spread out across all Vedanta's business segments - aluminium, zinc, base metals, steel, copper and power.

"We continuously explore options to create additional value at all our sites. We currently have several high-impact projects in execution mode, across all our businesses.

These will further contribute to our cost leadership, while substantially increasing our operating capacities. These levers will help drive our EBITDA towards the stated target of USD 7.5 billion annually," the company's vice chairman Navin Agarwal said at the event.

Vedanta is expecting a group EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization) of USD 5 billion on revenue of USD 17.5 billion in the current fiscal

ending March 31. Some of the significant projects due for immediate commissioning include a refinery expansion at the Lanjigarh Aluminium facility, which will take its capacity from 2 million tonnes per annum to 5 million tonnes, a 1 million tonnes a year expansion at BALCO, commissioning of the Athena and Meenakshi power plants with an aggregate capacity of 2.2 GW that will take the commercial power portfolio to 5 GW, capacity expansion at Gamsberg Zinc facility to deliver 5,00,000 tonnes MIC, and becoming India's largest ferro-alloys producer with 5,00,000 tonnes a year capacity.

SERVICE CENTRE INAUGURATION



MD & CEO, Eicher Motors Vinod Aggarwal with officials during inauguration of their service centre at Bhiwandi, in Thane.

Amazon India revises seller fee structures

New Delhi, Mar 23:

E-commerce major Amazon on Saturday said it is revising its seller fees on account of inflation and interest rates, as well as to match the industry-prevalent fee structures. Starting April 7, Amazon.in is revising its fee structure, including referral fees, closing fees, and weight handling fees besides other ancillary fee heads, for sellers on its marketplace.

Leather goods exports from Bengal expected to grow 10pc in FY'24

Kolkata, Mar 23:

The leather goods industry in West Bengal is projected to grow at 10 per cent in the current fiscal year ending March 2024, despite looming geopolitical and recession fears in the US and Europe, a senior official said on Friday. The Indian Leather Products Association (ILPA) stated that the shift in sourcing strategies from 'China First' to

'China-Plus-One' is driving demand from India amid headwinds. "We will maintain growth momentum from Bengal. We expect at least a 10 per cent year-on-year growth in FY'24. We had exports of Rs 5,000 crore in 2022-23 from the state, expanding by 10 per cent," ILPA President A M Kulkarni told PTI. This growth is primarily driven by the 'China plus one' strategy adopted by global leather brands to increase

sourcing from India as an alternate supply chain to de-risk their business and manage costs. Major leather clusters in India are located in Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Maharashtra, Haryana and West Bengal. "China, which accounted for 34-35 per cent of the supply chain in leather and non-leather products to the world in the pre-Covid era, is now reduced to around 20 per cent.

PE, VC investments fall to USD 2.2 bn in Feb as big-ticket deals dry up

Mumbai, Mar 23:

Private equity and venture capital investments declined to USD 2.2 billion in February, 39 per cent down when compared with the year-ago period's USD 3.7 billion, a report said on Thursday. On a month-on-month basis PE, VC investments have witnessed a decline of 67 per cent. The number of deals were higher at 120 transactions in February, as compared to 86 deals in January and 57 in February 2023, the report by industry lobby group IVCA and consultancy firm EY said. "This is the second lowest monthly total for PE/VC investments since February 2021. We remain cautiously optimistic as the election super cycle unfolds in India and globally, with many large economies going to the polls in 2024," the consultancy firm's partner Vivek Soni said.

In February, there were seven large deals of USD 100 million or above aggregating to USD 1 billion, which is 82 per cent lower than the USD 5.7 billion in

January 2024 and 66 per cent lower than the USD 3 billion in the year-ago period, the report said. Byju's USD 200 million rights issue and NIIF's investment in iBus Network for the same amount were the largest transactions in February, the report said. In the overall activity of USD 2.2 billion in February, buy-outs alone accounted for USD 750 million, the report said, adding startup investments were the second largest at USD 554 million across 65 deals. From a sector point of view, infrastructure was the largest at USD 412 million in February, followed by technology and financial services with USD 359 million and USD 253 million, respectively. The month recorded 39 exits worth USD 2.9 billion, compared to USD 731 million in February 2023 across 12 deals, the report said.

It recorded total fundraise of USD 1.3 billion, compared to USD 1.1 billion raised in January 2024 and USD 869 million in February 2023, the report said.

RBI central board reviews domestic economic situation, outlook

Mumbai, Mar 23:

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) central board on Friday reviewed the domestic economic situation and outlook, including the challenges posed by the global financial market volatility. The board also approved the bank's budget for the accounting year 2024-25, the central bank said in a statement.

The 607th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of the RBI took place in Nagpur under the chairmanship of Governor Shaktikanta Das. "The Board reviewed the global and domestic economic situation and outlook, including the challenges posed by geopolitical developments and global financial market volatility," the RBI said.

Further, the board also discussed the RBI's activities, including the progress made in digital payments, consumer education and awareness during the current accounting year 2023-24. Directors of the central board Satish K Marathe, Revathy Iyer, Sachin Chaturvedi, Venu Srinivasan, and Ravindra H Dholakia attended the meeting.

Chronicle MATRIMONIAL

बंगाली

वधु चाहिये

बंगाली वधु चाहिये- इंग्लिनियरिंग, एम.बी.ए., एकलौता लड़का हेतु सुन्दर, सुशील ग्रेजुएट लड़की चाहिए 31/5 '4'' हाइट रंग सावला पैतृक पंथि बंगाल वर्तमान विलासपुर (छ.ग.)- 7529977997, 827954228. (55652)

ब्राह्मण

वर चाहिये

वर चाहिए- कान्यकुब्ज ब्राह्मण, आंशिक मांगलिक, 29 वर्ष, 5 फीट 2 इंच, नाडी-आद्य, गोत्र-भारद्वाज, सुंदर, सुशील, संस्कारिक, पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट बी.एड, शासकीय शिक्षिका के पद पर कार्यरत (छत्तीसगढ़ शासन) एवं पी.एस.सी, हेतु प्रयासरत, सभी परिवारिक सत्य क्लास वन ऑफिसर- 9238365255. (55649)

साहू

वर चाहिये

साहू वर चाहिए- शेरिया साहू गंगनोईर, गोरी, सुंदर, 30 वर्ष, बी.कॉम, एम.कॉम, पीजीडीसीए कन्या हेतु स्वजातीय वर चाहिए, केवल छत्तीसगढ़ निवासी ही सम्पर्क करें - 9826127284. (253781)

जैन

वधु चाहिये

जैन वधु चाहिए- अंकित अग्रवाल 15.10.97 सी.ए. लोहा व्यापारी रायपुर 1 करोड़ सालाना इनकम, 15.10.1989 बीटीएस रायपुर 30 लाख, 08.10.1985 सी.ए. रायपुर इनकम 40 लाख, 13.08.1975, बीकॉम रिजल इंस्टीट इनकम 60 लाख सालाना. रायपुर मारवाड़ी वधु चाहिए, संपर्क- 9039321951. (253803)

मुस्लिम

वधु चाहिये

वधु चाहिये- जाति मुस्लिम कुंवारा उम्र 51/ हाइट 5'9'' , रंग मेहुआ, शिखा बी.ए., तलाकशुदा, विधवा, कुंवारी लड़की चाहिए। जाति बंधन नहीं है। संपर्क करें- मो.नं.- 9425253078. (253855)

वैवाहिकी

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

Collector urges vigilance amid Lok Sabha elections

Bankers instructed to monitor suspicious transactions

Central Chronicle News

Bemetara, Mar 23: Ahead of the Lok Sabha general elections, Collector and District Election Officer Ranbir Sharma convened a crucial meeting with banking institutions in the district to ensure transparency and security in financial transactions during the electoral process.

Addressing the bankers, Collector Sharma emphasized the need for vigilance, particularly regarding suspicious transactions and the opening of zero balance accounts for election candidates. He instructed bankers to report any unusual activities, such as large withdrawals from single accounts or multiple transactions



under different names on the same day, to the District Election Office promptly.

To maintain the integrity of the election process, Sharma directed that all suspicious transactions during the electoral period be promptly reported to the authorities. Additionally, candidates were advised to open new

accounts specifically for election expenses, with previous accounts deemed invalid even if they have a zero balance.

Bankers were instructed to monitor the bank accounts of candidates and their family members closely, providing daily reports on any suspicious transfers. Measures such as creating identity cards

for ATM cash fillers and maintaining comprehensive records of cash transportation were also mandated to enhance accountability.

Furthermore, stringent guidelines were issued for monitoring cash transfers exceeding Rs 1 lakh, with transactions of Rs 10 lakh or more requiring immediate reporting to the elec-

tion office and income tax authorities. The Collector underscored the importance of monitoring dormant accounts for sudden large transactions, applicable to all government, cooperative, and private banks.

In addition to these directives, bankers were briefed on the Election Seizure Management System App, which facilitates monitoring of cash flow during elections. Compliance with the guidelines set forth by the Election Commission of India was emphasized, with measures such as QR code generation for cash vehicles and mandatory CCTV surveillance of all transactions to ensure transparency and accountability.

14 drunk drivers apprehended before Holi

Preventive measures aim to ensure road safety

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Mar 23: In a measure to safeguard against road accidents and criminal incidents during the upcoming Holi festival, Superintendent of Police Bansal has directed all police stations and traffic branches in the district to take strict action against individuals driving under the influence of alcohol and violating traffic regulations.

Under the leadership of police station in-charges across the district, continuous efforts have been made to enforce the

Motor Vehicle Act by setting up checkpoints in their respective areas. This initiative aims to curb instances of drunk driving, triple riding, reckless driving, modified silencers, and other traffic violations.

A total of 14 individuals were apprehended for driving under the influence of alcohol, and legal action was initiated against them under Section 185 of the Motor Vehicle Act.

The accused individuals will be presented before the Honorable Court in Khairagarh, where further measures, including the suspension of their driving licenses, will be considered.



Society unites for nutritious Nyota Bhoj feast

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Mar 23: The spirit of community and nutrition was celebrated as the family of Adarsh Primary and Pre-Secondary School organized a Nyota Bhoj feast, aligning with the objectives of the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman Yojana.

Welcoming esteemed guests with warmth, the school family presented bouquets adorned with kumkum, symbolizing traditional hospitality. Notable attendees included Block Education Officer SK Gendale, Sankul Principal Ashish Sharma, and Public Participation member Purushottam Patkar, among others.

The ceremony commenced with the lighting of a lamp at the idol of Goddess Saraswati, signifying auspicious beginnings, followed by the serving of a nutritious food.



Teachers diligently distributed a variety of supplements, including rice, kheer, puri, chickpea vegetable, dal, curry, jalebi, fruits, and salads, ensuring a balanced and wholesome meal for all.

In a heartfelt gesture, Puskar Bhosale, a teacher from Jewra, distributed kheer to students in honor of his sister's birthday, exemplifying the spirit of

giving and celebration.

Encouraging public participation, SK Gedale urged representatives, officers, and employees from various organizations to contribute to the event, emphasizing the importance of collective efforts in promoting nutrition and well-being.

Sankul Principal Ashish Sharma highlighted the significance of such initia-

tives in increasing the uptake of midday meals within the school community, fostering a culture of health and vitality.

The event witnessed a diverse gathering, including Rajvardhan Bhosle, Sheshnarayan, Dhruv Raja, and many others, reflecting the collective commitment to promoting nutrition and fostering community bonds.

Commissioner, Railway Safety inspects electrified 14.3 km new third line

Between Singhpur-Shahdol-Badhvabara

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Mar 23: New railway lines, double lines, third lines, and fourth lines are being constructed extensively in the division for infrastructure development and efficient operation of trains. In this series, the electrified third line work is being carried out between Anuppur-Katni stations, spanning 165.52 km under the South East Central Railway Bilaspur Division.

This work is being completed in a phased manner. As part of this work, the entire 14.3 km electrified new third line between Singhpur-Shahdol-Badhvabara stations has been completed. After the



completion of the work, Commissioner, Railway Safety (CRS) B.K. Mishra inspected the electrified new line of 14.3 km between Singhpur-Shahdol-Badhvabara stations on March 22.

Under the inspection program of the electrified line of 14.3 km between Singhpur-Shahdol-Badhvabara stations, Commissioner, Railway Safety B.K. Mishra ar-

rived at Singhpur station with the inspection team in a special train. He inspected the panel room, station, and entire yard at Singhpur station.

Subsequently, he inspected the motor trolley of the Singhpur-Shahdol-Badhvabara new line. During the inspection, he closely examined and inspected all aspects related to operation and safety, including interlocking,

crossings, points, curves, bridges, gates, and OHE line signaling equipment, and also held discussions with officials.

After this, a speed trial was conducted from Badhvabara station to Singhpur station with the observation car. During this, security inspections were also conducted at Shahdol and Badhvabara stations. After obtaining permission from the Commissioner, Railway Safety, uninterrupted operation of trains will commence on this new third line, which will bring agility in train operations.

Accompanying the inspection team were several officials from the main administrative officer (construction), divisional railway manager, as well as officers from various departments of the division and headquarters.

Ganja smuggler arrested

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Mar 23: In a significant breakthrough, the police have apprehended an individual involved in the illegal sale of ganja. Acting on information from an informant, a raid was conducted near village Badhitola turn, leading to the arrest of Somnath Mandavi, a 24-year-old resident of Sarangpur police station in Khairagarh.

During the raid, Mandavi was found in possession of 2 kilograms of ganja, with an estimated value of Rs. 20,000. Additionally, the motorcycle used for transportation, bearing registration number CG 08 AV 1484 and valued at Rs. 80,000, was seized by the authorities.

Following thorough interrogation, Mandavi confessed to his crime. A case was registered against



him under Section 20 (B) of the NDPS Act at the Khairagarh police station, and appropriate legal action was initiated. Mandavi has been arrested and remanded to judicial custody as per the court's orders.

The success of this operation can be attributed to the coordinated efforts of

the police team, including Cyber Cell In-charge Anil Sharma, SI Bilkis Bengam, Kailash Sahu, ASI Talesh Singh, and constables Shival Verma, Laxman Sahu, Mani Shankar Verma, Shailendra Patel, Vijay Kurre, Tijan Dahria, Chandravijay, and Tribhuvan Yadu.

Congress workers express concerns at assembly-level conference

Calls for unity and accountability in party ranks

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Mar 23: The Congress party convened an assembly-level workers' conference on Friday at Sahu Hostel in the city, attended by prominent figures including Congress candidate from Mahasamund Lok Sabha constituency Tamradhwaj Sahu, former MLA Amitesh Shukla, and District Congress President Bhav Singh Sahu.

Although the conference witnessed a turnout of barely two hundred workers, more than a hundred chairs remained vacant, sparking dissatisfaction among attendees.

During his address, Shukla pointedly questioned District Congress President Bhav Singh Sahu about the vacant chairs, emphasizing the need for accountability and effective



delegation of responsibilities. The frustration of diligent workers boiled over during the conference.

Block Congress President Rupesh Sahu criticized those who defected from Congress to BJP, branding them as traitors who abandoned the party's cause. He urged workers to rally together and ensure a resounding victory for Congress in the upcoming elections.

District Congress President Bhav Singh Sahu underscored the importance of unity and likened every worker's role to that of Tamradhwaj, urging them to

work tirelessly for the party's success. He condemned those who switched allegiances, labelling them as opportunists whose departure from Congress was ultimately beneficial.

District Mahila Congress President Padma Dubey expressed disappointment over the low representation of women at the conference, emphasizing the need for greater inclusion and support for female workers. She highlighted key promises in the Congress manifesto aimed at empowering women, including financial assistance and job reservations.

Senior Congress leader Omprakash Banchhor emphasized the readiness of party workers and urged for timely provision of resources and promotional materials. He called for an introspective discussion on the reasons behind the low attendance and emphasized the importance of post-election reviews.

Congress candidate Tamradhwaj Sahu emphasized his commitment to serving the people of Mahasamund Lok Sabha constituency, stressing the importance of familial bonds over political affiliations. He addressed con-

cerns regarding the Rajim Kumbh Kalp Mela and cautioned against false propaganda by BJP.

Former MLA Amitesh Shukla highlighted the challenges facing democracy and the financial constraints faced by the party. He called for unity among party members and urged them to set aside personal grievances for the greater good.

The conference, attended by key party leaders and workers, served as a platform to address critical issues and chart a path forward for the Congress party in the region.

Excise department cracks down on illicit liquor trade

Arrests accused in Bagdayi village, 20 liters of liquor seized



Central Chronicle News

Kharora, Mar 24: In a move against the illegal sale of liquor, the Excise Department, under the directives of Excise Commissioner R Sangeeta

and the guidance of Deputy Excise Commissioner Vikas Goswami, continues its vigilant efforts.

Led by Kharora circle in-charge Preeti Kushwaha and Tilda circle in-charge Dilip Kumar, the department con-

ducted a raid in Bagdayi village following a tip-off. During the operation, the team intercepted the vehicle of accused individuals Dhaneshwar Gendre and Gurmukh Satnami. Upon inspection, authorities discovered 115 pieces of desi masala, containing approximately 20.7 liters of illicit liquor. This successful raid underscores the department's unwavering commitment to curbing the illegal liquor trade in the region. Such decisive actions not only uphold the law but also safeguard the well-being of communities by preventing the circulation of harmful substances.

Swine fever vaccination drive targets pig farmers

Central Chronicle News

Korea, Mar 23: In a good way to safeguard livestock, the Livestock Development Department has launched a comprehensive swine fever vaccination campaign in Korea district, spanning from March 15 to 30. Aimed at mitigating potential losses for pig farmers, the program emphasizes the importance of widespread vaccination among pig populations.

Deputy Director of Veterinary Services stressed the critical need for pig farmers to prioritize the vaccination of their livestock, urging them to ensure that all pigs receive 100% swine fever vaccination and tagging. Farmers are advised to exercise caution during the vaccination process, ensuring proper procedures are followed.



Highlighting essential precautions, it has been emphasized that deworming is a prerequisite before vaccination. Additionally, pigs older than three months should receive the vaccine, while sick pigs, pregnant females in the last 40 days of pregnancy, and those suffering from malnutrition, skin diseases, or parasites should not be vaccinated.

Two illicit liquor smugglers apprehended

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Mar 23: In a significant development in the ongoing campaign against illicit liquor and gambling-betting, Khairagarh police apprehended two youths for their involvement in selling illicit liquor. The arrests were made during a targeted raid near Lalpur Tirah Pulia of Khairagarh, following information provided by an informant.

One of the accused, identified as Dharmendra Pal, aged 21 and hailing from village Salhebhari under Khairagarh police station, was caught in possession of 32 quarters of country plain liquor, totaling 5.760 ml and valued at Rs 2560.

Similarly, Vijay Verma, aged 20 and residing in



Rengakathera under Jalbandha police station, Khairagarh, was nabbed while selling illicit liquor near Umrao bridge on the Amner river.

The seizure from Vijay Verma included 33 quarters of country plain liquor amounting to 5.940 ml, valued at Rs 2600, along with a motorcycle bearing registration number CG 08 AQ 4603, used for transporting liquor, valued at Rs 50,000.

Both accused individuals have been booked under Section 34 (2) of the Excise Act and subsequently sent to jail on the orders of the court. The success of the operation can be attributed to the concerted efforts of the police team led by SI Bilkis Begum, ASI Chaituram Arya, Komal Minj, Head Constable Siyaram Dhruv, and constables Ramakant Upadhyay, Shival Verma, Vijay Kurre, Laxman Sahu, and Anil Dhruv, who played pivotal roles in the proceedings.

Punjab Kings prevail over DC by 4 wickets

Chandigarh, Mar 23 (PTI):

It was not the comeback Rishabh Pant had wished for as English all-rounder Sam Curran's counterattacking half-century powered Punjab Kings to a four-wicket win over Delhi Capitals in their Indian Premier League (IPL) opener here on Saturday.

Curran blazed away to a 47-ball 63 and got excellent support from compatriot Liam Livingstone (38 not out off 21 balls), as Punjab completed a chase of 175 with four balls to spare. This was after the returning Pant failed to set the stage on fire as Punjab Kings rallied to stop Delhi Capitals at 174 for nine.

Batting at number nine, Abhishek Porel top-scored for DC with an unbeaten 32 off only 10 balls, helping the side to a total that did not pose any problem for Punjab on a pitch with no demons.

Punjab Kings began their chase in earnest and raced to 34 in three overs when Shikhar Dhawan (22 off 16 balls) charged down the wicket only to miss and see his middle stump getting disturbed by Ishant Sharma.

Sub Prabhsimran walked in at number three and Ishant squared him up with one that hit the perfect length



and left the batter in two minds. Prabhsimran's riposte was a boundary through mid-off as the batter showed aggressive intent. Having struck two fours in three balls, Jonny Bairstow was run out in an unfortunate fashion as Ishant managed to get his fingertips to a Prabhsimran drive before the ball went on to hit the

stumps at the non-striker's end. Bairstow dived, but had backed up too far and couldn't win the race against the ball.

Prabhsimran (27 off 17 balls) struck Khaleel Ahmed for two successive fours to relieve the pressure but, after having steadied the ship, the batter fell to in-form wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav

who snared him with a googly.

Kuldeep also accounted for Jitesh Sharma to leave Punjab in a spot of bother at 100 for four in the 12th over.

Earlier, Punjab were put under pressure straightaway by the flamboyant Australian opening duo of David Warner (29 off 21 balls) and Mitchell Marsh (20 off 12 balls), who were dealing in fours and sixes.

Marsh worked a poor Sam Curran delivery off his pads for the day's first boundary. Another mediocre offering from Curran was expertly flicked by Marsh for a four and the Capitals were on their way.

Not to be left behind when it comes to playing strokes, Warner pulled left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh (2/28) for a six in front of square and then played the bowler between cover-point and cover to find a four. The flurry of boundaries forced Punjab Kings skipper Shikhar Dhawan to effect a bowling change but Kagiso Rabada's introduction did little to stem the flow of runs as Marsh pulled a short ball over deep backward square for a big six.

Arshdeep came back and was whacked over long-off for another gigantic six by Marsh.

However, the left-arm seamer had the last laugh as he had Marsh caught by an agile Rahul Chahar at cover point, after the batter played a booming drive in the air.

Unperturbed by the departure of his opening partner, Warner continued to play in his usual aggressive fashion, hitting Rabada for a four through mid-off and then sat down to use the scoop shot for an incredible maximum over shot fine. Harpreet Brar checked the flow of runs by bowling a fine first over but Chahar started with a 14-run over with Shai Hope hitting the bowler for a six and a four.

Harshal Patel (2/47) got the big wicket of Warner in his first over as comeback-man Pant (18 off 13 balls) arrived at the crease to loud applause from the stands.

The weekend crowd acknowledged his tale of perseverance after surviving a horrific car accident in December 2022 with cheers of joy.

Pant got himself a couple of boundaries before walking back to the dugout after a rather soft dismissal off Harshal.

Meanwhile, Rabada accounted for Hope and Chahar got rid of Tristan Stubbs as Delhi slipped to 128/6 in the 16th over.

Pandya begins MI's captaincy stint against Gujarat Titans



Ahmedabad, Mar 23 (PTI):

Hardik Pandya will aim to build on the rich legacy of his predecessor Rohit Sharma when he begins his Mumbai Indians captaincy stint with a match against Gujarat Titans, a team that the star all-rounder himself marshalled over last two seasons, in the IPL here on Sunday.

Such are the professional ways of IPL that Pandya, having led Titans to the title and runners-up finish in the previous two seasons, has gone to back to the Mumbai Indians where he made a name for himself.

The tournament also marks Pandya's comeback from a 'freak' ankle injury he picked up in the middle of the ODI World Cup in October. The form of the in-

jury-prone all-rounder with both bat and ball will be closely tracked in the tournament that precedes the T20 World Cup in the USA and Caribbean. With Pandya moving on to the other side, Titans will be led by Shubman Gill, who assumes the responsibility with very little captaincy experience. Mumbai have been grappling with fitness issues to their key players including star batter Suryakumar Yadav, who is yet to get fitness clearance from NCA. Left-arm pacers Jason Behrendorff and Dilshan Madushanka are already ruled out of the IPL while new recruit Gerald Coetzee, nursing a groin injury, might not be available for the first few games.

Having led Mumbai to as many as five IPL titles,

India skipper Rohit will be turning up as a player this season and would be expected to hit top form ahead of the ICC event in June.

Another player whose performance will be scrutinised is Ishan Kishan, who will have a point to prove after losing his BCCI central contract for defying the Board's diktat on domestic cricket. The southpaw, who missed the entire Test series against England, preferred to train on his own for the IPL and did not turn for his state side Jharkhand in the Ranji Trophy. The fight for the wicket-keeper batter's slot in the World Cup squad will be intense and Kishan needs to be at the top of his game over the next two months.

Besides Pandya, Mohammad Nabi and Romario Shepherd are the other quality all-round options Mumbai possess.

Domestic players like Akash Madhwal and Nehal Wadhwa will be looking to build on their performances of the previous season.

On the Titans' front, Gill has been tasked to ensure that the team maintains the remarkable consistency it showed in its first two seasons. Gill could be one of the future leaders for India but for that to happen, he must prove himself on the IPL stage.

I learnt finishing games from Mahi bhai: Shivam Dube

Chennai, Mar 23 (PTI):

India all-rounder Shivam Dube says he relishes finishing the crunch games - an art he learnt by following his legendary CSK colleague MS Dhoni.

Dhoni is one of the best finishers the world cricket has seen.

Dube played a crucial 34-run cameo and also shared an unbeaten 66-run partnership for the fifth wicket with Ravindra Jadeja (25 not out) to lead defending champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) to a six-wicket win over against Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) on Friday.

"It was amazing. Finishing the game for Chennai is always something that amazes me. That's what I have learnt from Mahi bhai, and I try to do it every game," Dube told IPLT20.com

"It feels very good when you finish the game like



this, especially during the first game of the season. So, it always feels special."

Chasing a target of 174, CSK were off to a confident start with debutant Rachin Ravindra (37) being the main aggressor. He was also the top scorer for the side. The talented New Zealander praised his skipper Rituraj Gaikwad for handling the tough chase well. "It was nice to have a partnership with Rutu. Obviously, he's done this for a long period for Chennai," he told Dube in the IPL video.

Focus on fit again KL Rahul as LSG face RR

Jaipur, Mar 23 (PTI):

The focus will be on KL Rahul's form and fitness when he returns from a quadriceps injury to lead the Lucknow Super Giants in their IPL opener against Rajasthan Royals here on Sunday.

Rahul missed the last four Tests against England due to pain in his right quadriceps. He was out for four months last year after undergoing a thigh surgery.

LSG captain will look to hit top gear not only as a batter but also as a leader, especially after guiding the team to successive playoffs in the first two seasons.

Rahul is likely to play purely as a batter, at least in the initial phase of IPL, but the additional burden of keeping strengthens his chances of making the T20 World Cup squad.

His opposite number on Sunday, Sanju Samson, is also a candidate for the



wicket-keepers' role in the India squad for the ICC event and he too will be keen to find his rhythm right from the start.

RR had come tantalisingly close to clinching a second title before Gujarat Titans broke their heart in the final in 2022. They looked good in the initial stages even last season but slipped to fifth place in the

end. Both the teams will have some tough calls to make as they figure out their best XI.

RR have a solid batting line-up, boosting of the likes of in-form Yashasvi Jaiswal, Jos Buttler, besides skipper Sansom. They also have a finisher in Dhruv Jurel, who made an impressive India debut in the recent five-match

Match starts 3.30 PM IST.

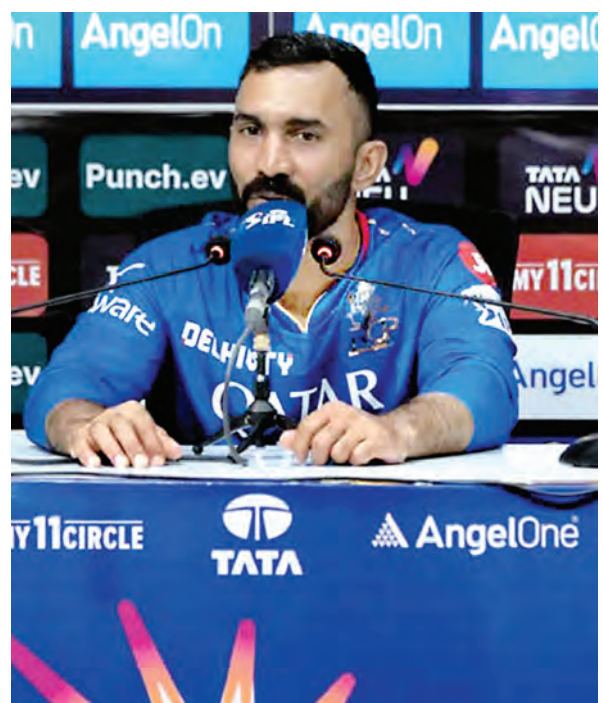
Test series against England. But Samson may look to strength the middle-order by bringing in West Indies' Rovman Powell to go with country-mate Shimron Hetmyer.

LSG, on the other hand, would depend on Quinton de Kock, Marcus Stonis and Nicholas Pooran to do bulk of the scoring apart from skipper Rahul.

It is going to be an interesting battle as they will have to contend with spin wizards - Ravichandran Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal, who can run through any batting line-up on a given day.

Lucknow too have a shrewd customer in leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi, who would be itching to put up a good show to put himself in line for a place in the T20 World Cup squad. Also the 41-year-old veteran leg-break bowler Amit Mishra is always in the thick of things.

Dinesh Karthik pleased to get some runs



Chennai, Mar 23 (PTI):

Veteran wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik is pleased about getting some runs in the IPL opener despite limited game and preparation time going into the tournament due to his commentary commitments.

Since the last IPL, the

only competitive cricket Karthik played was in the Vijay Hazare Trophy.

He was on air in the recently concluded India-England Test series and admitted finding training time in between his commentary duties was tough.

Karthik, who is playing his last IPL, made an unbeaten 38 off 26 balls to

help RCB recover to 173 for six against CSK on Friday night. By his own admission, he was rusty in the middle.

"It's been extremely challenging, doing a bit of commentary and to keep practising cricket between Test matches and in between the time that I get, it's been a lot of hard work. "So, I am happy that Game 1 has gone positively for me, and it feels good to score some runs," Karthik told reporters after the game.

The 38-year-old is hoping that play-offs happen at his home ground here and he can return to Chepauk to play his last IPL game.

"Time will tell, I guess. I genuinely wish it's not because the last couple of (playoff) games will be here, so I could be back for that, which could then be my last (here)," he said when asked if it could be last game in Chennai.

Defending champions CSK was able to chase down 174 comfortably on a good batting track. CSK pacer Mustafizur Rahman produced his best IPL figures of 4-29 to make the difference.

Srikanth makes first semis in 16 months at Swiss Open



Basel, Mar 23 (PTI):

Star shuttler Kidambi Srikanth emerged as the lone Indian survivor at the Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament when he progressed to the semi-finals with a straight game win over Chinese Taipei's Chia Hao Lee here.

Playing his eighth tournament this season, Srikanth finally got some momentum as he made his first final four appearance in 16 months with a 21-10

21-14 win over Lee in 35 minutes on Friday night. He last played a semifinal at Hylo Open in November 2022. Srikanth, a 2021 world championships silver medalist, will next face Chinese Taipei's world no. 22 Lin Chun-Yi on Saturday. It turned out to be a heartbreaking affair for Kiran George as his gallant fight ended with a 23-21 17-21 15-21 loss to Denmark's Rasmus Gemke in another quarter-final.

Imad comes out of retirement after meeting PCB officials

Lahore, Mar 23 (PTI):

After a meeting with Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) officials, all-rounder Imad Wasim on Saturday came out of retirement to make himself available for selection for the upcoming T20 World Cup.

Wasim had announced his retirement from international cricket in November last year.

"I am happy to announce that pursuant to meeting PCB officials, I have reconsidered my retirement and am delighted to declare my availability for Pakistan cricket in

T20I format leading up to ICC T20I World Cup 2024," said Wasim in his X account. "I would like to thank the PCB for reposing trust in me and I would give my very best to bring laurels to my country. Pakistan comes first!"

He thanked the PCB for reposing trust in him and promised to give his very best to bring laurels to the country. Speculations had been rife since the end of Pakistan Super League (PSL) as chief selector Wahab Riaz and national T20I captain Shaheen Shah Afridi asked Wasim to come out of his retirement.

Mustafizur executed the plans beautifully: Eric Simons



Chennai, Mar 23 (PTI):

Chennai Super Kings' bowling consultant Eric Simons has heaped praise on Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman for executing the plans perfectly to set up their comfortable six-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the IPL opener here. Mustafizur (4/29) rattled the RCB top-order, dismissing Virat Kohli (21), skipper Faf du Plessis (35) and Rajat Patidar (0) -- besides also getting rid of Cameron Green (18), to return with his best ever IPL figures as CSK restricted RCB to 173 for six.

"We always wanted to look at the conditions and the balance of the side. He does suit the conditions, but it's the simplicity of the plan that we put in

place, and he executed that beautifully today (Friday)," said Simons during the post-match press conference. While RCB was reeling at 78 for five, Anuj Rawat (48) and Dinesh Karthik (38 not out) pair added 95 crucial runs to propel the side to an encouraging total.

Asked why spinner Rachin Ravindra was not introduced to arrest the flow of runs, Simons felt it was a bit late to hand over the ball to him. "They were 78-5, and the spinners had done a good job. Two overs went for a few, and the momentum shifted, and it was probably late at that stage to throw the ball to him in that situation. From what we have seen in the nets, he can certainly bowl; but at the right time," the South African said.

Six Cong rebels, 3 Ind MLAs in HP join BJP



Union Minister Anurag Thakur, welcomes HP Independent MLA Hoshiyar Singh as he joins BJP, in New Delhi, Saturday.

New Delhi, Mar 23 (PTI):

Nine former Himachal Pradesh MLAs, including six disqualified Congress legislators and three Independents who resigned, joined the BJP on Saturday amid the continuing political crisis in the state.

The former lawmakers slammed the Congress government in the state headed by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, saying development work has stalled since it came to power.

They joined the BJP in the presence of Union

Minister Anurag Thakur, former Himachal Pradesh chief minister Jai Ram Thakur, its national general secretary Arun Singh and state unit president Rajeev Bindal.

Welcoming the former lawmakers into the party, Anurag Thakur said their presence will further strengthen the BJP as he accused the Congress government in the state of failing to fulfil its promises, leading to all-round anger among people.

Anurag Thakur said six of the former lawmakers, despite being Congress MLAs, supported the BJP

in the recent Rajya Sabha election as they chose to reflect the "public anger" against the Sukhu government.

The former Congress MLAs who joined the BJP are Sudhir Sharma, Ravi Thakur, Rajinder Rana, Inder Dutt Lakhnpal, Chetanya Sharma and Devinder Kumar Bhutto - all disqualified on February 29 for defying a party whip to be present in the House and vote in favour of the state government during a cut motion and budget.

Ashish Sharma, Hoshiyar Singh and KL

Thakur, who were elected as Independents and resigned on Friday, also joined the BJP, with Singh saying they decided to be part of the country's development journey under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Development works in the state have stopped since the Congress came to power, he said.

BJP leaders cited a host of development measures taken by the Modi government for the state, including highway and rail projects, and said the former MLAs decided to strengthen the prime minister's leadership.

These former lawmakers will be given due respect in the BJP, they said.

They are expected to contest the bypolls from their respective seats as candidates of the saffron party.

Jai Ram Thakur described the six former Congress MLAs' joining the BJP as a big political development for such a small state, noting that several of these leaders had held senior positions within the party.

HOLI CELEBRATIONS



Students celebrate the festival of Holi with colours, in Bhopal, Saturday.

Shashank Gupta's 'Visitors to the House': 5 diverse characters, 5 different stories



New Delhi, Mar 23 (PTI):

In his new novel "Visitors to the House", author Shashank Gupta invites readers to a charming cottage set in a hillside to meet five completely diverse characters, and to live their five different stories.

Gupta says in this world of rush-rush and push-push, he wanted to take his readers - both young and old - back to the early seventies when a letter took

two days to write and three weeks to reach.

"I wished to create the romance of the past, the aimless walks and town-folk who could scold you because they thought you belonged to them too. I hoped to remind myself as well of those days where smartness and charity were a far lesser virtue than humility and generosity," he says.

The green-roofed house in the hills, three miles from Didoli town, overlooks a gorge with a gurgling stream far down below. It has lived here for many years opening its arms and eyes - its gates and windows - to all sorts of visitors including the current occupants who have chosen to escape the clockwork precision of Delhi for the laidback music of birds, bugs, pines, wind, water and the wild beasts.

New Delhi, Mar 23:

On International Day of Forests, Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, announced the extensive efforts undertaken by the company to preserve the ecology in and around its operations in Chhattisgarh and Odisha. The company is committed to conserving and promoting biological diversity of ecosystems as part of its strategy. Vedanta Aluminium successfully completed afforestation on five reclaimed ash dykes, which were closed after reaching full capacity, at its BALCO operations - India's iconic aluminium producer located in Korba district of Chhattisgarh. Spanning an area of more than 150 hectares, the initiative demonstrates the scope for sustainable

reclamation of areas that were previously not under forest cover, through the plantation of almost 2 lakh saplings.

Fly ash is a high-volume, low-effect byproduct generated in the production of thermal power. Consequently, ash storage areas can be repurposed for afforestation, while fly ash itself is utilised in various circular economy avenues. As part of the reclamation process, the ash dykes undergo several stages of preparation which involve soil covering, stabilization, landscaping to develop a forest ecosystem, plantation of indigenous tree species, and continuous monitoring. These efforts have resulted in the area now being home to several native varieties of trees, such as Karanj, Sheesham, Neem, Amsol, and

Gulmohar, planted by the company, thus ensuring thriving biodiversity.

In Jharsuguda, Odisha, home to the company's mega aluminium plant, Vedanta Aluminium has undertaken the plantation of vulnerable tree species such as Chloroxylon swietenia in the district. Moreover, it has initiated extensive afforestation efforts, based on the unique Miyawaki method, for the first time ever in the vicinity of its Jamkhani coal mines in Sundargarh district, Odisha. The resultant plantation is self-sustaining in nature with over 8000 plants, including several fruit-bearing species.

Through these initiatives, the company is working towards achieving SDGs (Sustainable Development Goal) 13 - Climate Action and 15 -

Life on Land.

At Korba, BALCO has also set up fruit orchards of native fruit-bearing trees at its township, which presently have around 200 fruit saplings, including tamarind, mango, guava, custard apple and jamun. Under the company's Mor Jal, Mor Maati initiative, the company has also set up 11 mango orchards in nearby communities with 2300 fruit saplings. The Vedanta Agriculture Resource Centre provides the technical know-how to grow fast-growing, termite-resistant fruit trees to marginalised farmers, who in turn tend to them on their land. In addition, an extensive cleanliness drive was conducted in the nearby verdant forests and waterfalls which have recently seen increased littering by the public.

K'taka approaches SC against Centre seeking release of NDRF grants

To tackle drought

Bengaluru, Mar 23 (PTI):

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said the state government has filed a petition in the Supreme Court demanding a direction to the Centre to immediately release grants under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to the state, which is reeling under acute drought.

Accusing the Centre of sitting on Karnataka's pleas for release of funds though there is a severe drought, he said the state government was compelled to approach the apex court. "Today the Karnataka government filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court against the Centre after waiting for five months. Since there is vacation for a week in the Supreme Court, we did not

get the endorsement. We expect it next week," Siddaramaiah told reporters here.

The petition was filed under Article 32 of the Indian Constitution to give directions to the Government of India to release NDR Funds immediately, which was supposed to be released by the Centre according to law, he explained.

"We have declared drought in 223 Taluks out of 236 Taluks in the state. We evaluated four times. Agricultural crops have been lost in an area of 48 lakh hectares. We sent three memoranda to the Centre in a row but we did not get even a single penny so far," the chief minister alleged. In October last year, a Central team came to the state and conducted an inspection and submitted an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) report to the union government.

'AAP office in Delhi 'sealed', matter to be raised with EC'



New Delhi, Mar 23 (PTI):

The Aam Aadmi Party office in Delhi has been "sealed" from all sides, its senior leader Atishi claimed on Saturday and said the party will report the matter to the Election Commission.

A Delhi Police officer refuted the charge that the AAP office was sealed. Police personnel were deployed at DDU Marg to stop the gathering of people since CrPC section 144 is imposed there, the officer said.

In a post on X, Atishi questioned the "sealing" of the party office, saying it goes against the concept of having a "level playing field" in elections as promised by the Constitution.

"How can access to a national party's office be stopped during the Lok Sabha election? This (is) against the 'level playing field' promised in the Indian Constitution. We are seeking time with the Election Commission (EC) to complain against this," the Delhi minister said in her post.

Another senior AAP leader and Delhi Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj alleged that all access to the party office has been stopped by the Union government. "We will approach EC. The Central government has closed all access to the AAP head office at ITO, that too in Model Code of Conduct," he said in a post on X.

AAP leaders also alleged that Atishi was stopped by the police near Barakhamba Road, to prevent her from heading to her home.

In a press conference, Bharadwaj said the Election Commission should act as a neutral institution and ensure strict action against police officers. The AAP office at DDU Marg near ITO in central Delhi was also blocked on Friday during a protest by party leaders

and volunteers near the BJP headquarters, against the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Bharadwaj said that he and Atishi were stopped from going to the party office. How can a national party's office be sealed during elections, he asked. Bharadwaj also claimed that the vehicle in which Atishi was going home was stopped by the police.

Atishi also posted a video on X in which she can be seen arguing with a Delhi Police officer while some AAP leaders laid down on the road as a mark of protest over being stopped by the police.

She said in a post on X that the AAP has sought an urgent appointment with the Election Commission, to ensure a level playing field in the Lok Sabha elections. Atishi also said the AAP's Matiala MLA Gulab Singh's house was raided by the IT department.

However, the police officer said, "The AAP office was never sealed by police. Police personnel are deployed as (CrPC) section 144 is imposed and any kind of gathering is prohibited at DDU Marg".

Cong demands SC-monitored SIT probe

Says scheme used for prepaid, postpaid bribes

New Delhi, Mar 23 (PTI):

The Congress on Saturday reiterated its demand for a Supreme Court-monitored SIT probe into the electoral bonds issue, alleging that the "opaque

scheme" ensured that prepaid, postpaid and even post-raid bribes could be routed through the banking channel.

At a press conference, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging that the person who gave a guarantee of 'bringing back black money', instead "legalized corruption and is desper-

ately trying to hide it".

The opposition party also released a "python code" due to which, it claimed, it took less than 15 seconds to match the donors with political parties, "exposing the brazen and ridiculous claim of the SBI that it would take months to provide the data asked by the Supreme Court". The Congress has highlighted four patterns of "blatant

corruption" in the "electoral bonds scam - Chanda Do, Dhanda Lo i.e. Prepaid Bribe; Theka Lo, Rishvat Do i.e. Postpaid Bribe; Hafta Vasooli i.e. Extortion/Post-raid Bribe; Farzi Company i.e. Shell Companies", he said.

Ramesh alleged that the analysis using the code has brought to light that 38 corporate groups which have got 179 major contracts and

projects approvals from the central or BJP state governments have donated electoral bonds. These companies have got a total worth of Rs 3.8 lakh crore in projects and contracts, in exchange for Rs 2,004 crore in electoral bonds donations to the BJP, Ramesh claimed.

He said there are two categories under this are prepaid bribe and post paid bribes.

'Irony that Kejriwal who was part of anti-graft movement arrested in corruption case'



Mumbai, Mar 23 (PTI):

Social activist Anna Hazare on Saturday termed as "ironic" the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who was part of the Jan Lokpal movement, in a corruption case even as he demanded a thorough probe into

the matter and punishment for the guilty. Hazare in a statement accused Kejriwal of betraying the trust of crores of countrymen and rued that political ambitions destroyed the 2011 anti-corruption movement.

"I am very pained over the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a corruption case related to the liquor policy of the Delhi government.

It is ironic that my colleague from the Jan Lokpal movement, aimed against graft, was arrested in a corruption case," he stated.

A demand for Jan

Lokpal at the start of the last decade became a mass movement that shook the Congress-led UPA government of that time.

Hazare, Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia had emerged as the key faces of the movement.

Kejriwal later formed the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and went on to win elections along with Sisodia. Hazare, however, disassociated himself after the movement took a political turn. It was unfortunate that the political alternative of the Jan Lokpal movement has turned unsuccessful and the anti-

corruption movement has been destroyed because of political ambitions, Hazare stated targeting Kejriwal.

डिपल्स कांस्मेटिक सर्जरी द्वारा गालों में स्थायी डिपल्स

डॉ. ज. शास्त्रन से मान्यता प्राप्त

कालड़ा बर्न एंव

प्लास्टिक कांस्मेटिक सर्जरी सेंटर

चण्डी नाका, धर्मपुर रोड, कलकत्ता नॉल के पास, रायपुर

कॉल : 9827143060/8871003060

Ajay 9424201700

सुयश हॉस्पिटल (NABH से मान्यता प्राप्त)

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किडनी फेलचर (ARF/CRF)

डायलिसिस

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