

GREETINGS

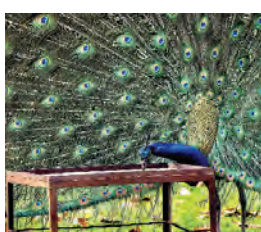
Central Chronicle wishes its readers, advertisers, patrons and well-wishers a very **HAPPY HOLI**

Notice

The offices and press of Central Chronicle will remain closed on **Monday 25/03/2024** owing to Holi Festival. Therefore next issue will be published on **Wednesday, 27th March 2024.**

Management

BRIEF



A peacock at a garden, in New Delhi, Sunday.

Watery grave

Agartala: One fisherman drowned and three others were missing in Dumbur lake in Tripura's Dhalai district, police said on Sunday. The body of a fisherman Hari Das (45) was recovered while search operation is on for three other missing, said a senior police officer. "Four fishermen of Gandacherra sub-division ventured out to catch fish on Saturday. They had taken shelter in a tent in the middle of the lake amidst the heavy storm. Due to strong wind, the tent collapsed and they were submerged in the lake", he said.

Land dispute

Medininagar: Two persons were stabbed to death on Sunday allegedly over a land dispute in Jharkhand's Palamu district, police said. The incident occurred at Semartand locality, around 180 km from Jharkhand's capital Ranchi. The two persons, who were friends, were on a morning walk. Some people caught them and started stabbing them with knives, Chainpur police station in-charge Sonu Kumar said.

Hospitalised

Erode: A Ganeshamoorthy of the MDMK, the sitting Lok Sabha MP from Erode, was on Sunday hospitalised here, with his condition stated to be serious by doctors. According to police, at around 9:30 am on Sunday morning, Ganeshamoorthy, who was elected on a DMK ticket in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls from here, developed uneasiness and was admitted to a private hospital here by his family members. After check-ups, he was admitted in the ICU and has been put on the ventilator, police said.

Suicide

Jaipur: A 20-year-old man and a woman (19), who studied together at a coaching centre here, allegedly committed suicide on Sunday by consuming poison, police said. Chomu Station House Officer Pradeep Sharma said Jatin Sain and Ankita Yadav were found unconscious in a car in the town.

Weather

High 37 Low 23

Kejriwal issues first directive from ED custody

Instructs to solve water-related problems

New Delhi, Mar 24 (PTI):

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has issued his first direction from ED custody on running the city government, instructing Water Minister Atishi to solve water- and sewer-related problems in some areas of the city.

Addressing a press conference, Atishi said the directions, received late on Saturday, brought tears to her eyes with Kejriwal showing concern for the people of Delhi despite his own plight.

Kejriwal (55) was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday from his official residence in connection with an excise policy-linked money-laundering case. A court on Friday sent the AAP national convenor to the central agency's custody

'I was in tears'

In a press meet later, Ms Atishi said she was in tears on reading the Chief Minister's note. "Arvind Kejriwal ji has sent me a letter and a direction. On reading it, I was in tears. I kept thinking who is this man, who is in prison, but is still thinking about Delhi residents' water and sewage problems. Only Arvind Kejriwal can do this because he considers himself a family member of Delhi's 2 crore people," she said. "I want to tell the BJP, you can arrest Arvind Kejriwal and put him in jail, but you cannot imprison his love and sense of duty for Delhi's people," she said, adding that the AAP leader may



Delhi Minister and AAP leader Atishi Singh shows Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal's first direction from ED custody on running the city government during a press conference, in New Delhi, Sunday.

be in jail, but "no work will stop". Reading out the letter, she said, "Arvind Kejriwal ji has written, 'I have come to know that some areas of Delhi are

facing water supply and sewer problems. I am worried about this. People should not face any problem because I am in jail. Summer is here, so please ensure adequate tankers in areas facing water shortage. Please give directions to the Chief Secretary and other officials so that people face no difficulty. People should get immediate and proper solution to their problems. Please seek help from the Lieutenant Governor if needed. He will surely help you."

"Even today, after being arrested, Arvind Kejriwal ji is thinking about the people of Delhi," Ms Atishi said.

till March 28. The chief minister also directed for deploying enough water tankers in areas where there is scarcity to strengthen supply

ahead of the approaching summer months, Atishi said. The minister said Kejriwal directed to issue instructions to the chief secretary and other officers

in this regard. He also suggested seeking the help of Lt Governor VK Saxena, if needed, and expects that he will extend all assistance, she said.

Modi, Shah hold meet to pick LS poll candidates

New Delhi, Mar 23 (PTI): The BJP's Central Election Committee met here on Saturday to finalise the party's candidates in several states for the Lok Sabha polls.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and BJP president J P Nadda were joined by other CEC members as they went over the list of probables to take a final call.

The states for which

candidates were discussed include Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Rajasthan. With the BJP and BJD alliance talks falling through, the CEC discussed candidates for all 21 Lok Sabha seats and 147 assembly seats in Odisha, state BJP president Manmohan Samal told reporters.

Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan and BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra are likely to be fielded from Odisha's Sambalpur and Puri respectively.

Former IAF chief Bhadauria joins BJP

New Delhi, Mar 24 (PTI): Former Indian Air Force chief RKS Bhadauria joined the BJP on Sunday and praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and the steps taken by his government to modernise and strengthen the armed forces.

Varaprasad Rao, a former MP and a YSR Congress leader from Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh, also joined the BJP in the presence of Union Minister Anurag Thakur and party General Secretary Vinod Tawde.

Bhadauria -- who hails



Former IAF chief Bhadauria joins BJP

PM Modi extends Holi greetings

New Delhi, Mar 24 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday greeted people on the eve of Holi. In a post on X, Modi addressed them as his family members and wished that the festival associated with affection and harmony bring new energy and enthusiasm in everyone's life. People observe "Holika Dahan", which symbolises the burning of evil, a day before Holy which is celebrated with colour and festivity across the country, with many parts of the country marking the day with their unique practices.

Hunger strike for statehood

Kargil, Mar 24 (PTI): A three-day hunger strike by Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) in support of their four-point demands, including statehood and Ladakh's inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, commenced here on Sunday with people from different walks of life joining the symbolic protest against the Central government.



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IIT student on way to join ISIS detained in Assam

Guwahati, Mar 24 (PTI): Pathak said the IIT-Guwahati authorities were immediately contacted, who informed them that the said student had been "missing" since noon and his mobile phone was also switched off.

He is a fourth-year student and hailed from Okhla in Delhi, he added.

A search was started to locate him and he was nabbed from Hajo area, around 30 km from Guwahati, on Saturday evening with the help of locals, the ASP said.

"After initial questioning, he has been brought to the STF office. We are verifying the motive of the email," Pathak said.

He said a black flag, "purportedly similar to that of ISIS", was found in his hostel room and was being sent for verification to specialised agencies which deal with proscribed outfits.

"We are going through the items seized, it is early to say much. We are investigating the intention of sending the email. The student has given some details, but we cannot disclose anything further now," Pathak added.

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Women play with colours ahead of the festival of Holi, in Nadia, Sunday

'INDIA bloc intact, will cross 272'

PM's corruption pitch 'hollow'

New Delhi, Mar 24 (PTI): The INDIA bloc is intact despite Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's "somersault" and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee deciding to be Mamata Banerjee, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh has said, rejecting as "hollow" Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pitch against the opposition on corruption.

In an interaction with PTI editors at the news agency's headquarters here, Ramesh also said the opposition will unitedly cross the halfway mark of 272 in the elections



Jairam Ramesh

and oust the BJP from power. He spoke on a range of issues including electoral bonds, the arrests of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and JMM leader Hemant Soren, who resigned as Jharkhand CM, and also addressed speculations around Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra potentially contesting the Lok Sabha polls from Amethi and Raebareilly, respectively.

'Higher burden of breast cancer in TN, T'gana, K'taka, Delhi'

New Delhi, Mar 24 (PTI): Indian women in 2016 was estimated to be at 515.4 DALYs per 1,00,000 women after age standardisation. The burden metrics at the state level exhibited substantial heterogeneity. "Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka and Delhi had a higher burden of breast cancer than states in the eastern and northeastern regions. The projection for 2025 indicates a substantial increase, reaching 5.6 million DALYs," the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) study said.

DALYs are a measure of overall disease burden, expressed as the number of years lost due to ill-health,

disability or early death. Rural women are less likely to develop breast cancer than their urban counterparts and age-standardised incidence rates are higher in urban and metro areas, with Hyderabad, Chennai, Bengaluru and Delhi topping the list among Indian cities.

According to the projections, the burden of female breast cancer in India in 2025 is expected to be 5.6 million DALYs. Premature deaths due to breast cancer (YLLs) would contribute 5.3 million DALYs to the total burden, with the remaining due to disability (YLDs).

Kejriwal's arrest: INDIA plans mega rally in Delhi

On March 31

New Delhi, Mar 24 (PTI): The opposition INDIA bloc will hold a "maha rally" at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan on March 31 to "safeguard the country's interests and democracy", AAP leader Gopal Rai said on Sunday.

The announcement comes after Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal (55) was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday from his official residence in connection with an excise policy-linked money-laundering case. A court on Friday sent the AAP national convenor to the central agency's custody till March 28. Addressing a press con-

ference, INDIA bloc allies AAP and Congress announced the rally. "We will hold a 'maha rally' at Ramlila Maidan on March 31 against what is happening in the country. The top leadership of the INDIA bloc will participate in the event," Rai, the AAP's Delhi convenor, said. "Democracy and the country are in danger. All the INDIA-bloc parties will hold this 'maha rally' to safeguard the country's interests and democracy," Rai added. Arvinder Singh Lovely, the Congress' Delhi unit chief, alleged that opposition parties are not being given a level playing field and highlighted the freezing of his party's accounts and the arrest of a chief minister.

SP MLAs who cross-voted for BJP get security

Lucknow, Mar 24 (PTI): Four Samajwadi Party MLAs who cross-voted for the BJP in the February 27 Rajya Sabha elections have been allocated Y-category security, a senior government official said on Sunday. He added that the four MLAs who got Y-category security are Abhay Singh (Gosaiganj), Manoj Kumar Pandey (Unchahar), Rakesh Pratap Singh (Gauriganj) and Vinod Chaturvedi (Kalpi), respectively.

These four MLAs, alongside three other party legislators -- Pooja Pal, Rakesh Pandey and Ashutosh Maurya -- had cross-voted for the BJP in the Rajya Sabha elections, leading to saffron party candidate Sanjay Seth defeating Samajwadi Party nominee Alok Ranjan.

Ajit Pawar threatens to walk out of Mahayuti

If Vijay Shivtare is not sacked

Mumbai, Mar 24: After Vijay Shivtare once again targeted Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and vowed to file his nomination papers from the Baramati Lok Sabha seat, the NCP on Sunday threatened to quit the ruling Mahayuti alliance if the Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde did not sack him.

"We have been demanding that action should be taken against Vijay Shivtare after his outburst against the deputy chief minister last week. Today,

he has again used objectionable language against our leader. Now, only his sacking by the Shiv Sena will pacify us. Otherwise, we are contemplating leaving the Mahayuti alliance," NCP chief spokesperson Umesh Patil said.

Patil said that his party had earlier conveyed to Shinde its demand for action against Shivtare. "Since no action has so far been taken by the Shiv Sena, we are seriously considering whether to stay in the Mahayuti or not. Things have gone beyond the point of tolerance. We can't allow such unnecessary and objectionable targeting of our leader.

Cong fields MLA Lakhma from Bastar LS seat

Raipur, Mar 23: The Congress on Saturday announced the name of sitting MLA Kawasi Lakhma as the Lok Sabha candidate for Bastar (ST) seat, which will go to polls in the first phase on April 19.

The party has so far named seven candidates in the state, which has 11 Lok Sabha seats.

The filing of nominations for the Bastar seat began on March 20.

Lakhma, an influential tribal leader, is a six-term MLA and has represented Kanta Assembly seat in Sukma district since 1998. He was Industry and Excise minister in the previous Bhupesh Baghel-led Congress government in the state.

Lakhma has considerable influence in the Bastar region in south



Chhattisgarh.

The party has denied a ticket to sitting MP from Bastar Deepak Baij, who is also president of the Pradesh Congress Committee. Incidentally, Baij had lost the 2023 Assembly polls from Chitrakot.

The Congress had released its first list for the state earlier this month, giving tickets to former

chief minister Bhupesh Baghel from Rajnandgaon, two former state ministers and a sitting MP.

The Lok Sabha polls for 11 seats in Chhattisgarh will be held in three phases on April 19, April 26 and May 7 and votes will be counted on June 4.

Three other constituencies, namely Kanker (ST), Rajnandgaon and Mahasamund, will go to polls on April 26 in the second phase, while the remaining of the seven Lok Sabha seats - Surguja (ST), Raigarh (ST), Janjgir-Champa (SC), Raipur, Durg, Korba and Bilaspur will witness polling on May 7.

The BJP has announced candidates for all 11 Lok Sabha seats in Chhattisgarh.

HOLI CELEBRATIONS



Holi celebrations at city's Sadar Bazar starts two-days in advance and all those passing from this Sadar Bazar road have not excuses and are drenched in colours by children using water guns and other means.

Congress not getting a candidate, Lakhma being made a scapegoat: Sai

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 24: Taking a dig at Congress for fielding former minister and Kanta MLA Kawasi Lakhma in Bastar Lok Sabha seat Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said that candidates were not available in Congress. Seeing no other candidate, Congress is making Kawasi Lakhma a scapegoat, he said.

In fact, Chief Minister Sai left for his home district Jashpur. Before departure, CM Sai discussed with journalists at Raipur helipad. He greeted the people of



the state on Holi. He said that it is a festival of victory of good over evil. Even enemies embrace in this festival, he said, adding that the people of the state are requested to celebrate the festival peacefully.

Audi catches fire in the middle of the road



Car occupants narrowly escape

Raipur, Mar 24: An Audi car caught fire in the middle of National Highway-53 near Birkonli last night. The people travelling in the car narrowly

escaped the accident. The car worth lakhs was burnt to ashes. A video on this car going into flames has also surfaced and is now going viral in social media.

According to the information received, last night around 11 pm, two

people Sunny Bire and Leela Singh were going from Raipur to Saraipali in an Audi car on invitation to their friend's house. Meanwhile, smoke suddenly started coming out from the car bonnet when it reached near Tumgaon and within no time fire broke out and the entire car was burnt to ashes.

According to Sunny, he had also called the fire brigade on 112, but they refused saying that the car was broken and within an hour the entire car was burnt to ashes. Sunny Bire works in a security agency in Raipur. He has lodged a complaint with Mahasamund police station.

Raipur police on alert for Holi, warn against mischief

● Action taken on 970

Raipur, Mar 24: Police are conducting intensive checking in five different places of Raipur before Holi, the festival of colours. People driving under the influence of alcohol, those driving four-wheelers without number plates, with black films and three riders traveling on two-wheelers are under the scanner of the police. Police have so far taken action against many as 970 drivers.

According to ASP City Lakhna Patle under visible policing, teams of 112 including foot patrolling, vehicle patrolling and crime prevention patrolling arrested drug addicts, factionalists, hooligans and suspected anti-social elements in crowded, public

and deserted places besides conducting checking in trunk of vehicles. Action was also taken against those who drank alcohol while sitting in the car. This action will continue keeping in mind the Lok Sabha elections.

Meanwhile transportation of liquor, cash, gold, silver and other election related materials is being strictly stopped. The police are keeping vigil to ensure that no untoward incident happens on Holi. In order to ensure celebration of Holi in a peaceful atmosphere in the city, the Arang police not only kept an eye on the people who were creating ruckus and driving under the influence of alcohol, but also taking action against such people by making check points in the squares and intersections.

'Holika Dahan' at 700 places in Raipur

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 24: Preparations for 'Holika Dahan' are in full swing in more than 700 streets, squares and intersections in 70 wards of the capital on Sunday. The Municipal Corporation spread mud on the burning site so that the asphalt of the road does not crumble due to 'Holika Dahan'.

A pyre is being decorated with wood for 'Holika Dahan'. 'Prahlad' is being placed in the lap of his aunt 'Holika' in the funeral pyre decorated at many places. This time, due to blockage of Bhadra on the day of 'Holika Dahan', the burning was to be done after 11.15 pm.

Prahlad sitting in the lap of Aunt Holika in the pyre decorated at places like Amapara, Lakhnagar, Nayapara, Ramsagarpara, Rathore Chowk, Samta Colony, Tikrapara, Kalibari, Pachpedinaka, Sundar Nagar, Bajrang Nagar, Gudhiyari, Purani Basti



etc. was the center of attraction. People gathered around bonfires to offer prayers and seek blessings, celebrating with rituals and devotional songs. Holika Dahan is observed on the eve of Holi. It symbolizes the victory of good over evil.

Break on CG Vyapam's recruitment exams for three months

Exams to be held after June 4

Code of conduct for LS elections effective till June 4

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 24: Due to the imposition of the Code of Conduct, there has been a break of about three months in the recruitment examinations conducted by Chhattisgarh Professional Examination Board (CGVYAPAM). After June 4, recruitment examination will be conducted for the posts of fisheries inspector, hostel superintendent and watchman, sweeper and other posts in police de-

partment and higher education department. Earlier last year too, recruitment examination was not held in November-December due to assembly elections. After the formation of the new government, recruitment examinations could not be held even in January.

The recruitment test was conducted every Sunday in February. After this, there was a break again due to the code of conduct. The application process for recruitment examinations will continue as usual. After the last week of May, there will be continuous examinations from Vyapam in June and July. It includes entrance, eligibility and recruitment examinations.

The application

process is going on for entrance examinations like Post Basic Nursing, B.Ed, D.El.Ed, PET, PAT, B.Sc Nursing, B.A.Ed, B.Sc.B.Ed, Polytechnic Test. Similarly, recently, applications have also been invited for Teacher Eligibility Test i.e. TET. The application process for the State Eligibility Test i.e. SET will start from May 13, while this exam will be conducted on July 7.

Vyapam will recruit for posts like Fisheries Inspector, Lab Technician, Hostel Warden under the Higher Education Department. The recruitment examination is likely to start from July. Entrance examinations for technical courses will be conducted in the month of June.

Child dies of food poisoning



Seven members of a family fall ill due to food poisoning

Korba, Mar 24: Seven members of a family fell ill due to food poisoning in Gidhauri village under Urga police station, Korba. Three-year-old Amrita Kanwar among them has died while condition of two other members is said to be serious. Treatment of the remain-

ing people is underway. According to information available all members of the family ate roti along with tea.

After consumption everyone's condition deteriorated one after another. Everyone was admitted to the hospital for treatment. Among them a three-year-old child died during treatment.

After getting information about the incident, the police started investigating the matter.

Christians take out massive rally on Palm Sunday

Rally was led by Bishop Ch'garh Diocese SK Nanda

Raipur, Mar 24: On occasion of Palm Sunday, the members of Christian community from St. Pauls Cathedral, CNI Raipur took out a massive rally at 10:30 am and they raised slogan and 'bhajan' songs in the memory of Lord Jesus Christ. The rally passed through St. Paul Cathedral to AIR triangle to OCM Chowk, to Rajiv Gandhi Chowk (Nalghar Chowk) to Chotapara, Kotwali Chowk and then to Kalibadi Chowk, Mahila Thana Chowk, OCM Chowk and back to St. Paul's Cathedral via



AIR Triangle.

The rally was led by Bishop of Chhattisgarh Diocese SK Nanda. Along with the Chief Guest Bishop Nanda, the special guest was Secretary of Diocese Nitin Lawrence and Treasurer Jaideep

Robinson. The convener of the rally was John Rajesh Paul. On this occasion Congress leader Vikas Upadhyay arrived and extended greetings to members of Christian Samaj. The members of

Pastorate Court, Pastorate Committee, Sunday School, Mahila Sabha, Choir, Yuwa Sabha and Clisius jointly took part in the rally. After prayers by members of Mahila Sabha, dates and water was distributed. In the rally the childrens, Rupika Lawrence, and singing team played an important roles in raising slogans and singing religious songs on Lord Jesus Christ. Prior to start of the rally, Ramesh Choudhary and his family distributed hats. Praveen James made arrangements for Ambulance and Medical Kit. The members taking part in the rally were carrying the branches of

Dates and wearing the badge. On occasion of Palm Sunday, the message from Bible was presented at the Chowk by Bishop Nanda, Pastor Sunil Kumar. The rally was addressed by Ruchi Dharmraj, Secretary St. Paul's Cathedral, Kiran Singh- Treasurer and John Rajesh Paul- Pam Sunday Rally convener. The Churches were specially decorated with branches of Dates. The rally was participated by Secretary Pastorate Court Persis Samuel, Member Deepak Das, Mukesh Paulis, Sarita Singh and by all members of the Pastorate Committee and members of the Christian community.

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दुर्वासा गैस एजेंसी

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दुर्ग, छत्तीसगढ़

CEO Kangale participates in 'SVEEP Rasrang' prog

Raipur, Mar 24:

In view of the Lok Sabha Elections-2024, as per the instructions of the Election Commission of India, the district administration organized "Sveep Rasrang" program for voter awareness at Raipur-Kala Centre. Chief Electoral Officer Mrs. Reena Babasaheb Kangale participated in this program.

Speaking on the occasion Chief Electoral Officer said that she is feeling happy with the sveep program for voter awareness in the beautiful art center premises. Youth power is a great power of democracy and voting is



necessary to respect democracy. She urged to appeal for 100 percent voting in the locality and society. The Chief Electoral Officer appealed for voting by saying "Vote Debar Jabo, Chunai Tihar Manabo". She said that voting is a big responsibility

to serve the country, all citizens should reach the booth and vote.

Addressing the program, District Election Officer and Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh said that elections are the backbone of democracy and urged to increase the percentage

of voting in urban areas. Collector Dr. Singh said that a cricket tournament is also being organized as part of the sveep. Apart from this, rewards will also be given to the voters who take photos at the selfie point and upload them on social media and get maximum likes.

On this occasion, SSP Mr. Santosh Singh expressed his gratitude and said that the election work will be done in a peaceful manner. In the sveep program, all age groups gave attractive presentations and were also honored. It was a great program. Also thanked for this. On this occasion, Municipal Corporation

Commissioner Mr. Abinash Mishra, District Panchayat CEO Mr. Vishwadeep and other officials, NGOs of the city were also present.

Under the SVEEP program, a selfie zone was created for voters at the Folk Art Center in which the Chief Electoral Officer also got the photo clicked and gave a message to the voters, appealing them to vote. Sveep Khichdi was also organized in the voter awareness program, which was the center of attraction. The Chief Guest, senior officials and dignitaries tasted the Sveep Khichdi and the event was appreciated.

Financing proof of more than Rs 50 cr found

- Team taking statements of the Directors based upon documents recovered
- IT raids at Raipur and Rajnandgaon

Raipur, Mar 24:

In the Income Tax raids against the real estate businessmen and financial brokers of capital city and Rajnandgaon, documents of promissory notes worth Rs 50 cr and above have been recovered so far. It is based upon the documents found during investigation, the statements of the Directors/ owners of the Companies is being taken and there are reports that the investigation has got completed late in the evening by Saturday. The IT team has already

seized cash of Rs 3.20 cr earlier and in the preliminary investigation of the raid which started on Thursday morning in Raipur and Rajnandgaon, there is proof of transactions above Rs 50 cr. Apart from the institutions, financing has been done to 100 individuals as well and there are few documents which shows transactions in 'kuccha'.

Investigation in R'gaon completed:

The IT raid against the residence and office of Financier Sanjay Sharma at Anupam Nagar, Stadium Road, has been completed. The team has seized not only the finance papers, but also the property papers, cash and jewellery as well. There are reports that the investigation

at six places in capital city at Katoratalab, LaVista, VIP Road, Ramsagarpara, Devendra Nagar has been completed on Saturday night. So far no authorized statement has come from the department in context of this raid. The officers say that it is only after appraisal report that the true figures of tax evasion and any financial irregularity would come to fore. It is notable here that team of more than 50 officers of IT department from IT Investigation Wing of Chhattisgarh and MP have conducted raids at the residence of Prakash Lunia, Chandrakumar Agrawal, in Raipur and at Sanjay Sharma's place in Rajnandgaon since Thursday and the team has so far seized Rs 3.20 cr.

Holi Milan program of Shri Guru Nanak Chowk Traders Association



Raipur, Mar 24:

Holi Milan program of Shri Guru Nanak Chowk Traders Association was held with great enthusiasm on March 23 in Kapil Muni Complex premises. All the traders of the association participated in this program and enjoyed Holi Milan to the fullest. In this program, Traders

Association member Shyam Maheshwari, Vishnu Drolia, Dilip Drolia, Jairaj Arya, Murari, Shyam Saav, Vishnu Saav, Surinder Singh, Vijay Shadija, Harish Chhabra, Mahesh Jethani, Lovely Arora, Ram Ghuria, Inder Dodani and a large number of traders of the Association participated.

A unique Holi for the first time in 60 years of my life: Sai

- Vibrant Holi celebration lights up Raipur Press Club

Raipur, Mar 24:

The hues of Chhattisgarh's rich culture illuminated the Holi Milan festivities at the Late Madhukar Kher Smriti Raipur Press Club this year. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai graced the occasion, marking a memorable celebration of the festival of colors. Expressing his joy, the Chief Minister remarked, "I will never forget this event of the new youth team of Raipur Press Club because such an experience of Holi is very special for me in my 60 years of life."

In a goodwill gesture, office bearers of the Raipur Press Club adorned Chief



Minister Vishnu Deo Sai with a garland crafted from vegetables and a traditional hat, presenting him with jackfruit. The Chief Minister enthusiastically joined in the rhythm of the Holi song played by MLA Anuj Sharma and even tried his hand at playing the drum.

The event witnessed the presence of Deputy CM Arun Sao, MLA Anuj Sharma, MLA Purandar Mishra, BJP Media Cell

President Amit Chimmni, Congress Communication Department Head Sushil Anand Shukla, CM's Private Secretary Tulsi Kaushik, BJP-Congress spokespersons, and a multitude of journalists.

The Holi Milan function received praise from senior journalists, who reminisced about similar celebrations held years ago at the Raipur Press Club. With the advent of a new, young, and creative team,

the glorious tradition has been revived. The special Holi issue 'Senseless Times,' curated by journalist Sudhir Azad Tamboli and his team, was released during the event, further adding to the festive spirit.

Renowned artists from Chhattisgarh graced the occasion, adding their magic to the celebration. Directors Satish Jain and Manoj Verma extended their Holi wishes, while folk singer Sunil Soni and others filled the air with melodious tunes, enhancing the cultural richness of the event.

President of Raipur Press Club, Prafulla Thakur, alongside his executive committee, welcomed everyone to the joyous celebration of Holi, extending warm greetings on the occasion.

Collector inspects primary health centers



Raipur, Mar 24:

Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh, who was out to inspect the polling stations, also inspected the Primary Health Center Dhaneli and Sub Health Center Dandekala. During the inspection, he took stock of the facilities available in the primary health and sub-health centers and talked to the patients treated there and inquired about their well-being. He also met Mrs. Roshni Chelak, who had given birth a day before, at the Primary Health Center and inquired about her health.

Meanwhile, also talked to the mother and grandmother of the newborn baby about the facilities available in the primary health center and the working style of the doctors working there. The mother of the newborn baby told that this is her second son, her first son was born in the same hospital 5 years ago and both the children were born through normal delivery. Both the child's mother and grandmother expressed gratitude towards the facilities of the center and the doctors and health workers working there.

JCI MAIC United celebrates Holi with staff

Raipur, Mar 24:

The members of JCI Raipur Maic United had a wonderful time celebrating Holi with the staff of Maic College. The members brought smiles to everyone's faces by sharing gifts and dancing together. The atmosphere was full of joy and laughter with staff bonded over colorful festivities. It wasn't just about playing with colors; it was about spreading happiness and building connections within the college community.

But the celebrations didn't end there. The members also had another special celebration with the Chitvan old age family. They danced with the elderly people, played games, and had a blast together. It was heartwarming to see the smiles on everyone's faces as they shared these happy moments. These celebrations were more than just parties; they were



about bringing people together and spreading joy. Whether it was dancing with the college staff or playing games with the elder peoples, the Members showed kindness and made lasting memories. These moments remind us of the importance of friendship, laughter, and caring for others. Overall, both celebrations were filled with happiness and warmth. They were a reminder of the simple joys of life and

the power of community to uplift spirits.

The entire celebration was done under the guidance of College Chairman Shri Rajesh Agarwal, Principal Dr. M. S. Mishra, Chapter Incharge JC Rishi Pandey, President JC Farzaan Siddique and Secretary JC Rounak Bengani. The program directors of this holi celebration was JC Ishanya Jha, JC Kusum Sahu and JC Pragati Chandra.

Young man's life saved with operation of pseudo cyst in pancreas In Ambedkar Hospital

Raipur, Mar 24:

Doctors in General Surgery Department of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital, affiliated to Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Medical College, Raipur have saved life of an 18-year-old youth by successfully operating pseudo cyst in pancreas in him.

Consumption of alcohol at a very young age had led to formation of pancreatic cysts (saclike pockets of fluid on or in pancreas).

The successful operation was conducted under the leadership of Dr. (Prof.) Manju Singh, Head of the Department of General Surgery.

The operation was done by Dr. Manju Singh along with Associate Professor Dr. SN Gole, Associate Professor Dr. Amit Agrawal and Assistant Professor Dr. Manish Sahu

using cystogastrostomy surgery technique in which a hole is made between the pancreatic pseudo cyst and the stomach.

According to Dr. Manju Singh, the operation of the pancreatic cysts is often done in the General Surgery Department, but the case of formation of pseudocyst in the pancreas due to alcohol consumption at such a young age (18 years) is very rare. Generally this disease occurs at such a young age due to hereditary reasons. In this case the young man had been consuming alcohol since adolescence. This disease occurred in the patient's stomach due to consumption of alcohol for the last 4 years which was increasing for the last two months due to which the patient was complaining of swelling and pain in the stomach.

Body of 1 Maoist, 01 weapon recovered

- Along with large quantity of Naxalite material

Sukma/Konta, Mar 24:

A joint party of DRG, Bastar Fighters, Cobra and STF left for anti-Naxal operation in the border areas of Sukma/ Bijapur/ Dantewada district. During the operation, on March 23 at around 8:30 am, an encounter took place between DRG, Bastar Fighters and Maoists in the jungle hill between village Deditumnar and Gondpalli under Jagargunda police station area. After the encounter, during the search of the incident site, the body of 1 male Maoist was recovered along with 1 weapon.

After conducting intensive search of the area around the incident site, Naxalite materials were recovered, namely 2 print-



er machines, 5 backpacks, 1 electric detonator, 1 blue coloured battery, 10 watch cells, 5 computer cleaning gel, 4 firecrackers, 6 needles and thread, 10 photographs of Naxalite members, 1 tool sharpening rod, 1 small stapler machine, 17 Naxalite literature, large quantity of injections, syringes, medicines and other daily use items. The Naxalite killed in the encounter was identified as Aavalam Podiya, father Aavalam Sannu, age about 25 years, resident of Pidia police station Gangalur, district Bijapur, party member of Gangalur Area Committee in Naxal organization.

All operation parties returned to the camp safely. Further legal action is being taken in the district headquarters Sukma in connection with the incident.

'Traffic ki Pathshala' organised by Traffic Police

- Information about traffic rules given to more than 500 violating drivers
- ASP took a meeting of auto drivers, gave instructions to drive the vehicle following rules

Raipur, Mar 24:

As per the instructions of Senior Superintendent of Police, District Raipur, Mr. Santosh Kumar Singh, Traffic Police Raipur is continuously organising "Traffic ki Pathshala" on the spot to the drivers who violate the rules at various streets. In the same sequence, today, "Traffic ki Pathshala" was organised by Additional Superintendent of Police, Raipur City Mr. Lakhan Patel at Shastri Chowk, Raipur, more than 150 violator drivers were given in-



formation about the traffic rules and also the traffic police helped in making the traffic system of the city easy and safe. An appeal was made to cooperate from all.

In the 'Traffic ki Pathshala' organised at Bhanpuri Chowk and Old Bus Stand, Pandari, A d d i t i o n a l Superintendent of Police, Raipur City Mr. Om Prakash Sharma gave information about the traffic

rules to more than 250 violator drivers and in case of repeated violation of the rules, they were charged fines. A warning was given of punitive action under the Vehicles Act.

In the 'Traffic ki Pathshala' organised at Shastri Chowk, the heart of the city, Additional Superintendent of Police, Mr. Lakhan Patle, informed about the traffic rules to more than 100 violator drivers and also ad-

ministered an oath to everyone to follow the traffic rules.

In the same sequence, a meeting of auto drivers was called by ASP Mr. Om Prakash Sharma in the office of Additional Superintendent of Police Traffic Auditorium for the smooth operation of the city's traffic system, in which city auto union officials Mr. Kamal Pandey, Mr. Suresh Tiwari, Mr. Jagdish Tiwari, and others were present. 200 auto drivers were present who were warned by ASP Sharma regarding driving within the city following traffic rules and signals, not parking vehicles in no parking, not misbehaving with passengers, not overloading passengers. Instructions were given by Deputy Superintendent of Police Traffic Raipur, Gurjit Singh.

Festival of Colours celebrated at Kalinga University

Raipur, Mar 24:

Kalinga University celebrated the spirit of togetherness and harmony with its vibrant Holi Milan Festival on Saturday, March 23rd, at its picturesque campus. The event witnessed an enthusiastic gathering of Kalinga staff members coming together to revel in the colors of Holi, marking the arrival of spring.

The Holi Milan Festival, organized by Dean of Students' Welfare of Kalinga University, and its team, aimed to foster a sense of unity, camaraderie, and cultural exchange among its diverse community. It provided a platform for individuals from different backgrounds to come together and celebrate the rich tapestry of Indian culture. Attendees were treated



to a kaleidoscope of colours as they participated in traditional Holi rituals, including the smearing of vibrant gulal. The air was filled with laughter and joy as participants danced to the rhythm of traditional folk music, further enhancing the festive atmosphere.

Dr. Sandeep Gandhi, Registrar of Kalinga University, expressed his delight at the overwhelm-

ing turnout and the spirit of inclusivity displayed throughout the event. He remarked, "The Holi Milan Festival is not just a celebration of colours but also a celebration of our diversity and unity. It is heartening to see our faculties, and staff come together to embrace each other's differences and celebrate as one community." The participants grooved to the tunes of

Holi songs and enjoyed the colourful event. Traditional delicacies, including gujiya, thandai and other festive treats, added to the gastronomic delights of the celebration.

As the sun set on the horizon, marking the end of the festivities, participants departed with hearts full of joy and memories that would last a lifetime.

It is worth mentioning that Kalinga University is a premier institution of higher education committed to academic excellence, innovation, and holistic development. Located in the heart of Naya Raipur, the capital city of Chhattisgarh, the university offers a diverse range of programs across disciplines, preparing students to excel in their chosen fields and contribute meaningfully to society.

Government norms considering lecturers ineligible for post of DBEO being opposed

Khairagarh, Mar 24:

Government norms considering lecturer ineligible for the post of Development Block Education Officer is taking a back bench among suitable candidates of the region. Under Chhattisgarh School Education Department (Teaching and Administrative Cadre) Recruitment and Promotion Rules 2019, Rule 6, Schedule-II, Simple Number 17, 25% Assistant on the vacant post of Development Block Education Officer, the Development Block Education Officer will be promoted in the order of seniority. Being sensitive under this rule, the state government promoted about 46 Assistant Development Block Education Officers appointed in 2015-16 to the post of Development Block Education Officer. In simple number 18 of Schedule-II, lecturers will be filled on the total vacant posts of Principal by 10%

direct recruitment, 90% by promotion in which 65% posts of lecturers (70% E cadre and 30% lecturers LB cadre) will be filled from E cadre. If there are no eligible candidates in the feeding cadre, promotion will be given from the vacant post of Principal. The remaining 25% will be promoted from primary, pre-secondary Chhattisgarh School Education Department. Here in compliance with Rule 6 Schedule 2, they are made Assistant Development Block Education Officers. According to the same rule, many candidates have opined that why were Lecturer E/T cadre and Lecturer E/TLB cadre promoted to the post of Principal and if the lecturers had been promoted to the post of principals, then today full-time principals would have been working in all the schools. As per information, more than 2800 principal posts will be vacant and about 4 to 5

thousand lecturers will have more than 20 years of experience. Provincial President of Chhattisgarh Lecturer (LB) Association Kamleshwar Singh along with provincial and district officials Jai Prakash Sahu, Sunil Kumar Guni, Dr. Sanjay Singh, Nitesh Pandey, Kamlesh Patel Bansh Bihari, Banafar Deepak Rai, Mohan Upadhyay, Swarath Jaiswal, Anil Gupta, Annujay Vaish, Shashibhushan Sharma, Sanjay Sharma, Manjusha Tiwari, Vedram Sahu, Javed Khan, Surendra Khute, Naveen Khare etc. have demanded from the government that by ending discrimination in the same department, the Principal and Deputy Director, District Education Officer should soon be appointed. Promotion should be given on the post so that the tradition of in-charge on the post of Principal, Development Block Education Officer and District Education Officer can be ended.

Action to be taken against those selling non-standard food

Bemetara, Mar 24: As per the instructions of Collector and District Election Officer Ranbir Sharma, under the direction of Sub-Divisional Officer (R.) cum Designated Officer, Food and Drug Administration, Bemetara (Chhattisgarh), surprise inspection of food establishments like

etc., the Food Safety and Standards Act was issued by the Honorable Court and if found to be violating the provisions of the Act 2006, a total fine of Rs 125,000/- (one lakh twenty five thousand) has been imposed. Keeping food safety in mind, food businessmen are being instructed to maintain



shops, food manufacturing firms is to commence against those selling non standard food.

Also, in the case presented by the Food Safety Officer to the seller and manufacturing firm of the food items found to be of sub-standard level like Pan Masala, Gram Gram flour, misbranded bakery products, sub-standard chilli powder, tea leaves and misbranded Poha,

cleanliness in the establishment and not to sell non-standard food items in any way. Similarly, it is necessary as per the rules to not use newspaper or other paper with printing for wrapping food items like Samosa, Vada, Bhajiya and sweets etc. and instead use food grade paper and FSSI permitted colors in sweets and other food keeping in mind the upcoming festival of Holi.

Students give message of voter awareness through street drama



Korba, Mar 24:

Under the direction of Collector and District Election Officer Ajit Vasant and District Sweep Nodal Officer and CEO District Panchayat Sambit Mishra, Principal of Government Engineering Visvesvaraya Post Graduate College, Korba, Dr. Sadhna Khare and Principal of Education and Training Institute Korba, Mr. Ram, under voter awareness program, a street-drama was staged in the Budhwari market complex of Korba city, keeping in mind the target of 100 percent voting in the upcoming elections. Through street drama, the common people were motivated to not forget the vot-

ing day of 07th May, to give priority to fair voting and to encourage other nearby people to also vote. Sweep Nodal Officer of the college and Head of the Department of Zoology, Balram Kurre told the present voters that voting is a great donation, our one vote can change the fate of the candidate, every vote is important; hence we should do our part by becoming an educated and aware voter. Gaurav Sharma, lecturer and sweep nodal officer of District Education and Training Institute Korba, appealed to the voters that every vote in the election should be counted as it is important, one vote can change our destiny, hence on the day of voting, the

first priority in all tasks should be given to voting and it is mandatory to go to vote. Ajay Patel, Head of the Department of Home Science of the college and NSS officer, said that every voter should vote keeping in mind the bright future of his child and family, as every vote can change the condition and direction of the country, so take time out and vote on the voting day. Kanhaiya Singh Kanwar, Head of the Sanskrit Department of the college, appealed to the public that voters are the destiny makers of the nation, our one vote is important in electing the right person and only this right person leads the society and the country on the path of development.

Legal awareness camp organized on World Water Day



Bemetara, Mar 24: National Legal Services Authority New Delhi and Chhattisgarh, as per the orders of State Legal Services Authority Bilaspur and on the guidance of President/District Judge Brijendra Kumar Shastri and on the instructions of Jaswinder Kaur Ajmani Malik, Behavioral Judge Class 01 Secretary,

District Legal Services Authority Bemetara, World Water Day was celebrated on 22nd March in Government Pre-Secondary School, Kanteli. A legal awareness camp was organized, in which school students are taught 'Water is life' and life cannot be imagined without water. In daily life, water is used for various activities

like drinking, bathing, washing clothes and irrigation. Apart from this, information related to water pollution like dumping of waste materials in water, throwing garbage in rivers and lakes, releasing harmful chemicals in water, which is not right from the point of view of environmental protection, etc., was given. Also, the stu-

dents were made aware by telling them about the legal provisions of the Environment Protection Act 1986 and encouraged them to plant more and more trees to conserve water and avoid water pollution. At the said camp, students were told about their fundamental rights and duties, right to education, benefits of sports and exercise. Along with this, information about legal rules and free legal aid operated by NALSA and SALSA was provided. Principal reader Parasram Sahu and paralegal volunteers Sonia Rajput, Tuwendra Singh Verma, Chetan Singh, Devendra Yadav, Pankaj Ghritalhare, Chandrakishore Rajput were present at the said camp.

Landowner bearing the brunt of revenue department's negligence

Anwari, Mar 24:

A case of negligence of the Revenue Department has come to fore in the region, where a land owner has to deal with the loss of about 7.5 decimals of land, in measurement and presently the owner has chosen to complain in the Revenue Court.

In the order issued by the Revenue Court to the land owner, it has been mentioned that the map of the said land has become smaller due to the error and also in the order passed by the Revenue Court, it has also been mentioned that the area of the village will be affected due to the correction in the map of the said land. But Nandlal Dewangan father Nihali, a resident of



village Supela, says that there is land in my name in village Supela in Khasra serial no. 260/1,260/2 and 260/3, which in the old records has an area of 0.13/0.53 acres of land, but due to the negligence of the Revenue Department, the



map of the land of Khasra No. 260/1,260/2,260/3 has been reduced without my permission, due to which I am being deprived of my rights, for which an application was made in the Revenue Court to get proper justice. But the Revenue Court rejected

the map citing errors due to which he is running from pillar to post to prove his own land is correct. Nandlal Dewangan has demanded proper justice from the government administration and got his old map re-examined afresh.

Paradip College Chemistry Deptt organized seminar



Paradip, Mar 24:

The Department of Chemistry, Paradip College organized a seminar on 21st March-2024 relating to the theme of "Plastic Pollution: A human made Global Crisis". Dr. Suprava

Parida, Reader in Chemistry, Subhadra Mahatab College, Asureswar, Cuttack graced the occasion as Chief Speaker and resolved all queries of the students with effective and succinct deliberations. Shyamagobinda

jena, Reader & HOD, Deptt. Of Chemistry, Paradip College presided over the meeting.

Dr. Sasmita Satapathy, Principal, Paradip College delivered inspiring welcome address on the occasion. Dr. Smita Biswal, Reader in Chemistry introduced guests.

A good number of students attended the seminar. The entire discussion was meant to bring home the facts for all concerned. At the end Ms S. Jagadhatri, faculty of the Deptt.

of Chemistry extended vote of thanks to all. The seminar was highly rewarding to the students.

PWF launches water charity campaign for animals

Arang, Mar 24: As temperatures rise, concerns about water scarcity grow. In response, the Peepa Welfare Foundation has initiated its annual water charity campaign, a compassionate endeavour to provide hydration to mute animals during the sweltering summer months. For several years, this voluntary organization has been actively engaged in placing water vessels across the city, encouraging residents to fill them with water twice a day. This year, the campaign kickstarted on World Water Day, March 22, with a grander ambition. Foundation members aim to distribute over 500 water vessels across strategic locations such as Arang, Mahasamund, Nava Raipur, Raipur, Mandir Hasaud, Rajim Nayapara, Abhanpur, and

Dharsiwan. The inaugural event commenced at Netaji Chowk Bus Stand, where foundation members poured water into the first vessel. Immediately, the altruistic gesture attracted silent visitors, including mother cows and other animals, seeking relief from the scorching heat. Encouraged by this response, citizens are actively participating in the initiative, often donating vessels in memory of deceased loved ones. Foundation members emphasize the importance of community involvement to ensure the success of this noble endeavour.

They extend a heartfelt appeal for continued cooperation, underscoring the significance of providing essential hydration to mute animals during the relentless summer heat.

World Water Day celebrated by RSS

Kurud, Mar 24:

On the occasion of World Water Day, the volunteers of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Kurud cleaned the Pacharipara pond of Kurud Nagar and gave the message of water conservation and explained the importance of water on human life. RSS District Karyavah Dhanesh Nirmalkar, while describing the situation of water crisis arising across the world, said that if lessons are not learned from the water problem, then the third world war will take place only for the sake of water. Do not waste water but use it as per your requirement and also run public awareness cam-



paigns for water conservation by telling people about the importance of water conservation, he said. The theme of this year's program of RSS is "Water for Peace" and the theme says that water is very important to maintain peace in the world and

let us all resolve to save water and keep water sources clean, he further added. On this occasion, Keshav Chandrakar, Nemichand Bains, Jitendra Chandrakar, Bhushan Dewangan Dugesh Sahu, Santosh Sinha were present.

New CMO launches cleanliness drive in Kharora

Kharora, Mar 24: A wave of enthusiasm swept through Kharora as Hori Singh Thakur, the newly appointed Chief Municipal Officer, arrived from Arang, heralding a fresh start for the city. Waste bins will also be placed on the city's main thoroughfares, and neglected gardens will receive much-needed beautification.

Expressing his commitment to the cause, Hori Singh emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness in the city and announced the launch of the "Swachh Nagar Swasthya Nagar" campaign under the auspices of the Nagar Panchayat. The initiative aims to inspire residents to uphold cleanliness standards by organizing clean-up drives in various wards, the new bus stand, and public toilets. Highlighting the significance of

community involvement in fostering a cleaner environment, Hori Singh stressed the need for structured awareness programs to instill a sense of responsibility among residents. He envisions a city where cleanliness is not just a duty but a way of life, contributing to overall health and well-being. Acknowledging the challenges ahead, Sachin Agarwal, Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce, lauded the commencement of the cleanliness campaign. He pledged full support from the city's residents and the Chamber of Commerce, emphasizing the importance of continuity in such endeavors. Additionally, he raised concerns about dust pollution in certain areas, expressing confidence that the Chief Municipal Officer would address these issues promptly.

Demand for money from students to pass computer exam

Complaint lodged with Collector

Khairagarh, Mar 24:

Accusing the operator of the computer centre running in the Civil Lines of the city of misbehaviour, the students studying there have submitted a memorandum to the Collector demanding action.

The students of PGDCA and DCA year 20023-24 in IIT Institute, an institution related to Director, Rajesh Dewangan, of Bilaspur, have accused the director of the institute, Rajesh Dewangan, of arbitrariness. The students said in the complaint that all the stu-



dents have been regular students in the institute for two years, even after this, Director Rajesh Dewangan is demanding additional money from the students to pass the examination, which is varying from Rs. 500 to 300. Among the students

who came to complain, Sumen Sahu, Kiran Nishad, Deepti Verma, Munika Verma, Lalit Verma etc.

Have demanded immediate action against the director for giving complaint to ADM Premkumar Patel.

Memorandum submitted to to police station in-charges for ensuring peace

Arang, Mar 24:

Ahead of the forthcoming Holi festival and Lok Sabha elections, senior police officials in Arang, including Superintendent Santosh Singh and station in-charges Sachin Singh and Satyendra Singh Shyam, have received a memorandum from Bhupendra Sharma, a prominent leader of the Farmer Struggle Committee, emphasizing the need for robust action against anti-social elements in the region.

Sharma's memorandum highlights concerns

regarding potential disruptions to peace and order during the festivities and electoral process. It specifically addresses issues such as unauthorized DJ and loudspeaker usage, obstruction of public pathways for fundraising, and the presence of anti-social elements in local villages.

Referencing the successful anti-liquor agitation led by the Farmer Struggle Committee in 1993-94, the memorandum underscores the community's long-standing stance against illicit liquor sales and other un-

lawful activities. Sharma urges the deployment of increased police patrols in village areas to ensure the safety and security of residents.

Furthermore, the memorandum calls for concrete measures to detain illegal liquor vendors and antisocial individuals until the conclusion of the festival and election periods.

It advocates for proactive steps, including assigning responsibility to village authorities to prevent the blocking of public roads and to curb unauthorized sound system usage.

Bilaspur Station introduces QR code facility

● For online payment of tickets at unreserved ticket counters

Bilaspur, Mar 24: In order to encourage digital ticketing modes, promote self-ticketing, and enable passengers to purchase tickets without facing queues, the railway administration has provided the facility of Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVMs) and UTS mobile app at stations. Additionally, payment through UPI ID for both reserved and unreserved tickets is now available at all railway stations in the division. To further enhance the facility of digital payments, the QR code scanning device has been installed at the unreserved ticket counter number seven of Bilaspur Station, enabling passengers to make payments for general (unreserved) tickets via QR code scanning. Passengers are benefiting from the ease of digital



payment through QR code scanning devices. The facility of Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVMs) is available at 20 stations in the Bilaspur Division. Passengers can easily obtain general (unreserved) tickets from these machines using QR code and

R-wallet without waiting in line. Similarly, by booking tickets through the UTS mobile app, passengers can avoid the hassle of waiting in line. Moreover, a three percent additional bonus is provided for payments made through R-wallet. These methods of booking tickets are providing relief to passengers from the queues at ticket counters.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Vikas Kumar Kashyap explained that passengers are not only benefiting from instant ticketing without waiting in line through QR code, UPI, ATVM, and UTS mobile app, but they are also getting relief from the hassle of change/cash handling. All passengers are urged to take advantage of the facility of creating general (unreserved) tickets through QR code, UPI, ATVM, and UTS mobile app to make their journey comfortable.

KCPS celebrates unique graduation ceremony



Kurud, Mar 24: Kaliram Chandrakar Public School (KCPS) in Kurud marked its Graduation Day with a unique twist to the annual examination results announcement in the Pre Primary Department.

In a ceremony reminiscent of university convocations, the Pre Primary Department teachers distributed certificates of success to the children as if awarding degrees. Adorned in degree attire and crowns, the children, accompanied by their proud parents, charmed everyone with their radiant smiles. The celebration was further enhanced by a specially designed selfie stand, where everyone captured memories of this joyous occasion. Parents and attendees laud-

ed the school's innovative approach to announcing exam results, emphasizing its uniqueness and creativity. Principal K. Manjita Thakur extended heartfelt congratulations to all the children for their outstanding performance in the annual examination. She expressed confidence in their bright futures, highlighting their hard work and talent as the foundation for success in the years to come.

The ceremony saw the presence of School Manager Vishwanath Chandrakar, senior teachers Hemant Soni and Ashwan Sinha, along with the pre-primary teaching staff, parents, and children, all of whom contributed to making the event a memorable success.

MLA Janak Dhruv shops for Holi in weekly market

Gariaband, Mar 24: Bindranavagarh Assembly Constituency MLA Janak Dhruv, accompanied by his family, embraced the spirit of Holi by shopping on foot in the Mainpur weekly market today. Amidst the bustling preparations for the festival, Dhruv's unconventional shopping spree attracted a crowd of on-lookers as he purchased essentials like Nangada, gulal, colors, and Pichkari, spreading joy among the villagers.

Roaming amidst the colorful stalls of the Mainpur weekly market, Janak Dhruv, along with his wife Varsha Dhruv and children, immersed himself in the festive fervour. Unlike the typical grandeur associated with political figures, Dhruv opted for a humble approach, interacting with locals and engaging in everyday activities.

In a heartwarming gesture, Janak Dhruv distributed Pichkari and colored Gulal to over 100 children, encouraging them to cele-



brate Holi with exuberance. The sight of children's faces lighting up with joy as they received gifts from the MLA resonated with the spirit of the festival, fostering a sense of community and togetherness.

Amidst the festivities, MLA took a moment to connect with the villagers over tea and breakfast at the Saurabh Tea Canteen. Surrounded by Congress workers and officials, Dhruv extended warm wishes to all on the occasion of Holi, emphasizing the importance of celebrating traditions with unity and joy.

Expressing his senti-

ments, MLA shared that he personally engages in festival shopping with his family, underscoring the value of embracing traditions at a grassroots level. The presence of local leaders and residents further enhanced the communal spirit, encapsulating the essence of Holi celebrations.

In attendance were prominent figures such as Former State Congress representative Hemsh Negi, Block Congress Committee Executive President Ramkrishna Dhruv, General Secretary Gendru Yadav, and several others, who joined in the festivities alongside numerous residents from the area.

Korba district achieves perfect paddy procurement

● Remarkable efforts ensure zero shortage in paddy lifting

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Mar 24: The district of Korba celebrates a significant milestone as it completes the paddy lifting process for the Kharif marketing year 2023-24 with a flawless record of zero percent shortage, under the dedicated leadership of Collector Ajit Vasant.

District Marketing Officer, in a statement, revealed that Korba district ranks third in the state for efficiently disposing of the purchased



paddy. This achievement marks the eleventh consecutive year where the district has successfully lifted paddy without any shortage, owing to the diligent efforts of all officers and employees involved in the procure-

ment process.

Throughout the Kharif marketing year 2023-24, paddy procurement was carried out through 65 centers operated by 41 co-operative societies across Korba district. A total of 2,86,733.16 metric tons of paddy was purchased from 43,412 farmers, reflecting the robust agricultural activities in the region. To ensure the convenience of farmers, the Paddy Tihar, initially scheduled for three months, was extended for an additional four days. This extension facilitated a smooth and systematic procurement process, allowing for seamless transactions with farmers.

Simga peace committee calls for harmony ahead of Holi



Simga, Mar 24: A Peace Committee meeting convened today at Simga Police Station witnessed a diverse gathering of individuals representing various segments of society. The primary focus of the meeting was to foster cooperation among community members to uphold peace and tranquility during the upcoming Holi festivities.

Attendees deliberated on strategies to promote harmony, urging citizens to refrain from engaging in behaviours that could disrupt the peace. Key points emphasized during the meeting included discouraging the use of three-passenger vehicles, avoiding altercations, abstaining from applying colors without consent, and preventing any form



of harassment or violence. Prominent figures such as Boharan Tamrakar, Amrit Panjwani, Bhagwat Sonkar, Nagar Panchayat Simga President Ayub Khan, and Farmer Leader Abdul Rehman, among others, actively

participated in the discussions. The gathering also included representatives from various administrative bodies, including TI Gopal Dhruv, SDM Anshul Verma, Tehsildar Anirudh Mishra, and CMO Nagar Panchayat

Simga Yashwant Verma. The media played a crucial role in disseminating the message of peace, with all media in-charges attending the meeting and pledging their support in promoting harmony within the community.

Sukma women's groups craft herbal gulal Students rally for water preservation

● Women Self-Help Groups initiative promotes natural Holi celebration Collector supports local artisans' eco-friendly endeavors

Sukma, Mar 24: In a display of community craftsmanship, women from the Aakriti Self Help Group in Sukma district have prepared herbal gulal, promising a vibrant and eco-friendly Holi celebration for the local residents.

Presenting their creation to Collector Haris S.



at his residence, the women shared their innovative process of crafting herbal gulal using indigenous flowers sourced locally. Their dedication to natural ingredients and sus-

tainable practices earned praise from the Collector, who commended their efforts and offered encouragement. Responding to the women's group's request, the Collector grant-

ed permission for the sale of herbal gulal within the Collectorate premises, urging officers and employees to support the initiative by opting for the natural gulal for their Holi festivities.

This year, as part of the Tribal Sub-Plan, six women self-help groups received training in crafting gulal naturally from the Agricultural Science Center Sukma. Among them, Muskaan and Aakriti groups have successfully produced approximately 10 quintals of herbal gulal, providing an opportunity for the sisters of these women's groups to generate income during the festive season.

● Through creative initiatives and awareness campaigns

Kharora, Mar 24: Embracing the significance of World Water Day, Government Pre-Secondary School in Bharwadih Kala resonated with enthusiasm as students commemorated the occasion with a series of engaging activities centered around water conservation.

The school grounds came alive with vibrant posters and artwork depicting the importance of water conservation, craft-



ed by the students themselves. Slogans, poems, and speeches echoed the sentiment of preserving this precious resource, highlighting its indispensable role in sustaining life on Earth.

Members of the school's

Eco Club led the charge by taking a solemn pledge to actively participate in water-saving practices and raise awareness among their peers and the community at large.

Dinesh Kumar Verma, the head reader of the

school, emphasized the significance of using water judiciously and avoiding wastage. His words echoed the collective resolve to treat water as a precious resource deserving of utmost care and respect.

Science teacher Virendra Kumar Verma shed light on the escalating water crisis gripping the world, underscoring the urgent need for concerted efforts to mitigate its impact. Through education and advocacy, the school aims to instill a deep understanding of the value of water and empower future generations to become stewards of this vital resource.

Bastar Commissioner inspects polling stations and EVM Warehouses

Bijapur, Mar 24: In a move to oversee the preparedness for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections 2024, Bastar Commissioner Shyam Dhawade conducted a comprehensive inspection of polling stations and EVM warehouses during his one-day visit to Bijapur.

During the visit, Commissioner Dhawade provided crucial guidelines to ensure the seamless execution of election-related tasks and emphasized the importance of conducting peaceful voting processes in the district. A surprise inspection of polling station number 108 at Primary School Dhanora was conducted, where Commissioner Dhawade engaged with the Booth Level Officer (BLO), Patwari, and Secretary to



gather necessary information. The Booth Level Officer (BLO) provided valuable insights, stating that the voter turnout in the last assembly stood at 61.9 percent. In response, Commissioner Dhawade initiated extensive efforts to bolster voter participation, stressing the importance of enhancing the voting percentage. He issued directives to launch a comprehensive voter aware-

ness campaign to encourage greater civic engagement. Additionally, the BLO reported the inclusion of 59 new names and the removal of 14 names from the voter list, highlighting ongoing efforts to maintain electoral accuracy and inclusivity.

Subsequently, Commissioner Dhawade proceeded to inspect the EVM warehouse situated at the District Office. In a

detailed briefing provided by Collector and District Election Officer Anurag Pandey, Commissioner Dhawade was apprised of the meticulous arrangements in place for the storage, monitoring, and security of EVM machines, including CCTV surveillance. Accompanied by esteemed officials such as CEO District Panchayat Hemant Naresh Nandanwar, Additional SP Chandrakant Gavarna, Joint Collector Kailash Verma, Assistant Returning Officer Jageshwar Kaushal, and Deputy District Election Officer Narayan Prasad Gavel, the inspection underscored the commitment to ensuring a fair and transparent electoral process in Bijapur district.

Peace committee meet ensures serene Holi

Dhamdha, Mar 24: Amidst the vibrant festivities of Holi, a significant step towards community harmony was taken with the conclusion of a Peace Committee meeting at the Dhamdha Police Station. The gathering, which included representatives from various sectors, aimed to foster a tranquil environment during the festive season.

Led by SDM Dhamdha, the meeting saw participation from key figures such as the Police Station Incharge, BMO Thakur, and officials from the Nagar Panchayat, alongside community leaders and journalists. Discussions revolved around pertinent issues concerning the Holi celebrations, emphasizing the importance of maintaining peace and order.

Addressing the assembly, SDM Dhamdha under-



scored the need for prompt action against any individuals attempting to disrupt the festivities or instigate conflicts. A concerted campaign against illegal liquor vendors was announced, signaling an effort to curb the sale of illicit alcohol in the region. Firm assurances were made that those contributing to a disruptive atmosphere would face repercussions.

Furthermore, the health department was urged to ensure swift

emergency response mechanisms, including the activation of all medical vehicles and the deployment of medical personnel. DSP Ajay Kumar Singh reiterated the commitment of law enforcement agencies to conduct thorough patrolling across urban and rural areas, with strict measures planned against any instances of disturbance during Holi celebrations.

Amidst these directives, community members were encouraged to par-

take in the festivities responsibly, promoting a sense of tranquility and cooperation throughout the city. The event witnessed the active involvement of local leaders, including representatives from the Nagar Panchayat and members of the Dhamdha Journalist Association, alongside prominent citizens and business owners, signifying a unified effort towards ensuring a joyous yet peaceful Holi celebration for all.

NQSP inspection at Durg District Hospital

Bhilai, Mar 24:

A team from the union ministry conducted evaluation of the Durg District Hospital. The inspection continued for two days under the National Quality Standards Programme. Civil Surgeon Dr AK Sahu informed that a total of 18 departments of the district hospital have already been quality certified for 3 years under this program. This evaluation was done by National Assessor Dr Deepak Namdev and Dr Srinivas Shriram of National Health System Resource Center, Delhi. The team conducted a thorough assessment of the hospital's OPD, Casualty, IPD, Labor



Room, Operation Theatre, Infant Ward, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Pharmacy. The National Assessor from Delhi said that this assessment is different from the routine assessment of NQAS which is done as a surprise without informing the already certified facility. In this inspection, 90 percent of the institutions were not suc-

cessful but the services provided in the Durg District Hospital are of quality and satisfactory. The Assessor said that the services provided in District Hospital Durg are setting a benchmark for other hospitals of the state. District Hospital Durg is working like a role model in the entire state. During the entire assess-

ment, Civil Surgeon cum Chief Hospital Superintendent Dr Arun Kumar Sahu, Heads of Departments and Ward / Nursing Incharges, Associate Orthopedic Specialist Dr Akhilesh Yadav and others were present. The team conducted a thorough evaluation of 8 different areas of each department.

Collector and SP inspect preparations for elections

Bhilai, Mar 24:

Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary attended the training of BLO for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. This training was conducted at BIT Durg under the leadership of ARO Harvansh Miri. The Collector interacted with booth level officers. During the discussion, she said that no disabled, third gender, or senior citizen (above 85 years) voter should be deprived of voting in the assembly constituency. Instructions were given to ensure 100% voting from every area. The Collector asked the officials to assess the people of these categories in all the assembly constituencies with the help of volunteers from the Municipal Corporation



and schools and ensure availability of voting facilities for them. The officers and employees appointed on election duty were asked to work in coordination with each other. She also said that there should be arrangements for drinking water, toilets, electricity, wheelchairs and shady resting places in the polling stations, where the elderly, sick, small children accompanying the

voters and pregnant women can rest. There will also be ANM and volunteers in the centres. In view of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary and SP Jitendra Shukla along with officials inspected the vote counting center at S h a n k a r a c h a r y a Engineering College, Durg. Collector took stock of the entire preparations

of the counting centre and also inspected the counting center and strong room. She took information related to necessary preparations and security arrangements during the counting of votes. She asked to make the media centre closer to the counting center so that information related to counting can reach the public in time. Deputy Election Officer Bajrang Dubey informed the Collector in detail about all the preparations and also assured peaceful execution of the work. District Panchayat CEO Ashwani Kumar Dewangan, Commissioner Municipal Corporation Bhilai Devesh Dhruv, SDM Durg Mukesh Raote and other officials were present.

Armed forces deployed at Chhattisgarh Distilleries

Bhilai, Mar 24:

In view of Lok Sabha General Elections 2024, Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary and Superintendent of Police Jitendra Shukla conducted inspection at Chhattisgarh Distilleries Private Limited located at Khaprikumhari. The Collector inspected the production, bottling and supply system of liquor and took complete information from the excise officers posted there. During the period of Model Code of Conduct for elections, she directed to work with caution and promptness in the distillery. Armed forces have been deployed for security and surveillance at the distillery.



During the inspection, Commissioner Municipal Corporation Bhilai Devesh Dhruv, Assistant Commissioner Excise Rajesh Jaiswal, Nodal Officer of Chhattisgarh Distilleries, Assistant Commissioner Excise Yadunandan Rathore and other officers were present.

Rs 10 lakh fine imposed on 14 traders for substandard food items

Bhilai, Mar 24:

As per the instructions of the Food Safety Commissioner of Chhattisgarh and guidance of Chief Medical and Health Officer, ex-officio Deputy Director Food and Drug Administration, District Durg, Dr JP Meshram, the Food Safety Officers positioned in the district conducted the quality checks of sweets and other food items being sold in the district. In view of the festive season, the checks were conducted from March 15 to March 21 and the teams collected samples of food items like mawa, boondi

laddu, gram flour, gram flour laddu, Mathura peda, green rice bran oil, etc from various establishments in the district. After investigation, further action was taken under the Food Safety Standards Act 2006. After examination at the food testing laboratory run by the department, action is being taken to avoid using newsprint and inedible colors while serving various food items/snacks etc to the consumers.

According to the information received from the Food Safety Officer, Durg, samples were collected from various firms in the last one year and when

the samples were found sub-standard, the court imposed a total fine of Rs 10 lakh 5 thousand on 14 firms. A fine of Rs 1 lakh has been imposed on M/s Sai Kirana Stores Khursipar for packed flour. Similarly, M/s BNS Food, Chikhli Durg was fined Rs 95000 for cream roll, Rs 65000 for dry open boondi at M/s Janata Kirana Stores Sector-7 Bhilai, Rs 30000 for milk cake at M/s Sai Sweets Amleshwar, M/s Hariom Juice Corner Sector was fined of Rs 55000 for Sweet Lime Juice, Rs 45000 fine was imposed for Mama Noodles at M/s New Gauri Hotel Smriti Nagar,

Rs 75000 for Coriander Powder at M/s Kumar Grocery Stores Dhanora, Rs 60000 fine for Kulfu at M/s Krishna Kulfu Kailash Nagar, Rs 1 lakh for Rajlakshmi Tea at M/s Jethu Kirana GaniyariRasmada, Rs 70000 for Biryani Rice at M/s Luck Dhaba Amleshwar, Rs 1 lakh for Garima Tea at M/s Kisan Kirana Patan, Rs 35000 for Bundi Laddu at M/s Muskaan Sweets Murmunda; a fine of Rs 85000 was imposed for veg biryani at M/s Hotel Ansari Supela and Rs 90000 for packed curd at M/s Milk Point Agrasen Chowk.

Transport Nagar being developed in two phases

Bhilai, Mar 24:

Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary and Superintendent of Police Jitendra Shukla inspected the construction work of Transport Nagar located at Hathkhaj Bhilai. The transport nagar is being built in two phases. It will provide relief to the vehicle and transport traders of the district. The Collector asked to make arrangements for drinking water, drainage and toilets in the parking and complex being built in the complex. She took detailed information about the con-



struction works. The concerned officials said that the construction work will be completed by the month of October. As per plan, the work which is not being done during the rainy season will be completed before June 15 and the remaining work will be completed by the month of October.

Police nabbed 5 persons driving under influence of alcohol

Khairagarh, Mar 24:

To safeguard public safety during the Holi festival, the police have swiftly taken action against five individuals found driving under the influence of alcohol. Under the vigilant supervision of SP Trilok Bansal and the guidance of Additional SP Neha Pandey, the enforcement efforts aim to curb instances of drunken driving and ensure peaceful celebrations.



and Chhuikhadan. During these operations, a total of five individuals were apprehended for driving under the influence of alcohol. In addition to invoking Section 185 of the Motor Vehicle Act, authorities initiated proceedings against numerous offenders for various traffic violations, resulting in the seizure of 17 two-wheelers. The seized vehicles will be presented in court, with subsequent actions including poten-

tial license suspension. SP Trilok Bansal emphasized the importance of celebrating Holi peacefully and harmoniously, urging the public to refrain from reckless behaviors that could lead to accidents or injuries. Strict directives have been issued to crack down on drunk driving, overcrowded vehicles, stunts, and vehicles with modified silencers, ensuring the safety of all residents during the festive season.

Allons Public School celebrates Holi festival

■ Promotes election awareness as a grand democratic festival

Bemetara, Mar 24:

Allons Public School witnessed a jubilant celebration as it embraced the spirit of democracy through the vibrant colors of Holi and a profound election awareness campaign. Led by Dr. Satyajit Hota, Principal of the school, alongside dedicated teachers and enthusiastic students, the event commenced with a ceremonial lighting of lamps, symbolizing reverence to Goddess Ma Saraswati Devi and Bharat Mata.

Students showcased their talents with fervor, as the Lata Mangeshkar Club melodiously recited the Saraswati Mantra and Holi songs, while the Natraj Club enthralled the audience with energetic Holi dances.



However, the highlight of the event was a thought-provoking Nukkad drama skillfully presented by the spirited ensemble of Shreya, Vinita, Navpreet, Vedavati, Samresh Mohanty, Surya, and Arush, guided by the insightful direction of Talina Chakraborty. Through their enactment, the intricate process of democratic elections was brought to life, igniting awareness and understanding among peers and educators alike. The convergence of these creative

expressions not only entertained but also enlightened, infusing the campus with an infectious spirit of joy and enlightenment.

Dr. Satyajit Hota, Principal, extended his heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated coordinators, students, and teachers including Simantini, Khushboo, Hariom, Talina, Girija, Xavier, Ranjeet, Kamlesh, Sushmita, Khileshwari, Balbir, and Bhola, for their invaluable contributions to the resounding success of the program. Reflecting

on the significance of the festivities, he underscored the parallel between Holi, the foremost Hindu festival symbolizing the triumph of good over evil, and elections, which present an opportunity to elect visionary leaders capable of steering the nation towards progress and development.

Holi, a festival cherished among families and friends, celebrates the joy of colors and the bonds of love. In contrast, elections embody a vibrant tapestry of diversity, encompassing all Indians regardless of caste, creed, gender, wealth, or education, to unite in creating a colorful, just society free from violence and injustice. As Holi welcomes the arrival of spring, elections serve as a gateway for the energetic and conscientious participation of the youth, symbolizing a warm embrace to the new generation of 18-year-olds entering the democratic fold.

While Holi fosters the sharing of love and the reaping of virtuous outcomes, elections stand as the pinnacle of democratic festivals, igniting a renaissance of leadership aimed at guiding the nation towards becoming a global beacon of enlightenment.

Just as Holi allows for the expression of inner beauty and the masking of superficial differences through festive colors, elections offer a golden opportunity to paint the nation with the brushstrokes of integrity and collective progress, transcending the barriers of wealth, power, and divisive elements.

Both festivals serve as platforms for mingling with the masses, providing invaluable insights into the collective joys, pains, and aspirations of the public, thereby enriching the canvas of life with empathy, understanding, and shared purpose.

Controversy unfolds as bridge in Gangalur collapses

■ Politics takes center stage
■ MLA accuses BJP leader of corruption in bridge construction

Bijapur, Mar 23:

The collapse of a bridge in Gangalur has sparked a political storm, with MLA Vikram Mandavi leveling accusations of corruption against BJP leader Raju Kalmu, igniting a fiery exchange of allegations and counterclaims.



Gangalur Sarpanch and social worker Raju Kalmu took a firm stand during a press conference, vehemently refuting claims made by MLA Vikram Mandavi. Kalmu staunchly denied any involvement in the construction of the bridge in question, categorically stating that the accusations were baseless and unfounded. Emphatically asserting his non-affiliation with the BJP, Kalmu clarified that he had not yet joined the party. He went on to accuse MLA Vikram Mandavi of targeted harassment, alleging repeat-

ed attempts to tarnish his reputation with unsubstantiated claims. Expressing concerns for his safety and that of his family, Kalmu attributed any untoward incident to the MLA, holding him accountable for any repercussions. In a decisive move, Kalmu announced his intent to serve a legal notice to MLA Vikram Mandavi, signaling his resolve to defend his honor against what he deemed to be malicious and false allegations.

As the investigation unfolds, scrutiny falls upon Gauri Enterprises, the



company tasked with constructing the bridge at a cost of 44 lakhs. Questions loom over potential negligence or corruption in the execution of the project, with the district administration poised to take appropriate action pending investigation results.

The collapse of the bridge has left the residents of Gangalur and Reddy village stranded, highlighting longstanding demands for vital infrastructure. With transportation woes exacerbated during rainy seasons and impacting school-children's commute, the

collapse underscores the urgent need for reliable infrastructure.

Questions loom over the accountability of the officers and employees tasked with supervising the construction of the bridge, undertaken at a substantial cost of Rs. 44 lakhs. Were they remiss in their duties, neglecting to ensure the quality and integrity of the bridge's construction? The collapse of this vital infrastructure has raised concerns regarding the diligence and oversight exercised during the project's execution.

School children rally for voter awareness in Chircharikala

■ Champion civic duty with vibrant slogans

Dongargaon, Mar 24:

In a spirited demonstration of civic responsibility, the students and faculty of Government Pre-Secondary School Chircharikala, under the jurisdiction of Development Block Chhuria, organized a vibrant rally on Saturday to raise awareness about the importance of voting.

With colorful banners and enthusiastic chants, the children and teachers marched through the streets, rallying the community with powerful slogans like 'Vot Dalane Jana Hai Apana Pharz Nibhana Hai, Jan-Jan Kee Yahee Pukaar Vot Daale Abakee Bar, Lokatantra Mein Hissedaree Ham Sabakee Hai Jimmedaree, Matadata Jab Jaega Booth Lokatantra Hoga Majaboot, Lokatantra Kee Hai Pahachan Matadata



Aur Matadaan, Saare Kam Chhod Do Sabase Pahale Vot Do. The message resonated loud and clear: every vote counts, and every citizen must fulfill their electoral duty by casting their vote at their designated polling stations during elections.

Led by Hemant Salame, the Principal of the school, the rally commenced from the secondary school premises, winding its way through the entire village of Chircharikala. At key junctures and intersections, impassioned speeches emphasized the civic ob-

ligation of every citizen to participate in the electoral process.

Amidst the lively procession, teachers and students engaged with residents, urging them to exercise their right to vote. The presence of secondary school educators such as Suresh Kumar Shukla, Savita Salame, Santosh Kumar Nirmalkar, and Devendra Kumar Sahu, along with esteemed members of the community, underscored the collective commitment to fostering a culture of active citizenship and democratic participation.



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Peril of Jail Without Trial

The remarks by the Supreme Court regarding the practices of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) have brought to light a troubling trend: the phenomenon of 'jail without trial'. This term encapsulates the prolonged detention of individuals without proper judicial proceedings, a practice that infringes upon fundamental liberties and the principles of justice. In the case of Prem Prakash, an alleged associate of former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, the Supreme Court underscored the injustice of extended incarceration without the commencement of a trial. Prakash's 18-month confinement without a fair trial serves as a poignant example of the erosion of individual rights in the face of investigative zeal. The ED's habit of filing multiple chargesheets not only circumvents the right to default bail but also exacerbates the delay in legal proceedings, prolonging the ordeal for the accused. This is not an isolated incident. Previous cases, such as that of Karti Chidambaram and Sanjay Singal, have raised similar concerns about the arbitrary detention of individuals during financial crime investigations. The interpretation of Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, as evidenced in the Manish Sisodia case, emphasizes the importance of upholding the right to bail and ensuring that detention is not prolonged without just cause. The Supreme Court's stance reflects a commitment to safeguarding individual freedom against arbitrary state action. It underscores the principle that while investigations into financial crimes are necessary, they must be conducted within a framework that respects due process and safeguards individual liberties. The ED and other investigative agencies must adhere to the rule of law and refrain from employing tactics that undermine justice and liberty. In the pursuit of justice, it is imperative to strike a balance between the exigencies of investigation and the protection of individual rights. While financial crimes demand thorough scrutiny, it should not come at the cost of trampling upon the rights of the accused. The ED must prioritize expeditious investigations and ensure that arrests are made only after thorough examination of evidence, thus avoiding unnecessary pre-trial detention. Furthermore, there is a need for systemic reforms to streamline the investigative process and minimize the scope for abuse of power. Transparency, accountability, and adherence to legal norms should be the guiding principles in the conduct of investigations. Additionally, there should be mechanisms in place to provide recourse for individuals who have been subjected to unjustified detention or procedural irregularities. As guardians of justice and defenders of liberty, it is incumbent upon the judiciary to remain vigilant against any encroachment upon individual rights. The Supreme Court's intervention serves as a reminder that the principles of fairness and due process are non-negotiable, even in the pursuit of combating financial crimes. Upholding these principles not only strengthens the fabric of democracy but also reinforces the faith of citizens in the justice system. It is imperative that we remain steadfast in our commitment to ensuring that no one is deprived of their liberty without just cause, and that justice is not only done but seen to be done.

Holi: Festival to Pay Respect to God and Motherland

Dr. Manmohan Prakash Shrivastava



The festival of Holi, celebrated in the month of Phalgun, holds deep significance in Sanatan culture. It serves as a reminder of profound teachings and warnings for humanity. This festival marks the beginning of the new sambatsar and bids farewell to spring, symbolizing renewal and transition. Legend has it that the first human, 'Manu,' came into existence on this day, known as 'Manvadi Tithi'. Holi spans two days, with the first day dedicated to Holika Dahan, a ritual burning of buffalo/cow dung cakes symbolizing the eradication of evil. On this day, people offer newly harvested grains to the fire, expressing hopes for prosperity and abundance. The essence of not wasting food is embedded in this tradition, reflecting a reverence for nature's bounty. Holika Dahan also serves as a reminder of the perils of arrogance and the consequences of challenging divine power: The tale of King Hiranyakashipu and his sister Holika illustrates the folly of seeking godlike status and defying cosmic order. Holika's attempt to burn Prahlad, a devotee of God, resulted in her own demise, symbolizing the defeat of evil and the triumph of righteousness. This symbolic burning signifies the need for individuals to renounce immoral actions and thoughts, embracing goodness and divine grace. The second day of Holi, known as Dhulendi or Dhuli Vandana, underscores the significance of honoring one's motherland. It encourages people to express gratitude towards their homeland by bowing down to its soil and worshipping it. The tradition of applying mud and dust on one's body symbolizes a deep-rooted connection with the land and its healing properties. Ayurveda, the ancient science of medicine, recognizes the therapeutic benefits of mud baths in promoting immunity and well-being. Holi celebrations vary across regions, reflecting diverse cultural practices and customs. While some communities engage in floral Holi celebrations, others prefer natural colors derived from fruits and flowers. However, the indiscriminate use of chemical colors poses environmental and health risks, emphasizing the importance of eco-friendly alternatives. Traditional rituals like lathmar Holi in Barsana highlight gender dynamics and the empowerment of women, challenging stereotypes and promoting social equality. In essence, Holi transcends mere festivity; it embodies profound spiritual and cultural significance. It promotes unity, brotherhood, and harmony, urging individuals to embrace life's vibrancy with love and joy. By fostering inclusivity and celebrating diversity, Holi serves as a poignant reminder of humanity's interconnectedness and the universal values of compassion and goodwill. As we immerse ourselves in the colors of Holi, let us renew our commitment to peace, understanding, and mutual respect, enriching our lives and communities with the spirit of this joyous festival.

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.

PALM SUNDAY



Christians take part in a procession on the occasion of 'Palm Sunday', in Moradabad, Sunday, March 24

Holi: Festival of Colors and Cultural Rituals



ER. PRABHATH KISHORE



India is the country of festivals, which symbolises its enriched culture, tradition and civilisation. The festivals are based on geological happenings, mythological beliefs, happiness and joy, changes of seasons and various other factors. Holi is one of such a festival, which is called Rangotsava (festival of colours), Basantotsava (festival of spring) or Premotsava (festival of love). It is celebrated over two days. The first day, called Chhoti Holi or Holika Dahan and the second day, called main Holi, are celebrated with enthusiasm and fun. Holika Dahan falls on Purnima of the Phalgun Shukla Paksha and symbolises the victory of good over evil. The Puran deals that on this day Bhagwan Vishnu in the form of Narsingham, who was half Nar (human) and half Singh (lion) killed the Demon King Hiranyakashipu for his evil deeds and saved the life of His disciple Prahlad. People lit bonfires in order to remove negativity from their lives and pray for the wellbeing of the family and society. To remove negativity from the house, its

cleanliness is necessary. According to the Panchang, Holika Dahan is performed during the Pradosh Kaal (which starts after sunset) while the Purnamasi Tithi prevails, while Holi is celebrated on Chaitra Krishna Paksha Pratipada. Holi is an ancient Sanatan Dharma festival with its cultural rituals, which has been dealt in Puran, Daskumar Charit, Kalidas's writings. It is also mythologically related to Bhagwan Krishna and Radha. It has special significance in Braj Bhoomi, the birth place of Krishna and in Barsana, the village of Radha. The Lathmar Holi of Barsana is famous worldwide. The women (as Gopis) use lathi (sticks) to beat the men (as Gops), who protect themselves with Dhals (Shields). It is also related to Bhagwan Ram in Treta yug, which reflects in the folk song "Holi Khele Raghuvira Awadh Mein". Holi celebrates the arrival of summer and end of winter season in Indian Sub-continent. It is also an invocation for a good harvest spring season. It is also Known as

Phagwa (named after Phalgun month), Rangwali Holi, Dhulethi, Dhuleti, Dol Purnima, Dol Jatra, Pali etc. Outside India, it is famous and celebrated in Nepal, Bangala Desh, Surinam, Mauritius, Fiji, Trinidad, Guyana, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Jamaica and other countries with great zeal.

On the day of Holi, people apply Coloured powder solutions (Gulal) in the day-time and Abir in the evening. The custom and celebration vary with regions. It marks an occasion to renew ruptured relationship, eliminate conflicts, and get rid of ourselves from emotional impurities from the past. Sikhs have traditionally celebrated the festival with its historic texts referring to it as Hola. Shri Guru Govind Singhji Maharaj modified Holi with three day Holi Mohalla extension festival of Martial Arts. The extension started the day after the Holi festival in Anandpur Sahib where the Sikh soldiers would train in various military exercises.

People must be aware of their wealthy health as well as environment. Hence, they should celebrate eco-friendly Holi by using natural and herbal colours & gulal instead of chemical-based synthetic colours & gulal. Herbal gulal is made from flowers, fruits, leaves and locally available ingredients. Palak (Spinach) and Mehandi is used for preparing green colour; Rose for pink colour; Haldi and Flowers of Palas and Genda (Marigold) for yellow and saffron colour; Chukandar (beet-

root) for red colour.

Chandan (Sandalwood) and other flowers and leaves are used for preparation of various other natural colours. In reel-life, just as in real life, the festival of Holi has found its vibrant portrayal in movies and serials. Both the big and small screens have served as catalysts in spreading the festive vibes among people. Several movies owe their success solely to their captivating Holi scenes and the melodious songs associated with the festival.

Numerous famous songs like "Rang Barse Bhige Chunarwali Rang Barse," "Holi Khele Raghuvira Awadh Mein," "Ang Se Ang Lagana Sajan," "Holi Ke Din Dil Khil Jate Hain," "Aaj Na Chhodenge Bas Hamjoli Khelenge Ham Holi," "Apne Rang Mein Rang De Mujhko," "Mal De Gulal Mohe, Aaye Holi Aaye Re," "Jogira Holi Khelat Nandlal Aao Re Aao Khelen Holi Brij Mein," "Holi Aaye Re Kanhayee," "Mohe Chhedo Na Nand Ke Lala," and "Tan Rang Lo Jee Aaj Man Rang Lo" are powerful enough to evoke deep emotions in people.

Now in the age of globalisation, Holi is not limited to a particular religion and belief, but is open to all communities and humankind. It represents arrival of spring, season of love, and forgiving others for past wrongdoings. It is the symbol of joy, humour, friendship, and positivity in human life.

(The Author is a technocrat and educationist)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wealth Disparity

A recent study reveals that India's top 1% holds 40% of the nation's wealth, highlighting concerning income inequality. Surpassing levels seen in the US and Brazil, this disparity sparks worry about the efficacy of economic reforms. Termed the 'Billionaire Raj,' the widening gap between rich and poor challenges the notion of inclusive growth amidst economic prosperity. With the Lok Sabha elections on the horizon, addressing systemic issues and advocating for equitable growth became paramount. It's time to confront the factors perpetuating low-wage jobs and strive for a fairer distribution of wealth to ensure a brighter future for all.

Shiv Kumar Mishra, Raipur

Consumer Protection

Patanjali Ayurved's alleged breach of its commitment by promoting its products as cure-alls and disparaging other medical systems is concerning. Despite assurances, the company persists in unsubstantiated claims, risking consumer deception. Government inertia only encourages such unethical advertising practices. To safeguard consumer health, the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act of 1954 requires a comprehensive review and stricter enforcement. Companies should be held accountable for endangering public well-being, necessitating stringent legal measures to curb deceptive marketing tactics and ensure the protection of consumers' rights.

Rakesh Mishra, Raipur

Political Patronage

Ramdev and Acharya Balkrishna's Patanjali Ayurved should refrain from discrediting other medical systems, particularly allopathy. Ramdev's alignment with political figures seemingly shields the company from accountability, facilitating its questionable practices. This alliance has propelled Ramdev from a yoga guru to a wealthy magnate. While Balkrishna's apology to the Supreme Court regarding misleading ads is commendable, it underscores the need for stringent oversight. The intertwining of politics and commerce highlights the potential for abuse of power, urging regulatory intervention to ensure ethical conduct and safeguard public health.

Sebastian George, Goa

Legal Accountability

The Supreme Court's stern stance against the government and Patanjali Ayurved's complacency is a reassuring development. Ramdev's perceived impunity due to his political connections undermines the rule of law. Despite advocating for ayurveda, he should refrain from denigrating other medical practitioners or treatments, particularly allopathy. While promoting alternative medicine is within his rights, targeting or disparaging rival practices is unacceptable. Ramdev's actions should be scrutinized, irrespective of his influence, to ensure fair treatment for all medical systems and practitioners.

Rakesh Gupta, Korba

Kejriwal's fall from a high profile status



Yash Pal Ralhan

The turn of events leading to Arvind Kejriwal's confinement in the custody of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) until March 28 has thrown the political arena into disarray. This development marks a significant downturn in the fortunes of the Chief Minister of Delhi, who once stood as a beacon of hope for clean and transparent governance. However,

his entanglement in a liquor policy scam has not only tarnished his once-untarnished reputation but also raised pertinent questions about the accountability of lawmakers and the sanctity of the democratic process.

Kejriwal's journey from an anti-corruption crusader to a figure embroiled in allegations of malfeasance has been nothing short of tumultuous. His rise to prominence as the face of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) was fueled by promises of upending the status quo and ushering in a new era of accountable governance. Yet, his refusal to cooperate with the ED's investigation, despite being summoned numerous times, has cast a shadow of doubt over his commitment to transparency and integrity.

At the heart of the matter lies the question of whether a lawmaker is indeed above the law. Kejriwal's repeated defiance of the central probe agency's summons raises troubling concerns about

the accountability of those entrusted with public office. While Kejriwal's supporters may argue his innocence, his evasion of the ED's scrutiny only serves to exacerbate suspicions surrounding his alleged involvement in corrupt activities.

It is worth noting that Kejriwal's legal battles come at a crucial juncture in Indian politics, with the Lok Sabha elections looming on the horizon. As the leader of a significant opposition party, his predicament has far-reaching implications for the political landscape of the country. The AAP, already grappling with internal strife and leadership distractions, finds itself in a precarious position, with its main leaders languishing behind bars.

The charges leveled against Kejriwal by the ED paint a damning picture of systemic corruption and abuse of power. Accused of being the "kingpin" and "key conspirator" of the liquor scam, Kejriwal's alleged in-

volvement in illicit activities threatens to undermine the very foundations of democratic governance. His fall from grace serves as a stark reminder of the pitfalls of unchecked ambition and the corrosive influence of power.

While the investigating agencies must substantiate their charges in a court of law, the citizens remain divided over the authenticity of the allegations. While sympathy for leaders facing legal scrutiny may be transient, the onus is on the probe team to ensure that justice is served and the guilty are held accountable.

As speculation mounts over the future of the Kejriwal government, questions linger regarding his ability to govern effectively from behind bars. While the law does not mandate his resignation, the practical challenges of running a government while in custody are immense. Moreover, the potential impact of his arrest on the functioning of the administration cannot

be overstated, further complicating an already delicate situation.

In conclusion, Kejriwal's downfall serves as a cautionary tale for politicians across the country. His trajectory from a symbol of hope to a figure embroiled in controversy underscores the inherent fragility of political power and the importance of upholding the principles of integrity and accountability. As India grapples with the repercussions of this unfolding saga, one thing remains certain: the need for transparency, accountability, and the impartial administration of justice has never been more imperative. Only time will tell the full extent of the ramifications of Kejriwal's fall from grace, but for now, the nation watches with bated breath as the drama unfolds.

(The views expressed above are the author's own. They do not necessarily reflect the views of Central Chronicle.)

BRIEF

KISS University

■ **Bhubaneswar:** The KISS Deemed-to-be-University has been awarded the prestigious 'A' grade accreditation by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in its first cycle of accreditation. The university is the first institution in the country to achieve this feat in its first attempt at accreditation by NAAC. The recognition by NAAC as an 'A' grade institution is a testament to the quality of education and the dedication to academic excellence at KISS University.

Housing.com

■ **New Delhi:** PropTech firm REA India, which owns Housing.com and PropTiger, is not actively looking for acquisition for further growth but the company is open to evaluate "interesting" opportunities that complement the business or help in securing new technologies, its CEO Dhruv Agarwal said. REA India, which is part of Australia-based REA Group, will focus on consolidating its both businesses - real estate classified platform Housing.

LTIMindtree

■ **New Delhi:** The joint venture of tech consulting firm LTIMindtree and Aramco will mirror India's strategy to build a technology talent pool in Saudi Arabia and enhance women's employment in the country, a senior official of the Indian IT company said. LTIMindtree and Aramco have formed a joint venture to create a next-generation digital and IT services company in Saudi Arabia to provide technology services for the rapid digitisation of the Saudi market and build a local talent pool over a period of time.

Mother Dairy

■ **NEW DELHI:** Mother Dairy will launch this summer 30 new products, mainly in ice cream and yoghurt categories, as it expects a 25-30 per cent increase in consumer demand, a top company official said. Mother Dairy, a leading milk supplier in Delhi-NCR, has nine company-owned dairy processing plants with a total capacity of more than 50 lakh litres per day. In an interview with PTI, Mother Dairy Fruits and Vegetables Pvt Ltd MD Manish Bandish said, "Summer is the most anticipated season for our business, especially for categories like ice creams, curd and beverages".

Tech Mahindra

■ **New Delhi:** IT services and consultation company Tech Mahindra said it plans to merge its two wholly-owned subsidiaries, Born Group and Tech Mahindra (Americas), to synergise business operations, optimise operational cost, and reduce compliance risks. The merger is subject to regulatory approvals in the country of incorporation. According to a regulatory filing, the appointed date of the plan of merger is April 1, 2024.

Jaishankar urges Singapore's business community to invest in India's semiconductor manufacturing sector



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with leading Singaporean Corporate figures, in Singapore.

Singapore, Mar 24 (PTI):

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday briefed Singapore's business community about the strides taken by India in the field of manufacture of semiconductors and appealed to them to invest in this key sector in the country. Jaishankar spoke about how machines for the manufacture of semiconductors have started coming (to India) and also how India is progressing towards establishing the

first three plants for this multi-billion dollar industry. "There is a degree of purpose and seriousness as well as investment going into manufacturing that has not been seen for a long time," the Minister told a 300-plus audience, mostly Singapore-based members of the business community.

He was answering questions at the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) of the National University of Singapore (NUS) after a lecture on his book 'Why Bharat

Matters.'

"A very productive interaction with leading Singaporean Corporate figures. ... Appreciate their positive feedback on the India growth story, based on investment experiences. ... Confident that their commitment to doing more business in India will further increase," Jaishankar later posted on X along with some photos from the event. Jaishankar, who is on a three-day visit to Singapore and reached here earlier in the day,

highlighted "a very good global manufacturing response to the Production Linked Initiative (PLI) Scheme," but at the same time reminded the audience that India had missed the manufacturing bus in the previous decades.

Semiconductors are an essential component in almost everything, from electronic gadgets to consumer goods and from solar panels, satellites to weapons. Currently, India imports almost 90 per cent of its requirements of semiconductors.

RERA forfeits security deposits of 20 builders for non-compliance with registration norms

Gurugram, Mar 24 (PTI):

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. As per the conditions of

the registration certificates, security deposits made by the promoters in lieu of the timely submissions of the required documents, "are being forfeited", RERA said in its order.

The total security deposits of these 20 real estate promoters were Rs 7 crore.

"It was clearly mentioned in the registration certificates that the security amounts shall be forfeited in case the respective conditions are not fulfilled by the promoters within the stipulated time period mentioned in the conditions," the order stated.

Five of top 10 firms take Rs 1.97 lakh cr hit in market valuation

New Delhi, Mar 24 (PTI):

The combined market valuation of five of the 10 most valued firms eroded by Rs 1,97,958.56 crore last week, with IT majors Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Infosys taking the biggest hit amid volatile trends in equities. Last week, the BSE benchmark climbed 188.51 points or 0.25 per cent.

The market valuation of TCS tanked Rs 1,10,134.58 crore to Rs 14,15,793.83 crore, the most among the top 10 firms.

The valuation of Infosys tumbled Rs 52,291.05 crore to Rs 6,26,280.51 crore.

IT stocks fell on Friday after tech giant Accenture lowered its revenue fore-



cast for the sector for the 2023-24 fiscal.

Hindustan Unilever's market valuation fell by Rs 16,834.82 crore to Rs 5,30,126.53 crore and that of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) declined by Rs 11,701.24 crore to Rs 5,73,266.17 crore.

The market capitalisa-

India has incredibly affordable airfares, says Akasa Air CEO Vinay Dube

New Delhi, Mar 24 (PTI):

India has "incredibly affordable" airfares and the country's aviation market has the kind of growth potential where Akasa Air as well as other carriers can do well, according to the nearly two-year-old airline's chief Vinay Dube.

As Akasa Air prepares to take the international skies on March 28 with the first overseas flight from Mumbai to Doha, Dube also asserted that the airline is not about "marketing gimmicks". Akasa Air is aiming to be among the world's top 30 airlines by 2030 and will go public in future. "We think we have a great financial future. Listing is in our future... but you never say never. We hope to list some day," he told PTI in an interview this week.

While acknowledging that aviation competition has always been intense, he said that as long as the focus is on fundamentals, there is enough room not just for Akasa Air to thrive in the future but for others as well. "Thanks to the growth that we are going to see in India, it is not that



Akasa will do well only if someone else does badly, no, Akasa can do well and others can do well, that is the kind of growth that India has to offer," the airline's Founder and CEO said. The carrier, which started flying in August 2022, has a fleet of 24 planes and a domestic market share of 4.5 per cent.

To a query about air ticket prices, Dube said the country has some of the cheapest airfares.

India, which is one of the world's fastest-growing civil aviation markets, is also seen in some quarters as price sensitive, especially with rising number of

air travellers, including first-time fliers. There have been concerns, mainly during festival seasons, that air ticket prices are high.

"I see fares to be some of the cheapest in the world as I saw them three months ago, six months ago... I think Indian airfares when you compare them to parts of Europe, East Asia, North America, you compare to any decent-sized aviation economy in the world, India has some of the most affordable airfares by a long margin, not just by Rs 10 or 100... Indian airfares are incredibly affordable," Dube said.

Miners urge govt not to impose export duty on low grade iron ore

New Delhi, Mar 24 (PTI):

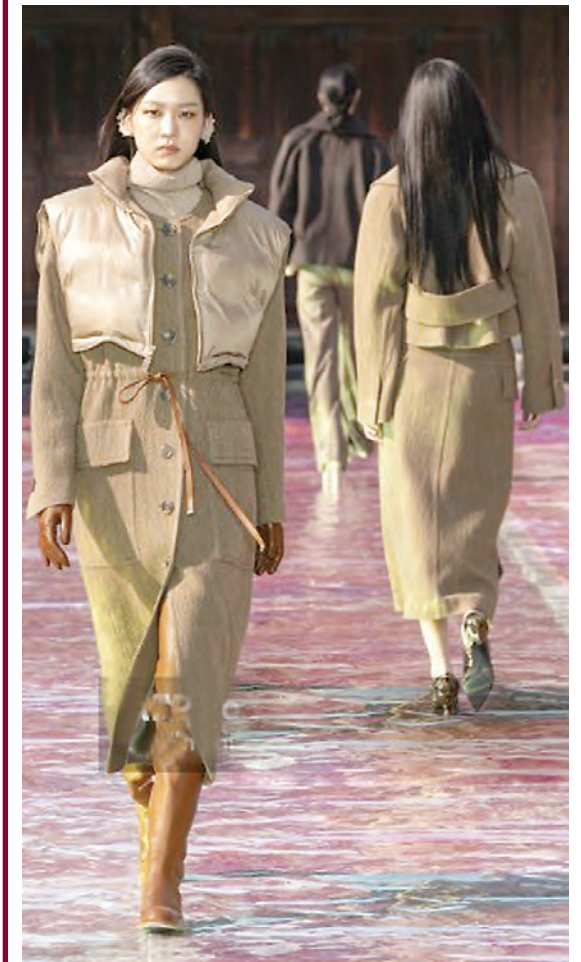
Miners' body FIMI has urged the government not to impose any export duty on low-grade iron ore, stating that any such move would cause a significant loss of state revenues and employment and also affect foreign exchange earnings.

In a representation to the government, the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI) said the mining sector was adversely impacted when in May 2022 the export duty was imposed on low-grade iron ore fines and pellets. The government, however, withdrew the tax in November same year.

A major share of the mining sector's contribution to the country's GDP is accounted for by iron ore among the non-coal minerals. Iron ore mining also significantly contributes towards creating jobs with employment of about 5 lakh persons -- 45,000 direct and 4,50,000 indirect, it said.

More than 90 per cent of the country's overall iron ore shipments go to China. "We request that any proposal for banning, restricting exports of iron ore and pellets may kindly not be considered and the status quo of nil export duty on these products be maintained," the miners' body said.

FASHION SHOW



A model walks the runway during the Miss Gee Collection 2024 F/W Collection Launch in Seoul, South Korea.

TK Elevator continues to achieve new benchmarks

Mumbai, Mar 24: TK Elevator, the renowned German multinational elevator company, acknowledges the dynamics of the mobility market in India and continues to bring innovation and growth to the industry.

The company's growth trajectory along with its long-standing support across commercial, retail,

public infrastructure, healthcare, hospitality, and educational sectors underscores its dedication towards the local market. With India's economy booming, the demand for luxurious residential houses and villas has been on a rise, providing TK Elevator with more opportunities to thrive in this market.

Castrol signs SRK as brand ambassador

Maumbai, Mar 24:

Castrol, a subsidiary of the bp Group and a global pioneer in lubricants, announces its strategic association with Shah Rukh Khan, the iconic Bollywood superstar, as its brand ambassador.

This association marks a significant step in Castrol's commitment to delivering high-performance lubricants. Over the next two years, Shah Rukh Khan will feature in digital, print, and TV campaigns for bp and Castrol, showcasing their wide range of products.

Sashi Mukundan, President of bp India and Senior Vice President of the bp group, commented, "The association with Shah Rukh Khan reflects our

dedication to innovation and excellence in the automotive industry. This move embodies our shared values of performance, reliability, and sustainability. We are proud to be a part of this endeavor, as we shape the future of mobility together." Sandeep Sangwan, Managing Director of Castrol India Limited, added, "This association signifies Castrol's dedication to innovation and excellence, mirroring the actor's illustrious career. With Shahrukh Khan on-board, our commitment to enhancing vehicle performance is embellished for generations to come."

Shah Rukh Khan, known for his versatile career spanning three decades, embodies Castrol's spirit of continuous evolution.

Auto players line up array of new EV models in coming years

● On govt push to green mobility

New Delhi, Mar 24 (PTI):

The Indian auto industry is gearing up to roll out an array of electric vehicle models over the next few years amid a renewed push by the government to encourage environment-friendly mobility solutions with the unveiling of a new policy.

Mass market players like Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai, Mahindra & Mahindra and Tata Motors are lining up new models to cater to the demand across segments. Mahindra & Mahindra CEO Automotive Sector Nalinikanth Gollagunta told PTI that starting January



2025, the company will be rolling out five new battery electric vehicles in the coming years.

"These electric SUVs will be built on Mahindra's innovative INGLO platform and aim to cater to a variety of consumers

PIs infuse over Rs 38,000 cr in equities in March

So far amid strong domestic economic outlook

New Delhi, Mar 24 (PTI):

FPIs have shown a significant resurgence in their investment activity within the Indian equity markets this month, injecting over Rs 38,000 crore, mainly driven by favourable shifts in the global economic scenario and strong domestic macroeconomic outlook.

The investment came following a modest investment of Rs 1,539 crore in February and a massive outflow of Rs 25,743 crore in January, data with the depositories snowed.

With this, foreign portfolio investors' (FPIs) investment has turned pos-



itive to the tune of Rs 13,893 crore in equities so far in 2024 and Rs 55,480 crore in the debt market.

Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director at Morningstar Investment Research India, highlighted that FPIs have become significant buyers in March. The improved global economic conditions and positive Indian

macroeconomic scenario have driven FPIs to invest in high growth-oriented markets like India.

Additionally, the recent market correction has provided a buying opportunity. Further, the influx of FPIs can be attributed to robust GDP growth and expectations of a potential shift in the RBI's policy, possibly leading to rate cuts of 25-50 basis points in the latter half of fiscal 2025, experts believe. However, last week, FPIs turned net sellers, although marginally, to the tune of USD 314 million. This could be largely attributed to FPIs adopting a cautious approach.

Vedanta touts \$6 bn investment pipeline as growth driver

New Delhi, Mar 24 (PTI):

Mining conglomerate Vedanta Ltd will invest USD 6 billion across businesses that span from aluminium and zinc to iron ore, steel and oil and gas as it looks to add at least USD 2.5 billion to annual EBITDA, its executives said in an investor meeting.

It 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 boost EBITDA from an expected USD 5 billion in the current fiscal ending March 31 to USD 6 billion in the next and up to USD 7.5 billion by FY27, they added.

Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal, according to a presentation made at the investor meeting, said the company "will get to a different level in the next 25 years". His brother and vice chairman Naveen Agarwal gave details of the plans.

"Projects (are) under execution to deliver USD 7.5+ billion yearly EBITDA," he said, adding USD 6 billion is being invested across business verticals that will potentially yield incremental revenues of USD 6 billion and "incremental yearly EBITDA potential of USD 2.5-3 billion". "We continuously explore options to create additional value at all our sites.

Collector-SP inspect sensitive polling stations

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Mar 24: In preparation for the upcoming Lok Sabha general elections, Collector and District Election Officer Chandrakant Verma, alongside SP Trilok Bansal, led a comprehensive inspection of sensitive polling stations within the Khairagarh assembly constituency. The joint effort aimed to ensure seamless voting experiences and uphold the integrity of the electoral process.

During the inspection, special attention was devoted to enhancing accessibility and convenience for disabled voters. Collector Verma issued instructions for the arrangement of ramps and the implementation of measures to make polling booths more accommodating for individuals with disabilities.

Simultaneously, the inspection focused on critical aspects such as shade



provision, access to drinking water, adequate lighting, and overall cleanliness at the polling stations.

These basic facilities are essential for facilitating a smooth and efficient voting process, ensuring that voters can cast their ballots comfortably and without hindrance.

During this time, the inspection encompassed polling station number 43 at Jangalpur Dhat, polling station number 33 at Palmyetta, polling station

number 45 at Salhewara, polling station number 3 at Saraipatera, polling station number 2 at Lalpur Dhat, polling station number 19-20 at Amgaon, polling station number 128 at Devarcha, polling station number 1 at Nachaniya, polling station number 28 at Gerukhdan, polling station number 129 at Kumharwada, and other polling stations, including those situated along the Madhya Pradesh border.

The inspection was con-

ducted in the presence of Deputy District Election Officer Surendra Kumar Thakur, SDM Chhaukhadan Renuka Ratre, District Education Officer Lalji Dwivedi,

Development Block Education Officer Ramendra Dadsena, Tehsildar Salhewara Amardeep Anchal, and other dedicated officers and employees.

Voters do not encounter any issues: Collector

Collector Chandrakant Verma emphasized the need for arrangements that eliminate voter inconvenience, thus encouraging maximum voter turnout. Directives were issued to install ramps for disabled individuals, provide shelters and drinking water to shield voters from the sun's heat, and ensure separate restroom facilities for men and women. Additionally, Collector Verma instructed authorities to repair any existing infrastructure issues within the polling booths and gather information regarding voter demographics to enhance the voting process.

Robust security measures: SP

SP Trilok Bansal reiterated the commitment to robust security measures in sensitive polling stations, aligning with the Election Commission's directives. Emphasizing heightened vigilance, especially in sensitive booths, thorough scrutiny of past election records is underway. This meticulous approach aims to fortify security arrangements in highly sensitive polling stations. SP Bansal affirmed that the safety of voters is paramount, with clear instructions issued to police and security personnel. Additionally, he solicited information on any existing deficiencies in respective areas to address them effectively.

BJP workers rally for victory in Khairagarh assembly conference

● Leaders and workers gather for intense election enthusiasm

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Mar 24: The Assembly-level BJP workers conference on Saturday reverberated with the resounding pledge of victory as senior BJP leaders and workers rallied to sound the election bugle. Held at the Barfani Dham Ram temple in Tikrapara, Khairagarh, the conference saw an overwhelming turnout of workers.

Former leader of the Chhattisgarh Assembly opposition and Rajnandgaon Lok Sabha in-charge Narayan Chandel set the tone, stressing that the upcoming Lok Sabha elections represent not just a political contest but a formidable challenge. Chandel urged workers to reach out to every household and gar-



ner support for BJP, emphasizing the need to reinstate Narendra Modi as Prime Minister.

Joining the fervent call for victory, MP Santosh Pandey assured that every vote would directly contribute to Modi's leadership. District Cooperative Bank President Sachin Singh Baghel echoed the sentiment, urging collective efforts towards securing a triumphant win for BJP.

District Panchayat Vice President Vikrant Singh underscored the significance of unifying against the governance missteps of

the past, advocating for a return of the Modi government. District BJP President Ghamman Sahu rallied the workers, instilling confidence and urging dedicated efforts at the grassroots level.

The conference witnessed a robust presence of BJP leaders, including Dinesh Gandhi, Komal Janghel, Bhagwat Sharan Singh, and many more, alongside a large contingent of party workers, reflecting the collective determination towards achieving victory in the upcoming elections.

Colors of democracy inspire voter awareness program

Oath ceremony at Old Age Home encourages 100% voting

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Mar 24: In a colorful display of civic duty and democratic fervor, the Health Department orchestrated a unique voter awareness initiative themed around Holi festivities.

Amidst the ongoing Mitandin training session at an old age home, a symbolic ceremony infused with vibrant hues and patriotic zeal unfolded as Mitandin sisters were adorned with colors and solemnly pledged towards achieving 100% voter turnout.

With the Lok Sabha elections on the horizon, the administration of Dongargaon is leaving no stone unturned to ensure maximum participation at the polls. Through a series



of concerted efforts, including public awareness campaigns, they aim to instill a sense of responsibility and civic engagement among the populace.

Under the adept guidance of Dr. Ragini Chandre, Block Medical Officer of the Health Department, Dongargaon,

approximately 150 Mitandin sisters participated in the ceremonial oath-taking ritual.

Encircled and united by the colors of democracy adorning their hands, they reaffirmed their commitment to promoting voter awareness and ensuring every eligible citizen exer-

cises their democratic right to vote.

This innovative approach not only underscores the importance of active citizenship but also highlights the collective determination of the community towards fostering a robust and participatory electoral process.

Admn advocates for responsible celebration amidst Holi festival

● Peace committee meet held

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Mar 24: In an endeavour to foster communal harmony and tranquility during the vibrant festivities of Holi, the local police administration convened a peace committee meeting at the premises of Nagar Panchayat.

Representatives from various sectors including youth, administrative officials, local journalists, and Councilor Priyank Jain convened to deliberate on ensuring a joyful and peaceful celebration.

While the turnout from councillors and presidents



was limited, the presence of notable figures such as SDM Manoj Kumar Markam, CMO Dadusingh Pal, and Municipal Inspector Upendra Kumar Shah underscored the significance of the occasion.

The gathering emphasized the importance of cooperation from all segments of

society in maintaining peace and order during the Holi festivities in Dongargaon.

The police administration reiterated their commitment to ensuring a safe environment for all residents, emphasizing stringent measures against any disruptive behavior.

They emphasized that strict actions will be taken against individuals engaging in activities such as reckless driving and alcohol consumption. Additionally, they urged the public to report any issues promptly through the emergency helpline number 112.

Dogendra Khare clears prestigious IIT-JAM

Central Chronicle News

Anwari, Mar 24: Dogendra Khare, a dedicated student from Maharashtra Vedyas Government Post Graduate College, achieves a remarkable feat by passing the esteemed IIT-JAM examination in Chemistry. His success not only brings honor to the college but also uplifts the spirits of the entire region.

With this achievement, Dogendra opens doors to prestigious institutions like IITs and NITs for pursuing his M.Sc. degree, marking a significant milestone in his academic journey. Dr. Sanjay Sharma, the Principal of the college, ex-



Dogendra Khare

tended his heartfelt congratulations to Dogendra, wishing him success in all his future endeavours.

Acknowledging the collaborative effort that led to this accomplishment, Dogendra attributes his success to the unwavering

support and guidance provided by the Head of the Department of Chemistry, Harvinder Singh Kurre, as well as his parents and the college community at large.

The Chemistry Department, under the visionary leadership of the Principal, has been instrumental in preparing students for competitive exams like IIT and CUET, fostering an environment conducive to academic growth.

Hailing from a humble farming family in the village of Dahi, Dogendra's achievement serves as a source of inspiration for fellow students, igniting aspirations for a brighter future.

Vibrant SVEEP program promotes voter awareness

Central Chronicle News

Gaurela Pendra Marwahi, Mar 24: In adherence to the directives of the Election Commission of India, a district-level voter awareness event, the Holi Milan SVEEP program titled "Chunav Ke Rang-Desh Ke Sang," was successfully organized at the Gurukul Sports Ground in Gaurela. The festival aimed to foster a spirit of active participation in the democratic process, particularly emphasizing the imperative of achieving 100 percent voter turnout in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

A symbolic gesture of unity and patriotism unfolded as participants formed a massive human

chain in the shape of Bharat Mata, underscoring the importance of collective responsibility towards the electoral process. Colorful balloons soared into the open sky, carrying the message of civic duty and electoral engagement.

District Election Officer Leena Kamlesh Mandavi, leading by example, administered an oath to attendees, affirming their commitment to ensuring free and fair voting practices. Participants pledged to uphold the democratic ethos, exercising their voting rights with integrity and without succumbing to external influences or



inducements. The atmosphere was charged with positivity as participants exchanged colors and gulal, extending heartfelt wishes for a joyous Holi celebration.

The event witnessed the active participation of a diverse array of stakeholders, including Joint

Collector Anand Roop Tiwari, Priya Goyal and Deleram Dahire, District Nodal of SVEEP KP Tendulkar, SDM Pendaroad Amit Beg, Assistant Commissioner Tribal Development Dr. Lalit Shukla, CMHO Dr I Nageshwar Rao, District Education Officer JK

Shastri, Women and Child Development Officer Atul Parihar, District Manager of National Rural Livelihood Mission Durgashankar Soni, CEO District Gorela H N Khutel and Pendra Dr Sanjay Sharma and officials of various departments.

Employees, social workers, school students, women of self-help groups, Anganwadi workers, Mitanins, Kotwars, Patwaris, employment assistants, secretaries, distinguished citizens participated. During the program, everyone celebrated Holi with great enthusiasm by applying color and gulal to each other and took an oath to vote 100 percent in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

CRPF's civic action program fosters trust and well-being in naxal-affected villages

● Distributes medicines and health awareness in Sukma/Konta

Central Chronicle News

Sukma/Konta, Mar 24: In a heartening display of community engagement, the 50 Battalion CRPF orchestrated a civic action program on March 22 at the Dabbakonta Camp in Konta Block, nestled within the Naxal-affected region.

Led by Narendra Pal Singh, Commandant of the 50 Battalion CRPF, and Karan Chauhan, Superintendent of Police for District Sukma, the program aimed to empower villagers with health awareness and essential medical aid.



top officials and with the participation of local authorities including Nikil, Deputy Superintendent of Police, and Dr. Nitish Kumar Singh, Medical Officer of CRPF 50 Battalion, the program sensitized residents of Dabbakonta and Pentapad villages about preventive healthcare measures.

Medical check-ups were conducted, and vital medicines were distributed, ensuring the well-being of the villagers.

The positive impact of the Civic Action Program was palpable as villagers enthusiastically participated, signaling a burgeoning trust in government initiatives within the

region. The presence of officers and jawans from the 50 Battalion CRPF underscored the commitment to fostering community bonds and security.

In a symbolic gesture of camaraderie, a communal meal was shared, fostering a sense of unity and trust between the villagers and law enforcement agencies. This outreach effort is proving instrumental in steering residents away from the Naxal ideology towards the path of development and progress.

The transformative efforts led by the 50 Battalion CRPF have instilled a renewed sense of hope and optimism among villagers, ushering in a brighter future marked by collaboration, trust, and collective growth.

Forest department issues alert to villagers in Korba district

Ensures protection from roaming elephants

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Mar 24: The tranquil landscape of Kendai Range in Korba district has been graced by the presence of a herd of seven to eight elephants, prompting swift action from the Forest Department to ensure the safety of local residents.

Forest officials, led by Kendai Range ranger Abhishek Dubey, have issued precautionary warnings to villagers, urging them to refrain from venturing into the forest in light of the potential danger posed by the roaming elephants.

With many villagers accustomed to early morning trips to collect Mahnuwa, a prized resource, the Forest



Department's proactive measures aim to mitigate any risks to human lives.

Captured by Forest Guard Bhesraj Kumar Patel during routine forest patrols, photographs shared by the Forest Department illustrate the

serene yet potentially hazardous encounter with the majestic creatures.

In response to the elephant sighting, the Forest Department has mobilized its team to ensure the safety of villagers, with ongoing patrols and efforts to

guide the elephants back into their natural habitat.

Thus far, the department's vigilance has averted any untoward incidents, showcasing their commitment to safeguarding both wildlife and human communities.

RCB eye better outing from bowlers against Punjab Kings

Bengaluru, Mar 24 (PTI):

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's IPL 2024 campaign is just one-match old but it has already exposed their biggest chink - brittleness in bowling, and they need better returns from bowlers against a confident Punjab Kings at an unforgiving M Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Monday.

During their six-wicket defeat against Chennai Super Kings, the pacers were guilty of blindly following a short-pitch ball strategy while the spinners just did not have enough resources to exploit a gradually slowing-down Chepauk pitch.

The three RCB spinners -- Mayank Dagar, Karn Sharma and Glenn Maxwell -- bowled five overs between them and managed middling figures of 37 for one without actually troubling the batters.

In contrast, the two CSK spinners -- Ravindra Jadeja and Maheesh Theekshana -- bowled a combined eight overs for figures of 57 for four when the deck was much easier to bat.

So, the Royal Challengers' spinners will have to brace for a tougher task here as the 22-yard trampoline with short fences and a quick outfield is not a friendly associate of theirs. These numbers will make that point clear.



This venue holds the record of teams scoring more than 200 runs in an innings on most occasions - 27 times, and the average first innings score in the IPL here is 172.

But those grim stats also put the onus on the RCB pace bowlers against Punjab.

Mohammed Siraj, Alzarri Joseph, in particular, and Yash Dayal zealously used the quota of two bouncers per over against Chennai but in doing so they sacrificed their control over line and length. It reflected in their run-giving rate too - Siraj

(9.5), Joseph (10.3), Dayal (9.3).

Cameron Green, the fourth pacer, took pace off his deliveries and employed the cutters that fetched him two wickets but they were interspersed with loose deliveries as the Aussie conceded nine runs an over.

However, following a single-channel strategy will be suicidal at Chinnaswamy and they will have to find a way to use their copious amount of skills more judiciously.

But there is another rather unnoticed glitch. As it often happens, the

RCB total of 173 for six against the Super Kings is a bit of misinformative.

It came after a top-order collapse that saw RCB reeling at 78 for five. It required the industry and innovation of Dinesh Karthik and Anuj Rawat for them to go past the 170-run mark.

But banking on lower-order is not an everyday workable approach, as seniors such as Virat Kohli, skipper Faf du Plessis and Glenn Maxwell will have to get those big runs.

Of course, a more fruitful outing by Rajat Patidar, who had a torrid time in

the recent Test series against England, too will be highly welcome as runs from him offer a cushion for batters ahead of him.

It is imperative too as Punjab is a capable side as they showed while producing a clinical effort against a more fancied Delhi Capitals on Saturday.

They have their own turmoil too such as lack of runs from Jonny Bairstow, whose Indian marathon encompasses last year's World Cup, the five-match Test series and now the IPL, and waywardness of left-arm seamer Sam Curran.

PCB restores Rauf's contract after written apology

Lahore, Mar 24 (PTI):

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has restored the central contract of Haris Rauf after the fast bowler "admitted his mistake" in writing. The PCB had terminated the central contract of Rauf after Pakistan's tour to New Zealand just before the start of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) in early February. The decision was made on disciplinary grounds after Rauf refused to make himself available for the Test tour of Australia in winter citing a heavy workload and his Big Bash contract. PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi said there seems to be a misunderstanding. "After receiving his written reply the board has decided to restore his central contract," Naqvi said at a press conference. Naqvi said that Haris in his reply had said that he was always committed to playing for Pakistan and his viewpoint was misunderstood but he accepted his mistake. "So we have decided to restore his central contract. We are also worried about Haris Rauf's fitness because he was injured during the PSL and we need to take proper care of him," Naqvi said.

Srikanth makes semifinal exit in Swiss Open, loses to Lin Chun-Yi



Basel, Mar 24 (PTI):

Star Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth's winning run at the Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament came to an end after a semifinal loss to Chinese Taipei's Lin Chun-Yi here.

The former world number one squandered a one-match lead to go down 21-15 9-21 18-21 in a gruelling last-four contest that lasted one hour and five minutes on Saturday night.

With the loss, India's challenge at the USD 210,000 tournament has ended. The match marked Srikanth's first semifinal appearance in 16 months. He had last reached the last-four stage at the Hylo Open in

November 2022.

After taking the opener, Srikanth took an early 4-1 lead in the second game. However, errors started to creep into the 2021 World Championships silver medalist's game and Srikanth lost the momentum to go down tamely in the next game with Lin, forcing a decider.

Srikanth did get his rhythm back in the decider with not much separating the two shuttlers, who fought hard for supremacy. The Indian managed to take a slender lead at the interval.

At 16-16, Lin manage to take a three-point lead. Srikanth did manage to cut down his deficit but the nerves got the better of him and he ultimately succumbed to defeat.

Russell is a phenomenal ball striker, best in the world on his day: Phil Salt



Kolkata, Mar 24 (PTI):

Andre Russell's six-hitting carnage at the death that propelled Kolkata Knight Riders to a match-

winning total did not come as a surprise to teammate Phil Salt, who described the star allrounder as the "best in the world on his day". Russell muscled his way to

a 25-ball 64 studded with seven sixes and three fours to power KKR to 208 for 7. The hosts then returned to limit Sunrisers Hyderabad to 204 for 7 and record a four-run win in a thrilling IPL clash here on Saturday. Making debut for KKR, Salt, who had played alongside Russell in Manchester Originals in The Hundred, was excited to see another special from the West Indian. "I've played with Dre (Russell) in the Hundred. He's a phenomenal ball striker. The best in the world on his day," Salt said after their win on Saturday.

"So, to see him do what he did, obviously is incredible. Love watching it, but, you know, it's no surprise to me. I don't think it's a surprise to anybody on the ground. When he's on, he's incredible." Four of the top-five KKR batters got out for single digit scores managing just 18 runs in between them, but Salt held firm at the order and found a fine ally in No6 Ramandeep Singh (35 off 17).

Just a matter of time before Pant regains form: Sidhu



Chandigarh, Mar 24 (PTI):

Former India opener Navjot Sidhu is confident wicketkeeper batter Rishabh Pant's return to form is just a "matter of time" following his nearly 15-month-long absence from professional cricket after a horrific car crash.

Pant is back leading his Indian Premier League side Delhi Capitals after missing the action last season due to his recovery and rehabilitation.

Though Pant did not have the comeback he would have wished for in DC's match against Punjab Kings here on Saturday, being dismissed for 18 by Harshal Patel, he was quick between the wickets, took a catch behind the stumps and also effected a stumping.

"(He is) leading Delhi Capitals and running between the wickets and playing good cricket. Just a matter of time he will regain his form. But, importantly, Indian cricket has got its fine gem back, and we should be thankful to God on his return to the field," said Sidhu on Star Sports on 'Cricket Live' programme.

Sidhu added that when he first saw the images of the crash, he wondered how anyone could survive a mishap like that.

"When this accident had happened, I saw the picture of the vehicle. Everything got burned, and there was no vehicle at the scene. How anyone can survive that sort of horrifying accident?"

Ramandeep's cameo set it up for Russell: Vettori

Kolkata, Mar 24 (PTI):

Kolkata Knight Riders batter Ramandeep Singh's innings may have gone unnoticed in front of Andre Russell's six-hitting spree but Sunrisers Hyderabad head coach Daniel Vettori feels the 35-run cameo set the stage for the Jamaican's explosive match-winning knock.

Walking out when KKR were in a precarious situation, the 26-year-old, who failed to make an impression at Mumbai Indians during his 2022 stint, whacked four sixes and a boundary.

"Ramandeep's innings set up the platform for Russell. We understand now that in T20 cricket, the only way to stop a batter is through taking wickets," Vettori said after SRH's four-run defeat here on Saturday. "If we had Russell out the scores had been different. All we have to do is challenge ourselves to take wickets," Vettori said. KKR lost four wickets inside eight overs



but opener Phil Salt held firm in a sparkling fifty with Ramandeep chipping

in down the order in a 54-run partnership that came off just 29 balls.

Rohit Sharma hopes new faces in MI make a mark in IPL right from beginning

Mumbai, Mar 24 (PTI):

Former Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma hoped the new faces roped in by his side for this edition of the IPL are able to make a mark from the outset as the franchise aims for a record sixth title under new skipper Hardik Pandya.

Five-time IPL champions Mumbai Indians have picked some exciting prospects, including South Africa pacer Gerald Coetzee, uncapped U-19 World Cup star Kwena Maphaka, England's Luke Wood, Sri Lanka's Nuwan Thushara, West Indies' Romario Shepherd and Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi.



17-year-old Endrick's first Brazil goal beats England and sets record

London, Mar 24 (AP):

Real Madrid-bound Endrick became the youngest men's player to score an international goal at Wembley as Brazil beat England 1-0 in a friendly.

Endrick, who will move from Palmeiras to Madrid at the end of the season when he turns 18, struck nine minutes after coming on as a second half substitute.

"My family is here, my girlfriend, my agents. I am not much of a crier, I am holding myself, but this is something unique and I am very happy," he said.

Based on his second half cameo, Madrid has secured another major talent for the future.



Coming on for Rodrygo in the 71st minute, Endrick wasted little time to make his mark, firing into an empty net after Vinicius Junior was denied by England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford.

Endrick could not hide his delight as he raced away in celebration and dropped to his knees — even though he did have to wait for VAR to confirm the goal following a check for offside.

Porel's blitzkrieg against Punjab big positive for DC, says assistant coach Amre

Chandigarh, Mar 24 (PTI):

Their campaign was not off to the best of starts with an injury to their lead pacer and the team guilty of a sloppy display on the field which led to a loss but Abhishek Porel's scintillating cameo was a big positive, says Delhi Capitals assistant coach Pravin Amre. DC brought in Porel as an Impact Substitute in the death overs after the other batters failed to get going. The 25-year-old wicketkeeper-batter smashed an unbeaten 32 off 10 balls to help his side post 174/9.

However, the total was not enough as DC suffered a four-wicket loss in their IPL opener against Punjab Kings on Saturday.

Wirtz scores Germany's fastest ever goal in 2-0 win over France



Lyon, Mar 24 (AP):

Toni Kroos returned and Florian Wirtz scored the fastest Germany goal ever as they defeated France 2-0 in their friendly. Kroos, coaxed out of international retirement for the upcoming European Championship, wasted no time with a precise pass for Wirtz, who let fly from outside the penalty area to score in off the crossbar after seven seconds.

Kroos later confirmed they worked on the move in training. The German soccer federation said it was the quickest goal ever scored in a national team game. The previous best was nine seconds by Lukas Podolski in a 2013 win over Ecuador. Kai Havertz made it 2-0 after the break and Antonio Rudiger produced a late goal-line clearance as the smiles returned to the German national team.

