



BRIEF



Volunteers of Birmingham-based Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha clean the gold-plated walls and dome of the Golden Temple, in Amritsar, Thursday.

Interest rates

■ New Delhi: The government on Thursday said the interest rates on various small savings schemes will remain unchanged for the quarter beginning April 1, 2024. "The rates of interest on various small savings schemes for the fourth quarter (January 1, 2024, to March 31, 2024) of FY 2023-24," said a finance ministry notification.

Booked

■ Indore: A case was filed against three persons, including a female, on Thursday for allegedly circulating a video showing a 30-year-old woman being stripped and beaten up over a dispute in Indore district, a police official said. Superintendent of Police (Rural) Sunil Mehta said the 30-year-old woman was allegedly dragged out of her house and beaten up by four women during Holi festivities (on March 25) in a village under the Gautampura police station area.

Suicide

■ Kota: A 19-year-old NEET aspirant allegedly hanged herself at her PG room here, the seventh suicide by a coaching student in the city since the beginning of this year, police said on Thursday. Somya Kurmi committed suicide by hanging from the ceiling fan late Wednesday night, DSP Rajesh Tailor told PTI.

Condemn

■ New Delhi: National Commission for Women (NCW) member Khusbhu Sundar on Thursday condemned the physical and verbal abuse of a PTI female journalist by an ANI reporter in Bengaluru and demanded immediate action against him by his employer.

Weather

High 39 Low 25

MARKET

NIFTY 22,326.90 ▲
SENSEX 73,651.35 ▲

BULLION

GOLD 67,101
SILVER 75,100

Kejriwal's ED custody extended till Apr 01

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

A court here Thursday extended the Enforcement Directorate custody of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal till April 1 in the excise policy case.

The agency sought seven-day custody of the AAP chief, but the court said he has to be produced before it on April 1 at 11 am.

The ED had produced him before Rouse Avenue court Special Judge Kaveri Baweja as his current six-day custody was ending on Thursday.

The ED said in its fresh remand plea that during Kejriwal's custodial interrogation, his statements were recorded over five days but he was "giving evasive replies".

It said statements of three other persons relevant to the case have also been recorded during the remand period.

It said that during the ED custody, Kejriwal was confronted with C Arvind, the then personal secretary to deputy CM Manish Sisodia who was handed over the draft Group of Ministers (GoM) report for the 2021-22 excise policy at the residence of the chief minister.

It said the statement of one of the AAP candidates in the 2022 Goa elections



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal comes out of the Rouse Avenue Court, in New Delhi, Thursday.

was also recorded during Kejriwal's ED custody. It revealed that the candidate did not have any money and his election expenditure was "taken care of by the AAP Office Delhi only through their associates".

The plea said that during the custody, data from the mobile phone of the chief minister's wife have been extracted and were being analysed.

"However, data from other four digital devices seized during the search at Kejriwal's premises on March 21 (belonging to Kejriwal) are yet to be extracted as the arrestee (Kejriwal) has sought time in providing password and login credentials after con-

'Smokescreen to crush AAP'

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday himself made submissions in a court in New Delhi during the hearing in the excise policy case and said a smokescreen of the Aam Aadmi Party being corrupt has been created before the nation. He made the submissions as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) produced him in the court of Special Judge Kaveri Baweja and sought seven-day further custody, arguing he needs to be confronted with some people linked with the case. The ED said Kejriwal was giving evasive replies and not disclosing passwords of his digital devices. In his submissions, Kejriwal said, "I am named by four witnesses in the excise policy case. Are 4 statements enough to arrest a sitting CM?" A smokescreen of the Aam Aadmi Party being corrupt has been created in front of the nation, he said and added that he is ready to face ED probe.

sulting with his lawyers," it said.

The application said the movable and immovable property details, income tax returns (ITRs), and other financial details sought from Kejriwal were yet to be provided by the chief minister, or his family members.

Ex-IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt gets 20 yrs in jail

Palanpur, Mar 28 (PTI):

A sessions court in Palanpur in Gujarat's Banaskantha district on Thursday sentenced former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt to 20 years in jail in a 1996 case involving planting of drugs to frame a lawyer Bhatt, who is already behind bars in a custodial death case, was

held guilty of falsely implicating a Rajasthan-based lawyer by claiming, in 1996, that police had seized drugs from a hotel room in Palanpur where the lawyer was staying. Bhatt, who was sacked from the force in 2015, was serving as the superintendent of police of Banaskantha district at the time.



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PM ON LAWYERS' LETTER TO CJI

'To browbeat, bully others is vintage Cong culture'

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said it is a "vintage Congress culture" to browbeat and bully others, remarks that came in reaction to more than 600 lawyers writing to the Chief Justice of India, alleging that a "vested interest group" is trying to put pressure on the judiciary and defame courts.

"To browbeat and bully others is vintage Congress culture. 5 decades ago itself they had called for a "committed judiciary" - they shamelessly want commitment from others for their selfish interests but desist from any commitment towards the nation," Modi said on X.

"No wonder 140 crore



PM Modi with Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates during a meeting at his residence, in New Delhi.

Indians are rejecting them," the prime minister said and tagged a post that carried the letter written by the lawyers. More than 600 lawyers, including senior advocate Harish Salve and Bar Council chairperson Manan Kumar

Mishra, wrote to Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, alleging that a "vested interest group" is trying to put pressure on the judiciary and defame courts, especially in cases of corruption involving politicians.

'Height of hypocrisy'

The Congress on Thursday hit back at Prime Minister Narendra Modi after his criticism of the party over a lawyers' letter to the chief justice of India against a "vested interest group", saying the PM's brazenness in orchestrating an attack on the judiciary, in the name of defending it, is the "height of hypocrisy". Hitting back at the prime minister, Congress general secretary in-charge, communications, Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X, "The PM's brazenness in orchestrating and coordinating an attack on the judiciary, in the name of defending the judiciary, is the height of hypocrisy!" "The Supreme Court has delivered body blows to him in recent weeks. The Electoral Bonds Scheme is but one example.

Govinda joins Shiv Sena in Shinde's presence

Mumbai, Mar 28 (PTI):

Bollywood actor Govinda, a mass entertainer of the 1990s who is known for his excellent comic timing and epic dance steps, on Thursday joined the ruling Shiv Sena in Mumbai, making a comeback in politics after a 14-year hiatus.

The former Congress Lok Sabha MP joined the Shiv Sena in the presence of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde at the time of election season.

Govinda, who gave multiple superhit films in his decades-long career, made a blockbuster entry in



Actor Govinda joins Shiv Sena (Shinde faction) in the presence of Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde, in Mumbai, Thursday.

electoral politics in 2004. That year, the "Hero No. 1" actor emerged as a "giant killer" when, as the

'NET scores to be used for PhD admissions'

■ From 2024-25

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

The National Eligibility Test (NET) scores will be used for PhD admissions from 2024-25 eliminating the need for separate entrance tests conducted by universities and higher education institutions, according to the University Grants Commission.

The NET is conducted twice a year -- June and December. Its scores are currently used to award Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) and as eligibility for



Jagadish Kumar

appointment as an assistant professor for those with a Master's degree. According to University Grants Commission (UGC) officials, the commission had constituted an expert committee to review the provisions of the exam and based on the panel's recommendations.

Savitri Jindal quits Cong, joins BJP

Chandigarh, Mar 28 (PTI):

Former Haryana minister Savitri Jindal quit the Congress and joined the BJP in Haryana's Hisar on Thursday, days after her son and industrialist Naveen Jindal switched parties. The 84-year-old Savitri Jindal joined the BJP along with her daughter Seema in the presence of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, former chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar and other BJP leaders. Announcing her decision to quit the Congress in a social media post late on Wednesday night, she said, "I represented the people of Hisar for 10 years as an MLA and have served Haryana state selflessly as a minister.

'Ice melting in Antarctica slowing Earth's rotation, affecting timekeeping'

New Delhi, Mar 28 (PTI):

Ice melting in Greenland and Antarctica, driven by global warming, is affecting timekeeping the world over by slowing down the Earth's rotating speed, according to a new research.

As a result, a second might need to be deducted from the Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) three years later than otherwise, it found. The study

author, Duncan Agnew, explained that because the Earth doesn't always rotate at the same speed, the UTC consists of discontinuities.

Since 1972, all discontinuities have required that a "leap second" be added, because many networked activities like computing and financial markets require the consistent, standardised and precise timescale provided by the UTC, he said. Agnew is a

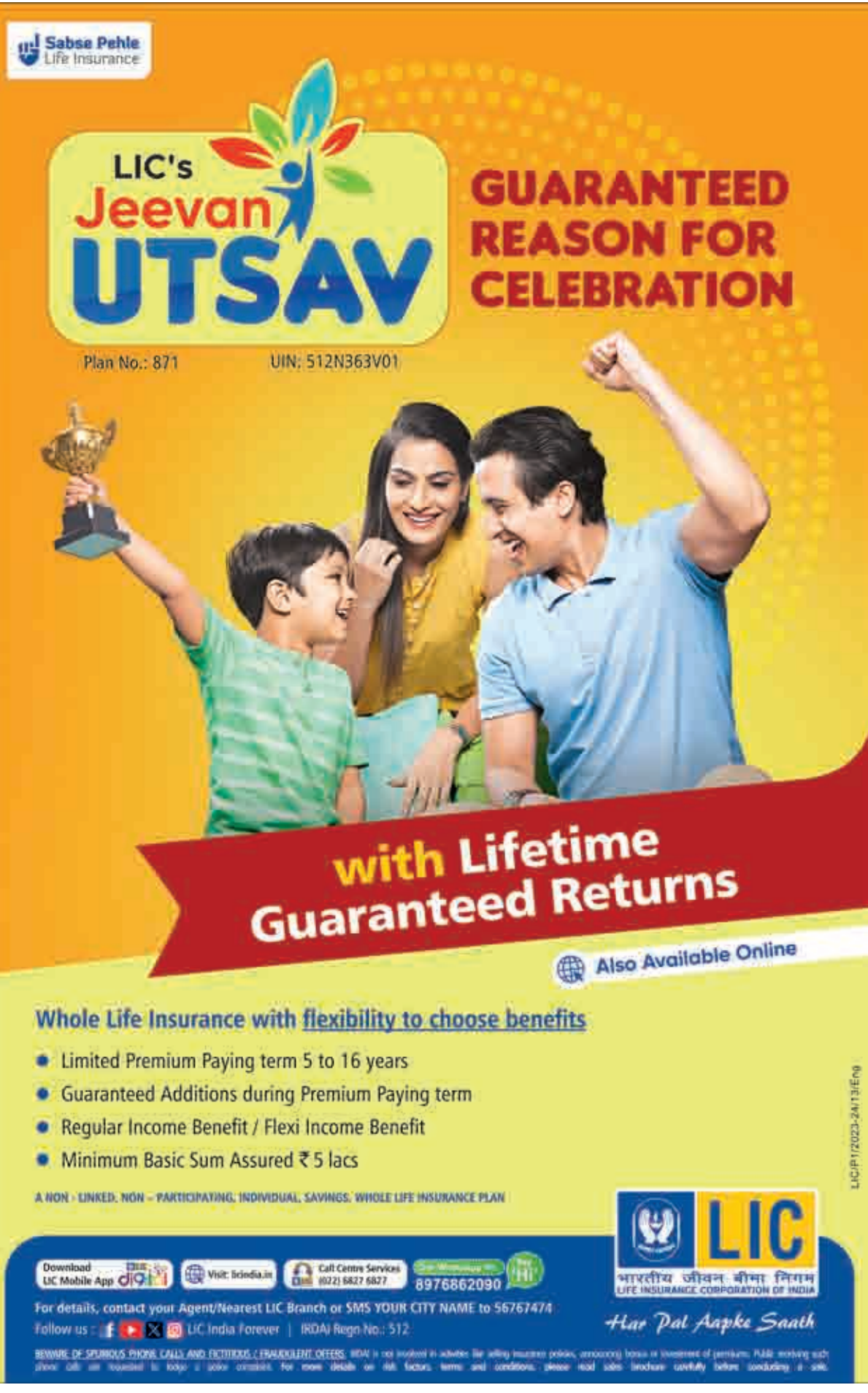
geophysicist at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at University of California San Diego, US.

Using mathematical modelling, Agnew showed that the rate at which the Earth's liquid core rotates -- angular velocity -- has been slowing down. To compensate for this, the rotating speed of the solid Earth has steadily increased. The compensatory effect comes from the

fact that for a closed system such as the Earth, angular momentum -- the rate at which rotating speed changes -- is a conserved quantity and doesn't change, he explained.

His study has been published in the journal Nature.

He found that the effect of the solid Earth rotating faster has resulted in fewer leap seconds being needed to be added to the UTC in recent decades.



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In The Cause Of Excellence In Education

Message of road safety and voting awareness in 'Holi Milan'



Raipur, Mar 28:

Series of programmes such as Holi of Flowers, aerobics for health promotion, Zumba, musical street drama for road safety and voter awareness were held under 'Holi Milan' of Holi festival in the city's Anupam Garden

and Oxy Zone. The event was organized by various social organizations including Raipur Welfare Foundation Society, Lions Club Raipur, Inter-Departmental Lead Agency Road Safety, Stay Fit with Me Group, Amazon, C-3 India. Hundreds of citizens of



different age groups participated in the event. Stayfit with Me group head Shubhangiji made an innovative use of Zumba in devotional music, after which other choreographers of the team did aerobics to improve health. In collaboration with the team of Road Safety Lead

Agency, a very interesting musical presentation of street drama was given on the ill effects of drunk driving and other carelessness on the family/society. Lead Agency (Road Safety) Chhattisgarh President Sanjay Sharma administered pledge to the people present for voting.

Govt BEd College conducts vibrant voter awareness drive

Raipur, March 28:

In a spirited initiative led by Principal Pushpa Kishpota and Dr. Lata Mishra, Assistant Nodal Officer of SVEEP, Government BEd College in Shankar Nagar, Raipur, embarked on a lively campaign to encourage voter participation.

With enthusiasm and dedication, student teachers pursuing M.Ed and B.Ed degrees spearheaded a dynamic voter awareness campaign in Shankar Nagar, Raipur by creatively distributed yellow rice to the people and inviting them to exercise their voting rights.

To the tune of "Main Bharat Hoon Bharat Hai Mujhmen...", the campaign resonated through the streets, fostering a sense of



civic duty among residents. Dr. D.K. Bodle, the B.Ed in-charge, led the pledge "I will definitely vote," underscoring the importance of active participation in the democratic process.

The program witnessed the active involvement of esteemed academic members including Assistant Professor Dr. Vijay Lakshmi, Seema Agarwal, Lecturer Satish Kumar Tiwari, and many others, highlighting the collaborative effort behind this crucial initiative.

With vibrant slogans like "Hamara Aahvan Karen Matadan Karen," students such as Hemdhar Sahu, Lalit Bijora, and a host of others from both B.Ed and M.Ed courses played pivotal roles in the campaign.

Collector inspects rooms constructed for LS election work



Raipur, Mar 28:

Collector Dr Gaurav Kumar Singh today inspected the branches operated for election work in the Collectorate premises and gave necessary instructions.

Singh inspected the control room, MCMC room and complaint room. On his visit to MCMC cell, he got information about Social Media Wing, Print Media

● **Reaches MCMC room and takes information about various wings**

Wing, Electronic Media Wing, Video Media Wing, District Panchayat CEO and SVEEP Nodal Officer Vishwadeep, Deputy District Election Officer US Bande and ADM Devendra Patel were present.

Awareness being created thru OPD slip of Mecos

For voting by mentioning the election date in the slip

Jagdalpur, Mar 28:

With the code of conduct coming into effect in the Lok Sabha elections in Bastar, the first phase of voting is to be held on April 19. For which the administration is making the public aware in different ways from rural areas to urban areas. In connection with this awareness, on the lines of the election festival being a pride of the country, patients are being asked to actively participate in the first phase of elections by putting a seal of the election date in the OPD slip made for the patients in the Medical College, Dimarapal.

According to the employees of Mecos OPD, all the patients come to Mecos with their relatives for



treatment are being given slips and they are also being made aware about voting. Apart from this, the villagers as well as the common people coming from the urban areas are being asked to go to the polling centers and vote on

the morning of April 19. Besides, the festival of elections is also being described as the pride of the country in the form of slogan.

After the announcement of the date of Lok Sabha elections in Bastar dis-

trict, the Model Code of Conduct was implemented by the Bastar Collector. In Bastar district, everyone from common citizens to different organizations are playing their role in creating voter awareness among the people to vote. Voting is to be held in Chhattisgarh in three phases, in which the first phase will be held on April 19 for the Lok Sabha seat in Bastar.

The MRD department of Medical College, Dimarapal has taken the initiative to create awareness among the patients about voting by making receipts with their names in the OPD receipts as well as putting seals on them. Every person coming to Mecos is being asked to vote on April 19 by putting a seal on his OPD slip.

Holi celebrated with joy and enthusiasm



Katagi, Mar 28:

The festival of colours Holi was celebrated with great zeal in the region with people of all sections of the society taking part in the festivities. A day prior to Holi, Holika Dahan was also celebrated and this time in Katgi area, on the call of Gayatri family, women along with men went to perform Holika Dahan, prayed for happiness and prosperity, forgetting all the grudges and congratulated each other

by applying colors and gull and played the ideal Holi in a peaceful manner. Following the ideal code of conduct, the youth were seen applying colors and gull on each other and as a result all the squares and intersections were filled with water and colours. Also people enjoyed the delicacies prepared at their homes with children enjoying thorough. Meanwhile continues patrolling was being done by the police team to prevent untoward incidents.

SECR honours dedicated workers with awards

Bilaspur and Nagpur Railway Divisions receive over all efficiency Satpura Shield

Bilaspur/Raipur, Mar 28:

In a celebration of dedication and hard work, South East Central Railway (SECR) proudly honored its railway officers and employees with the inaugural Distinguished Railway Service Award and Railway Service Award (General Manager level). The ceremony, held today at the North East Institute Auditorium in Bilaspur, was graced by the esteemed presence of Alok Kumar, the General Manager of SECR, along with dignitaries and esteemed guests.

The event, steeped in tradition and dignity, commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by Chief Guest Alok Kumar. Welcoming all attendees, Sameer Kant



Mathur, Deputy General Manager (General), highlighted the rich history of Indian Railways. Expressing his heartfelt congratulations, Alok Kumar praised the outstanding achievements of SECR during the financial year 2022-23, attributing its success to the relentless efforts of its dedicated workforce.

In a momentous gesture, 8 officers and 61 employees were bestowed

with the General Manager Award for their exemplary contributions during the previous fiscal year. Additionally, shields were distributed to various railway divisions and departments, recognizing their outstanding performance. Notably, Bilaspur and Nagpur Railway Divisions were lauded with the prestigious Over all Efficiency Satpura Shield for their exceptional work across

all parameters.

Addressing the gathering, Alok Kumar emphasized the importance of continual improvement and unwavering dedication to ensure the safety and satisfaction of passengers and customers. He expressed his confidence in SECR's ability to meet the targets set forth by the Railway Board, acknowledging the invaluable support of employees and their families.

The ceremony concluded with expressions of gratitude to unions, associations, and the media for their support and co-operation. Saket Ranjan, Chief Public Relations Officer, extended thanks to all participants, highlighting their collective efforts in advancing the railway's mission of excellence.

Collector-SP inspects strong room

For Lok Sabha Election 2024

Korea, Mar 28:

Regarding the Lok Sabha elections 2023, here in the district Collector Vinay Kumar Langeh and Superintendent of Police Suraj Singh Parihar inspected the strong room and the place of stay of security personnel. Adarsh Ramanuj Government Higher Secondary School of Baikunthpur was made a strong room in the last assembly elections 2023 and the same venue has also been made strong room for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Collector Vinay Kumar Langeh and Superintendent of Police Suraj Singh Parihar inspected the officers and gave instructions to en-



sure necessary arrangements for the maintenance of EVM and VPAT machines and security arrangements. The Polytechnic College building located at Salka was also inspected by the officials, wherein the Collector instructed the PWD officers to organize the toilet room and repair the damage to windows, doors etc. immediately.

While giving instructions to the officials of Public Works, Energy,

Public Health Engineering, Municipal Council, Baikunthpur, he said that all the arrangements should be made on time so that there is no problem of any kind during the elections. Under the Lok Sabha elections 2024, the model code of conduct in the state including Korea district is effective from March 17, 2024. Voting will be held in three phases for 11 Lok Sabha seats in the state, while 6 Lok Sabha seats

are unreserved, 4 seats are reserved for Scheduled Tribe category and 1 seat is reserved for Scheduled Caste category.

Publication of notification for Korba Lok Sabha elections to be held in the third phase is on April 12, last date for filing nominations is April 19, and scrutiny of nomination papers is April 20, withdrawal of nominations is April 22 and voting is Tuesday, May 7, 2024. Counting of votes for all three phases will take place on Tuesday, June 4, 2024. During the inspection, District Panchayat CEO Dr. Ashutosh Chaturvedi, Additional Collector Arun Kumar Markam, Additional Superintendent of Police Mrs. Monica Thakur, SDM Mrs. Ankita Som and other officers were present.

Festival of colours celebrated with Joy



Anwari, Mar 28:

Villages of the area including Anwari, Bhaibod, Kumhari, Purena, Joratarai, Koliyari, Bhakhara Bhattheli, Sigdehi, Bhendasar, Sirve, Semra, Siltara, Supela, Navgaon, Thuha, Bagaud, Bangoli, Banjari, Khapri, Kurra, and surrounding areas, Holi, the great festival of colors, was celebrated with complete simplicity and joy. The enthusiasm of this festival of love, brotherhood and uniting everyone was visible in every section and this time peo-

ple shared the happiness of this festival with full enthusiasm and excitement. On this special occasion of Holi, the village people met each other in their residence or square and applied colors and gull. Native Ishwar Sahu Keshav Sahu told that a few days before the festival of Holi, people everywhere including Anwari were busy in the enthusiasm of the festival by singing Phag songs to the beat of Nangaads in the area and thereafter, on the eve of Holi, rituals were organized at various places.

Every woman to get Rs 1 lakh per year, if Cong is voted to power: Lakhma

Bijapur, Mar 28:

● **Alleges that BJP gov't has failed to provide security to people of Bastar**

since the BJP government has been formed in the country, unemployment and inflation have increased. The youth of the country have been demanding employment for the last ten years but the Modi government has completely failed in providing jobs to the youth of the country.

Modi's guarantee has completely failed. Speaking further Lakhma said that as soon as the Congress party government is formed at the Center, Congress party guarantees to give Rs 1 lakh per year to every woman of the country. According to this, every woman of the country will get Rs 8333 per month." Lakhma further said in the press conference that ever



conference, Lakhma said that the tribals have been the most neglected, exploited lot in the BJP government. Today, even the district headquarters Bijapur is not safe. There is firing on the festival of Holi. This is the grace of Bastar's revered goddess Maa Danteshwari Devi, with whose blessings the people of Bastar are safe.

In the press conference, Kawasi Lakhma further

said that earlier tendu leaves had no importance in Bastar. 'I fought a long battle to get a fair price for tendu leaves, as a result of which today tendu leaves have become the biggest source of income for the people living in tribal areas', he said, adding that the people have started earning good income by selling tendu leaves.

Lakhma said that the government of Bhupesh

Baghel in the state had worked on many public welfare schemes like giving 35 kg rice to every family and unemployment allowance. Now the government of Vishnu Deo Sai is ending the schemes made by the Congress. Now the BJP government is giving only 5 kg of rice to every family instead of 35 kg of rice. Baghel's government had released more than 1700 tribals from jail but

the BJP and Sai government is again working to put innocent tribals in jail. During the press conference, Bijapur MLA Vikram Mandavi, District Panchayat President Shankar Kudiam, District Congress Committee President Lalu Rathore, District Panchayat Member Neena Rawatia Udde, District Panchayat Member Basant Rao Tati, District Panchayat Member Somaru Kashyap, Municipal Council President Benhur Rawatia, Senior Councilor Praveen Dongre, District Congress Committee Spokesperson Jyoti Kumar, Media Incharge Rajesh Jain, Senior Congressmen Girdharilal Rathi, Raju Gandhi and Virendra Singh Thakur along with a large number of Congress workers were present.

IGP holds meeting with Prosecution Officers



Discussion held on acquittal cases and removing errors in investigation during trial

Bhilai, Mar 28: Inspector General of Police (Durg Range) Ram Gopal Garg chaired the monthly meeting of prosecution officers in the auditorium of IGP office on Thursday. This meeting is organized monthly to resolve the problems being faced in the prosecution. In the meeting, the District Public Prosecution Officer and the prosecutors were instructed to establish coordination in the prosecution and its investigation. They reviewed the types of shortcomings found by the prosecution and in the police investigation in the cases related to Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, Scheduled Caste-Scheduled Tribe Act, Narcotic Drug and Alcohol Prohibition etc. They explored the

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shortcomings so that it can be removed in future and ensure higher conviction of the accused. In the review meeting, all matters related to prosecution were discussed. Anurekha Singh, Deputy Prosecution Director Durg; Premendra Kumar Vaiswade, Deputy Director Prosecution District Balod; Arpana Agrawal, District Prosecution Officer District Bemetara, DSP Shilpa Sahu, IG office officials were present in the meeting.

Cops learn the nuances of fingerprint collection



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 28: Under the direction of Inspector General of Police, Durg Range, Ram Gopal Garg, a range level fingerprint training workshop was organized on Thursday in the auditorium of Reserve Police Centre, Durg. Fingerprint expert Rakesh Narvare, Raipur-Durg Division, conducted the workshop. He spoke about the importance of fingerprints in the crime investigation. He said that fingerprint identification helps the investigating officer in identification of the criminals. He detailed the precautions to be taken while collecting and preserving the fingerprints. The collection and preservation methods were explained in detail and the system for upload-

ing the collected fingerprints in NEFIS (National Automated Fingerprint Identification System) was explained. Inspector General of Police, Durg Range, Ram Gopal Garg asked the police personnel that in the scientific era, more and more science should be used in crime investigation. It has many benefits. Its biggest advantage is that there is transparency in the investigation and there is no possibility of doubt. Sukhmandan Rathore, Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Bhilai-Durg; Chirag Jain (IPS) City Superintendent of Police, Durg; Alexander Kiro, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Headquarters), Durg; Chandraprakash Tiwari, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Police Lines), Reserve Centre, Durg; Neelkanth Verma, Reserve Inspector, Police Reserve Centre, Durg, officials Court Moharrir / MOB / Collator Constables posted in various police stations of Durg Range (30 trainees from district Balod, 12 trainees from district Bemetara and 76 trainees from district Durg) attended the training workshop.

Code violation complaint against Bhupesh Baghel

BJP District Vice President demands action against former CM for his provocative statements against the Election Commission of India

Bhilai, Mar 28: A complaint has been filed before the Election Commission of India against Rajnandgaon Lok Sabha candidate and former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel for violation of the Model Code of Conduct. District BJP Vice President Rajendra Kumar, on behalf of the Bharatiya Janata Party, has said in a written complaint that MLA of Patan assembly constituency Bhupesh Baghel, who is declared Congress candidate for



Rajendra Kumar

Rajnandgaon Lok Sabha constituency, made a provocative statement against the Election Commission of India in the Congress workers' convention held in village Amalori of Patan on Tuesday (March 26, 2024).

He made a public statement to this effect. Baghel had said if there are more than 375 candidates in Rajnandgaon Lok Sabha constituency, then the Election Commission will have to conduct voting through ballot paper in Rajnandgaon. He provoked the Congress workers of Patan to go to Rajnandgaon Lok Sabha constituency in maximum numbers and file nominations. Rajendra Kumar further stated in his complaint that former Chief Minister and Patan MLA Bhupesh Baghel has tried to tarnish the reputation of the

people to file nominations and harm the clean and healthy election process of the Election Commission.

The above act of Bhupesh Baghel is a clear violation of the election code of conduct. Bhupesh Baghel has violated the provisions of the Representation of the People Act. Necessary legal action should be taken against him and Bhupesh Baghel should be banned from campaigning outside Rajnandgaon Lok Sabha constituency, Rajendra Kumar demanded.

Taking cognizance over the complaint filed by District BJP Vice President Rajendra Kumar, the State Election Commission had instructed the Durg District Collector and Election Officer to conduct a probe and take action in accordance with law.

Divyans and senior citizens pledge to exercise their franchise

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 28: Under the direction of Collector and District Election Officer Richa Prakash Chaudhary and under the guidance of District Panchayat Chief Executive Officer and SVEEP Nodal Officer Ashwani Dewangan. The divyans of above 18 years of age and senior citizens took pledge to cast their votes in the Lok Sabha Elections 2024. According to the information received from the Deputy Director of Social Welfare Department, voter awareness programmes were organized in the institutions aided by the Social Welfare Department. The programmes were organized at Bright School Jawahar Nagar Durg, Kalyani De-addic-



tion Center and Ramsheela Ki Kutiyi Old Age Home, Junwani Durg and Aastha Old Age Home Sector 02 Bhilai.

Under the campaign, an oath was administered to disabled students and elderly people. They were urged to definitely use their voting rights and motivate people of every section to vote. On this occasion, Amit Parihar, Deputy Director of Social Welfare Department,

District Durg, appealed to the disabled students, elderly people and the teachers / old age home managers to maintain the traditions and dignity of democracy. He explained the importance of each vote.

Representatives of the institutions including Raju Rajput, Sanjay Deshmukh, Prakash Gedam, Jantram Thakur, Arun Verma and other employees were present in the program.

RSM organises cleanliness programme under 'Swachhata Pakhwada'

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 28: "Swachhata Pakhwada" Cleanliness Fortnight is being observed by SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, to bring an intense focus on the issues and practices of Swachhata by accelerating mass movement for realizing the vision of a 'Swachh Bharat - Clean India'. Under this initiative, the Plant's Rail and Structural Mill Department (RSM) organized a special cleanliness programme and awareness campaign under the guidance of Tirthankar Dastidar, (RSM & RTS) at the Mill

premises on 26th March 2024. At the outset, an 'Oath of Cleanliness' was administered to all the people present in the programme, followed by collective Shramdaan by the Senior Officials, Personnel, and Contractual Workers of the department, for cleaning the canteen and adjoining areas in the R&S Mill premises. Cleanliness is equally significant for promoting



a Safety Culture among employees and achieving the goal of "zero accidents". A comprehensive housekeeping programme was organized, and scrap and unwanted materials were cleaned under the Swachhata Pakhwada initiative to create a risk-free work environment at the department. The Swachhata Programme was organized by the Personnel Department of Mills Zone-II. Along with maintaining cleanliness in the household and surrounding areas, it is very important to keep the workplace clean and organized. It is noteworthy that SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant organizes similar cleanliness and safety initiatives and tree plantations from time to time, to promote the spirit of cleanliness and safety practices and better upkeep of the environment, among the Plant-employees and township residents.

SAIL Khel Mela inaugurated in Narayanpur

1500 students from 34 schools of Rowghat area participating

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 28: The 17th edition of the SAIL-Khel Mela being organized jointly by Ramakrishna Mission, Narayanpur, and SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant was inaugurated on 27th March 2024. Pawan Kumar, ED (P&A) inaugurated the Khel Mela by lighting the Ceremonial Lamp in the presence of Swami Purnanand Ji Maharaj, Acharya (Brahmachari Training Centre, Belur Math), Arun Kumar, CGM (Rowghat Mines), H Shekhar, GM (ED-P&A Secretariat), Yogesh Verma, AGM (Rowghat Project), Saheer Ram Jakhar, DGM (SC&CA), and other senior officials of the Plant. The SAIL Khel Mela has been organized at Narayanpur, to encourage schoolchildren from the tribal region to take an active part in sports and games. At the outset Chief Guest Pawan Kumar hoisted



the Sports Flag, followed by March Past by students. As many as 1500 students, among which 475 are girls, from 34 residential and non-residential schools of Narayanpur district and nearby areas are participating in this four-day sports festival from 27th to 30th March 2024. Various sports events like Football, Badminton, volleyball, Kho-Kho, Badminton, Athletics, Archery, etc., are being organized under the SAIL-Khel Mela-2024. Chief Guest Pawan Kumar, in his address, congratulated



ed the Ashram Collective for organizing the SAIL-Khel Mela successfully for the past 17 years, and stated that events like this will not only lead to the physical and mental development of the children but will also contribute to the progress of the area, for which SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant is devoted sincerely. Pawan Kumar said. Swami Purnanand Maharaj in his address stated that the eminent Spiritual Guru and a visionary of Vedanta, Swami Vivekananda had envisioned such

Indian youth who would be strong physically and firm-willed mentally-spiritually. Therefore, the youth must take an active part in sports, physical exercise as well as meditation for mental strength-enriching activities. Mohan Lal, Asst General Secretary (Chhattisgarh Football Association), Rupsai Salam, Senior Social Worker (Narayanpur), Arun Srivastava, Brijmohan Dewangan, Swami Akritanand, Swami Devanathanand, Swami Vasudananand, Swami Mukhtianand, Swami Pranatpalanand and other Brahmacharis and Sanyasis of RKM Narayanpur Ashram were also present on this occasion, along with 3,000 children including participants and teachers, and villagers from nearby areas in large numbers. An 800-meter running competition was conducted during the inaugural function, wherein Jagdish of Eklavya Adarsh Vidyalay, Chheribeda secured the First position, while Narsingh Dugga of Ramakrishna Mission, and Rasan Korram of Adarsh Vidyalaya Ganarji stood Second and Third respectively. In the program, Swami Vyapananda Maharaj, Secretary (Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, Narayanpur) gave a welcome address on this occasion, while the vote of thanks was proposed by Swami Krishnamritananda, Principal (Vivekananda Vidyaapeeth).

White tigress arrives at Maitri Baag Zoo on exchange, to improve offspring

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 28: Bhilai Steel Plant is famed not only for its quality steel production but also for breeding white tigers. Bhilai's Maitri Baag Zoo, managed by the Horticulture Section of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Town Services Department (TSD) has witnessed the arrival of a young adult white tigress 'Jaya' on 21st March 2024. Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) and Pawan Kumar, ED (P&A) released the tigress in the enclosure of Maitri Baag Zoo. To prevent in-breeding and promote out-breeding and healthy offspring, the 6 years and 5 months old white tigress 'Jaya' was brought from Jungle Safari, Nandanvan Zoo Raipur. In exchange of Jaya, another white tigress from Maitri Baag



'Raksha', has been sent to Jungle Safari, Raipur, as per the animal exchange rules laid down by the Central Zoo Authority of India. JY Sapkale, CGM (TSD & CSR), Sandeep MATHUR, CGM (Personnel), VK Sharma, GM I/c (TSD), H Shekhar, GM (ED-P&A Office), Ajay Kumar, DGM (ED-Works Secretariat), Dr NK Jain, DGM (Horticulture-TSD), and RK Garg, AGM (TSD), were present on this occasion, along with Dr Rakesh Verma, and Dr Sonam Mishra, Veterinary Experts from CG State Government, Arif Khan, Rajesh Kumar Sharma, Lalit Yadav, Yogesh Kumar Chandrakar and Prem Kumar from Maitri Baag Zoo. Zookeepers AK Sinha, K Narsaiah, Mohan, Mohammad Moharram, Jitendra Kumar, and Sunil Kumar were also present on this occasion. Animal offspring born to parents from the same family are susceptible to deformities and other genetic disorders. Tigress Jaya of Raipur's Jungle Safari is also born from parents of the common ancestors and has been brought to procreate with a male from another lineage.

Unity and enthusiasm mark Congress workers conference in Kurud

Central Chronicle News

Kurud, Mar 28: In a vibrant display of unity and enthusiasm, the Kurud assembly level Congress workers convened under the banner of Mahasamund Lok Sabha. Led by senior Congress leaders, the conference ignited spirited in Purana Mandi Kurud.

The event commenced with a reverent homage to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, graced by the presence of Mahasamund Lok Sabha Congress candidate Tamradhwaj Sahu alongside other esteemed Congress leaders. Addressing the gathered workers, Sahu emphasized a message of familial bonds over mere electoral competition, stating, "I have not come to contest elections; I have come to build a family relation-



ship."

Taking a principled stance, Sahu questioned the tactics of opposition parties, particularly targeting the BJP. He questioned the silence on issues raised against prominent figures and denounced personal attacks such as being labeled a "deaf candidate."

Dhantari MLA Omkar Sahu blamed BJP, stating that false FIRs are being registered against

Congress candidates, former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, and former minister Kawasi Lakhma. He criticized the BJP for taking sides and engaging in pre-emptive actions under pressure from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) targeting Congress leaders.

Former MLA Gurmukh Singh Hora, former MLA Lekhrum Sahu, former MLA Lakshmi Dhruv, Senior Congress leader

Vipin Sahu, Nagar Panjayat President Tapan Chandrakar, Tarni Neelam Chandrakar, District Panchayat President Kanti Sonwani, District President Sharda Sahu, Chayya MLA Hemantlakshmi Kanta Sahu, former Nagar Panjayat President Bharat Nahar, and others expressed their dissatisfaction over the statements and actions of the BJP, as well as the assurances

given by Prime Minister Modi.

Former Congress District President Mohan Lalwani, Block President Ashish Sharma, Dih Ram Sahu, District Panchayat Chairman Suman Santosh Sahu, Niranjan Sahu, Rameshar Sahu, Mahim Shukla, Pappu Rajput, Manish Sahu, Chumman Diwan, Manoj Agarwal, Yogesh Chandrakar, Tukesh Sahu, Uttam Sahu, Dumesh Sahu, and various other members from different cells of Congress actively participated in the event.

The proceedings were conducted under the guidance of District Congress General Secretary Pramod Sahu, and Congress District President Sharad Lohana expressed heartfelt gratitude for the overwhelming participation and support.

Residents rally to clean drainage system in Anwari



Central Chronicle News

Anwari, Mar 28: Demonstrating a commendable sense of community responsibility, residents of the village of Anwari banded together to address concerns surrounding the local water drainage system.

A drain constructed in the street locality had become clogged with debris

over time due to a lack of maintenance, posing potential hazards to the community.

Recognizing the importance of resolving this issue, individuals including Ramgopal Sahu, Thanes Nirmalkar, Fatte Lal, Uday, Toshbai, Khilleshwari, Dulari Bai, and Lakshmi Dhuv took the initiative to clean the drain.

Expressing their concerns, the residents highlighted the deteriorating condition of the drain, which had been constructed just a year ago but had already suffered damage.

They emphasized the inconvenience faced by locals in their daily commute and emphasized the urgency of addressing the issue before it escalated into a significant problem.

Collector reviews logistics and security measures for LS elections

Comprehensive preparations underway for Bastar voting

Central Chronicle News

Bijapur, Mar 28: Collector and District Election Officer Anurag Pandey led a thorough review meeting to assess the logistics and security arrangements in preparation for the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections in 2024. The meeting, attended by senior officers of the Central Reserve Police, underscored the commitment to ensuring a seamless and secure electoral process.

During the session, Collector outlined essential guidelines aimed at facilitating peaceful voting. These included meticulous security arrangements encom-



passing the safe transportation of polling parties to and from polling stations, safeguarding EVM machines, and ensuring the security of sensitive polling stations.

In anticipation of the first phase of Lok Sabha Elections 2024, scheduled for April 19, 2024, in Bastar Lok Sabha, all necessary preparations are

underway. The meeting served as a platform to discuss and coordinate efforts among various stakeholders to guarantee the success of the electoral process.

Notable attendees at the meeting included Commandants from various CRPF battalions, such as Vikram Singh 108 Battalion, Kishore

Kumar 170 Battalion, Vinod Kumar Mohiril 122 Battalion, Rajiv Kumar 122 Battalion, Hariom Sagar, Kuldeep Singh, and Manoj Kumar Tripathi, alongside Deputy Senani Sanjay Kumar Singh.

Joint Collector Kailash Verma, Assistant Returning Officer Jageshwar Kaushal, Deputy District Election Officer Narayan Prasad Gawel, Deputy Collector Uttam Singh Panchari, SDMs, Tehsildars, and other senior officers also contributed to the discussions, highlighting the collaborative effort in ensuring the integrity and security of the electoral process.

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Mar 28: In a bid to enhance infrastructure and alleviate traffic congestion issues, the construction work of the Tarbahar Underbridge has been successfully completed and opened for traffic on Wednesday. This development comes as a relief for pedestrians and commuters alike, ensuring uninterrupted and safe road traffic flow.

The Railway Administration has been diligently working towards infrastructure development, innovation, and expanding network capacity to facilitate safe and efficient railway operations while improving passenger facilities. As part of this initiative, the construction of limited height subways at level crossing gates has been ongoing to mitigate traffic congestion and en-



sure the safety of pedestrians. A significant milestone was achieved with the extension of the underbridge to the other end of the bypass line, particularly addressing the traffic bottleneck at the Tarbahar gate in the Bilaspur station yard. This rapid completion of the underbridge allows for smooth and safe road traffic for residents of Sirgitti and

surrounding areas. With the underbridge now operational, road traffic has been diverted onto it, leading to the closure of the Tarbahar gate for security reasons. The Railway Administration is confident that this underbridge will not only facilitate smooth and uninterrupted road traffic but also provide relief to commuters from

gate closures, saving valuable time for other important tasks.

The completion of the Tarbahar Underbridge signifies a significant step towards improving transportation infrastructure and easing congestion, underscoring the Railway Administration's commitment to enhancing the overall commuter experience.

Peaceful Holi celebrations brighten Lawan area

Central Chronicle News

Lawan, Mar 28: Despite minor incidents, the villages of the Lawan area, including Lawan city, experienced a tranquil atmosphere during the Holi festival. Notably, adherence to the code of conduct contributed to the exceptionally peaceful celebration of Holi in the area, reflecting the unity and harmony among residents.

This year's festivities included spirited Phag competitions held at various locations, showcasing the enthusiasm of women and children in the community. Additionally, the traditional ritual of Holika Dahan was observed at five different sites across



Lawan city. One such significant event took place at the Mahamaya temple complex, where the priest commenced the Holika Dahan ceremony at night, preserving a tradition dating back years.

Beyond the city limits, villages such as Korda, Sarkhor, Turma, Karda, and Marda also observed

vibrant Holika Dahan celebrations, highlighting the widespread participation and joyous spirit among residents. From dawn till dusk, people of all ages joined in the festivities, indulging in the age-old tradition of applying colorful hues on each other, fostering bonds of camaraderie and community solidarity.

Leaders advocate for voter participation in SVEEP activities

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Mar 28: In a concerted effort to bolster voter awareness and civic engagement, a series of initiatives were launched under the direction of Collector and District Election Officer Ajit Vasant. Spearheaded by the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program, a vibrant voter awareness campaign unfolded in Korba, Chhattisgarh.

The day witnessed the culmination of a slogan writing competition, held to foster a deeper understanding of the significance of



voting. At the Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company Limited Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Thermal Power Station in Korba East, participants were joined by dignitaries including Dr. Sadhna Khare, Principal of Government PG College Korba, and the Chief Engineer. Attendees took an oath to uphold their voting rights, underscoring the importance of active participation in the democratic process.

Simultaneously, other engaging programs unfolded at Late Pyarelal Kanwar Government College in Bhainsma and Hasdeo Education College in Amapali, Korba. These initiatives aimed to instill a sense of responsibility and awareness among citizens regarding their role in shaping the nation's future. Dr. Hemant Sachdeva, the Executive Director of the plant, emphasized the importance of voting, declar-

ing, "Our vote is our right." He underscored the significance of voter awareness, particularly through SVEEP activities, in the presence of Dr. Sadhna Khare, Principal of Government Engineering Visvesvaraya Post Graduate College, and Balram Kurre, college-level SVEEP nodal officer and assistant professor at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Thermal Power Station, Korba East. During the event, Dr. Khare eluci-

dated the crucial role of voting and raised awareness among all present officers and employees. Dr. Sachdeva reiterated the necessity of voting, asserting that every Indian should take pride in their right to vote. He emphasized that only responsible voters can foster awareness among all citizens, urging everyone to exercise their voting rights.

The gathering witnessed the presence of Additional Chief Engineer Sanjeev Kansal, L.N. Suryavanshi, Senior Chief Chemist Malti Joshi, Chief Chemist cum Senior Welfare Officer Govardhan Sidar, and numerous other officers and employees, all actively participating in the initiative to promote voter awareness and participation.

Holi celebrations enliven Mungeli district

Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Mar 28: The spirit of Holi illuminated the streets of Mungeli district as communities came together to celebrate the festival with immense joy and fervor. From Bada Bazaar to Pulpara and Rest House Ground, the air was filled with wishes of happiness and prosperity for the district.

Amidst the vibrant celebrations, the police maintained a vigilant presence, ensuring peace and security throughout the district. This diligence contributed to a harmonious atmosphere, allowing residents to revel in the colors of Holi with freedom and en-

thusiasm.

In both urban and rural areas, the festival was marked by lively gatherings, with youth spreading cheer by dousing each other in vibrant hues of color. Children and women joined in the festivities, adding to the exuberant atmosphere by exchanging playful splashes of color and heartfelt greetings.

However, in urban centers, the fervor for Holi seemed somewhat subdued compared to previous years. While pockets of youth engaged in spirited street revelries, the overall enthusiasm appeared diminished in certain areas. Nevertheless, the timeless tradition of applying col-



ors and exchanging greetings continued, embodying the essence of communal harmony and joy.

The festival, celebrated in the wake of the construction of the Ram temple, held special significance for many, further amplifying the spirit of unity

and celebration among residents. Despite minor disturbances, the festivities proceeded smoothly, with people setting aside differences to embrace the spirit of togetherness and camaraderie.

Yet, alongside the jubilant celebrations, concerns

arose regarding the increased consumption of liquor during the festival. Liquor sales reached unprecedented levels, totaling around Rs 2 crore, presenting both a cause for celebration for the Excise Department and a matter of concern for the community.

As the festivities continued into the second day of Holi, a sense of merriment lingered in the air, with offices operating at reduced capacity as revelers indulged in post-celebration relaxation. Despite the subdued atmosphere in some areas, the essence of Holi prevailed, reminding residents of the enduring spirit of joy and camaraderie that defines the festival.

Arang Mahanadi Station seeks inclusion in Express train stoppage

Central Chronicle News

Arang, Mar 28: With the advent of the double engine government, hopes are high for the inclusion of Arang Mahanadi railway station as a stoppage point for express trains. The Market Committee Arang has spearheaded efforts to initiate this transformative change, led by Shrawan Agarwal, the committee's Patron.

Nestled in the rich historical tapestry of King Mordhwaj's ancient religious city, Arang boasts a multitude of cultural and religious landmarks. From

the revered Shri Bageshwar Temple to the historic Kalchuri Era Jain Temple, the city is steeped in spiritual heritage. Additionally, Arang serves as a vital administrative and economic hub, hosting numerous government offices, industrial facilities, educational institutions, and a CRPF Soldier Camp.

Despite its cultural and economic significance, Arang Mahanadi Railway Station remains the only neglected and backward station in the block. Despite serving as the last station of the Sambalpur Division, it lacks stoppages for any

express trains, posing challenges for travelers and commuters alike.

The Market Committee, cognizant of the station's strategic importance, has fervently advocated for its inclusion in express train routes. Specifically, they have urged for stoppages and reservation counters for the Korba Visakhapatnam and Puri Ahmedabad Express trains. Such a decision would not only benefit tourists, businessmen, and students but also enhance accessibility for CRPF soldiers and local residents alike.

