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BRIEF



CJI D.Y. Chandrachud with family at the President House, in New Delhi, Monday.

Resign

Ahmedabad: Senior Congress MLA and former state party unit president Arjun Modhwadia on Monday resigned from the Assembly membership, the Speaker's office said. The MLA from Porbandar tendered his resignation to Gujarat Assembly Speaker Shankar Chaudhary in Gandhinagar.

MoU

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government on Monday signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology-Bhubaneswar, in a bid to provide inclusive and quality education to visually impaired students in the state. The Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Department signed the agreement with the institute in the presence of SSEPD Minister Ashok Panda and Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethi here.

Breach

Bhawanipatna: More than 250 acres of agricultural land and houses were submerged as water flooded several parts of Kalampur block in Odisha's Kalahandi district following a 20-feet breach in the Indravati Right canal around 3.30am on Monday. Water also entered some houses in Deypur village due to the breach, officials said.

Ban

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government on Monday imposed a ban on the use of single-use plastic in national parks, tiger reserves, wildlife sanctuaries and eco-tourism sites in the state from April 1. Chief Wildlife Warden Susanta Nanda said in an order, "In exercise of the power conferred under Section 33 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, it is hereby ordered that single-use plastic shall be prohibited inside sanctuaries/national parks/tiger reserves of the state with effect from April 1, 2024."

Weather
High 33 Low 19

MARKET
NIFTY 22,405.60
SENSEX 73,872.29

BULLION
GOLD 64,075
SILVER 71,190

LANDMARK JUDGEMENT

'Lawmakers lose bribery shield'

■ SC junks JMM case verdict

New Delhi, Mar 04 (PTI):

MPs and MLAs taking bribes to vote or make a speech in the House are not immune from prosecution, the Supreme Court said on Monday in a landmark, unanimous verdict that overrules its 1998 judgment protecting such lawmakers.

Observing that corruption and bribery of members of the legislature erode the foundation of Indian parliamentary democracy, a seven-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud overruled the apex court's five-judge bench's 1998 verdict in the JMM bribery case - involving five party leaders accepting bribes to vote against the no-confidence motion threatening the P V Narasimha Rao government in 1993. "Bribery is not protected by parliamentary privileges," the bench, also comprising Justices A



The seven-judge constitution bench headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud during pronouncement of verdict on bribes and corruption by legislators, Monday.

S Bopanna, M M Sundresh, P S Narasimha, J B Pardiwala, Sanjay Kumar and Manoj Misra, said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed the verdict in a post on X. "SWAGATAM! A great judgment by the Hon'ble Supreme Court which will ensure clean politics and deepen people's faith in the system," he said. Stating that "corruption and bribery by members of the legislatures erode probity in public life", the apex court held that a five-judge bench's interpretation in the 1998 verdict in

the JMM bribery case was contrary to Articles 105 and 194 of the Constitution.

Articles 105 and 194 deal with the powers and privileges of MPs and MLAs in the Parliament and the legislative assemblies.

"It (corruption and bribery) is destructive of the aspirations and deliberative ideals of the Constitution and creates a polity which deprives citizens of a responsible, responsive, and representative democracy," the CJI said while reading out the operative part of the verdict. Analysing the reason-

ing of the majority and minority in 1998 verdict in the P V Narasimha Rao versus CBI case, the court said it has independently adjudicated on all aspects of the controversy - essentially whether by virtue of Articles 105 and 194 of the Constitution, the MP or MLA can claim immunity from prosecution on a charge of bribery in a criminal court. The seven-judge bench was reconsidering the 1998 judgement.

"We disagree with and overrule the judgement of the majority on this aspect," the CJI said.

In 1998, the bench in its majority verdict granted immunity from prosecution to a member of parliament or legislature who has allegedly engaged in bribery for casting a vote or speaking in House under Articles 105(2) and 194(2).

The seven-judge bench today said the 1998 majority verdict has "wide ramifications on public interest, probity in public life and parliamentary democracy". "An individual member

of the legislature cannot assert a claim of privilege to seek immunity under Articles 105 and 194 from prosecution on a charge of bribery in connection with a vote or speech in the legislature," it said.

According to the court, Articles 105 and 194 of the Constitution seek to sustain an environment in which debate and deliberation can take place within the legislature.

"This purpose is destroyed when a member is induced to vote or speak in a certain manner because of an act of bribery," the apex court said.

"Bribery is not rendered immune under Article 105(2) and the corresponding provision of Article 194 because a member engaging in bribery commits a crime which is not essential to the casting of the vote or the ability to decide on how the vote should be cast. The same principle applies to bribery in connection with a speech in the House or a committee," it said.

BJP wins senior dy mayor, dy mayor posts

■ In Chandigarh Municipal Corporation

Chandigarh, Mar 04 (PTI):

The BJP on Monday won the reelection for the posts of senior deputy mayor and deputy mayor of the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation, defeating the Congress candidates who were backed by the AAP.

On February 20, the Supreme Court had declared Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) councillor Kuldeep Kumar as the new mayor of the corporation after it overturned the result of the January 30 mayoral poll in which BJP candidate Manoj Sonkar had emerged the winner.

Its judgment had come on allegations of tampering with ballots during the January mayoral polls.

As the mayor is the presiding officer for the elec-

tions to the posts of senior deputy mayor and deputy mayor, the polls were held again on Monday after the change in the mayoral post following the court's judgment.

For the post of senior deputy mayor, BJP's Kuljeet Sandhu defeated Congress' Gurpreet Gabi. While Sandhu polled 19 votes, Gabi got 16, and one vote was declared invalid.

Rajinder Sharma of the BJP defeated Congress' Nirmala Devi to win the deputy mayor's post. The winning candidate secured 19 votes of the total 36 polled.

The BJP had fielded the same set of candidates last time and they had won then too.

In the 35-member municipal House, the BJP has 17 councillors. The number of BJP's strength increased from 14 to 17 after three AAP councillors switched over to it on February 19.

ACID ATTACK Three female students suffer burn injuries

Mangaluru, Mar 04 (PTI):

Three female students suffered burn injuries after an acid attack by a youth at a government pre-university college in the taluka headquarters town of Kadaba in Dakshina Kannada district on Monday, police said.

The youth has been identified as Abin Shibi (23) hailing from Nilambur in Malappuram district of Kerala. He is pursuing an MBA course at his native town, a police official said, adding, he has been arrested.

The three students are in the 17-19 age-group, police said. The main victim, who was the actual target of the accused, also hailed from Kerala and had come to Mangaluru for her studies.

Karnataka Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao condemned the incident and also assured that stringent legal action would be taken against the perpetrator.

'Mera Bharat, mera parivaar'

Adilabad, Mar 04 (PTI):



PM Modi waves at the crowd during a public meeting, in Adilabad, Telangana, Monday.

In a major counter-offensive to the opposition's 'no family' jibe, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday asserted that 140 crore Indians are "my family" and attacked the "dynasty parties", saying that they may have different faces, but "jhoot and loot" was their common character.

Modi's comments came a day after RJD supremo Lalu Prasad at a rally of the grand alliance in Patna said, "what can we do if Narendra Modi does not have a family of his own? He keeps bragging about the Ram temple. He is not even a true Hindu. In Hindu tradition, a son must shave his head and beard upon the demise of his parents. Modi did not do so when his mother died".

Hitting back, Modi reiterated that his commitment was to the people of the country and that he had left home at a young age with the dream of serving the people. Addressing a well-

attended public rally in this district, the Prime Minister also said he had dedicated himself to public welfare as a "sevak". Countering the opposition's point that he had no family, the PM said "140 crore people of this country are my family. Mera Bharat, mera parivaar (my India is my family). My life is like an open book. People of the country know about it." "When I left home in my childhood, I left with a dream that I will live for the countrymen," he said. Following Modi's as-

Now, 21-yr-old stage performer from Chh'garh gang-raped

Medininagar, Mar 04 (PTI):

A 21-year-old stage performer from Chhattisgarh was allegedly gang-raped by her co-artistes in Jharkhand's Palamu district, police said on Monday.

The incident took place days after a foreign tourist was allegedly gang-raped in Dumka district.

In the fresh incident, the stage performer was allegedly raped by three co-artistes hailing from Palamu in a car after being given an intoxicating substance by them, a

police officer said. "Two accused have been arrested and the survivor has been admitted to a hospital in Palamu where her medical test will be conducted," Vishrampur Sub-divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Rakesh Singh told PTI.

The incident occurred on a road in Vishrampur police station area, around 200 km from state capital Ranchi, late on Saturday.

The accused fled the spot after leaving the woman there in an unconscious state, he said.

'You don't have family'

Modi's comments came a day after RJD supremo Lalu Prasad at a rally of the grand alliance in Patna said, "what can we do if Narendra Modi does not have a family of his own? He keeps bragging about the Ram temple. He is not even a true Hindu. In Hindu tradition, a son must shave his head and beard upon the demise of his parents. Modi did not do so when his mother died".



sertion at Adilabad rally, BJP president J P Nadda and senior party leaders, including ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, Nirmala Sitharaman and Anurag Thakur added 'Modi Ka Parivar' to their social media profiles.

At the Adilabad rally, Modi said, "leaders of opposition INDI alliance, who are neck-deep in corruption, parivaravad (dynasty) and appeasement are losing their mind."

"Now, they have come out with their real manifesto for the 2024 elections. When I questioned about their

parivarvad then they started saying Modi does not have any family," he said.

When he works late into the night and news goes out, 'lakhs' of countrymen write to him not to work so much but to take some rest, he said. The women, the poor, children and senior citizens and those who have no one, belong to Modi and he belongs to them, the PM said. That is why crores of people in the country consider him as their own and shower love like their family-member, he said.

"That's why I say 140 crore countrymen, they are my family," he said.

'Vacate party office by June 15'

New Delhi, Mar 04 (PTI):

Observing that the Aam Aadmi Party has no lawful right to continue on the land, the Supreme Court on Monday directed the party to vacate its offices at Rouse Avenue in the national capital by June 15, 2024, after noting that the plot was allotted to the Delhi High Court for expanding judicial infrastructure.

Taking note of the fact that Lok Sabha elections are around the corner, a bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra asked AAP to approach Land And Development Office under the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry for allotment of land for its of-



Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) office, in New Delhi.

fices. "In view of the impending general elections, we grant time until June 15, 2024, to vacate the premises so that land allotted to expand the district judiciary's footprint can be utilised on an expeditious basis.

"We would request the

L&DO to process the application and communicate its decision within a period of four weeks," the bench said.

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the city's ruling party, submitted that AAP is one of the six national

'Respects SC order; seeks alternative land in same location'

New Delhi, Mar 04 (PTI):

The AAP on Monday said it respects the Supreme Court's order asking it to vacate its offices in Delhi's Rouse Avenue by June 15 and expressed hope that it would be allotted a land in the same location soon. Priyanka Kakkar, the AAP's chief national spokesperson, said, "We respect the Supreme Court. The apex court has also directed that the Centre's L&DO (Land and Development Office) to allot an alternative land for the AAP's office as soon as possible."

parties in the country and it is entitled to land in New Delhi municipal area in accordance with its status.

'Farmers' issues serious, don't trivialise'

New Delhi, Mar 04 (PTI):

Issues related to farmers' protest are "serious", the Supreme Court said on Monday and asked a litigant to desist from filing petitions based only on newspaper reports for publicity.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and KV Viswanathan, allowed petitioner Agnostos Theos, the Managing Director of the Sikh Chamber of Commerce, to withdraw his plea that alleged violation of the rights of the "peacefully protesting" farmers by the Centre and some states.

A request for withdrawal of the plea was made at the very start of the hearing by a counsel for Theos who said he intended to amend the petition.

ED ALLEGATION

'DMF contractors in Chh'garh paid huge kickbacks'

■ To officials, political executives

New Delhi, Mar 04 (PTI):

The Enforcement Directorate on Monday alleged that mining contractors linked to the District Mineral Fund (DMF) in Chhattisgarh paid "huge amounts of illegal gratification" to state officials and political executives in exchange for getting official work tenders.

The federal agency said in a statement that it carried out searches in this case at 13 locations in the state on March 1 and seized about Rs 27 lakh cash apart from "incriminating" digital and paper

documents. The money laundering probe into the alleged DMF scam was initiated after studying three FIRs registered by Chhattisgarh Police. The FIRs booked the contractors and some other accused on charges of siphoning off government funds in collusion with state officials and political executives.

"This case is related to corruption in the use of funds from the DMF in Chhattisgarh. The DMF is a trust funded by miners that has been set up in all districts of the state with an aim to work for the benefit of those affected by mining-related projects and activities," the ED said.

Bhilai Mayor presents Rs 97 crore surplus budget

Sports facility to be constructed in Nehru Nagar in memory of Martyr Lt Col Kapil Dev Pandey

Bhilai, Mar 04:

On Monday, Bhilai mayor Neeraj Pal presented a surplus budget of Rs 97.90 crore for the fiscal 2024-25. Mayor announced development of a sports facility in Nehru Nagar in the memory of Martyr Lieutenant Colonel Kapil Dev Pandey. He also announced the construction of a memorial of Martyr Ram Ashish Yadav. The budget focussed on promoting start-ups, women empowerment, health services, development and beautification, education and improvement of basic civic services.

In his budget speech, Mayor presented a budget of Rs 620.51 crore for Bhilai Municipal Corporation. With Rs 132.93 crore in hand, he estimated an income of Rs 585.48 crore. Out of the total Rs 718.41 crore, he estimated an expenditure of Rs 620.51



having a 1000 seater central library as well as auditorium for dance, drama and music. He provisioned for establishment of a BPO in Vaishali Nagar. To promote start-ups and entrepreneurship, an Urban Industrial Park was proposed in the last budget. The land has been selected for this project and the same will be allotted to 10 young entrepreneurs / start up founders.

For women empowerment, the state's first Mothers Market was es-

tablished a few years ago in Khursipar. Now a garments factory is being constructed in Khursipar and 60% work has been completed. This factory will provide employment to about 1000 women. The budget also has provisions for construction and beautification of roads, Community Halls, Dome Sheds, Education and Sports facilities, tree plantation, conservation of ponds, city sanitation, etc.

Mayor also spoke about distribution of housing land lease, regularisation of illegal constructions, Mukhya Mantri Mitaan Yojna, Building Permission system, Pension Scheme, National Urban Livelihood Mission, PMAY, Smart Anganwadi, Smart Bus Stop, Bhilai City App, Science Centre construction, Municipal Bond, etc. Discussion on the budget will be held on March 07.

Employees of Power Zone felicitated with Shiromani Awards

Bhilai, Mar 04:

Employees of the Power Zone of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant were awarded the 'Pali Shiromani' and 'Karm Shiromani' Awards for their exemplary work performance, under the 'Shiromani Puraskar Yojana' by Bhilai Steel Plant. The Award Ceremony was organized on February 27, 2024. Rajiv Pandey, CGM (Power Facilities) was the Chief Guest on this occasion.

Mohan Lal Rai, Sr Mgr (P&BS), was awarded the 'Pali Shiromani Award' for his excellent performance during the quarter of July to September 2023, while Urvashi, Mgr (P&BS) was awarded 'Pali Shiromani' for the quarter of October to December 2023.

Om Prakash Sahu, Chageman cum Sr Opr (P&BS) was awarded the 'Karm Shiromani' Award for the month of July



2023, and Rameshwar Singh Tumreki, MOCT (PEM) was awarded for his commendable performance in the month of August 2023. Govind Kumar Singh, OCT (P&BS) was awarded Karm Shiromani for September 2023, while Anand Madhav, OCT (P&BS) and Virendra Kumar Deshmukh, OCT (P&BS) were awarded the 'Karm Shiromani' Award for the months of November and December 2023 respectively.

HoDs and Senior Officials of the Power zone including Sanjay Nikhar, GM (P&BS),

Abhay Kumar, GM (P&BS), PS Khobragade, GM (PEM), Sheikh Zakir, GM (P&BS), Rahul Nigam, GM (PEM), VS Dewangan, GM (P&BS), P Krishna Mohan, GM (P&BS), SNS Yadav, GM (P&BS), Ghanshyam Prasad Kurre, GM (P&BS), Sanjay Agrawal, GM (P&BS) and Pankaj, AGMs (P&BS).

Mementos and Certificates were presented to the awardees, along with a Letter of Appreciation to their respective Spouses. During

the programme, the awardees were appreciated for their achievements at the workplace.

Dameshwari Belsar, Section Officer (Personnel Office- P&E Zone) compered the programme and proposed the Vote of Thanks.

Those employees of Bhilai Steel Plant, who demonstrate innovation in their work to achieve the goals of the company by following all the safety standards with the resources available in their work area, are felicitated with Shiromani Awards by the Plant Management.

Free Health Camp organised at Village Borai



Bhilai, Mar 04: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, conducts several public welfare activities as part of its organizational social responsibility towards the community in and around its areas of operations. The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department of the Plant organized a one-day free Health Camp, at Village Borai.

A total of 51 villagers, from Borai, availed free health services at the day-long Health Camp. Free medicines were also distributed to villagers attending the camp at village Borai.

The Medical Team from CSR department, comprising, Dr Seema Verma, Medical Consultant, Firoza Joseph, Nurse, for Blood-Sugar and BP

examination, Khilawan Kumbhkar, Pharmacist, and Shambhu Dayal, for registration, volunteered their services for the Medical Camp at Village Borai. Sita Sinha from the CSR department was also present during the Health Camp.

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

CM gifts development works worth Rs 268 crore to Durg division

- Inaugurates CSVTU's new academic building - Aryabhata Bhawan
- Praises work of Technical University in the field of IT

Bhilai, Mar 04:

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai dedicated development works worth Rs 268 crore to Durg division on Monday. In a program organized at the Chhattisgarh Swami Vivekananda Technical University campus in Bhilai, he inaugurated and performed bhoomipujan of 26 development works worth Rs 268.56 crore in Durg Division. The Chief Minister also inaugurated the newly constructed academic building "Aryabhata Bhawan" in Chhattisgarh Swami Vivekananda Technical University. Rs 10.35 crore have been spent for construction of this building.

Deputy Chief Ministers Arun Sao and Vijay Sharma and MLAs Doman Lal Korsewada, Lalit Chandrakar, Gajendra Yadav, Rikesh Sen, Ishwar Sahu and MP Vijay Baghel



were specially present. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai honoured the labourers engaged in the construction work of Aryabhata Bhawan.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said that the people of Durg Division will be benefitted with the development works worth Rs 250 crores. He said that an American IT company is working in the newly constructed Aryabhata Bhawan in the CSVTU campus. This company is led by a native of Chhattisgarh, who is currently residing in America. His company will train hundreds of youth in IT and will also provide them opportuni-

ties to work abroad. The Chief Minister praised the initiatives of CSVTU.

Referring to the guarantees fulfilled by the government, Chief Minister said that 18 lakh houses have been sanctioned to the poor of the state under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. The paddy bonus amount of Rs 3716 crore for the years 2014-15 and 2015-16 has been transferred to the accounts of the farmers. Tendu leaves will be purchased from the forest dwellers at Rs 5,500 per standard bag. Sai said that as per the guarantee of Modi ji, the government is going to provide Rs 1000 per month to the eligible beneficiary women under Mahtari Vandan Yojana.

Under the scheme, 70.74 lakh applications have been received in the state. The government will benefit all eligible beneficiaries. This year, a record 147 lakh metric tonnes of paddy has been purchased from farmers in the state at the rate of Rs 3100 per quintal.

After payment on the support price of the farmers, the difference amount will be transferred to the accounts of the farmers soon. Chief Minister Sai, speaking about the government's guarantee to the participants of competitive examinations, said that the investigation of the irregularities that took place last year in the State Administrative Services



Examination has been handed over to the CBI. He called for cooperation from everyone in the development of the state.

Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao said that today the people of the division have got the gift of works worth Rs 250 crore. The process of decorating and beautifying Chhattisgarh has commenced. Minister in-charge of the district, Vijay Sharma, said that today's event is for the general public.

He outlined the works of the Technical University in detail and also highlighted the proposed action plan of the Center and the State. Addressing the function, MP Vijay Baghel said that this uni-

versity has its own identity in India. He expressed hope that this university will continue achieving new heights in future. Divisional Commissioner SN Rathore presented the administrative report of Durg division.

CSVTU Vice Chancellor Dr MK Verma threw light on the activities of the university. Former MLA Labhchand Bafna, Risali Mayor Shashi Sinha and other public representatives and Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary, Superintendent of Police Jitendra Shukla, district and police administration officials, distinguished citizens, university officials and students were present.

Nityanand Trayodashi Mahotsav organised at ISKCON Outreach Centre Durg

Bhilai, Mar 04: On the occasion of Nityanand Trayodashi, a religious event was organized at the ISKCON Outreach Center, Durg, under the leadership of President Anantshyam Das on March 03, 2024. The main attraction of this festival was the abhishek (ritual bathing) of Shri Shri Gaur Nitai Bhagwan.

During the event, Tamal Krishna Das, the director of Chhattisgarh ISKCON Youth Forum, was also present. Devotees chanted various Vaishnav bhajans during the occasion.

In this festival, the arrival of the deity of "Radha Mahasundar" Bhagwan from Raipur added more joy and enthusiasm to the holy event, making it even more delightful. As an example of devotion to the Lord, Tamal Krishna Das praised the glory of Gaur Nitai Bhagwan. He explained that the deities of Lord Krishna, who are installed both inside and outside the Outreach Center, manifest as Lord Shiva, the guardian deity. Furthermore, he explained to the devotees that by taking shelter of Lord Nityanand, they can overcome all sins and as-



sist in attaining the abode of Bhagwan.

In the kirtan melody, devotees danced, souls found their spiritual joy, voices resonated with enthusiasm in the heart, and songs praising the glory of the Lord resounded. Immersed in this joy, devotees expressed their unique devotion, filling the atmosphere with the light of faith.

The grand abhishek of Shri Shri Gaur Nitai Bhagwan began with an aarti ceremony, followed by the bathing of the deities with panchamrit (a mixture of milk, curd, ghee, honey, and sugar), various medicinal herbs, coconut water, and water from 108 pots. Brahmasamhita was recited during the abhishek, followed by an additional bathing of the deities with

10 kilograms of flowers.

After the abhishek, 108 offerings were made, including a variety of dishes. Devotees prepared a diverse range of dishes, including traditional Chhattisgarhi and Rajasthani delicacies, such as thetha, khurmi, besan laddu, gulab jamun, and ras malai. Rotis, pulao, and vegetables were also prepared with great devotion. Through this traditional offering, devotees demonstrated their devotion and service, experiencing joy and satisfaction.

During this celebration, the inauguration of the new ISKCON center located at Agrawal Dharmashala took place. The entire program was held at this building. Additionally, the occasion was celebrated as the ap-

pearance day of Bhakti Siddharta Saraswati Thakur. Religious and social devotees supported his unique teachings and pledged to promote his ideals. The inauguration of this new center will support religious and social activities and contribute to the spiritual development of individuals.

All devotees were served with Mahaprasad. During this religious festival, more than 500 devotees enjoyed the Mahaprasad of Shri Shri Jagannath Gaur Nitai. The divine offering brought smiles of joy and satisfaction to every devotee's face, providing them with a sense of peace and contentment.

As the main guests, Piyal Jain Mataji, Santosh Gupta, and Rahul Agrawal were welcomed with flower garlands and presented with Bhagavad Gita. The program concluded with the participation of devotees from Durg, Raipur, including Shankirtan Chaitanya, Bhaktavatsal Das, Kirti, Sateesh, Yash Prabhu, Lala, Mahendra, Pankaj, Tanuj, Abhishek Raghav, Puneet, Nehru, Radhe, Yogita, Krishna Radhika, Reshma, Pooja, Swaranjali Mataji, and other devotees.

Contract Labour dies in suspicious condition

Bhilai, Mar 04: A contract labourer of Bhilai Steel Plant died in suspicious condition on Monday. The deceased was Sitaram, a contract labourer who worked under Bhilai Carry Company. He was involved in unloading Petro Coke from a truck in SMS 3. Sitaram was handing over the sacks from the top of the truck to other labourers standing on the ground. Suddenly, he fell on the truck. Other labourers rushed him to the Main Medical Post. After examination, the doctors declared him dead. Cause of death was unknown. 48-year-old Sitaram was a resident of Kursipar. The incident happened around 4:00 pm in SMS 3. On receiving information about the incident, INTUC General Secretary Vansh Bahadur Singh, Rajkumar, Tamradhwaj Singha, Rakesh Tiwari, Sanjay Sahu, IP Mishra, Vashishtha Verma, Harishankar Chaturvedi, SP Dey, Pradeep Kalmegh and other labour leaders reached Main Medical Post. Later, the body was sent to the mortuary of JLN Hospital, Sector 9.

People demand action against encroachment in Borsi

128 applications received in Jandarshan

Bhilai, Mar 04:

Additional Collector Yogita Dewangan conducted the Collector Jandarshan on Monday. She listened to the problems of the people who reached the Jandarshan and asked the concerned departments to take immediate action and take necessary initiatives for proper resolution. On Monday, 128 applications were received in Jandarshan. A resident of Gajanan Nagar applied to get the caste certificate of his son. He said that the application was submitted to the Tehsil office with all the documents, but the application was rejected by the office. In absence of a caste certificate, they are facing problems. Additional Collector asked SDO Durg to take necessary action.

The villagers of Borsi Bhatha ward number 50 applied for removal of illegal encroachment. The villagers said that the land proposed for the Anganwadi center has been illegally occupied by some people. The Corporator was also informed in this regard.



They demanded removal of illegal encroachment and construction of Anganwadi center so that children can get the benefits of Anganwadi. Additional Collector instructed the concerned officer to inspect the spot and ensure that necessary action is taken.

The Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Kherdha applied for MGNREGA approval for the construction of the toilet. He said that due to the lack of a girls' toilet in government primary secondary school, girl students have to face problems. With the construction of toilets, girls

will get a lot of facilities. On this, the District Education Officer was asked to take necessary action. Apart from this, he also applied to get the cleaning of Kherdha canal approved under MGNREGA.

Operator of Aastha Old Age Home applied to provide facilities to the elderly to vote in the old age home. He said that the old people are living in this home and many of them are unable to walk or are suffering from various ailments. The Additional Collector instructed the Election Officer to take necessary action.

CM Sai performs 'Maha-Aarti' on the banks of Mahanadi



● Performs all rituals, seeks blessings

Rajim, Mar 04: CM Vishnu Deo Sai took part in the Mahanadi Aarti on the banks of Mahanadi at Rajim Kumbh here on Monday along with international 'Kathavachak'

(religious preacher and story teller) Pt. Pradeep Mishra and other guests. In this Rajim Kumbh Kalp, Sadhavi Pragya from Jabalpur along with 11 'Pandits' recited 'mantras' and performed 'Maha-Aarti' of Mahanadi. CM Sai also performed prayers as per rituals

along with Sadhus and Sants.

On this occasion the entire atmosphere has become religious at the confluence of three rivers. Along with 'Maha-arti', the blowing of cunch, burning of 'kapoor', 'chawar', 'aachman', left the entire 'Mela Premises'

religious. In the 'Maha-arti', after 'Shiv Stotra', the combined 'Maha-arti' was done by all the officers and employees and devotees chanting Jai-Jai Shri Ram slogans.

It is notable that the objective of performing prayers to Mahanadi is not just limited to 'Puja-Path', but an effort to conserve the state's lifeline i.e. Mahanadi.

It is with this effort that massive prayers (Arti) is performed daily in the presence of Sadhavi Pragya Bharti on the banks of Mahanadi. The conservation of pure water from the nature earth and other rivers and water bodies are also centre of 'Sanatan Dharm'. It is expressing gratitude towards the rivers and the feeling of faith and commitment to keep it neat & clear and to create such an awareness among general public that such rituals are performed.

PROMOTION OF ART & CULTURE



Art & Culture department is constructing an outlet for music and instrument lovers behind Int'l Swimming pool to promote art & culture of state. (inset) - Many musical instruments have been dumped here for music lovers.

ED actions intended to tarnish Cong image: PCC



Raipur, Mar 04: Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) Communication head Sushil Anand Shukla today charged the Enforcement Directorate (ED) with taking actions against Congress leaders mainly to defame the previous Congress government. ED investigated the so-called coal scam for three years and when it could not achieve anything, it wrote a letter to the State Anti Corruption Bureau on January 11, 2024 asking it to register an FIR in this matter, Shukla said.

He said that ED also gave detailed information about this so-called coal scam in this letter, and also submitted the names of some people against whom FIR was asked to be registered. ED has also mentioned the amount of money allegedly received by the people whose names have been submitted, he said. Mentioning the name of the then Congress MLA from Samari Chintamani Maharaj at 10th place, ED claimed that he had accepted Rs 5 lakh, he said, adding that ED also wrote to register a case against him.

Chintamani Maharaj's name is not there in the FIR lodged by ACB on January 17, 2024 on the basis of this letter from ED, he said. Chintamani Maharaj, who was a Congress MLA, has now joined BJP and is the BJP candidate from Surguja Lok Sabha constituency, said Shukla, adding that all his sins were washed away as soon as he was put in Modi's 'washing machine'.

When a case is registered against 35 people on the basis of a letter, then why was Chintamani Maharaj's name left out of the FIR? Shukla asked.

Voter awareness prog will be held at state level: Kangale

● To reach out to every voter for Lok Sabha Elections-2024

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 04: Chief Electoral Officer Mrs. Reena Baba Saheb Kangale has said that the role of voters is important in the grand festival of Lok Sabha general elections. In the election festival, every voter's vote has an important role in shaping the future of his region and the country. The aim of the Election Commission is that every voter should reach the polling station to exercise his franchise. Voter awareness programs are a very important medium to motivate voters to vote. Mrs. Kangale was addressing the meeting of the state level sweep core committee held at the office of the Chief Electoral Officer on Monday.

Chief Electoral Officer



Mrs. Kangale said that various voter awareness programs will be organized at the state level in the next one month. She said that under the SVEEP (Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation) program, a state level ceremony of newlywed felicitation will be organized on March 17. Newly married brides will be felicitated in this.

The Chief Electoral Officer said that voter awareness programs should be organized especially in areas with low voting percentage. For

this, she directed to organize programs to motivate young voters through Anganwadi workers, college students and youth of NSS, NCC and Scout Guides.

She said that youth will play a big role in ensuring 100 percent voting. Young voters should not only come forward to vote themselves but should also inspire other voters to come to the polling booth and exercise their franchise. Mrs. Kangale also praised the role of National Service Scheme (NSS), National Cadet Corps (NCC) and Scout

Guides in the voter awareness program in the last Assembly Elections-2023 and in the polling stations on the voting day. Apart from this, she described the role of Anganwadi workers as important in the entire election process and appreciated their work during the last elections.

During the meeting, she made it clear that children below 14 years of age should not be included in any voter awareness program.

Mrs. Kangale described the programs being organized at the district level as important for voter awareness. During the meeting she discussed important suggestions received from various departments. She stressed on running voter awareness programs in the entire state in coordination with Women and Child Development Department, Higher Education, School Education, Nehru Yuva

Kendra, Doordarshan, All India Radio, Public Relations Department and other departments and institutions.

In the meeting, Additional Chief Electoral Officer Mr. Nilesh Kumar Mahadev Kshirsagar, Joint Chief Electoral Officer Mr. P.S. Dhruv and Dr. K.R. Singh, Assistant Chief Electoral Officer Mrs. Sharda Agarwal, State Officer of National Service Scheme Dr. Neeta Vajpayee, Women and Child Development Department. Joint Director, Mr. Nandlal Chaudhary, State Coordinator of Bharat Scout Guide, Mrs. Sarita Pandey, Registrar of Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Dr. Shailendra Kumar Patel, Director of Piyali Foundation Dr. Meeta Mukherjee and officials of Nehru Yuva Kendra, Doordarshan, All India Radio and Public Relations Department were present.

Youths should take inspiration from Milind Khankhoje: Srinivas



Raipur/Bilaspur, Mar 04: Milind Khankhoje, Head of Punjab National Bank Bilaspur Division, retired from the Bank after 38 years of long service. A farewell ceremony was organized in his honor by the divisional office. Chief guest, Chhattisgarh-Jharkhand, zonal chief, V Srinivas, special guest Raipur divisional chief, Manoj Kumar Ray, sub-divisional chief, Shyamprakash Verma, PLP chief, Saubhagya Barik, Shailendra Treasurer, PK Das, SN Chavda, Chief Manager Rajesh Kumar, Kamal Kishore, Vivek Sharma, Deepraj, Ashok Malhotra, Siddharth Das, Ashish Singha, Shivoham Sharma, Abhishek Tiwari, Sanjay Singha, Pritam Singh Saluja and Senior Manager of Customer Acquisition Center Lalit Agarwal, Gajanan Rathore, Meluram Karmaveer,

presence of his parents and family in the same city. On this occasion, former National President of AIPNBOA, Shailendra Khajanchi was also felicitated. All the staff members under the leadership of Mr. Shyamprakash Verma, Rajesh Kumar, Vivek Sharma, Lalit Agarwal made their contributions in making the event successful. The program was concluded with the national anthem.

Bike lifter arrested

Raipur, Mar 04: Police have arrested one Shankar Shetty (19), son of Nagappa Shetty, resident of Kundrapara Gudiyari Raipur for allegedly stealing a bike from Kabir Nagar. According to information available complainant had parked his Honda Shine motorcycle CG-04 KT 2281 near Parvash Gas Agency at around 2 pm. Meanwhile an unidentified thief lifted the bike. On the report of the complainant police registered offence 6

63/ 2024 Section 379 IPC. Taking the matter seriously, senior officers had directed the station in-charge Kabir Nagar to search for the address of the stolen vehicle and the unidentified thief.

CM performs prayers to Lord Shri Rajiv Lochan



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 04: CM Vishnu Deo Sai took part in the Rajim Kumbh Kalp Mela on Monday and offered prayers to Lord Shri Rajiv Lochan temple and sought blessings for peace and prosperity of all. On this occasion, religious preacher and Shiv Mahapuran story teller Pt. Pradeep Mishra, MP Chunnilal Sahu, MLA Rajim Rohit Vyas, and other local representatives were present.

BJP worker shot at by AAP leader over land dispute

Raigarh, Mar 04: A BJP worker was shot at and injured on Monday allegedly by an Aam Aadmi Party leader using an airgun over a land dispute in Raigarh, a police official said.

The incident took place at 12:30 pm when demarcation of land belonging to victim Gopal Giri was underway in the presence of revenue officials, said Kharsia Sub Divisional Officer of Police (SDOP) Prabhat Patel. "Accused Amar Agrawal fired three rounds at Giri from an

airgun resulting in head injuries. Agrawal escaped from the spot. Giri was admitted in a hospital in Kharsia from where he was referred to Raigarh city for better treatment," the SDOP said. Agrawal was booked under sections 307 (attempt to murder), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 294 (obscene acts) of the IPC and provision of Arms Act, Patel said. Agrawal unsuccessfully contested the 2018 Assembly elections on an AAP ticket from Kharsia.

Aortic arch debranching surgery successfully performed in Ambedkar Hospital

● Life of 52-year-old patient suffering from aneurysmal aortic dissection saved with complex surgery

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 04: Doctors in the Heart, Chest and Vascular Surgery Department of Advanced Cardiac Institute (ACI) at Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital, affiliated to Pt Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College Raipur saved life of a 52-year-old patient suffering from aneurysmal aortic dissection by performing a complex surgery called aortic arch de-

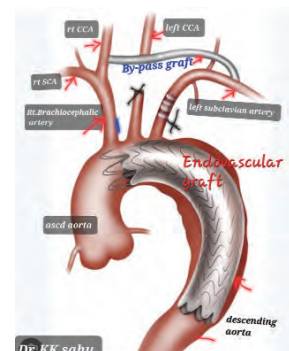


branching. Aortic Arch Debranching Surgery was performed for the first time in this institute as well as in Chhattisgarh by

the team of doctors led by Dr Krishnakant Sahu, Head of the Department of Heart, Chest and Vascular Surgery and Cardiac Anesthetist Dr Tanya Choda and their hard-working team.

The 52-year-old patient came to Dr Ambedkar Memorial Hospital with complaints of severe chest and back pain for two months.

According to Dr Krishnakant Sahu high blood pressure caused rupture in aorta of the patient which resulted in condition called aneurysmal aortic dissection. Medical College Dean Dr. Trupti Nagaria and Medical Superintendent of Ambedkar Hospital, Dr SBS Netam congratulated the doctors for successful



surgery. According to them such complex operations not only save the lives of the patients but also continuously increase the trust of the people towards the government institutions. With the success of such operations the institute makes its presence felt at the national level also.

CM Sai seeks blessings at Shankaracharya Ashram

● **Shri Shankaracharya Ji commended the Govt's efforts in enhancing the grandeur of Rajim Kumbh Kalp**

Raipur, Mar 04: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai visited the Shankaracharya Ashram at Boriyakala in Raipur this morning, seeking the blessings of Shankaracharya Jagadguru Swami Shri Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati Ji of Jyotish Peeth and Shankaracharya Jagadguru Swami Sadanand Saraswati Ji of Sharda Peeth. Swami Ji's arrival in Chhattisgarh coincides with his participation in the Sant



Samagam of Rajim Kumbh, alongside various other religious programmes across the state. In his interaction with Swami Ji, Chief Minister Sai expressed his delight at the grand organization of the Rajim Kumbh Kalp this year, with saints coming from all corners of the country. He highlighted the significance of

Swami Ji's presence, stating that the people of Chhattisgarh are fortunate to receive his blessings. Sai elaborated on the objective of the Sant Samagam, stressing its role in raising awareness of the Sanatan tradition among the people.

Granting his blessing to the Chief Minister, Shankaracharya Ji stated

that the preparations made for Rajim Kumbh to uphold the Sanatan tradition and the Sant Samagam will undoubtedly enhance the spiritual environment in Chhattisgarh. This splendid event is organized in the religious city of Rajim, the sacred abode of Lord Rajiv Lochan Ji and Kuleshwar Mahadev Ji, thereby creating an enthusiastic atmosphere for the devotees.

Shankaracharya Ji praised the devotion and enthusiasm surrounding the event, which is hosted in the revered city of Rajim, the land of Lord Shri Rajeev Lochan Ji and Kuleshwar Mahadev Ji.

Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Tank Ram Verma was also present on the occasion.

CM Sai, Pt. Mishra accorded warm welcome



● **On reaching Rajim Helipad**

Rajim, Mar 04: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai reached Rajim helipad for the programme of Sant-

Samagam to be held in Rajim Kumbh Kalp here on Monday. He was accorded warm welcome by the public representatives and citizens there. On this occasion he was accompanied with international-

level 'Katavachak' (religious preacher) Pt. Pradeep Mishra. At the helipad in Rajim, CM and Pt. Mishra were welcomed by LS MP Chunnilal Sahu, MLA Rajim Rohit Sahu,

Commissioner Sanjay Alang, Collector Deepak Agrawal, senior SP Amit Tukaram Kamble and noted citizens and public representatives by presenting him with a flower bouquet.

Provision of LHB coaches in Shivnath Exp and Intercity Exp

● **Railway passengers to get better comfortable and safe travel facilities**

Central Chronicle News

Raipur/Bilaspur, Mar 04: Railway administration is making better efforts towards providing comfortable and safe travel facilities to the passengers. In this sequence, all the trains running through South East Central Railway are being provided the facility of convenient, comfortable and safer new technology LHB coaches in place of the old conventional coaches in a planned manner.

LHB coach is very comfortable and convenient for the passengers. LHB coach is also very safe

from railway operation point of view. If one talk about speed as present demand, then the maximum speed of these coaches is 110-130 kmph of normal coaches. It is designed for a speed of more than 160 km/hr. These coaches have more space than normal coaches. The number of berths in LHB coach is also more as compared to ICF coach.

This is also helping in providing maximum berth facilities to the railway passengers. Hydraulic suspension is used in LHB coaches. Suspension has also been used for right-left movement, which makes the journey comfortable.

Keeping in mind all the appropriate facilities, LHB coach facility is available in place of conventional coaches in train number 18239/18240

Korba-Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Itwari-Korba Shivnath Express and train number 12855/12856 Bilaspur-Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Itwari-Bilaspur Intercity Express. It is being done.

This facility will be available in 18240 Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Itwari-Korba Express from 12 March 2024 and in 18239 Korba-Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Itwari Express from 13 March 2024.

Similarly, 12855 Bilaspur-Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Itwari Express will be available from 12 March 2024 and 12856 Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Itwari-Bilaspur Express from 14 March 2024.

This will provide better comfortable and safe travel facilities to the passengers.

CM flags off 'Noni Raksha Rath' for women's safety



In Jashpur district Aims to establish safe zones, reduce crimes against women

Jashpur, Mar 04: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai flagged off the 'Noni Raksha Rath' from his home village, Bagiya, on Sunday. Led by the Jashpur Police Administration, this ini-

tiative aims to create a safe environment for women and curb crimes targeting women and girls within the district. In addition, authorities have been directed to take swift action in response to such offences.

A helpline number, +91-9479128400, is designated for the Noni Raksha Rath, where female police officers and staff will be available round the clock to provide assistance.

Collector chairs District Level Steering & Monitoring Committee meeting



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 04: Collector Dr Gaurav Singh today chaired a meeting of the District Level Steering and Monitoring Committee held under the Prime Minister Poshan Shakti Nirman Yojana in the Red Cross meeting room in the Collectorate premises.

The Collector asked the officers and their families to host 'Nyota Bhojan' (meal programme) in schools on special occasions. Many

important points that were discussed in the meeting included timely payment of honorarium and material cost and cooking cost of the kitchens working under mid-day meal, handing over the operations to local women self-help groups in rural areas, increasing the availability of Poshan Vatika kitchen garden in schools. A discussion was held about increasing the number of students benefited from the mobile number app in schools to 100 percent and 'Nyota Bhojan'.

'Nyota Bhojan' organized in 165 schools so far

District Education Officer Himanshu Bharatiya said that 'Nyota Bhojan' programmes were in 165 schools of the district so far. Most of 'Nyota Bhojan' programmes have been organized in 85 schools of Tilda development block. The Collector also instructed all the block education officers to complete the work within the time limit.

Collector hears public grievances at Jan Chaupal

Total 108 applications received Instructions given to officials to resolve citizens' problems

Raipur, Mar 04: Collector Dr Gaurav Singh today listened to the problems of common citizens through 'Jan Chaupal' at the Red Cross meeting room in the Collectorate premises. As many as 108 applications related to the demands and problems of citizens were received in 'Jan Chaupal'. Officers of various departments were present on this occasion.

Siyaram Sahu, resident



of village Kapsada of Raipur district, submitted an application for correction of name in his 'Rin Pustika'. Sahu's name is recorded in 'Rin Pustika' (loan book) as Shivkumar Sahu, while Siyaram Sahu is mentioned in his Aadhaar card. In such a

situation he is facing problems.

The Collector directed the officials of the concerned department to resolve his problem.

Laldas Ganveer, resident of Ram Nagar, applied for grant-in-aid, Abdul Karim, resident of

Boriyakhurd, applied for allotment of Gumti (shop cartel), Lakshminarayan Sahu, resident of village Nara, applied for resuming job card and Mamlesh Barle, resident of village Dhansuli, applied for action against illegal mining.

The Mitansins of Rajatalab demanded to allot the vacant Municipal Corporation land to the Health Department and to provide 102 and 108 ambulance facilities for Hamar Hospital and Urban Primary Health Center Rajatalab. Nanhnen Bai Jangde, resident of Tamasivani complained of non-receipt of bonus amount for 2014-15 and 2015-16.

Mass marriage is effective in reducing marital expenses: Rajwade

● **Chief Minister Kanya Vivah Yojana: 290 couples ties nuptial knot as per social customs**

Raipur, Mar 04: Under the Chief Minister Kanya Vivah Yojana, marriages of 290 couples took place with social customs at Sardar Patel Maidan in Kawardha on Sunday. On this occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma and Women and Child Development Minister Lakshmi Rajwade participated in the marriage program and blessed the bride and groom who were going to enter new marital



life. On this occasion, they also presented a cheque of Rs 21,000 each to the married couples.

In the program, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma said that the Chief Minister Kanya Vivah Yojana is alleviating the worries of parents of economically weaker families and fathers of daughters. In the coming years, mass marriages will be taken

forward so that more and more daughters can get married. Congratulating the newly married couples, Minister Lakshmi Rajwade said that the Chief Minister Kanya Vivah Yojana is very effective in reducing the marital expenses in the society. All the economically weaker families of the society should take advantage of this scheme. Many

societies of the state are now encouraging mass marriages. This reduces unnecessary expenses and does not put additional burden on the parents. Due to this, Chief Minister Kanya Vivah Yojana is also getting encouragement. Emphasizing on the education of daughters, she said that daughters should not be deprived of education. If daughters are educated, they educate two families after marriage. On this occasion, District Panchayat President Mrs. Sushila Ramkumar Bhatt along with many public representatives, senior administrative officers and distinguished citizens were present.

Budding chefs display their talent under Culinary Battle 2024



Raipur, Mar 04: Master Chef exams of students held on Mar 02. Different themes were given to students. They performed on the theme along with food and its presentation. All the students performed very well with professional food and presentations. Every stall was decorated with theme along with 35 items of food display. Director Prasanna Rai along with Academic Director Chef Akanksha Rai were pres-

ent along with the judges of Sayaji Hotel Anesh Joseph Executive Chef and Chef Shohaib.

Aroma along with exotic mouth watering flavor won the heart of judges. In this the first position was secured by Neha Jain for Chef Signature counter as Chef Artist and creation 30 items was prepared display with her creation. The 2nd position was grabbed by Rinki Balani for her wedding theme counter and

new fusion of 20 dishes with presentation on display at her counter. The 3rd position was won by twins brothers Mansimar Kohli for Shaan-e-Punjab all traditional food 35 items with Punjabi theme and colorful presentation along with twin brother Manpreet Kohli for bake station 40 items of baked desserts on display with presentation. The judgment was delivered by Executive Chef Anesh Joseph and Chef Shoaib, Directors of Academy Prasanna Rai and Akanksha Rai. Students have been selected for industrial job training for the star hotels for their outstanding performance.

'Rambhakt's' to be taken for 'darshan' of Ramlalla to Ayodhya: Sai

● **Attends start of 108 'Mahakundiya Yagna' and Shiv Mahapuran by Pt. Mishra at Gram Chalan**

Mungeli, Mar 04: The Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai attended the 108 'Mahakundiya Yagna', organised at Gram Chalan (Chatarkhar) of Mungeli and 'Shri Shiv Mahapuran and Virat Sant Sammelan'. On this occasion he honoured the famous Shiv Mahapuran story teller and religious preacher Pt. Pradeep Mishra seated on the 'Vyaspeeth' and took his blessings. Taking part in the Shiv Mahapuran 'Arti', he sought blessings for peace & prosperity of all in the state. CM Sai on this occasion made a dec-



laration to award status of state guest to Pt. Pradeep Mishra.

CM Sai addressing the gathering of devotees said that it is an honour for the state that the 108 Mahakundiya Yagna Shri Shiv Mahapuran and Virat Sant Sammelan is being organised in the state and in this devotees in large number have ar-

the Shri Ramlalla Darshan Yojana (SRDY), it is through government's expenditure that the devotees would be taken for 'darshan' of Lord Shri Ramlalla at Ayodhya. On March 5, a train of devotees would be leaving for Ayodhya. CM Sai said that it is having full faith and confidence on PM Narendra Modi-ki Guarantee that the people of Chhattisgarh have formed BJP's government in the state and all efforts are being made to meet up to their expectations.

Dy CM Arun Sao said that it is honour for all that such a big religious programme of recital of Shiv Mahapuran is being organised in the land of Mungeli. It is due to blessings and faith of thousand on Bhole Baba, that people

in large number have gathered here and this appears as if 'Mahashivratri' has already started.

Local MLA Punnul Mohile said that it is through such religious discourses that one attains peace and harmony in life. In this Sant Samagam, Sadhavi Ritambara, Rajiv Lochan Dasji Maharaj, Sadhavi Pushpanjali, Shaileshnand Maharaj, and other well-known saints of the country were present. On this occasion Minister for Sports & Youth Welfare and Revenue and Disaster Management Tankram Verma, Divisional Commissioner Shikha Rajput Tiwari, Collector Rahul Dev, SP Girija Shankar Jaiswal and devotees in large number were present.

ROUTE MARCH



Security personnel conduct a route march, at Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas, Monday.

PM to visit Odisha today

Bhubaneswar, Mar 04:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Odisha on 5th March 2024. At around 3:30 PM, Prime Minister will inaugurate, dedicate and lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over Rs. 19,600 crores at Chandikhole, Jajpur in Odisha. The projects relate to sectors including Oil & Gas, Railways, Road, Transport & Highways and Atomic Energy.

Odisha to Haldia in West Bengal. In order to augment the import infrastructure on the Eastern Coast of India, Prime Minister will also inaugurate 0.6 MMTPA LPG Import facility at Paradip. In order to boost road infrastructure in the region, Prime Minister will dedicate to the nation four laning of Singhara to Binjabahal Section of NH-49; four laning of Binjabahal to Tileibani Section of NH-49; four laning of Balasore-Jharpokharia Section of NH-18 and four laning of Tangi-Bhubaneswar Section of NH-16. He will also lay the foundation stone for eight laning of Chandikhole - Paradip Section at Chandikhole. Prime Minister will also inaugurate 5 MLD capacity seawater desalination

plant at Odisha Sands Complex of IREL(I) Ltd. This project has been built as a part of field applications of indigenous desalination technologies developed by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. Rail Infra: Expansion of the railway network will also take place with focus on modernising and extending rail connectivity. Prime Minister will dedicate to nation, 162 Km Bansapani - Daitari - Tomka - Jakhapura Rail Line. It will not only enhance the existing traffic facility's capacity but also facilitates efficient transportation of Iron and Manganese ore from Keonjhar District to the nearest ports and steel plants, significantly contributing to regional economic growth.

Inauguration of CONCOR Container Depot in Kalinga Nagar will be done with an aim to boost domestic and international trade. Foundation stone will be laid for the Electric Loco Periodical Overhauling Workshop at Narla, the Wagon Periodical Overhauling Workshop at Kantabanji and upgradation and augmentation of maintenance facilities at Baghuapal. Other railway projects including Doubling of Bansapani-Daitari-Tomka-Jakhapura Railway Section and 3rd line of Khurda Road-Barang Section will also be dedicated to the Nation by Hon'ble Prime Minister. New Train between Puri and Anand Vihar (New Delhi) will be flagged off from Kendujhargarh Railway Station.

Wild Tusker on rampage in Tripura's Khowai district, attacks village

Agartala, Mar 04 (PTI): A wild elephant went on a rampage in Tripura's Khowai district on Monday, vandalising a house where a wedding was underway and killing a pregnant cow, officials said. The incident happened in Madhya Krishnapur area in the early hours, they said.

The wild elephant vandalised the wedding decorations put up outside the house, and damaged a tractor parked nearby. It then attacked the cowshed at the house, following which it collapsed, they added.

"It also attacked two cows. One of the cows was pregnant and it died at the spot, while the other suffered multiple injuries," said Santosh Bhawmik, the owner of the house.

"Today is my daughter's wedding and guests have already arrived. The jumbo vandalised the decoration and destroyed the paddy stored in drums. We had to run for our lives," he said. Angry villagers blockaded the Teliamura-Krishnapur Road to protest against the incident.

Following the protest, a Forest Department team went to the village and met the people. "We will decorate the victim's house before the wedding begins. The Forest Department will also provide compensation in a week," said Sub-Divisional Forest Officer (SDFO) of Teliamura Gaurav R Wagh. He said the Forest Department would also expedite the process to radio collar all the wild elephants of the Mungiakmai range, and target to achieve it in two months to avoid such incidents.

PM launches Rs 56,000 cr devt projects in T'gana

Cong CM Reddy shares dais with him



PM Modi being presented a memento during a public meeting, in Adilabad, Telangana, Monday.

Adilabad (Telangana), Mar 04 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday inaugurated multiple power, rail and road projects and laid the foundation stone for others, totalling more than Rs 56,000 crore, in Telangana, where Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu of Congress received him and shared the dais with him. In his brief address, the prime minister highlighted India's economic growth. He said that more than 25 crore people have risen out of poverty, and attributed it to his govern-

ment's welfare schemes. He stressed that such campaigns will be further amplified in the next five years. Modi said the projects worth Rs 56,000 crore will write a new chapter of development in several states. Today, India is the "only country" in the world that has emerged as a large economy by clocking 8.4 per cent growth in the previous quarter, he said, adding that India's growth rate has been a point of discussion across the world for the past 3-4 days. "With this pace, India will become the

third largest economy in the world." State Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy took part in the PM's official function here. Union Minister and BJP state president G Kishan Reddy was also present. It's after a long while that a CM of Telangana has received PM Modi and shared the dais with him at an official event. When BRS supremo K Chandrasekhar Rao was chief minister, he had skipped the PM's official visits to the state on several occasions. Addressing the gathering, PM Modi said the land of Adilabad is witnessing development projects related not only to Telangana but the entire country, as more than 30 such projects worth more than Rs 56,000 crore are either being inaugurated or their foundation stone being laid today. The PM noted that the central government and Telangana state have both completed 10 years and said the government has been providing all possible assistance to the state to fulfil the dreams of its people.

Celebrate the Essence of Womanhood...



and a purpose for her life and that she is treasured, valued, honoured and loved! The quote of Michelle Obama, "There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish," is very true as we see women today in the highest positions in every field making noteworthy contributions with their sheer dedication, resilience and commitment. Education has opened up several avenues for women and with education as a tool in hand women can transform the society and generations to come. Education has the power to empower and make women aware of their rights, dignity and capabilities.

I urge everyone to celebrate the very essence of womanhood today: Let's Celebrate her Achievements, Celebrate her Dreams and Aspirations! Let us connect with our fellow women and cheer them to dream big and follow their passion in life.

Wish you all a very Happy Women's Day! "Forward ever, backward never..."

Dr Grace Pinto Managing Director Ryan Group of Institutions

International Women's Day 2024 will focus on the theme, "Invest in women: Accelerate progress". Investing in women in all aspects, especially in the education of girls is imperative for a prosperous future and to develop inclusive future societies. Over the last several decades, we have witnessed women coming to the fore making noteworthy contributions to social, economic and cultural spheres. Women have fought with all odds to emerge as winners.

International Women's day is a wonderful occasion to celebrate the inspiring works done by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role to bring about transformation. The contribution of women has been colossal.

This day is not only to salute these women achievers but also to celebrate every woman for her efforts to transform lives as a mother, wife, daughter and sister. While there is progress and changes taking place in society for the welfare of women, a lot remains to be done for them in different parts of our country and across the globe. Therefore, it is high time to invest in women so that they are provided with multiple opportunities to realize their potential and get an assurance that the future is promising, equal and bright.

Proverbs says: "Woman is clothed with strength and dignity and her value exceeds pearls." Every woman needs to realize that God has created her wonderfully with a plan

TRAIN FIRING CASE Dismissed RPF man seeks transfer to Mumbai jail

Mumbai, Mar 05 (PTI):

Dismissed RPF constable Chetansinh Chaudhary, accused of killing four persons inside a train in July last year, on Monday sought transfer from the prison in Akola where he is lodged to a facility closer to the Dindoshi court in the north-west part of Mumbai for the sake of "fair trial and justice".

Akola, in the state's Vidarbha region, is more than 550 kilometres from the metropolis.

Additional Sessions Judge A A Ayachit sought a report from the authorities of Arthur Road (in Mumbai) and Talaja jails (in Navi Mumbai) on whether he can be lodged at these facilities.

The judge also directed Akola jail authorities to produce Chaudhary before court during the next hearing on March 30.

In his plea moved through advocate Jayant Patil, the accused said he was shifted to the "remote and unsafe" prison without taking any opinion or

order from the magistrate court, which had heard the case during the remand stage.

In the plea, Chaudhary claimed he was transferred to Akola Central Jail on safety grounds and that he had not been produced before the court for a long time.

The Arthur Road and Talaja prisons are safer and convenient as they are just 25 kilometres and 49 kilometres, respectively, from Dindoshi sessions court, the plea contended.

The application said the accused was facing serious charges, and hence, his presence in the courtroom was necessary for fair trial and natural justice.

It is the duty of every jailor to keep an inmate safe and, hence, shifting Chaudhary to a "remote jail for safe custody is not a valid reason", the plea filed by Patil claimed.

Furthermore, Patil orally submitted before court that he wants to move discharge application and requires instructions from the accused.

न्यायालय अनुविभागीय अधिकारी (रा.)

मैनपुर जिला गरियाबंद (छ.ग.)

// ईश्वरहार //

रा.प्र.क्र. 20240221800089 अ/2 वर्ष 2023-24

एतद द्वारा सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि आवेदक वकार मेनर पिता युजुय मेनर, जाति मुसलमान, निवासी मेनपुरकला, प.ह. नं. 04, रा. नि.मं. व तहसील मेनपुर, जिला गरियाबंद (छ.ग.) द्वारा ग्राम मेनपुरकला, प.ह.नं. 04 रा.नि.मं. व तहसील मेनपुर, जिला गरियाबंद (छ.ग.) में स्थित स्वयं की कृषि भूमि ख.नं. 27/10 रकबा 0.03 हे. नुमि को व्यवसायिक प्रयोजन में व्यापक कराने हेतु छ.ग. भू-राजस्व संहिता की धारा 146(9) की धारा 50 (2) के तहत व्यवसायिक प्रयोजन में पुनर्विभागीय बाबत आवेदन पत्र प्रस्तुत किया गया है।

इस संबंध में जिस किसी भी व्यक्ति/संस्था को कोई दावा आमतौर हो तो वे स्वयं या विधिक अधिकारिता रखने वाले अपने अधिभागीक के माध्यम से ईश्वरहार प्रकरण की 15 दिवस के भीतर दावा/आपत्ति प्रस्तुत कर सकना है। नियत दिनांक के पश्चात प्राप्त दावा/आपत्ति कर कोई विचार नहीं किया जावेगा।

आज दिनांक 22/02/2024 को मेरे हस्ताक्षर एवं इस न्यायालय के पद मुद्रा सहित जारी किया गया।

अनुविभागीय अधिकारी (रा.) मेनपुर

STATE BANK OF INDIA Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, Raipur (10009) SARB, Block B-1, Pujari Chambers, Pachpedi Naka, Raipur (C.G.) Ph : 0771-4919730 Mob: 7771012456, 8889375554, 8817876067, 8052611114

E-AUCTION NOTICE Appendix - IVA [See Provision to rule 8 (6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable property hypothecated/mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 21.03.2024 (11:00 A.M. To 4:00 P.M.) for recovery of dues mentioned in Coloum "D" due to State Bank of India, Secured Creditors from below mentioned Borrower and Guarantors.

E-Auction Date and Time 21.03.2024, 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM (10 Minutes Extension with unlimited time)

Table with 4 columns: Sr. No., Borrowers and Guarantor Details, Brief Description of Assets Other known Debt Encumbrances, and Recovery of Arrears Property Being Sold for EMD (Earnest Money) Bid Increment. Includes details for Shri Kailash Soni and Shri Gulabchand Soni.

Interested bidders/buyers participating in e-Auction process is required to register before the reasonable time of auction through Bank's recognized Service Providers M/s. MSTC Ltd. Auction web page/portal https://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp. Bidders/buyers have to transfer the EMD amount to their Global EMD Wallet using online mode by registering with respective e-auction web portal of https://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp. If the EMD amount is not available in the Global EMD Wallet, the system will not allow the bidding. The registration, KYC documents verification and EMD deposit in the wallet should be done in advance before the auction. As per the information of the authorized officer, there is no other encumbrance on the properties, yet the interested bidders/buyers should get all requisite information from the concerned officer/department any encumbrances related to the property before submitting their bid. The decision regarding properties to be taken at the discretion of the bidder. The payment of all statutory/non-statutory dues, taxes, rates, assessments, charges, fees etc., owing to any authority or to anybody shall be the sole responsibility of successful bidder only. The e-auction will be online and sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis. Process of e-auction from Bank's recognized service provider M/s. MSTC Ltd. will be conducted by Web Portal: https://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp. For details of terms and conditions of sale, kindly visit the website of State Bank of India Secured Creditor i.e. https://www.sbi.co.in and https://www.ibapi.in (website details) given.

This publication is also a 15 days notice to the borrower/guarantors/mortgagors under the Securities Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Inspection of Properties Date & Time : Between 06.03.2024 to 20.03.2024 (as per prior appointment) Date: 05.03.2024, Place: Raipur Authorized Officer, State Bank of India, SARB, Raipur

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED Corporate office: Chola Crest, Super B, C54 & C55, 4, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600 032. Possession Notice ((Appendix IV) Under Rule 8 (1)) WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rules 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (issued Demand Notices dated mentioned below under Section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon you being the borrowers (names and addresses mentioned below) to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers mentioned herein below having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers mentioned herein below and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under sub-section (4) Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The borrowers mentioned here in above in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with said property and dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited for an amount as mentioned herein under and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Action taken against three liquor shop owners

Khairagarh, Mar 04:

On finding of irregularities in the works by the Excise Department, action was taken against the liquor shop Directors. District Excise Officer Digesh Dewangan informed that Sub-Inspector (Circle Madhai) on conducting checking at Composite Liquor Shop (Country) Sahnwara and found shortage of funds worth Rs 1,12,700 in the shop. He informed that on finding this financial irregularity, the employees working there clarification was sought from supervisor Mithlesh Dhruv, Salesman Sarit Yadav, Multi-purpose worker Goukaran Sonwani. All the above three failed to give satisfactory answer about the sales from the country liquor shop and based upon which the SI

■ Of country liquor shop for embezzlement of funds



prepared 'panchnama' in front of the eye-witnesses taking necessary action. On charges of embezzlement of funds from country liquor shop, a demand was made to removal of the above employees and it was demanded from the placement agency Primone to depute necessary staff including salesman and supervisor for smooth running of the country liquor shop. In

this regard, correspondence was held with the placement agency to deposit embezzled amount in the government treasury. It is notable here that constant patrolling and checking is being done to avoid theft and embezzlement of funds in the areas of newly posted officers and employees and this has created restlessness among the placement employees. In order to put a

check on illegal possession of liquor, transportation and sales, regular checking of vehicles and vigil has been started.

In the year 2023-24, under section of Excise Act 1915, in case No. 223, a total 2290 lts of liquor was seized estimated at Rs 5.14 lakh and including the cost of 2 two-wheelers and 1 four-wheeler, a total of 223 accused were nabbed and due legal action was taken. In case if there is any case illicit sale of liquor anywhere in the District or transportation or sale of liquor, then the person can inform District Excise officer Digesh Kumar Dewangan on his mobile No. 9131502113, Tapan Soriasst. District Excise office on his mobile No. 7597799555 or to SI Excise Vijendra Kumar on his mobile No. 8839362234.

Agriculture Minister had darshan of Lord Shri Ramlala in Ayodhya Dham

Raipur, Mar 03:

Agriculture Minister Ram Vichar Netam had darshan of Lord Shri Ramlala in Ayodhya Dham on the occasion of his birthday. He sought blessings from Lord Shri Ram for the happiness, prosperity and continuous development of the people of the state. Minister Netam along with his wife took a sacred bath in the Saryu river and visited the temple. It is noteworthy that Minister Ramvichar Netam has gone to Ayodhya Dham with his family to make his birthday unforgettable. After seeing Lord Shri Ramlala, he said that our beloved Lord Shri Ram has returned to his birth place in Ayodhya after 500 years. Since Chhattisgarh is the maternal birthplace of Lord Shri Ram, it is an occasion of double happiness and enthusiasm for the people. He said that Lord Shri Ram Lalla was consecrated at the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this day will be unforgettable in the history of India.

MLAs administer polio drops to children



■ In Bilaspur and Takathpur

Bilaspur, Mar 03:

Under the Pulse Polio Immunization drive 2023, Polio drops were administered to children in the age-group of 0-5 yrs by the health department at the vaccination centres. Here the public representative administered polio drops to children. At Primary health

Centre, at Gandhi Chowk in Bilaspur, MLA Bilaspur Amar Agarwal administered polio drops and inaugurated the pulse polio immunization drive. MLA Takathpur Dharmjeet Singh administered polio drops to children at Community Health Centre (CHC) in Takathpur. To make the programme successful, Yuvodaya Manobal Swayamsewaks of UNICEF gave valuable contribution in it. The workers created awareness about importance of administration of polio drops through declarations and use of loudspeakers and helped the persons go upto the Polio booths. In this programme CHMO Anil Shrivastava, Dr DK Vaishnav, District Vaccination Officer Manoj Samuel, DPM Piyuli Majumdar, District Co-ordinator UNICEF Rumana Khan, Ciyt programme Manager, officers and employees of the health department were present.

Book on 'Ch'garh Ke Urjawan' Sant Kavi Pawan Diwan released

■ From cultural manch at Rajim Kumbh Mela

Rajim, Mar 04:

From the main dais of Rajim Kumbh Kalp Mela 2024, a book under title 'Rajim ke Urjawan Sant Kavi Pawan Diwan' was released in the presence of MLA Abhanpur Indra Kumar Sahu and other guests here on Sunday. A free of cost poem writing competition on Pawan Diwan was held under the aegis of Kaushaliya Innovation Foundation, (KIF) Chhattisgarh and in this total of 108 writers participated from all over the country. This was released convener President & Governor award retired



Head Master and Litterateur Munna Lal Dewangan got it released under the above title in the memory of well-known poet of Rajim Pawan Diwan here on March 02. On this occasion MLA Sahu, along with

Secretary Rajbhasha Aayog Bhatpahari, Research Assistant of Sanskrit deptt Yugal Kisohre Tiwari and Jitndra Veram, Mukund Meshram and other public reps and citizens were present.

Rashmi Kiran Sahu clears MBBS Exam

■ Brings laurels to her city and family

Lavan, Mar 04:

Rashmi Kiran Sahu, the elder daughter of teacher of Lavan Raghoram Sahu has cleared the MBBS exam and brought laurels to her family and city. The residents of the city and her close family members extended greetings to her on clearing MBBS exam.

Rashmi Sahu completed her initial school education in city's St. Thomar School and then from Primary Class 6th to 10th at Secret Haat Balodabazar and Class 12th from KPS Bhilai, Nehru Nagar, Bhilai. She completed her MBBS from Pt. JNM Medical College



Raipur:

Rashmi Kiran Sahu is daughter of teacher Raghoram Sahu and is Head Master and mother Rajkumari Sahu, who is also a teacher and is presently head mistress at Primary School Misirinedih. RS Sahu's grand-father is Panchram Sahu and is a social worker in Lavan city.

Arun Sao confident of winning 11 LS seats

Korba, Mar 04:

State Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao made a fervent declaration of victory as he arrived in Korba amidst a warm reception by BJP members. Speaking to the media, Sao expressed unwavering confidence in the BJP's prospects, asserting that the party is poised to secure all 11 Lok Sabha seats in the state.

Sao's visit to Korba coincided with his attendance at a mass marriage program organized at the Sarvamangala Temple. Reflecting on past electoral outcomes, he acknowledged BJP's inability to clinch victory in Korba and Bastar Lok Sabha seats previously. However, Sao exuded optimism, stating unequivocally that BJP is primed to



sweep all 11 seats in the upcoming elections.

Addressing speculations surrounding candidate selection, particularly regarding the potential candidacy of Saroj Pandey for the Korba Lok Sabha seat, Sao affirmed the party's steadfast support for Kamal Phool. Despite murmurs of discontent among local leaders, Sao emphasized BJP's unwavering commitment to backing Phool's candidacy.

The prospect of Pandey's nomination has stirred mixed reactions among local BJP leaders in Korba, with some expressing disappointment while others remain hesitant to voice dissent against party directives. While several leaders harbor aspirations of contesting from the Korba seat, the prevailing signals from the party's high command may influence their aspirations.

Six Naxals, including woman with Rs 1 lakh bounty held

Bijapur, Mar 04:

Six Naxalites, including a woman ultra with a reward of Rs 1 lakh on her head, were arrested on Sunday from two places in Bijapur district, police said.

Woman Naxal Ram Bai was apprehended from the forest near Jarpalli village under Pamed police station limits by the local police, 204 battalion of Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) and 151 battalion of CRPF, Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra Kumar Yadav said.

"The team was out on an anti-Naxal operation in the Jarpalli and Aempur areas. Ram Bai is the president of Maoist front organisation Kamlapur Krantikari Adivasi Mahila Sangathan (KAMS) and has a reward

of Rs 1 lakh on her head. We seized cooker-bomb, detonating cord, and pamphlets related the Maoists' tactical counter offensive campaign (TCOC) from her," the SP said.

Five Naxals were held in a separate operation from Jangla, Yadav said.

"Hadma Madkami, Ramesh Awalam alias Bojja, Kumaru Lekam alias Mahru, Maddaram Podiyam and Bomda Kuhrami were apprehended from the forest of Kotrapal when a team of District Reserve Guard and local police were out on road opening and area domination activities," he said. Two cooker bombs, two tiffin bombs, two detonators etc were seized from the ultras, who confessed they planned to plant an IED to target security forces, the official informed.

Joratarai road problem solved after SDM's intervention

■ Administrative action unblocks vital roadway, bringing relief to villagers

Bazar Atria, Mar 04:

A breakthrough was achieved in resolving the longstanding issue surrounding Joratarai road, thanks to the proactive intervention led by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM). On Saturday, administrative personnel, under the directive of the SDM, descended upon Joratarai to initiate the process of unblocking the road. In the presence of local villagers, a Panchnama was prepared, marking the path temporarily to facilitate future



construction endeavors.

SDO Mandavi of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Naib Tehsildar Mohan Lal Jharia, RI Geetesh Sahu, and Patwari Lokesha Sahu joined hands to demarcate the old Dharsa Khasra number 312, signaling the commencement of efforts to clear the pathway and commence road construction

in due course. The news has ignited a wave of jubilation among the villagers, who have eagerly awaited this initiative. The road, which had been mired in controversy for years, became completely obstructed following a dispute between Joratarai resident Shobharam Verma and the Chhattisgarh govern-

ment. This impasse not only disrupted traffic but also compounded various logistical challenges for the local community. However, a recent court ruling in favor of Shobharam Verma bolstered the villagers' stance, compelling authorities to take decisive action.

Responding to the pressing concerns, Sarpanch Tejram Verma of Gram Panchayat Joratarai submitted a formal request to the SDM on February 28, urging immediate intervention. Recognizing the urgency of the matter, SDM Tankeshwar Prasad Sahu promptly engaged with relevant departments, issuing directives for the expeditious resolution of the roadblock.

Hostel superintendent suspended for serious negligence in official duties

Koriya, Mar 04:

In a decisive move towards upholding accountability in government operations, Collector Vinay Kumar Langhe has taken action against serious negligence displayed by Mrs Ashish Kujur, the Hostel Superintendent of Eklavya Model Residential School, Sonahat.

The decision to suspend Ashish Kujur follows an inspection report conducted by the Assistant Commissioner of the Tribal Development Department, alongside a written statement by Kujur highlighting the grave lapses in official

duties. Under the provisions of the Chhattisgarh Civil Services (Classification, Control, and Appeal) Rules, 1966, the suspension serves as a stern reminder of the expectations placed upon government officials.

During the suspension period, Ashish Kujur, currently serving as a primary school teacher at L.B. Higher Secondary School, Turripaani, will fulfill duties assigned at the Development Block Education Officer's office in Sonahat. In line with regulations, she will receive a subsistence allowance to support her during this period.

CM Sai inaugurates the Samarsata Bhawan

Jashpur, Mar 04:

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai inaugurated the Samarsata Bhawan, constructed at a cost of Rs 20 lakh from the MLA's fund, and the Rauniyar Cultural Hall, constructed at a cost of Rs 5 lakh from the MP's fund, at Tapkara, Jashpur on Saturday. The people warmly welcomed the Chief Minister by weighing him with the laddus. He also addressed the massive public gathering at the venue.

While addressing the program, CM Vishnu Deo Sai expressed gratitude towards the people for their warm welcome and announced a fund of Rs 50



laks for the construction of Mangal Bhawan, along with Rs 20 lakhs for the Samajik Bhawan of the Sonkar community at Tapkara. He also announced the levelling and beautification of Tapkara High School ground. Additionally, he announced the establishment of a gym and the installation of solar

lights on the school premises.

CM Sai stated, "Immediately after taking the oath on December 13, our government decided in the first cabinet meeting on December 14 to construct houses for 18 lakh poor families under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in the state. On the birth anniversary

of former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the state government disbursed an amount of Rs 3716 crore for two years of pending paddy bonus to more than 12 lakh farmers of the state. We have handed over the investigation of irregularities in the PSC to the CBI, and strict action would be taken against the culprits".

Chief Minister Shri Sai shared that he has requested the Prime Minister to attend the program organized for Mahtari Vandan Yojana and transfer the first installment of Rs 1,000 into the bank accounts of mothers and sisters on March 7 and 8.

Mihir Jha reinstated as President of Temple Service Committee

Pandadah, Mar 04:

The annual general body meeting of the Temple Seva Samiti Pandadah convened on Saturday, marking a significant juncture in the committee's affairs. The pivotal agenda of this assembly revolved around the election of the committee members, culminating in the unanimous re-election of Mihir Jha as President. Jha, who has dutifully served as President for thirteen consecutive years, garnered resounding support for his continued stewardship.

The newly formed committee comprises eminent figures such as Narottam Sinha, Om Jha, Rameshwar Ramteke, and Gautam Jain, who have been appointed as pa-



trons. Additionally, the crucial role of secretary has been entrusted to Raju Yadav. Noteworthy nominations for the Vice President include Rinku Mahobia, Sunny Yadu, Banshi Verma, and Kamlesh Yadu. Satyendra Sahu assumes the role of treasurer, with Suyash Khare and Santosh Vaishnav appointed as co-secretaries. Furthermore, a robust executive committee comprising fifteen members has been established

to further the committee's objectives. In a symbolic conclusion to the proceedings, a collective peace lesson and prayer meeting were convened. Looking ahead, the newly formed committee has set its sights on proactive initiatives. Notably, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma and Tourism Minister Brijmohan Agarwal are slated to be invited and honored, alongside the submission of a compelling memorandum urging the inclusion of the area in the tourism circuit. The event witnessed the presence of spiritual leaders, public representatives, and esteemed citizens from various neighboring villages, underscoring the community's solidarity and commitment to the committee's endeavors.

Nikki Haley scripts history by defeating Donald Trump in Washington DC

Washington, Mar 4 (PTI)

Indian-American presidential candidate Nikki Haley has won her first Republican nominating contest by trumping rival Donald Trump in Washington DC, injecting new life into her 2024 campaign ahead of the crucial Super Tuesday contest.

With her win, Haley scripted history by becoming the first woman ever to win a Republican presidential primary. She is also the first Indian-American to have won either the Democratic or the Republican primaries.

The three other previous Indian American presidential aspirants Bobby Jindal in 2016, Kamala Harris in 2020 and Vivek Ramaswamy in 2024 had failed to win even one primary.



Republican presidential candidate and former United Nations ambassador Nikki Haley.

Haley, 51, received 1,274 votes (62.9 per cent) against 676 votes (33.2 per cent) received by her main rival and former President Trump.

Haley will receive all 19 Republican delegates who were up for grabs in

Washington DC, giving her 43 delegates nationwide - well behind Trump's 247.

The contest took place over the weekend in a downtown hotel just steps away from the heart of DC's lobbying hub.

"Let's do it. Thank you, DC! We fight for every inch," Haley posted on X soon after her victory.

"Republicans closest to Washington's dysfunction know that Donald Trump has brought nothing but chaos and division for the past 8 years. It's time to start winning again and move our nation forward!" she wrote in another post.

Haley, the former US envoy to the UN under the Trump administration, lost in South Carolina, her home state last month. But she is the first woman to win a Republican primary in US history.

The former South Carolina governor's victory came after she was crushed by Trump in caucuses in Missouri and Idaho and at a Republican convention in Michigan on Saturday.



Palestinians search for bodies and survivors in the rubble of a residential building destroyed in an Israeli airstrike in Rafah, Gaza Strip, Monday.

ISRAELI AIRSTRIKE

Nepal PM 'Prachanda' terminates alliance with Nepali Congress

Kathmandu, Mar 4 (PTI)

In a dramatic development, Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' on Monday reshuffled the Cabinet after terminating a nearly 15-month partnership with the Nepali Congress due to major differences between the top leadership of the two parties. Prachanda formed a new alliance with former premier KP Sharma Oli's party UML following which three ministers took the oath of office and secrecy on Monday afternoon.

Padam Giri from the CPN-UML, Hit Bahadur Tamang from CPN (Maoist Center) and Dol Prasad Aryal from Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) took the oath of office and secrecy during the oath-taking ceremony held at the President's Office,

Sheetal Niwas. However, the newly appointed ministers have not been assigned portfolios.

The collective strength (142) of CPN-UML, Maoist, RSP and JSP is more than the minimum required no of 138 seats in the 275-member House.

The alliance between the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) led by Prachanda and the Sher Bahadur Deuba-led Nepali Congress was terminated as the growing differences between the two top leaders reached a climax, a CPN-Maoist Centre party leader said.

"As (the) Nepali Congress did not cooperate with the Prime Minister, we are forced to look for (a) new alliance," Ganesh Shah, Secretary of the CPN-Maoist, told PTI.

Prachanda became the prime minister for the third term with the sup-

port of the Nepali Congress on December 25, 2022.

After breaking the alliance with the Nepali Congress — the largest party in the House of Representatives — Prachanda joined hands with the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist Leninist), led by Oli, who was regarded as Prachanda's top critic.

Last year, the CPN-UML withdrew its support to the Prachanda-led government following a rift over backing the main opposition party's candidate for the presidential poll.

The rift between the Maoist Centre and Nepali Congress grew after differences grew between Nepali Congress leader and Finance Minister Mahat and Prachanda over the issue of budget allocation to certain projects.

Panel investigating Maine's deadliest mass shooting to hear testimony

Lewiston (Maine), Mar 4 (AP)

An independent commission investigating the deadliest mass shooting in Maine's history is about to hear from more family members of the victims of the tragedy.

The commission, established by Democratic Gov. Janet Mills, is reviewing the facts surrounding the October 25 shootings that killed 18 people in a bowling alley and a restaurant in Lewiston.

The panel, which includes former judges and prosecutors, is also reviewing the police response to the shootings.

Victims who spoke at a previous hearing held by the panel last month said authorities had a chance to remove guns from shooter Robert Card before the rampage and did not.

Kathleen Walker, whose husband Jason

was killed while rushing at Card to try to stop him, said: "The system failed, and we can't allow this to happen again."

More victims are set to speak Monday at the hearing in Lewiston.

The commission is expected to produce a comprehensive report about the shootings.

The purpose of Monday's meeting is "to hear from victims and others impacted by the shootings", said Kevin Kelley, a spokesperson for the commission.

Card, an Army reservist, was found dead by self-inflicted gunshot wound after a manhunt that followed the shootings.

Police and the Army were both warned that Card was suffering from deteriorating mental health in the months that preceded the shootings.

China likely to appoint a new foreign minister

Beijing, Mar 4 (PTI)

China on Monday scrapped the annual press conference of its Premier, a decades-long scripted event watched live by the people for any new policy formulations for the world's second-largest economy.

Also, speculation is rife that Liu Jianchao, a senior Chinese diplomat currently heading the international department of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC), may be made the new Foreign Minister during the current session of the National People's Congress (NPC). The NPC or parliament will hold its annual meeting here from March 5 to March 11, NPC spokesman Lou Qinjian said at a news conference on Monday. Lou, who spoke to the media ahead of the NPC session, in a surprising statement said the practice of the Premier addressing the media at the end of the an-



Chinese President Xi Jinping attends the opening session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Monday.

nual parliament session was discontinued from this year. The Chinese Premier's press conference, which was first held in 1988, is a widely anticipated event as the Premier takes officially screened questions mostly on domestic issues and a few on foreign policy as well. The premier's press annual conference at times pro-

vided a rare window into the thinking of China's number two leader, who is nominally in charge of the economy. Chinese President Xi Jinping, Chinese Premier Li Qiang and other senior ruling Communist Party leaders are mostly out of bounds for the local official media and the foreign press in China.

Philippines urges neighbours to stand together more strongly against China

Melbourne, Mar 4 (AP)

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr said Monday that he had no choice but to defend his country's territory in the South China Sea against what he called Chinese aggression and illegal actions in pursuit of Beijing's own territorial claims.

"It is unfortunate that despite the clarity provided by international law, provocative, unilateral and illegal actions continue to infringe upon our sovereignty, our sovereign rights and jurisdictions," Marcos told the Lowy

Institute international policy think tank in the Australian city of Melbourne.

China claims sovereignty over virtually the entire South China Sea, which is one of the world's most crucial waterways for shipping. That has put it at odds with the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei, which all maintain claims to islands, reefs and undersea resources in the region.

Marcos, who is attending a summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in

Melbourne, said standing up to China in the South China Sea was not a policy choice.

"We simply have no choice. We must defend the territory of the republic. That is a primordial duty of a leader," Marcos said. "The territorial integrity of the Philippines cannot be threatened, and if threats are made, then we must defend against those threats."

Chinese Foreign Minister spokesperson Mao Ning accused the Philippines of taking provocative action in the South China Sea and undermining China's terri-

torial sovereignty and maritime interests.

"China has taken necessary measures in accordance with the laws to safeguard its sovereignty and interests," she said. "There is no so-called Chinese harassment of the Philippine ships."

Earlier on Monday, Philippine Foreign Minister Enrique Manalo urged regional neighbours to stand together more strongly in upholding the rule of law in the South China Sea, where China has constructed garrisons on several artificial islands in a bid to fortify its claims.

Moscow summons German ambassador following leaked tape on supporting Ukraine

Moscow, Mar 4 (AP)

Moscow summoned Germany's ambassador to Russia's foreign ministry on Monday, local media reported, days after the release of an audio recording on social media purporting to show German officers discussing support for Ukraine.

The state RIA Novosti outlet broadcast footage of German Ambassador Alexander Graf Lambsdorff entering the Foreign Ministry building in Moscow, surrounded by a crowd of journalists.

Margarita Simonyan, chief editor of Russian state-funded TV channel RT, had posted the audio on social media on Friday, the same day that late opposition politician Alexei Navalny was laid to rest after his still-unexplained death two weeks ago in an Arctic penal colony.

Simonyan said that the 38-minute recording featured military officers discussing in German how Taurus long-range cruise missiles could be used by Kyiv against invading Russian forces. The

Associated Press could not independently verify the authenticity of the recording.

German news agency dpa reported that in the leaked audio, four officers, including the head of Germany's Air Force, Ingo Gerhartz, can be heard discussing deployment scenarios for the Taurus in preparation for a meeting with the country's Defence Minister Boris

Pistorius.

The discussion concludes an early delivery and rapid deployment of Taurus long-range cruise missiles would only be possible with the participation of German soldiers and that training Ukrainian soldiers to deploy the Taurus on their own would be possible, but would take months.

2 injured in attack on anti-polio team

Peshawar, Mar 4 (PTI)

A polio worker and a policeman were injured on Monday when unknown gunmen opened fire at an anti-polio vaccination team in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan, police said.

The incident occurred in the Bar Qambar Khel area of the Khyber tribal district bordering Afghanistan, according to the police.

The bike-borne gunmen opened fire at the anti-polio team, injuring a male polio worker and a policeman escorting the team. Both the injured were shifted to the Peshawar Hospital and admitted for treatment.

The attackers managed to flee the scene after firing. Police contingents rushed to the area and sealed the surroundings to capture the fleeing attackers. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur condemned the incident and directed the police to arrest the culprits expeditiously. Gandapur also instructed foolproof security arrangements for the polio team in the province. Incidents of attacks on polio teams in the province have claimed scores of lives, including those of polio workers and policemen escorting the vaccinators in the recent past.

National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)

NIELIT Bhawan, Plot No. 3, PSP Pocket, Sector-8, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110077

PUBLIC NOTICE

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It has come to our attention that some entities/firms are using the name, logo, or part of the name of our institute without authorization to deceive or dupe people, or for some other business purposes known only to them. We hereby warn and give notice to these entities/firms to immediately cease and desist from using the name, logo, or any part thereof of our Institute in any manner. Failure to comply with this public notice will result in legal action against them.

We hereby request the public in general to be cautious and refrain from associating with any entity/firm that fraudulently uses the name, logo, or any part thereof of our institute, as mentioned herein.

Registrar

CBC 06102/12/0015/2324

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता, लोक निर्माण विभाग, रायपुर संभाग क्र.-1, रायपुर

मैनुअल पद्धति से द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

विज्ञापित क्रमांक 1403/एन.आई.टी.-47/टी.सी./23-24/ रायपुर, दिनांक 01/03/2024

क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित राशि (लाखों में)
1	S/R and Other Work at PAHUNA and Head Qtr. Section Various Building under Survey Sub Division Raipur	10.00
2	MOW and Other Work at PAHUNA and Head Qtr. Section Various Building under Survey Sub Division Raipur	10.00

निविदा प्रपत्र प्राप्त करने की तिथि - 11.03.2024

उपर्युक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापित, निविदा दर्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी कार्यालयीन अवधि में कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। साथ ही यह जानकारी विभागीय वेबसाइट www.cg.nic.in/pwdraipur/ में Live Tender के अन्तर्गत निविदा प्रपत्र में उपलब्ध। इनका अवलोकन संबंधित संगणक कार्यालय में किया जा सकता है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक निर्माण विभाग संभाग क्र.-1 रायपुर

G-08264/5

संचालनालय, आयुर्वेद योग एवं प्राकृतिक चिकित्सा, यूनानी सिद्ध एवं होम्योपैथी (आयुष) छत्तीसगढ़

ब्लॉक-1, तृतीय तल, इन्द्रावती भवन, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर 492002

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क्रमांक /1/स्वा./महा./प्रवेश/2024-25/849 नया रायपुर दिनांक 1 MAR 2024

शैक्षणिक सत्र 2024-25 में

बी.ए.एम.एस./बी.एच.एम.एस. पाठ्यक्रमों में प्रवेश हेतु

// विज्ञापित //

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि राष्ट्रीय परीक्षा एजेंसी (NTA) द्वारा स्नातक चिकित्सा पाठ्यक्रमों में प्रवेश हेतु जारी किये गये इन्फॉर्मेशन बुलेटिन एवं छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, चिकित्सा शिक्षा (आयुष) विभाग, मंत्रालय के अधिसूचना दिनांक 6 सितम्बर 2023 द्वारा जारी किये गये 'छत्तीसगढ़ आयुष स्नातक पाठ्यक्रम प्रवेश नियम, 2023' में दिये गये निर्देश/प्रावधान अनुसार शैक्षणिक सत्र 2024-25 में छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य के शासकीय एवं निजी क्षेत्र के आयुर्वेद/होम्योपैथी चिकित्सा महाविद्यालयों के बी.ए.एम.एस./बी.एच.एम.एस. पाठ्यक्रमों में प्रवेश केवल राष्ट्रीय परीक्षा एजेंसी (NTA) द्वारा आयोजित राष्ट्रीय पात्रता सह प्रवेश परीक्षा (यूजी) - 2024 [NEET (UG) - 2024] के मेरिट (प्रावीण्यता) सूची के आधार पर किये जायेंगे। इस हेतु प्रदेश स्तर पर कोई प्रवेश परीक्षा आयोजित नहीं की जायेगी।

राष्ट्रीय परीक्षा एजेंसी (NTA) द्वारा जारी विज्ञापन में ऑनलाईन आवेदन करने की अंतिम तिथि 09 मार्च 2024 (रात्रि 09:00) तक एवं ऑनलाईन फीस जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 09 मार्च 2024 (रात्रि 11:50) तक निर्धारित है। विस्तृत विवरण राष्ट्रीय परीक्षा एजेंसी (NTA) की वेबसाइट www.nta.ac.in, <https://exams.nta.ac.in/NEET> पर उपलब्ध है।

उक्त पाठ्यक्रमों में प्रवेश हेतु प्रदेश के इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी निर्धारित तिथि/समय तक आवेदन कर सकते हैं।

संचालक आयुर्वेद, योग एवं प्राकृतिक चिकित्सा, यूनानी, सिद्ध एवं होम्योपैथी (आयुष) छत्तीसगढ़

G-08260/1



Central Chronicle

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Integrity Over Immunity

Breaking the Bribery Barrier

Monday's landmark verdict by the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, marks a significant turning point in the realm of legislative accountability. The ruling, which sets aside a 1998 judgment granting immunity to lawmakers in bribery cases, reaffirms the fundamental principle that no one, regardless of their position, is above the law. In the annals of legal history, the PV Narasimha Rao case stood as a controversial precedent, shielding legislators from prosecution for bribery related to their parliamentary duties. However, the Supreme Court's decision to overturn this ruling signifies a crucial step towards fostering integrity and transparency within our democratic institutions. At the heart of this verdict lies a reexamination of the very essence of parliamentary privilege. While Articles 105 and 194 of the Constitution aim to protect legislators from undue interference in the discharge of their duties, they were never intended to serve as a shield for corruption and malfeasance. The court's assertion that bribery is not protected by parliamentary privileges underscores the imperative of upholding the sanctity of our democratic processes. The ramifications of the PV Narasimha judgment were far-reaching, creating a loophole that undermined the very foundation of our democratic ethos. By granting immunity to lawmakers who accept bribes in exchange for their votes or speeches, the court inadvertently perpetuated a system rife with corruption and moral ambiguity. Today's verdict rectifies this anomaly, sending a clear message that accountability and transparency are non-negotiable principles in a functioning democracy. The case of Sita Soren, an MLA accused of accepting a bribe during the 2012 Rajya Sabha elections, serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of this ruling. In refusing to quash the case against her, the Jharkhand High Court affirmed the principle that no individual, regardless of their political affiliation or stature, is exempt from the consequences of their actions. The Supreme Court's decision to uphold this principle reaffirms the judiciary's commitment to impartiality and justice. Critics of today's verdict may argue that it undermines the autonomy of legislators and encroaches upon the separation of powers between the judiciary and the legislature. However, such concerns must be weighed against the broader imperative of preserving the integrity of our democratic institutions. Parliamentary privilege is not a license to engage in illicit activities; it is a safeguard against undue interference in the legislative process. By delineating the boundaries of this privilege, the Supreme Court has struck a delicate balance between accountability and autonomy. It is essential to recognize that the fight against corruption is not waged in isolation; it requires the collective effort of all stakeholders, including the judiciary, the legislature, and civil society. Monday's verdict represents a significant victory in this ongoing battle, signaling a renewed commitment to upholding the principles of integrity, transparency, and accountability in public life.

Students and scavengers need oxygen

Sujit De

The students of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences had been organising the Bhagat Singh Memorial lecture since 2018. It was held at the campus amphitheatre till 2020 before Covid forced a shift online in 2021 and 2022. In 2023, human rights activist Harsh Mander was to speak at the event at the amphitheatre. But the institute denied permission. Thereafter it was held online. The students informed the institute administration in December 2023 that Magsaysay award winner, social activist Bezwada Wilson would deliver the lecture in 2024. Interestingly, the institute which had been regarded as a liberal campus, came up with a notice on February 16 saying about the lecture which was scheduled to be delivered on February 17, "not to associate the above events with TISS in any capacity." However, the event was organised over Zoom by the Students Organising Committee, an independent forum of TISS students. Wilson, a campaigner for the eradication of manual scavenging and caste atrocities, delivered the Bhagat Singh Memorial Lecture on "Human rights and constitutional values in contemporary times: Role of university and public". A student observed that the institute had been trying to restrict student-led activities for the past one year. The student further said, "In the name of issuing new guidelines, the institute has been creating hurdles before students' activities. The students are a major stakeholder and have a say in the institute. Efforts to curb their voice are undemocratic and unacceptable." According to the 2023 Academic Freedom Index (AFI) report, India scored 0.38 on a scale of 0 (lowest) to 1 (highest). The report says that India is among 22 countries (out of 179) where institutions and scholars enjoy "significantly less freedom today than 10 years ago". Among our neighbours Pakistan (0.45), Bhutan (0.46) and Nepal (0.86) scored higher whereas Bangladesh (0.25) and Myanmar (0.01) scored lower than India. India performed poorly in the report about campus integrity because of political interference. The situation has been deteriorating further since the publication of the report in February last year. Sabyasachi Das, an assistant professor at Ashoka University, resigned as a result of the controversy over his research paper on India's democratic backsliding. Pulapre Balakrishnan, professor of economics, resigned in solidarity asking the administration to invite his colleague back. Recently, Unacademy, an online education platform, fired an instructor, Karan Sangwan, after a video of him talking to students about voting for educated candidates went viral. All these incidents will be evaluated in the next report of Academic Freedom Index which already described the autonomy of Indian institutions to express views on political issues as very poor. Now let us get back to Dalit activist, Bezwada Wilson who delivered the 2024 Bhagat Singh Memorial lecture. Born in a community of manual scavengers in Kolar, Karnataka, he saw his own parents carrying human excreta. Later, Wilson led a nationwide movement called "Safai Karmachari Andolan". This organisation is also trying to find out better jobs for manual scavengers. He got Ramon Magsaysay award for his work in 2016. The importance of his movement can be gauged from the data tabled at Lok Sabha by the Union government on July 25, 2023. As per the data, as many as 339 people died while cleaning sewers and septic tanks in India in just 5 years between 2018 and 2022. The practice of sending workers inside a sewer without oxygen mask and other suitable protective equipments can choke a scavenger to death. On the other hand, the practice of gagging academic freedom can choke free thinking of students. Both must be stopped. (The views expressed above are the author's own. They do not necessarily reflect the views of Central Chronicle.)

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.

NARI SHAKTI VANDAN MARATHON



Participants during the Nari Shakti Vandan marathon, in east Delhi, Monday, March 4.

Balancing Population and Resources: Imperatives for Sustainable Development

DR. MAN MOHAN PRAKASH



Population in India is increasing very fast and every small and big village, town and city is becoming a contributor in it. The correct figure of population will be available only after completing the national census of India. But it is being said that India has overtaken China and achieved the first position in the world in terms of human population. Coming first is a good thing, it is respectable, but India coming first in terms of population cannot be considered good from any point of view. Because it was difficult for a nation like India to provide good health, good education, good employment, good environment, good food, clothing, shelter and supply of good essential commodities to 100 percent of its citizens was not easily manageable even at a time when India was behind China in population and today when India is ahead of China in population, how difficult is it going to be? We can guess. The causes are clear i.e. the resources are not increasing in proportion to the population increasing, but on the other side resources are either decreasing or getting polluted. In India the available water, forests, land and non-renewable resources are also limited. Even the renewable resources are not 100% renewed. It is also true that no one can guarantee that the climate and other conditions and things necessary for development will always remain favorable in the future. In such a situation, the Central Government and the State Governments should be

very careful in carrying out sustainable development, being economical in the use of resources. While plan to develop villages, towns, cities and metropolitan cities should always keep in mind the pressure of increasing population in that region. In fact in these areas development should be keeping in mind the needs of the common man and the condition of environment. It is established truth between population and resources is that in a country where resources are more and population is less, then there are chances of rapid development and progress in that country, on the other hand, if the situation is opposite i.e. population is more and resources are less, then there are chances of lesser development and slower or no progress in that country. While talking about development, planning and implementing them, it is seen that elected governments and public representatives work on development keeping in mind the places, cities and states of their choice. This leads to uneven development i.e. at some places it is less and at other places it is more. Whereas what should happen is that development should take place in a planned manner keeping in mind the current and future population figures and needs of a particular place. That is, the Central Government should make efforts for non-discriminatory development for all the States and Union Territories and the State Governments should keep an

equal attitude for all their districts.

Now it's a good time for India, anyway Amritkaal is going on. In the last decade, there has been significant progress in India's prestige in the world, foreign exchange reserves have increased, the economy has also strengthened. Today's India is rapidly moving towards self-reliance in every field. Indian youth have made a major contribution to the development of India.

The pleasant thing is that the percentage of youth in the present population is high, that is, the participation of those who give impetus to development or we should say, productive population is more. But the problems faced by the youth of this age group are maximum. The biggest challenge before this generation is how to stand on their own feet? How to mobilize the necessary resources? How to become financially strong? How to materialize their dreams? How to save yourself from going on the wrong path? And how to ensure participation in the development of family, society, state and country? Thinkers believe that if this age group gets the right guidance and direction, right resources are made available, proper opportunities are provided for education, research, innovation and employment, their right participation in society and nation building is ensured. So definitely the coming time will be auspicious and beneficial for the country, but if the circumstances are created opposite then it is a matter of concern for the country. Whether Indians are getting the resources for free or have to work hard to get them or have to spend money, while using them it should always be kept in mind that the resources are limited and they should be distributed in that proportion. It cannot be increased in the proportion in which the population of the country is increasing. But they can be kept safe for the future generations by using them judiciously, as per requirement, stopping misuse, recycling and finding new resources. In my opinion use of Scientific technology and Scientific thinking can help us to manage them. Therefore, to accelerate the pace of

development of India, to make it a developed nation, to achieve the best economy and to provide stability to it, there is a need for a universally accepted population policy, which should also be such that it does not disturb the balance of the social fabric. In fact, today's population has become such a topic on which every couple, irrespective of their caste and religion, should think for themselves in the interest of the nation, keeping in mind the economic resources. How many children should they give birth to? How many children should they nurture well? How many children can they provide good education? How many children can they provide support? Till they stand on their feet. In this decision, the country's policies, plans, current status of education, employment and business etc may help every couple in estimating the condition and direction of the future. Keeping in mind the family circumstances, every couple will also have to consider whether, due to limited resources, it is right to give birth to more children in the family with the thought that each child brings his own future with him? The more children you have, the more earning hands you will have, the more income you will have. But instead it should be remembered that the more children there will be, the more the resources will be divided, the more difficult it will be in their upbringing.

It should also be kept in mind that the changing customs and culture in India in which the nuclear family is replacing the joint family. Family property is facing the brunt of division, opportunities are becoming limited, inflation is increasing, thus it is becoming difficult for an ordinary family to bear the expenses of living, food, education and health etc. Not only this, the findings of the study are indicating that due to lack of proper upbringing, care and education, the chances of a good future of children deteriorating are high and in my opinion no couple will want to see the future of their children deteriorating/dark. In such a situation, the decision to give birth to a child should be taken only after deep thought and contemplation, only then the welfare of the family and the country is possible.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Water Crisis: Modi's Unfulfilled Promise

From print to electronic media, "Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee" remains consistent. Five years ago, Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat pledged clean drinking water for all households by 2024. Yet, recent reports reveal only 46 out of 485 Indian cities provide clean water. Millions still lack this basic necessity. A BMC Public Health Journal study indicates 37.7 million Indians suffer from water-borne diseases annually. It's a national shame. India, boasting grand infrastructural projects, fails its citizens' fundamental needs. Urgent action is vital, emphasizing efficient water usage, harvesting, conservation, and recycling. Government plans must be practical, engaging stakeholders collectively. Water should be declared a national resource, fairly distributed, while industries conserving water are encouraged. Bold action is imperative.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Airline Negligence

The recent incident involving an 80-year-old passenger's demise on an Air India flight has raised questions about the treatment of disabled travellers. Despite the passenger's request for wheelchair assistance upon arrival in Mumbai, only one was made available due to a reported shortage. Tragically, as the passenger navigated immigration alongside his spouse, he suffered a fatal heart attack and collapsed. DGCA imposed a hefty fine of Rs 30 lakh on Air India for violating aircraft rules, sparking industry-wide concern and a decline in the airline's shares. Despite Air India's claim that the passenger opted to walk, inadequate wheelchair provision highlights a systemic issue in ensuring passenger safety and comfort during air travel.

Yash pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

Injustice dmolition

Wakeel Hassan's home demolished without proper procedure by Delhi Development Authority. Despite 30-year residency laws, no 15-day notice served. Alongside 11 rat-hole miners, he rescued 41 trapped laborers in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi, enduring 16-day ordeal. Working 24-hour stretches in cramped conditions, they cleared debris with handheld tools, saving lives. Yet, each awarded only Rs 50,000, no permanent employment or housing promised. Now, Hassan's home razed, a travesty of justice. They deserve Padma awards, permanent jobs, and homes.

Sujit De, Kolkata.

Yellow Revolution-Need of the hour



Atul Chaturvedi

With Edible Oil imports reaching a whopping 165 lakh mts last year it would come as a surprise to everyone that India was reasonably self sufficient in edible oils in Nineties of the last century. Our import of edible oil was a minuscule 3.0 lakh tons. However, our obsession with Wheat and Rice after the launch of Green Revolution has resulted in India becoming surplus in these commodities at the cost of Oilseeds.

Skewed Thinking -Lost Decades

About two decades back I had an interesting conversation with a very Senior Govt. functionary on the step motherly treatment meted out to the Oilseed sector. His reply summed up the fundamental reasons of thinking in the policy making circles of the time. He said the private sector has done such a wonderful job of maintaining the supply chain of edible oils that they feel the need for Oilseed development thrust does not exist. Years of low commodity prices had lulled decision makers into complacency, and this got reflected in deciding priorities.

This skewed thinking resulted in Indian dependence on imports growing to almost 60-65% of our consumption seriously compromising our Edible Oil security. The import bill has now bal-

looned to almost Rs.1.4 lakh crore and rising year after year. Food Security in our view does not mean only wheat and rice security as you require both pulses and edible oils to complete a meal.

The fallacy of neglecting Oilseed Sector over the years hit us below the belt when Covid struck. With Indonesia banning Palm oil exports to protect their domestic market, edible oil prices in India went through the roof. The situation really became alarming and edible oil prices almost touched Rs 200/ per kgs. Oilseed prices rose alarmingly, and Soya beans were traded at Rs 10000/per kgs sending alarm bells in decision making quarters.

Government Steps

The current regime headed by Modiji understood the writing on the wall and swung into action to limit the fallout and ensure common man is not affected much. The pace of decision making and doing immediate course correction was exemplary. I have been in Edible oil and oilseed business for more than four decades but have never seen such proactive approach by the government functionaries. It may not be out of place to recount some of the actions which provided succour in those harrowing times during Covid and post Covid. Sometimes one wonders if the normal pace of government decision making had happened, we would have been witness to untold human misery.

1. The then Food Secretary and his team burnt a lot of mid night oil to ensure supply remained unaffected. Zoom meetings with key industry players were held practically every second day and problems sorted out at breakneck speed. Honestly speaking it was a novel experience to speak to Secretary, Jt. Secretary level officers on a regular basis as opposed to running from pillar to post to get an appointment. Welcome winds of change.
2. Even though dependence on imports is very high Edible oil discharge and clearance at ports used to take 10/15 days resulting in disrupting supply chain. Prompt action from Govt ensured clearances within two days.
3. Edible oil import duties were slashed across the board.
4. Edible Oil Manufacturers were requested to lower their prices and our Association -SEA pushed the industry to rise in this need of the hour by lowering prices. Industry responded proactively and promptly.
5. Indonesia was dealt with diplomatically and they had to withdraw the ban within a short time and their concerned Minister came running to India to mend fences. Message to the world was clear -DO NOT MESS WITH INDIA.
6. Geo Political tensions in the Black

Sea area also disrupted Sunflower oil supplies. Proactive action in opening imports from Russia ensured minimal dislocation.

7. Hon Prime Minister even called a Zoom meeting of prominent players to get suggestions to tackle the situation on a long term basis. This writer was also one of the speakers and gave suggestions which can go a long way in addressing issue of Atmanirbharta in Edible oil/Oilseeds.

All these measures had the desired effect and the spiralling prices were brought down to manageable levels.

Moving towards Atmanirbharta

Ever since our Honourable Prime Minister gave the clarion call the buzzword in Policy making circles is Atmanirbharta. No wonder we see action towards improving Oilseed production in the country.

1. Massive investment for promoting Palm in India was announced with initial outlay of 11000 crores.
2. National mission on Oilseed has been put on fast track. Our Honourable Finance Minister announced the start of Oilseed Mission during her Interim Budget speech which reflects the seriousness with which this problem is now getting addressed.
3. Apex Industry Association, SEA, launched Mustard Mission aggressively and with Govt support we are seeing massive jump in

Mustard production in our country. Few years back the production used to hover around 7.0 million tons and now it is touching 12.0 million tons. To say Mustard has been our saviour would not be out of place.

4. One of the biggest problem facing Oilseed Sector has been woefully low productivity. Ironically over the years NGOs and activists had stymied efforts to introduce GM Oilseeds which may have the potential of increasing yields. It is to the credit of this Government that they have given an affidavit in Supreme Court that opposing GM in oilseeds is tantamount to being anti national. This decisiveness will go a long way helping Atmanirbharta efforts in Oilseeds. Under our dynamic and action-oriented leadership we are bound to see strong and effective action at the ground level in coming years. Time for never ending debates is long over and concrete action under National Mission on Oilseeds is the need of the hour to have Game Changing impact on Oilseed production in our country. If we continue to dither (unlikely under present regime) we will permanently remain at the mercy of Exporting Countries and our bargaining capacity would be seriously compromised.

Chairman - Asian Palm Oil Alliance

BRIEF

Coal logistics



New Delhi: Union Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi launched the Coal Logistics Plan & Policy for the development of logistics infrastructure for dry fuel in the country. The minister said that there is a need to expand coal mining and scale up evacuation infrastructure as the demand for coal in electricity generation in India will continue to grow. "We have launched initiatives like the Coal Logistics Policy, Integrated Coal Logistics Plan and pioneering First Mile Connectivity projects amidst rising demand.

Moody's raises India's 2024 growth forecast to 6.8 pc

New Delhi, Mar 04:

Global rating agency Moody's on Monday raised India's growth forecast for 2024 calendar year to 6.8 per cent, from 6.1 per cent estimated earlier, on the back of 'stronger-than-expected' economic data of 2023 and fading global economic headwinds. India's real GDP expanded 8.4 per cent year-over-year in the fourth quarter of calendar year 2023, resulting in a 7.7 per cent growth for full-year 2023. Capital spending by the government and strong manufacturing activity have meaningfully contributed to the robust growth outcomes in 2023, Moody's Investors Service said. With global headwinds fading, the Indian economy should be able to comfortably register 6-7 per cent real GDP growth,



it added. "India's economy has performed well and stronger-than-expected data in 2023 has caused us to raise our 2024 growth estimate to 6.8 per cent from 6.1 per cent. India is likely to remain the fastest growing among G-20 economies over our forecast horizon," Moody's said in its Global Macroeconomic Outlook for 2024. For 2025, the GDP growth is estimated at 6.4 per cent. The agency said high-frequency indicators show that the economy's strong September and December quarter mo-

mentum carried into the March quarter of 2024. "Robust goods and services tax collections, rising auto sales, consumer optimism and double-digit credit growth suggest urban consumption demand remains resilient. On the supply side, expanding manufacturing and services PMIs add to evidence of solid economic momentum," Moody's said. This year's interim budget targets capital expenditure allocation of Rs 11.1 lakh crore or 3.4 per cent of GDP in 2024-25 (fiscal year 2025), 16.9 per cent above the 2023-24 estimates. "We expect policy continuity after the general election and continued focus on infrastructure development," Moody's said. The agency said while private industrial capital spending has been slow to

pick up, it is expected to pick up with ongoing supply chain diversification benefits and investors' response to the government's Production Linked Incentive scheme to boost key targeted manufacturing industries. The year 2024 is an election year for several G-20 countries including India, Indonesia, Mexico, South Africa (Ba2 stable), the UK and the US. Implications of elections can go beyond borders and economic and public policy in today's increasingly fractious world, it said. "Leaders elected this year will influence domestic and foreign policies for the next four to five years. Businesses are accordingly responding to evolving geopolitical dynamics by reorganizing supply chains and capital sources," Moody's said.

AI advisory applicable on big platforms, not on start-ups: MoS IT Chandrasekhar

New Delhi, Mar 04:

The government's advisory on artificial intelligence (AI) is applicable to significant players and untested platforms, and not on startups, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on Monday. After a controversy over a response of Google's AI platform to queries related to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government on March 1 issued an advisory for social media and other platforms to label under-trial AI models and prevent hosting unlawful content. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in the advisory issued to intermediaries and platforms warned of criminal action in case of non-compliance. "Advisory is aimed at the significant platforms and permission seeking from



Meity is only for large platforms and will not apply to startups. Advisory is aimed at untested AI platforms from deploying on the Indian Internet," Chandrasekhar said on social media platform X. All digital platforms are required to ensure that the use of artificial intelligence model(s), large language models, generative AI, softwares or algorithms on or through its computer resource do not permit users to host, display, up-

load, modify, publish, transmit, store, update or share any unlawful content.

The advisory asked use of under-testing, unreliable AI models, generative AI, etc and its availability to the users on Indian Internet with the explicit permission of the government and be deployed only after appropriately labelling the possible and inherent fallibility or unreliability of the output generated.

"Process of seeking permission, labelling and consent-based disclosure to user about untested platforms is insurance policy to platforms who can otherwise be sued by consumers. Safety and trust of India's Internet is a shared and common goal for the government, users and platforms," Chandrasekhar said. Google's AI platform Gemini made uncharitable comments about Prime Minister Modi's policies.

Budget outlay

New Delhi: Delhi Finance Minister Atishi presented the budget for the financial year 2024-25 in the state assembly on Monday with an outlay of Rs 76,000 crore, and said the government is trying to realise the dream of Ram Rajya. She spoke about how Delhi has changed in the last 10 years under the AAP (Aam Aadmi Party) government. In her maiden budget speech, she proposed an allocation of Rs 16,396 crore for the education sector.

Samsung expects to sell 2 million units of Galaxy F15 5G in next 12-15 months

New Delhi, Mar 04:

Samsung on Monday said it is eyeing about 2 million units sale of its newly launched entry-level handset, Galaxy F15 5G, in the next 12-15 months. Aditya Babbar, Vice President - MX Business at Samsung India, said that outside Korea, Samsung has its largest innovation centres in India, and is fully committed to the 'Make in India' vision. Samsung targets "a sale of about 2 million units of the newly launched handset in the next 12-15 months", he said.

"...we included premium features like Knox security, voice focus, super amoled display, and 5G connectivity, we have focussed on

keeping it price-effective," Babbar said on the sidelines of the launch of Galaxy F15. He added that the company's promise of four generations of android upgrades and five years of security updates ensures a fun user experience, especially for the Gen Z generation who live a fast-paced life. "We have 3 research and development centres in Noida and Bangalore, one of the world's largest, which are focussed on conceptualise in India, to develop for India and the world," Babbar added. Further, he said the company is very keen on contributing to Atmanirbhar Bharat and Digital India and is continuously making strides for the same.

Tata Motors to demerge passenger, commercial biz into two separate listed entities

New Delhi, Mar 04:

Tata Motors on Monday announced the demerger of its commercial and passenger vehicle segments into two separate listed entities to better capitalise on growth opportunities. The commercial vehicles business and its related investments would be housed in one entity while the passenger vehicle business, including electric vehicles, Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) and its related investments, would be part of the second entity, the auto major said in a regulatory filing. Tata Motors Chairman N Chandrasekaran said that Tata Motors has scripted a strong turnaround in the last few years. "The three automotive busi-



ness units are now operating independently and delivering consistent performance. This demerger will help them better capitalise on the opportunities provided by the market by enhancing their focus and agility," he added. The demerger would lead to a superior experience for customers,

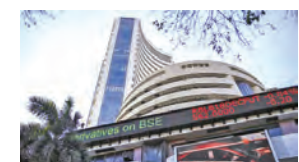
better growth prospects for employees and enhanced value for shareholders, Chandrasekaran stated. According to the proposal approved by the company board in a meeting on Monday, the demerger will be implemented through an NCLT scheme of arrangement and all shareholders of Tata Motors shall continue to have identical shareholding in both the listed entities.

Chandrasekaran said the scheme of arrangement for the demerger shall be placed before the company board for approval in the coming months and will be subject to all necessary shareholder, creditor and regulatory approvals which could take a further 12-15 months to complete.

Sensex, Nifty scale fresh record highs, rise for 4th day in a row

Mumbai, Mar 04:

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty closed at new record levels on Monday in a highly volatile trade driven by gains in energy and bank shares and a rally in Asian markets. Extending its rally to the fourth straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 66.14 points or 0.09 per cent to settle at an all-time high of 73,872.29. During the day, it jumped 183.98 points or 0.24 per cent to 73,990.13. The Nifty rose by 27.20 points or 0.12 per cent to close at a lifetime high of 22,405.60 points. During the day, it hit an all-time high level of 22,440.90. Among the Sensex firms, NTPC, Power Grid, Reliance Industries, Bajaj Finserv, Axis Bank, Tech Mahindra, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel and IndusInd Bank were the biggest gainers. JSW Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata



Steel, UltraTech Cement, Infosys and Titan were among the laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the green. European markets were trading on a mixed note. The US markets ended with gains on Friday. Global rating agency Moody's on Monday raised India's growth forecast for 2024 calendar year to 6.8 per cent, from 6.1 per cent estimated earlier, on the back of 'stronger-than-expected' economic data of 2023 and fading global economic headwinds. In a special trading session on Saturday, the BSE benchmark Sensex climbed 60.80 points or 0.08 per cent to reach its all-time closing high of 73,806.15.

GDP growth

Kolkata: Chief economist of Bandhan Bank Siddhartha Sanyal welcomed the GDP growth forecast of 7.6 per cent for 2023-24 released by the National Statistical Office (NSO). Sanyal said, "The GDP growth number for 2023-24 will be highest in seven years, barring 2021-22, which had shot up due to the statistical effects of a favourable post-COVID base". He said the high-frequency indicators continue to be robust, suggesting strong growth possibilities during 2024-25 as well. "Strong growth coupled with softening of inflation in the coming quarters will offer cushion for policymakers, particularly regarding monetary policy and a key aspect to watch remains RBI's communication and action on the liquidity front", he said.



BIDDING ROUND



Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing & Urban Affairs, at the concluding ceremony of the 12th CGD Bidding Round to distribute the Letters of Intent (LoI) to successful bidders, in New Delhi, Monday, March 4, 2024.

Launch of interoperable payment system for internet banking in 2024: RBI Guv

Mumbai, Mar 04:

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday said the launch of interoperable payment system for internet banking is likely in 2024 which will facilitate quicker settlement of funds for merchants. Internet banking is one of the oldest modes for online merchant payment transactions and is a preferred channel for payments like income tax, insurance premium, mutual fund payments, and e-commerce, among others. Currently, such transactions processed through Payment Aggregators (PAs) are not interoperable, meaning, a bank is required to separately integrate with each PA of different online merchants. "Given the multiple number of payment aggregators, it is difficult for each bank to



integrate with each PA. Further, due to lack of a payment system and a set of rules for these transactions, there are delays in actual receipt of payments by merchants and settlement risks," Das said while addressing the Digital Payments Awareness Week celebrations here.

Keeping in view these bottlenecks, the RBI's Payments Vision 2025 had envisaged an interoperable payment system for internet banking transactions. In

pursuance of the objective, the central bank had given approval for implementing such an interoperable system to NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL). "We expect the launch of this interoperable payment system for internet banking during the current calendar year. The new system will facilitate quicker settlement of funds for merchants," the Governor said. The measure, he said will further boost the user confidence in digital payments.

"As a regulator, we are committed to playing our part in India's journey in digital payments," Das said. The Governor further said the flagship of the country's payment systems, the UPI, has become the most talked about fast payment system not only in India but across the world.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds aims to reach 350 stores globally

Mumbai, Mar 04:

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the leading jewellery retailers, in line with its global expansion strategy, is set to open ten new stores and aims to reach 350 stores by the month of March. Currently, Malabar is ranked as the world's sixth-largest jewellery group and the 19th in Deloitte's Luxury Goods global ranking. The new store openings in India include Latur, Satara and Nagpur in Maharashtra; Kolar and Whitefield in Karnataka; Jaipur in Rajasthan; ChandniChowk in Delhi; Vanasthalipuram in Andhra Pradesh; Patiala



in Punjab and Puducherry. This marks the first entry of Malabar Gold & Diamonds into Rajasthan and Puducherry, expanding the brand's presence in these states. The remaining eight stores will open in states where the brand already has a strong presence. MP Ahammed, Chairman of Malabar

Group, said, "We have achieved great progress at the global level by embracing the concept of 'Make in India, Market to the World.' This accomplishment brings immense joy, not only to us but also to jewellery enthusiasts in the 14 countries where the brand is present. As we prepare to open ten new stores, we express our sincere gratitude to all our valued customers, team members, and investors who have played a key role in making this possible. With each new store opening, we are moving closer to our goal of becoming the world's number one jewellery and luxury brand."

Food Minister Goyal launches platform to enable loans against produce to farmers

New Delhi, Mar 04:

Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday launched a digital platform to facilitate farmers in getting loans against their produce stored in registered godowns and said it would help boost the farming community's income and make agriculture an attractive proposition. The minister also announced that the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) would soon lower the security deposit paid by the warehouse owner to

1 per cent of the value of the stock from the current 3 per cent. At an event here, Goyal launched the digital gateway named 'e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi', which aims to facilitate farmers in obtaining post-harvest loans from banks against their stocks stored in the WDRA registered warehouses. The loans are provided against e l e c t r o n i c Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (e-NWRs). At present, there are more than 5,500 registered warehouses under WDRA, while the total number of agri-warehouses is estimated at around 1 lakh.



UltraTech unit helps marginalised women become financially independent

Mumbai, Mar 04:

UltraTech Cement's integrated cement manufacturing unit, Baikunth Cement Works, located near Raipur in Chhattisgarh helped socio-economically marginalised local women to be economically independent through vocational training and placement. Working as daily wage labourers to support their families, these women lead a hard life with no security of steady income. Taking cognizance of the situation, the unit partnered with one of India's largest apparel manufacturers and exporters of readymade garments, Shahi Exports, to train the



women in industrial sewing machine operations, which would help them secure employment. As part of the collabora-

tion, Shahi Exports gave a guarantee of employment to the trained women in their manufacturing units.

Socially useful research is meaningful research: Prof. Chakrawal

Two CU teachers receive ICSSR research grants

Bilaspur, Mar 04:

Two assistant professors, Dr. Mukesh Chandrakar and Dr. Ajay Sameer Kujur of the Education Department under the School of Education of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur (a Central University), have received a research grant of Rs. 8.50 lakh from the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi. On this occasion, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawal congratulated both the teachers, stating that the aim of our research should be to benefit the society, bringing about positive changes in the lives of ordinary people.



Prof. Chakrawal further said that the selection of topics such as Autism Spectrum Disorder for the project is appropriate and provides an opportunity to raise awareness in society about this subject. He stated that the results and suggestions at the conclusion of the research project will definitely assist in formulating an effective policy. Both teachers have received a grant from the Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi, for research on "The Lived World Experience of Mothers in Raising a

Child with Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Phenomenological Study" in the field of special education in the autism sector. Autism is a developmental disability about which very little information is known to the general public. This disability results in a lack of practical and social communication in children, which often goes unnoticed by people. Under this research project, problems related to the upbringing, education, and social status of mothers and of their children with autism will be studied, and appropriate recommendations will be provided to the Indian government and state governments so that suitable policies can be formulated for these children and their guardians.

Virat Sant Samagam inaugurated in Rajim Kumbh Kalp

Rajim, Mar 04:

A Virat Sant Samagam was inaugurated here at Rajim Kumbh Kalp Mela on Sunday, March 3 and in the inauguration ceremony, Anant Shree Vibhushit Jyotish Math Dwarka Sharda Peethadheeshwar Jagatguru Shankaracharya Swami Shri Sadanand Saraswati Ji Maharaj and Anant Shree Vibhushit Jyotish Math Badrinath Peethadheeshwar Jagatguru Shankaracharya Swami Shree Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati Ji Maharaj graced their presence. Food Minister and district in-charge Dayal Das Baghel and Health and Family Welfare Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal, Rajim MLA Rohit Sahu and other public representatives



paid obeisance to both the Shankaracharyas as per the rituals. Rajim is the proof of Kumbh culture: Swami Sadanand Maharaj While giving blessings, Dwarka Sharda Peethadheeshwar Jagatguru Shankaracharya Swami

Sadanand Maharaj said that the word of God purifies the living being and the knowledge of our Vedas comes only from the saints. He said that Rajim is a proof of Kumbh culture and our culture is protected by such events. He also said that only man can know what is the root

cause of creation and God has given the wisdom of religion to man. B a d r i n a t h P e e t h a d h i s h w a r J a g a t g u r u S h a n k a r a c h a r y a S w a m i Shri Avimukteshwaranand Maharaj said that our Vedas are certified and only governments with such a mindset of respecting religious leaders organize events like Rajim Kumbh. A wise government organizes such events to benefit its people from the nectar of knowledge and the Kumbh Kalpa is an example of Rajim, the confluence of Mahanadi. He further said that it is a happy coincidence that the Government of Chhattisgarh has created a wonderful combination by bringing two Shankaracharyas together on this platform.

Change in office bearers of Cooperative Societies on Stay

Kurud, Mar 04:

A change in office bearers of cooperative societies, initiated by the new government in the state has been put on stay by the Honourable High Court, subsequently after a petition was filed by the sitting Cooperative officers. As per information, the nominated presidents and members of five primary agricultural credit committees of Tarsiwa, Kurra (Bagtarai), Rampur, Jugdehi and Gatapar falling under Korra branch of District Cooperative Central Bank Maryadit Raipur of Kurud Assembly, were removed by the government, owing to which challeng-

ing the order a petition was filed, for not dissolving the cooperative society. President of Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Society Rampur Trilochan Sahu, President of Gatapar Bhushan Lal Sahu and Jugdehi President Vijay Sahu, who comes to Korra branch of District Cooperative Central Bank Maryadit Raipur of Kurud assembly constituency, vacated the post without prior notice and dissolved the committee. The committee chairmen opened a front against District Registrar (Society) Pradeep Thakur, who took action, and approached the court, accus-

ing him of acting arbitrarily without giving information and against the rules. What does Co-operative Societies Act implement? As per Section 40(O) of the Co-operative Societies Act as well as the impugned order (from the provisions of Section 41) of the Co-operative Societies Act, it is clear that the Joint Registrar may authorize any officer or person who is experienced in the management of a co-operative bank or co-operative society to appoint such officer or person as the prescribed officer or authorized officer for such period as may be specified by the Registrar Deputy.

Spectators witness cultural program in Rajim Kumbh Kalp



Rajim, Mar 04: There was a packed crowd of spectators to watch the cultural program on the eighth day of Rajim Kumbh Kalpa, with various artists of different genres performing live. The artist included Kishore Dewangan of Raipur who presented Jhumri through classical-sub-classical singing, followed by Padmashree awarded Pandavani singer

Usha Barle and Urvashi Sahu. Odisha artist Arya Nande presented a dance drama, with a final presentation of the program on stage by Rajesh Sahu Navapara and his team. The artists were honored by Nagar Panchayat President Smt. Rekha Jitendra Sonkar, Chhayarahi, Purnima Chandrakar and public representatives.

Collector administers polio vaccine drops to infants

Bijapur, Mar 04:

District Collector Anurag Pandey here in the district hospital administered polio vaccine drops to children, as part of the pulse polio campaign running in the country, and appealed to all the parents to participate in the intensive pulse polio campaign on March 3 and also advised them to benefit the children. The Collector said that 37015 children aged between 0 to 5 years are being given polio vaccine in the district through health centres and polio booths, for which 385 polio booths have been made. For the successful implementation of the Intensive Pulse Polio Campaign, he congratulated the officers



and employees of the Health Department and other allied departments. It may be noted that India has been declared polio free country 10 years ago, but due to polio infection in neighboring countries; polio vaccine is adminis-

tered every year to protect our future generations from polio infection. Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ajay Ramekte, Civil Surgeon Dr. YK Dhruv, Bijapur BMO and District Immunization Officer Dr. Vikas Gavel were present.

Huge crowd witnessed in Rajim Kumbh Kalp Mela



On Sunday

Rajim, Mar 04: A huge crowd was witnessed on the 9th day of Rajim Kumbh Kalp Mela, on Sunday, which started on Magh Purnima from 24th February. A huge crowd of devotees had gathered at Shri Kuleshwar Mahadev and Lord Shri Rajiv Lochan Temple located at Triveni Sangam Beach. Seeing the crowd, devotees had to queue up to have darshan of the Lord and devotee had to wait for at

least half an hour to have darshan. The identity of Rajim Kumbh Kalpa is not limited to Chhattisgarh only, but its fame continues in the country and abroad. Apart from rush in trains, the buses coming to Rajim from Raipur, Mahasamund, Gariaband, Dhamtari were jam-packed, leading to a neck to neck rush in almost routes and a five minute journey took half an hour stretch, which also had the traffic department on its toes.

Scholarship distributed to winner of Sanatan Gyan quiz

Bilaspur, Mar 04:

MLA and former minister Amar Agrawal distributed scholarships to the winning students on behalf of Sanatan Jnanpith Astrology and Spiritual Research Institute in a program organized at JP Verma College.

The winners were selected through a competition based on Sanatan Dharma and a total of 2700 people from across the country participated in the competition, in which 41 students from Bilaspur district were selected for scholarship. Agrawal symbolically distributed checks and certificates of the amount to 3 students - Poonam Sahu, Shradha Sharma and Yasmi



Bhaskar. Bilaspur district convener of Sanatan Peeth, Shri Devraj Nayak said that the founder of Sanatan Gyan Peeth Astrological and Spiritual Research Institute is senior advocate Yogesh Kumar

Mishra. This competition is organized twice a year by the institute and an amount of Rs 5 lakh, 16 thousand 500 is distributed as scholarship and the next scholarship in this series will be distributed on 15 August 2024, he said.

Voting of no-confidence motion on March 7

Dhamdha, Mar 04:

The no-confidence motion in the Nagar Panchayat for the last 15 days has created an earthquake in the entire Congress party, as seven BJP councilors of the Nagar Panchayat have filed a no-confidence motion against the President of the Nagar Panchayat. According to the information received from the sources, the voting will be held on 7th March after illegal transactions and irregular work was reported in the Panchayat, which also includes irregularities in Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, promotion of illegal plotting etc. Also the process of filling the tender in Nagar Panchayat and issuing

tender and contracts was also done behind doors in patch works of favouritism which has been opposed by many. For the last four years, the fundamental rights of all BJP councilors have been violated by the Chairman and her husband. There has been discrimination in the development works given to the councilors. In the last four years, the Nagar Panchayat Chairman has made a name for himself through corruption, discrimination and the like. Raman Lal Yadav Former President N.P. Dhamdha and social worker A good ruler of the Nagar Panchayat should develop the city and give

the benefits of public welfare works to the city residents, but unfortunately, the current president is illegally allotting government shops and getting the land constructed at anyone's place in the name of commission embezzlement. The efforts made by the Speaker to get land through proposals to brokers and relatives and to indulge in politics of fear and favouritism during this past tenure are condemnable. Ankit Dani, Advocate The politics of anarchy, corruption and corruption in the entire city is at its peak, which is the only reason for this no-confidence motion. Brijendra Dani, Advocate

25065 children administered polio drops

At 159 polio booths in Kurud block

Kurud, Mar 04:

Under the nation-wide Pulse Polio Immunization programme by the Health and Family Welfare department GOI, the members of Jeevandeep Samiti administered polio drops to children upto 5 yrs at Civil Hospital, Kurud here on Sunday. On this occasion District Vaccination Officer Dr JP Diwan and Block Medical Officer Dr US Navratna also administered polio drops and immunized the children. Out of total 2,75,444 children in Kurud block, 25065 children were administered polio drops. It is notable here that India has been declared as polio-free Nation by the



World Health Organisation (WHO), but the neighbouring countries viz. Pakistan, Afganistan are still having polio cases and due to which the GOI has decided to re-start intensive Pulse Polio campaign this year. During the campaign, 0-5 yr children will be admin-

istered two drops of polio and immunized against polio. In Kurud block, there was target to immunize 27,544 children and for them 159 booths were formed. This included Health Centre Bhakhara of Civil Hospital Kurud, Sub-

health centres 42 and 7 Primary Health Centre where the Anganbadi workers, Mitandin trainees, Mitandin didis, Anganbadi assistants provided participation in making this campaign successful. In all the above polio booths, the local representatives were also present. The campaign was run by field health workers in the booths, along with Mitanins, Anganbadi workers, Kotawar, social workers, and voluntary workers who administered polio drops to children. This campaign will be continued for three days and those left on the first day will be covered at home on March 4-5, going door-to-door and identify the children left out from the booths or those travelling in-between.

Rajsoni donates for record 35th time

To save life of other through blood donation

Kasdol, Mar 04:

There are few people who just do not hesitate in donating blood and render free of cost service to the need, both during emergency and other times. All the more there are occasion, when there are few who just do not want to come forward to donate blood and in such conditions, it becomes difficult to save the life of other in need. But there is one such donor in Kasdol city, on whose initiative of donating blood, just does not act as motivation for others, but everybody finds him worth emulating as well. He is youth social worker, youth Club Patron and one among the highest number of blood donation in Chhattisgarh Mr. Rajsoni.



It is due to his desire to serve the needy that every person in Kasdol knows

him in person. Presently Rajsoni, who is a simple and service-oriented person and is not bereft of any introduction and carved an image for himself. Taking 'Blood Donation as 'Mahadan', Rajsoni by donating for last many years has saved life of many. So far he has created record by donating to 35 persons. The 35th time he donated last on 1 March 2024 to a person named Ramkumar's mother in Kasdol and saved mother's life. He said that whenever one requires blood, he or she can call 9977375699. It is by identifying such persons donating blood free of cost, the district administration should felicitate such persons and honour them to motivate others.

Children administered polio drops in Birkoni



Birkoni, Mar 04: By holding camps in Government and community buildings, children in the age-group of 0-5 yrs were administered polio drops under the nation-wide Pulse Polio Immunization camp in Gram Birkoni. There is awareness among the Mitanins and villagers about this polio campaign and those left-out on March 3 will be covered on March 4 and 5th visiting door-to-door.

Ranji Trophy

Mumbai crush TN by innings and 70 runs to storm into final

Mumbai, Mar 04 (PTI):

Shardul Thakur shone brightly with his all-round performance as a clinical Mumbai thrashed Tamil Nadu by a massive innings and 70-run margin inside three days to enter the final of the Ranji Trophy, here on Monday.

After his stunning 109 on the second day that handed Mumbai a big lead of 232 runs in the first innings, Thakur led Mumbai's bowling attack to bundle TN out for 162 in the second essay.

Baba Indrajith (70) waged a lone battle for the visitors, who were determined to make it big in their first Ranji knockout game in seven years, but their batters failed to show up against the rampant Mumbai side.

Once again, TN lost their top-order without



Mumbai's Tanush Kotian celebrates a wicket against Tamil Nadu during the Ranji Trophy semi-final in Mumbai on Monday.

any contribution and the middle-order too crumbled against the pressure, though the pair of Indrajith and Pradosh Ranjan Paul put some re-

Rathod's unbeaten 97 leads Vidarbha's spirited fightback against MP

Nagpur: A spunky unbeaten 97 by Yash Rathod helped Vidarbha script a superb fightback and reach 343 for six in their second innings against Madhya Pradesh on the third day of their Ranji Trophy semifinal here on Monday. Rathod, who faced 165 balls, received excellent support from his captain Akshay Wadkar (77, 139b) and the pair added 158 runs for the stubborn sixth wicket stand as the hosts recovered from a shaky 161 for five. Vidarbha, now, lead by a handy 261 runs. The first hint of resistance came when Dhruv Shorey (40, 65b) and Aman Mokhadde (59, 100b) made 84 runs for the third wicket after Vidarbha lost nightwatchman Akshay Wakhare in the second over of the day after resuming from 13 for one. However, left-arm spinner Kumar Kartikeya broke the alliance when he induced an edge from Shorey to press Himanshu Mantri into action behind the stumps. Vidarbha were 90 for three then, and from there they lost Mokhadde and Karun Nair (38) to be at 161 for five and a mere 79 runs ahead. But Rathod, who is playing in only his seventh First-Class game, and Wadkar built a wall against the waves of MP attack.

sistance, stitching 73 runs for the fourth wicket. The catalyst of Mumbai's win was bowling all-rounder Thakur (109; 2/48 and 2/16), who dragged them

back into the contest from a perilous state of 106/7 in the first innings to an overall lead of 232 runs with his maiden century across formats. Thakur

was all over TN with a two-wicket burst early on day three, helping Mumbai reduce the visitors to 10/3 in the second innings. B Sai Sudharsan was given a reprieve by Shreyas Iyer at midwicket, spilling a sitter in his first over, but Thakur had the left-handed opener caught behind with a superb inswinger that took an inside edge. Thakur swung the new ball dangerously and snafled the key wicket of N Jagadeesan for a seven-ball duck. Mohit Avasthi also tasted success when he had Washington Sundar, promoted at No. 3, caught behind.

With the top order blown away, recovery was a herculean task for TN but the pair of Indrajith and Pradosh Ranjan Paul did well to take the attack to the opposition and keep their side in the contest.

'I won't return to competitive wrestling'

New Delhi, Mar 04 (PTI):



Olympic bronze-winning grappler Sakshi Malik on Monday ruled out a return to competitive wrestling, saying the long-standing protest against former national federation chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh for alleged sexual harassment has left her mentally tormented.

The 31-year-old Malik had announced retirement in December last year after Sharan Singh's close aide Sanjay Singh was elected president of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) in a tearful press conference.

She, along with another Olympic-bronze medallist Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat, have been protesting for months, demanding Sharan Singh's removal and arrest.

"It's been more than a year, there is so much mental pressure and we

have been trying to fight in every possible way to make this protest a success, so I'll not be able to continue wrestling," Malik said in a panel discussion on the impact of the #MeToo movement in India. "I got (Olympic) bronze for India and I

want my juniors to get silver and gold. I would love to see each and every girl in India pursuing her dreams," she added.

Mailk, Punia and Phogat have continued protesting against Sharan Singh even after his removal as WFI head.

Indian TT teams qualify for Paris Olympics

New Delhi, Mar 04 (PTI):

The Indian men's and women's teams on Monday scripted history as they qualified for the Olympics for the first time ever based on their world rankings.

After the conclusion of the World Team Championships Finals in Busan last month, which served as the last qualifying event for the Paris Olympics, seven spots in the team events remained, which have been awarded to sides based on their rankings.

"The highest-ranked teams not yet qualified in

the latest World Team Ranking booked their ticket to Paris 2024," ITTF said.

In the women's event, India, ranked 13, Poland (12), Sweden (15), and Thailand have secured their passage to Paris.

While Croatia (12), India (15), and Slovenia (11) have secured their spots in the men's team event.

"Finally!!!! India qualifies for the team event at the Olympics! Something I have wanted for a long long time! This one is truly special, despite it being my fifth appearance at the Olympics! Kudos to our Women's Team who also secure a historical quota!"

veteran Sharath Kamal tweeted. This marks a significant milestone for Indian table tennis history, as it will be the first time the nation competes in the team event at the Olympics since its inception at the Beijing 2008 Games. Both the Indian teams had missed Olympic berths at the ITTF World Team Championships Finals after making pre-quarterfinals exits. The men's table tennis team, led by veteran Sharath were blanked 0-3 by South Korea, while the Manika Batra-led women's team lost 1-3 to Chinese Taipei.

SRH make Pat Cummins skipper

Hyderabad, Mar 04 (PTI):

Australia's World Cup-winning skipper Pat Cummins was on Monday named captain of Sunrisers Hyderabad for the upcoming Indian Premier League, becoming the fourth player to be handed the responsibility in the last three years.

The 30-year-old pacer was bought by SRH for a whopping Rs 20.50 crore in the IPL auctions in December last year, making him the second costliest player in the event's history. He replaced South African Aiden Markram, who led SRH in

the 2023 season. "Our new captain Pat Cummins," SRH posted on its social media platforms, along with a picture of Cummins.

In the 2023 season, SRH finished bottom of the heap under Markram's captaincy with only four wins in 14 league games.

Markram's feat of leading Sunrisers Eastern Cape to the inaugural SA20 title this year did not help him retain the SRH captaincy, though he remains in the squad.

The SRH leadership role has been changing hands for the last three years.

Services serve Railways a 2-0 defeat to march into Santosh Trophy semifinals

Itanagar, Mar 04 (PTI):

Six-time champions Services sailed into the semifinals of the Santosh Trophy with a comfortable 2-0 win over Railways at the Golden Jubilee Stadium here on Monday.

Forced to play second fiddle for most of the match against a rampaging Services, the Railwaymen were swept off their feet as early as in the ninth minute when a foul in the area allowed their opponents to take the lead through a penalty converted by Shafeel PP

Another goal came almost at the stroke of halftime when a brilliant effort by Samir Mumru saw Services increase their lead. That Services, who made the semifinals in the last edition too, were the better team on the pitch was clear from the very beginning. Services received a penalty after Railways' Nitesh Kumar Yadav challenged midfielder Rahul Ramakrishnan. Defender Shafeel, who stepped in to take the spot kick, had the goalkeeper Raja Barman beaten convincingly on the right, but the referee ordered

the kick to be retaken as one of the Services players rushed inside the box even before the shot was taken. Unperturbed, Shafeel slammed the ball in once again, this time on the left.

Services created trouble for the rival defenders from the left. The Railways defence looked harassed and managed to survive till the 45th minute. However, they had no answer to the goal scored by Samir Mumru, which was a spectacular effort. Latching on to the ball on the right, Mumru took an angular shot that entered the goal.

'My 100th Test cap is for my mother'

Dharamsala, Mar 4 (PTI):

Set to achieve a major milestone of playing his 100th Test this week, England wicketkeeper-batter Jonny Bairstow dedicated the achievement to his cancer-survivor mother who has been his driving force and kept the family together through the difficult times.

The 34-year-old will become the 17th Englishman to win 100th Test cap when he steps out for the fifth and final Test against India starting here on Thursday and it will be an emotional week for Bairstow, who endured a tough childhood and a long career-threatening injury. "When I play, there are times I think about Dad. But I think more about how hard Mum worked to make sure we were OK after everything that happened. To keep us together as a family. That has been my driving



force," he told 'Telegraph Sport'. Bairstow was just 8 when his father David, a former England wicketkeeper, died by suicide. His mother Janet kept the family together even as she battled and defeated breast cancer twice.

"My mum is the embodiment of strength. There was a determination there. She worked three jobs and had two kids that were under 10 at a difficult time. She was taking me to Leeds United (where he

played youth football), to Headingley, all sorts of other places.

"It's paying all that back, making sure they are OK, creating a life for my own family as well.

"She had cancer twice. She's a bloody strong woman, to get through that twice, before you even consider anything else she's been through, and it shows the strength and determination of the woman." Bairstow has often been compared to his

dad and the 34-year-old hopes "he's sitting up there, having a beer, looking down proudly, and enjoying the week."

Bairstow said he was desperate to become a Test cricketer while growing up watching his heroes and would look to put on a show during the fifth Test.

"I didn't grow up watching one-day cricket, I grew up watching Test cricket. It was everything to me. I loved [Michael] Vaughan,

[Marcus] Trescothick, KP [Kevin Pietersen]," he said. "I remember going to Headingley, watching England do an indoor net session. They were in the Vodafone blue tracksuits, and I was in awe of it. It inspired me and I was desperate to be a part of it."

"It's going to be an emotional week. I want to enjoy the occasion, and try to put on a show with the lads for the amazing fans that follow us around the world."

Ashwin always trying to find ways to get you out: Joe Root

Bengaluru, Mar 04 (PTI):

Mighty impressed with Ravichandran Ashwin's range, aggressive mindset and relentless pursuit of wickets, senior England batter Joe Root has said that the veteran Indian off-spinner is a constant threat who hardly believes in the concept of wearing the opposition down.

Ashwin, who recently went past the 500-wicket milestone in the traditional format becoming only the second Indian after Anil Kumble to do so, will play his 100th Test during the fifth match against England, starting on March 7 at Dharamsala.

"Ashwin is always trying to find ways of getting you out rather than trying to wear you down, over long periods of time," Root said on Sky Sports cricket podcast hosted by former England captains Mike



Atherton and Nasser Hussain. Root, who along with his teammates is currently enjoying a break in the series, said the infinite variety that Ashwin has in his bowling keeps the batters guessing.

"He uses creases differently from traditional off-spinners. He uses over-spin, side-spin, can get really tight to the stumps, can go wider and he has got the carrom ball, you

know, a lot of different tricks.

"So, you will have to be really wary of different threats that he poses and make sure that you have very good skill sets to counter (him) and be on top of him," said the England skipper.

Giving an insight into the way Ashwin operates, Root said the Tamil Nadu man often bowls six different deliveries in an over:

"Ashwin is making sure that you don't play the previous ball. He is very good at trying to drag you across the crease and get your head to one side of it and beat both edges quite frequently," he said.

Root said Ashwin poses different threats while bowling with new and old balls. "There are different things to contend with because of his seam position and how cleverly he can move around the shiny side that has got some extra skid. "So, you have to make sure that you are in position a little bit quicker. He can also drift the ball away and bring the slip fielder into play," he explained. Root also offered a comparison between Ashwin and Nathan Lyon, the other premier off-spinner of this generation. "The 36-year-old Australian has taken 527 wickets from 128 Tests.

'There is still room for improvement in my performance'

Bengaluru, Mar 04 (PTI):

Delhi Capitals captain Meg Lanning has been one of the most prolific batters in the Women's Premier League so far, but she still feels she needs improvement in her game going forward.

Lanning is currently the third highest scorer in the tournament with 148 runs from four innings, with the help of two fifties.

In DC's last match, Lanning scored a vital 55 off 41 balls to lead her side to a 25-run win over Gujarat Giants.

"I'm just enjoying playing cricket...we've got a really good squad and staff that makes it a really cool environment to be in. We back each other and play to our strengths, so it certainly helps and makes my



job a lot easier," she said after the win on Sunday.

"It's been nice to be able to contribute and help the team win. I feel like there's still a little bit of improvement needed in how I'm playing. I'm not completely satisfied, but as I said I'm just trying to have some fun and play with a smile on my face."

With the win, DC signed off the Bengaluru leg on the top of the points table (three wins and one loss in four matches). They will now move to their home venue to play their remaining matches of the tournament.

Asked about DC's strong batting line-up, Lanning said, "Each batter in that top six has different strengths. All we've spoken about is playing to our strengths.

Rauf's central contract may be 'restored'

Lahore, Mar 04 (PTI):

Pakistan pacer Haris Rauf's central contract may be "restored" after a review by the legal team of the country's Board, an official source in the PCB said on Monday.

Rauf's central contract was terminated two days before the start of Pakistan Super League for refusing to play in the three-Test series against Australia that they lost 0-3 in January.

An official source in the PCB said the legal team was reviewing Rauf's appeal which seeks the restoration of his central contract. "There are chances that the appeal might be accepted, and his contract restored," the source said. Rauf is currently ruled out of the PSL with a dislocated shoulder.

He sustained the injury during the third match of the PSL while playing for Lahore Qalandars. After opting out of the Test series in Australia, Rauf went to play in the Big Bash around the same time. But the PCB still included him for the five-match T20I series in New Zealand as the pacer last played for his country in the fourth match of the series in Christchurch.

The board while taking action also suspended issuance of NOCs to Haris for foreign leagues until June this year.

The source said Haris had submitted his appeal through his lawyer and given a complete statement, outlining his version of events that didn't allow him to play in the Tests in Australia.

Green likely to get leeway to prep for India series in summer

Wellington, Mar 04 (PTI):

Australia batter Cameron Green is likely to skip the white-ball series in Pakistan later this year and instead play Sheffield Shield to prepare himself for the big-ticket home Test series against India in December, according to head coach Andrew McDonald.

The same template worked for the 24-year-old in the ongoing Test series in New Zealand as he hit a career-best 174 not out in Australia's big win in the first match here on Sunday.

He was not included in the recent T20I series against the West Indies and New Zealand and instead earmarked him for West Australia's Sheffield Shield fixture against Tasmania in Hobart, where he struck an



unbeaten 108 to provide an ideal warm-up for the first Test against the Kiwis.

"It's a big decision to leave anyone out of international cricket when they're potentially in the best eleven, so I'm glad he (Green) embraced that when we had that conversation with him, and the return on it is pretty immediate," MacDonald

said. "The next stress point on that will be next summer, leading into the Indian Test series where we've got Pakistan in ODI cricket and T20 cricket. I'd like to probably err on the side of preparing him through red-ball - we know how good a white-ball player he is, so you put a priority on what it looks like next summer.

Majuli's mask making, manuscript painting receive GI tags



Guwahati, Mar 04 (PTI)

Mask making and manuscript painting of Majuli, an island-district of Assam, have received Geographical Indication (GI) tags, an official statement said on Monday.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, in a post on X, said the recognition will protect the skills of the artists.

"Majuli's Mukha Shilpa traces its origins to Srimanta Sankardev, who used arts as medium for

Bhakti. My gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi Ji for granting the GI tag to the region's mask & manuscript paintings. This will protect the rich skills of our artists," Sarma said.

NABARD's Assam Regional Office, which has been facilitating the GI registration of unique products, said in a statement that the GI tags are a recognition to rich cultural tapestry of the state, with the two products representing its heritage.

"This marks a significant step in promotion of Majuli Mask and Majuli Manuscript Painting across the country and the globe, and NABARD will make all possible efforts to create a community of authorised users of these GI-tagged products," said Nabin Kumar Roy, general manager and officer-in-charge, NABARD-Assam Regional Office.

It has already supported registration of eight unique products of the state last year, and is set to support at least 10 more in the current year, the statement added.

Mask making or Mukha Shilpa of Majuli is an age-old art form in the island, dating back to the 16th century. It is one of the most famous traditional crafts still practiced in Majuli, the world's largest inhabited river island.

Mukha Shilpa has been an integral part of the

Sattriya' culture of Assam.

It has been mainly confined to the Satras, Vaishnavite monasteries or centres of learning, and individual craftsmen residing in the villages of Majuli, officials said.

Manuscript painting is practiced on the barks of *Aquilaria malaccensis*, locally known as 'Sashi' (agarwood tree).

A long-lasting indigenous impermeable ink and colours extracted from natural ingredients are used to paint on the bark, they said.

The art form patronised by Ahom kings illustrate numerous stories and chapters from the Hindu epics Ramayana, Mahabharata and the Bhagavata Purana.

Both the art forms grew in medieval Assam under the guidance of Neo-Vaishnavite saint Srimanta Sankardev, the officials said.

BACK TO SCHOOL



Children attend morning assembly at a school that reopened after winter vacations, in Srinagar, Monday.

PM like 'elder brother,': Telangana CM NCW chief slams US writer for calling India unsafe

● Seeks support to develop state like Gujarat

Adilabad, Mar 04 (PTI)

Noting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is like an "elder brother" to the states, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday made his intentions clear that he would not like to confront the Centre, but would maintain cordial relations.

Addressing a gathering on the occasion of the PM launching or laying the foundation for Rs 56,000 crore worth of projects, Reddy sought Modi's cooperation to develop Telangana on the lines of Gujarat.

Reddy said Telangana with capital Hyderabad, the fifth largest city in the country, would like to contribute to PM Modi's ambitious goal of making India a USD 5 trillion economy.



PM Modi with T'gana CM A Revanth Reddy during the launch of development initiatives, in Adilabad, Telangana, Monday.

After a long time, a

Chief Minister of Telangana received PM Modi and shared the dais with him during an official event.

BRS supreme and former CM K Chandrasekhar Rao had, on several occasions, skipped the PM's official visits to the state in the past.

"Narendra Modi ji, according to us, Prime Minister means like our elder brother. If there is support from the elder brother, only then can chief ministers take forward development works in their respective states," he said.

"That is why my request is, if Telangana has to be developed on the lines of Gujarat, your support is essential here," the Congress chief minister said. Reddy said the state government will extend necessary operation and give necessary clearances to NTPC for completing

the 4,000 MW power plant of which only 1,600 MW became operational.

He further said as per the Andhra Pradesh State Reorganisation Act, the Centre has to set up a 4,000 MW power plant in Telangana. However, due to the acts of the previous BRS government, only 1,600 MW was completed in the last 10 years.

He said the people will ultimately lose when there is friction between the Centre and the states. Politics should be limited to elections only and after the polls the elected leaders should thrive for the development of the state with the help of the Centre.

He said PM Modi responded positively when he met him seeking clearances for some issues.

Reddy sought Modi's cooperation to expand the semiconductor industry in the state besides Musi River development.

New Delhi, Mar 04 (PTI)

India takes the safety of women very seriously and the implementation of stringent laws over time is evidence of it, NCW chief Rekha Sharma said on Monday as she hit out at a US-based writer for allegedly "defaming" the country over the gang-rape of a Spanish woman in Jharkhand.

Writer David Josef Volodzko said he has advised his female friends not to travel to India alone. His X post followed the alleged gang-rape of the Spanish tourist in Jharkhand's Dumka district. Volodzko also referred to some incidents of abuse and harassment, including one related to a woman being groped. "Did you ever report the incident to Police? If not than you are totally an irresponsible person. Writing only on social media and defaming whole country is not good choice," Sharma said in response in a post on X. Volodzko, in response, said Sharma herself has faced criticism for failure to respond to complaints filed by women's rights groups over credible

allegations of women being publicly stripped naked, beaten by mobs and raped in public. "And yet here she is with the gall to accuse me of defaming India. Sharma, it is you who defame India by presiding over a group called the National Commission for Women and doing nothing about the issue...and then criticizing people like me for drawing attention to this important matter," he said. The war of words continued to escalate. Responding to the post, Sharma said "To vilify an entire country with a tweet is not only in poor taste but also unacceptable, as data speaks otherwise. As much as this incident needs to be condemned and perpetrators brought to justice, let me share a few statistical indicators and request you to remove this tweet."

According to data, she said, over six million tourists arrive in India every year, many of them single women.

"... and they holiday safely as India takes the safety of women very seriously, evidenced by its implementation of stringent laws over time. India views sexu-

al assault as a very serious crime, and so should countries that, until now, have not considered date rape as a criminal offense," Sharma said.

She added that NCW univocally condemns the incident in Dumka and had reached out to the victim within hours of the complaint being registered.

"I would like to reiterate my point that, it is important to file an FIR when a crime is committed so that perpetrators can be caught in time. I am looking into this case personally and will extend all the help that it required from NCW," she added.

TMC Rajya Sabha MP-elect and journalist Sagarika Ghose also hit out at Sharma, saying the NCW chief had once again revealed the arrogance of power and her shocking lack of concern for women. "A country is defamed when women are assaulted, not when such crimes are reported so that justice may be delivered and the guilty punished."

The NCW is engaging in victim shaming of the most atrocious kind," Ghose said in a post.

Key issues like unemployment and inflation find no place in media: Rahul

Shivpuri/Guna (MP), Mar 04 (PTI): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday claimed unemployment and inflation are the major challenges in the country, but these issues do not find a place in the media.

Addressing gatherings as part of the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, which resumed from Shivpuri in Madhya Pradesh after a one-day break, Gandhi accused the media of diverting the people's attention by harping on China, Pakistan, cricket, and Bollywood.

Delhi Govt allocates Rs 900 cr for development of roads in villages

New Delhi, Mar 04 (PTI) Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, the Delhi government allocated Rs 900 crore for the development of roads in villages in its annual budget which was presented on Monday. Presenting the budget in the Assembly, Finance Minister Atishi said that the people living in Delhi's villages have given a lot of love and respect to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. "To develop better road infrastructure in the villages, this year the Kejriwal government will lay about 1,000 kilometres of roads in more than

360 villages of Delhi. This will give a great boost to the village economy. For the development of the villages of Delhi, I propose a budget of Rs 900 crore in the financial year 2024-25," Atishi said. The Delhi government allocated Rs 1,768 crore for road and flyover projects in the city in its annual budget 2024-25. Atishi said the quality of road infrastructure is a crucial determinant of the pace of the economy of any country. The more the government invests in roads, the more it enables time and cost savings

for the common people.

In this direction, work of several new flyovers and elevated corridors -- Barapullah Phase-III, double decker metro flyover on Brijpuri junction via Karawal Nagar, Gonda, flyover on Nand Nagari to Gagan cinema junction, double decker metro flyover on Rani Jhansi Road junction to Azadpur corridor, flyover from Anand Vihar ROB to Apsara Border ROB, and underpass on Outer Ring Road Mukarba Chowk -- will be completed and dedicated to the people of Delhi in the fiscal

year, she said.

Nearly 80 per cent of the work on the integrated corridor between Punjabi Bagh flyover and Raja Garden flyover has been completed, the minister said. "I am happy to share that by the end of 2024-25, six new flyovers will be dedicated to the people of Delhi. As part of the mission to improve Delhi's roads and make it one of the best in terms of road networks in the world, I propose Rs 1,768 crore in the Budget 2024-25 for road and flyover projects in Delhi," the minister said.

Mandaviya launches AYUSH-ICMR Centre for Integrated Health Research

● In AIIMS

New Delhi, Mar 04 (PTI)

Collaborative research in AYUSH is extremely important as it bridges the gap between traditional knowledge and modern scientific research, promoting a synergistic approach to healthcare, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Monday.

Mandaviya was speaking at the launch event of AYUSH-ICMR Advanced Centre for Integrated Health Research at four AIIMS in phases. He announced the setting up of the centres and also announced other mega joint initiatives between the



Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers, Mansukh Mandaviya with Director AIIMS Delhi Dr M Srinivas during the launch of the AYUSH-ICMR Advanced Centre for Integrated Health Research in AIIMS, in New Delhi, Monday.

Ministry of Health and AYUSH, which included multi-centre clinical trial on anaemia, and the launch of Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) for AYUSH healthcare facilities. The minister, during the event here, also

launched the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) published by the Union Health Ministry as a set of uniform standards to improve the quality of health care delivery. "By adopting these reforms, it is expected that the states

and UTs will be able to develop AYUSH health care services with set standards and quality infrastructure, thereby enabling the public to avail the benefits of AYUSH medical services for all healthcare. The health minister also inaugurated the 27th convocation of Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth and the 29th National Seminar on 'Ayurvedo Amritanam' on the occasion.

Expressing his elation at the launch of these collaborative initiatives, Mandaviya said, "Collaborative Research in AYUSH is extremely important as it bridges the gap between traditional knowledge and modern scientific re-

search, promoting a synergistic approach to health care". Ayurveda is a part of our culture, heritage and tradition. It is still being followed in our everyday practice.

रिनोप्लास्टी
नाक को सही (रिपेयिंग) करना
कालड़ा बर्न एंव
प्लास्टिक सर्जरी सेंटर
आर.के.सी.के.सामने, चौथे कालोनी एवं पंचपेटी
लाका, धर्मलदी रोड, कलकत्ता मॉल के पास, रायपुर
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Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh (CSCS)
RDCA Ground, GE Road, VIP Square, Raipur, Chhattisgarh - 492012
(Behind Wood Castle Hotel)

Ref. 01/CCPL/2023-24 Date: 05th March 2024

Bids Invitations for - Franchisee Rights
Chhattisgarh Cricket Premier League (CCPL)

Be a Part of Cricketing History!
Calling all cricket enthusiasts and entrepreneurs! The stage is set, the excitement is brewing, and the opportunity of a lifetime awaits you! The Chhattisgarh Cricket Premier League (CCPL) is gearing up for an electrifying start in June 2024, and you have the chance to be a part of this thrilling journey by securing the franchisee rights.

Event Details:

- What: Chhattisgarh Cricket Premier League (CCPL)
- When: Starting June 2024
- Where: Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium, Raipur

Inviting Bids:
Bid invitations applications can be collected from **6th to 14th March 2024 from 11am to 8pm** from the Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh, located at RDCA Ground, VIP Square, Raipur, CG - 492012

Base Bid Amount: Rs.50,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty Lakhs only)

Interested parties can obtain the bid applications by providing a refundable (if not selected)/adjustable advance fee of **5% (Rs. 2,50,000/- + Applicable GST)**, of base bid amount via cheque or DD in favor of Chhattisgarh Cricket Premier League payable at Raipur.

The last date for application submission is 21st March 2024 before 5 p.m.

Contact Details:
Hari Gundlapalli, Chief Executive Officer
Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh
RDCA Grounds, VIP Square, Raipur, CG.
Ph: 9108520405,
Email: hari.gundlapalli@cricketcscs.tv

Sd/
Hon. Secretary
Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh