



7-phase LS polls from Apr 19

Results on June 4
New Delhi, Mar 16 (PTD):



CEC Rajiv Kumar

Three phase polling in Chh'garh

The 11 Lok Sabha seats in Chhattisgarh will see polling in three phases on April 19, April 26 and May 7 as per the schedule announced by the Election Commission of India on Saturday. The Naxal-hit Bastar (ST) constituency will be the lone one to go to polls on April 19, while elections will be held in Kanker (ST), Rajnandgaon and Mahasamund on April 26. The remaining seven Lok Sabha seats, namely Surguja (ST), Raigarh (ST), Janjgir-Champa (SC), Raipur, Durg, Korba and Bilaspur, will witness polling on May 7. The gazette notification for polls on April 19 will be issued on March 20, which will start the process of filing of nominations. The last date for filing nominations will be March 27 and scrutiny of the nominations will be completed on March 28. The contestants can withdraw their name till March 30. "The notification for the April 26 polling will be issued on March 28. Last date for filing nominations will be April 4 and scrutiny will be completed by the next day. The contestants can withdraw their candidature till April 8," an official said. Likewise, for the May 7 polling, the notification will be issued on April 12, while the last date for filing nominations will be April 19, he said, adding that scrutiny will get completed on April 20 and candidates can withdraw their names by April 22.

in four more states/UTs. In the third phase on May 7, voting will take place in 94 constituencies spread across 12 states/UTs. With this, polling will be completed in six more states/UTs.

In the fourth phase on May 13, 96 constituencies spread across 10 states UTs would vote. With this, three more states/UTs would have

Seven phase polls...

- First phase: April 19
- Second phase: April 26
- Third phase: May 7
- Fourth phase: May 13
- Fifth: May 20
- Sixth phase: May 25
- Seventh phase: June 1

Poll statistics...

97 crore registered voters, over 10.5 lakh polling stations manned by 1.5 crore personnel, and 55 lakh EVMs, 97.8 crore eligible voters of which 49.72 crore were male voters and 47.1 crore were female voters, 1.82 crore first-time voters.

completed with this phase. The seventh and final phase will take place on June 1 in 57 constituencies spread across eight states/UTs. The polling process in eight states/UTs would be completed. The CEC said the poll authority is prepared to counter the challenges of four M's muscle power, money power, misinformation and Model Code of Conduct violations. "I would appeal to parties to maintain decorum during the campaign and refrain from personal attacks," Kumar said.

The CEC said children should not be used in campaigning and the poll watchdog will be very strict on that account. He also said advertisements masquerading as news will not be allowed.

Naxalite killed in encounter

Kanker, Mar 16:

A Naxalite was killed in an encounter with the security forces in Kanker district on Saturday, police said.

The gun battle occurred in the forest near Chilparas village under the Koyalibeda police station area, where a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxalite operation,

Kanker Superintendent of Police Indira Kalyan Elesela said.

The District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Border Security Force (BSF) were involved in the operation, he said.

After the guns fell silent, the body of a Naxalite, along with a weapon and explosive materials, were recovered from the spot, the official said.

EXCISE SCAM

Kavitha sent to ED custody till Mar 23

New Delhi, Mar 16 (PTD):

Bharat Rashtia Samithi (BRS) leader K Kavitha, allegedly a key member of the "South Group", which has been accused of paying the ruling Aam Aadmi Party kickbacks of Rs 100 crore in return for a big share of liquor licences in the national capital, was on Saturday remanded in ED custody till March 23 in a money laundering case linked to the Delhi excise policy "scam". Kavitha, a member of the Telangana Legislative Council and daughter of former state chief minister K Chandrababhu Naidu, was produced before Special Judge for ED cases M K Nagpal, who sent her to the custody of the federal anti-money laundering agency for a week. The ED had sought her custody for 10 days. Kavitha, 46, was arrested from her Banjara Hills residence on Friday amid protests by BRS supporters.

PM launches scathing attack on Cong govt in K'taka

Says it's engaged in 'loot'

Kalaburagi, Mar 16 (PTD):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched a scathing attack on the Congress government in Karnataka alleging deterioration of law and order situation, and accused it of indulging in "loot", when the people are in trouble.

Formally launching the party's Lok Sabha election campaign in the State here in the home turf of Congress President M Mallikarjun Kharge, he claimed that the people of Karnataka have decided to make BJP victorious in the state.

"The anger that you have towards Congress in Karnataka, I can understand. Congress is a party that despite changing their costume number of

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PM Modi addresses during a public meeting ahead of LS elections, in Kalaburagi, Karnataka, Saturday.

Addressing a mega public rally here, Modi said people of Karnataka are disenchanted with the Congress government in Karnataka within a short span of time. "This shows that people are aware of Congress' truth. Congress is not ready to improve despite getting several chances."

Alleging that the law and order situation in Karnataka has deteriorated, the PM said that anti-social elements are getting protection openly and fear is being instilled into the minds of the people. "When people are worried, Congress is busy with loot," he said.

Corruption cannot be separated from the Congress, Modi said and added, "For these parivarwadis (dyansts), corruption is their oxygen, without corruption these people cannot even breathe in politics."

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Enforcements razed in A-Market of Sector 04

Bhilai CA branch organises study circle on GST

Central Chronicle News

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Mar 16: On Saturday, the Enforcement Department of Bhilai Steel Plant took action against illegal encroachers in Sector-04, A Market.

More than 35 illegal constructions were demolished and removed with the help of JCB. A team of Bhatti Police Station was also present to maintain law and order situation. The proceedings were conducted on the orders of the Estate Court.

On Saturday, in the presence of heavy police force, Bhilai Steel Plant took action against the illegal encroachers and removed more than 35 illegal constructions. These illegal encroachers tried



to create a situation but the cops managed to control the situation.

The encroachers had made illegal constructions on both sides of the road due to which traffic movement was affected in Sector-04, A Market. There remained a threat of road accidents and the

commuters faced a lot of trouble. This main market always remains crowded. Many huts were also built in the market.

All the shanties were removed by the Enforcement Squad. During the proceedings, a large number of ocu-



pants had gathered in protest. Illegal constructions, carts and kiosks were given on rent by some land mafia. Action was taken on the basis of the complaint made by the citizens and the order of the Estate Court.

Enforcement department, officers and em-

ployees of PHD, inspectors, police personnel of Bhatti Police Station, private security guards and women guards were present. Continuous action is being taken by the Enforcement Department against illegal encroachers, land mafia and brokers.



Bhilai, Mar 16: A study circle related to GST was organized by Bhilai CA Branch on Saturday at CA Bhawan Civic Centre. CA Chinay Solanki was present as the keynote speaker in the program. He explained the attendees about the various complexities of GST and the main points related to its solution and the solution of GST through MS Excel in 10 minutes.

The program started with the lighting of the lamp in front of the oil painting of Goddess Saraswati. The keynote speaker of the program, CA Chinay Solanki, said

that GST related problems can be solved easily by using Power Query. It is very important to be careful in this regard.

While giving information, newly appointed Chairman of CA Branch, CA Rahul Batra said that it is very important to solve

the problem of imbalance between 2B and books of GST. Its resolution also takes time. More than 100 members and students including branch secretary CA Animesh Sinha, CA B Vishwanath, CA Navneet Jain were present in the program.

HC rejects Interlocutory Application of industrialist guilty of unnatural intercourse

DMC starts removing hoardings, banners and posters of all political parties

Central Chronicle News

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Bhilai, Mar 16: The High Court of Bilaspur rejected the Interlocutory Application filed by an Industrialist guilty of unnatural sexual intercourse with his wife. His criminal appeal has been listed for final order.

It needs to be mentioned here that the victim's wife had filed an FIR against her husband on charges of unnatural sexual intercourse and dowry harassment under sections 498A, 377, 323 and 34 of IPC at Supela Police Station in July 2016.

After hearing the case, the Fast Track Special

Court in Durg, on December 23, 2023, sentenced the accused Nimesh Agarwal, a resident of Nehru Nagar Bhilai, to 9 years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 10,000. Further, his father Sunil Agarwal and mother Rekha Agarwal were sentenced 10 months of imprisonment under Section 323 of the Indian Penal Code.

Furthermore, her sister-in-law Neha Agrawal was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment. An application for suspension of

sentence was submitted in the High Court Bilaspur by Nimesh Agrawal with an appeal against the decision given by the Fast Track Court.

During the hearing, the High Court rejected the application for suspension of sentence. The court stated that in this case, the MLC report described six injuries on the victim, which were caused by her husband and family members.

The unnatural act done to the victim is also a seri-

ous matter; hence the Court observed that the suspension of the sentence would not be appropriate. Accordingly, the application of Nimesh Agrawal was rejected.

It needs to be mentioned here that Sunil Agarwal, Rekha Agarwal and Neha Agrawal are on bail because they have been sentenced to imprisonment of less than 3 years. Nimesh Agrawal is still detained in jail.

Chhattisgarh High Court is going to conduct the final hearing on the case on July 2. The victim was supported by advocates Abhishek Sinha and Jagdish Yadav.

Bhilai, Mar 16: As soon as the code of conduct came into effect with the Election Commission announcing General Election dates, the DMC administrative staff swung into action.

On the orders of Collector Richa Prakash Choudhary and of Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar, the team started removing the political hoardings etc on Saturday.

In the presence of DMC Health Officer Javed Ali, Encroachment Incharge Chandan



Manhare, Shoaib Ahmed, Bhupat, the encroachment team removed hoardings, banners and promotional materials like posters etc.

Hoardings of all political parties were being re-

moved rapidly from places like Patel Chowk, Main GE Road, Rajendra Park, Gaurav Path, Jail Tiraha, Pulgaon Mini Mata Tiraha, Bus Stand etc.

Apart from this, the work of removing hoardings from government offices has also been started. Besides, the wall writings of all political parties are also being removed with paint.

All the major intersections in the market areas are also being covered. The hoardings showing the achievements of the government have also been removed.

Retired Professors of aided colleges share problems with Speaker and Finance Minister

Little Millennium Nehru Nagar celebrates Annual Day

Central Chronicle News

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Bhilai, Mar 16: Regarding the problems in pension and gratuity as well as other problems, a delegation of the Association of Retired Professors of Aided Non-Government Colleges of Chhattisgarh met Speaker of Chhattisgarh Assembly Dr Raman Singh and State Finance Minister Om Prakash Chaudhary and informed them about their demands.

A memorandum was also submitted. The representative teachers informed them that they have retired in the sixth or seventh pay scale but they are being paid pension on the basis of the fifth or sixth pay scale. The unfor-



tunate situation is that the retired professors receiving fifth, sixth and seventh pay scales have been paid gratuity on the basis of the fourth pay scale. They also informed that due to DA freeze, there is no increase in their pension and they are facing financial difficulties in old age. They re-

quested that the discrepancies in payment of pension and gratuity should be eliminated as soon as possible. The delegation included Regional Association President Dr Harinarayan Dubey, General Secretary Dr DN Sharma, Dr GK Goswami and Prof YP Patel.

Bhilai, Mar 16: Little Millennium Nehru Nagar celebrated its 13th Annual day with great enthusiasm at Old Nehru Nagar Park. The theme- "Ikigai" gave the audience an insight into responsible global practices.

They threw light on this famous Japanese concept of ikigai. 'Iki' in Japanese means 'life', and 'gai' describes value or worth. It is something worth living for. The toddlers of Little Millennium came up with some remarkable performances which were thoroughly enjoyed by one and all present.

They spread the message of sustainable development goals to become better global citizens. The



hard work of teachers was clearly evident in the program.

"We are thrilled to have had such a successful Annual Open Day Function. Every day we

wake up to a new commitment. As it opens our minds and souls to make the place a better world to live in," said Preeti Jain, Director of Little Millennium.

The students of Smart Kids Activity Island (SKAI) performed the English Play titled- Goodness Prevails. The Play showcased how good deeds creates a lasting im-

act in the society and it wins over evil "It was wonderful to see so many parents and guardians interested in learning more about the school and the education we provide to our young learners."

The students of KG 1 and KG 2 presented a skit on "Zero Hunger". It was heart rending to see the tiny tots perform on stage with such credence and spread the message of "food for all".

Little Millennium Nehrunagar, is a highly-regarded institution that offers a nurturing and supportive environment for young children to learn and grow. The curriculum is designed to promote holistic development based on NEP 2020 and prepare students for future academic success.

BSP's Multilingual Drama Competition concludes at Nehru House of Culture

BSP-CSR inaugurates Dry Flower handicraft-training at Village Piparchhedhi

Central Chronicle News

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Bhilai, Mar 16: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Sports, Cultural & Civic Amenities Department (SC&CA) organized the four-day Prestigious Multilingual Theatre Competition on March 12 to March 15, 2024, at Nehru House of Culture, Sector-1. NK Banchhor, President (OA) & Chairman (SEFI) was the Chief Guest of the Valedictory Ceremony on March 15, 2024.

Parvinder Singh, Gen Sec (OA), O Prem Sagar, AGM (Executive Cell), Dennis Christy, Dy Mgr (SC&CA), and Abhijit Bhowmick, Asst Mgr (SCCA) were present on this occasion along with the Judges of the competition Dr Shraddha Mishra, Yash Oberoi and DP Deshmukh.

Chief Guest NK Banchhor in his address stated that although this prestigious competition is being organized after three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, its legacy is continuing since 1977. Theatre is a



colourful picture of life and in every character of the play, emotions, the acting, each component is like each colour of the painting, Banchhor said.

Yash Oberoi, one of the Judges of the competition in his address appreciated the initiative by the SC&CA Department to organize the Multilingual Drama Competition and said that SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant is one of those rare organizations which is still patronizing the performing arts and including theatre, he said.

The play Sapna, by the Chorus theatre group, won the first prize for best presentation, while the plays Pukaar by Gita Arts, and The Marriage Proposal by Yogi Sandan group bagged

the second and third prizes respectively. As many as 20 prizes were given away under various categories including best direction, best actor, best actress, etc. winners and participants were felicitated during the valedictory function by the dignitaries and guests.

A total of 17 drama troupes from Durg-Bhilai region participated in this four-day multilingual drama competition, where five plays in various languages including Hindi, Bengali, Chhattisgarhi, Telugu etc, were presented every day from 14:00 hrs to 22:00 hrs. Supriyo Sen from SC&CA Department compered the Valedictory function and proposed the Vote of Thanks.

Other officials from BSP's SC & CS Department were also present during the Valedictory Function along with the members of the participating drama troupes, and theatre admirers in large numbers. It is noteworthy that this competition has also given a platform to many eminent artists including Bollywood film director Anurag Basu and Subrata Bose.

The aim of organizing this multilingual drama competition is to promote the theatrical skills of the local artists of the city as well as to encourage their talent, prepare them for diverse theatre performances, and enrich their practical skills.

Bhilai, Mar 16: A three-month training workshop to train women from Village Piparchhedhi in Durg in the skill of making Dry Flower handicrafts in association with Chhattisgarh Handshilp Vikas Board was inaugurated on March 15, 2024 as part of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's CSR programme. Chief Guest Tapas Dasgupta, CGM I/c (Iron) inaugurated the workshop.

CS Kehri, Manager (CG Handicrafts Devpt Board), Kamalakant Verma, Dy Mgr (CSR), Shraddha Singh, Technical Advisor (CGM I/c -Iron), Ashraf Shaikh, Junior Officer, and other officials from the CSR Department and CG Handicrafts Devpt Board were present on this occasion, along with Panchayat representatives, trainee women, and villagers in large numbers.

As many as 30 women are being trained by craft trainer Lata Chakradev, so that they can be self-employed and thereby empowered. During the course of their training, the women would



be given a stipend of Rs 3000 per month. Several such workshops as well as other CSR programmes aimed at giving rural folk from villages near the steel plant and its Mines self-employment opportunities are regularly being organized.

Chief guest Tapas Dasgupta in his address appreciated the training initiatives by the CSR department to empower women. This training program is a holistic approach to providing employment opportunities to women and making them self-reliant, Dasgupta said.

CS Kehri, Manager (CG Handicrafts Devpt Board) spoke briefly about the organization of such training camps and shared his insights on various ideas and

techniques related to the training. Kamalakant Verma, Dy Mgr (CSR) stated that to achieve the dream of Aatmnirbhar Bharat and Bhilai Steel Plant, it is necessary to motivate women power to move forward.

At the outset, SK Kamde, Sr Mgr (CSR) gave the welcome address, while Rajni Rajak from the CSR depart-

ment compered the programme. Village head Balkrishna Thakur proposed the Vote of Thanks on this occasion.

Budhelal from BSP-CSR, along with Sharad Sahu, Nitesh Tarane, Manoj Manhar from the Chhattisgarh Handicraft Development Board contributed to organizing the programme successfully.

OBITUARY

Anima Swain



Bhilai: Anima Swain, wife of Bhimsen Swain, left for heavenly abode at the age of 49 years. Funeral procession will be taken out from her residence situated at Quarter No 2B, Street 24, Sector 2, Bhilai, on 17 March 2024 and last rites of the mortal remains will be performed at Ramnagar Muktidham. Shri Jagannath Mandir Committee mourned her death.

Sai expresses confidence to win all LS seats from Chh'garh



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 16: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Saturday expressed confidence that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would win all the 11 Lok Sabha seats from Chhattisgarh. He further stated that party stalwart

Narendra Modi would once again return as Prime Minister at Centre and would make India World Leader.

In his micro-blogging platform X, the Chief Minister Sai said that entire India is excited over the Lok Sabha elections. He added that India has registered massive progress during the last years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He claimed that all the main guarantees as promised by PM Modi in Chhattisgarh has been fulfilled during the last three months after the BJP returned back to power in Chhattisgarh.

Dewangan assumes office as Chairman of CSIDC



● **Cabinet Minister also entrusted with responsibility of Labour Welfare Board**

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 16: Minister for Commerce & Industry Lakhanlal Dewangan on Saturday morning assumed office as Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation after being entrusted with the responsibility on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, he said that youth would

get employment opportunity through the development of Industrialization in accordance to the directives of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai. He said that the new Industrial Policy would be introduced soon for the next five years. Earlier, Dewangan who also has portfolio of Labour Minister, also assumed office as Chairman of Labour Welfare Board at the Office situated here. He said that efforts would be made in the interest of the labourers. He also held discussion with the officials after assuming the office.

Every BJP worker working to fulfill Modi's 400-plus-seat goal: Dev



● **Says Modi's election as PM means making India a developed country**

Raipur, Mar 16: People have made up their mind to respond to BJP with good governance, sensitivity, service and values and BJP is going to win all 11 seats with a record majority, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State President Kiran Singh Dev said while addressing the press conference at the BJP office in Ekattm Parisar after the announcement of the dates for the Lok Sabha elections by the Central Election Commission on Saturday.

According to Dev According to him the two remaining islands of Congress in Chhattisgarh are also going to drown in the tsunami of BJP this time. This time BJP workers are going to hoist the flag of victory in Korba and Bastar also, he said.

According to Dev every BJP worker of the state is working wholeheartedly to fulfill Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of crossing 400 mark.

People of Chhattisgarh and 40 lakh loyal workers of BJP are going to give their 100 percent support and cooperation to Modi ji in this election in the form of 11 seats, Dev said.

BJP has full confidence that wise people of

Chhattisgarh are going to give a comprehensive, miraculous mandate to it by giving all 11 seats, he said, adding that Modi's guarantee and Vishnu's good governance have been accepted wholeheartedly by the people of the state and there is an atmosphere of unprecedented satisfaction and happiness in the entire state. This support is for new India and developed India, he said. Prime Minister does not believe in dreams but in resolutions Dev said

BJP State Vice President, State Election Management Committee and former MLA Shivratn Sharma said that in view of the Lok Sabha elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and National President JP Nadda will visit Chhattisgarh.

Action to be taken on defacement of property: Collector

Raipur, Mar 16: Collector and District Returning Officer Dr Gaurav Singh has directed all the departmental officers to ensure strict compliance with the provisions of Chhattisgarh Prevention of Deformation of Property Act 1994 with the start of election process after the announcement of the schedule of Lok Sabha Elections 2024 by the Election Commission of India. It should be ensured that no property is defaced in the district, he said to the officials.

As per the provisions contained in Section 03 of the Chhattisgarh Prevention of Deformation of Property Act, 1994, any person defacing any property by writing or marking with ink, chalk, color or any other substance, without the written permission of the owner of the property, will be punished with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees. Any offense punishable under this Act will be cognizable.

A team will of the employees and officers of urban body, public works department, revenue department and police department will make extensive visits and restore the defaced property at the expense of the person defacing the property and action will be taken against the elements defacing the property by registering an FIR under the provisions of the Act. If any private property is defaced by any politi-

cal party or election contesting candidate without the written consent of its owner, then the team will take action on the complaint of the owner of the private property.

Similarly, no religious place will be used for election campaigning. On the complaints received by the police station in-charge related to defacement of property, FIR will be immediately registered and investigation will be started.

Publicity materials being removed from govt properties

Raipur, Mar 16: On the instructions of District Returning Officer and Collector Dr Gaurav Singh, the action on property defacement has been started as soon as the code of conduct has come into force. Under this, publicity materials have to be removed from gov-

ernment properties within 24 hours and from public places within 48 hours. By forming a team in urban bodies and district panchayats, this action has been started today in four blocks of Raipur district- Dharsivan, Arang, Tilda and Mandir Hasaud.

CM joins Gurudarshan Mela at Giraudpuri Dham

● **Seeks blessings at Guru Gaddi and Jaitkham**

Raipur, Mar 16: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Saturday participated in the Gurudarshan Mela organized at the birthplace and sacred land of Baba Guru Ghasidas, Giraudpuri Dham and also offered prayers at Guru Gaddi and Jaitkham, extending wishes for the prosperity and progress of the people of Chhattisgarh.

CM also went up to Jaitkham, a site higher than the Qutub Minar, where he performed puja and enjoyed the panoramic view of nature through binoculars. Also present was Bhandarpuridham Guru Gaddinshin Baldas.



The Gurudarshan Mela concluded marking the end of the three-day Giraudpuri fair that commenced on March 14.

Cabinet Ministers Brijmohan Agrawal and

Dayaldas Baghel, former Minister Punnu Lal Mohale, MLA Guru Khushwant Saheb, former Parliamentary Secretary Sanam Jagade, former MLA Naveen Markandey,

IG Amresh Mishra, Collector KL Chauhan, SP Sadanand Kumar, along with a large number of Rajmahants, saints, and devotees, graced the occasion.

Vehicles allotted to public representatives to be returned

● **With implementation of Model Code of Conduct**

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 16: Collector and District Returning Officer Dr. Gaurav Kumar Singh has instructed the public representatives to return the allotted vehicles. An order has been issued in this regard. It said that the model code of conduct has become effective in the district.

Therefore, MPs, Lok Sabha members or representatives of political par-

ties or candidates or any person related to elections should not be allowed to use vehicles of Central Government Undertakings, Joint Sector Undertakings, Autonomous Institutions, District Panchayats, District Panchayats, Gram Panchayats, Nagar Panchayats, Marketing Boards, Marketing Institutions, Agricultural Produce Market Committee Authorities or other such bodies in which any small part of Government money is invested, from the date of announcement of elections till the date of declaration of election results.

LS election 2024: Section 144 imposed in the district

Raipur, Mar 16: Collector and District Returning Officer Dr Gaurav Singh has imposed Section 144 in the district with a view to maintain peace and order in the Lok Sabha elections 2024 and allow voters to exercising the right to vote in a fear-free environment. Carrying weapons has also been prohibited. The election process has started with the announcement of the schedule of Lok Sabha Elections-2024 by the Election Commission of India. During the Lok Sabha elections 2024, anti-social elements should not be allowed to create obstacles in the peaceful and fair elections by creating an environment of fear and terror in the election process. They should not be allowed to create any kind of fear among the voters and voters should exercise their franchise fearlessly in a fear-free

environment. In view of this, Collector Dr Gaurav Singh has issued an order and implemented Section 144 in the district from March 16, 2024. It has been ordered that no person will go out in any public place with any kind of weapon, sword, axe, spear, stick, knife, trident, khukra or any other weapon. Persons who are on government duty will be able to carry weapons while on duty.

This order will also not apply to those persons who carry sticks as support due to physical weakness, old age or disability and this ban will also not apply to weapons held on the basis of religious beliefs. Within Raipur district, no person or group of persons will hold any meeting, take out any rally or procession, nor hold any dharna without the permission of the competent authority.

Complaint cell control room opened for LS polls

Raipur, Mar 16: On the instructions of District Returning Officer and Collector Dr Gaurav Singh, a complaint cell control room has been formed in the local election branch collector premises for the Lok Sabha elections. Duty has been ensured under the guidance of Nodal Officer and Assistant Nodal Officer in control room. Additional Collector BC Sahu is the nodal officer of control room with contact number 0771-2445785.

Follow SOPs during Nursing Care to Patients



Lt Gen Ashok Jindal (Retd), Executive Director addressing the Orientation Program.



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 16: An induction and orientation program (March 11-15, 2024) for more than 200 newly joined senior nursing officers and nursing officers is being organized by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. Expert trainers from different departments in AIIMS

● **Induction and Orientation Program for Newly Joined Nursing Officers in AIIMS-R**

Raipur asked newly joined NOs to follow the laid-down Standard Operating Procedures while dealing with patients.

Lt Gen Ashok Jindal (Retd), Executive Director, said that nursing services are the backbone of any health institution. Patients spent more time with NOs than doctors during hospitalization. 'Nursing services have expectations and opportunities to present health institutions positively before patients. We must try to

give our best during patient care, he added.

Under the aegis of the Department of Nursing and Hospital Administration, newly joined NOs are getting training on hospital administration, reporting, communication skills, maintaining records, e-office, administrative knowledge, store working, and

ward procedures during the program. The orientation program was also graced by Prof. Renu Rajguru, Medical Superintendent. Program convener Deputy Nursing Superintendent Priyanka Taksande informed that more than 200 SNOs and NOs will be given different procedure demonstrations before final posting.

BJP looks to leverage on momentum; uphill task for Cong

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 16: An upbeat BJP is eyeing to knock out the Congress in all 11 Lok Sabha seats in Chhattisgarh after its landslide victory in the recent assembly polls in the state, where the grand old party is striving to overcome its shock defeat. Lok Sabha polls in Chhattisgarh will be held in three phases on April 19, April 26 and May 7. Counting of votes will be held on June 4.

The ruling party hopes to continue the momentum, powered by the Modi factor', after it fulfilled various promises, particularly those made to farmers ahead of the state polls, while the Congress seeks to highlight issues related to agriculture, rising inflation, unemployment, and caste census to

make a case for it. The BJP, energised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for Abki bar 400 par', has declared candidates for all 11 seats in the state, dropping four sitting MPs and introducing an incumbent state minister into the mix. Three women leaders, including a former MP and a former MLA, figure in its list.

The Congress has announced six names for Chhattisgarh so far, picking experienced leaders like former chief minister Bhupesh Baghel, two former state ministers and a sitting MP. Four of these are from the Other Backward Classes (OBC), and one belongs to the Scheduled Caste (SC) community.

Just a year ago, the then ruling Congress in the state appeared comfortably placed, riding high on

populist schemes and regionalism rhetoric, but the scenario turned on its head in the assembly polls held in November 2023.

The BJP captured 54 seats in the 90-member assembly after running an aggressive campaign on corruption plank, Hindutva and populist promises and topped it with several rallies by Modi. Congress managed to win 35 seats, 33 less than it had won in 2018.

In the latest state assembly polls, BJP saw its vote share leap to 46.27 per cent from 32.97 per cent in 2018, while that of Congress dropped from 43.04 per cent to 42.23 per cent.

Since Chhattisgarh was carved out of Madhya Pradesh in 2000, Congress has not fared well in Chhattisgarh in the parliamentary elections of 2004, 2009, 2014

and 2019. BJP's tally remained at 10 in the first three general elections in the state and dropped to 9 last time, despite its drubbing in the 2018 assembly polls.

The ensuing Lok Sabha elections once again seem to be an uphill task for the Congress in the state.

Corruption, Welfare schemes, Ram temple, Infrastructure, Inflation and jobs, Mining and Left Wing Extremism are the key issues in Chhattisgarh for the Lok Sabha polls this time.

BJP made corruption a major plank ahead of Chhattisgarh assembly polls, with Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and party president J P Nadda targeting the previous Baghel government over alleged scams tied to Mahadev betting

app, coal and liquor being probed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Moreover the Vishnu Deo Sai government has also announced a CBI probe into the alleged PSC scam. The BJP has relentlessly attacked the Congress over these alleged wrongdoings, while the rival party has accused it of misusing central agencies to target political opponents.

The state government has been claiming that it has fulfilled various Modi ki Gaurantee' (pre-poll promises) in just two months. It says it has disbursed a pending bonus of Rs 3,716 crore for kharif crop seasons 2014-15 and 2015-16 to more than 12 lakh farmers. The BJP has already succeeded in building national fervour around the new shrine at Ayodhya.

Retired IAS Officer Narendra Shukla appointed Information Commissioner

● **Former Municipal Officer Chandravanshi also get preference**

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 16: Former Indian Administrative Services (IAS) Officer Narendra Shukla and former Municipal Officer Ashish Chandravanshi have been appointed as the Information Commissioner in the Chhattisgarh State Information Commission. Both of them have been appointed against two vacant posts of Information Commissioners. General

Administration Department (GAD) on Saturday morning issued an appointment order in this regard. Earlier, on Friday the committee comprising Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, Health Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal and CM Secretary Mukesh Kumar had attended the meeting to discuss the names whereas another member of the committee comprising Opposition Leader Dr Charandas Mahant had given his consent to any decision taken by the Committee in his absence.

It is notable that more than 100 retired Officers as well as people from social sector had submitted

application for the two posts of Information Commissioners.

On the basis of it, the Committee has given consent for the names of Narendra Shukla and Ashish Chandravanshi.

While the retired IAS Officer Narendra Shukla would be able to service as Information Commissioner for one and a half year only on the basis of the age whereas the former Municipal Officer would be able to get a complete tenure.

It is notable that the two posts had been fallen vacant following completion of tenure of Information Commissioners who hail from media.

Environmental protection is the responsibility of every citizen: Choudhary

New Industrial Policy will be implemented by establishing harmony between core sector and service sector

Environment Minister inaugurates 'Chhattisgarh Vision 2047' conference

Raipur, Mar 16:

Housing and Environment Minister OP Choudhary inaugurated the conference 'Chhattisgarh Vision 2047' organized by Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board to realize the vision of development alongside environmental protection. The programme was presided over by Chief Minister's Secretary Rahul Bhagat. Discussing the roadmap for the next 25 years for de-

velopment with environment protection, Housing and Environment Minister OP Choudhary stressed the need to adapt to the ever-changing times. "Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai led state government, in its budget for sustainable development, envision a 'Viksit Chhattisgarh' alongside 'Viksit Bharat' in 2047. For this, the 'Amritkal Vision Document @ 2047' is being prepared as a long-term goal, which will be launched on November 1, the State's Foundation Day", he said.

Mentioning that industrial development is essential in the state and considerable growth is also taking place in this sector, Minister Choudhary stressed the pressing need to promote growth in the service sector as well. "We are working in this direction, and within the next



Environment Minister OP Choudhary (center) inaugurates the 'Chhattisgarh Vision 2047' conference. He is surrounded by officials and staff members. A banner in the background reads 'उत्तीसग विज्ञान'.

ingly, the major cause of pollution in big cities is vehicles on the road rather than industries, further adding that there is a dire need to control it. He emphasized that we all need to change our thinking, and every citizen is responsible for playing an important role in environmental conservation.

Chief Minister's Secretary and Secretary of Good Governance and Convergence Department Rahul Bhagat stated, "We have to consider what the future will be by the year 2047 if we do not start preparations now. Just as the health of every living human being is important, similarly the good health of trees and plants is crucial for all of us. Life exists within them as well, and our lives are intricately connected with theirs. Today is the era of technology, and it is changing

rapidly, but we have to take care of the environment even in the changing times so that we and our future generations can remain healthy and safe."

Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board Chairman Smt. R. Sangeeta, Member Secretary P. Arun Prasad, and Chhattisgarh Housing Board Commissioner Shri Ayyaj Tamboli, along with representatives of integrated steel and sponge iron plants, coal washeries, thermal power plants, coal mines, iron ore mines, major hospitals, sponge iron associations, and members of rolling mill, mini steel plant, and minor mineral associations, as well as commissioners of Raipur, Durg, and Bhilai Municipal Corporations, were also present at the conference.

CSR activities organised by Bank of Baroda, Raipur Region



At Dr. Bhimrao Memorial Hospital, Raipur (Chhattisgarh)

Raipur, Mar 16:

Bank of Baroda keeps organizing CSR activities while fulfilling its responsibility towards the society. In this series, on March 15, 2024, Mr. Bharatkumar Chavda, Network Deputy General Manager, Chhattisgarh, Bhopal Zone and Mr. Amit Banerjee, Regional Head Raipur Region, donated a wheel chair and water coolers to Dr. Bhimrao Memorial Hospital, Raipur (Chhattisgarh) under Corporate Social Responsibility.

Specially present on this occasion were Mrs. Sheetal Verma, Mrs. Sheetal Shashwat Verma, DIF, Government of Chhattisgarh, Dr. Trupti Nagarkiya, Dean, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Medical College, Dr. SBS Netam, Joint Director and Superintendent and other staff members. Various CSR activities were also organized on a large scale in the area branches. This program was contributed by staff members of various branches of Raipur region, RBDM Baljeet Singh from Regional Office Raipur and the team of Network Deputy General Manager, Chhattisgarh.

Collector takes feedback from students about Takshashila Library

Gives necessary instructions to officials

Raipur, Mar 16:

Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh on Friday inspected the "Takshashila" library located in Motibagh complex. He discussed the facilities and arrangements related to the library with the youth studying in the library.

The Collector listened to all the youth one by one and asked them to implement their suggestions. All the youth unanimously thanked the Chief Minister Vishnudeo Sai and Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh for starting the "Takshashila Library". The Collector said that along with the reading zone, there is also the facility of a library. Keeping in mind the future and needs of all



Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh (right) is seen interacting with students in the Takshashila Library. He is surrounded by a group of young people who are providing feedback on the library's facilities.

facilities of this library are new and when a new facility is started, it takes time to materialize. With the efforts of the administration and the suggestions of all the youth, we will always try to make Takshashila Library even better. Dr. Singh said that cleanliness should be maintained in the premises and in view of the heat, arrangements for drinking water should be ensured. Besides, arrangements for breakfast and seating should also be made at appropriate rates in the canteen operated on the campus. On this occasion, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Mr. Abinash Mishra, Employment Officer and Library Nodal Officer Mr. Kedar Patel and related officials were present.

Class 10th, 12th board exam results to be released in last week of April

CG Board Result

Raipur, Mar 16:

Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education (CGBSE)'s 10th and 12th results are probably going to be released this time in the last week of April. As from the new academic session the board examination of the Board of Secondary Education is to be conducted twice a year. In view of this, the officials have intensified their preparations for the release of results in April instead of May.

According to officials, this time preparations are also being made to increase the number of evaluator teachers, so that there is no problem in releasing the results. It is noteworthy that 10th and 12th board exams are still



The Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education building in Raipur. The board is preparing for the release of 10th and 12th class exam results in the last week of April.

going on. Papers for half the subjects of both the classes have also been completed. This time 3.45 lakh candidates have registered for the 10th exam. Similarly, 2.55 lakh candidates have registered in class 12th. Class 10th exam will end on March 21st, whereas class 12th is ending on March 23rd. The board exams are ending sooner this time than earlier years. This time the examination is ending before the Holi festival. There will not be much trouble in releasing the results this time. Board exams are going on systematically at this time. Till now no major cases of cheating have come to light in any centre. On the other hand, earlier class 10th and 12th board exams were held between May 10th to 15th. Now efforts are being made to change this. Students will also benefit from this. According to the result, they can easily select a college or prepare for other competitive examinations. Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education Secretary VK Goyal said, efforts are being made to release the 10th and 12th board exams early this time. We have made our own preparations for this. Arrangements for evaluator etc. are being made, he added.

No defacement of any property in district after code of conduct implemented: Mishra

Municipal Corporation Commissioner reviewed election related preparations, gave necessary instructions

Raipur, Mar 16:

Municipal Corporation Commissioner and Nodal Officer, Abinash Mishra on Friday reviewed the ongoing preparations in the urban area for the Lok Sabha elections 2024. Mishra held a meeting with all the zone commissioners and other concerned assistant nodal officers of the Municipal Corporation in the meeting room and gave necessary instructions. The Corporation Commissioner directed all the departmental officers that the Model Code of Conduct will come into force as soon as the Election Commission of India announces the schedule of Lok Sabha Elections 2024. After this, it should be ensured that there is no defacement of any property



Municipal Corporation Commissioner Abinash Mishra (center) is seen in a meeting with various officials. He is providing instructions regarding the implementation of the Model Code of Conduct for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Vanvasi Vikas Samiti to host award ceremony today

Raipur, Mar 16:

Vanvasi Vikas Samiti, dedicated to the upliftment and empowerment of forest dwellers nationwide, is set to honour the scholarly prowess of Raipur's college students. In a bid to commemorate the valour and contributions of tribal heroes, the organization conducted a two-phase general knowledge competition in February.

The initiative witnessed an impressive participation, with 913 students registering for the first phase. From this pool, 220 outstanding individuals advanced to the second phase. The top achievers in this competition are poised to receive coveted prizes, including laptops, tablets, and smartphones for the first, second, and third place winners, respectively. Additionally, ten students will be bestowed with pen drives as consolation prizes.

The much-anticipated award distribution ceremony is slated to take

place at Shabari Kanya Ashram Rohanipuram on Sunday at 3 p.m. Distinguished personalities including Kedar Kashyap, Cabinet Minister, Neelkanth Tekam, former IAS, will grace the occasion as chief and special guests, respectively. The event will feature insightful addresses by renowned speakers such as Rajeev Prakash, Director of IIT, Bhilai, and Ramnath Kashyap, with Umesh Kashyap presiding over the ceremony. Rajeev Sharma, Secretary of Vanvasi Vikas Samiti, underscored the invaluable role played by tribal heroes in India's freedom struggle. With the aim of instilling awareness and appreciation for their contributions among students, the competition was organized in two phases. Notably, the event will also showcase an exhibition of posters depicting tribal heroes, alongside captivating cultural performances presented by talented youths from tribal communities.

CM interacts with women during his 'Labharti Sampark Abhiyan'

In Durga Nagar of Raipur

Inquires with women about the status and implementation of various government schemes

Raipur, Mar 16:

The Mahtari Vandan Yojana has brought immense joy to women throughout the state, including the capital, Raipur. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai interacted with eligible women who received the first installment of the Mahtari Vandan Yojana at Durga Nagar in Raipur. Women stated that the scheme has brought happiness into their lives. Chief Minister Shri Sai visited Durga Nagar in New Rajendra Nagar during his 'Labharti Sampark Abhiyan' program to assess the status of the implementation of various government schemes. Women were greatly impressed by the simple, humble, and amiable personality of Chief Minister Shri Sai. Chief Minister Shri Sai met with the members of women's associations, including members of the Chhattisgarhiya Mahila Mandal, Adivasi Mahila Mandal, and Telugu Mahila Mandal, as well as Meera Sahu, Pushpa Dhruw, Savitri Deep, Swati Rao, Santoshi Rao, and Jamuna Soni. During the discussion,



Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai (center) is seen interacting with women during his 'Labharti Sampark Abhiyan' in Durga Nagar, Raipur. He is surrounded by a group of women who are receiving the first installment of the Mahtari Vandan Yojana.

change, and now they can prepare meals for their families effortlessly. They are receiving gas cylinders on time, which is helping them immensely. During his interaction with women, Chief Minister Sai inquired if there were any issues with accessing government schemes. In response, women stated that they were easily benefiting from the schemes. They also expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister for ensuring timely delivery of the benefits of government schemes. Chief Minister interacted with over 300 women from Durga Nagar and surrounding areas during the 'Labharti Sampark Abhiyan'. Former Rajya Sabha MP Bhushan Lal Jangde, former MLA Ram Ji Bharti, Santosh Jain, A.L. Joshi, S.K. Sonwani, Shyam Ji, R.P. Tandon, Shankar Sonwani, Rajdeep Jangde, Vinod Bharti, and a large number of dignitaries were present.

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Choudhary reviews naming process of intersections, roads, water bodies, and parks

In Nava Raipur

Raipur, Mar 16:

Chhattisgarh's Minister of Housing and Environment Department, OP Choudhary, reviewed the department's initiatives regarding the naming of intersections, roads, water bodies, parks, etc., at Atal Nagar in Nava Raipur. He strongly criticised the



Minister OP Choudhary (center) is seen reviewing the naming process of intersections, roads, water bodies, and parks in Nava Raipur. He is surrounded by officials and staff members.

with transparency was not followed. There was no invitation for suggestions from the public during the naming process. Minister Shri OP Choudhary directed all concerned officials to ensure that the entire naming process for intersections, roads, water bodies, and parks in Nava Raipur Atal Nagar to be carried out again with the utmost transparency.

AIM FOR PERFECTION



A man practices slacklining at Fort Kochi beach, in Kochi, Saturday.

Arun Goel quit due to personal reasons: CEC

New Delhi, Mar 16 (PTI): Chief election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar on Saturday evaded a direct reply on the reason behind the sudden resignation of Election Commissioner Arun Goel and said his "personal space" should be respected. At a press conference to announce the Lok Sabha elections schedule, Kumar also said dissent within the poll panel is encouraged. Goel, whose tenure was till December 2027, resigned last Saturday. Asked about the resignation, Kumar said, "Mr Arun was a very very distinguished member of our team, I thoroughly enjoyed working with him, but in every institution someone will have to be given the personal space, and I am sure personal space should not be touched, one should not be insensitive to ask personal questions."

National Poker Series India gets off to a flying start

New Delhi, Mar 16:

National Poker Series India, country's coveted and most anticipated Poker series, inaugurated its fourth edition on Sunday, 3rd March 2024.

With 11,800+ entries on the first day, National Poker Series India embarks on a 21-day journey to witness the country's growing Poker community competing with each other, showcasing enthralling gameplay with skills and winning a prize never offered before by a Poker series of INR 50 Cr+.

With over 450+ medals to

be won at this year's event, players are all set to set course on an elevated experience ever offered by a Poker series in India. The series will comprise 150 tournaments which started from 3rd March and concluding on 24th March 2024.

National Poker Series India 2024 has already received 11,800+ entries across the country on day 1 of the series. Furthermore, it shattered records with an astounding 2,500+ entries in the Kick-off tournament alone, marking a phenomenal 25% increase from the previous editions.

Ritwik Khanna from Delhi NCR was crowned the winner of the kick-off event by clinching the first gold medal of this edition.

National Poker Series India also hosted a one-of-its-kind Poker reality series, NPS CAMP, to prepare players for the series. The 4-day camp, attended by leaderboard winners and five lucky winners of a social media contest, was conducted in a bespoke property in Goa.

Led by Poker aficionado and Pro, Abhishek Goindi, in association with Poker Boot Camp India, NPS CAMP focused on reiterat-

Wayanad LS seat in spotlight due to Rahul's candidacy

Wayanad (Kerala), Mar 16 (PTI):

Kerala's hill constituency of Wayanad shot to fame after the Congress fielded Gandhi from here in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. His candidacy in Wayanad was a source of energy for the state's Congress-led UDF then.

Riding on the "Rahul wave" among various other factors, the UDF then won 19 out of a total of 20 Lok Sabha seats in Kerala, bucking an otherwise national trend of Congress being forced to a not-so-impressive show when the BJP further added to its strength of 282 in 2014 and crossed the coveted 300-seat mark.

Ahead of the April 26 Lok Sabha polls, the predominantly rural constituency, known for its scenic beauty and rich biodiversity, has once again gained national attention as the Congress decided to field Gandhi again from its stronghold. The political class is curious to know whether Rahul's presence in Wayanad would help the Congress repeat its victory in the polls in Kerala.

In 2019, Gandhi contested from Wayanad in addition to his traditional constituency, Amethi in Uttar Pradesh. He won the election from Wayanad by a margin of over four lakh votes but lost Amethi to

Smriti Irani of the BJP.

Interestingly, this time, the fight in the Wayanad constituency is between two partners in the INDIA formation constituted to take on the BJP at the national level, generating interest among the political class.

Gandhi's main rival in the constituency in the upcoming polls is Annie Raja of the CPI, who is also a prominent woman face of the Left in New Delhi. The BJP-led NDA has not announced its candidate yet.

The constituency boasts of a diverse demographic profile, featuring a substantial population of tribal communities, notably

the indigenous Paniya, Kurichiya, and Kuruma tribes. Its economic backbone is supported by key industries such as agriculture, tea and coffee plantations, and tourism.

One of the main issues that the parties are discussing in the Wayanad region are the increasing incidents of human-animal conflicts.

Other issues, including the notification of Citizenship Amendment Act, defections from the Congress to the BJP, and allegations against the CPI(M)-led LDF government, are also expected to be widely discussed by the voters of the constituency before casting their votes.

Dangal Family Awards today

Mumbai, Mar 16:

Dangal TV, is proud to announce the Dangal Family Awards 2024. This glittering ceremony will be a celebration of the channel's achievements, its commitment to exceptional content, unity, and collaborations that has made Dangal TV a family-favorite across the nation.

The Dangal Family Awards 2024 promises to be a night full of unforgettable moments and entertainment. The event will not only recognize DAN-

GAL TV's success but also create a momentous occasion for the entire Dangal family - its viewers, talented actors, writers, and the esteemed production

houses.

Hina Khan, whose beauty radiates like a timeless masterpiece and Varun Sharma, whose appealing personality makes him a charming actor, to host Dangal Family Awards 2024. The evening will be filled with splendid and glamorous performances by some of the biggest names in the industry such as Jacqueline Fernandez, Mika Singh, Rashmi Desai and awe-inspiring mind reading performance by Mentalist Suhani Shah.

Among the prominent personalities who will grace the Dangal Family Awards 2024 are some of the most beloved faces of entertainment industry, in-

cluding Subhash Ghai, Ravi Kishan, Manoj Tiwari, Rakesh Chaurasia, Ritu Shivpuri, Anita Hassanandani Reddy, Urvashi Dholakia, Shama Sikander, Ravi Dubey, Rohit Verma, Sneha Wagh, Riddhima Pandit, Deepshikha Nagpal, Ayub Khan, Parul Chauhan, Aparna Mehta, Manav Goel, Mauli Ganguly, Tarun Khanna, Indra Krishnan, Neelu Baghela, and more.

The Dangal Family Awards 2024 promises to be a remarkable evening of entertainment that celebrates family relationships and love as we come together to honor our achievements and embrace the spirit of family that defines Dangal TV.

Navneet Kumar Sehgal, new Prasar Bharati chairman

New Delhi, Mar 16 (PTI):

Retired bureaucrat Navneet Kumar Sehgal has been appointed as the new Prasar Bharati chairman, a post that was vacant for four years.

Sehgal succeeds A Surya Prakash, whose term ended in February 2020 after he turned 70, the upper age limit for a person holding the post.

Sehgal took charge on Saturday.

"...the President, on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, is pleased to appoint Shri Navneet Kumar Sehgal, IAS (retd) as the Chairman of the Prasar Bharati Board with effect from the date of his assuming charge of the post for a term of three years or until he attains



Navneet Kumar Sehgal

the age of seventy years, whichever is earlier," an order dated March 15, issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, said.

Sehgal was a 1988-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre. He retired last year. Sehgal has handled key

assignments in the Uttar Pradesh government and retired as the additional chief secretary, sports and youth welfare.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar chaired a meeting on Friday to select the chairman of the public broadcaster.

The vice president, who is also the chairman of the Rajya Sabha, heads the selection panel for the post of the Prasar Bharati chief. The chairperson of the Press Council of India (PCI) and a nominee of the president complete the three-member panel.

The meeting was attended by PCI Chairperson Justice (retired) Ranjana Desai and Broadcasting Secretary Sanjay Jaju.

More phases help parties with deeper pockets: TMC

Kolkata, Mar 16 (PTI): The Trinamool Congress on Saturday said there is no valid reason for holding elections in seven phases for the 42 seats in West Bengal, asserting that more phases help political parties with deeper pockets.

It also claimed that the Election Commission did not take into account the West Bengal government's suggestion of holding the elections in a single phase or two phases in the state.

"We wanted a single or twin phase Lok Sabha election in the state. Our views were that a multiple-phase election helps political parties with deeper pockets, and gives them an advantage over others," state Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya said, addressing a press conference.

Indian Oil Adani Ventures hosts free cataract treatment camp

Paradip, Mar 16:

Indian Oil Adani Ventures extended a helping hand to the underprivileged senior citizens residing in the 17th, 18th, and 19th Wards of Sandhakud Mauzar under Paradip Municipality by organizing a three-day free eye treatment camp from March 7th to March 9th.

During the camp, a total of 46 individuals suffering from cataract-related issues were identified and provided with necessary medical attention. Subsequently, 16 patients were referred to the renowned eye hospital in Jagatsinghpur for cataract surgery.

The initiative received a ceremonial send-off as the vehicle transporting the



eye patients was flagged off by Mr. Lakshman Kumar Sharma, the project director of IOAV. Notable attendees included Mr. C. R. Patra, Mr. Ritesh Kumar Sahu, Mr. Sanjay Kumar Pattnaik, as well as Councillors Mr. Jagannath Rao and Mr. Nava Kumar Behera from Ward No. 18 and 19.

Additionally, Mr. Vaskar Achari, Mrs. Bhumi Lakshmi, Mr. Ganesh Behera, Mr. Pal Krishna, B. Parshuram, P Hari, and M. Ramesh graced the occasion.

Bailochan Swain, Manager of Bhumika Eye Hospital, played a pivotal role in ensuring seamless treatment facilities for the

elderly patients, overseeing transportation arrangements for the beneficiaries.

The commendable efforts of Indian Oil Adani Ventures in organizing public welfare programs have garnered praise from elected representatives, social workers, and local residents alike.

'Shaitani Rasmlein' celebrates milestone of completing 50 episodes

Mumbai, Mar 16:

Star Bharat has always been a top destination for gripping contents filled with drama and entertainment making it popular amongst the viewers. And each show has its unique approach towards the audience and it's been praised by the viewers.

On of its recently launched show 'Shaitani Rasmlein' has gained popularity for its unique concept and ever since the initial airing the audiences have showered their love on the show.

'Shaitani Rasmlein' is a fantasy thriller show with a mixture of Drama, Entertainment and Romance. The show has entertained the audiences with its intriguing and intriguing plot since its start and now has completed its 50 episodes which arrays how far it has come.



The show marks the television debut of the OG Kaanta Laga girl Shefali Jariwala who plays the key character of Kapalika along with the talented Naqiyah Haji and Vibhav Roy in the lead roles as Nikki and Piyush Ghelot. They've been fabulous in showcasing their roles and bringing out the

essence of their characters with utter versatility.

Apart from Shefali Jariwala, Naqiyah Haji and Vibhav Roy the show also stars Sreejita De, Nikita Sharma Richa Soni and other well-known actor of the industry who plays a pivotal role in the show. The show has charted on top since

its launch and entertained the audiences.

Shaitani Rasmlein has now completed its 50 episodes since its release and celebrated this milestone with cutting a cake with the whole cast and crew. The actor expressed his happiness and shared his thoughts getting candid enthusiastically says,

Two new projects announced by Minister of Railways

Bhubaneswar, Mar 16:

Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnav in a media interaction, announced for sanction of New Line projects for Odisha which were demanded by the public since long time.

A. Digha-Jaleswar (Chandaneswar-Jaleswar) new line project (42 km) will be done on fast track.

Approval process has been completed. Work will be started. This connectivity will give a boost to the regional economy & tourism as new areas get connected to the mainstream.

Jaleswar-Chandaneswar line will connect famous shivaipaths of Baleswar district with Jaleswar station such as Chandaneswar Temple, Bhusandeswar Temple etc

•Promote regional socio-economic upliftment: Connectivity to the students, pilgrims, farmers, local traders of the region

•Connectivity to hinterland of Jaleswar & Bhograi blocks of Baleswar districts which will also benefit fisheries sector & local agricultural produce

Khandapada and a Chord Line between Khurda Town and Kaipadar Road (120KMs) has been sanctioned.

• Connectivity to Kantilo Nilamadhab Temple

• Nature Tourism: Connectivity to Unexplored wild life sanctuaries and Forest reserves

•New market for Brass and bell metal craft at Kantilo and Khandapada

• Freight Movement: Coal, power plants & port Connectivity

Khurda Town station to Kaipadar Road station in Khurda Road Vizianagaram main line.

Change of Name

It is informed to the general public that I Akshay S Jaiswal S/o Sanjay Kumar Jaiswal Resident of 14/113, R-4, Ward No 27, Vidhya Nagar, Bilaspur (C.G.) 495001 have changed My Old Name Akshay S Jaiswal S/o Sanjay Kumar Jaiswal, So in future I should be recognized by my new Name Akshay Kumar Sanjay Jaiswal S/o Sanjay Kumar Jaiswal in all Government and other Documents.

Akshay Kumar Sanjay Jaiswal
14/113, R-4, Ward No 27, Vidhya Nagar, Bilaspur (C.G.) 495001

Kejriwal announces survey of street vendors

New Delhi, Mar 16 (PTI): Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday announced a survey of "rehri-patri" (street) vendors in the city to provide them space for running their shops. In a video message, Kejriwal said the survey would be completed in a few months after which the vendors would be provided space in a proper manner so that there is no problem to other shopkeepers and any traffic issue. The chief minister said his government was committed to ensuring that street vendors were able to earn their livelihood respectably without facing any harassment from police or other authorities.

Officer Employees Federation pushes for education institute

Submit memorandum to MLA Rohit Sahu

Rajim, Mar 16:

In a concerted effort to enhance educational infrastructure, the Officer Employees Federation, led by Block Convener Yashwant Sahu and Teachers Association's Divisional President Rajim Narayan Mishra, submitted a memorandum to MLA Rohit Sahu. The memorandum, supported by Education Minister Brijmohan Agarwal's endorsement, advocates for the establishment of a District Education and



Training Institute in Gariaband district. Under the auspices of the School Education Department, a felicitation ceremony was organized at the Girls Pre-Secondary School auditorium during Ramotsav Rajim Kumbh

Kalp. MLA Rohit Sahu, serving as the chief guest, assured the delegation of his commitment to champion the establishment of the institute in Rajim. Highlighting the ample space available in the ancient city of Lord Rajeev

Lochan, the memorandum emphasizes the need for accessible teacher training opportunities to enhance education quality.

The delegation included Yashwant Sahu, Block Convener of Officer Employees Federation, Ramnarayan Mishra, Divisional President of Teachers Association, Mohit Mishra, Atma Ram Sahu, Shobha Ram Sahu, Provincial Spokesperson of Joint Teachers Association Subhash Sharma, Kishore Nirmalkar, Dharmendra Singh Thakur and many others underscored the significance of the proposed institute in fostering educational excellence.

Saroj Pandey urges active participation in Lok Sabha polls

Every worker is the asset of BJP

MCB, Mar 16:

Bharatiya Janata Party's Lok Sabha candidate, Saroj Pandey, made a one-day visit to Kunwarpur Mandal in MCB district, emphasizing the pivotal role of grassroots workers in electoral triumphs. Pandey addressed a gathering of party workers, stressing the importance of electing proactive representatives for regional development.

During the introductory meeting, Pandey urged constituents not to support inactive MPs in the upcoming elections, citing past instances of negligible



progress in Korba under previous representation. Highlighting the leadership of Prime Minister Modi at the national level, Pandey asserted the need for a synchronized "double engine government" to propel both state and national progress.

Addressing the assembled cadre, Pandey called for dedicated efforts to ensure robust voter turnout and continuous engagement with beneficiaries of government schemes. Promising exemplary results with sincere dedication, Pandey rallied sup-

port for achieving an electoral mandate surpassing 400 seats.

District President Anil Kesarwani, former MLA Champa Devi Pavle, and other local leaders joined Pandey in mobilizing grassroots support for the BJP's electoral agenda.

SVEEP core committee to ensure 100% voting

For Lok Sabha Election 2024

Korea, Mar 16:

A committee has been formed by the District Election Officer, Korea with the aim of ensuring 100 percent participation of voters in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections 2024 and encouraging voters like disabled, coal workers, third gender, youth, women, elderly etc. to vote. In this context, the SVEEP Core Committee meeting was held here and guidelines on various points were issued by Collector Vinay Langeh.

The District Collector in the meeting told the Sweep Core Committee to motivate third gender, disabled, elderly and young voters to vote in large numbers and directed to prepare an action plan at the district level



and assembly constituency level for "easy and inclusive voting". In order to

make voters aware about voting, instructions have also been given to run voting awareness campaign in a large number of polling stations in the district with the help of various voluntary organizations including self-help groups, educational institutions, groups, Bihan etc. Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat, Dr. Ashutosh Chaturvedi has given instructions to run an awareness campaign to tell the people living in urban, rural and remote polling centers including Callery and SECL about the importance of voting. On this occasion, Additional Collector Arun Kumar Markam and members of the SVEEP Core Committee were present.

Student leader Vaibhav Chandrakar joins BJP



Anwari, Mar 16:

In workers conference of BJP held in Old Mandi Kurud in the presence of Ajay Chandrakar and outgoing MP Chunni Lal Sahu and current BJP candidate Smt. Roop Kumari Chaudhary student leader Vaibhav Chandrakar entered the Bharatiya Janata Party fold along with 100 of his

friends, including public representatives. Among those who entered along with Vaibhav Chandrakar are Kuldeep Gurupanch, and prominent among the political incumbents were Sarpanch Dharmendra Netam of Bhotali along with his Deputy Sarpanch Kranti Chandrakar and six Panch's and scores of other villagers and representatives.

BEO takes action against Amita Shiksha Niketan

Ensures compliance with standards

Guarela, Mar 16:

In a commendable move toward ensuring quality education, the Block Education Officer of Guarela took swift action against Amita Shiksha Niketan, Pendra Road, for failing to adhere to government regulations. The school, found to be operating in a negligent and arbitrary manner; there is no library, lab, playground in the school, and was issued a notice for its disregard of prescribed norms.

During a thorough inspection, it was revealed that the school was overcrowded, with more children than the designated capacity crammed into small rooms.

The students in various classes are 58 in Nursery, 57 in LKG, 51 in UKG, 54 in 1st,



51 in 2nd, 48 in 3rd, 47 in 4th, 40 in 5th, 39 in 6th, 46 in 7th, 38 in 8th, 40 in 9th and in 10th 26.

Shockingly, 595 children were found sitting in inadequate spaces, highlighting a blatant disregard for the well-being of students.

Furthermore, the lack of essential facilities such as a library, laboratory, and playground, coupled with unhygienic conditions and insufficient eating areas, raised serious concerns about the school's commitment to providing a conducive learning environment.

Block Education Officer



Dr. Sanjeev Shukla, demonstrated firm resolve by promptly issuing a notice to the school's principal, urging a response within two days. This decisive action underscores the government's dedication to upholding educational standards and ensuring the welfare of students across the region.

Chouksey Group of College inaugurates Ultratech Centre of Excellence

Bilaspur, Mar 16:

In a significant stride towards enhancing academic industry collaboration, the Civil department of Chouksey Engineering College proudly inaugurated the Ultra Tech Center of Excellence on 14.03.2024. The establishment of this center marks a pivotal moment in fostering innovation, research and skill development in the field of Civil Engineering.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by Dr. Ashish Jaiswal and Er. Pradip Kumar Jha, Zonal Head (TASCO), East B. Ultratech Cement by cutting the ribbon. The collaboration between Chouksey Group of Colleges and UltraTech, a leading Cement manufacturer, aims to bridge the



gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application in Civil Engineering. The center of excellence will serve as a hub for students, faculty and industry experts to collaborate on research

projects, skill development programmes and knowledge exchange initiative.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Dr. Subhshikshmi Tiwari, HOD of Civil Engineering emphasized the impor-

tance of industry-academia partnerships in nurturing talent and fostering innovation. UltraTech Center of excellence reinforces symposiums, workshops, technical presentations Academic, Training,

Industrial visits etc.

The UltraTech center of excellence is equipped with state of the art infrastructure, including advanced laboratories, simulation tools and specialized equipment. This facilities will provide students with hands-on-experience and practical exposure to real world challenges in civil engineering.

As the center of excellence embarks on its journey, it holds the promise of unlocking new opportunities, driving collaborative research breakthroughs and shaping the future of civil engineering with the support of partners like Ultra Tech, Chouksey Group of Colleges, is poised to make significant contributions to the advancement of civil engineering profession, both locally and globally.

DOT-WMO team carries out raids

Against installation of illegal repeaters and boosters.

Bilaspur, Mar 16:

"The Wireless Monitoring unit of the Department of Telecommunications (DOT) which is a field unit of the WPC Wing has carried out raids in the Sultaniya Gali area of Bilaspur and Gandhi Chowk, Anathalay Colony Raigarh from 11th to 14th Mar 2024, against installation of illegal repeaters and boosters. Installation of these illegal telecom equipment leads to higher incidents of call drops and lower data surfing speeds on telecom networks, causing bad network experience for the customers.

The DOT-WMO team of Chhattisgarh led by Bhanu Bhai Richariya (Officer in charge) and assisted by Junior Wireless Officers Awdesh Dixit and B. S



Rajpoot Tiwari have made a seizure of 02 illegal boosters in Bilaspur and 02 in Raigarh. In addition to the above notices were also served to the miscreants.

Most people are not aware that installing & selling telecom network booster is an illegal activity in India. The notices served by the office of WMO Chhattisgarh in the area of Bilaspur and Raigarh will work as a warning and deter-

rent to the people involved in selling these devices as well as the customers who purchase and install it.

These illegal radiating devices are mainly procured from China and other grey markets by unlicensed vendors and sold door to door to unsuspecting buyers. Further, the buyers are also not provided an invoice for the purchase which makes it even more difficult to trace these vendors."

Graduation day of the kindergarten students held

With memorable glorious moment & celebration under 'Sushans' at Allons

Bemetara, Mar 16:

The Graduation day of the kindergarten students was celebrated at Allons on Mar 14. The programme started with the lighting of a candle in front of the portrait of the Maa Saraswati Devi and garlanding it by Dr. Satyajit Hota, Principal and the parents. The Graduation Day is the wonderful day when the academic life culminates into an all-important degree. It is the reflection of yesterday celebrating today and keeping focus on tomorrow. It is a time to celebrate with all those people, teachers, parents and friends who have helped us in the student life and made learning fun. The programme began

with the song and the Bhajan presented by Saras Devi Pandey the grandmother of Avni Pandey. The ramp walking was performed by the students and their parents. The parents of the students performed their dances on this occasion.

Dr. Satyajit Hota, Principal welcomed everyone and gave a bird's eye view of the achievements of the students. He told the parents that their children have maximum talents. He said that the students may be Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Mother Teresa & Abdul Kalam in the future. He said that the students must develop the traits of the abbreviation of PREMI. "P" stands for the pleasing personality development. "R" stands for Respect for self and others. "E" stands for engagement in creative activities. "M" stands to live a meaningful life. "I" stands



for to be Indian with the value of integration ignoring the differences of castes, creeds and religions. He said that the school imparts the education to develop the quality of learning to live together.

He advised the students to believe in the faith of share, care, love and smile. He announced that the school has become a Sainik School. It will give an opportunity to the students to serve in the

armed forces with the reflective leadership having good character. The school is going to prepare the students to be job givers instead of the job seekers. He said that the celebration of today is for the

bright future of the students. Allons School is always ready to help its students for developing their physical, intelligence, mental, technical, vocational, social, spiritual and anti-adverse quotients.

The school develops the anti-adverse skills of the students to survive in odd condition also.

The credit of the graduation day goes to the parents and the academic coordinator Khushboo Naidu with her team members named Shital Vaidya, Samiksha Sahu, Indu Patel & Shruti Singh.

It was a hilarious event. This was followed by the distribution of graduate certificates to the tiny tots in graduation caps and sash along with the felicitation of the little children with the unique titles describing their strengths. The programme culminated with the vote of thanks by the little children and the parents who expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the Management, Principal and the teachers.

The versatile, excellent and creative performer parents Sandhya Ogrey

(Shreyansh Ogrey), Divya Chandrawanshi (Atharv Chandrawanshi), Rajvinder Kour (Gursevak Singh), Sonam Pal (Atharv Pal), Reena Ratre (Aditya Ratre), Namrata Jatwar (YasaviJatwar), Yamini Madharia (Arnav Madharia), Vandana Sahu (RajwardhanSahu), Sarita Tandan (Pranav Tandan), Meena Nishad (Himanshi Nishad), Shobha Dewangan (Aryan Dewangan), Meena Devi Tiwari (Raksha Tiwari), Minu Tiwari (Anshita Tiwari), Nisha Meshram (Prashika Meshram), Neelam Yadav (Yatin Yadav) & Shubha Tiwari (Rashi Tiwari) were felicitated with the certificates by the Principal on this occasion. A vote of thanks was given by Khushboo Naidu and anchoring was done by Shruti Singh. The students, parents and teachers were also present on this occasion.

India abstains in UNGA on Pak resolution on Islamophobia

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj in the UN General Assembly hall, Says religiophobia against Hinduism, Sikhism must also be acknowledged



that the prevalence of "religiophobia" against Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism and other faiths facing violence and discrimination must also be acknowledged rather than singling out just one religion. The 193-member General Assembly adopted the resolution Measures to combat Islamophobia, introduced by Pakistan on Friday, with

115 nations voting in favour, none against and 44 abstentions, including India, Brazil, France, Germany, Italy, Ukraine and the UK. India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj voiced condemnation of all acts motivated by a n t i - S e m i t i s m , Christianophobia and Islamophobia but asserted

that it is crucial to acknowledge that such phobias extend beyond Abrahamic religions. "Clear evidence shows that over decades, followers of non-Abrahamic religions have also been affected by religiophobia. This has led to the emergence of contemporary forms of religiophobia, particularly anti-Hindu, anti-Buddhist and anti-Sikh sentiments," she said, in an explanation of India's position on the resolution. India stressed that the adoption of the resolution should not establish a precedent that could result in numerous resolutions centred on phobias tied to specific religions, "potentially dividing the United Nations into religious camps."

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION



An elderly woman casts a ballot during a presidential election in Moscow, Russia, Saturday, March 16.

United Nations, Mar 16 (PTI):

India abstained in the UN General Assembly on a draft resolution introduced by Pakistan and co-sponsored by China on Islamophobia, asserting

Indian-origin couple, daughter killed in 'suspicious' fire in Canada

Ottawa, Mar 16 (PTI):

An Indian-origin couple and their teenage daughter were killed in a "suspicious" fire which destroyed their home last week in Canada's Ontario province, according to police. A fire engulfed a home at the Big Sky Way and Van Kirk Drive area of Brampton on March 7, a press release by the Peel Police said on Friday.

After the blaze was put out, investigators located what was believed to be human remains within the gutted house, but the number of people killed couldn't be ascertained at the time.

The charred remains were on Friday identified as those of three family members: 51-year-old Rajiv Warikoo; his wife, 47-year-old Shilpa Kotha; and their 16-year-old daughter, Mahek Warikoo.

Toronto police confirmed to CBC Toronto that Rajiv was a member of the force's auxiliary programme, their volun-

teer officer programme. He ended his duties in 2016.

Rajiv's LinkedIn profile said he worked with the Ontario Government - Ministry of Health.

Police said that they resided at the address before the fire.

Peel police Constable Taryn Young on Friday said the fire had been deemed suspicious, the CTV news channel reported. "At this time, we are investigating this with our homicide bureau, and we are deeming this as suspicious as the Ontario Fire Marshal has deemed that this fire was not accidental," Young said.

During a search of the property after the fire had been brought under control, investigators discovered what they believed to be human remains. Damage to the home was so extensive they couldn't say at the time how many people may have been inside during the fire, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reported.

Saudi crown prince reaffirms full support for cash-strapped Pakistan

Islamabad, Mar 16 (PTI):

Saudi crown prince and de facto ruler Mohammed bin Salman on Saturday assured newly-elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif of full support for Pakistan which has been going through a tough economic phase.

Riyadh has supported cash-strapped Pakistan in recent years by depositing and rolling over large sums of greenbacks to shore up the country's low foreign reserves.

Earlier, Saudi Arabia rolled over its USD 3 billion in deposits at the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) for another year by the end of December 2024.

Prime Minister Shehbaz received a congratulatory telephone call from the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, according to a statement by the PM Office.

"The Crown Prince thanked the Prime Minister for his kind sentiments. He said both



countries enjoyed close brotherly relations and reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's support for Pakistan," it said.

The prime minister said Pakistan was proud of its historic, deep-rooted and fraternal ties with Saudi Arabia and the two countries had always stood together through thick and thin. He lauded Saudi Arabia for its unwavering commitment and support to Pakistan.

The prime minister also conveyed his sincerest wishes and prayers for the health and well-being of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdul Aziz.

2 Pak Army officers among 7 personnel killed in terror attack

Peshawar Mar 16 (PTI):

At least seven Pakistan Army soldiers, including two officers, were killed when six terrorists launched multiple suicide attacks on a security check post in the restive tribal district of North Waziristan bordering Afghanistan on Saturday, the military said. A Lieutenant Colonel and a Captain were killed along with five soldiers. All the six terrorists who attacked the check post in Mir Ali area were shot dead.

According to the ISPR statement, after the troops foiled the initial attempt of intrusion, the terrorists rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into the post, followed by multiple suicide bombing attacks. During the subsequent clearance operation, troops effectively engaged and killed all six terrorists. However, during the intense exchange of fire, Lieutenant Colonel Syed Kashif Ali and Captain Muhammad Ahmed Badar were killed, the statement said. The military's media wing said a sanitisation operation was being conducted to eliminate any other terrorists present in the area.

Cease-fire talks with Israel and Hamas expected to restart

Cairo, Mar 16 (AP):

Stalled talks aimed at securing a cease-fire in the war between Israel and Hamas are expected to restart in earnest in Qatar as soon as Sunday, according to Egyptian officials.

The talks would mark the first time both Israeli officials and Hamas leaders joined the indirect negotiations since the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

International mediators had hoped to secure a six-week truce before Ramadan started earlier this week, but Hamas refused any deal that wouldn't lead to a permanent cease-fire in Gaza, a demand Israel rejected.

In recent days, however, both sides have made moves aimed at getting the talks, which never fully broke off, back on track.

Hamas gave mediators a new proposal for a three-stage plan that would end the fighting, according to two Egyptian officials, one who is involved in the talks and a second who

was briefed on them. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to reveal the contents of the sensitive discussions.

The first stage would be a six-week cease-fire that would include the release of 35 hostages women, those who are ill and older people being held by militants in Gaza in exchange for 350 Palestinian prisoners being held by Israel.

Hamas would also release at least five female soldiers in exchange for 50 prisoners, including some serving long sentences on terror charges, for each soldier. Israeli forces would withdraw from two main roads in Gaza, let displaced Palestinians return to north Gaza, which has been devastated by the fighting, and allow the free flow of aid to the area, the officials said.

Nearly one in three children under 2 years old in the isolated north are suffering acute malnutrition, the UN children's agency UNICEF reported Friday.

Pak court slams interior ministry for its failure to deport Indian national held 11 years ago

Karachi, Mar 16 (PTI):

A Pakistani court has slammed the interior ministry for its failure to deport an Indian national arrested nearly 11 years ago despite court orders and warned that the secretary concerned would be summoned to explain how his department is working in such cases. The single-judge bench of the Sindh High Court (SHC) headed by Justice Mohammad Karim Khan Agha on Friday directed the interior ministry to depute an officer well-versed with the facts of the case or file

a compliance report at the next hearing, the Dawn newspaper reported on Saturday. Abdul Mughni was arrested in 2013 by the Mobina Town police station near Abul Hassan Ispahani Road and booked under various provisions of the Foreigners Act. A sessions court sentenced him to six months in prison in 2017. The convict filed an appeal against his conviction before the SHC. The court during the hearing observed that the appellant was an Indian national, while the interior ministry was not able to confirm his nationality ap-

parently due to lack of efforts, the report said.

The bench said that since the appellant had already served out his sentence, the jail superintendent had been directed to make arrangements for his deportation through the home department.

However, at the last hearing, it also noted that the focal person of the home department of Sindh had submitted that a correspondence was made with the Ministry of Interior on the subject matter and it did not respond and thereafter, the court had issued a notice to the secretary to

send an official familiar with this case to explain as to why the appellant had not been deported yet.

On Friday, a section officer of the ministry turned up and said that the deportation did not happen due to certain procedural issues. The bench in its order said: "I find it quite extraordinary that after a lapse of seven years, the Ministry of Interior has not been able to confirm whether the appellant is an Indian national or not. Prima facie this is because of lack of efforts on the part of the Ministry of Interior."

Amnesty urges Pakistan govt for immediate restoration of X as ban enters 29th day

Islamabad, Mar 16 (PTI):

Human rights watchdog Amnesty International has called on the Pakistan government to immediately restore social media platform X, which has been blocked in the country since February 17, days after the general elections were held on February 8.

Urging the Pakistani authorities to "uphold the rights to freedom of expression and access to information under the country's international human rights commitments", the UK-based NGO in a post on X said it is one of the 28 civil society organisations

that have signed a joint statement calling for immediate restoration of the social media platform in the country 29 days after it was blocked.

"The complete silence of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) is extremely alarming as they have failed to furnish any reasons for its actions and exceeded its mandate to block an entire internet platform," the statement signed by 28 organisations, including Human Rights Watch, Pakistan Press Foundation, Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists and the

Pakistan Bar Council, said. On February 8, Amnesty International described Pakistan's decision to suspend mobile internet services throughout the day as the country held its general elections as a "blunt attack on the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly".

Neither the previous caretaker government nor the new Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's administration is ready to offer any reason as to why the country is seeing the suspension of X for such a long period.

Despite the Sindh High Court directing the

restoration of citizens' access to popular social media service X, it has remained inaccessible in Pakistan.

Although such decisions are usually officially justified by the authorities based on some pretext or the other, this time around the state does not seem too bothered about providing any explanation as to why users are being denied access to X.

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) regulates internet access in the country. The PTA, however, flatly denies that X is blocked.

KIM JONG UN'S INSPECTION



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, standing in front center, and his daughter inspect a training of the Korean People's Army airborne units in North Korea.

Pak government passes resolution to extend seven ordinances

Islamabad, Mar 16 (PTI):

Pakistan's National Assembly on Friday passed a resolution to extend seven ordinances for an additional 120 days amidst a heated debate with the key coalition partner Pakistan Peoples Party roasting the government on the issue.

Minister for Law Azam Nazeer Tarar moved the resolution for the extension under the proviso to sub-paragraph (ii) of paragraph (a) of clause (2) of Article 89 of the Pakistani Constitution. The ordinances included The Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation

(Amendment) Ordinance, 2023, The Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023, The Pakistan Postal Services Management Board (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023, The National Highway Authority (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023, The Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023, The Privatization Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023, and the Establishment of Telecommunication Appellate Tribunal Ordinance, 2023.

The moment the law minister moved the resolution, several lawmakers from the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf and other parties stood up to protest and even tore the copies of ordinances. The PPP, which is the main coalition partner of the government, also joined the criticism against the move with its senior leader Khurshid Shah saying, "I support the opposition because you cannot run the government on ordinances". However, the PPP restricted itself to the verbal opposition and when the speaker proceeded with the voting process, it got 130 votes in favour of the extension and 63 votes against it.

TikTok creators warn of economic impact if app sees ban

Washington, Mar 16 (AP): Alex Pearlman shut the door on dreams of a standup comedy career almost a decade ago, pivoting from the stage to an office cubicle where he worked a customer service job. Then he started posting random jokes and commentary about pop culture and politics on TikTok. Just over 2.5 million followers later, he quit

his nine-to-five and recently booked his first nationwide tour. Pearlman is among the many TikTok creators across the U.S. outraged over a bipartisan bill passed by the House of Representatives on Wednesday that would lead to a nationwide ban of the popular video app if its China-based owner, ByteDance, doesn't sell its stake.

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)
ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट प्रथम निविदा सूचना

दिनांक 15/03/2024

नगर पालिक निगम बिलासपुर के जोन क्र.08 अंतर्गत सखम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत टेकदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्र.	NIT क्र.	सिस्टम डेटा नं.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)	निविदा डाउनलोड/सबमिट करने की अंतिम तिथि
1	55	154432	वार्ड क्र. 64 एस.एल.आर.एम.सेक्टर, बिरकोना पहुँच मार्ग सीसी सड़क निर्माण कार्य।	45.00	08-04-2024

उपरोक्त कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापन, निविदा दरतावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।
जोन आयुक्त, जोन कार्यालय क्र.08
Green City, Clean City, Dream City. न.पा.नि. बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)



CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 11 No. 348

Electoral Bonds A Cloak of Secrecy

The revelation of the top purchasers of electoral bonds has thrust the controversial scheme back into the limelight, casting a shadow of doubt over the transparency of political funding. Among the conspicuous names, Future Gaming and Hotel Services, a relatively obscure lottery company, stands at the forefront, having purchased bonds worth a staggering Rs 1,368 crore. Following closely is Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Ltd, with bonds worth Rs 966 crore, known for its involvement in significant infrastructure projects. What's particularly alarming is the association of many top donors with ongoing investigations by various law enforcement agencies, including the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), and the Income Tax Department. Future Gaming, for instance, had been under the ED's scrutiny in 2022. This raises pertinent questions about the nexus between donors and recipients, fueling accusations of quid pro quo, as reiterated by the Opposition. The lion's share of electoral bond contributions has landed in the coffers of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), totaling Rs 6,566 crore, constituting nearly 55% of the overall amount. Trailing behind are the Congress and the Trinamool Congress, each receiving around 9% of the contributions. Despite Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's dismissal of allegations linking probe agency actions with bond purchases as mere assumptions, the government cannot absolve itself of the responsibility to ensure full transparency in this matter. The annulment of the electoral bond scheme by the Supreme Court underscores its failure to uphold the principles of transparency in political funding. It is imperative that the veil of secrecy surrounding electoral bonds is completely lifted, allowing all pertinent details to be made public. This transparency is vital for political parties, as well as the electorate, to form informed opinions and make crucial decisions, especially in the lead-up to the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections. The electoral bond saga highlights the urgent need for comprehensive reforms in political finance mechanisms to uphold the integrity of the democratic process. Without transparency and accountability, the very foundations of democracy are compromised, leaving room for undue influence and manipulation. The onus is now on the government to prioritize the interests of the nation over partisan agendas and enact reforms that ensure fair and transparent electoral financing practices. Only then can the trust of the people in the democratic system be restored, and the true essence of democracy upheld. Electoral bonds were introduced in 2017 with the purported aim of promoting transparency in political funding by facilitating legitimate donations to political parties. However, the scheme's inherent lack of transparency has been a subject of intense scrutiny and criticism from various quarters since its inception. Electoral bonds allow individuals and corporations to donate money to political parties anonymously, without disclosing their identities to the public or even to the Election Commission of India. This secrecy opens the door to potential misuse and abuse, as there is no accountability or oversight regarding the sources of funding for political parties. The revelations regarding the top purchasers of electoral bonds further highlight the flaws and loopholes in the scheme. The fact that a relatively obscure lottery company like Future Gaming and Hotel Services emerged as the biggest purchaser of electoral bonds raises serious questions about the motivations behind such large donations. Moreover, the association of many top donors with ongoing investigations by law enforcement agencies adds another layer of suspicion to the entire process. It is essential to recognize that the integrity of the democratic process depends on the transparency and fairness of political funding. When powerful entities can influence political outcomes through undisclosed donations, it undermines the very principles of democracy and erodes public trust in the electoral process. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the government to take decisive action to address these concerns and ensure that electoral financing is conducted in a transparent and accountable manner.

India's Journey Towards Health Equity

Dr Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

Immunization stands as a cornerstone in child survival, offering one of the most cost-effective measures to safeguard their lives and secure their futures. India's Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) is not only one of the world's most expansive public health initiatives but also plays a crucial role in protecting children's lives and futures. Annually, it targets nearly 26 million newborns and 34 million pregnant women through over 13 million immunization sessions nationwide. Over the past two decades, India has achieved significant improvements in child health and immunization, including being declared polio-free in 2014 and eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus in 2015. Additionally, the introduction and nationwide expansion of new vaccines such as Measles-Rubella, Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV), and Rotavirus Vaccine (RVV) have further strengthened the program. Despite progress, millions of children in India face immunization barriers, with infectious diseases a leading cause of nearly one million deaths before age five, preventable through immunization. India's full immunization coverage is at 76.1%, with 1.1 million zero-dose children in 2022, highlighting the ongoing need to overcome barriers and ensure all children receive life-saving vaccinations. In just a decade, India has forged a robust digital public health infrastructure, leveraging e-platforms and apps to revolutionize healthcare delivery at the grassroots level. With the imminent launch of U-WIN (Universal Immunization Programme-WIN), India is poised to digitalize the world's largest universal immunization program for expectant mothers and newborns. U-WIN targets 12 vaccine-preventable diseases, including diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, rubella, rotavirus diarrhea, and hepatitis B, aiming to bolster the country's immunization efforts. It is set to become the globe's largest electronic immunization registry, ensuring comprehensive coverage for approximately 29 million pregnant women and 26 million newborns annually. In her Budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the nationwide implementation of U-WIN, akin to CoWIN for Covid-19 vaccination, for the universal immunization programme. Moving forward, it is imperative to adopt a comprehensive approach that integrates healthcare measures and cutting-edge technologies to build a healthier and more resilient India.

(Writer is Professor & Principal (Rtd) and newspaper columnist.)

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.

WATER CRISIS IN KARNATAKA



Migrant workers carry water during cleaning work of railway tracks near Jnanabharati station amid the ongoing water crisis in Karnataka, at Kengeri in Bengaluru, Saturday, March 16.

Tigers forever: India's success story and the future vision

DR. RAJESH GOPAL & MOHNISH KAPOOR



The Prime Minister of India launched the Amrit Kaal Ka Tiger Vision (Tiger@2047) in April 2023. This was to mark the successful five decades of Project Tiger during an international, commemorative event at Mysuru. The tiger vision is the future road map for our wild tigers, and sustainable development in tiger landscapes. The journey of Project Tiger, over the vicissitude of time, has been a great learning experience. Unmatched globally in terms of magnitude and scale, tiger initiatives by the centre and eighteen states generated numerous practices. These were useful in course corrections. Why save the tiger? What are the gains of Project Tiger? Was it a fanciful idea for a charismatic species? Did the society at large gain? How local people benefited? Can an exclusive tiger-centric approach sync with the much-needed developmental agenda? How does the tiger effort gel with our climate commitments? These are some questions frequently asked, and rightfully so. The tiger is important. As an ecological umbrella species at the apex of an ecosystem, its survival necessitates a great prey base, supported by lot of forests. Thus, tiger efforts lead to in-situ conservation of an entire ecosystem. Therefore, tiger agenda is much more than fostering a photographic delight! Gains to the society are numerous both tangible and intangible. The National Tiger Conservation Authority has quantified them. As an example, the broad gains from Corbett tiger reserve

include: gene pool protection (Rs.10.65 billion p.a.), provisioning of water (4.05 billion p.a.), wildlife habitat and refugia (Rs.274 million p.a.), local employment Rs.82 million p.a. The stock was Rs.261.8 billion with the flow amounting to Rs.14.7 billion p.a. The flow benefit per hectare per year was Rs.1.14 lakh, while flow benefits as a ratio of management cost worked out to 368. The intangibles were much more than tangibles. The ecosystem services not only benefit the immediate surroundings, but also have a far flung impact e.g. provisioning of water to downstream districts of Uttar Pradesh (1.61 billion p.a.) and water purification services to the city of New Delhi (Rs.550 million p.a.) directly originate from the Corbett tiger reserve. The multiplication effect on tiger investment is quite obvious. The local people, being primary stakeholders in tiger landscape, also gain from livelihood through their deployment as workforce in tiger reserves. They are also involved in gainful community stewardship in peripheral buffer areas while addressing human-tiger interface issues. The tiger strategy under Project Tiger is a combination of mutually complementary tiger agenda in the core, and an inclusive people-centric approach in peripheral buffer and beyond. The "Zone of Influence" in the context is not lost sight of. Corridor linkages in such zones have been mapped, which overlap several field

formations/districts for inclusive fostering. The centripetal vs centrifugal approach of the wild tiger agenda in India provides immense potential for the iconic endangered species to be a mascot of: livelihood and sustainable development, indicator of ecosystem well-being in sync with global sustainable development, biodiversity conservation and climate goals, securing green investments and an ecological umbrella for securing ecosystem services sustainably. The "Amrit Kaal Ka Tiger Vision" released by our Prime Minister envisages several strengthening actions. Broadly, three levels have been recognized, viz. national, state, and tiger reserves. National level themes (twelve) range from enhanced central assistance for core and buffer, international co-operation, linking with climate change adaptation, fostering climate smart practices, strengthening market linkages for internal carbon trading in peripheral areas, improving forest productivity in tiger landscapes vis-à-vis local forest resource dependency, fostering pandemic buffering, assessment of ecosystem services, improving tiger management, fostering sustainability of traditional small towns near tiger reserves and host community driven ecotourism. The state level thematic areas have themes for core (fourteen) and buffer/peripheral zone (twenty three). Tiger investment bring in lot of returns. Empirical findings indicate that more than a quarter of budgetary allocation under Project Tiger during 2020-21, was received back as climate gains. Perhaps, tiger and tiger bearing forests stand out as one of the most cost effective ways to reach the carbon net zero target (year 2070) set by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. India's efforts on the tiger front have received much acclaim. How did India make the turnaround, while occupying a global leadership position in the context? The credit for this goes to both federal and eighteen of our state governments, committed forest personnel and goodwill of local people. Project Tiger stands out as a great ex-

ample of shared responsibility between centre and state governments. Milestones are many. Apart from enabling tiger provisions in our national legislation, along with recent amendments in 2023, the Project Tiger coverage has increased during the decade with as many as fifty-five tiger reserves. Around 43513 sq.km. of protected areas have been notified as core, complemented by 35222.58 sq.km. of peripheral buffer in the country. The country level assessment of tiger, co-predators, prey and habitat have been refined using a state of the art, statistically robust methodology. Numerous SOPs are in place to deal with exigencies. Human-tiger conflict is actively managed. Translocations, in sync with tiger dynamics, are carried out as part of active management to deal with emergent situations. Frontline capacity building is accorded top most priority for intelligence-based enforcement. M-STIPES monitoring on a day to day basis keeps track of untoward happenings. Special Tiger Protection Force and local workforce safeguard our tiger reserves. Habitat amelioration, based on tiger conservation plan prescriptions, is done as per biological carrying capacity of the habitat. Management Effectiveness Evaluation of tiger reserves is done periodically along with security auditing. Good work in tiger reserves is recognized. Accreditation of tiger reserves is done through Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CATS). On the international front, bilaterals and MoUs are there with several tiger range countries, viz. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russian Federation, and China. India now has the maximum number of tigers (3682) along with tiger source areas globally. It figures in the Guinness Book of Record for the science-based monitoring of tigers. With the tiger vision, India will continue as a role model for saving wild tigers. Dr. Rajesh Gopal, Secretary-General, Global Tiger Forum, Mohnish Kapoor, senior program officer, Global Tiger Forum

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vaccination success

An ambitious health programme aimed at saving lives and preventing morbidity merits an unflinching dedication on the part of every stakeholder. When a massive initiative is a vaccination drive, pertaining to a highly contagious viral disease like polio, that crippled hundreds of children every day, the focus could not waver an inch, and it did not. Children and the parents of the tiny tots-- displayed high levels of patience and motivation. No less was the efforts of the ambassadors of the huge scheme. Highly trained volunteers went from door to door with missionary zeal to raise awareness among the public. The result was there to see-- polio eradication was taken to a magical level. By the same token, the corona vaccine mission is also a tribute to the hard work of all concerned. National Vaccination Day or Immunisation Day is observed on March 16 because the first dose of oral polio dose was administered on this day in 1995. Dr Ganapathi Bhat, Akola

One-Nation-One-Election Proposal

This refers to the editorial, "One Nation, One Election" (Central Chronicle, March 15, 2024). The notion of synchronizing all elections raises several challenges. The proposal faces skepticism due to the impracticality of fixing the expiry date of elected houses in a parliamentary democracy. The recommendation by the committee chaired by former President Ram Nath Kovind suggests that mid-term general elections should only serve the unexpired term of the preceding full term. While touted as cost-effective, the proposal could actually escalate costs, especially in the event of premature dissolution of state assemblies. Moreover, the uniform approach undermines the diversity of our democracy and threatens its federal fabric. Sujit De, Kolkata

Matuas: Political Pawn or Citizens-in-Waiting?

So innumerable Matuas, originally from erstwhile East Bengal, are officially "infiltrators" and so BJP/NDA is "kind" enough to bestow Indian citizenship upon them through the "manna" of NRC. But isn't it strange that these very "foreigners" were not only enrolled as voters in India, they were also zealously wooed to cast their franchise in favour of the saffronites resulting in massive electoral success of BJP in areas bordering Bangladesh! Many Matuas had been liberally awarded BJP tickets in various polls as well. So if the Matuas are "illegitimate", how can the ruling "elite" of India and the only Opposition force in Bengal be treated as "legitimate"! So until the Matuas are "purified" through practical implementation of CAA, the Central Government of India and all BJP MLAs of West Bengal must immediately resign from the pedestal as they are "polluted" with votes of "illegal" citizens. Kajal Chatterjee, Kolkata

Understanding and Managing Organizational Politics



Dr. Harish Kumar & Rajdeep Sarkar

History and contemporary both tell us that organizational politics has been used to forward one's own agenda and pursue ruthlessly and solely for one's own gains. It has been primarily used as self-serving behavior rather than for the benefit of others. Organizational politics is the usage of influence, authority and supremacy within a workplace to attain changes for the benefit of self. It embodies the intent of employees whereby they pursue self-serving behaviors to increase the possibility of positive outcomes. Organizational politics is ubiquitous in nature and its impact is felt by all employees. Some organizations have more of it whereas some have less. It is important to understand the impact of organi-

zational politics because it affects the outcome and performance of organizations. Power and social networking are used by employees to ensure that they attain positive outcomes that satisfy their goals. A political player is one who uses politics as a tool to further his/her own gains. Organizational politics can be witnessed when we see employees prioritizing self-growth over everything else. They deliberately try to further their career goals regardless of the careers of others. They even resort to unethical practices as snatching the credits of others and down-grading their fellow co-workers to lift themselves up. In workplace politics employees or groups attempt to affect other employees or

groups through conviction, negotiation, manipulation, clout or coercion. It can be positive for the organization if the intent is to fulfil organizational goals. However, it has its negative side, if the employees or groups feel that their well-being is at stake, there can be discontent and stress amongst the employees. Organizational politics can also lead to rift amongst the employees if they feel that their careers may be at stake, they align themselves with groups where they feel that their career will be safe and may lead them to better places. Groups formed on the basis of common agendas can be good for a company so long as the mission and vision of a company is fulfilled; but anything else can be damaging to the organization. Factions formed on respective group goals will have negative consequences as each group's goals will be on priority and organizational goals will be suppressed. Creativity and innovation may be stifled by employees who are closest to the boss, who want to cement their position; one way of doing it is by preventing other employees to get closer to their bosses by blocking their ideas or blocking them at every step. When employees are too eager to hold on to their positions and feel threatened that some other employee may have potential to do a better job than what they do, they

might do whatever is necessary to hold their positions, however it may be. It takes a commitment to maintaining a healthy workplace environment to keep filthy organizational politics at bay; there should exist clear guidelines on workplace behavior along with organizational clarity. Communication with the employees should be clear and free of ambiguity. Employees should be clearly informed, periodically, on organizational goals and objectives. There should be focus on employee participation by soliciting suggestions from employees; open door policy must be followed where employees can approach managers with confidence and be unafraid while presenting their ideas or propositions. Employee satisfaction or happiness surveys can be conducted and the survey must have both qualitative and quantitative questions to gauge comprehensively the employee gratification and contentment. Management should also be alert of power imbalances; political clout can be negated if the leadership stays vigilant by cutting off harmful political play whenever it manifests itself. Organizational politics is inevitable. One has to face it during one's career. Organizational politics can be a double-edged sword. Its negative effects can be nullified by taking precautions such as bringing transparency in organizations,

improving communication to make employees more open and honest about their opinions, nurturing trust and collaboration amongst employees, communicating clearly the organizational values and setting ethical standards. Organizational politics can be used positively to improve organizational dynamics whereby decision-making is improved, resources are allocated more effectively and efficiently, and having a constructive effect on employee morale. Leadership can also mitigate the vile effects of organizational politics by addressing proactively the power imbalance whenever it arises. Organizational politics can present itself as an opportunity if it is identified beforehand and handled skillfully; if it is overlooked it can result in unwanted tragedy.

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BRIEF

Welspun Living Ltd.

Mumbai: Welspun Living Ltd. has been Great Place To Work Certified in India (from March 2024 to March 2025). Welspun Living Ltd. got an exceptional Trust Index Grand Mean score of 96% and an Overriding Sentiment score which captures the Emotional Sentiment of employees (Taking Everything Into Account, I Would Say WLL is A Great Place To Work.) of 97%.

Sakra World Hospital

New Delhi: Japan's Toyota Tsusho and Secom Medical System on Saturday announced plans to set up a second multi-specialty healthcare facility under their Sakra World Hospital operations in India at an investment of Rs 1,000 crore. The two partners, which already run a Sakra World Hospital facility in Bengaluru, plan to add another 500-bed new unit at Banaswadi in Bengaluru North. The facility is scheduled for completion by the end of 2026. Sakra World Hospital is also looking to set up a third unit, which is envisaged to have 300 beds, as part of its plans to add 1,000 beds in the upcoming years.

chargeMOD

Kochi: Kerala-based energy tech Startup, 'chargeMOD', has announced its expansion plans and said it will deploy 1,200 more EV chargers across India and 600 more in Kerala. The company, in an announcement made earlier this week, said it was planning to set up an additional 1,000 slow chargers and 200 fast chargers across various states in India and to establish an additional 500 slow chargers and 100 fast chargers in Kerala. It said this was excluding the existing 1,500 charging stations in Kerala and 2,000 stations across India.

Azure Power

Gurugram: Azure Power Global Limited (the "Company" or "Azure"), an independent sustainable energy solutions provider and renewable power producer in India, today announced that Mr. M.S. Unnikrishnan, has resigned as Chairman of the Board and as a member of the Board of Directors of Azure Power Global Limited and Azure Power India Private Limited, with immediate effect from March 13, 2024. Mr. Unnikrishnan looks to focus on his leadership roles in India assisting various industry bodies and companies, particularly in the areas of policy making and technology development in India. Mr. Unnikrishnan will assist the Company's new Chairman of the Board when announced with transition to his or her new duties.

Dashmani Media

Mumbai: Under the visionary leadership of Sudhanshu Kumar, Dashmani Media Private Limited has emerged as a powerhouse in the digital entertainment sphere, boasting an expansive and diverse portfolio of platforms that cater to a wide spectrum of content preferences. From the heart of Bollywood to the pulse of regional cinema, and from the glitz of celebrity lifestyles to the adrenaline rush of sports, Dashmani Media leaves no stone unturned in delivering premium content to its audience.

Round 14 of India-UK FTA talks close ahead of election schedule

London, Mar 16 (PTD):

The 14th round of the free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations between India and the UK has now closed, with formal negotiations being put on hold as India heads into election campaign mode as the general election schedule is announced on Saturday.

According to UK officials familiar with the discussions, a lot of progress has been made but the teams are not in a position to conclude an agreement which led to the Round 14 closing on Friday.

The next round of formal trade talks can commence only after the Lok Sabha polls have concluded. The India-UK FTA negotiations, which opened in January 2022, are aimed at securing an "ambitious" outcome for bilateral trade currently worth around GBP 38.1 billion a

year as per official statistics from last month.

"We anticipate that while some talks might happen between rounds, the next round of negotiations will take place after the Indian elections," official sources in the UK said.

"Neither side is walking away from talks. It's just that we don't have what we need yet to finalise a deal that meets our joint ambition across goods, services and investment. We're very proud of the track record we have and how far we've been able to come with this trade deal so far. Negotiators have worked really hard in the past few years and we've managed to get a lot of chapters closed," the sources said.

The development follows a phone call between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his UK counterpart, Rishi Sunak, earlier

this week when both leaders reaffirmed their commitment towards "securing a historic and comprehensive deal" and reiterated the importance of reaching an "ambitious outcome".

"The UK and India are continuing to work towards an ambitious trade deal. Whilst we don't comment on the details of live negotiations, we are clear that we will only sign a deal that is fair, balanced and ultimately in the best interests of the British people and the economy," a UK Department of Business and Trade spokesperson said. Last week, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal told PTI in an interview in New Delhi that long-term benefits for the economy were the key in such FTA negotiations and that India was seeking a "balanced, fair and equitable" deal.

DGCA sticks to June 1 deadline for revised flight duty norms

New Delhi, Mar 16 (PTD):

Aviation regulator DGCA has decided not to extend the June 1 deadline for implementing the revised flight duty norms for pilots and asked airlines to submit the revised schemes by April 15, according to a communication.

The Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA), comprising Air India, SpiceJet and IndiGo, had written at least twice to the regulator seeking more time for implementation of the revised Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) norms were issued on January 8. The new norms, to come into force from June 1, provide for rest time for pilots and seek to alleviate pilot fatigue.

In a communication to the FIA, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said that airlines have to take all necessary steps to roll out the revised FDTL CAR, with effect from June 1, 2024.

Says aim is to alleviate pilot fatigue



Further, the carriers have been asked to ensure that the FDTL schemes in tune with the revised norms are submitted for approval by April 15.

The revised norms provide for increased weekly rest time to 48 hours for pilots and limit the number of landings to two during night operations.

Besides, the night hours for pilots will be extended to cover the period from 0000-0600 hours, whereas it was 0000-0500 hours earlier. Also, all airlines have to compulsorily submit quarterly fatigue reports, which "should follow a

non-punitive and confidentiality policy".

"The CAR (Civil Aviation Requirement) provisions may appear either restrictive or liberal, depending on its direct impact on the viewing entity, and differing perceptions may be formed, when viewed from the eyes of either the airline operators or the pilots.

"While perceptions may vary, DGCA is primarily concerned in ensuring safe operations and practices that are best suited to the unique operating environment prevailing in India," the communica-



Models showcase creation of fashion designer Anamika Khanna during the third day of the Lakme Fashion Week x FDCI, in Mumbai.

Petrol, diesel price cut by up to Rs 15.3 in Lakshadweep islands

New Delhi, Mar 16 (PTD):

Petrol and diesel prices have been slashed by up to Rs 15.3 per litre in the islands of Lakshadweep after Indian Oil Corporation removed a cost element that was imposed to recover expenditure on special infrastructure to transport fuel to the remote islands. Petrol and diesel prices have been reduced by Rs 15.3 per litre in Andrott and Kalpeni islands and Rs 5.2 a litre for Kavaratti and Minicoy in Lakshadweep islands, the oil ministry said in a post on X citing information from IOC.

Petrol price in Kavaratti and Minicoy has been cut to Rs 100.75 per litre from Rs 105.94 previously and that on Andrott and Kalpeni to Rs 100.75 a litre from Rs 116.13. Similarly, diesel rates have been revised to Rs 95.71 a litre in Kavaratti and Minicoy from Rs 110.91 earlier and to Rs 95.71 in Andrott and Kalpeni from Rs 111.04 previously. The new



rates are effective from March 16.

"In Lakshadweep, IOC is supplying petrol and diesel to four islands: Kavaratti, Minicoy, Andrott, and Kalpeni. IOC has depots at Kavaratti and Minicoy, and the product at these depots is supplied from the IOC depot in Kochi, Kerala.

"Retail outlets at Kavaratti and Minicoy are supplied directly through pipelines from our depots. Other two islands, Andrott and Kalpeni, are supplied from the Kavaratti depot through barrels," the ministry said in the post.

This element amounting to Rs 6.90 a litre had been includ-

ed in the price buildup of petrol and diesel for the recovery of capital expenditure made in depots at Kavaratti and Minicoy in the Lakshadweep islands, due to very low and unviable volumes. This element has been included in prices for the last three years. "Since the full recovery of capital expenditure has now been achieved, this element is being removed from the prices of petrol and diesel," the ministry said.

"This will reduce the retail selling price of petrol and diesel by around Rs 6.90 a litre (Rs 7.60 per litre including 10 per cent VAT), providing benefits to the customer."

L&T Finance Holdings Ltd. Wins ICC Social Impact Summit Award 2024

Mumbai, Mar 16:

L&T Finance Holdings Ltd. (LTFH), a leading retail financier, is pleased to announce that its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative has won Jury Choice Award' at the 6th Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Social Impact Summit Awards 2024.

LTFH received the prestigious award for promoting gender equality and women empowerment. The Company was also conferred with the Governor of West Bengal's 'Scroll of Honour' in the field of social upliftment through the judicious use of resources under CSR.

This prestigious recog-

inition was accepted by Ms. Apurva Rathod, Company Secretary and Chief Sustainability Officer at LTFH by the Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal, Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose in an event held in Kolkata.

Speaking at the occasion, Ms. Rathod said, "As a Company committed to sustainability, we recognise that gender equality and women's empowerment are fundamental pillars of a thriving society. By investing in long-term initiatives like our flagship Digital Sakhi program, we are fostering inclusion and equal opportunities not only to drive positive social change but also to create a more resilient and prosperous future for all. The program

also nurtures women entrepreneurs from the communities, providing them with upskilling and enterprise development trainings to help them build their businesses and enhance their livelihoods."

Digital Sakhi is a flagship program of LTFH, which equips rural women and communities at large with the skills and knowledge on Digital and Financial Literacy. The program addresses issues of bridging digital and financial literacy, and promotes gender equality leading to women empowerment. There are over 1,700 Digital Sakhis across 9 states and 20 districts who have benefitted over 40 lakh individuals in the country.

Indkal Technologies setting new standards in home cooling

Mumbai, Mar 16:

Indkal Technologies Private Limited, the official licensee for Acer Home Appliances in India, is delighted to announce the launch of its much-anticipated 2024 line-up of Acer Air Conditioners. Crafted to redefine home cooling experiences, these air conditioners are available in 1.0 TON a " 3 & 5 Star, 1.5 TON a " 3 & 5 Star, and 2.0 TON a " 3 Star capacities, featuring state-of-the-art technologies including ArcticWrap Cooling, AiSense, and CoolSphere airflow management. The new range of Air Conditioners will be ini-

tially available across of-line retail channels across the nation, prioritizing an immersive consumer experience.

For the first time in India and an industry first feature, the Acer Air conditioners come with a 7-in-1 Convertible technology, that allows the users to transform and adapt the cooling to their requirements. In addition to this, the ACs are enabled with Arctic Wrap Cooling, that provides powerful and reliable cooling up to temperatures of 55 degree Celsius. The Acer ACs intelligent AiSense technology enables these machines to provide adaptive cooling intelligence that

adapts to user preferences and optimises cooling settings based on the ambient temperature, and reduces overall energy consumption, electricity bills and provides low AC noise. The CoolSphere Airflow provides comfort with its 3D Cooling Dive to give the best possible cooling atmosphere in the living space.

These ACs are the perfect example of innovation meeting an aesthetic design, with a sleek and minimalist appeal. Notably, one design incorporates an ergonomic LED display, marking the first instance of such a feature in the Indian market.

Chronicle MATRIMONIAL

अग्रवाल

वधु चाहिये

अग्रवाल वधु चाहिए- 20-युवक सी.ए., 40-डॉक्टर, 50-ईजीनियर, 150-ग्रेजुएशन, 100-सर्विस क्लास, 50-मेट्रिक, 25-माहेस्वरी, 40-जैन, 15-खंडेलावाल, 100-तलाकशुदा-विडोह, नि:शुल्क साधारण परिवार कन्यारे हेतु मारवाड़ी वर-वधु फोटो बायोडाटा सहित संपर्क करें-मित्तल मैरिज ब्यूरो अरिहंत काम्प्लेक्स, रेलवे स्टेशन के पास रायपुर. व्हाट्सएप-9302454825. (253684)

साहू

वर चाहिये

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

बंगाली

वधु चाहिये

बंगाली वधु चाहिये- इंजिनियरिंग, एम.बी.ए. एकलौता लड़का हेतु सुन्दर, सुशील ग्रेजुएट लड़की चाहिए 31/5'4" हाइट रंग सावला पैतृक पंथ बंगाल वर्तमान बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) - 7529977997, 9827954228. (55652)

ब्राह्मण

वर चाहिये

वर चाहिए- कान्यकुब्ज ब्राह्मण, आंशिक मांगलिक, 29 वर्ष, 5 फीट 2 इंच, नाडी-आद्य, गौर-भारद्वाज, सुंदर, सुशील, संस्कारिक, पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट बी.एड, शासकीय शिक्षिका के पद पर कार्यरत (छत्तीसगढ़ शासन) एवं पी.एस.सी. हेतु प्रयासरत, सभी पारिवारिक सदस्य क्लास वन ऑफिसर-923365255. (55649)

जैन

वधु चाहिये

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

सामान्य

वर चाहिये

वर चाहिये- 28 वर्ष, 5 फीट 5 इंच, गौर वर्ण, जाति-चमार, शिक्षा-एम.बी.बी.एस. पद- चिकित्सा अधिकारी, आय 55000 प्रतिमाह, डॉक्टर एवं राजपत्रित अधिकारी मान्य छ.ग. निवासी को प्राथमिकता. संपर्क करें- मो.-7974541182. (253678)

नवभारत मैट्रीमोनियल

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Police crack Bhardakala murder case

Solve murder mystery in just 8 hours

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Mar 16: In a remarkable display of efficiency and dedication, the local police swiftly unraveled the mystery surrounding the tragic murder of a woman in Bhardakala. Within a mere eight hours of the crime, law enforcement authorities managed to apprehend the culprit responsible for the heinous act.

At a press conference held at the SP office on Saturday afternoon, SP Trilok Bansal disclosed that the victim, Kanchetahi alias Milwantini Bai, aged 55, fell victim to a brutal attack with a sharp sickle. The assailant, identified as Sohan, a 19-year-old neighbour of the deceased, confessed to the crime during police interrogation.



Sohan admitted to murdering Kanchetahi on suspicion of witchcraft, a revelation that shocked many. The investigation, spearheaded by ASP Neha Pandey and SDOPLalchand Mohle, alongside a team of diligent police personnel, forensic experts, and cyber cell officials led by Khairagarh

TI Rajesh Devdas, proved instrumental in cracking the case. Post-mortem examination results confirmed the grim reality of the murder.

The motive behind the crime was deeply rooted in superstition and misconception. Sohan, driven by the belief that the victim possessed supernatural powers, perpetrated the ghastly act in a planned

manner. His suspicion arose from his younger sister's bouts of psychological illness, during which she purportedly mentioned the victim's name.

In a premeditated attack, Sohan ambushed Kanchetahi near her home, fatally injuring her with repeated blows from the sickle. Despite the victim's attempts to defend herself, she succumbed to her injuries on the spot. Subsequent to the murder, Sohan meticulously disposed of the evidence, burning his blood-stained garments to conceal his crime.

Following the revelation, authorities swiftly filed charges against Sohan under sections 450 and 302 of the IPC, leading to his incarceration as per the court's directives.

Adivasi Tendu leaf collectors are exploited

- Protest demands cash payments for Tendu leaf rates
- Tehsildar receives memo on behalf of governor

Central Chronicle News

Sukma/Konta, Mar 16: The Communist Party of India (CPI) and the All India Adivasi Mahasabha organized a demonstration at the Sukma district headquarters on Friday.

The rally aimed to advocate for the transfer of tendu leaf business rights to Gram Sabhas under the Money and Forest Rights Recognition Act. Additionally, demands for direct cash payments of



tendu leaf rates to beneficiaries were submitted to the tehsildar on behalf of the governor.

Former MLA Manish Kunjam shed light on the recent developments, indicating the completion of the tender process for tendu leaf collection across the state. Notably, auctions for almost all

committees in the Bastar district of Chhattisgarh have been concluded.

Kunjam expressed concerns over the gradual decline of tendu leaf forests, emphasizing the necessity for an increase in auction rates. Previously, committees in Bijapur and Konta regions were auctioned at average rates

of Rs 9,000 per standard bag, with some fetching over Rs 20,000. However, the current scenario witnesses tendu leaves being sold at minimal rates, resulting in the cessation of most bonuses.

Kunjam further highlighted the exploitation faced by Adivasi tendu leaf collectors, noting that the government often grants forests to contractors at minimal rates, subsequently extracting substantial sums in the form of political donations.

This exploitation, he emphasized, is detrimental to the interests of those engaged in tendu leaf collection and reflects governmental oversight in addressing their concerns.

SECR enhances passenger comfort with new LHB coaches

- Transition from ICF to LHB coaches expands passenger facilities

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 16: In a concerted effort to prioritize passenger convenience, safety, and operational excellence, South East Central Railway has undertaken a significant initiative. The railway authority is gradually replacing older Integral Coach Factory (ICF) coaches with state-of-the-art LHB (Link Hoffman Busch) coaches across its network, aiming to elevate the travel experience for its passengers.

Presently, 20 trains operating under the South East Central Railway have been upgraded with these advanced LHB coaches, encom-

passing a total of 26 rakes.

Notable routes benefiting from this upgrade include: (1) Bilaspur-Bhagalpur (2) Bilaspur-Bikaner (3) Bilaspur-Patna (4) Bilaspur-Ernakulam (5) Bilaspur-Chennai (6) Bilaspur-Pune (7) Raipur-Korba (8) Bilaspur-Amritsar, Chhattisgarh Express (9) Durg-Nizamuddin, Samparkranti (10) Durg-Jammutvi (11) Durg-Nautanwa (12) Durg-Kanpur (13) Durg-Ajmer (14) Durg-Udhampur (15) Durg-Nizamuddin, Humsafar (16) Durg-Bhopal, Amarkantak Express (17) Raigarh-Gondia, Janshatabdi Express (18) Durg-Nautanwa and (19) Durg-Ajmer Express (20) Korba-Itwari, Shwinnath LHB coach facility has been provided. LHB coaches, a product of German engineering,

first made their debut in Indian Railways in 1999. Manufactured at the Kapurthala Railway Coach Factory, these coaches offer unparalleled comfort and safety features for passengers. Designed to withstand speeds exceeding 160 km/h, they ensure a smoother and safer ride experience.

Among the notable enhancements, LHB coaches provide more space and berths compared to traditional ICF coaches. For instance, while a standard ICF sleeper coach accommodates 72 berths, an LHB sleeper coach offers 80 berths, enhancing the availability of confirmed reservations for passengers. Similarly, the increase in berth capacity extends to AC coaches, facilitating a more comfortable journey for travellers.

District core committee strategizes for inclusive voting

- Focus on voter awareness and accessibility ahead of 2024 elections

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Mar 16: In a concerted effort to ensure inclusive and participatory elections, a district-level SVEEP core committee meeting was convened under the leadership of Collector and District Election Officer Chandrakant Verma.

The gathering included members from the District Level SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) Core Committee, Assembly Level SVEEP Core Committee, and the Core Committee specifically formed to facilitate voting for disabled voters. Addressing the assem-



bled core committee members, Collector Chandrakant Verma emphasized the importance of identifying and facilitating smooth voting for elderly and disabled voters in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections of 2024. He urged for necessary arrangements to be made to ensure their participation in the democratic process.

During the meeting, ADM Prem Kumar Patel and Deputy District

Election Officer Surendra Kumar Thakur outlined various initiatives and strategies to enhance voter awareness and engagement. These included organizing rallies, street plays, competitions, and other outreach activities under the SVEEP voter awareness program.

Deputy District Election Officer Thakur further elaborated on plans to conduct voter awareness campaigns targeting low

turnout areas, leveraging the assistance of Scout Guides, NCC Cadets, NSS volunteers, and various departments.

In a bid to encourage voter turnout, special programs aimed at felicitating disabled individuals, senior citizens aged 85 and above, and new voters are set to be organized under the SVEEP program.

As a symbolic gesture of commitment to democratic participation, Collector

Chandrakant Verma administered the voter awareness oath to all officers and employees present, urging them to exercise their franchise responsibly during the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections.

The meeting witnessed the presence of key officials including Project Director of the District Rural Development Administration Jitendra Kumar Sahu, Deputy Director of the Social Welfare Department Ganesh Ram Verma, health officers, and representatives from various administrative bodies such as District Women and Child Development Department, District Panchayat Khairagarh, Chhuikhadan, Municipality Khairagarh, and Nagar Panchayat Chhuikhadan.

Husband murders wife, abandons children

Five minor children facing hardship for the last one and half years

Shekh Hassan Khan

Mainpur, Mar 16: In a heart-wrenching tale of domestic tragedy, the tranquil life of a family in village Kholapara, under the jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat Dabnai in the Mainpur development block of Gariaband district, was shattered one and a half years ago when a husband brutally murdered his wife during a heated dispute and subsequently fled, leaving behind their seven minor children to fend for themselves.

The unfortunate incident unfolded during a social function in village Dhobipara on May 17, 2022, when Jenaram Netam, a member of the special backward Kamar tribe, engaged in a fatal altercation with his wife, Norabati Netam, aged 48. In a fit of rage, fueled by alcohol, Jenaram fatally assaulted his wife, abruptly upending the stability of their once-happy family.

Since that fateful day, the five daughters and two sons of Jenaram and Norabati have been grappling with the harsh realities of life, facing every possible setback without the support and guidance of their parents.

The Mainpur Police have registered a case against Jenaram Netam, the accused husband who remains at large despite ongoing efforts to locate him. The search for justice has stretched on for more than one and a half years, with authorities yet to apprehend the perpetrator.

In light of the dire circumstances faced by the orphaned children, an appeal has been made to the Chhattisgarh Vishnu Deo government for assistance and support. The plea underscores the urgent need

to extend a helping hand to the vulnerable minors, ensuring that they receive the care and protection they deserve during this tumultuous period of their lives.

Uncle provided support
It is noteworthy that the child's maternal uncle, Puntram, has provided support for these children in his house since they are his sister's children. However, Puntram himself is very poor. He struggles to make ends meet as he earns a living by making bamboo utensils. Unfortunately, his income is barely sufficient to feed his own family, let alone support these five children at home.

Two children migrated to Andhra Pradesh
Of the seven children left orphaned, two siblings ventured to Andhra Pradesh in search of work, a year ago, following the tragic murder of their mother and the disappearance of their father. Despite their departure, there has been no communication or updates about their whereabouts, leaving their younger siblings in a state of uncertainty.

The remaining five children, including four girls and one boy, now reside with their maternal uncle, Puntram. The eldest sister, Parvati, aged about 11, along with Sabita, Kumari, Rankunwar, and Rani, have sought refuge in their uncle's home. Despite their young age, the burden of caring for their siblings weighs heavily on Parvati's shoulders.

The heart-wrenching tale has touched the villagers, who often extend gestures of kindness, bringing temporary joy to the grieving children. However, the reality remains stark - a poignant reminder of the chal-



lenges faced by this fractured family.

Appeal for bright future
These Kamar children, hailing from the Special Backward Kamar Tribe, are in dire need of support from the Chhattisgarh government to secure a promising future. Despite being beneficiaries of numerous development schemes for the Special Backward Tribe Kamar Society initiated by both the Narendra Modi government at the Center and the Vishnu Deo Sai Government of the state,

these five destitute siblings continue to face uncertainty.

However, with even a modest amount of attention from officials and district authorities towards their welfare, a brighter future is within reach. The local community has fervently appealed to the Vishnu Deo government of Chhattisgarh to prioritize the well-being and prospects of these vulnerable Kamar children, ensuring they receive the opportunities they rightfully deserve.

Sarpanch's humble plea
Gram Panchayat Dabnai Sarpanch, Ghanshyam Nagesh, has expressed grave concern over the plight of the children. Highlighting the severity of the situation, especially considering the children's status as minors, Sarpanch Nagesh has made a heartfelt appeal to Gariaband District Collector Deepak Agarwal and Tribal Assistant Commissioner Naveen Bhagat.

In his plea, he urges both officials, along with the government of Chhattisgarh, to take proactive steps to secure the children's future. Specifically, he requests better educational support through financial assistance, emphasizing the importance of prioritizing the children's well-being at the governmental level.

Kamar eaders' advocacy
Pileshwar Sori, representing Kamar Vikas Agency, has emphasized the urgent need for the Chhattisgarh government to devise a comprehensive action plan aimed at assisting these minor children and securing their future. Additionally, Sori urges the involvement of senior officers and social workers from the district to step forward and extend their support to such vulnerable children.

SDM's Assurance
Mainpur SDM, Dr. Tulsidas Markam, has provided reassurance regarding the situation. Dr. Markam stated that he has been briefed about the matter and will promptly communicate the details to the Collector of Gariaband district. Additionally, he affirmed that the children will be extended the benefits of government schemes to alleviate their plight.

Vishnu Deo Sai reveres Guru Ghasidas at Girodpuri Fair

Central Chronicle News

Katgi, Mar 16: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai graced the Gurudarshan Mela held at Girodpuri Dham, the sacred birthplace and meditation ground of Baba Guru Ghasidas.

Immersing in spirituality, he paid homage to Guru Gaddi and Jaitkham, extending heartfelt wishes for the prosperity and advancement of Chhattisgarh's populace.

Amidst the serene ambiance, the Chief Minister ascended to Jaitkham, towering above the Qutub Minar, where he performed rituals and admired the breathtaking vistas through binoculars.

Cabinet Minister Brijmohan Agarwal, Dayal Das Baghel, former



The presence of Bhandarpuridham Guru Gaddinshin Shri Baldas added sanctity to the occasion. Notably, this marked the concluding day of the three-day Girodpuri fair, commencing from March 14.

Cabinet Minister Brijmohan Agarwal, Dayal Das Baghel, former

Minister Punnu Lal Mohale, MLA Guru Khushwant Saheb, former Parliamentary Secretary Sanam Jagade, former MLA Naveen Markandey, IG Amresh Mishra, Collector KL Chauhan, SP Sadanand Kumar, along with a multitude of saints and devotees, graced the event with their presence.

YC celebrates Bhupesh Baghel's candidacy with grand welcome

Bike rally and fireworks mark arrival

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Mar 16: Former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel was welcomed with fervor and enthusiasm by the Youth Congress upon his arrival at Bazar Ataria. This marked Baghel's first visit to Bazar Ataria after being declared the Rajnandgaon Lok Sabha candidate.

Led by Youth Congress State President Akash Sharma and Organization General Secretary Animesh Singh, along with District President Gulshan Tiwari, the youth Congressmen orchestrated a grand reception for Baghel, highlighted by a vibrant bike rally. The streets came alive with excitement as fireworks lit up the sky and the sound of roaring



motorcycles echoed through the town, symbolizing the enthusiastic support for Baghel's candidacy. Starting from Joratarai Chowk, the rally traversed through the heart of Khairagarh, culminating at Bazar Ataria where Bhupesh Baghel was greeted with historic pomp and grandeur. Among those present at the event were prominent figures such as State Organization Minister Amimesh Singh,

along with District President Gulshan Tiwari, Nitya Sharan Singh, Block President Rohit Yadav, Block President Gaukaran Verma, City President Sonu Dhimar, and Social Media District President Manohar Sen. Additionally, the event saw a large turnout of enthusiastic young Congressmen including Vasu Singh, Akash Sarathi, Vishwajeet Singh, and Milaf Dhimar, among others.

In-form DC look to win maiden WPL title

New Delhi, Mar 16 (PTI):

In-form Delhi Capitals, led by the inspirational Meg Lanning, would hope to be second time lucky and lift their maiden Women's Premier League title when they take on a plucky Royal Challengers Bangalore in the summit clash here on Sunday.

After missing out on the title in the inaugural edition last year, losing by seven wickets to Mumbai Indians in the final, DC looked a rejuvenated side this year.

DC have been in superb form this year, topping the five-team league standings with 12 points from eight matches.

Lanning has led DC from the front, scoring 308 runs from eight innings, while South African all-rounder Marizanne Kapp and Australian left-arm



spinner Jess Jonassen are the highest wicket-takers for the side with 11 scalps each.

DC's only two defeats this season came against Mumbai Indians UP Warriorz. Leaving aside those two matches, they have enjoyed a near-perfect campaign.

Going into the final, they will definitely start as favourites, having never lost to RCB in four meetings.

But having said that, past results will hardly have any significance in the final. It will be a new day and the side which can withstand pressure and expectations will lift the title.

DC will expect the explosive Shafali Verma to provide them with a quick start alongside Lanning.

Jemimah Rodrigues has been in fine nick in the middle, but Lanning would expect more contri-

butions from the likes of all-rounders Alice Capsey and Kapp.

On the bowling front, Jonassen has been the star performer but the likes of Kapp and Shikha Pandey too have contributed.

Left-arm spinner Radha Yadav has also been effective with 10 wickets and the home team will definitely depend a lot on its spinners in a relatively slow Kotla pitch.

RCB, on the other hand, finished third in the league phase after an inconsistent run that yielded eight points from as many games but they clicked when it mattered, knocking out defending champions MI by five runs in the eliminator here on Friday.

All-rounder Ellyse Perry will be key to RCB's success on Sunday as besides being the highest run-getter with 312 runs,

the Australian has been impressive with the ball, scalping seven wickets.

If not for Perry's all-round show against MI on Friday, the result could have been different. She first played a vital 50-ball 66-run knock and then returned with figures of 1/29 to play a key role in RCB's journey to the final.

But Perry would look for more support from the likes of skipper Smriti Mandhana, Sophie Devine, Richa Ghosh and Sophie Molineux with the bat.

However if RCB were to stop DC, they would need efforts from their bowlers, especially the likes of Renuka Singh, Shreyanka Patil, Georgia Wareham etc.

All in all it promises to be a cracker of a contest with the balance slightly tilted towards hosts DC.

Pant's recovery earlier than anticipated: NCA staff

■ His background in gymnastics played huge role

New Delhi, Mar 16 (PTI):

Rishabh Pant's mental strength and his background in gymnastics has helped the dashing wicket-keeper-batter to make an early recovery.

Fifteen months after Pant was involved in a horrific car accident on the Delhi-Dehradun highway in December 2022, the wicketkeeper-batter received a green signal to play in the IPL, starting March 22.

"The mental strength and confidence inside him made us give our 100 per cent in doing the rehab part for him," Thulasi Yuvraj, a physiotherapist at the National Cricket Academy told 'bcciv'.

"The doctors believed that he may take up to two years. Once he came to NCA, it was like a progres-



sive phase for him," he added.

Pant had dabbled in gymnastics at a young age and that served as an asset in his recovery, according to Nishanta Bordoloi, the strength and conditioning coach at NCA.

"One thing was that Rishabh has a background for gymnastic which was a very very big asset for us

because there are a few things that come naturally to him," Bordoloi said.

"Anytime he would feel he couldn't move, he could tumble or roll over back to his feet again. Which was so much of an added advantage for him.

"The beginning phase was to get foundational strength in him, making his body understand what the movements are like.

"It's completely reconstructed thing and once it's reconstructed it takes a lot of mind and body connection. The neural system need to understand, the muscle, tendons have to function," he added.

Although Pant left no stone unturned, ticking all the boxes, the 26-year found the rehab mundane.

"Rehab is very irritating, have to do same thing again and again. But you have to do it because you don't have any other choice. It's boring but the more you do the better you get," said Pant.

Sreejesh aspires to be Indian hockey team's chief coach by 2036

New Delhi, Mar 16 (PTI):

Indian men's hockey team goalkeeper PR Sreejesh doesn't want to predict his future at the moment and will take a call on his retirement after the Paris Olympics but the veteran custodian aspires to be chief coach of the national side by 2036.

Sreejesh, who will be featuring in his fourth Olympics this year, refused to believe that the upcoming edition in Paris could be his last outing in the sporting extravaganza.

He remains optimistic but said once he calls it quits, he definitely wants to give back to the game in one or the other way.

"For me, this Olympics is really important because at this age it is really



hard for me to talk about next four year cycle. From the last Olympics, I was only taking one year at a time. The rest decision comes after the Olympics," Sreejesh told PTI in an interview.

"I don't think so (it will be his last Olympics) because when you are 36 and doing a beep test of 20.8, I think it's quite good.

"(But) after my career I will take a break for sure. I

will need time to transfer myself from a player to any role, as a coach, assistant coach or goalkeeping coach. My plan is for long time. My plan is for 2036 or 2040.

"I want to improve myself, I want to see myself as a coach or a chief coach of the Indian national hockey team in that time because by that time I will be more experienced. I want to be a part an Indian independent coaching staff of the national hockey team," he elaborated about his plans.

Sreejesh, who captained the national team at the 2016 Rio Olympics, played a key role in India's historic bronze medal-winning feat at the Tokyo Games and he believes the current side has the poten-

tial to produce better results in Paris.

"The goal everytime for an athlete is to win a gold medal in the Olympics but you need to consider the realistic factors. All the top 6 teams in the world are now beating each other. We have got an open pool where anyone can beat anyone," he said.

"I believe that we have got the potential to finish on the podium for sure but you can't be overconfident."

Renowned mental conditioning coach Paddy Upton, who was with the squad in Hangzhou Asian Games, will be working with the Indian players in the run up to the Olympics and will there in Paris too, a fact confirmed by chief coach Craig Fulton.

We will miss Hardik's experience: Ashish Nehra

Ahmedabad, Mar 16 (PTI):

Gujarat Titans head coach Ashish Nehra on Saturday said he never tried to convince Hardik Pandya against returning to Mumbai Indians but conceded that the star all-rounder's experience would be dearly missed by the team in the IPL beginning on March 22.

Pandya, who led GT to IPL title in their maiden year before taking them to the final last year, has moved back to Mumbai Indians as their skipper for the upcoming season.

"In any sport, you have to move on. You cannot buy experience and to replace someone like Hardik Pandya or (an injured) Mohammed Shami isn't going to be easy. But that's a learning curve and that's how team moves forward," Nehra told mediapersons here on Saturday.



Pandya-Nehra combination had worked wonders for GT in their first two seasons and the inevitable question arose whether the head coach tried to stop the skipper from joining Mumbai Indians.

"I never tried to convince Pandya to stay back. As you play more, you gain experience. I could

have stopped him had he gone to any other franchise. He (Pandya) played here for two years but he has gone to a team (MI), where he has played previously for 5-6 years," Nehra was frank in his admission.

The way Pandya's transfer took place, Nehra feels that day isn't far away

when IPL goes the European club football way.

"The manner in which the sport (cricket) is moving, we will have trades and transfers like we see in international soccer. It's a new challenge for him and may be he will learn something new and we wish him the best."

Sri Lanka appoint Aaqib Javed as fast bowling coach until T20 WC

Colombo, Mar 16 (PTI):

Sri Lanka on Saturday appointed former Pakistan pacer Aaqib Javed as their fast-bowling coach until the completion of the ICC T20 World Cup 2024 in June.

Javed, a 1992 World Cup winner, is currently serving as the Director of Cricket Operations and head coach of the Lahore Qalandars in the Pakistan Super League (PSL).

"We warmly welcome Aaqib and believe that his immense international experience, both in playing and coaching, will help our bowlers come into good shape ahead of the upcoming major international competitions, such as the ICC Men's T20

World Cup," Ashley De Silva, the SLC CEO, said in a press release.

The 51-year-old Javed comes with a rather impressive coaching CV, having worked with Pakistan senior and junior teams, Afghanistan and UAE in the past. Under his guidance, UAE had obtained the ODI and T20I status besides getting qualified for the 2015 50-over World Cup. He was also the bowling coach of Pakistan when they won the T20 World Cup in 2009. As a right-arm seamer, Javed was an effective support cast to Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis in the 90s. He captured 236 international wickets across 22 Tests and 163 ODIs for Pakistan.

Sakkari outlasts Gauff in 3 sets at Indian Wells

Indian Wells, Mar 16 (AP):

Maria Sakkari outlasted Coco Gauff 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-2 after blowing three match points in the second set of their rain-delayed semifinal Friday night to reach the BNP Paribas Open final.

Sakkari will play top-ranked Iga Swiatek in Sunday's final. Swiatek routed Marta Kostyuk 6-2, 6-1 to improve to 19-2 this year, with her match wins leading the WTA Tour. Swiatek has beaten Sakkari in three of their five meetings.

There were delays of 20 minutes and two hours during the semifinal between third-seeded Gauff and ninth-seeded Sakkari.

Sakkari broke Gauff twice in taking a 5-2 lead



Maria Sakkari of Greece celebrates her win over Coco Gauff of the United States during the Women's Semifinals of the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells Tennis Garden on March 15 in Indian Wells, California.

in the second set. But, Gauff won four straight games and fought off three match points in the 10th game to take a 6-5 lead.

Sakkari held to force the

tiebreaker in which she fell behind 6-2 before Gauff won it, 7-5.

There were break points in each of the first six games of the third. After dropping serve to open the

set, Sakkari twice broke Gauff and then held for a 4-1 lead. She held again to go up 5-2 and then one hour and 10 minutes after her first three match points, Sakkari hit a forehand winner to set up her fourth. She closed out the match on Gauff's forehand error.

Swiatek won the 2022 tournament as part of a 37-match winning streak. She had advanced to the semis when Caroline Wozniacki retired trailing 6-4, 1-0 in their quarterfinal. Swiatek has lost just 17 games through the semis.

Kostyuk hit 17 winners to 14 for Swiatek in the match. But, Swiatek was better in nearly every other facet and didn't face a break point.

Krishna-Pratheek pair bows out of Orleans Masters

Orleans (France), Mar 16 (PTI):

Indian pair of Krishna Prasad Garaga and Sai Pratheek K suffered a straight-game loss in the men's doubles quarterfinals to bow out of the Orleans Masters badminton tournament here.

The world No. 70 Indian pair lost 17-21 16-21 in 40 minutes against seventh-seeded Danish combination of Andreas Sondergaard and Jesper Toft, ranked 46th in the BWF chart, on Friday night.

It ended India's campaign at the Super 300 event. The Indian pair was the only one from the country to reach the last-eight following its 21-14 21-

9 win over the local combination of Lucas Renoir and Mael Cattoen.

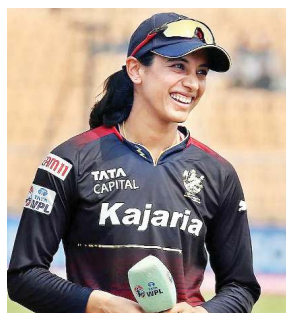
Krishna and Pratheek had defeated Bulgaria's Ivan Rusev and Ihoan Stojnov in their opening match. In women's singles, eighth seed Malvika Bansod, Tanya Hemanth and Imad Farooqui Samiya lost early in the tournament. Men's singles players, including third seed Kiran George, Mithun Manjunath and S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian also made early exits. Former national champion Anupama Upadhyaya and Sathish Kumar Karunakaran, who had won the Odisha Masters last year, lost in the second round.

Not really co-relating with what happened with the men's team : Mandhana

New Delhi, Mar 16 (PTI):

Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper Smriti Mandhana doesn't want to put too much pressure on her side ahead of the Women's Premier League final against Delhi Capitals here on Sunday, and added that she is not in the mood for comparisons with their men's team counterparts in the IPL.

The RCB men's team has failed to win a single IPL title in the last 17 years, finishing runners-up thrice (2009, 2011, 2016). But just into the second WPL season, the Mandhana-led women's team has a great chance to win the title on Sunday.



"Firstly, I think this year was really important for us to connect to the whole franchise with what's happened with the men, sometimes it puts pressure.

"So we were just thinking that we are two seasons into it, so let's not put too much stress. So not really co-relating with what happened with the men's

team," Mandhana said in the post-match press conference after defeating Mumbai Indians by five runs in the Eliminator here on Friday.

RCB did not have a very good first edition of the WPL last year, finishing fourth in the league standings, but Mandhana believes it is important to live in the present.

"What cricket has taught is it is important to live in the present. It's just about playing good cricket on that particular day, whoever plays the best cricket tomorrow is going to win," she said.

"Last year wasn't the greatest campaign for RCB. (But) the conversation in the last 25 days has

always been around we are enjoying each other's company, really focussed on the process, training well. So doesn't change anything. We are not changing anything overnight because it is a final."

The left-handed opener has high regard for rival captain Meg Lanning of DC, but she feels a skipper is always as good as the team.

"We give a lot of importance to the role of captain but the captain is as good as the team. Nothing changes tomorrow, we are playing a good Delhi Capitals side, who have played some amazing cricket over the last two seasons," Mandhana said.

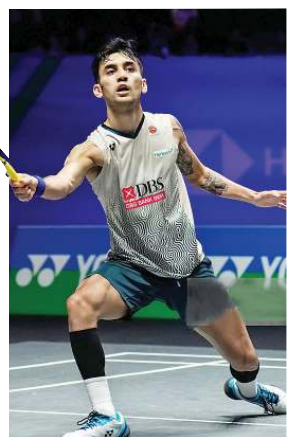
Sen outlasts Lee to enter semifinals at All England C'ship

Birmingham, Mar 16 (PTI):

India's Lakshya Sen displayed great mental resolve on his way to a stunning win over former champion Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia to progress to the men's singles semifinals of the All England Championships here.

The 22-year-old Indian, who had finished runner-up in 2022 edition, produced good variations while attacking and kept fighting to outlast Lee 20-22, 21-16, 21-19 in an absorbing quarterfinal that lasted 71 minutes on Friday.

"It was a really good match and happy to be on winning side. It was all about keeping the nerve. I knew he has the quality to comeback and give a tough fight," Sen said.



"Even when I was 18-14 up, I knew if I play a little bit lose, he will grab the opportunity. For me, it was important to dictate the pace. In the end, it was about not giving him an open chance to hit and keep the shuttle down."

reigning Commonwealth Games champion, will take on Indonesia's world no. 9 Jonatan Christie in the semifinals.

Sen played four three-game matches last week at the French Open before engaging in two back-to-back long matches in the past couple of days but despite that he was able to maintain a high pace.

"(It physically) was really good. The way I played last week and now too. Now it is all about recovering as there is not much time. My support team will have to be really on their toes to get me up for next match," Sen said.

The two shuttlers played some excruciating rallies but Sen managed to grab a 8-3 lead as Lee made too many errors at the net. World no. 18 Sen, the

Lee, who has defeated the Indian only once in four meetings, recovered in time to claw back at 12-12 and then 20-20 before taking the opening game.

In the second game, Sen kept himself ahead 11-9 at the mid game interval and then upped the pace to take seven points on the trot to roar back into the contest.

In the decider, Sen kept a high pace to take 7-5 and 11-8 leads in the break. He didn't let the advantage slip despite Lee gaining four successive points from 15-19.

However, Sen got the two crucial points to register his fourth win over the Malaysian. In the end, the Malaysian shot one long to hand the Indian the win as he fell on his back to celebrate.

3.4 lakh CAPFs personnel along with state forces to be deployed

● In Lok Sabha polls

New Delhi, Mar 16 (PTI):

The Election Commission is expected to deploy 3.4 lakh Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) personnel along with state police forces in the seven-phase Lok Sabha elections and the assembly polls in four states beginning April 19, officials said.

A maximum of 92,000 personnel of CAPFs are likely to be deployed in politically volatile West Bengal, where elections will be held in seven phases, followed by 63,500 personnel in militancy-hit Jammu and Kashmir, where polling will be held in five phases.

As many as 36,000 personnel will be deployed in Nagal-affected Chhattisgarh, where polling will be held in three phases.

The EC has considered the requests made by the state CEOs and decided to deploy a maximum of



around 3,400 companies of the CAPFs in all states and Union territories in a phased manner to ensure free, fair and peaceful elections, an official privy to the development said.

A CAPF company comprises around 100 personnel. The entire force mobilisation will be completed in the next few days.

Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh,

Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim will also be held coinciding with the Lok Sabha polls.

A maximum of 920 companies of CAPFs are expected to be deployed in West Bengal in a phased manner, followed by 635 companies in Jammu and Kashmir; 360 companies in Chhattisgarh, 295 companies in Bihar, 252 companies in Uttar Pradesh and

250 companies each in Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Punjab, the official said.

The CAPFs are the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and National Security Guard (NSG).

Vedanta Aluminium reinforces commitment to safety excellence

New Delhi, Mar 16:

On the occasion of National Safety Week, Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, reaffirmed its commitment to pursuing safety excellence. A safety-first approach is ingrained in the company's operational values, extending from within its plants to the communities beyond them. In commemoration of the occasion, Vedanta Aluminium undertook a series of engaging initiatives, such as demonstrating safety best practices, comprehensive trainings, competitions, and exhibitions on safety tools, all aimed at heightening

awareness not only among its employees but also within the local communities it operates in.

Vedanta Aluminium is dedicated to cultivating a safer workplace and community through continuous enhancements to its Safety Management System. This all-encompassing approach involves integrating state-of-the-art technologies, improving processes, proactively identifying and managing gaps, and maintaining a steadfast focus on behaviour-based safety programs. Together, they are an apt reflection of the National Safety Week theme this year, which is "Focus on Safety

Leadership for ESG Excellence."

On the occasion, John Slaven, CEO, Vedanta Aluminium said, "At Vedanta Aluminium, safety is a fundamental value embedded within every facet of our operations. It takes precedence at all organizational levels and extends beyond safeguarding employees to fostering safer communities. Our operations leverage cutting-edge safety technologies that continually reinforce safety-first practices. Furthermore, our behaviour-based safety initiatives cater to the individual needs of each employee, ensuring a vigorous focus on safety."

Inter district NSS volunteers leadership training camp begins



● At Paradip College

Paradip, Mar 16:

Paradip College is organizing 3-Day NSS Volunteers Leadership Training Camp from 15th March to 17th March, 2024 in the college premises. Dr. Brajanarayan Patra, Programme Coordinator, NSS Bureau, Utkal University graced the occasion and delivered a motivating talk to develop leadership and discipline among the students.

LONGEST 'DOSA'



Chefs engaged in making a 123-foot long 'dosa' to create a Guinness World Record on the occasion of MTR's centenary year, at Bommasandra, in Bengaluru, Saturday.

APCC sets the stage for rectal cancer management

Mumbai, Mar 16:

Apollo Proton Cancer Centre (APCC), recently launched the Apollo Rectal Cancer (ARC) Programme—India's pioneering approach dedicated to rectal cancer management.

With a focus on rectal preservation and powered by advanced technologies including chemoradiotherapy, proton therapy, and robotic surgery, the ARC programme aims to revolutionize the treatment of rectal cancer in the country.

This unique initiative addresses the specialized needs of rectal cancer patients, providing comprehensive and multidisciplinary

care to ensure the best possible outcomes.

The ARC programme sets the stage for rectal cancer management as India's only quaternary care center for rectal cancer, offering an integrated multidisciplinary care for rectal cancer for patients from the Indian subcontinent and afar. Taking a 360-degree approach, the programme addresses the spectrum of rectal cancer complexities, including significant polyps, early rectal cancer, organ preservation, robotic rectal cancer surgery, and the treatment of peritoneal surface malignancies with heated intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC).

Surgical Gastroenterology.

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Stage set for fierce poll battle between YSRCP and TDP

Amaravati, Mar 16 (PTI):

With the EC on Saturday announcing the poll schedule for the Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in Andhra Pradesh on May 13, the poll bugle has been sounded in the southern state for a double battle.

With an electorate of 4.08 crore voters—two crore male, 2.07 crore female and 3,482 third gender voters, Andhra Pradesh is poised to elect members to its 16th Legislative Assembly, constituting 175 constituencies, besides 25 Lok Sabha members.

The Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led YSRCP which got nearly 50 per cent vote share with 151 seats in the last assembly polls is deploying all

its might to retain power. TDP secured just 23 while Janasena, one in 2019.

The Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy-led YSRCP on Saturday announced the list of candidates for all the 175 Assembly seats and 25 Lok Sabha constituencies, coinciding with the date of the election notification announcement by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

According to YSRCP, 50 percent of all the seats for Assembly and Lok Sabha polls have been allocated to SC, ST, BC and minority communities.

Jagan Mohan Reddy will contest from Pulivendula Assembly constituency, Krishna Raghava Jayendra

Bharath (Kuppam) and M Lavanya (Mangalagiri), the key constituencies of the southern state.

As per the list, B Jhansi Laxmi will contest from the Visakhapatnam Lok Sabha constituency, G Uma Bala (Narasapuram) and V Vijayasai Reddy (Nellore).

On the other hand, TDP is pulling all stops to wrest the power by joining NDA and having pre-poll alliance with actor Pawan Kalyan-led Janasena and BJP.

Left parties, Congress and other smaller parties have lesser impact in the poll arena.

N Chandrababu Naidu-led TDP recently rejoined the NDA alliance whereas Janasena has already

been the local ally of BJP.

The NDA partners entered into a seat sharing deal, according to which BJP will contest from six Lok Sabha and 10 Assembly segments, TDP 17 Parliamentary and 144 Assembly constituencies and Pawan Kalyan-led Janasena from two Lok Sabha and 21 assembly seats.

Naidu has already announced the names of 123 candidates while 16 more are due, which could be done any time from now. Kalyan revealed the names of only seven Janasena candidates until now, including giving clarity on his status, announcing he will fight the Assembly election from Pithapuram constituency.

'Bhutan's journey a success due to India's friendship, support'



PM Modi with PM of Bhutan Dasho Tshering Tobgay during a meeting, in New Delhi.

New Delhi, Mar 16 (PTI):

Bhutan has come a long way in its journey of balancing economic growth with environment protection and preservation of culture, and this journey has been by-and-large successful, Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay said on Saturday.

During his address at the India Conclave - 2024 in New Delhi, he said the journey has been successful due to the "friendship, goodwill and unconditional support of the govern-

ment and the people of India". Tobgay emphasised on the metric of Gross National Happiness that his country introduced to measure prosperity and said nations and its people will have to imagine

a more sustainable future in the 21st century.

Bhutan has tried to balance its economic growth with social progress, cultural preservation, environment protection and good governance, he said.

"Our kings have come a long way, Bhutan has come a long way, we have come a long way. And this

journey, by-and-large, has been successful. And, I dare say, it has been successful due to the friendship, goodwill and unconditional support of the government and the people of India," he added. The Bhutan prime minister also invited Indians to visit the country in different seasons as tourists to support its economy.

PASSING OUT PARADE



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R. Hari Kumar during the Passing Out Parade of third batch of Agniveers, at INS Chilka, in Odisha, Saturday.

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