

### BRIEF



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the unveiling of a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the premises of Pune Municipal Corporation, in Pune district, Sunday.

### Fitness

**New Delhi:** President Ram Nath Kovind on Sunday organised a run at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here to promote fitness and health consciousness as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations, an official statement said. 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' is an initiative of the government of India to commemorate 75 years of independence. The run was flagged off by the President and First Lady Savita Kovind, the statement issued by the President's office said.

### Watery grave

**Jaipur:** A woman and her three-year-old son drowned in a water tank at their residence in Rajasthan's Barmer district on Sunday, police said. The incident took place in Kernada village under Chohan police station, they said. Krishna Kumar suddenly fell into the water tank at his house and his mother, Chattru Pratapat (25), jumped in to save him. Both of them drowned, Station House Officer Bhutaram Bishnoi said.

### Blast

**Devbhumi Dwarka:** Three people were injured after a gas cylinder exploded in a house in Khambhaliya town of Gujarat's Devbhumi Dwarka district on Sunday, police said. The LPG cylinder, kept in a room on the ground floor of the house, exploded after the gas leaking from it came in contact with an electric spark, an official from Khambhaliya police station said. The persons, aged 18, 19 and 22, suffered burn injuries and they were rushed to a private hospital for treatment, he said.

**Weather**  
High 35 Low 18

## Budget session of State Assembly from today

Raipur, Mar 06 (PTD):

The budget session of the Chhattisgarh Assembly will begin from Monday and the state's budget for 2022-23 will be tabled in the House on March 9, an official said on Sunday.

The opposition BJP has decided to corner the ruling Congress over several issues, including the deteriorating law and order situation in the state. On Monday, the session will commence with Governor Anusuiya Uikey's address, followed by tabling of the motion of thanks on her address, the Assembly official said.

The debate on the motion of thanks to the governor's address is proposed for March 8, he said. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, who holds charge of the state finance department, will present the state budget on March 9, he said. Till Saturday, 1,682 questions were received from the leg-



islators, including 854 starred questions and 828 un-starred ones. Besides, 114 notices were received for the calling attention motion and 10 for the adjournment motion, the official said. There will be 13 sittings during the session, which will conclude on March 25.

## 'Will stop if demands met'

Moscow, Mar 06:

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday said that the military operation in Ukraine will only be halted if Russia's demands are met. He has also likened the West's sanctions on Russia to "declaring war".

Meanwhile, a second attempted ceasefire in the besieged port city of Mariupol collapsed on Sunday, with Pro-Russian separatists and Ukraine's National Guard accusing each other of failing to establish a humanitarian corridor to allow civilians



Vladimir Putin

to leave. Ukraine has said Russian forces are now preparing to bombard the Black Sea port city of Odessa. The number of people fleeing Russia's invasion of Ukraine has topped 1.5 million, making it Europe's "fastest-growing refugee crisis" since

### 'Assault halts evacuations for 2nd time'

A Ukrainian official says a second attempt to evacuate civilians from a southern city under siege for a week has failed due to continued Russian shelling. Evacuations from the port city of Mariupol were scheduled to begin at noon local time (10 a.m. GMT) during a 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. local ceasefire, Ukrainian military authorities said earlier Sunday. Interior Ministry adviser Anton Geraschenko said the planned evacuations along designated humanitarian corridors were halted because of an ongoing assault. There can be no green corridors "because only the sick brain of the Russians decides when to start shooting and at whom, he said on Telegram.

World War-II, the United Nations said on Sunday. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says Russian rockets have completely destroyed the

### India begins last leg of 'Operation Ganga'

New Delhi, Mar 06:

Indian embassy on Sunday said that the last leg of 'Operation Ganga' has begun, asking the stranded students to reach the Hungarian City Center in Budapest between 10 am-12 pm. Separately Indian embassy in Kyiv also urged its nationals who are still in Ukraine to register themselves for the evacuation process under 'Operation Ganga'. "All Indian nationals who still remain in Ukraine are requested to fill up the details contained in the attached Google Form on an URGENT BASIS," India in Ukraine tweeted. The ministry of external affairs in its daily briefing said that around 13,300 people returned to India from Ukraine so far by 63 flights under 'Operation Ganga'.

### FRATRICIDAL INCIDENT

## Five BSF personnel, including assailant, killed in shooting

In Amritsar camp

Amritsar, Mar 06 (PTD):

A Border Security Force (BSF) jawan allegedly opened fire indiscriminately at its camp here on Sunday leaving four of his colleagues dead and another critically injured, before falling to a bullet, officials said.

The fratricidal incident took place between 9:30 AM and 9:45 AM in the camp of the 144th battalion in the Khasa area of the district, about 12-13 km short of the Attari-Wagah crossing along the India-Pakistan international border, an officer said.

The accused constable, Sateppa S K, 35, hailed from Karnataka.

Officials said he was apparently upset about his duty hours and even fired shots at the vehicle of a second-in-command rank officer that was parked on the campus.

It was not clear if he shot himself or was fired upon by others.

"It could be a ricochet that killed the accused. It is unclear as of now," a senior officer said.

Speaking to reporters, Asif Jalal, who last week took over as the BSF Inspector General for Punjab, denied that there was any enmity or duty-related issue. He said the police and his force were in-



A Border Security Force (BSF) jawan being shifted to Guru Nanak Dev hospital, after a colleague allegedly open fired at a force camp in Amritsar district, Sunday.

### 1 killed, 10 hurt as terrorists hurl grenade

Srinagar: A civilian was killed while at least 10 others, including a policeman, were injured after terrorists hurled a grenade at security forces in the Hari Singh High Street locality of the city here on Sunday, police said. "At about 4:20 pm, terrorists hurled a grenade upon police and security forces deployment at Hari Singh High Street," a police official said. He said a policeman and 10 civilians received splinter injuries in the explosion. The injured were rushed to the Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) hospital, where a civilian succumbed to the injuries, he added. The area has been cordoned off and a hunt launched to nab the attackers, the official said.

investigating the cause of the incident. Sateppa had reported feeling unwell last night and was admitted to a nearby private hospital. "This morning, he informed the doctors that he was well and that he should be discharged. After entering the camp, he took his weapon from

the armoury and began shooting indiscriminately," an officer said.

A court of inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the facts related to the unfortunate incident in which five BSF troops were killed at the force camp in Amritsar: a BSF spokesperson said.

## 'Discipline & integrity paramount in force'

### SC upholds dismissal of CISF constable

New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTD):

The Supreme Court has upheld a 2001 order sacking a CISF constable, who had allegedly assaulted an officer after he reprimanded him for sleeping during patrolling duty, saying a sense of integrity, discipline and camaraderie is paramount given the nature of the force.

The apex court observed that the quantum of pun-

ishment is within the discretionary domain and sole power of the decision-making authority once the charge of misconduct stands proved.

Such discretionary power is exposed to judicial interference if exercised in a manner which is grossly disproportionate to the fault, as the constitutional courts while exercising the power of judicial review do not assume the role of the appellate authority, a bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna and Bela M Trivedi said.

The top court delivered its verdict on an appeal filed by the Centre and others against the January 2018 judgment of a division bench of the Orissa High Court which had affirmed the order of a single-judge bench setting aside the punishment of dismissal. It said on merits of the quantum of punishment imposed, the courts would not interfere unless the exercise of discretion in awarding punishment is perverse in the sense that it is grossly disproportionate.

## Govt permits phase-3 trial of Covovax

New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTD):

An expert panel of India's central drug authority has recommended permission for conducting a phase-3 clinical trial of Covid vaccine Covovax as a booster dose in adults, official sources said on Sunday. The Drugs Controller General Of India (DCGI) has already approved Covovax for restricted use in emergency situations in adults on December 28. It is yet to be included in the country's inoculation programme. The Subject Expert Committee on

COVID-19 of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation had on Friday recommended giving permission for conducting a phase-3 clinical trial of the single-dose COVID-19 vaccine Sputnik Light as a booster dose. In February, Director, Government and Regulatory Affairs at Serum Institute of India, Prakash Kumar Singh had sought from DCGI nod to conduct a phase-3, observer-blind, randomized, controlled study to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of Covovax as a booster dose in adults.

## Ragging video of medical college goes viral

Dehradun, Mar 06 (PTD):

A video of alleged ragging at a government medical college in Haldwani, purportedly showing students with their heads shaven and hands tied at backs walking in a queue around the campus, has surfaced on social media.

While no formal complaint has been lodged with the police by aggrieved students, the college management too has denied any such incident in the college.

## 'Centre focuses on improving metro rail connectivity'

Pune, Mar 06 (PTD):

The central government is focusing on improving mass transportation, including the metro rail connectivity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday after inaugurating a metro project in Pune city of Maharashtra.

The total cost of the Pune metro project is over Rs 11,400 crore. The PM had laid the foundation stone for the project on December 24, 2016.

Modi was addressing a public meeting at the MIT College ground here after launching and laying the foundation stone of various development projects



Prime Minister Narendra Modi travels in a metro train during the inauguration of the Pune Metro Rail Project, in Pune, Sunday.

in the city. "...Today, I got the opportunity to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of various projects. I am fortunate that I got the opportunity to lay the foundation stone of the Pune metro and today,

you have invited me to inaugurate the project," he said. "Earlier (during past governments), the foundation laying used to take place, but it was not known when the inauguration of the same project will take place," said Modi.

The inauguration of the Pune metro project shows and sends across the message that projects can be completed on time, the PM said, and appealed to people to travel by metro trains.

Noting that the urbanisation is taking place on a fast pace, he said by 2030, the country's urban population will cross the 60-crore mark.

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# BMC recovers tax above Rs 36 lakhs from defaulters

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 06:** In order to recover the amount of tax from the defaulters, The Bhilai Municipal Corporation Commissioner Prakash Surve had earlier constituted an attachment team. This team is taking action to recover the amount from the defaulters in the presence of police administration in each zone area.

The corporation has so far recovered an amount of more than Rs 36 lakhs. Attachment warrants have been issued to the defaulters under sections 173, 174 and 175. Despite this, strict action is being taken against the defaulters who do not deposit the tax. In the recent action, the at-



achment team in Vaishali Nagar zone area recovered Rs 31706 from Laxmi Narayan, Rs 30354 from Sukhdas Banjare, Rs 40640 from Harishankar, Rs 30280 from Tularam Maske, Rs 28000 from DM Sirkhan, thus recovering a total of 166980.

In zone 1 Nehru Nagar a recovery of Rs 120960 was

made from Lokesh Chauhan near Prajapati Suppliers under Kohka, Rs 132672 from Ramsakhi Kohka thus a total recovery of Rs 253632 and In Zone 04 Khursipar area in RS Market from shop number 52 recovered Rs 106193 from Indira, from Balwinder Kaur near Radha Krishna Mandir

Khursipar Rs 21854, Inderjit Kesarwani near Khursipar Gate Rs 35549, Rs 48892 from Durgesh Yadav Adivasi Nagar, Rs 101972 from Jai Prakash Agarwal, Rs 115218 from Chhote Lal Vishwakarma, thus a total of 429678 have been recovered through attachment.

The process of attachment on the defaulters will continue strictly and action will be taken to recover the amount of tax by attaching the property of defaulters who have not deposited the tax. Sparrow's team and police force, including Parameshwar Chandrakar, Balkrishna Naidu, Malkhan Singh Sori and Anil Meshram were mainly present in the attachment team.

# SAIL Management on the back foot in case of gratuity ceiling

Unilateral orders of gratuity ceiling likely to be revoked

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 06:** The management of Bhilai Steel Plant appears to be coming on the back foot over the matter of gratuity ceiling. The representatives of BSP management were unable to give their statement during the hearing of an industrial dispute raised by Hindustan Steel Employees Union (CITU) before DCLC (C) Raipur.

It needs to be mentioned here that the management had passed a unilateral order on November 26, 2021 imposing a ceiling limit on the gratuity of the employees. CITU had filed an industrial dispute

over this matter. DCLC (C) conducted a hearing over this case on Friday.

CITU General Secretary SP Dey informed that in the protest of this unilateral order, they had submitted an objection letter to the BSP management on November 29, 2021. When the management did not take any positive steps, they moved to the DCLC (C), Raipur on December 04, 2021 and raised an industrial dispute.

The union in its petition stated that as per the agreement finalized by the bilateral committee (NJCS), there was no upper limit in the gratuity

of the SAIL employees. Hence the management cannot pass any unilateral order to impose ceiling on the gratuity of the employees. Without agreement with the workers' unions, BSP management has changed the service conditions of the employees by limiting the retirement benefits. As per the laws, the management cannot pass such orders, the union said.

CITU leader informed that hearings on this industrial dispute were held on January 27, February 04 and March 04, but the management representatives did not submit any documents and further

did not file their reply as respondents.

They added that they are getting hints that the management may withdraw its unilateral order regarding ceiling of gratuity. But CITU is continuously chasing its case cautiously to ensure that the retiring personnel do not suffer any loss. He further informed that CITU is exploring other legal options. Steel Workers Federation of India is also planning to file a petition through the retiring officials at Kolkata High Court. The union anticipates that the workers will ultimately win in this matter.

# DMC camp for ration cards from March 07-09

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 06:** As per the orders of the State government and on the instructions of Durg Municipal Commissioner Haresh Mandavi, ration cards are being made for the people who missed out in the previous occasion. The ration cards for both the APL and BPL beneficiaries will be made at the camps. The camps already held have proved beneficial for the denizens residing within the Durg corporation limits.

Therefore, the camps are being organised again. Beneficiaries are also taking advantage of it and are reaching the camp of their nearest ward with applications. Applications of people who were left out in the OBC



survey are also being accepted in the camp. Commissioner Haresh Mandavi has appealed that this is the last opportunity to get the ration card made

at the three day camp beginning from March 7.

All the families to take advantage of the important schemes of the government must have a ration card. If

they miss the camp then for the ration cards they will have to visit Corporation office later on and apply. So the denizens should take advantage of the camp.

At the camp the applications will be reviewed, physical verification and eligibility will be checked and further action will be taken. The camp will be held on wards 30, 31, 32, 33, Digambar Jain Temple, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, Mohan Bal Mandir Ganjpara, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, Kasaridih, 45, 46, 47, 48 Primary School Vivekananda Auditorium, 49, 50, 51, 52 Government Primary School, Borsi, 53, 54, Government Primary School, Potia, 55, Government Primary School, Pulgaon, 57, 78 Government Primary School, Urla etc.

# Absconding theft accused apprehended

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 06:** Police have arrested a notorious thief who was wanted in several cases of thefts and burglaries. Khursipar Police arrested him when he was hiding in Raipur.

The accused is identified as Sonu alias Bauwa (28) son of Rajbali Sharma a resident of Dr Rajendra Prasad Nagar, Khursipar. He was arrested in connection with the theft of car spares from a truck. Two other accused in this case were arrested earlier.

With the arrest of Sonu alias Bauwa, police have arrested all the three accused of stealing goods from a truck. The accused had stolen car

spare parts worth Rs 2 lakhs.

CSP Vishwas Chandrakar informed that Khursipar Police Station had received a complaint from one Ajay Kumar Yadav of Jarkhand regarding theft of goods from his truck. The victim was transporting car spare parts in his truck bearing registration number MH12-HD-2299.

His truck broke down near Khursipar gate after which he took the vehicle to a nearby garage for repairs. The driver slept in the vehicle that night.

Next morning he found that about 15 boxes of spare parts loaded in the truck were stolen. Unidentified thieves had cut the cover (talpatri)

and had escaped with the goods.

On the directions of SSP Badri Narayan Meena, Khursipar Police team led by Inspector Durgesh Sharma conducted investigations.

Three suspects were seen in the footage of a CCTV Camera installed nearby. One of the suspects appeared to be suffering from paralysis in one of the hands.

On the basis of this information, a police team started searching and finally one Gangu alias Dharmendra and Sheikh Sahil were taken in custody. During interrogation, they confessed to have committed the crime.

They had disclosed that one Sonu also assist-

ed them in the crime. Police had recovered the stolen booty worth Rs 2 lakhs from their possession.

The accused Sheikh Sahil (19) son of Sheikh Salim a resident of Dr Rajendra Prasad Nagar, Khursipar and Gangu alias Dharmendra Tondon (24) son of Lakhman Tondon a resident of Shivaji Nagar Khursipar were earlier booked under the provisions mentioned in section 379, 34 of IPC.

Now the third accused Sonu alias Bauwa has also been sent to jail. Under the leadership of Inspector Durgesh Sharma, Subhash Yadav and Birendra Pal played vital role in arresting the accused.

# Jeevandeep committee honours CMHO Meshram



Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 06:** The members of Jeevandeep Committee honoured the newly appointed CMHO Dr JP Meshram during a simple function held on Saturday. They greeted and extended best wishes to him for the new responsibility.

The members of Jeevandeep Committee informed him about the initiatives taken in the district hospital in the past few months. The members of the committee hoped that under the leadership of Dr Meshram, the facilities in the district hospital would increase further.

Dr Meshram said that

he would work continuously in this direction so that the patients could get the best treatment in the district hospital. Members of Jeevandeep Committee including Dilip Thakur, Dushyant Devangan, Prashant Dongaonkar, RMO Dr Akhilesh Yadav, Rahul Sharma and Yogesh were present.

Rs 3900 recovered as fine from 10 people

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 06:** Durg Municipal Corporation has started taking strict action against those who spread garbage here and there in the city. To keep the city clean, the corporation last Friday took action under the Solid Waste Management Rules.

Under the Cleanliness Survey 2022 it is essential that Durg should be beautiful. Therefore, on the instructions of Municipal Commissioner Haresh Mandavi, encroachment in-charge Durgesh Gupta, in-charge of mar-



ket department Thansingh Yadav, assistant market in-charge Ishwar Verma, Bhuvan Sahu, Shashikant Yadav went for inspection in certain area of the city where 10 people who found to have spread garbage outside the shop. As a result, fine was

imposed on them. Fine was charged against Rajput Hotel Rs 500, Bobby Jatav Rs100, Breakfast Center Rs 500 and Omprakash Chai Baga Rs 100, Sanjay Sahu Rs500, Devangan Auto Rs 500, Babbu Rs 500, Vinod Sen Rs 100, Vishal Rs 100 etc.



A fine of Rs 1000 was imposed on Gunichand Bhawan for obstructing traffic by dumping building material on the road. A total fine of Rs 3900 was collected. While taking action, the team warned the shopkeepers that strict action would be taken if the garbage is

found again in front of shops.

Municipal Commissioner Haresh Mandavi has appealed to all the citizens and shopkeepers of the city to contribute to the cleanliness of the city, the city is their own, make it clean and beautiful.

# 'HSCL Management must withdraw the house rent hike'

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 06:** Voluntary Retired HSCL Employees Organization has decided to continue its protest against the arbitrary increase in house rent by the HSCL management. In the meeting of the organization held on Sunday, convener HS Mishra announced to stand firm against the HSCL Management demanding withdrawal of rent hike.

The meeting of Voluntary Retired HSCL Employees Association was held on Sunday at Steel Club Garden in Sector 8. Third party allottees including retired and voluntary retired employees residing in the houses allotted by HSCL Management were present in the meeting. Presiding over the meeting, the convener of

the organization HS Mishra informed the members that Rs 1000 have been collected from each member for the expenses of contesting a legal case against the management in the High Court. About 470 members have given their contributions. He assured the members that the amount contributed by them would not be misused under any condition. In the meeting, they condemned the management for increasing the house rent by a hundred percent. HS Mishra said that HSCL management has increased the house rent in an inhuman manner. It should be withdrawn immediately. He added that hike in house rent cannot be justified when the matter is pending for hearing in the High Court. Mishra further said that the rent of the accom-



HS Mishra

modation allotted to the retired personnel who have served HSCL for 35 to 40 years has been doubled. On November 1, 2019, an order for doubling the rent was issued from HSCL headquarters, which was implemented by the local management without consulting the organization of retired employees. Whereas in 2015, it was decided not to increase the rent for 10

years during a meeting held in the presence of the office bearers of the organization and MD, Director Finance, General Manager Personnel Administrative at the headquarters located in Calcutta. The rent has been increased by the HSCL Management against its own decision. He further said that the Voluntary Retired Employees Organization has decided to pay the water and electricity charges till the High Court disposes off the matter. But the management is refusing to accept the water and electricity bills stating that it will be taken along with the increased house rent. Mishra added that the management should not hesitate in collecting water and electricity bills as the rent hike case is pending in the High Court.

# St Thomas wins second position in Inter Collegiate Basketball tourney

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 06:** The Inter Collegiate Basketball (Men) Tournament was organised in St Thomas College, on March 05, 2022. St Thomas College, Govt. VYT Post Graduate Autonomous College, Durg and Surana College Durg participated in this tournament. The First match was held between Surana College, Durg and St Thomas College, Bhilai in which Surana College, Durg won the Match. Second

Match held between Surana College, Durg and Govt VYT Post Graduate Autonomous College, Durg in which St Thomas College, Bhilai won the Match. Finally Surana College, Durg scored the first position and St



Thomas College, Bhilai scored second position in the tournament.

Principal of College Dr MG Roymon congratulated and presented awards to all the winners and said that winning or losing the game is not important.

Your participation and sportsman spirit is best part of your personality. Mr Singh from Shankaracharya College, Bhilai was the Observer of the tournament.

The referees of tournament were Kiranpal Singh, Gavesh Hirwani, Vinay Janbandhu, Mohan Nishad and Shivam. On this occasion members of St Thomas College Sports Committee, Dr Rincy B Abraham, Dr Sunita Kshatriya, Dr Laxman Prasad, Majju Joy, Akash Tamrakar, Santosh Yadav, Chandan Dekate and

Sports Officer Kailash Narayan Verma were present. The programme was conducted and vote of thanks was proposed by Mahendra Ikhari.

## BJP all set to corner Cong on law & order

**Budget session of State Assembly from today**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 06:** The budget session of the Chhattisgarh Assembly will begin from Monday and the state's budget for 2022-23 will be tabled in the House on March 9, an official said on Sunday.

The opposition BJP has decided to corner the ruling Congress over several issues, including the "deteriorating" law and order situation in the state.

On Monday, the session will commence with Governor Anusuiya Uikey's address, followed by tabling of the motion of thanks on her address, the Assembly official said.

The debate on the motion of thanks to the governor's address is proposed



for March 8, he said.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, who holds charge of the state finance department, will present the state budget on March 9, he said.

Till Saturday, 1,682 questions were received from the legislators, including 854 starred questions and 828 un-starred ones. Besides, 114 notices were received for the calling attention motion and 10 for the adjournment motion, the official said.

There will be 13 sittings during the session, which

will conclude on March 25. Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly Dharamlal Kaushik said the BJP was fully prepared to corner the state government during the session on several issues, particularly the "deteriorating" law and order situation.

Expressing unhappiness over the "curtailed" duration of the budget session, Kaushik claimed that for the first time such a short budget session is being held in the history of Chhattisgarh, which is a

violation of the parliamentary tradition.

"The session has been called only for 13 days. It should have been lengthier as there are a lot of issues that need to be raised in the House. The ruling Congress is trying to escape from the discussion," he claimed.

"We will try to raise all issues of public importance in such a short period. We will target the government over the rising crimes, including incidents of rape and loot. We will also raise the issue of the increasing illegal sale of narcotics and liquor in the state," the BJP leader said. A delegation of BJP MLAs had met Assembly Speaker Charan Das Mahant on Saturday and requested him that the session should not be concluded ahead of its schedule, a leader from the saffron party said.

## SUPERCROSS BIKE RACING



Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel reached Budhpara Outdoor Stadium and joined National Supercross Bike Racing Championship. He greeted people by riding bike. Bike riders from the country and abroad have participated in the championship which has been organized by Chhattisgarh Motor Sport Association on initiative of the Department of Sports and Youth Welfare, Government of Chhattisgarh,

## More effective use of IT in courts of Ch'garh discussed

**Meeting organized in presence of CM Bhupesh Baghel and Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court Justice Arup Kumar Goswami**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 06:** Enhancement of facilities in the courts of Chhattisgarh, more effective use of IT in courts, progress of e-courts and e-challan system, attendance of doctors in courts through video conferencing and various other issues pertaining to High Court and other courts of Chhattisgarh were dis-



cussed at a meeting held at VIP Guest House 'Pahuna' here today in presence of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court Justice Arup Kumar Goswami.

Law Minister Mohammad Akbar, Registrar General of High Court Sanjay Jaiswal, Registry Officer of High Court, Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain, Additional

Chief Secretary Subrat Sahoo along with concerned officials of High Court and State Government were present in the meeting.

Information technology is being used in the courts of Chhattisgarh to make the judicial process convenient and transparent for the citizens and ensure quick availability of information online for the citizens.

## Two cyber frauds complained in separate police stations

**Raipur, Mar 06:** Two cyber frauds have complained in separate police stations during last 24-hours.

The first one, complained in Moudhpara police station was complained by one Raju Naidu who received a call from the unidentified frau who introduced himself as Director of Caring & Forwarding and further told that the complainant that he can deliver farm equipment goods at a very cheap price. Saying so he lured Naidu of transferring Rs 5 lakh, promising to make the delivery soon. While the money was transferred properly, nothing was sent to him.

Police meanwhile have registered an offence under Section 420 IPC and further investigation is now underway.

The other fraud was complained in DD Nagar police

station where complainant Kavita Dev received a call from a phone number 82407-02437 and further told the complainant on pretext of registering her request for serviced over Google. The complainant had searched over Google for courier service.

The fraud lured her if Rs 2.60 lakh on pretext of registering her request. He then asked the UPI pin number of the complainant which she maintained in Bank of Maharashtra and one these confidential details were shared, he siphoned the total amount in three separate transactions.

Police meanwhile have registered an offence under Section 420 IPC against the holder of the above mentioned phone number and further investigation is now underway.

## Free legal aid available to women within 24 hours

**For cruelty, domestic violence and other crimes**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 06:** Legal aid is being given in less than 24 hours in Raipur district in case of cruelty, domestic violence and other crimes against women.

The information about the availability of free legal aid in Raipur district under various schemes of National Legal Services Authority and State Legal Services Authority was given during a discussion between District Judge Arvind Kumar Verma

and Superintendent of Police Prashant Kumar Agrawal.

District Legal Services Authority Raipur has deputed paralegal volunteer Devki Sahu at Mahila Thana here. The volunteer will be present at women police station to provide immediate legal assistance to the victims.

If the victim needs an advocate free of cost or wants the help of an advocate, then the paralegal volunteer will coordinate with the authority and provide her advocates as per rules within a few hours.

There is no delay in providing counsel in such cases.

Apart from this, all the

documents of the victim are also prepared at free of cost through the District Legal Services Authority.

At present, in many cases, free legal aid has been provided by the District Legal Services Authority to the victims within a few hours.

District Judge Arvind Kumar Verma said that District Legal Services Authority would discharge its responsibility of protecting legal rights of every woman. Senior Superintendent of Police Prashant Kumar Agrawal said that the authority and police administration were working in coordination for protecting the legal rights of women.

## Truck driver runs away iron goods worth Rs12,51,621

**Raipur, Mar 06:** In a blatant incident of breach of trust a truck driver has fled which the complainant Manoj Kumar Agrawal had got loaded the consignment in truck number BR32-GB-0375. The consignment was sent to Dhenkanal city of Odisha. Since then Agrawal has been in no contact with the truck driver Rajvinder Singh.

Saraswati Nagar police station have since registered where an offence under Section 407, 408 IPC have been registered against absconding driver and further investigation is now underway.

## Unlocked house burgled in Sejbahar

**Raipur, Mar 06:** Unidentified burglars broke into an unlocked house in Mujhgahan locality while owner Kritika Sahu was away from her house. The burglary came to light on Saturday afternoon when she returned and found the main door's lock broken and missing. She immediately complained the matter in Sejbahar police station.

According to police, the complainant had been to a relative's home from February 25 last during the unidentified burglars entered into house and decamped with cash Rs 21000 and several gold ornaments kept in almirah.

Police meanwhile have registered an offence under 457, 380 IPC against unidentified burglars and further investigation is now underway.

## Axis Bank, SBI Jagdalpur emerge winners



**On the second day of Suresh Agrawal memorial cricket corporate tourney**

**Raipur, Mar 06:** On the second day of the Suresh Agrawal memorial cricket corporate tournament 2 matches were played, the first match was played between Kotak infinity and Axis Bank in which Kotak infinity won the toss and selected to field first.

In the first inning the expe-

rienced batter of Axis Bank made a remarkable score of 147 runs by losing only 6 wickets countering in the second innings Kotak infinity after losing all the wickets could only manage to make 77 runs.

An experienced batsman from Axis Bank Aqib Hussain was rewarded as the man of the match for making 53 runs in 26 balls the hatric six made by him was the Centre of attraction by the audience.

Simultaneously the second match was in between Jaika

Automobiles and State Bank of India Jagdalpur in which Jaika won the toss and elected to bat first. They scored 69 runs after losing 8 wickets and in the second innings State Bank of India Jagdalpur in only 7.3 hours made 73 runs very quickly. In this match experience batsman named Vimesh Verma who made 32 runs in 21 balls was declared as the best batsman of the match and Mr Suresh Naidu who grabbed 4 wickets in 5.3 overs was rewarded by the player of the match respect.

## Bikers snatch cell phone

**Raipur:** Two unidentified bikes on Saturday night snatched the mobile phone of complainant Manoj Kumar Sahu while he riding his Activa bike along with his wife besides old SS Nagar police station on Ring Road no.1. The snatching was soon complained in DD Naga police station where an offence has been registered under Section 379 IPC against the unidentified snatchers and further investigation is now underway.

## Jaydeep elected SGBS youth president



**Raipur, Mar 06:** Shri Gujarati Brahma Samaj (SGBS) youth wing was recently constituted and Jaydeep Dave was elected president for a term of three years while Saurabh Mehta was elected its secretary. Hitesh Vyas, Manish Pandya and

Lokesh Vyas was present as observers when youth wing came into existence. SGBS president Kirti Vyas congratulated the observers for constituting the youth wing and holding elections whereby office bearers were unanimously elected. The office bearers elected were Jaydeep Dave president, Bhavik (Rahul) Vyas and Chirag Pandya vice president, Sourabh Mehta secretary, Bhavin Rawal assistant secretary and Naman Upadhyay treasurer.

## 'CRPF father serves the nation and SSSH saves his son'

Central Chronicle News

**Sukma, Mar 06:** Maram Manju a 21 year old tribal girl's story from Sukma District in Chhattisgarh is a fascinating story of doing the undone. Manju lost her parents at the early age of 7 years and was brought up by Shri Linga, her uncle in the CRPF now serving in the interior naxal infested region. Since Linga was always on national duty without much leave, he could not take care of his sickly little boy, Vikki. Manju being the only girl around with basic education took complete responsibility of the care and treatment of Vikki.

She first took him to the Government Hospital in Sukma. Then went to a private hospital in Bhadrachalam in Andhra



Pradesh. The Doctor there recommended immediate surgery. They approached "Chiraayu Sansthaa" in Sukma who in turn sent them to Government Medical College Hospital, Raipur. On their fourth

visit; they were told that this surgery was not possible here.

Beaten but not broken they sat in an autorickshaw to return. A conversation with Auto driver promptly directed them to

go to Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital (SSSH) in Naya Raipur. They arrived at the Gates of the Hospital.

Manju stayed with Vikki and reported to our OPD on the very next day Echo Cardiography was done and the boy was advised a Covid test. On being tested positive; he was asked to come after one week. The Covid test was done again and Vikki was admitted. Dr. Atul Prabhu, Pediatric Cardiologist, performed an ASD Device Closure and Vikki was back as a normal young boy, he always wanted to be.

Manju states 'I visited so many Hospitals but this is an unbelievable exception. World Class equipment and facilities are available All Totally Free of Cost. Doctors and nurses so

dedicated and committed'.

Manju and Vikki caught the attention of Dr. Atul Prabhu. He gathered from Manju that she had completed her GNM nursing course and had applied for a job in Sukma. He had a word with our Chairman and took Manju and little Vikki to meet the Chairman on the auspicious day of Mahashivaratri. On meeting both Chairman C Sreenivas was moved with this extraordinary real-life story of little Vikki and his father serving in the Naxal infested area and Manju's persistence.

A Gift of Life Program for Vikki and a surprise announcement awaited the Stalwart tribal girl. After Aarathi on Maha Shivaratri day at Sri Sathya Sai Sowbhagyam; Chairman Sreenivas at

the specially organised Gift of Life Ceremony introduced both Manju and Vikki to the assembly and declared that Manju would join Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani as a Nurse from the 8th of March 2022.

Manju said 'she is overwhelmed and does not have words to describe the sea-change her life underwent. Getting the offer of a job from none other than Chairman Sir on Mahashivaratri Day in Sathya Sai Sowbhagyam and starting her dream career on the International Women's Day is my greatest Miracle and she would cherish this memory forever. She said that she would ever remain grateful to Chairman Sir for reposing considering her worthy and having faith in her'.

## Safe return of 188 students of Chhattisgarh from Ukraine

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 06:** A help centre has been set up in New Delhi by the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to help the citizens of Chhattisgarh during Ukraine crisis. According to the information received from this center, as many as 188 students of Chhattisgarh have safely returned from Ukraine from February 27 to today on March 6 till 5 pm. All students have been provided with the facilities of vehicles, lodging, food, on the instructions of the

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. They have also been safely handed over to their families with booking of air tickets for their return to their hometowns.

According to the information received from Sanjay Awasthi, Joint Housing Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Bhawan, New Delhi 23 students of Chhattisgarh and their 7 families, who are stuck in Ukraine are constantly in touch with this help centre in New Delhi over phone since February 22, 2022.

## SAI approved 7 Khelo India Centers in Ch'garh

**CM Baghel's initiative to promote sports got a huge success**

**State gov't's proposal got approval**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 06:** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's initiative to promote sports got a huge success

The efforts made by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to promote sports in Chhattisgarh has been a huge success. The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has approved the establishment of seven Khelo India Centers in Chhattisgarh under the Khelo India scheme on the proposal of the Sports and Youth

Welfare Department of Chhattisgarh Government. Two centers each for Archery and Hockey, one each for Volleyball, Mallakhamb and Football have been approved by the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

In these centers, players of respective sports from Chhattisgarh will be selected and trained by national and international level coaches. The Sports Authority of India (SAI) will also provide financial assistance for setting up these centres.

Expressing happiness over the approval of seven Khelo India Centers in Chhattisgarh, the Chief Minister said that the players of Chhattisgarh would get a good opportunity to enhance their sports talent. In the coming time,

these players will bring laurels to the state and the country at the national and international level. He said that this has proved to be another meaningful step in realizing the vision of 'Khelbo Jeetbo Garhbo Nava Chhattisgarh'. Approval has been given to start Archery Center in Shivtarai Bilaspur, Archery Center in Bijapur, Hockey Center in Rajnandgaon, Hockey Center in Jashpur, Volleyball Center in Gariyaband, Mallakhamb Center in Narayanpur and Football Center in Surguja. These Khelo India Centers will be continuously monitored by the Directorate of Sports.

Senior players of each sport at local level will be attached to the centre and they will also be given hon-

orary for working as coaches. Equal representation of boys and girls players will also be ensured in all Khelo India Centers. These centers will be registered in the portal of Sports Authority of India. This is the first time that a huge opportunity has been created for the players of Chhattisgarh since the formation of the state. Chief Minister visited Bijapur Academy and promised to start an archery center there. Similarly, seeing the interest and talent of local children in archery games in Shivtarai Bilaspur, the Chief Minister ensured to upgrade it into a state level sports academy. All these promises made by the Chief Minister have been fulfilled today.

Rajnandgaon and Jashpur have been famous

as hockey nurseries for a long time, now the new generation will get a good opportunity to enhance their sports talents here. Bastar region remained neglected in sports till now.

However, on the instructions of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, special efforts are being made for the development of sports in Bastar, the approval of Khelo India Center is an example. A new opportunity has been created for the football players in Surguja.

New opportunities are constantly being created for the players by the Sports and Youth Welfare Department. In the coming time, the players of the state will bring laurels to the state at the national and international level.

### CAMEL RIDE



The camel owners are moving around colonies for a 'camel ride' among children here on Sunday.

## Chemotherapy treatment is now available in district hospitals too

**Free chemotherapy of 1047 patients in the last one and a half years**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 06:** 'Day Care Chemotherapy' treatment is being operated in 17 district hospitals of the state under the 'Dirghayu Ward' scheme of the National Health Mission. Cancer patients of Naxal affected areas and tribal areas are also getting this necessary treatment. Free chemotherapy treatment is being given to patients in 4 district hospitals namely Dantewada, Narayanpur, Bastar and Kanker of Bastar division, and in 4 district hospitals namely Balrampur, Jashpur, Surguja and Surajpur district hospitals of Surguja division. This treatment facility has also been started in district hospitals of Balod, Bemetara, Bilaspur, Gariaband, Janjgir, Korba, Mungeli, Raipur and Dhamtari. Chemotherapy treatment will be made available in all district hospitals of the state in a phased manner.

Health Minister Mr.T.S. Singhdeo is committed to providing better health facilities in all areas of the state. On his initiative, new facilities are being started by the State Government's Health Department and the National Health Mission, Chhattisgarh to provide bet-

ter medical services even in remote areas. In the last one and a half years, 1047 cancer patients have been given chemotherapy treatment in these hospitals.

Chemotherapy treatment has been provided to 516 patients in Jagdalpur District Hospital, 296 patients in Jashpur, 86 patients in Ambikapur, 37 patients in Surajpur, 24 patients in Kanker, 21 patients in Janjgir, 17 patients in Raipur, 15 patients in Dhamtari, 13 patients in Narayanpur, 12 patients in Bemetara, 03 patients in Balrampur, 02 patients each in Dantewada, Bilaspur, Gariaband and one patient in Balod district hospital.

Along with chemotherapy treatment, cancer screening is also being done in district hospitals. In the last one and a half years, 4598 cancer screenings have been done in 17 district hospitals having chemotherapy treatment facilities. Cancer screening has been done for 2063 patients in Jagdalpur District Hospital, 810 patients in Dhamtari, 482 patients in Gariaband, 335 patients in Jashpur, 329 patients in Surajpur, 242 patients in Raipur, 104 patients in Janjgir, 65 patients in Kanker, 47 patients in Bilaspur, 39 patients in Balod, 33 patients in Bemetara, 23 patients in Balrampur, 14 patients in Ambikapur, 12 patients in Dantewada district hospital.

## Cleanliness has been linked to employment in Ch'garh: Daharia

**National Conclave on Social Enterprises for Garbage free city organized in Raipur**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 06:** Minister for Urban Administration Minister Dr. Shiv Kumar Daharia has said that cleanliness has been linked with employment in Chhattisgarh. This has succeeded in making the cities of Chhattisgarh clean. Dr. Dahria was addressing the concluding session of the Social Enterprises for Garbage Free City National Conclave organized at a private hotel in Raipur, here. Delegates from 20 states of the country participated in the National Conclave organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India.

Addressing the program, Minister Dr. Daharia said that when we started the cleanliness model, the work in the field of cleanliness was being done very slowly in the state. It has been our endeavor to carry forward the old tradition of cleanliness of the state by keeping it alive. For this we added cleanliness to Narva,



Garva, Ghurva and Bari. We insisted on banning single use plastic. We did not even have the use of plastic in the old tradition, only 'doona pathal' were used. We have now resumed the old tradition. Now people are aware that they themselves refuse to take plastic.

He said that we have worked on the basis of 6R policy Rethink, Reuse, Recycle, Repair, Reduce and Refuse, which resulted in reducing the amount of new waste generation. People gave their full cooperation to build community and public toilets in the slum area. Build sludge treatment plant for human sewage management where sewer water is treated. He said that behind the success of

the state, there are more than 10 thousand cleanliness didis. We not only encouraged the didis, but the didis went a step ahead and encouraged every citizen of the state for cleanliness.

The basic mantra of success of Chhattisgarh model of cleanliness has been to link waste processing with livelihood. According to the Vedic principle, in the first episode of the formula of Artha, Dharma, Karma, Moksha, the government is playing its religion to strengthen the circular economy by connecting poor women with Artha and also didi are involved in Dharma activities. To make people aware, our didis have done door-to-door training to segregate wet and dry waste and have

played their role diligently in making cleanliness a habit among the people. Dr. Daharia said that the toll free number 1100 has been given to the common citizens for disposal of sanitation related complaints within 24 hours. All public and community toilets have been linked to Google so that people can search their nearby toilets on the phone itself. By collecting dry and wet waste from door to door, processing plants in all the cities of the state, we have taken an innovative work towards making the city garbage free. Along with this, gardens and greenery have been developed there by eliminating the open dump site of more than 150 wastes. All the urban bodies in the state treat

septic tank water. Due to this our Chhattisgarh has become the cleanest state in the country as well as the first ODF plus plus state. In this way, the cleanliness model of Chhattisgarh, which works in the traditional way of Narva, Garva, Ghurva, Bari, has now become the most famous model of the country.

While addressing the program, Mayor of Raipur Municipal Corporation, Mr. Ejaz Dhebar said that with the cooperation and guidance of Chhattisgarh government, we are working continuously to make Raipur city the best clean city in the country. He said that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Urban

Administration Minister Dr. Shiv Kumar Daharia are constantly motivating us. While addressing the program, Mayor of Raipur Municipal Corporation, Mr. Ajay Dhebar said that with the cooperation and guidance of Chhattisgarh government, we are working continuously to make Raipur city the best clean city in the country. He said that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Urban Administration Minister Dr. Shiv Kumar Daharia are constantly motivating us.

The program was attended by Amitabh Jain, Chief Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh, Roopa Mishra, Joint Secretary, Housing and Urban Affairs Department, Government of India, Alarmel Mangai D, Secretary, Urban Administration and Development Department of Chhattisgarh, Mr. Saumilranjan Choubey, CEO of SUDA and other officials, The officials of the Urban Administration and Development Department and the officials of the urban body, including the cleanliness didi, participated. The Swachhata Didis were felicitated by the Minister Dr. Daharia in the program.

## Do research for use of cow urine in agriculture: CS



**Appeal to agricultural scientists for field trial of cow urine**

**Motivate farmers to lift and use vermi compost**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 06:** Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain took a meeting of senior officers of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Kamdhenu Vishwavidyalaya, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Cooperation Department in Mantralaya to prepare an action plan for scientific and systematic use of cow urine in agriculture in the state. Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain said in the meeting that the fertility of the soil is decreasing due to continuous use of chemical fertilizers and toxic pesticides. The excessive use of chemical fertilizers is also having an adverse effect on

the health of the general public. He said that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's intention is to promote the use of organic manure and cow urine in agriculture. He said that high quality organic manure is being prepared in the Gauthan of the state, which is being used by the farmers in agriculture.

He appealed to agricultural scientists for academic research for the use of cow urine in agriculture in the state. He said that this would bring out factual information about the properties of cow urine, the amount of different types of elements available in cow urine and its benefits. He also talked about the scientific use of cow urine in the crops to be taken as a demonstration in all the 27 Krishi Vigyan Kendras of the state. The Chief Secretary said that farmers should also be made aware of the condition of crops using organic manure and cow urine, so that they would be motivated to use it in agriculture. The Chief

Secretary further said that cow urine has the predominance of nitrogen and immunity. It can be used as a substitute for chemical fertilizer urea. He also called upon the agricultural scientists of the state to develop scientific techniques for using cow urine in place of urea.

Many farmers in the state are using cow urine as a pesticide. He also directed to identify such farmers and organize a state level workshop and collect information about the benefits of cow urine. The Chief Secretary said that the farmers of the state should use the Vermi compost produced in the Gauthans on a large scale, for this there is a need for wide publicity and motivating the farmers. In the meeting, Dr. Girish Chandel, Vice Chancellor of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Vice Chancellor of Kamdhenu University, Commissioner Dr. Kamalpreet Singh, Agriculture Secretary Dr. S. Bharathidasan, Cooperative Secretary Himshikhar Gupta, Director Agriculture Yashwant Kumar, Director Veterinary Services Sanjay Chandan Tripathi and other senior officers were present.

## Kalpesh, Digvinay, Rajesh advance in Inter Institutional TT tournament



Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 06:** Kalpesh Jadwani, Digvijay Singh, Rajesh Agrawal, Varun Pandey, Arvind Sharma and Shailesh Dage were leading in the championship under the Raipur District Inter Institutional Table Tennis Tournament being organized under the aegis of Rajdhani Table Tennis Association (RTTA) here. Providing the above information in a statement issued here, the RTTA Secretary Vinay Baiswade said that Chhattisgarh Table Tennis Association (CTTA) President Sharad Shukla inaugurated the tournament

during which senior Vice President Kishore Jadwani, Goverdhan Sharma, Shakil Sajid and Treasurer Harjeet Hura were also present.

In the Group A matches, Kalpesh Jadwani defeated Vimal Nair, Vijay Otvani, Aslam Ali, Khilendra Tunreki and Avinash Tiwari to emerge topper whereas Digvijay Singh defeated Arun Bawaria and Pradeep Janwade in Group B. In the Women's category Renuka Subba and Divya Amade are ahead with their competitors. International Umpire Sishir Gupta is the Chief Referee whereas Pravin Nirapure is Assistant Referee of the tournament.

## Ch'garh Pickelball team to attend National event



Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 06:** Chhattisgarh team will be participating in the National Pickelball tournament being held at

Ahmadabad. Providing the above information, the General Secretary of Chhattisgarh Pickelball Association Rupendra Singh Chouhan said that Lukesh Gautam and Ajay

Tandi would be representing Chhattisgarh in Single as well as Double event whereas Radheshyam Tandhi and Ali Asgar would be participating in 40+ category.

## 31 students of Hotel Management Institute get jobs in five star hotels within a year

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 05:** 31 students of Chhattisgarh Hotel Management Institute have been placed in five-star hotels. After a long time, the institute has been resumed last year on the special initiative of Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel. In a single year, this institute has set new heights of success. Total number of 116

students are pursuing B.Sc in Hotel Management and Diploma in Hotel Management in the institute. The success of the institute can be evaluated from the fact that five-star Hotel Marriott has offered jobs to 12 students and Hotel Sayaji has offered jobs to 19 students, total 31 students gets the job offer. Mrs. Rekha Shukla, Institute's Principal said that the

talks have been initiated with many other hotels and these hotels have also offered jobs to the students. The Mayfair Hotel regularly invites the students of the institute for an internship. Hotel Management Institute of Chhattisgarh is touching the new height of success in providing new employment opportunities to the youth.

# Efforts will be made for establishing central university in Bastar: Governor

Felicitates 95 students with gold medals

Attends 3rd Convocation ceremony of Shaheed Mahendra Karma Vishwavidyalaya

Jagdalpur, Mar 06:

Governor Anusuiya Uikee attended the 3rd convocation ceremony of Shaheed Mahendra Karma Vishwavidyalaya in Bastar on Saturday. The Governor cum Vice Chancellor Anusuiya Uikee on occasion of this convocation ceremony felicitated 95 students of the University with gold medals. Degrees were distributed to students graduating from Graduation and PG courses in 2019-20 and 2020-21. Addressing the convocation ceremony, Governor Anusuiya Uikee said that among the medal receivers, 75% of them are girls and which is indicative of the fact that girls are not lagging behind in any field. With their capabilities, skills and commitment, they (girls) are ready to write new history of India, she added.



Uikee further said that in such a natural surrounding and beauty of Bastar, the students remained focussed towards their target amidst Corona pandemic is worth appreciating and it is with their sheer hard work and dedication that they achieved

their target. Uikee said that this University established in remote tribal dominated area has provided opportunity to students from far-flung area in higher studies. She said that in order to achieve the dreams of higher education by tribal youths in Bastar region, all should make efforts to establish central university in Bastar. Governor speaking

to students said that since they are all directly connected to the society in order to be aware of geographical, economic and social situation here. On going out from Bastar, she appealed students to inform others about the simple, natural and cordial behaviour of tribals and rich natural flora-fauna of Bastar region. She said that it is time for the youth

to return something back to the society and appealed all to fulfill their responsibilities and be part of progress and development of state and country.

The main speaker on the occasion former V-C Patna University Dr Arun Kumar Sinha chairing the programme held education as a constant flowing stream. He held the formal education along with informal education necessary for personality development. Chancellor Dr Shailendra Kumar Singh on this occasion gave information about development works in Shaheed Mahendra Karma Vishwavidyalaya. On this occasion LS MP Phulodevi Netam, Deepak Baij, Chairman Bastar Tribal Development Authority Laksheshwar Baghel, parliamentary secretary Rekchhand Jain, Mayor Safira Sahu, and lecturers and students of the University were present in large number.

# 'Majratola Vidyutikaran Yojana' to provide electricity to many villages

On the initiative of MLA Gulab Kamro



Manendragarh, Mar 06: Even after so many years of independence, basic facilities like electricity have not been restored in many unreachable areas of Bharatpur-Sonhat assembly constituency, but now with the meaningful efforts of regional MLA Gulab Kamro, lantern era is about to end, and an amount of about Rs.5 crore has been sanctioned by the state government for electrification in 11 un-electrified villages under the assembly constituency, which has created an atmosphere of joy and enthusiasm among the villagers. MLA Kamro has expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Speaker of the Assembly Dr. Charan Das Mahant for sanctioning

ing a huge amount for basic facilities like electricity. Let us inform that since independence in the assembly constituency by Surguja Area Tribal Development Authority (Minister of State) and Bharatpur-Sonhat MLA Gulab Kamro, electricity facility has been provided under the electrification scheme in the electrified villages which are suffering from lack of basic facilities like electricity. On the demand of the MLA, Rs 4 crore 70 lakh 55 thousand 960 has been approved under the Chief Minister Majratola Vidyutikaran Yojana. With the sanctioned amount, electrification work will be done in 6 villages of Bharatpur block, 1 of Sonhat block and 11 villages of Manendragarh block.

ties like electricity. On the demand of the MLA, Rs 4 crore 70 lakh 55 thousand 960 has been approved under the Chief Minister Majratola Vidyutikaran Yojana. With the sanctioned amount, electrification work will be done in 6 villages of Bharatpur block, 1 of Sonhat block and 11 villages of Manendragarh block.

**Villages to be electrified**  
The villages which are to be electrified under Mukhyamantri Majratola Vidyutikaran Yojana include Mannaur, Mainpur, Karva, Murkil, Thiskoli and Neuer of Bharatpur, Sonhat development block, village Mendra and Padeva, Hanspur, Bodra Tola of Manendragarh development block. (Biharpur) and Nawadih. Here electrification works will be done on priority basis at a cost of Rs 4 crore 70 lakh 55 thousand 960.

# Legal awareness camp held in Gram Parasbod

Khairagarh, Mar 06: As per instructions from President District and Taluk Vidhik Sewa Pradhikaran (TVSP) Rajnandgaon, a legal and law awareness camp was organised in Gram Parasbod on Feb 2. In the two-day 'Ramayan Manas Gaan' competition, thousands of religious lovers came to hear about discourse on 'Ramcharitramanas'. So here the para legal volunteer gave information to people about laws and legal awareness. Addressing the people he informed about PCO Act 2012 and said that through this children are being provided safety from cases of atrocities, pornography and other serious crimes. Any type of sexual misconduct by children above 18 yrs comes under this crime and law. Under his law, a convicted can be sentenced imprisonment upto 7 yrs. It is by extending support towards young girls that they can be kept safe and prevented from falling prey to such heinous crime.

# Nagar Palika engineer inspects ward No. 2

To become familiar with problems faced



Dongargarh, Mar 06: On disclosure about encroachment on half-constructed 'Sulabh Shouchalaya' in ward no. 2 of city and it is after taking stock of all other problems by Nagar Palika officer Yaman Dewangan, the Engineer

from Nagar Palika Kishore Thakur and anti-encroachment team in-charge Amar Karse along with ward corporator Rajesh Gajbhiye and ward residents conducted inspection, so that the ward can be freed from all its

problems and work can be started in this direction. It is notable that Hindi daily has raised this issue prominently and it is taking cognizance of the same that the local administration took to its heels. Ward Corporator Rajesh

Gajbhiye apprised the Engineer of Nagar Palika and other employees towards the problems existing in the ward and informed them that all the roads in the wards in bad condition. On top of it, with no regular cleaning of drains, it has become clogged and resulting in awful odor and people are forced to live in such atmosphere, posing threat to various diseases.

During this inspection President Yuwa Boudha Samiti Manoj Sahare and other ward residents were present.

# Non-passing of Rs 20 cr bill delays construction of bridge

Konta, Mar 06:

## Konta residents suffer due to slow pace of bridge construction

State Government gave approval for construction of Konta-Motu culvert in Konta town of Sukma district 07 years back to the contractor of VCB Construction with the objective of facilitating the means of transportation of Odisha-Chhattisgarh. But till date it is not completed. The government is busy laying the foundation stone of a new bridge, but no interest is being shown in completing the bridge being built for seven years on the vital Shabari river.

Bill of Rs 20 cr not passed by the govt: Contractor



On Shabari river connecting one state to another

Regarding the construction work of Konta-Motu

bridge, the then contractor Ashok Sengar said that

since the year 2017 till date, the payment of bill for construction work of Rs 20 cr has not been given and due to which the construction of the bridge is getting delayed. When the money is withheld, how will the construction work of the bridge be accelerated?

If you give the bill which is to be paid, then I will complete the bridge in just three months and give it, says the contractor. The bridge work will not be completed until the bill is received. And the residents of Konta Nagar will have to wait for the completion of the bridge till then.

# BJYM to continue protest till justice is done

Dongargaon, Mar 06: With wish to provide 'sadbuddhi' to anti-tribal Congress, the BJP workers and office bearers on 7th day of their indefinite hunger strike, organised 'havan' in Dongargaon and demanded compensation of Rs 50 lakh to the family members of tribal farmer from Khujji Vidhan Sabha from Kumarda Bus Stand area.



The people from Adivasi Samaj and other sections of the society are sitting on hunger strike in order to ensure justice to family members of deceased tribal farmer along with widow Gaindkunwar, who is also

sitting on hunger strike along with his 3 children. In the indefinite hunger strike being organised near Kumarda Bus Stand, the BJP is now staging protest in a do or die battle. From

the BJP corporator's team Khemin Yadav, Arun Damle, Ranu Jain, Gagan Aich, Vijay Rai, Gajju, Arun Sahu, Montu Yadav, Ajay Cheriya, Ashish Dongre, Kamlesh Bandhe,

Sewak U ikey and other reached the venue and extended their whole-hearted support. The BJP's Yuwa Morcha (BKYM) Kumarda Mandal state secretary Kailash Sharm addressing

Against death of farmer Netam; demand Rs 50 lakh compensation

the gathering said that it is outcome of fault on part of the local administration that Suresh Netam has to face in terms of his death. Kishnu Yadu, Manishankar Gupta, Arun Dewangan addressing the programme charged that Congress government is not sensitive towards tribals in Chhattisgarh and has failed on all fronts to provide justice to tribals. The wife of the deceased had to stage sit-in to get justice

and they all advocated for continuing 'dharna' till their demands of the widow and her family are fulfilled. On the 7th day of hunger strike, Late Suresh Netam's wife Gaindkunwar, her three innocent sons Tanuja, Sudha and Lokita Netam, Harila Kaushal Chandravanshi Janpad member, Hriday Dewangan, Kissan Morcha, Annnt Tiwari, Bhupendra Mishra, and other took part in this strike on Sunday and extended their support. In this strike on Sunday, hundreds of BJP Khujji VS party workers, villagers, farmers, labourers, women openly extended support.

# Shortage of building for ration purpose: Dewangan

In Supela

Anwari, Mar 06: There are about 10-12 buildings of every Samaj in Gram Panchayat Supela by the government, but there is no building vacant for ration for the consumers. Former Rural President Dashedel Dewangan of Supela informed that in every bhavan, there are about 2-3 or 5 persons dominating with personal ownership.

On the other hand, Dewangan charged in some other 'bhavans', some people have given it

on rent and earning monthly rental. Further he said that the government this time has decided to allot 2 month's ration at one time, but with no government building available, due to this the Sarpanch is not showing any interest. Therefore he urged the government and local administration to get these government buildings to Samaj vacated and then give it for social or government works and demanded action against those who are claiming personal ownership in these buildings.

# 'Panchayat Sachivs' to take out rally today

By BPSS Khairagarh office bearers in support of their one-point demand

Khairagarh, Mar 06:

In support of their pending demands, Panchayat Sachivs will now take out 'Vada nibhao Rally' tomorrow and prior to taking out rally, the office bearers of Khairagarh Block Pachayat Sachiv Sangh (BPSS) submitted memorandum in this regard to the Janpad CEO and informed about it.

Sachiv Sangh (CPSS) was held in Raipur on Feb 20. In this it was decided that all the BPSS Khairagarh members would stage protest in front of Collector's bhavan, below SBI ATM over-bridge and then take out 'Vada Nibhao Rally'.

After this another 'Vada Nibhao Rally' will be taken out on March 9 in support of other pending demands in the state capital and would go otu for Vidhan Sabha gherao and hold demonstration.

It is notable here that prior to this also 'Panchayat Sachivs' in support of demand for merger has staged demonstration and now once again with demand for regularisation as government employee they will be staging dharna.

# Jaishri Tamrakar of Manikanchan Kendra felicitated

By BCC President Yashoda Nilamber



Khairagarh, Mar 06:

BCC President Yashoda Nilamber Verma felicitated the in-Charge of Manikanchan Kendra run in Dhaarampura ward of city. It is notable here that Manikanchan Kendra In-Charge along with

Swachchata Didis, are contributing for sanitation in the city and collection of waste.

Along with this Manikanchan Kendra is also making good products from waste viz. pots, night lamps, Chandeliars, baskets etc. In the same way

they are also making items like 'diyias', 'Rakhi', wood from cow-dung, soap, 'dhoop', incense sticks, paints etc. In addition to this they are also making items of day-to-day use like 'Nirma', 'perfume', 'Handwash', 'sanitizer',

# CJ Arup Goswami inaugurates BACL



Bilaspur, Mar 06: Under the aegis of Chhattisgarh High Court Bar Association, Bilaspur Advocate Cricket League (BACL) was inaugurated on Saturday at the hands of Chief Justice of Bilaspur High Court Arup Kumar Goswami. On this occasion CJ who himself is a former Ranji Trophy player too to crease for one over. Speaking on this occasion CJ underlining the importance of sports in life termed it as a medium to achieve discipline and lead a healthy life. In BACL 12

teams are participating which include two women team too. Three matches will be played on every Saturday and Sunday and matches are to start from 8:00 am. At the inauguration ceremony CJ was present as chief guest while other special guests were Justice Gautam Bhaduri, Justice Parth Pratim Sahu and Justice Deepak Kumar Tiwari. On this occasion Advocate General of High Court, president of District Bar Association and other invited guests were present.

## BRIEF

### Corridor

**Bhubaneswar:** The Odisha government in collaboration with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is planning to develop an economic corridor from the port town of Paradip to Barbil in Keonjhar district. In a meeting to review the progress of various national highway projects, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra said that the state government will provide all necessary support for land acquisition with industrial potential.

### Plans

**Agartala:** The Tripura government plans to establish a film institute in collaboration with Kolkata's Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI) and a campus of the National School of Drama (NSD) in the state, Chief Minister Biplab Deb said. Deb said that project proposals amounting to Rs 100 crore have been sent to the Ministry of Culture for approval.

### Agripreneur

**Kathua:** After serving the Indian Navy for several years, Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua resident Dheeraj Kumar is now the talk of the town, this time for his success as an agripreneur. Kumar cultivates three varieties of strawberries - Camarosa, Winter Dawn and Nubila - at his fields measuring 22 kanals (2.75 acres) in his native Hariapur village in Hiranagar border sub-division.

### Rescued

**Jammu:** Three years after she allegedly went missing from Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch, a young woman was rescued and her alleged abductor arrested from Dehradun in Uttarakhand. In 2019, a complaint had been lodged at the Mandi police station alleging that a 15-year-old girl was abducted by a local youth. The woman, now 18, and her alleged abductor, who is now aged 23, were brought back to Poonch and investigation underway.

### Irregularities

**Jaipur:** The Rajasthan government said it has suspended three officials with immediate effect in connection with irregularities in construction works pertaining to a panchayat samiti in Nagaur district. The officials face the allegation that they paid more than the fixed Basic Schedule of Rate (BSR) to the construction firm from 2015 to 2018.

### Survey

**Gurugram:** Days after nine people were killed in two separate accidents on Golf Course Road here, the police along with NHAI officials and a team of road engineers surveyed the mishap stretch in a bid to make it safer. In a related development in the wake of the twin accidents, police also increased the deployment of its traffic units, erecting over 13 traffic check-posts on roads for closer monitoring of the traffic and thwart the maladies.

# Liquid explosives return to terror theatre in J-K



Explosive seized in Jammu.

**Srinagar, Mar 06 (PTI):**

Liquid explosives appear to have returned to the militancy theatre of Jammu and Kashmir after 15 years with a consignment of three bottles of a white liquid recently being air-dropped by drones entering from Pakistan along the international border in Jammu, officials said on Sunday. Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police Dilbag Singh, during his recent interaction

with the media in Jammu, had hinted at the recovery of some chemical explosives and the same being sent to a forensic laboratory. Preliminary examination indicates it could be trinitrotoluene (TNT) or nitroglycerine, generally used in dynamites, but a final report was awaited, the officials said. The liquid explosive material, white in colour, was packed in three one-litre bottles and was part of the consignment dropped by drones, which had taken

flight from neighbouring Pakistan, on February 24.

After a thorough search, police recovered improvised explosive devices (IEDs), arms and ammunition, and these three bottles, along with detonators, the officials said, adding that the consignment was meant to be smuggled into Kashmir for terrorists or for possible use at a crowded market of Jammu.

They said Jammu has been a target of terrorist groups operating from Pakistan who want to trigger a communal clash in the city. So far, the Jammu and Kashmir Police has been able to thwart four such attempts.

The officials did not rule out the possibility that such explosives may have found their way into the Kashmir valley as some drone droppings, according to intelligence reports, could have succeeded.

# Jagan Govt in fix over AP capital Amaravati issue

Amaravati now presents desolate look

**Amaravati, Mar 06 (PTI):**

The YS Jagan Mohan Reddy regime is putting up a brave face on the three capitals' issue, knowing fully well that it is legally on a weak wicket.

Following the Andhra Pradesh High Court's March 3 verdict, that the state Legislature lacked competence to make any legislation for shifting, bifurcating or trifurcating the capital, the state government is literally not in a position to either go forward or backward.

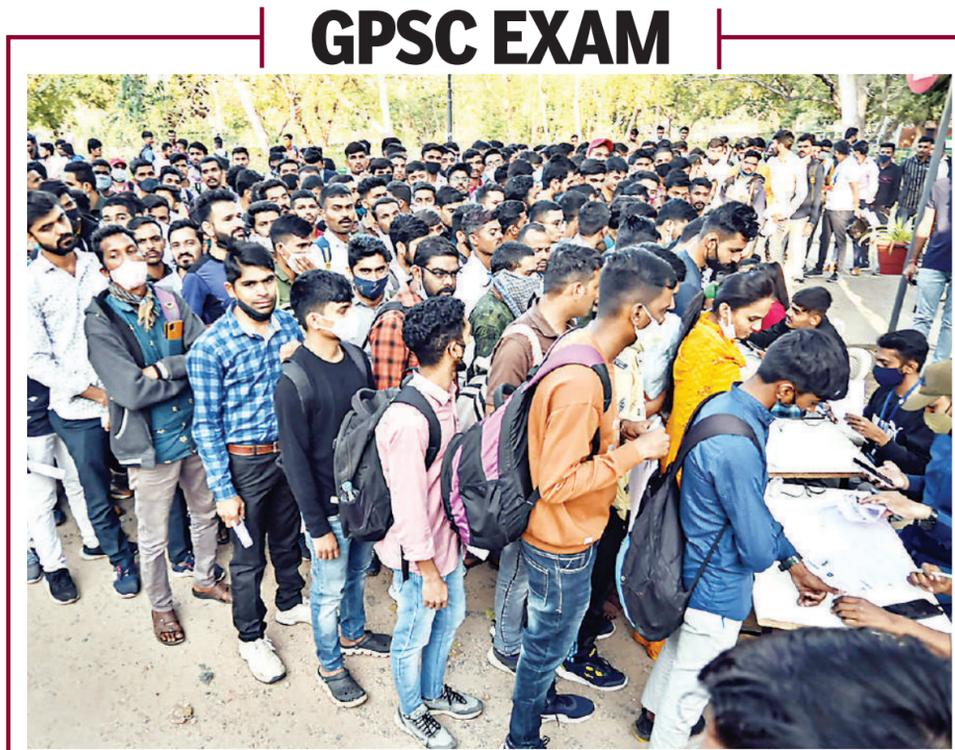
But still, the ruling dispensation is making noises that it will somehow or the other go ahead with its decentralisation plan and establish multiple capitals



A view of Amaravati.

for the state. To avoid any further legal complications, though, the government is claiming it's not shifting the capital as such, but only decentralising the administration. Importantly, the ruling YSR Congress is seeking

to make three capitals' a political issue and, in the first step, debate it in the Budget session of the Legislature beginning Monday. The state government actually has only two options: implement the High Court verdict and de-



Aspirants wait in queues to appear in Police Sub-Inspector (PSI) examinations of Gujarat Public Service Commission (GPSC), in Ahmedabad, Sunday.

# GPSC EXAM

# Nitish Kumar dedicates 'Blood Collection Center' to public

**Patna, Mar 06:** Chief Minister of Bihar Nitish Kumar inaugurated Maa Blood Center 'newly constructed by Maa Vaishno Devi Seva Samiti near Brahmasthan temple Daryapurghola, PS Purbahore, Patna on February 27, 2022. MP Rajya Sabha Sushil Kumar Modi, Health Minister Bihar Mangal Pandey, Building Construction Minister Bihar Ashok Choudhary, Legislative Councilor Lallan Sarraf, Acharya Kishor Kunal, Former I.P.S Chhotu Singh, Social Worker, Patna, Sunil Kumar, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Central Sector, CRPF, Lucknow (inhabitant of Patna) and other dignitaries of the society as a special guest in the inaugural programme of Maa Blood Center were also witnessed the function. Sunil Kumar, Deputy Inspector General of Police, has given his services from 2012 to June 2016 in Mata



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# PWD to revamp arterial Delhi roads

**New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI):**

Delhi's Public Works Department (PWD) will soon revamp its arterial roads having 30 metres or more right of way (ROW) following instructions from the city government to strengthen such stretches, officials said on Sunday.

These roads include Flag Staff Road, Sachivalaya Road, Velodrome Road, Satyagrah Marg, Club Road and IG Stadium slip road, among others, the PWD officials said. "This exercise will be separate from the regular maintenance drill of the major arterial roads. This exercise will focus on smaller arterial roads, tributary roads to bigger ones, slip roads etc. "An amount of

Rs 8.55 crore has also been set aside for the strengthening of such stretches," a PWD official told PTI on condition of anonymity.

Under the strengthening exercise, the PWD will adopt a "tailor-made solution" approach, which means that the identified roads will undergo minor repair work and resurfacing or recarpeting depending on the requirement.

The PWD manages roads in Delhi that are wider than 60 feet, while smaller roads are managed by municipal corporations. The PWD manages around 1,260 km of roads. According to the PWD official, this decision comes after complaints were received regarding the bad condition of roads in different areas of the city.

# Varun, Digvijaya demand measures to help returned students



Varun Gandhi and Digvijaya Singh

**New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI):** BJP MP Varun Gandhi on Sunday said that medical students returning from Ukraine should be structurally integrated into Indian institutions by relaxing rules, while suggesting that the NRI quota of medical colleges be utilised for them.

Underlining that the war in Ukraine has mentally broken the students,

many of them, an education stint in Ukraine has meant spending Rs 15-30 lakhs in savings to gain education at a college that has probably been destroyed by now, Gandhi said.

"Many of them suffer from mental trauma, exacerbated by a disrupted education and poor job prospects back in India, while loans pile on. We need to structurally integrate them into our education system," Gandhi said while suggesting that the NRI quota in medical colleges could be utilised for such students.

He further said the integration of these students in medical education system will help in improving the medical system when the next pandemic comes.

There are over 20,000 Indian students who are in the process of being evacuated from Ukraine. For

many of them, an education stint in Ukraine has meant spending Rs 15-30 lakhs in savings to gain education at a college that has probably been destroyed by now, Gandhi said.

"Many of them suffer from mental trauma, exacerbated by a disrupted education and poor job prospects back in India, while loans pile on. We need to structurally integrate them into our education system," Gandhi said while suggesting that the NRI quota in medical colleges could be utilised for such students.

He further said the integration of these students in medical education system will help in improving the medical system when the next pandemic comes.

# Eclectic mix of poll symbols in Delhi civic polls

'Ganna Kisan', noodles bowl, ice cream

**New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI):**

Independent candidates contesting the Delhi civic body polls this year will have an interesting mix of around 200 election symbols to choose from, including 'Ganna Kisan' (sugarcane farmer), 'Nagriki' (citizen), noodles bowl, ice cream, a range of daily use items, fruits, vegetables and kitchen appliances. The State Election Commission, Delhi, has notified that the election to 272 wards of three municipal corporations is scheduled to be held in April. The list of 197 poll symbols was issued on Friday by the Commission in its 'Municipal Corporation of Delhi Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 2022'. The 'free symbols' meant for independents and candidates of unrecognised parties include fruits like apples, grapes and pineapple; food items like biscuits, cake, bread; kitchen items

like pressure cooker, mixer, bread roller and many other electronic items. A few of the relatively obscure symbols like electric pole, gift pack, extension board, wall hook, envelope and door handle also find a place in the list. According to the order, each independent candidate will mention three preferences of chosen symbols in his nomination paper. In case more than one candidate falls for the same symbol, the returning officer of the elections will conduct a draw of lot for allocation of the symbol.

The candidates of national parties, including the All India Trinamool Congress, BSP, BJP, CPI, CPI(M), Indian National Congress and Meghalaya-based National People's Party will be allotted reserved symbols.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) recognised by the Election Commission of India as "Delhi State Party" has 'broom' symbol allotted to it, said the order.

# Hot cuppa with a side of politics

**Varanasi, Mar 06 (PTI):**

As Varanasi gets ready to vote, tea stalls in the city are abuzz with political discussions and tea sellers have been busier than usual ensuring what appears to be an endless supply of steaming hot cups.

Tea sellers say their sales have increased over the past month, which witnessed high-decibel campaigning by political parties and leaders.

A few tea stalls have had some high-profile visitors. Pappu, who runs a humble tea stall in Assi area, played host to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday.

Modi, who represents Varanasi in the Lok Sabha, made a stopover at 'Pappu ki erri' (tea stall) near Banaras Hindu



Prime Minister Narendra Modi drank tea at Pappu tea stall in Varanasi during campaign.

University when he was returning after offering prayers at the Kashi Vishwanath temple.

Union Minister and BJP's election in-charge

for Uttar Pradesh Dharmendra Pradhan was waiting for the prime minister at the tea stall.

Modi sat on a bench inside the tea stall like a

commoner. When asked by an overawed Pappu what he would like to have, the prime minister said, "Banaras ki kulhad chai, jo sab ko pilate ho (Banaras' kulhad' tea that you serve to everyone)."

A photo online showed Modi holding up his 'kulhad' (earthen cup) as the tea seller poured tea into it from his kettle.

Modi, who has said he sold tea with his father as a child, also interacted with some locals at the tea stall.

Brisk business for tea sellers has also meant greater demand for 'kulhads'.

Kailash Rai, a tea seller in Mahmoorhganj, said due to the increase in demand for tea, he is finding it hard to procure an adequate number of 'kulhads'.

# 'Some leaders blaming WB BJP top brass for civic poll fiasco'

**Kolkata, Mar 06 (PTI):**

BJP National Vice President Dilip Ghosh on Sunday said a section of leaders who had evaded responsibilities in the past are now shifting blame on the state leadership for the party's poor performance in the recently held civic elections. His remarks came amid claims by party MP Locket Chatterjee among other leaders that the state unit should introspect and find the reasons behind the poor show in the municipal polls and by-elections instead of just levelling vote rigging charges against the ruling TMC. Ghosh, while talking to reporters, said, "It is easy to pass sweeping comments. "Those who did not



Dilip Ghosh

work on the field during polls and evaded their responsibilities are making such critical comments, blaming the party... But what have they done for the organisation in the recent times?" He, however, refrained from taking names. The TMC bagged 102 of the 108 municipalities that went to the polls

last month. The CPI(M) and a Darjeeling-based outfit, Hamro Party, won one each while four urban bodies saw a hung house.

The ruling party with 63.45 per cent of the total votes polled emerged as the undisputed leader, with CPI(M) a distant second with 14.13 per cent of votes and BJP a close third with 12.57 per cent votes.

The saffron party had also fared poorly in the Kolkata Municipal Corporation elections. Veteran BJP leader Athagata Roy, who has often been critical of the party's style of functioning in Bengal, recently tweeted that the state unit's "ostrich-like behaviour" has led to its downfall.

## BRIEF

### Shoot

■ **Jerusalem:** Police shot and killed a Palestinian attacker after he stabbed an officer in Jerusalem's Old City, Israeli police said. The attacker approached officers who were stationed and stabbed one of them, injuring him lightly. The officers opened fire and shot and killed the man, identified as 19-year-old resident of east Jerusalem.

### Tornado

■ **Des Moines:** Six people were killed when a tornado swept through Iowa in US, damaging buildings and knocking down trees and power lines, authorities said. Emergency management officials in Madison County said four were injured in addition to those killed when the tornado touched down in the area southwest of Des Moines. Among those killed were children and adults. This is the worst anyone has seen in a very long time.

### Injured

■ **Mexico City:** At least 22 people were injured, including two critically when fans brawled during a soccer game in central Mexico. The match between the host Queretaro and Atlas from Guadalajara the reigning league champion was suspended in the 62nd minute when multiple fights broke out in the stands. Security personnel opened the gates to field so that fans could escape the stands. Fights moved to field with punching and kicking.

### Onslaught

■ **Nuremberg:** When Russia launched its war on Ukraine, a Syrian student in the city of Kharkiv joined the exodus of people fleeing the onslaught. It was the third time that 24 year old Orwa Staif, who grew up in the suburbs of Damascus, was being displaced by war and crises. For Staif, it was a jarring deja vu as columns of people, many on foot, carrying what few belongings they could. He had seen it all before, in his native Syria.

### Support

■ **London:** The importance of family support, the determination to succeed against all odds, a strong work ethic and optimism for the future are among the factors identified behind the success of the Indian diaspora in the UK, according to new research released in London. 'India in the UK: The Diaspora Effect 2.0', compiled by Grant Thornton and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and launched.

### Soured

■ **Irvine:** After fleeing her home in now-Taliban controlled Afghanistan, Mozghan Entazari did everything she could to find a new one for her family in the sunny, palm tree-lined communities of Southern California. The 34 year old mother of two scoured options on Zillow with her husband, while the family lived at a hotel in Irvine, south of Los Angeles.

# War in world's 'breadbasket' threatens food supply

● **China will improve layout of defence technology and industry**

Barcelona, Mar 06 (AP):

The Russian tanks and missiles besieging Ukraine also are threatening the food supply and livelihoods of people in Europe, Africa and Asia who rely on the vast, fertile farmlands of the Black Sea region known as the 'breadbasket of the world.'

Ukrainian farmers have been forced to neglect their fields as millions flee, fight or try to stay alive. Ports are shut down that send wheat and other food staples worldwide to be made into bread, noodles



Last year's image shows farmers harvest with their combines in a wheat field near the village Tbilisskaya, Russia.

and animal feed. And there are worries Russia, another agricultural powerhouse, could have its grain exports upended by Western sanctions.

While there have not yet been global disruptions to

wheat supplies, prices have surged 55% since a week before the invasion amid concerns about what could happen next. If the war is prolonged, countries that rely on affordable wheat exports from

Ukraine could face shortages starting in July, International Grains Council director Petit Arnold told The Associated Press.

That could create food insecurity and throw more people into poverty in places like Egypt and Lebanon, where diets are dominated by government-subsidized bread. In Europe, officials are preparing for potential shortages of products from Ukraine and increased prices for livestock feed that could mean more expensive meat and dairy if farmers are forced to pass along costs to customers.

Russia and Ukraine combine for nearly a third of the world's wheat and barley exports.

## South Koreans face stark choices to pick new president



Man looking at posters of South Korea's presidential candidates in Seoul ahead of the March 9 presidential election.

● **Elections have revolved around political rivalry**

Seoul, Mar 06 (AFP):

South Korea will elect a new president Wednesday and voters face a stark

choice: a feminist-bashing conservative or a scandal-plagued liberal? So far, it's a dead heat.

The two frontrunners, dour former prosecutor Yoon Suk-yeol of the People Power party and the incumbent Democratic party's maverick ex-governor Lee Jae-myung are trapped in a

neck-and-neck race to become the next leader of Asia's fourth largest economy.

And what propels one of them to victory will not be their populist campaign promises or North Korea policy, analysts say. Instead, it's what the papers have dubbed a "cycle of revenge" in South Korea's famously adversarial politics.

"This election is a battle between two opposite forces — the progressives and conservatives," said political analyst Park Sang-byoung. South Korean presidents are allowed by law to serve a single five year term, and every living former president has been investigated and jailed for corruption after leaving office.

## Some Rohingya refugees land on beach in Aceh



Rohingya refugees look on in the compounds of a mosque following their arrival by boat in Bireuen, Aceh.

Banda Aceh, Mar 06 (AP):

More than 100 hungry and weak Rohingya Muslims were found on a beach in Indonesia's northernmost province of Aceh on Sunday after weeks at sea, officials said.

The group arrived on Jangka beach near Alue

Buya Pasi, a fishing village in Bireuen district, early Sunday. The villagers who saw the 114 ethnic Rohingya on a rickety wooden boat helped them to land and then reported their arrival to authorities, said Badruddin Yunus, the leader of the local tribal fishing community. They

look very weak from hunger and dehydration after a long and severe voyage at sea, said Yunus, adding it wasn't clear where the group was traveling from or where it was headed because none of them could speak English or Malay.

The 58 men, 21 women and 35 children were given shelter and received help from villagers, police and military, while local authorities including the coronavirus task force were helping to process them, Yunus said.

More than 700,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled from Buddhist-majority Myanmar to refugee camps in Bangladesh since August 2017, when the Myanmar military launched a clear-cut operation in response to attacks by a rebel group. Myanmar security forces have been accused of mass

rapes, killings and the burning of thousands of homes.

Groups of Rohingya have attempted to leave the crowded camps in Bangladesh and travel by sea in hazardous voyages to other Muslim-majority countries in the region.

Muslim-dominated Malaysia has been a common destination for the boats, and traffickers have promised the refugees a better life there. But many Rohingya refugees who land in Malaysia face detention.

Although Indonesia is not a signatory to the United Nations' 1951 Refugee Convention, the UNHCR said that a 2016 presidential regulation provides a national legal framework governing the treatment of refugees on boats in distress near Indonesia and to help them disembark.

## Turkey tourism recovery hurt by Ukraine war

Istanbul, Mar 06 (AFP):

Every Sunday Noori Sani welcomes his old friends around a bountiful Turkish breakfast in Istanbul. But surrounding him now are empty tables on his terrace at the Blue Mosque.

"On a day like this, we should be full," the owner of Serbethane restaurant said in the city's historic district.

Within a few days of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, Ukrainians and Russians cancelled reservations for trips, disastrous for Turkey where tourism represented 10 percent of GDP before the pandemic.

There had been high hopes for a tourism re-

vival in 2022 and the sector was in desperate need of a boost after the Turkish lira lost significant value last year and inflation soared to over 50 percent in February.

Visitors from Ukraine and Russia made up over a quarter of all tourists who arrived in Turkey last year, usually opting for the turquoise beaches on the Mediterranean and Aegean, according to tourism ministry figures.

"Russia and Ukraine are very important markets for us," Hamit Kuk of the Association of Turkish Travel Agencies (TURSAB) said. Around 4.5 million Russian and two million Ukrainian tourists descended on Turkey last year.

TURSAB expected seven million Russians

and 2.5 million Ukrainians this year, but Kuk said it would "likely have to review these figures". "The war between Russia and Ukraine is making everyone nervous here. Both from a human and commercial point of view," Kuk said.

"Normally, there would be a rush of summer reservations in March. But the demand has stopped," he added.

"If it goes on like this, there will be a very serious problem," warned TURSAB president Firuz Ballikaya.

"We try to wait as calmly as we can." In front of the Hagia Sophia mosque, Russian tourists were rushing to follow their guide, ducking their heads and refusing interviews.

## Better data key to eradicate homelessness in EU

Brussels, Mar 06 (AFP):

The European Union this week agreed a plan to eradicate homelessness by 2030. One of the main objectives is get a more accurate view of how many people are without fixed accommodation across the 27 member states and adapt policies accordingly.

"2030 is a marker, an ideal, so that we can all share the same objective," the French minister of housing Emmanuelle Wargon told the press earlier this week when the agreement was announced.

Adopted under France's rotating presidency of the bloc which began in January, the plan was initiated in June 2021 by Portugal and is coordinated by Belgian Prime Minister Yves Leterme.

"We'll try and target zero, but there will always be people who fall through

## ASSISTING LOCALS



Australian Army soldiers assisting the locals of Lismore in moving water-damaged belongings during Operation Flood Assist 2022 on Sunday.

## Mexico's women police squad on protest frontline

Mexico City, Mar 06 (AFP):



Policewomen during a training session prior to the International Women's Day at the Mexico City Police facilities.

At a police station in Mexico City, women train with riot gear in preparation for an International Women's Day march in one of the countries hardest hit by gender-based violence.

The squad of 500 officers is tasked with ensuring the demonstrations that draw thousands of women do not block roads or damage public property. Although their work usually involves tense confrontations with fellow women, they feel united with the feminist cause because they too suffer violence and abuse by men.

But they question some of the protesters' methods. The demonstrators "hit me because they see the uniform and because of

history. You see a police uniform and (think of) repression, corruption, impunity," said Itzania Otero, 35, who commands the unit preparing to police Tuesday's march.

She favors empathy to show the protesters "that this uniform is not what

they think," and that her officers only seek to contain — not repress — them. "We policewomen have also suffered a thousand things," she said.

In recent years, protests against gender-based violence have brought together thousands of women in

the capital and other Mexican cities. Mexico registered 1,006 femicides last year, marking an increase from 978 in 2020, according to government figures. Recent victims include Michelle Perez Tadeo, a 29-year-old television host and model whose body was found last month in a wooded area on the outskirts of the capital. Other gender-based crimes such as harassment, sexual abuse and domestic violence have increased in recent years, resulting in a rising number of calls to emergency lines. During the training session, instructor Tania Arrazola teaches the host how to put on their protective equipment, which includes a vest, gloves, helmet, shin guards and a shield.

## Pakistan claims to have unearthed network behind mosque blast



Policeman stand guard as mourners arrive to attend funeral prayers for bomb blast victim.

Peshawar, Mar 06 (PTI):

Pakistani investigation authorities on Sunday claimed to have unearthed the entire network and family members of the bombers responsible for the deadly suicide attack on a crowded Shia mosque in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province that

killed 63 people and wounded 200 others, a senior official said.

A suicide bomber, belonging to the ISIS-Khorasan, blew himself up inside a mosque in Qissa Khwani bazaar in Peshawar, capital of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province on Friday, in one of the deadliest attacks in the restive region, border-

ing Afghanistan.

Advisor to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister on Information Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif along with Peshawar City Police Chief Ijaz Khan told reporters that a rickshaw driver and facilitator have been traced while the police investigators are very close to family of the bombers as their identification process has been completed. The development came a day after Pakistan's Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed vowed to arrest the masterminds behind the deadly suicide attack. FIR has been registered against the unknown accused in Khan Raziq Police Station and forwarded to Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) police probing the blast.

**SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE FOR MISCELLANEOUS WORK**  
 Sr.No. (1) E-Tender No.-SrDEE-G-R-OTF-21-22-34. Date: 03.03.2022  
 Work: Hiring of truck/MUV mounted sky with operation for Electrical(G) overhead maintenance works over Raipur Division for three months.. Tender Value: Rs. 2,31,357.00/-, EMD Rs.: 4,700.00/- Submission of Tender: upto 11.45 hours on 04.04.2022.  
 For further details/purchase of tender document, eligibility criteria & the complete details for the above work, please contact office of the Sr. DEE/GR or refer/download tender document which is available on our website: www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offers received shall be rejected.  
 Sr. Divl. Elec. Engg. (G)  
 PR/Sr. DEE(G)/AN/166 S.E.C.R., Raipur  
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## Pension policy

Recent developments in many states have put the formal pension policy debate in limelight across India. Central government, state governments, political parties, trade unions and private sector have divergent views regarding formal pension system of India. Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot described the state budget presented by him as an 'elixir', saying it was prepared after detailed discussions with stakeholders as around 45,000 suggestions were received for it. Replying to a debate on the state Budget in the Assembly, he called the decision to revive the old pension scheme historic. Gehlot claimed the announcement of reviving the old pension scheme (OPS) for state government employees appointed on or after January 1, 2004 is receiving an overwhelming response. He said that the Human Rights Commission too had said that the New Pension System (NPS) should be re-considered. Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) had constantly pointed out issues with the NPS. The BJP government in Himachal Pradesh has also tweaked its pension policy in the budget. Himachal Pradesh also constituted a committee headed by the Chief Secretary to look into the issue of restoration of OPS. The Congress has said that if voted to power in the next Assembly elections, it would restore the old pension scheme. The government was under tremendous pressure to placate the employees, who too are on the warpath. The Samajwadi Party's (SP) pledge to restore the OPS if voted to power ignited a fresh debate on the retirement benefits for the more than 12 lakh Uttar Pradesh government employees, who may have a significant influence on the assembly elections. Soon after the election notification was issued in January, the SP announced its intent to reimplement the OPS by withdrawing the market-linked NPS. The announcement has buoyed state government employees who have been protesting against the NPS since it was implemented 15 years ago. There are several ongoing court cases regarding pension issues of central, state as well as private industry employees. In India, absence of a country-wide social security system, ageing population and social change on account of breakdown of traditional family support system are important considerations for introducing pension reform in the unorganized sector.

Whereas in the public sector, fiscal stress of the defined benefit pension system, applicable to the employees of the government sector, was the major driving force for pension reforms. Since 2001-02, a number of measures have been adopted by the government for underlining need for pension reforms for both central government and for unorganized sector for different reasons. Under the old system for state government employees, the pension benefit is defined. It is a share, usually half, of the salary drawn at the time of retirement. The pay-out is indexed to inflation. The contribution is made entirely by the government. According to some economists, it's not fair on future taxpayers, who will have to pay for the pensions of those currently in service. It also does not do justice to the old and the indigent who have little or no old age income support. To contain the high and rising salary and pension bill of its employees, the central government implemented the National Pension System for its employees joining on or after January 1, 2004. State governments (except West Bengal) also acceded to it. No one has retired under the new pension system. The first retirements will happen in 2035. So, it is hard to say with certainty what their pension will be. The government's fiscal burden in providing a safety net to the elderly could rise to as much as 4.1 percent of the GDP by 2030, a report showed. India's population aged 60 years and above will triple to 300 million by 2050. At present, 93 percent of the employees are in the informal sector. Since the private sector lacks a pension programme, government will have to largely bear the burden of providing a safety net to those over 60 years of age. Lack of unified and coherent pension system in India will hurt society in the long term.

## Need consensus

After its proposal to amend the All India Service Rules that would allow it to call any IAS, IPS or IFOs officer on central deputation with or without the state's consent, the Centre has issued another order on central deputation of Deputy Inspector General-level IPS officers that may not be palatable to the states. In an order issued on February 10, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has said that IPS officers coming to the Centre at DIG level would no longer be required to be empanelled at that level with the Union Government. Centre and state governments shall have consensus regarding administrative reforms irrespective of political party positions. In no other major country in the world does an equivalent of IAS and IPS exist in the sense that on a merit-based selection at the national level, the entrant is installed in the decision-making 'leadership' position of an Under Secretary of Government of India just within three years after the training as Collector and SP in the states represent that status granted at the start of the service career itself.

Slowly but steadily politicization of bureaucracy and police by the ruling parties of the states created the tendency among officers of holding on to their position in the state for vested interests. The state governments, for political reasons, also started giving weightage to state service officers directly recruited by them, inducing the IAS and IPS to become more and more 'compliant'. All of this resulted in the unhealthy trend of All India Civil Services officers looking weaker as they moved up the ladder as the Chief Secretary and DGP not minding even the transfers and postings of officers done by the political masters at their back. The Centre was justified in feeling concerned about the heads of administration and the police in the states not measuring up to their apolitical Constitutional responsibilities. The Central oversight on the two premiers All India Civil Services had to be maintained in the larger national interest.

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The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

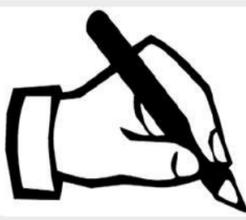
## FOOD FESTIVAL



A woman prepares serabi, made from rice flour and coconut milk, during a food festival in Banda Aceh, Indonesia.

## 'Silver Line' is not shining rail project

DR DUGGARAJU SRINIVASA RAO



The Kerala Left Front government headed by CPM leader Pinarayi Vijayan proposed and in a hurry to execute project called 'Silver Line' is being opposed by the people, organizations in Kerala because of the environmental issues involved and the state government's unconvincing replies on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as the government is bent on going ahead with the major rail project as it believes the 'Silver Line' is an golden opportunity for the state investments and generating employment. The Kerala economy is popularly called as the Money Order economy as the state is heavily dependent on the remittance from the people working in the Gulf States. This Gulf repatriates are major stake holders in the economic activities of the state. With Gulf opportunities lessened for many reasons including COVID-19 the government is finding it difficult to cater to the growing demands of the youth regarding employment opportunities. Unless a huge project is taken up spreading across the state it is very difficult to control the simmering anger hence this involving the initial estimation of Rs 63,941 crores, with a 28 percent share of Kerala and 10 percent share of Government of India. The other amount comes through the loans from various organizations, both national and international.

The Silver Line project, as per LDF government, is intended to create a new high speed connectivity to the north and southern areas of the Kerala state. This 530.6 Kilometers (Kms). Long rail line connecting the state cap-

ital of Thiruvananthapuram in the south with the northern most district head quarter town of Kasaragod is a semi-high speed rail planned as a standard gauge with 11 stations with ground, elevated and underground tracks. The project aims at reducing the time of the travel from north of the state to the south to 4 hours from the current 12-14 hour journey through the Indian railway lines in the state. The current railway tracks built mostly during the British time has many turns and curves thus reducing the average train speed to 45 Kilometre per hour (Kmph). The proposed silver line project aims to build a track for running the train at 200 Kmph. The project aims at building five new townships at Thiru-vanathapuram, Kollam, Ernakulam, Kottayam and Trissur. The proposed dead line for the completion of the project is 2027 with a provision to extend it up to 2030.

The first issue which baffles a commoner is standard gauge proposal instead of broad gauge that is the standard gauge in the country. With a different gauges Kerala state is harming itself in the absence of connection with the existing rail lines. Unless the new train line is synchronized with the existing rail system and connectivity improved the new line may remain exclusive for the passengers travelling from and to those 11 proposed stations and exclude others. This exclusivity of track and stations may not be a right one. The government estimated that silver line will carry around 80,000 passengers each day. One wonders whether those many passengers will

take that exclusive standard gauge train. The key aspect is the environmental issue involved in the silver line project. As per the statement of the CM Vijayan made in the assembly the project will pass through paddy fields for 115 Kms. with elevated tracks of 88 kms. It has to spend Rs 13,362 crores on the 1,198 hectare private land acquisition. The project will impact 9,314 buildings including residential structures and over 20,000 families will be displaced. Experts claim that proper Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Social Impact Assessment were not made. The government headed by CPM's enthusiasm is not shared by other Left partners.

The environmentalists are countering and even challenging the government claims. The activists call the claim of 'extraordinary industrial and financial breakthrough to the state of Kerala' as wishful thinking and on the other hand the activists project silver line project as 'environmental disaster in more than one way'. They say that the worrying point is the irrevocable damage the project is likely cause to the Kerala's many water ways, paddy fields, and wet lands. The EIA done by the Thiru-vanathapuram based Centre for Environment and development is challenged as the activists claim that the said institute is not authorized agency for such EIA assessment. More over the EIA basing on which the Kerala government is going ahead was not done for all the four seasons but was done only for one season. The environmentalist demand a comprehensive EIA for all the four seasons. The recent floods and consequent damage in Kerala through land sliding has not been taken in to consideration. They even quote the reports which appeared in the media where the pillars constructed for Cochin metro rail projects being getting tilted in some marshy areas. The fragility of the ecosystem and suitability of the soil are not properly assessed. The experts point out that the proposed rail line will pass through the famous tourist destinations of Kannur district, Kadalundi bird sanctuary, famous

Lotus lake in Malappuram district, and areas which harbor wide range of aquatic and semi aquatic plants and rare plants and animals.

Another issue raised is the topography of the state. Kerala has an average width of 70 Kms and a rail line going through the center will divide the state in to east and west Kerala. Kerala is tourism destination area where people wish to move in a leisurely pace enjoying the scenic beauty of the surroundings and not to zip at 200 Kmph speed in tunneled travel. Moreover the work from home culture is here to stay and people are going to be less mobile post pandemic and the expected 80,000 per day travelers may not be realized in future. Other experts challenge the economic estimations. They say 2027 completions is an unrealistic one. They compare the proposed silver line with the completed Delhi metro where the railway line completed per year was 14.3 Kms and Kochi metro was done at an average of 4.17 Kms per year. At Delhi metro speed it will take 37 years for completion of Silver Line, whereas at Kochi metro rate it will take 127 years to complete. More over the experts studied the project estimates over 20 infra projects and they revealed that final cost of the project was 3.8 times over the estimated cost and the time taken was 2.62 times than the original schedule. Basing on these studies the Silver Line project cost is likely to shoot up to Rs 2.47 lakh crores from the current estimated Rs 64 thousand crores. Thus the Kerala's proposed Silver Line project is neither economically viable nor it ecologically sustainable. The union government which has committed for 10 percent stake in the project seems to have rethink and is not coming with the final approval. 'If not now, when?' and 'people rejecting the bold ideas are not going to have the way this time' are the words of the CPM CM Vijayan and his insistence on priority to this silver line seems to have more than what appears outwardly.

(Dr Duggaraju Srinivasa Rao is political analyst and columnist based in Vijayawada.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Question

The Commonwealth is an organization made up of 53 countries from all over the world. Countries that were part of the British Empire or had links with Britain created it. Previously, it was known as British Commonwealth. Now here is my observation which might irk some of the political groups. Of the 54 Commonwealth countries, 53 countries got independence from colonial domination of the British during 1946-1956 without Gandhi-Nehru. Why did out of the 53 countries, one country undergo partition? What does that mean? My observation is that post-WW2, the British power got reduced considerably. Out of the 53 countries, why did India go for partition post-independence? It might be due to the appeasement policy, weak leadership and personal ambition of a leader who wanted to start dynasty politics.

Julie, via email

### Registration

India has the largest democracy in the world and other countries also follow the guidelines of Election Comm of India. At present any person who completes eighteen years on January 1 can register the vote but if a person completes eighteen years on January 2 then the same person has to wait for one year. In this regard the government has informed a parliamentary panel that it was working on fixing four cut-off dates every year for people to enroll as voters by amending the electoral law and has contended that the move would eventually pave the way for a common list of voters for the Lok Sabha, Assembly and local body which include both urban and rural polls. It appears that origin of this idea is based on the fast Digitalization otherwise this proposal was not feasible. and now the parliament panel has suggested four cut-off dates-Jan1, April 1, July 1, Oct 1. The legislative department in the law ministry is the nodal agency to deal with issues related to the Election Comm of arguing in favour of move, and due to this reason more new voters will be enrolled and we say it will strong the democracy. The ministry of law and justice said that a comprehensive draft Cabinet note "containing this proposal (of four qualifying dates) as well as a few other important electoral reform proposals taken up by the Election Comm is under preparation." It is expected that such kind of proposal should be accepted and implemented at the earliest to make the democratic process more strong and provide more chance to youngsters to exercise their franchise for development of country and have the say of these young persons in the formation of a government of be their choice.

Yoyesh, via email



## WHAT THEY TWEET!



**Aunindyo@AunindyoC**  
When a voter gets a job, they don't see the govt as their benefactor. Freebies, on the other hand, are provided in the name of the PM & CM. This is the Modi-Shah formula. So, losing UP could spell an end for the Modi-BJP's vote-gathering strategy.

**Divya Jain@Divajain2**  
In the 90's they also used to cook up stories of "demoralised" Indian troops selling their weapons to terrorists before going AWOL. Much like current stories on low Russian troop morale and how "sympathetic" FSB members have helped Zelenskyy evade several hit squads from Moscow.



**Raj Sandhu @Sandhu94717**  
Our farmers feed the world. They are up before dawn and work till well after sunset. They face any number of challenges they can't control, from too much rain to not enough, from disease to insect infestations. Still they are not getting any support.

**chaturvedi\_upma@chaturvedi\_upma**  
Nature in #Lucknow.



**Glenn@ggreenwald**  
This is the fact nobody will confront. That Russia (not Putin, but the Russian political class, including Putin's critics) legitimately perceived NATO expansion as threatening wasn't invented by RT & Grayzone last week, but was the widespread view of top US officials for decades:



**Sonam@Wangchuk66**  
I feel totally cheated. Sad to learn India has Companies no one can trust. To save others, I'll soon share about a Company who double confirmed engagement for a talk, made me change travel plans, then backed out on their word and changed terms. Corporate Lawyers pls volunteer ur help!

**Vivek@Vivek\_Investor**  
Watching the interviews of medical students returned from Ukraine, they said they went to Ukraine because the cost of medical education is 1/3rd of India. Why medical education is very expensive in India? Forget lower middle class, even it's expensive for upper middle class.

## BRIEF

### Revenue



**New Delhi:** Ezetap is targeting about five-fold growth in revenue to Rs 750 crore by 2024 driven by international expansion and increase in merchant base, CEO Byas Nambisan told PTI. It is also looking to raise around Rs 450 crore, also from primary market.

### Output

**Ranchi:** Coal India's subsidiary BCCL has posted a record 61 per cent growth in its production to 3.24 million tonne (mt) in February this year over the corresponding month last fiscal. It also claimed that it registered the highest offtake growth of around 66 per cent to 2.93 mt during the last month. The coal offtake was at 2.93 mt last month, up by 66 per cent from 1.76 mt in the year-ago month.

### Partnership



**Mumbai:** Ram Charan Company has inked a partnership with Bolt Mobility, the electric mobility venture co-founded by Olympic gold medalist Usain Bolt. Director Kaushik Palicha told PTI our investment is more in form of tech sharing but with an equity investment as well.

### Aims

**New Delhi:** ISS Facility Services India, a subsidiary of Denmark's ISS group, aims to double its revenue to more than Rs 2,500 crore by 2025 and plans to hire around 25,000 people over the next two years to grow its business. Denmark-based ISS is one of the leading workplace experience and facility management companies in the world.

### Wagons



**Kolkata:** Braithwaite & Co Ltd is betting big on domestic demand for wagons after the Russia-Ukraine crisis has derailed its export negotiations. CMD Yatish Kumar told PTI a prototype has been manufactured with RDSO design with focus on orders in domestic market.

### Attend

**New Delhi:** Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar will be attending the India Global Forum (IGF) event at Bengaluru on March 7-8, an official statement said on Sunday. The Minister is slated to meet and interact with the founders and CEOs of 30 unicorns during the event.

## GST Council may consider proposal to raise lowest slab to 8%

**New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI):**

The GST Council in its next meeting may look at raising the lowest tax slab to 8 per cent, from 5 per cent, and prune the exemption list in the Goods and Services Tax regime as it looks to increase revenues and do away with states' dependence on Centre for compensation, sources said on Sunday.

A panel of state finance ministers is likely to submit its report by this month end to the Council suggesting various steps to raise revenue, including hiking the lowest slab and rationalising the slab.

Currently, GST is a four-tier structure attracting a tax rate of 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent. Essential items are either exempted or taxed at the lowest slab, while luxury and demerit items attract the highest slab. Luxury and sin goods attract cess on top of the highest 28 per cent slab. This cess collection is used



to compensate states for the revenue loss due to GST rollout. According to sources, the GoM is likely to propose raising the 5 per cent slab to 8 per cent, which may yield an additional Rs 1.50 lakh crore annual revenues. As per calculations, 1 per cent increase in the lowest slab, which mainly include packaged food items, results in a revenue gain of Rs 50,000 crore annually.

As part of rationalisation, the GoM is also looking at a 3-tier GST structure, with rates at 8, 18 and 28 per cent. If the proposal

comes through, all the goods and services which are currently taxed at 12 per cent, will move to 18 per cent slab.

Besides, the GoM would also propose reducing the number of items which are exempted from GST. Currently, unbranded food and dairy items are exempted from GST.

Sources said the GST Council is expected to meet later this month or early next month and discuss the report of the GoM and take a view on the revenue position of the states.

## Govt may defer LIC IPO to next fiscal amid Ukraine crisis

**New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI):**

The government is expected to defer the mega initial public offering (IPO) of LIC to the next financial year as the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war has dampened fund managers' interest in the public issue, market experts said on Sunday.

The government was looking to sell 5 per cent stake in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) this month, which could have fetched over Rs 60,000 crore to the exchequer.

The IPO would have helped meet the curtailed disinvestment target of Rs 78,000 crore this fiscal.

"The current geopolitical issue between Russia and Ukraine makes the global equity markets jittery. Indian markets also reacted negatively to this



development and corrected nearly 11 per cent from its all time high.

"Thus, the current market volatility is not conducive for the LIC IPO and the government is most likely to defer the issue to next fiscal year," Arijit Malakar, Head of Retail Equity Research, Ashika Group, said.

Generally, in a highly volatile market, investors tend to play safe and refrain from making fresh investments. Thus, the equity

market needs to be stable, so that investors can get the confidence to make the investment in the LIC IPO.

Echoing a similar sentiment, Tanushree Banerjee Co-Head of Research-Equitymaster, said the weak market sentiments, especially in the wake of the Ukraine-Russia war, have been a dampener for the IPO. While there is a possibility of the IPO getting postponed, the issue remains critical to the gov-

## ICICI settle Rs 982 cr COVID-19 claims

**Mumbai, Mar 06:** ICICI Prudential Life Insurance's claim settlement ratio stood at 97.9% during FY2021 and the Company took 1.4 days, on an average, to settle non-investigated death claims. For the 9 months-ended FY2022, the Company has settled Rs. 982 crore worth of Covid-19 related claims. To make customer service including the claims settlement process faster, safer, and more convenient for customers, especially during the pandemic, the Company is using digital technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning, Robotic Process Automation (RPA) and Optical Character Recognition (OCR). Technologies such as RPA and OCR are also being used for underwriting, claims assessment, selling or renewing policies, and offering customized offers. Customers can use any of the digital touch-points such as WhatsApp, Mobile App, Website, Chatbot LiGo, etc. to initiate and conclude service requests, upload required documents and download premium paid certificates.

## NMDC receives Ministry of Steel's official language award



**Hyderabad, Mar 05:**

India's largest producer of iron ore, NMDC received 1st prize in the IspatRajbhasha Award for 2018-19 and 2020-21 and the Ispat Rajbhasha Prerna Award for 2019-20 in the meeting of the Hindi Salahakar Committee of the Ministry of Steel held in Madurai on 3rd March 2022. Union Minister of Steel, Ram Chandra Prasad Singh, presented the accolades to Sumit Deb, Chairman and Managing Director, NMDC. He appreciated the

efforts of all the Steel PSEs in putting into practice the official language of India and congratulated NMDC for winning the awards.

Minister of State for Steel Faggan Singh Kulaste presented the Citation for a period of three years to the Deputy General Manager (Official Language), NMDC on the occasion. NMDC presented a short film on the status of official language implementation in the company. This innovative effort of NMDC was highly appreciated by the mem-

bers of the Committee. The meeting was attended by the senior officials of the Ministry of Steel, Honourable Members of the Hindi Salahakar Committee, Chairman and Managing Directors of all Steel PSUs.

On this occasion, Sumit Deb said, "I take pride in NMDC's contribution in implementing and celebrating the Official Language. At NMDC, we foster original writing in Hindi on technical subjects and encourage the use of this language in daily interactions."

## Russia-Ukraine conflict likely to have adverse effects

### On economic growth, inflation

**New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI):**

Eminent economist Jayanth R Varma on Sunday said the Russia-Ukraine conflict is likely to have adverse effects on both economic growth as well as inflation and policy makers must remain alert and ready to respond rapidly to the emerging situation. Varma, who is also a member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank, in an interview to PTI said inflation is higher than target, though it is within the tolerance band. Listing challenges faced by the Indian economy, Varma said



while the economy has yet to recover from the cyclical economic slowdown which began around three years ago, investment has remained subdued during this period, and private consumption has not fully recovered from the pandemic. "The economy

faces new stresses emanating from geopolitical tensions," he said, adding that inflation is higher than the target though within the tolerance band. Varma, who is a professor of finance and accounting in IIM Ahmedabad said: "The conflict is likely to have adverse effects on both economic growth and on inflation... Policy makers must in my view remain alert and stand ready to respond rapidly to the emerging situation."

Asia's third-largest economy is projected to grow 8.9 per cent in the fiscal year ending March 31, slower than previously anticipated 9.2 per cent, according to the recent government data.

## Amul expects 18% growth in turnover

### To around Rs 46,000 cr this fiscal

**New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI):** India's leading dairy cooperative GCMMF, which markets dairy products under the Amul brand, is expecting an 18 per cent growth in its turnover this fiscal year to around Rs 46,000 crore on better demand, its Managing Director RS Sodhi said.

Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF) had posted a marginal growth of 2 per cent during the 2020-21 financial year to Rs 39,200 crore despite the COVID-19 pandemic. In an interview with PTI, Sodhi said: "We are expecting around 18 per cent growth this fiscal year to about Rs 46,000



crore." The demand for all products, like butter, ice cream, milk, has improved, he added. In volume terms also, Sodhi said the growth will be around 15 per cent. In the last financial year, the GCMMF turnover grew marginally as sales of ice cream were down 35 per cent mainly because of the nationwide lockdown during the summer to curb the COVID-19

pandemic. The commodity business of products like skimmed milk powder (SMP) was also impacted. The cooperative sells 150 lakh litres of milk per day, of which Gujarat contributes around 60 lakh litres, Delhi-NCR 37 lakh litres and Maharashtra 20 lakh litres, he added. It also sells milk in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Kolkata. The GCMMF has an installed processing capacity of nearly 400 lakh litres per day. In this fiscal year, it has hiked milk prices twice. The GCMMF hiked milk price by Rs 2 per litre across India from July 1 due to an increase in input costs. Last week, it announced another Rs 2 per litre increase with effect from March 1, saying that milk procurement prices have gone up.

## Govt working on 14 critical coal evacuation rail projects

**New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI):**

The government is planning to strengthen the rail infrastructure and has stressed on commissioning 14 critical coal-evacuation rail projects for faster transportation of fuel, as higher fuel prices is likely to put pressure on the railways for transportation of domestic coal.

The projects include — Tori-Shivpur Railway Line (on Deposit Basis), Jharsuguda-Barpali-Sardaga Rail Link at Ib Valley Coalfield of MCL in Odisha (on deposit basis) and Shivpur-Kathautia Railway line (through SPV). In a meeting held last month, under the Chairmanship of Coal Secretary AK Jain, the status and progress of these

### For faster transportation of fuel



projects was reviewed. Thermal power generation from imported coal-based plants is likely to drop further due to higher fuel prices and would put stress on the railways for transportation of domestic coal. "Almost eight per cent of the thermal power generation used to come from imported coal-based plants, which has fallen to

three per cent due to higher coal prices. This is most likely to drop further in future, this will bring stress on railways for transportation of domestic coal in order to eliminate/ substitute import of thermal coal," Jain said. According to the minutes of the meeting, this issue is linked with the necessity of energy for the country.

"Cabinet Secretary will be specially reviewing capability of Railways for transportation of coal up-country as most of the imported coal-based thermal power plants are located on coast and far off," he said. Coal handling plant and other first-mile connectivity projects will help in reducing turnaround time of wagons/rakes which is very important, the secretary said adding that commissioning of these 14 rail projects is pivotal for faster and efficient transportation of coal.

With regard to Tori-Shivpur Railway Line, it was informed during the meeting that the execution of this project is in full swing and is likely to be completed by March next year.

## India suggests WTO discussions on e-comm during pandemic

WTO is 164 member multilateral body

**New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI):**

India has suggested to convene a meeting under the aegis of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to discuss the role of e-commerce during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to a statement delivered by Ambassador of India to the WTO Brajendra Navnit at the General Council meeting held on February 23 to 24, many members have spoken about how e-commerce helped their economies during pandemic-led lockdowns.

"India suggests holding a discussion on the role of e-commerce during the time of the pandemic... Within the boundaries of



every country, there may have been positive examples. But, did international e-commerce play a big role? It will be good to hear member experiences specifically linked to cross-border trade," he has said.

He has suggested that this agenda item should be adopted by the General Council as a standing

agenda item for every meeting.

India has been a votary of rejuvenation of the work programme on e-commerce.

The General Council, highest decision-making body of the WTO after ministerial conference (MC), should now start the process of convening meetings of the work programme and ensure that the original mandate is adhered to, he has added.

At the Nairobi Ministerial Conference in December 2015, WTO members adopted a decision on the work programme on e-commerce.

Member countries have considered the work programme at nearly all MCs. They have also agreed to continue the practice of not imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions until their next ministerial conference, but India has repeatedly asked to review the issues related with the moratorium on customs duties on e-commerce trade. Since 1998, the moratorium has been extended time and again for two years.

## Programme launched for improving quality of PSU bank boards

**New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI):**

The Banks Board Bureau (BBB) has introduced a development programme for the management of public sector banks with a view to improving the quality of bank boards.

The nine-month Directors' Development Programme (DDP) is designed for the directors of the PSBs and financial institutions with the key objective of enhancing director effectiveness to increase their impact on the boards, the BBB said in a statement.

It is expected that the programme will help the directors think of the road ahead in the business and elevate themselves to be a



source of wisdom and guidance for the management and stakeholders to raise the performance levels of Public Sector Banks in the global landscape, it said. The programme designed in collaboration with IBA and others will help empower and enrich the board critical for the decision making. Financial Services Secretary Sanjay

Malhotra, who is also a member of BBB said there is no end to learning when going through this training. The BBB, the headhunter for state-owned banks and financial institutions, formed in 2016. It was also entrusted with the task of engaging with the board of directors of all PSBs to formulate appropriate strategies for their growth and development.

The programme includes seminars, face-to-face interactive sessions, and self-paced online modules, it said, adding, the pedagogy follows a practitioners approach with orientation and refresher sections for first time and seasoned directors respectively.



## Urvashi Rautela to feature in Nithiin's 'Macherla Niyojakavargam'?

Actor Nithiin, who is all set to entertain with an entertaining, mass movie titled 'Macherla Niyojakavargam', is to jive with the noted Bollywood actress. Now, according to the latest report, Bollywood bombshell Urvashi Rautela has been roped in for 'Macherla Niyojakavargam' which has Nithiin as the leading man. Despite no confirmation regarding the same, it is reported that Urvashi Rautela will jive for a special song in the upcoming political drama. The makers are apparently preparing to make an official confirmation on the same. Billed to be a political drama, 'Macherla Niyojakavargam' is helmed by MS Raja Shekhar Reddy and has the music composed by Mahathi Swara Sagar. The Cinematography department is handled by Prasad Murella and editing is by Kotagiri Venkateswara Rao. The film 'Macherla Niyojakavargam' is produced by Sudhakar Reddy and Nikitha Reddy under the banner of Sreshth Movies.

'Macherla Niyojakavargam' has 'Uppena' fame Krithi Shetty as the female lead, and will hit the screens on April 29, 2022.

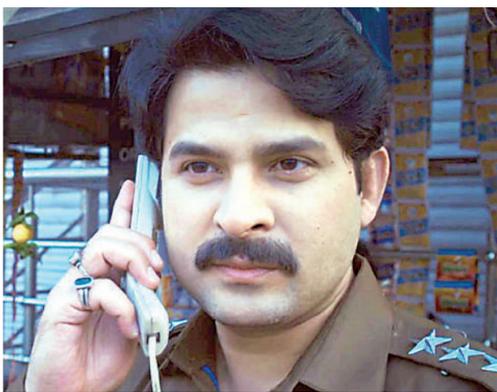
Actress Sanjana, who is a part of actor Vadivelu's comeback film 'Naai Sekar Returns', has expressed happiness at getting an opportunity to work with the ace comedian and has thanked the film's director Suraj for having given her the opportunity. Taking to Instagram, the actress said, "Very happy to be working with the legendary actor Vadivelu sir. Thank you so much sir for being kind and supportive. It is really an amazing experience. "Thank you so much Suraj sir for having me onboard and for all the love and support which you give me at the shooting spot. I feel so grateful." The film, which is being produced by Lyca productions, is among the most eagerly-awaited entertainers of the year. Recently, the core unit of the film, including music director Santhosh Narayanan, had flown to London for scoring the film's music.

## Happy to work with 'legendary' Vadivelu, says actress Sanjana



## Gireesh Sahdev dons 'khakhi' uniform

Over the years, crime as a genre has gained immense popularity amongst the Indian audience for its gripping narrative. And, Sony Entertainment Television's longest-running crime docu-drama 'Crime Patrol' has made an irreplaceable mark in this space. Showcasing compelling cases with gritty storytelling of the criminal activities from across India with a resolve to make people 'Satark', the channel brings back the marquee show in an all-new avatar with Crime Patrol 2.0. Taking up the thrill a notch higher, the new version will revolve



## Ashna Zaveri imparts some wellness 'gyaan' to Insta followers

Actress Ashna Zaveri, who announced her presence in the Tamil film industry with a strong performance in the Santhanam-starrer 'Vallavanukku Pullum Aayudham', has urged her followers on Instagram to get their priorities in order. The actress, who often gives wellness tips and shares her thoughts with her followers on Instagram, on Sunday put out a video that stressed on the significance of paying attention to important things first. "We have the ability to accomplish anything if we use our time wisely. Let's look at it this way," she said and showed a jar which she said represented life and the time we have to fill. "Say you fill it first with sand, which represents the least important things. That will leave you less time for other things," she said. She then attempted to fill the jar with pebbles, which she said were matters that needed one's attention but were not their priority. "This will leave you with very little or no time for the things that matter the most." Using balls to represent the things that money can't buy -- like family, friends, and passion, the actress showed that if importance was given to the meaningless things, one would not have time to spare for important things. She went on to then say, "However, if you plan and prioritise it well, giving time to the important things first, you'll be amazed at what you can accomplish. Starting with the important things followed by the least important things, you'll be able to fit in just about everything." She further wrote, "We all have finite time. Choose well what you do with it. If you spend all your energy and time on the small stuff, material things, you will never have room for the things that are truly most important.

The rocks are the important things -- your family, your partner, your health, your children - anything that is so important to you that if it were lost, you would be nearly destroyed. The pebbles are the other things in life that matter, but on a smaller scale. The pebbles represent things like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else. The small stuff. Taking the viewers on pursuits with the police as they attempt to solve the crime cases, the show will make the viewers understand the anatomy of a crime while also highlighting the unseen facets of the investigation, usage of new-age tools, the chase; the anticipation and drive to find an answer. Having worked in the Indian entertainment industry for around two decades across films and television, popular actor Gireesh Sahdev will be seen playing the role of a police officer in Crime Patrol 2.0. Bringing alive these gripping real-life-based crime stories as PI Ajit Pratap Singh, Gireesh will be a part of the cop squad solving some of the most spine-chilling crime cases in the city of UP.

Naye Andaaz mein, satark karne aa raha hain 'Crime Patrol 2.0'- every Mon-Fri at 10 pm, starting 7th March only on Sony Entertainment Television.



## 'I had never been interested in doing a superhero movie'

From Warner Bros. Pictures comes filmmaker Matt Reeves' "The Batman," starring Robert Pattinson in the dual role of Gotham City's vigilante detective and his alter ego, reclusive billionaire Bruce Wayne. Released pan India on March 4, 2022, "The Batman" is a high-octane action film on a massive visual scale and a gritty, edgy and emotional exploration into the twisted inner workings of the mind, all set within an iconic city on the brink.

Robert Pattinson, who says the titular role, really appreciated the heightened duality of the classically dual role. When asked about what made him certain of taking on this mammoth task of showcasing one of the most iconic superhero characters on screen again, he says, "I had never been interested in doing a superhero movie, it hadn't been in my pe-

riphery at all, but for some reason, Batman always stood out as a very special, separate entity. In the cultural lexicon, the character feels very individual and holds a lot of symbolic importance. Then, when I heard Matt was doing it, I just got really excited. When I finally talked to him, he showed me some of his very early storyboards and that set the



### HOROSCOPE MONDAY MARCH 07

**Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18**  
You blessed with a very high level of patience and practicality, and you can easily untangle any problem. But, it gives an excuse to the people around you to wash their hands of any responsibility. It may put you in a tight spot at times leaving you frustrated. It is not a nice feeling, agrees Ganesha, but learn to turn it your advantage, he adds.

**Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20**  
A day of mixed fortunes awaits you, where taking risks could prove to be your undoing, or provide you with handsome returns, says Ganesha. This is because you could come out on top by treading cautiously, but uncalculated risks will probably throw your calculations out of gear. Your success rate is unlikely to be too high; hence it may be a tough day for you. However, it will end on a promising note.

**Gemini: May 22 - June 21**  
You are desirous of perfection in everything that you do, and you practice this philosophy in every aspect of your life. You make sure that all of your energies are concentrated on taking forward your efforts in the right direction. You need to replenish your energies and increase your awareness today, to be able to continue your efforts, says Ganesha.

**Cancer: June 22 - July 22**  
A hectic day, combined with domestic pressure will make you exhausted. You feel a heavy burden on mind and heart. Don't be too emotional, says Ganesha. Take care not to pass domestic burdens on to your career or business, and thereby mar your capacity and efficiency.

**Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23**  
Ganesha says that today will be a lucky day for you. You may receive some financial gain. There will be some good news about your children's progress. This is the right time to invest in business. For financial investors and share brokers this period is beneficial, so make the most of it.

**Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22**  
It's the same old rut today, says Ganesha. Nothing new, nothing exciting. People from the opposite sex, however, may bring you out of the routine and try to enliven your spirits, predicts Ganesha.

**Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20**  
If you're looking to get married, buy the ring today. But before you take the leap, weigh all the pros and cons carefully, says Ganesha. All in all, this may be a day filled with activities related to your relationship and by the time the day ends, you may be on cloud nine!

**Leo: July 23 - Aug 23**  
You will pay more attention to the younger members in the family. You will guide the children in improving their daily schedule. An occasion to celebrate will present itself. You will be desirous of participating in some competition or program, says Ganesha.

**Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 31**  
The rewards of hard labour will be sweet, so start off by unwinding with some fun today. Ganesha sees quality time being spent with friends and family. All in all, a fun day.

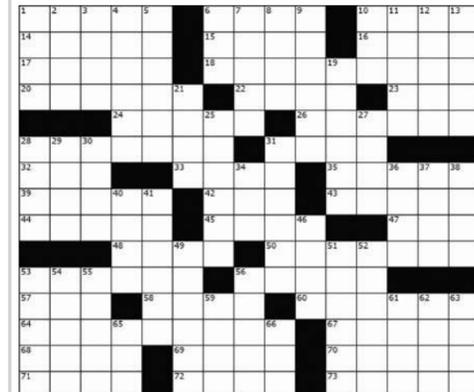
**Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21**  
This is one of those dreadful days when you could be unduly touchy and short tempered, fears Ganesha. Don't go around getting into fights and quarrels with anyone who seems unfriendly or ill mannered. You will only end up in spoiling some healthy relationships.

**Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22**  
A fear of the unknown will keep lurking in your mind today. The shadow will only grow larger as the day progresses. You may find yourself spending too much on your foreign friends. Ganesha advises you to be cautious in this regard today.

**Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20**  
Numerous projects and building work pressure can keep you busy, but get done with whatever you have on hand, for Ganesha says the day has a host of recreational activities lined up for you. This will also be the right time to reach out to more people, and devour whatever knowledge or information they have to offer.

### CROSSWORD

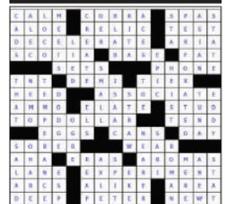
234



- ACROSS**
- Stockpile
  - Bath powder
  - Swiss peaks
  - Roman gown
  - Divya's solo
  - Liquefy
  - More aged
  - Modern convenience
  - Untidy conditions
  - Bridge hand
  - Water (Fr.)
  - Salty drops
  - Nab
  - Organize
  - District
  - Feathery scarf
  - Attention-getting sound
  - Bride's path
  - Merits
  - CIA employee (abbr.)
  - Prepare to propose
  - Act toward

- Brused
- Director \_\_\_\_\_ Brooks
- Cornmeal porridge
- Clothes cabinet
- Microwave again
- Slalom participant
- Historic time
- Interruption
- Writer \_\_\_\_\_ Hemingway
- Custodian
- English noblemen
- Drifting
- Not taped
- Small porch
- Annoying person
- Went fast
- Quizzes
- Molecule part
- Stubborn animal
- Connecting words
- Nap
- TV part
- Make a doily
- Zodiac sign
- Peru's capital
- Salad
- MD's group
- Embankment
- Swagger
- Stripe of color
- Norse tale
- Go over again
- Drizzle
- Spur on
- Lion's cry
- Burger order
- US rail service
- Self-esteem
- Highway vehicle
- Ogle
- She, in Bordeaux
- Designate
- Mouse \_\_\_\_\_ Little
- Buffalo's waterfront
- Shoppilifts
- Most insignificant
- Elaborate
- Brief review
- Wipe away
- Rabbits' kin
- Comic \_\_\_\_\_ Martin
- Omit
- Love god
- Coin opening
- Recipe abbr.
- Chow down
- Primary color

### SOLUTION 233



## Ashwin goes past Kapil Dev's 434 wickets

**Mohali:** Premier off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin on Sunday went past the legendary Kapil Dev's 434 Test scalps to become the second highest wicket-taker for India in the longest format of the game, reaching the mark in his 85th match. The 35-year-old Ashwin achieved the feat in the ongoing first Test against Sri Lanka. He began the match with 430 scalps and claimed two wickets in the first innings before adding three more in the second essay to cross Kapil's mark. Kapil had managed the feat in 131 matches. The legendary Anil Kumble tops the chart with 619 scalps which he claimed in 132 matches. Ashwin drew level with Kapil when he took the wicket of Pathum Nissanka during Sri Lanka's second innings. The tweaker then dismissed Charith Asalanka to get his 435th wicket. Only four Indian bowlers -- Kumble, Ashwin, Kapil and Harbhajan Singh -- have taken more than 400 wickets in Test cricket.



## Mithali becomes first woman to play in six World Cups



**Mount Maunganui:** One of the game's finest servants, India captain Mithali Raj on Sunday became only the third cricketer and the first woman to appear in six World Cups, joining the iconic Sachin Tendulkar and Pakistani great Javed Miandad. She achieved the feat as India locked horns with arch-rivals Pakistan in their much-anticipated opening match of the ICC Women's World Cup at the Bay Oval here. Raj, a 39-year-old veteran of many memorable matches, had made her maiden World Cup appearance in 2000, before playing the event in 2005, 2009, 2013, 2017 and now in 2022. In the women's game, the Indian batter surpassed former New Zealand cricketer Debbie Hockley and Charlotte Edwards of England. Fast bowler Jhulan Goswami, Raj's India teammate for the longest time, stands second on the list with five World Cup appearance.

## Indian women's 25m pistol team to fight for gold in WC

**Cairo:** The Indian women's 25m pistol team of Rahi Sarnobat, Esha Singh and Rhythm Sangwan reached the gold medal match in the ISSF World Cup here. The trio topped the second qualification stage with a combined effort of 441 out of a possible 450 late on Saturday night, to set up the summit clash with Singapore, who also shot the same score, but with three lesser inner 10s than India. Chinese Taipei and Japan will clash for the bronze medal. India already have two gold and one silver medal from the tournament and are currently placed second on the medals tally. Saurabh Chaudhary and the women's 10m air pistol team had struck gold, while Esha Singh had won silver in the individual women's 10m air pistol.

## Mary Kom to skip World Championships



**New Delhi:** Olympic bronze medalist boxer MC Mary Kom has decided to skip the World Championships and the Asian Games to be held later this year to give more exposure to youngsters. The six-time world champion wants to focus on her preparations for the Birmingham Commonwealth Games. The IBA Women's World Boxing

Championships is scheduled to be held from May 6 to 21 in Istanbul, Turkey while the 2022 Commonwealth Games and 2022 Asian Games will begin on July 28 and September 10 respectively. In a communication to the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), Mary Kom said, "I would like to withdraw to give opportunity to the younger generation to make a name for themselves on the international stage and get exposure and experience of major tournaments."

## UP stun Maharashtra by six wickets to make knockouts

**Sultanpur:** Uttar Pradesh stunned Maharashtra by six wickets in their Ranji Trophy elite group G match to qualify for the knock-outs here on Sunday. Maharashtra, who had taken a crucial first innings lead, resumed the fourth and final day on 84 for 4 and they made quite a brave declaration at 211/5, with Rahul Tripathi remaining unbeaten on 123 off just 110 balls, with 17 fours and two sixes. Uttar Pradesh were thus set a stiff target of 357, but they rode on hundreds from opener Almas Shaukat (100) and skipper Karan Sharma (116) to win the match. Rinku Singh also chipped in with an unbeaten 78 off just 60 balls.

# Jadeja, Ashwin overwhelm Sri Lanka in 3 days

**Mohali, Mar 06 (PTI):**

Ravindra Jadeja stood tall with his all-round brilliance as he complemented his unbeaten 175 with nine wickets in India's innings and 222-run win against a Sri Lankan team that looked anything but Test class in a match that ended inside three days.

After being bowled out for 174 in the first innings, Sri Lanka, who lost 16 wickets on the day, were dismissed for 178 in their second essay. In the first innings, they were one short of Jadeja's individual score and in the second they were three more, which speaks about their plight.

India lead the two-match series 1-0, and will like to gain full 24 points from the rubber by winning the Pink Ball Test in Bengaluru, starting March 12.

The match as a contest was over on the first day when India scored 357 and then piled on Sri Lanka's misery with Jadeja toying with a depleted bowling attack. It is after 60 years that an Indian has scored 150 runs and taken five wickets in an innings. Vinoo Mankad, in 1952 against England at Lord's, and Polly Umrigar in 1962 versus West Indies at Delhi, are the other owners of this rare feat. If that wasn't enough, India got as many as 16 wickets on the third day to wrap up the match with a cumulative bowling effort of 125 overs



India's Ravindra Jadeja (L) celebrates with teammate Shreyas Iyer after the dismissal of Sri Lanka's Suranga Lakmal.

across two innings. Jadeja (175 not out, 5/41 and 4/46) made the match his own while Ravichandran Ashwin (4/47 in 21 overs) also had a satisfying run, replacing Kapil Dev (434 in

131 games) as India's second highest wicket-taker with 436 victims. He is now only behind Anil Kumble's 619 scalps.

One of the contemporary greats, Ashwin

## Khawaja misses ton as Australia cuts Pakistan lead to 205



**Rawalpindi, Mar 06 (AP):**

Usman Khawaja narrowly missed out on a century in the country of his birth as Australia's top batters made full use of a placid wicket to reach 271-2 on the third day of the first test against Pakistan on Sunday.

Khawaja, whose family migrated to Australia when he was four, capitalized on two dropped catches to score 97 while his opening partner David Warner (68) and Marnus Labuschagne (69 not out) also scored ag-

gressive half centuries. Bad light and heavy clouds brought an early closure to the third day's play, 21 overs ahead of schedule as Australia batters prospered on a grassless wicket.

Australia still trails by 205 runs in its first test in Pakistan in 24 years after the home team had declared at 476-4 late on the second day.

Labuschagne, who hit nine boundaries, raised his half century under overcast conditions in a shortened last session and vice-captain Steve Smith was

not out on 24 when umpires took the players off the field. The flat wicket has not changed to give any assistance to the bowlers over the last three days with batters continuing their domination in all nine sessions.

Pakistan's only productive period with the ball came when its spinners claimed the wickets of Khawaja and Warner in the second session.

Khawaja had escaped a second chance when on 62 with wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan unable to grab a sharp chance off a reverse sweep against left-arm spinner Nauman Ali (1-49).

However, he attempted the same extravagant shot again against Nauman and was caught close to the wicket when Pakistan successfully called for a television review against onfield umpire Aleem Dar's not out decision. Replays suggested Khawaja had gloved the ball as it ballooned to Imam-ul-Haq at short leg.

## Chennai Super Kings to face Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL lung-opener



**Mumbai, Mar 06 (PTI):**

Defending champions Chennai Super Kings will face Kolkata Knight Riders in the opening game of the 15th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) at the Wankhede stadium here on March 26.

The BCCI on Sunday announced the schedule of the cash-rich league, which will be played across four venues -- Wankhede Stadium and Cricket Club of India in

Mumbai, DY Patil stadium in Navi Mumbai and Maharashtra Cricket Association stadium in Pune.

A total number of 70 league matches and 4 play-off games will be played in the duration of 65 days, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a media release.

There will be 12 double-headers in the tournament and on such days, the first game will be played at 3.30pm and the evening matches will be played at 7.30pm.

## We ticked all boxes, says Rohit

**H**is Test captaincy stint off to a winning start, an elated Rohit Sharma on Sunday said India ticked all the boxes against Sri Lanka in the opening Test of the two-match series here. Ravindra Jadeja stood tall with his all-round brilliance as he followed up his unbeaten 175 with nine wickets in India's innings and 222-run win against Sri Lanka in the match that ended inside three days. After being bowled out for 174 in the first innings, Sri Lanka, who lost 16 wickets on the day, were dismissed for 178 in their second essay. "It was a good start. It was a great game of cricket from our perspective. We ticked all the boxes we wanted to. To be honest I didn't think it is going to be that kind of a Test match which would get over in three days. "It was a good batting pitch, there was some turn and some assistance for the seamers as well," Rohit said at the post-match presenta-



tion ceremony. "Lot of credit to the guys, they bowled very well in tandem, kept the pressure and never made it easier for the Sri Lanka batsmen. We just ensured we applied pressure from both ends. "Good signs for

India cricket. Lot of performances, landmark Test match for Virat (Kohli) and we wanted to come up out here and win the Test first and foremost. It was heartening to see such big individual performances," he added.

achieved the feat in his 85th Test match compared to Kapil's 131 games.

After Rohit Sharma asked Sri Lanka to follow-on after dismissing them for 174, 400 runs adrift of India's first-innings score of 574 for eight, the visitors were in trouble again after Lahiru Thirimanne be-

came Ashwin's 433rd victim. Post lunch, it was first-innings half-centurion Pathum Nissanka whose outside edge to a delivery that didn't turn much, was snapped by Rishabh Pant to complete a memorable feat for Ashwin. In between, Mohammed Shami got Dimuth Karunaratne

(27) to edge one to Pant, who took a low diving catch, while Ravindra Jadeja got his sixth scalp of the game by removing Dhananjaya de Silva (30).

Mathews (27 batting) and Charith Asalanka (20 batting) hit some lusty blows to entertain the Sunday crowd.

## Women's World Cup

# India thrash Pakistan in opener



**Mount Maunganui, Mar 06 (PTI):**

The Indian team thrashed arch-rivals Pakistan by 107 runs to begin their campaign in the ICC Women's World Cup on a rousing note here on Sunday, the much-anticipated face-off ending in a no contest.

Opting to bat after the coin landed in India's favour, in-form opener Smriti Mandhana, Sneh Rana and Pooja Vastrakar struck useful half-centuries to help their team recover from an early wobble and post 244 for seven at the Bay Oval.

Chasing a tricky target of 245, the Pakistan team fell way short of the mark and was all out for 137 in 43 overs, losing its 11th straight game against neighbours India in the 50-over format.

Left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad did the star turn with the ball, returning with excellent figures of 4/31 after her full quota of 10 overs. Seasoned pacer Jhulan Goswami bowled very well to finish the game with impressive figures of 2/29, while there were also two wickets for Rana (2/27), capping off her fine all-round show.

To start with however, the Indians found themselves under pressure after

opener Shafali Verma was dismissed for a duck in the third over.

A 92-run stand between Mandhana (52 off 75 balls) and Deepti Sharma (40 off 57) helped steady the ship. However, Pakistan came back strongly by claiming a flurry of wickets, including the scalps of skipper Mithali Raj (9) and her deputy Haramanpreet Kaur (5). It wasn't a good outing for Raj with the willow but, by turning out in the India jersey on Sunday, the veteran 39-year-old became only the third cricketer after Sachin Tendulkar and Javed Miandad to appear in six World Cups and the first woman to achieve the feat. Raj, though, would take her cheap dismissal in her stride as her team achieved the result it sought. After the early dismissal of Shafali, the duo of Mandhana and Deepti got together to first steady the innings and then build a foundation for Rana and Vastrakar to take their team closer to 250.

Rana (53 not out) and Vastrakar (67) shared a crucial 122-run partnership -- the highest for the seventh wicket in ICC Women's World Cups -- to help boost the India total.

From the Pakistan point of view, the stand

between Rana and Vastrakar hit them hard as they were hoping to restrict India after reducing them to 114 for six at one point. In reply, Pakistan were precariously placed at 78 for five at the halfway point in their innings, 167 runs away from a win.

India were rewarded for some tight bowling early on, limiting Pakistan to just 26 for no loss at the end of the powerplay.

The pressure got to the openers as Javeria Khan departed in the 11th over, trying to take the aerial route.

After that, the Indian spinners continued to keep a lid on the scoring, with Deepti and Rana taking the important wickets of Pakistan skipper Bismah Maroof and Omaidha Sohail respectively. Goswami then got into the act, dismissing thKe settled Sidra Ameen, who was caught behind. Jhulan struck again in her next over to remove Dar for 4 as Pakistan stared at a big defeat. It was pleasing to see Jhulan, even after so many years, running in hard and giving everything for her team.

This is Pakistan's 15th defeat while chasing in the Women's World Cup games.

## AMIT SHAH TO CISF

# 'Develop hybrid security model to train, certify pvt security agencies'

Ghaziabad (UP), Mar 06 (PTI):

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday pitched for a "hybrid" security model where the CISF could train and certify private security agencies so that they can take over the task of efficiently guarding various kinds of industrial and manufacturing units in the country.

He said the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), raised in 1969, worked like a silent "karmayogi" to ensure the country's industrial development and secured the private manufacturing production units as India rode on to become a USD 2.5 trillion-strong economy. In the country's journey from a

USD 2.5 trillion economy to becoming a USD 5 trillion economy, many units in the manufacturing sector will be established and the CISF will face new scenarios, the home minister added. Without elaborating, he said the about 1.64-lakh-personnel-strong force could soon see an enhancement in its role. Shah was speaking at the



Home Minister Amit Shah speaks during the 53rd Raising Day celebrations of the Central Industrial Security Force, in Ghaziabad, Sunday.

53rd Raising Day celebrations of the CISF here. "The work of private security agencies is rapidly increasing... we have brought out rules and regulations for their functioning. Can the CISF take the responsibility of training these private security agencies?" he asked. "Can we prepare some model for say, a private manufacturing unit, that

employs between 1,000 and 5,000 staff? We will have to enhance the efficiency of the private security agencies as the CISF alone cannot render the task of securing the industrial and manufacturing units of the country," he said. The home minister said he believes that it is part of the CISF's work to ensure that all the agencies involved in industrial security are as efficient as the force in securing the sector. A hybrid model of security, where the CISF will prepare the strategy and where both private and the CISF personnel can work, can be developed so that the paramilitary force can gradually come out and hand over these tasks to private security agencies, he added.

## BEAUTIFICATION WORK



A woman sits outside her hut with its walls painted as part of beautification of the city, at a slum area in Kolkata, Sunday.

## 'Mission Hungry for Cargo'

# Railways mapping mining districts for higher freight transport share

New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI):

The Railways is mapping the mining districts across the country to connect them with the rail network in a bid to bite into a bigger slice of the freight transportation pie, officials told PTI.

Under its 'Mission Hungry for Cargo' initiative, the Railways is targeting a 45 per cent modal share in freight transportation from the current 27 per cent. As part of it, zones have been instructed to identify districts and survey the total produce of the mines in their regions and map the rail route around them.

So far, the ministry has approved the survey of

about 100 MT of production capacity mines across the country, officials said. As many as 52 districts have been identified so far. These include Tinsukia, with a production capacity of 0.62 MT, Raiganj 17 MT, Korba, 111 MT and Dantewada 23 MT.

The products include coal, iron ore and bauxite limestone which the Railways wants to transport at competitive pricing. Official figures show the national transporter's market share in transporting goods has been consistently reducing and it has been losing its dominance to other modes of transport like road and even waterways.

The Railways has in-

structed its Business Development Units across zones to go into detail about each major commodity in their areas and make all-out efforts to not only bring back the freight cargo but also add new products to their basket, officials said.

"The idea of mapping these mineral-rich areas is to ensure that we get to transport them on rail. The surveys will identify the nearest railroad to the mine and if there aren't any then we can lay the tracks there.

"The plan is to make railways not only the cheapest but the most convenient transporter of such goods," said a senior railway official.

# Bandh call evokes mixed response

Ranchi, March 06 (PTI):

Jharkhand bandh call given by non-tribal outfits led by Bhojpuri Magahi Maithili Angika Manch (BMMAM) on Sunday to press their demand for

inclusion of Bhojpuri and Magahi in the list of recognised regional languages of Dhanbad and Bokaro districts, evoked a mixed response.

The tribal organisations who oppose the demand, however, termed it a complete failure.

Members of different non-tribal organisations led by BMMAM took to the streets in Ranchi and other districts to try make the bandh a success.

However, the impact of the bandh call was miss-

ing in cities, as markets were open and traffic movement normal like other days.

Bandh supporters were seen marching from Ranchi's Birsa Chowk to Albert Ekka Chowk requesting traders to shut their shops.

Even though traffic was almost normal in Ranchi, number of passenger auto-rickshaws plying the streets were fewer compared to normal days.

The non-tribal outfits are demanding inclusion of Bhojpuri and Magahi in the list of regional languages for Dhanbad and Bokaro districts and are also protesting a move to use the 1932-'Khatiyani' (land records) as proof of domicile in the state.

BMMAM president Kailash Yadav told

media persons, It was a token bandh in the state on Sunday. If government does not include Bhojpuri and Magahi in the list of regional languages in Dhanbad and Bokaro, the agitation will be intensified. We also demand the government drop the idea of a 1932-'Khatiyani' based domicile policy.

Meanwhile, JMM legislator Lobin Hembrom and former Jharkhand minister Geetashree Oraon have termed the bandh call by non-tribal outfits as a complete failure.

The two tribal leaders on Sunday participated in an indefinite agitation staged by Jharkhand Bhasa Sangharsh Samiti (JBSS) near Governor House.

JBSS members have been agitating since

February 24 near Governor House in support of their demands for implementing 1932-Khatiyani based domicile policy.

The JMM legislator assured them that he would request the Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren in assembly on Monday to meet a delegation of JBSS and hear their grievances.

Hembrom told media persons, I am an Adivasi (tribal) first and then a legislator. I have been demanding in the assembly that we implement 1932-Khatiyani based domicile policy and have also sought a deadline from the government for implementing it.

Geetashree Oraon said that the government should clear its stand over 1932-Khatiyani.

## ITBP launches events to mark 75 years of India's Independence

New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI):

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police on Sunday launched public awareness and civic welfare programmes across the country, including at remote frontier locations, as part of celebrations for the 75th year of Independence, an official said. The events will be held for eight days, till March 13, as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav: Desh Ki Hifazat-Desh Ki Suraksha' series.

During the series, ITBP personnel will organise programmes on topics such as the human face of security, honour the families of personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty, band displays and assistance through the wives welfare association, a spokesperson of the force said.

"ITBP will also organise free medical camps, distribution of stationery and sports items for school children in the border regions and Naxal affected areas. Band displays will be held at prominent places in the deployment area of our units," he said.

The events are part of the directives issued in this context by the Ministry of Home Affairs to all paramilitary forces and other agencies under its command, the official said. The ITBP is primarily tasked to secure the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control with China.

## EXCHANGING COLOURS



Members of Bhumihaar Mahila Sabha smear dry colors on each other, ahead of Holi festival, in Patna, Sunday.

## FOR A HUMANITARIAN CAUSE

# Indian medics abroad unite to help peers in Ukraine

New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI):

Need a cab for four people in Kyiv. Do we know someone in Poland who can drop food packets at the border? A group is starting from Kharkiv, any updates on trains?

Thousands of such messages keep pouring in WhatsApp, Telegram and social media groups created by Indian medical students abroad who have volunteered to help their peers stranded in Ukraine amid the Russian invasion. The volunteering students are studying in China, Uzbekistan and Philippines. While many of them are helping from their university campuses, the others are those who had returned to India in the wake of the COVID-

19 pandemic and are attending online classes.

As soon as the news of Indian students being stranded in war-hit Ukraine spread, these volunteers sprung into action. "We were connected with some of the medical students in different countries since we went to coaching institutions together before leaving India.

"We also had multiple groups on Whatsapp and Telegram to exchange updates, notes and other information on Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE), which we are supposed to write to practice in India," P Sharma, a student of China's Harbin Medical University, told PTI.

"When things started

going south in Ukraine, we thought why not use these to help our fellow students stranded there. We collated all contacts and shared the group links on social media. Within two days, there were over 5,000 subscribers in the Telegram group and we made it a virtual war room," he added.

Coordinating across time zones, managing hundreds of messages, watching the news to stay abreast of the constantly evolving situation in Ukraine keeps the young volunteers busy. Another Indian medical student at Cagayan State University in Philippines said the groups receive at least 100 messages every 15 minutes.

# Expenditure limit for candidates increased to Rs 8 lakh

New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI):

The State Election Commission of Delhi has increased the limit of expenditure that can be incurred by a candidate in the elections for the city's three municipal corporations to Rs 8 lakh from Rs 5.75 lakh. Polls for 272 wards of the three civic bodies in Delhi are slated to be held in April. A schedule is yet to be announced by the commission.

"I, S K Srivastava, State Election Commissioner of NCT of Delhi, hereby fix the maximum limit of expenditure to be incurred by

a candidate at an election to a ward of three municipal corporations of Delhi viz North Delhi, South Delhi and East Delhi, to be held hereafter as Rs 8 lakh," said an order issued on Friday.

Civic authorities said in the last municipal elections in 2017, the maximum expenditure limit was Rs 5.75 lakh. In the 2004 MCD polls, the maximum expenditure limit was Rs 4 lakh, which was increased to Rs 5 lakh in 2012.

"It was further increased by Rs 75,000 in the 2017 municipal elections. Now, it will be Rs 8 lakh this time," a functionary of the South

Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) told PTI on Sunday. SDMC councillor from Janakpuri Narendra Chawla hailed the decision and said it would help in establishing transparency during the elections.

"Increasing the expenditure limit is a good move. Some candidates anyway overstepped the prescribed expenditure limits in the previous elections. Those who crossed the limit used to prepare fake bills to fit the expenditure within the limit. But now, this decision of increasing the limit will bring transparency," Chawla claimed.

# 'Abrogation of Article 370 has created big political void in J-K'

Jammu, Mar 06 (PTI):

The unconstitutional and undemocratic decision to revoke the special status of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state has created a big political void and deep uncertainty, CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami said on Sunday.

The former legislator reiterated his demand for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, which was acknowledged by Article 370 of the Constitution. The BJP-led government had on August 9, 2019, abrogated this article and bifurcated the erst-

while state into two union territories Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Through the scrapping of the constitutional rights, downgrading and bifurcating a historic state

into two union territories, not only has the BJP government undermined the basic structure of the Constitution but the relationship between Jammu and Kashmir and the union itself, Tarigami said during the addressing the

10th regional conference of CPI(M) in Jammu unit here.

The conference, which was attended by hundreds of delegates, unanimously passed several resolutions on price rise, unemployment, agriculture, unity in the union territory, labour laws and education.

And the only way to put things back on track is by immediately restoring the constitutional rights and

statehood to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, the CPI(M) leader said.

He laughed off the claims made by the government on increasing investments, development and job avenues in Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of new land and domicile laws saying they were dreams and not reality.

Today, one gets surprised to see the economic condition in Jammu and Kashmir, and the status of jobs. Look what has happened to the land rights people had possessed after a hard struggle.



M Y Tarigami

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### BRIEF



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the unveiling of a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the premises of Pune Municipal Corporation, in Pune district, Sunday.

### Fitness

**New Delhi:** President Ram Nath Kovind on Sunday organised a run at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here to promote fitness and health consciousness as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations, an official statement said. 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' is an initiative of the government of India to commemorate 75 years of independence. The run was flagged off by the President and First Lady Savita Kovind, the statement issued by the President's office said.

### Watery grave

**Jaipur:** A woman and her three-year-old son drowned in a water tank at their residence in Rajasthan's Barmer district on Sunday, police said. The incident took place in Kernada village under Chohtan police station, they said. Krishna Kumar suddenly fell into the water tank at his house and his mother, Chattru Pratapat (25), jumped in to save him. Both of them drowned, Station House Officer Bhutaram Bishnoi said.

### Blast

**Devbhumi Dwarka:** Three people were injured after a gas cylinder exploded in a house in Khambhaliya town of Gujarat's Devbhumi Dwarka district on Sunday, police said. The LPG cylinder, kept in a room on the ground floor of the house, exploded after the gas leaking from it came in contact with an electric spark, an official from Khambhaliya police station said. The persons, aged 18, 19 and 22, suffered burn injuries and they were rushed to a private hospital for treatment, he said.

**Weather**  
High 35 Low 18

## Budget session of State Assembly from today

**Raipur, Mar 06 (PTD):**

The budget session of the Chhattisgarh Assembly will begin from Monday and the state's budget for 2022-23 will be tabled in the House on March 9, an official said on Sunday.

The opposition BJP has decided to corner the ruling Congress over several issues, including the deteriorating law and order situation in the state. On Monday, the session will commence with Governor Anusuiya Uikey's address, followed by tabling of the motion of thanks on her address, the Assembly official said.

The debate on the motion of thanks to the governor's address is proposed for March 8, he said. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, who holds charge of the state finance department, will present the state budget on March 9, he said. Till Saturday, 1,682 questions were received from the leg-



islators, including 854 starred questions and 828 un-starred ones. Besides, 114 notices were received for the calling attention motion and 10 for the adjournment motion, the official said. There will be 13 sittings during the session, which will conclude on March 25.

## 'Will stop if demands met'

**Moscow, Mar 06:**

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday said that the military operation in Ukraine will only be halted if Russia's demands are met. He has also likened the West's sanctions on Russia to "declaring war".

Meanwhile, a second attempted ceasefire in the besieged port city of Mariupol collapsed on Sunday, with Pro-Russian separatists and Ukraine's National Guard accusing each other of failing to establish a humanitarian corridor to allow civilians



Vladimir Putin

to leave. Ukraine has said Russian forces are now preparing to bombard the Black Sea port city of Odessa. The number of people fleeing Russia's invasion of Ukraine has topped 1.5 million, making it Europe's "fastest-growing refugee crisis" since

### 'Assault halts evacuations for 2nd time'

A Ukrainian official says a second attempt to evacuate civilians from a southern city under siege for a week has failed due to continued Russian shelling. Evacuations from the port city of Mariupol were scheduled to begin at noon local time (10 a.m. GMT) during a 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. local ceasefire, Ukrainian military authorities said earlier Sunday. Interior Ministry adviser Anton Geraschenko said the planned evacuations along designated humanitarian corridors were halted because of an ongoing assault. There can be no green corridors "because only the sick brain of the Russians decides when to start shooting and at whom, he said on Telegram.

World War-II, the United Nations said on Sunday. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says Russian rockets have completely destroyed the

### India begins last leg of 'Operation Ganga'

**New Delhi, Mar 06:**

Indian embassy on Sunday said that the last leg of 'Operation Ganga' has begun, asking the stranded students to reach the Hungarian City Center in Budapest between 10 am-12 pm. Separately Indian embassy in Kyiv also urged its nationals who are still in Ukraine to register themselves for the evacuation process under 'Operation Ganga'. "All Indian nationals who still remain in Ukraine are requested to fill up the details contained in the attached Google Form on an URGENT BASIS," India in Ukraine tweeted. The ministry of external affairs in its daily briefing said that around 13,300 people returned to India from Ukraine so far by 63 flights under 'Operation Ganga'.

### FRATRICIDAL INCIDENT

## Five BSF personnel, including assailant, killed in shooting

**In Amritsar camp**

**Amritsar, Mar 06 (PTD):**

A Border Security Force (BSF) jawan allegedly opened fire indiscriminately at its camp here on Sunday leaving four of his colleagues dead and another critically injured, before falling to a bullet, officials said.

The fratricidal incident took place between 9:30 AM and 9:45 AM in the camp of the 144th battalion in the Khasa area of the district, about 12-13 km short of the Attari-Wagah crossing along the India-Pakistan international border, an officer said.

The accused constable, Sateppa S K, 35, hailed from Karnataka.

Officials said he was apparently upset about his duty hours and even fired shots at the vehicle of a second-in-command rank officer that was parked on the campus.

It was not clear if he shot himself or was fired upon by others.

"It could be a ricochet that killed the accused. It is unclear as of now," a senior officer said.

Speaking to reporters, Asif Jalal, who last week took over as the BSF Inspector General for Punjab, denied that there was any enmity or duty-related issue. He said the police and his force were in-



A Border Security Force (BSF) jawan being shifted to Guru Nanak Dev hospital, after a colleague allegedly open fired at a force camp in Amritsar district, Sunday.

### 1 killed, 10 hurt as terrorists hurl grenade

**Srinagar:** A civilian was killed while at least 10 others, including a policeman, were injured after terrorists hurled a grenade at security forces in the Hari Singh High Street locality of the city here on Sunday, police said. "At about 4:20 pm, terrorists hurled a grenade upon police and security forces deployment at Hari Singh High Street," a police official said. He said a policeman and 10 civilians received splinter injuries in the explosion. The injured were rushed to the Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) hospital, where a civilian succumbed to the injuries, he added. The area has been cordoned off and a hunt launched to nab the attackers, the official said.

investigating the cause of the incident. Sateppa had reported feeling unwell last night and was admitted to a nearby private hospital. "This morning, he informed the doctors that he was well and that he should be discharged. After entering the camp, he took his weapon from

the armoury and began shooting indiscriminately," an officer said.

A court of inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the facts related to the unfortunate incident in which five BSF troops were killed at the force camp in Amritsar: a BSF spokesperson said.

## 'Discipline & integrity paramount in force'

**SC upholds dismissal of CISF constable**

**New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTD):**

The Supreme Court has upheld a 2001 order sacking a CISF constable, who had allegedly assaulted an officer after he reprimanded him for sleeping during patrolling duty, saying a sense of integrity, discipline and camaraderie is paramount given the nature of the force.

The apex court observed that the quantum of pun-

ishment is within the discretionary domain and sole power of the decision-making authority once the charge of misconduct stands proved.

Such discretionary power is exposed to judicial interference if exercised in a manner which is grossly disproportionate to the fault, as the constitutional courts while exercising the power of judicial review do not assume the role of the appellate authority, a bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna and Bela M Trivedi said.

The top court delivered its verdict on an appeal filed by the Centre and others against the January 2018 judgment of a division bench of the Orissa High Court which had affirmed the order of a single-judge bench setting aside the punishment of dismissal. It said on merits of the quantum of punishment imposed, the courts would not interfere unless the exercise of discretion in awarding punishment is perverse in the sense that it is grossly disproportionate.

## Govt permits phase-3 trial of Covovax

**New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTD):**

An expert panel of India's central drug authority has recommended permission for conducting a phase-3 clinical trial of Covid vaccine Covovax as a booster dose in adults, official sources said on Sunday. The Drugs Controller General Of India (DCGI) has already approved Covovax for restricted use in emergency situations in adults on December 28. It is yet to be included in the country's inoculation programme. The Subject Expert Committee on

COVID-19 of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation had on Friday recommended giving permission for conducting a phase-3 clinical trial of the single-dose COVID-19 vaccine Sputnik Light as a booster dose. In February, Director, Government and Regulatory Affairs at Serum Institute of India, Prakash Kumar Singh had sought from DCGI nod to conduct a phase-3, observer-blind, randomized, controlled study to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of Covovax as a booster dose in adults.

## Ragging video of medical college goes viral

**Dehradun, Mar 06 (PTD):**

A video of alleged ragging at a government medical college in Haldwani, purportedly showing students with their heads shaven and hands tied at backs walking in a queue around the campus, has surfaced on social media.

While no formal complaint has been lodged with the police by aggrieved students, the college management too has denied any such incident in the college.

## 'Centre focuses on improving metro rail connectivity'

**Pune, Mar 06 (PTD):**

The central government is focusing on improving mass transportation, including the metro rail connectivity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday after inaugurating a metro project in Pune city of Maharashtra.

The total cost of the Pune metro project is over Rs 11,400 crore. The PM had laid the foundation stone for the project on December 24, 2016.

Modi was addressing a public meeting at the MIT College ground here after launching and laying the foundation stone of various development projects



Prime Minister Narendra Modi travels in a metro train during the inauguration of the Pune Metro Rail Project, in Pune, Sunday.

in the city. "...Today, I got the opportunity to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of various projects. I am fortunate that I got the opportunity to lay the foundation stone of the Pune metro and today,

you have invited me to inaugurate the project," he said. "Earlier (during past governments), the foundation laying used to take place, but it was not known when the inauguration of the same project will take place," said Modi.

The inauguration of the Pune metro project shows and sends across the message that projects can be completed on time, the PM said, and appealed to people to travel by metro trains.

Noting that the urbanisation is taking place on a fast pace, he said by 2030, the country's urban population will cross the 60-crore mark.

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# BMC recovers tax above Rs 36 lakhs from defaulters

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 06:** In order to recover the amount of tax from the defaulters, The Bhilai Municipal Corporation Commissioner Prakash Surve had earlier constituted an attachment team. This team is taking action to recover the amount from the defaulters in the presence of police administration in each zone area.

The corporation has so far recovered an amount of more than Rs 36 lakhs. Attachment warrants have been issued to the defaulters under sections 173, 174 and 175. Despite this, strict action is being taken against the defaulters who do not deposit the tax. In the recent action, the at-



achment team in Vaishali Nagar zone area recovered Rs 31706 from Laxmi Narayan, Rs 30354 from Sukhdas Banjare, Rs 40640 from Harishankar, Rs 30280 from Tularam Maske, Rs 28000 from DM Sirkhan, thus recovering a total of 166980.

In zone 1 Nehru Nagar a recovery of Rs 120960 was

made from Lokesh Chauhan near Prajapati Suppliers under Kohka, Rs 132672 from Ramsakhi Kohka thus a total recovery of Rs 253632 and In Zone 04 Khursipar area in RS Market from shop number 52 recovered Rs 106193 from Indira, from Balwinder Kaur near Radha Krishna Mandir

Khursipar Rs 21854, Inderjit Kesarwani near Khursipar Gate Rs 35549, Rs 48892 from Durgesh Yadav Adivasi Nagar, Rs 101972 from Jai Prakash Agarwal, Rs 115218 from Chhote Lal Vishwakarma, thus a total of 429678 have been recovered through attachment.

The process of attachment on the defaulters will continue strictly and action will be taken to recover the amount of tax by attaching the property of defaulters who have not deposited the tax. Sparrow's team and police force, including Parameshwar Chandrakar, Balkrishna Naidu, Malkhan Singh Sori and Anil Meshram were mainly present in the attachment team.

# SAIL Management on the back foot in case of gratuity ceiling

Unilateral orders of gratuity ceiling likely to be revoked

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 06:** The management of Bhilai Steel Plant appears to be coming on the back foot over the matter of gratuity ceiling. The representatives of BSP management were unable to give their statement during the hearing of an industrial dispute raised by Hindustan Steel Employees Union (CITU) before DCLC (C) Raipur.

It needs to be mentioned here that the management had passed a unilateral order on November 26, 2021 imposing a ceiling limit on the gratuity of the employees. CITU had filed an industrial dispute

over this matter. DCLC (C) conducted a hearing over this case on Friday.

CITU General Secretary SP Dey informed that in the protest of this unilateral order, they had submitted an objection letter to the BSP management on November 29, 2021. When the management did not take any positive steps, they moved to the DCLC (C), Raipur on December 04, 2021 and raised an industrial dispute.

The union in its petition stated that as per the agreement finalized by the bilateral committee (NJCS), there was no upper limit in the gratuity

of the SAIL employees. Hence the management cannot pass any unilateral order to impose ceiling on the gratuity of the employees. Without agreement with the workers' unions, BSP management has changed the service conditions of the employees by limiting the retirement benefits. As per the laws, the management cannot pass such orders, the union said.

CITU leader informed that hearings on this industrial dispute were held on January 27, February 04 and March 04, but the management representatives did not submit any documents and further

did not file their reply as respondents.

They added that they are getting hints that the management may withdraw its unilateral order regarding ceiling of gratuity. But CITU is continuously chasing its case cautiously to ensure that the retiring personnel do not suffer any loss. He further informed that CITU is exploring other legal options. Steel Workers Federation of India is also planning to file a petition through the retiring officials at Kolkata High Court. The union anticipates that the workers will ultimately win in this matter.

# DMC camp for ration cards from March 07-09

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 06:** As per the orders of the State government and on the instructions of Durg Municipal Commissioner Haresh Mandavi, ration cards are being made for the people who missed out in the previous occasion. The ration cards for both the APL and BPL beneficiaries will be made at the camps. The camps already held have proved beneficial for the denizens residing within the Durg corporation limits.

Therefore, the camps are being organised again. Beneficiaries are also taking advantage of it and are reaching the camp of their nearest ward with applications. Applications of people who were left out in the OBC



survey are also being accepted in the camp. Commissioner Haresh Mandavi has appealed that this is the last opportunity to get the ration card made

at the three day camp beginning from March 7.

All the families to take advantage of the important schemes of the government must have a ration card. If

they miss the camp then for the ration cards they will have to visit Corporation office later on and apply. So the denizens should take advantage of the camp.

At the camp the applications will be reviewed, physical verification and eligibility will be checked and further action will be taken. The camp will be held on wards 30, 31, 32, 33, Digambar Jain Temple, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, Mohan Bal Mandir Ganjpara, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, Kasaridih, 45, 46, 47, 48 Primary School Vivekananda Auditorium, 49, 50, 51, 52 Government Primary School, Borsi, 53, 54, Government Primary School, Potia, 55, Government Primary School, Pulgaon, 57, 78 Government Primary School, Urla etc.

# Absconding theft accused apprehended

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 06:** Police have arrested a notorious thief who was wanted in several cases of thefts and burglaries. Khursipar Police arrested him when he was hiding in Raipur.

The accused is identified as Sonu alias Bauwa (28) son of Rajbali Sharma a resident of Dr Rajendra Prasad Nagar, Khursipar. He was arrested in connection with the theft of car spares from a truck. Two other accused in this case were arrested earlier.

With the arrest of Sonu alias Bauwa, police have arrested all the three accused of stealing goods from a truck. The accused had stolen car

spare parts worth Rs 2 lakhs.

CSP Vishwas Chandrakar informed that Khursipar Police Station had received a complaint from one Ajay Kumar Yadav of Jarkhand regarding theft of goods from his truck. The victim was transporting car spare parts in his truck bearing registration number MH12-HD-2299.

His truck broke down near Khursipar gate after which he took the vehicle to a nearby garage for repairs. The driver slept in the vehicle that night.

Next morning he found that about 15 boxes of spare parts loaded in the truck were stolen. Unidentified thieves had cut the cover (talpatri)

and had escaped with the goods.

On the directions of SSP Badri Narayan Meena, Khursipar Police team led by Inspector Durgesh Sharma conducted investigations.

Three suspects were seen in the footage of a CCTV Camera installed nearby. One of the suspects appeared to be suffering from paralysis in one of the hands.

On the basis of this information, a police team started searching and finally one Gangu alias Dharmendra and Sheikh Sahil were taken in custody. During interrogation, they confessed to have committed the crime.

They had disclosed that one Sonu also assist-

ed them in the crime. Police had recovered the stolen booty worth Rs 2 lakhs from their possession.

The accused Sheikh Sahil (19) son of Sheikh Salim a resident of Dr Rajendra Prasad Nagar, Khursipar and Gangu alias Dharmendra Tondon (24) son of Lakhman Tondon a resident of Shivaji Nagar Khursipar were earlier booked under the provisions mentioned in section 379, 34 of IPC.

Now the third accused Sonu alias Bauwa has also been sent to jail. Under the leadership of Inspector Durgesh Sharma, Subhash Yadav and Birendra Pal played vital role in arresting the accused.

# Jeevandeep committee honours CMHO Meshram

Central Chronicle News



Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 06:** The members of Jeevandeep Committee honoured the newly appointed CMHO Dr JP Meshram during a simple function held on Saturday. They greeted and extended best wishes to him for the new responsibility.

The members of Jeevandeep Committee informed him about the initiatives taken in the district hospital in the past few months. The members of the committee hoped that under the leadership of Dr Meshram, the facilities in the district hospital would increase further.

Dr Meshram said that

he would work continuously in this direction so that the patients could get the best treatment in the district hospital. Members of Jeevandeep Committee including Dilip Thakur, Dushyant Devangan, Prashant Dongaonkar, RMO Dr Akhilesh Yadav, Rahul Sharma and Yogesh were present.

# Action taken against obstructing traffic and spreading garbage

Rs 3900 recovered as fine from 10 people

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 06:** Durg Municipal Corporation has started taking strict action against those who spread garbage here and there in the city. To keep the city clean, the corporation last Friday took action under the Solid Waste Management Rules.

Under the Cleanliness Survey 2022 it is essential that Durg should be beautiful. Therefore, on the instructions of Municipal Commissioner Haresh Mandavi, encroachment in-charge Durgesh Gupta, in-charge of mar-



ket department Thansingh Yadav, assistant market in-charge Ishwar Verma, Bhuvan Sahu, Shashikant Yadav went for inspection in certain area of the city where 10 people who found to have spread garbage outside the shop. As a result, fine was

imposed on them. Fine was charged against Rajput Hotel Rs 500, Bobby Jatav Rs100, Breakfast Center Rs 500 and Omprakash Chai Baga Rs 100, Sanjay Sahu Rs500, Devangan Auto Rs 500, Babbu Rs 500, Vinod Sen Rs 100, Vishal Rs 100 etc.



A fine of Rs 1000 was imposed on Gunichand Bhawan for obstructing traffic by dumping building material on the road. A total fine of Rs 3900 was collected. While taking action, the team warned the shopkeepers that strict action would be taken if the garbage is

found again in front of shops.

Municipal Commissioner Haresh Mandavi has appealed to all the citizens and shopkeepers of the city to contribute to the cleanliness of the city, the city is their own, make it clean and beautiful.

# 'HSCL Management must withdraw the house rent hike'

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 06:** Voluntary Retired HSCL Employees Organization has decided to continue its protest against the arbitrary increase in house rent by the HSCL management. In the meeting of the organization held on Sunday, convener HS Mishra announced to stand firm against the HSCL Management demanding withdrawal of rent hike.

The meeting of Voluntary Retired HSCL Employees Association was held on Sunday at Steel Club Garden in Sector 8. Third party allottees including retired and voluntary retired employees residing in the houses allotted by HSCL Management were present in the meeting. Presiding over the meeting, the convener of

the organization HS Mishra informed the members that Rs 1000 have been collected from each member for the expenses of contesting a legal case against the management in the High Court. About 470 members have given their contributions. He assured the members that the amount contributed by them would not be misused under any condition. In the meeting, they condemned the management for increasing the house rent by a hundred percent. HS Mishra said that HSCL management has increased the house rent in an inhuman manner. It should be withdrawn immediately. He added that hike in house rent cannot be justified when the matter is pending for hearing in the High Court. Mishra further said that the rent of the accom-



HS Mishra

modation allotted to the retired personnel who have served HSCL for 35 to 40 years has been doubled. On November 1, 2019, an order for doubling the rent was issued from HSCL headquarters, which was implemented by the local management without consulting the organization of retired employees. Whereas in 2015, it was decided not to increase the rent for 10

years during a meeting held in the presence of the office bearers of the organization and MD, Director Finance, General Manager Personnel Administrative at the headquarters located in Calcutta. The rent has been increased by the HSCL Management against its own decision. He further said that the Voluntary Retired Employees Organization has decided to pay the water and electricity charges till the High Court disposes off the matter. But the management is refusing to accept the water and electricity bills stating that it will be taken along with the increased house rent. Mishra added that the management should not hesitate in collecting water and electricity bills as the rent hike case is pending in the High Court.

# St Thomas wins second position in Inter Collegiate Basketball tourney

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 06:** The Inter Collegiate Basketball (Men) Tournament was organised in St Thomas College, on March 05, 2022. St Thomas College, Govt. VYT Post Graduate Autonomous College, Durg and Surana College Durg participated in this tournament. The First match was held between Surana College, Durg and St Thomas College, Bhilai in which Surana College, Durg won the Match. Second

Match held between Surana College, Durg and Govt VYT Post Graduate Autonomous College, Durg in which Surana College, Durg again won the Match. The third Match was



held between St Thomas College, Bhilai and Govt VYT Post Graduate Autonomous College, Durg in which St Thomas College, Bhilai won the Match. Finally Surana College, Durg scored the first position and St

Thomas College, Bhilai scored second position in the tournament.

Principal of College Dr MG Roymon congratulated and presented awards to all the winners and said that winning or losing the game is not important.

Your participation and sportsman spirit is best part of your personality. Mr Singh from Shankaracharya College, Bhilai was the Observer of the tournament.

The referees of tournament were Kiranpal Singh, Gavesh Hirwani, Vinay Janbandhu, Mohan Nishad and Shivam. On this occasion members of St Thomas College Sports Committee, Dr Rincy B Abraham, Dr Sunita Kshatriya, Dr Laxman Prasad, Majju Joy, Akash Tamrakar, Santosh Yadav, Chandan Dekate and

Sports Officer Kailash Narayan Verma were present. The programme was conducted and vote of thanks was proposed by Mahendra Ikhari.

## BJP all set to corner Cong on law & order

**Budget session of State Assembly from today**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 06:** The budget session of the Chhattisgarh Assembly will begin from Monday and the state's budget for 2022-23 will be tabled in the House on March 9, an official said on Sunday.

The opposition BJP has decided to corner the ruling Congress over several issues, including the "deteriorating" law and order situation in the state.

On Monday, the session will commence with Governor Anusuiya Uikey's address, followed by tabling of the motion of thanks on her address, the Assembly official said.

The debate on the motion of thanks to the governor's address is proposed



for March 8, he said.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, who holds charge of the state finance department, will present the state budget on March 9, he said.

Till Saturday, 1,682 questions were received from the legislators, including 854 starred questions and 828 un-starred ones. Besides, 114 notices were received for the calling attention motion and 10 for the adjournment motion, the official said.

There will be 13 sittings during the session, which

will conclude on March 25. Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly Dharamlal Kaushik said the BJP was fully prepared to corner the state government during the session on several issues, particularly the "deteriorating" law and order situation.

Expressing unhappiness over the "curtailed" duration of the budget session, Kaushik claimed that for the first time such a short budget session is being held in the history of Chhattisgarh, which is a

violation of the parliamentary tradition.

"The session has been called only for 13 days. It should have been lengthier as there are a lot of issues that need to be raised in the House. The ruling Congress is trying to escape from the discussion," he claimed.

"We will try to raise all issues of public importance in such a short period. We will target the government over the rising crimes, including incidents of rape and loot. We will also raise the issue of the increasing illegal sale of narcotics and liquor in the state," the BJP leader said. A delegation of BJP MLAs had met Assembly Speaker Charan Das Mahant on Saturday and requested him that the session should not be concluded ahead of its schedule, a leader from the saffron party said.

## SUPERCROSS BIKE RACING



Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel reached Budhapara Outdoor Stadium and joined National Supercross Bike Racing Championship. He greeted people by riding bike. Bike riders from the country and abroad have participated in the championship which has been organized by Chhattisgarh Motor Sport Association on initiative of the Department of Sports and Youth Welfare, Government of Chhattisgarh,

## More effective use of IT in courts of Ch'garh discussed

**Meeting organized in presence of CM Bhupesh Baghel and Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court Justice Arup Kumar Goswami**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 06:** Enhancement of facilities in the courts of Chhattisgarh, more effective use of IT in courts, progress of e-courts and e-challan system, attendance of doctors in courts through video conferencing and various other issues pertaining to High Court and other courts of Chhattisgarh were dis-



cussed at a meeting held at VIP Guest House 'Pahuna' here today in presence of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court Justice Arup Kumar Goswami.

Law Minister Mohammad Akbar, Registrar General of High Court Sanjay Jaiswal, Registry Officer of High Court, Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain, Additional

Chief Secretary Subrat Sahoo along with concerned officials of High Court and State Government were present in the meeting.

Information technology is being used in the courts of Chhattisgarh to make the judicial process convenient and transparent for the citizens and ensure quick availability of information online for the citizens.

## Two cyber frauds complained in separate police stations

**Raipur, Mar 06:** Two cyber frauds have complained in separate police stations during last 24-hours.

The first one, complained in Moudhpara police station was complained by one Raju Naidu who received a call from the unidentified frau who introduced himself as Director of Caring & Forwarding and further told that the complainant that he can deliver farm equipment goods at a very cheap price. Saying so he lured Naidu of transferring Rs 5 lakh, promising to make the delivery soon. While the money was transferred properly, nothing was sent to him.

Police meanwhile have registered an offence under Section 420 IPC and further investigation is now underway.

The other fraud was complained in DD Nagar police

station where complainant Kavita Dev received a call from a phone number 82407-02437 and further told the complainant on pretext of registering her request for serviced over Google. The complainant had searched over Google for courier service.

The fraud lured her if Rs 2.60 lakh on pretext of registering her request. He then asked the UPI pin number of the complainant which she maintained in Bank of Maharashtra and one these confidential details were shared, he siphoned the total amount in three separate transactions.

Police meanwhile have registered an offence under Section 420 IPC against the holder of the above mentioned phone number and further investigation is now underway.

## Free legal aid available to women within 24 hours

**For cruelty, domestic violence and other crimes**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 06:** Legal aid is being given in less than 24 hours in Raipur district in case of cruelty, domestic violence and other crimes against women.

The information about the availability of free legal aid in Raipur district under various schemes of National Legal Services Authority and State Legal Services Authority was given during a discussion between District Judge Arvind Kumar Verma

and Superintendent of Police Prashant Kumar Agrawal.

District Legal Services Authority Raipur has deputed paralegal volunteer Devki Sahu at Mahila Thana here. The volunteer will be present at women police station to provide immediate legal assistance to the victims.

If the victim needs an advocate free of cost or wants the help of an advocate, then the paralegal volunteer will coordinate with the authority and provide her advocates as per rules within a few hours.

There is no delay in providing counsel in such cases.

Apart from this, all the

documents of the victim are also prepared at free of cost through the District Legal Services Authority.

At present, in many cases, free legal aid has been provided by the District Legal Services Authority to the victims within a few hours.

District Judge Arvind Kumar Verma said that District Legal Services Authority would discharge its responsibility of protecting legal rights of every woman. Senior Superintendent of Police Prashant Kumar Agrawal said that the authority and police administration were working in coordination for protecting the legal rights of women.

## Truck driver runs away iron goods worth Rs12,51,621

**Raipur, Mar 06:** In a blatant incident of breach of trust a truck driver has fled which the complainant Manoj Kumar Agrawal had got loaded the consignment in truck number BR32-GB-0375. The consignment was sent to Dhenkanal city of Odisha. Since then Agrawal has been in no contact with the truck driver Rajvinder Singh.

Saraswati Nagar police station have since registered where an offence under Section 407, 408 IPC have been registered against absconding driver and further investigation is now underway.

## Unlocked house burgled in Sejbahar

**Raipur, Mar 06:** Unidentified burglars broke into an unlocked house in Mujhgahan locality while owner Kritika Sahu was away from her house. The burglary came to light on Saturday afternoon when she returned and found the main door's lock broken and missing. She immediately complained the matter in Sejbahar police station.

According to police, the complainant had been to a relative's home from February 25 last during the unidentified burglars entered into house and decamped with cash Rs 21000 and several gold ornaments kept in almirah.

Police meanwhile have registered an offence under 457, 380 IPC against unidentified burglars and further investigation is now underway.

## Axis Bank, SBI Jagdalpur emerge winners



**On the second day of Suresh Agrawal memorial cricket corporate tourney**

**Raipur, Mar 06:** On the second day of the Suresh Agrawal memorial cricket corporate tournament 2 matches were played, the first match was played between Kotak infinity and Axis Bank in which Kotak infinity won the toss and selected to field first.

In the first inning the expe-

rienced batter of Axis Bank made a remarkable score of 147 runs by losing only 6 wickets countering in the second innings Kotak infinity after losing all the wickets could only manage to make 77 runs.

An experienced batsman from Axis Bank Aqib Hussain was rewarded as the man of the match for making 53 runs in 26 balls the hatric six made by him was the Centre of attraction by the audience.

Simultaneously the second match was in between Jaika

Automobiles and State Bank of India Jagdalpur in which Jaika won the toss and elected to bat first. They scored 69 runs after losing 8 wickets and in the second innings State Bank of India Jagdalpur in only 7.3 hours made 73 runs very quickly. In this match experience batsman named Vimesh Verma who made 32 runs in 21 balls was declared as the best batsman of the match and Mr Suresh Naidu who grabbed 4 wickets in 5.3 overs was rewarded by the player of the match respect.

## Bikers snatch cell phone

**Raipur:** Two unidentified bikes on Saturday night snatched the mobile phone of complainant Manoj Kumar Sahu while he riding his Activa bike along with his wife besides old SS Nagar police station on Ring Road no.1. The snatching was soon complained in DD Naga police station where an offence has been registered under Section 379 IPC against the unidentified snatchers and further investigation is now underway.

## Jaydeep elected SGBS youth president



**Raipur, Mar 06:** Shri Gujarati Brahma Samaj (SGBS) youth wing was recently constituted and Jaydeep Dave was elected president for a term of three years while Saurabh Mehta was elected its secretary. Hitesh Vyas, Manish Pandya and

Lokesh Vyas was present as observers when youth wing came into existence. SGBS president Kirti Vyas congratulated the observers for constituting the youth wing and holding elections whereby office bearers were unanimously elected. The office bearers elected were Jaydeep Dave president, Bhavik (Rahul) Vyas and Chirag Pandya vice president, Sourabh Mehta secretary, Bhavin Rawal assistant secretary and Naman Upadhyay treasurer.

## 'CRPF father serves the nation and SSSH saves his son'

Central Chronicle News

**Sukma, Mar 06:** Maram Manju a 21 year old tribal girl's story from Sukma District in Chhattisgarh is a fascinating story of doing the undone. Manju lost her parents at the early age of 7 years and was brought up by Shri Linga, her uncle in the CRPF now serving in the interior naxal infested region. Since Linga was always on national duty without much leave, he could not take care of his sickly little boy, Vikki. Manju being the only girl around with basic education took complete responsibility of the care and treatment of Vikki.

She first took him to the Government Hospital in Sukma. Then went to a private hospital in Bhadrachalam in Andhra



Pradesh. The Doctor there recommended immediate surgery. They approached "Chiraayu Sansthaa" in Sukma who in turn sent them to Government Medical College Hospital, Raipur. On their fourth

visit; they were told that this surgery was not possible here.

Beaten but not broken they sat in an autorickshaw to return. A conversation with Auto driver promptly directed them to

go to Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital (SSSH) in Naya Raipur. They arrived at the Gates of the Hospital.

Manju stayed with Vikki and reported to our OPD on the very next day Echo Cardiography was done and the boy was advised a Covid test. On being tested positive; he was asked to come after one week. The Covid test was done again and Vikki was admitted. Dr. Atul Prabhu, Pediatric Cardiologist, performed an ASD Device Closure and Vikki was back as a normal young boy, he always wanted to be.

Manju states 'I visited so many Hospitals but this is an unbelievable exception. World Class equipment and facilities are available All Totally Free of Cost. Doctors and nurses so

dedicated and committed'.

Manju and Vikki caught the attention of Dr. Atul Prabhu. He gathered from Manju that she had completed her GNM nursing course and had applied for a job in Sukma. He had a word with our Chairman and took Manju and little Vikki to meet the Chairman on the auspicious day of Mahashivaratri. On meeting both Chairman C Sreenivas was moved with this extraordinary real-life story of little Vikki and his father serving in the Naxal infested area and Manju's persistence.

A Gift of Life Program for Vikki and a surprise announcement awaited the Stalwart tribal Girl. After Aarathi on Maha Shivaratri day at Sri Sathya Sai Sowbhagyam; Chairman Sreenivas at

the specially organised Gift of Life Ceremony introduced both Manju and Vikki to the assembly and declared that Manju would join Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani as a Nurse from the 8th of March 2022.

Manju said 'she is overwhelmed and does not have words to describe the sea-change her life underwent. Getting the offer of a job from none other than Chairman Sir on Mahashivaratri Day in Sathya Sai Sowbhagyam and starting her dream career on the International Women's Day is my greatest Miracle and she would cherish this memory forever. She said that she would ever remain grateful to Chairman Sir for reposing considering her worthy and having faith in her'.

## Safe return of 188 students of Chhattisgarh from Ukraine

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 06:** A help centre has been set up in New Delhi by the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to help the citizens of Chhattisgarh during Ukraine crisis. According to the information received from this center, as many as 188 students of Chhattisgarh have safely returned from Ukraine from February 27 to today on March 6 till 5 pm. All students have been provided with the facilities of vehicles, lodging, food, on the instructions of the

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. They have also been safely handed over to their families with booking of air tickets for their return to their hometowns.

According to the information received from Sanjay Awasthi, Joint Housing Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Bhawan, New Delhi 23 students of Chhattisgarh and their 7 families, who are stuck in Ukraine are constantly in touch with this help centre in New Delhi over phone since February 22, 2022.

## SAI approved 7 Khelo India Centers in Ch'garh

**CM Baghel's initiative to promote sports got a huge success**

**State gov't's proposal got approval**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 06:** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's initiative to promote sports got a huge success. The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has approved the establishment of seven Khelo India Centers in Chhattisgarh under the Khelo India scheme on the proposal of the Sports and Youth

Welfare Department of Chhattisgarh Government. Two centers each for Archery and Hockey, one each for Volleyball, Mallakhamb and Football have been approved by the Sports Authority of India (SAI). In these centers, players of respective sports from Chhattisgarh will be selected and trained by national and international level coaches. The Sports Authority of India (SAI) will also provide financial assistance for setting up these centres. Expressing happiness over the approval of seven Khelo India Centers in Chhattisgarh, the Chief Minister said that the players of Chhattisgarh would get a good opportunity to enhance their sports talent. In the coming time,

these players will bring laurels to the state and the country at the national and international level. He said that this has proved to be another meaningful step in realizing the vision of 'Khele Jeetbo Garhbo Nava Chhattisgarh'. Approval has been given to start Archery Center in Shivtarai Bilaspur, Archery Center in Bijapur, Hockey Center in Rajnandgaon, Hockey Center in Jashpur, Volleyball Center in Gariyaband, Mallakhamb Center in Narayanpur and Football Center in Surguja. These Khelo India Centers will be continuously monitored by the Directorate of Sports. Senior players of each sport at local level will be attached to the centre and they will also be given hon-

orary for working as coaches. Equal representation of boys and girls players will also be ensured in all Khelo India Centers. These centers will be registered in the portal of Sports Authority of India. This is the first time that a huge opportunity has been created for the players of Chhattisgarh since the formation of the state. Chief Minister visited Bijapur Academy and promised to start an archery center there. Similarly, seeing the interest and talent of local children in archery games in Shivtarai Bilaspur, the Chief Minister ensured to upgrade it into a state level sports academy. All these promises made by the Chief Minister have been fulfilled today. Rajnandgaon and Jashpur have been famous

as hockey nurseries for a long time, now the new generation will get a good opportunity to enhance their sports talents here. Bastar region remained neglected in sports till now. However, on the instructions of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, special efforts are being made for the development of sports in Bastar, the approval of Khelo India Center is an example. A new opportunity has been created for the football players in Surguja. New opportunities are constantly being created for the players by the Sports and Youth Welfare Department. In the coming time, the players of the state will bring laurels to the state at the national and international level.

## CAMEL RIDE



The camel owners are moving around colonies for a 'camel ride' among children here on Sunday.

## Chemotherapy treatment is now available in district hospitals too

**Free chemotherapy of 1047 patients in the last one and a half years**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 06:** 'Day Care Chemotherapy' treatment is being operated in 17 district hospitals of the state under the 'Dirghayu Ward' scheme of the National Health Mission. Cancer patients of Naxal affected areas and tribal areas are also getting this necessary treatment. Free chemotherapy treatment is being given to patients in 4 district hospitals namely Dantewada, Narayanpur, Bastar and Kanker of Bastar division, and in 4 district hospitals namely Balrampur, Jashpur, Surguja and Surajpur district hospitals of Surguja division. This treatment facility has also been started in district hospitals of Balod, Bemetara, Bilaspur, Gariaband, Janjgir, Korba, Mungeli, Raipur and Dhamtari. Chemotherapy treatment will be made available in all district hospitals of the state in a phased manner. Health Minister Mr. T.S. Singhdeo is committed to providing better health facilities in all areas of the state. On his initiative, new facilities are being started by the State Government's Health Department and the National Health Mission, Chhattisgarh to provide bet-

ter medical services even in remote areas. In the last one and a half years, 1047 cancer patients have been given chemotherapy treatment in these hospitals. Chemotherapy treatment has been provided to 516 patients in Jagdalpur District Hospital, 296 patients in Jashpur, 86 patients in Ambikapur, 37 patients in Surajpur, 24 patients in Kanker, 21 patients in Janjgir, 17 patients in Raipur, 15 patients in Dhamtari, 13 patients in Narayanpur, 12 patients in Bemetara, 03 patients in Balrampur, 02 patients each in Dantewada, Bilaspur, Gariaband and one patient in Balod district hospital. Along with chemotherapy treatment, cancer screening is also being done in district hospitals. In the last one and a half years, 4598 cancer screenings have been done in 17 district hospitals having chemotherapy treatment facilities. Cancer screening has been done for 2063 patients in Jagdalpur District Hospital, 810 patients in Dhamtari, 482 patients in Gariaband, 335 patients in Jashpur, 329 patients in Surajpur, 242 patients in Raipur, 104 patients in Janjgir, 65 patients in Kanker, 47 patients in Bilaspur, 39 patients in Balod, 33 patients in Bemetara, 23 patients in Balrampur, 14 patients in Ambikapur, 12 patients in Dantewada district hospital.

## Cleanliness has been linked to employment in Ch'garh: Daharia

**National Conclave on Social Enterprises for Garbage free city organized in Raipur**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 06:** Minister for Urban Administration Minister Dr. Shiv Kumar Daharia has said that cleanliness has been linked with employment in Chhattisgarh. This has succeeded in making the cities of Chhattisgarh clean. Dr. Daharia was addressing the concluding session of the Social Enterprises for Garbage Free City National Conclave organized at a private hotel in Raipur, here. Delegates from 20 states of the country participated in the National Conclave organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India. Addressing the program, Minister Dr. Daharia said that when we started the cleanliness model, the work in the field of cleanliness was being done very slowly in the state. It has been our endeavor to carry forward the old tradition of cleanliness of the state by keeping it alive. For this we added cleanliness to Narva,



Garva, Ghurva and Bari. We insisted on banning single use plastic. We did not even have the use of plastic in the old tradition, only 'doona pathal' were used. We have now resumed the old tradition. Now people are aware that they themselves refuse to take plastic. He said that we have worked on the basis of 6R policy Rethink, Reuse, Recycle, Repair, Reduce and Refuse, which resulted in reducing the amount of new waste generation. People gave their full cooperation to build community and public toilets in the slum area. Build sludge treatment plant for human sewage management where sewer water is treated. He said that behind the success of

the state, there are more than 10 thousand cleanliness didis. We not only encouraged the didis, but the didis went a step ahead and encouraged every citizen of the state for cleanliness. The basic mantra of success of Chhattisgarh model of cleanliness has been to link waste processing with livelihood. According to the Vedic principle, in the first episode of the formula of Artha, Dharma, Karma, Moksha, the government is playing its religion to strengthen the circular economy by connecting poor women with Artha and also didi are involved in Dharma activities. To make people aware, our didis have done door-to-door training to segregate wet and dry waste and have

played their role diligently in making cleanliness a habit among the people. Dr. Daharia said that the toll free number 1100 has been given to the common citizens for disposal of sanitation related complaints within 24 hours. All public and community toilets have been linked to Google so that people can search their nearby toilets on the phone itself. By collecting dry and wet waste from door to door, processing plants in all the cities of the state, we have taken an innovative work towards making the city garbage free. Along with this, gardens and greenery have been developed there by eliminating the open dump site of more than 150 wastes. All the urban bodies in the state treat

septic tank water. Due to this our Chhattisgarh has become the cleanest state in the country as well as the first ODF plus plus state. In this way, the cleanliness model of Chhattisgarh, which works in the traditional way of Narva, Garva, Ghurva, Bari, has now become the most famous model of the country. While addressing the program, Mayor of Raipur Municipal Corporation, Mr. Ejaz Dhebar said that with the cooperation and guidance of Chhattisgarh government, we are working continuously to make Raipur city the best clean city in the country. He said that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Urban

Administration Minister Dr. Shiv Kumar Daharia are constantly motivating us. While addressing the program, Mayor of Raipur Municipal Corporation, Mr. Ajjaz Dhebar said that with the cooperation and guidance of Chhattisgarh government, we are working continuously to make Raipur city the best clean city in the country. He said that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Urban Administration Minister Dr. Shiv Kumar Daharia are constantly motivating us. The program was attended by Amitabh Jain, Chief Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh, Roopa Mishra, Joint Secretary, Housing and Urban Affairs Department, Government of India, Alarmel Mangai D, Secretary, Urban Administration and Development Department of Chhattisgarh, Mr. Saumilranjan Choubey, CEO of SUDA and other officials, The officials of the Urban Administration and Development Department and the officials of the urban body, including the cleanliness didi, participated. The Swachhata Didis were felicitated by the Minister Dr. Daharia in the program.

## Do research for use of cow urine in agriculture: CS



**Appeal to agricultural scientists for field trial of cow urine**

**Motivate farmers to lift and use vermi compost**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 06:** Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain took a meeting of senior officers of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Kamdhenu Vishwavidyalaya, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Cooperation Department in Mantralaya to prepare an action plan for scientific and systematic use of cow urine in agriculture in the state. Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain said in the meeting that the fertility of the soil is decreasing due to continuous use of chemical fertilizers and toxic pesticides. The excessive use of chemical fertilizers is also having an adverse effect on

the health of the general public. He said that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's intention is to promote the use of organic manure and cow urine in agriculture. He said that high quality organic manure is being prepared in the Gauthan of the state, which is being used by the farmers in agriculture. He appealed to agricultural scientists for academic research for the use of cow urine in agriculture in the state. He said that this would bring out factual information about the properties of cow urine, the amount of different types of elements available in cow urine and its benefits. He also talked about the scientific use of cow urine in the crops to be taken as a demonstration in all the 27 Krishi Vigyan Kendras of the state. The Chief Secretary said that farmers should also be made aware of the condition of crops using organic manure and cow urine, so that they would be motivated to use it in agriculture. The Chief

Secretary further said that cow urine has the predominance of nitrogen and immunity. It can be used as a substitute for chemical fertilizer urea. He also called upon the agricultural scientists of the state to develop scientific techniques for using cow urine in place of urea. Many farmers in the state are using cow urine as a pesticide. He also directed to identify such farmers and organize a state level workshop and collect information about the benefits of cow urine. The Chief Secretary said that the farmers of the state should use the Vermi compost produced in the Gauthans on a large scale, for this there is a need for wide publicity and motivating the farmers. In the meeting, Dr. Girish Chandel, Vice Chancellor of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Vice Chancellor of Kamdhenu University, Commissioner Dr. Kamalpreet Singh, Agriculture Secretary Dr. S. Bharathidasan, Cooperative Secretary Himshikhar Gupta, Director Agriculture Yashwant Kumar, Director Veterinary Services Sanjay Chandan Tripathi and other senior officers were present.

## Kalpesh, Digvinay, Rajesh advance in Inter Institutional TT tournament



Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 06:** Kalpesh Jadwani, Digvijay Singh, Rajesh Agrawal, Varun Pandey, Arvind Sharma and Shailesh Dage were leading in the championship under the Raipur District Inter Institutional Table Tennis Tournament being organized under the aegis of Rajdhani Table Tennis Association (RTTA) here. Providing the above information in a statement issued here, the RTTA Secretary Vinay Baiswade said that Chhattisgarh Table Tennis Association (CTTA) President Sharad Shukla inaugurated the tournament

during which senior Vice President Kishore Jadwani, Goverdhan Sharma, Shakil Sajid and Treasurer Harjeet Hura were also present. In the Group A matches, Kalpesh Jadwani defeated Vimal Nair, Vijay Otvani, Aslam Ali, Khilendra Tunreki and Avinash Tiwari to emerge topper whereas Digvijay Singh defeated Arun Bawaria and Pradeep Janwade in Group B. In the Women's category Renuka Subba and Divya Amade are ahead with their competitors. International Umpire Sishir Gupta is the Chief Referee whereas Pravin Nirapure is Assistant Referee of the tournament.

## Ch'garh Pickelball team to attend National event



Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 06:** Chhattisgarh team will be participating in the National Pickelball tournament being held at Ahmadabad. Providing the above information, the General Secretary of Chhattisgarh Pickelball Association Rupendra Singh Chouhan said that Lukesh Gautam and Ajay

Tandi would be representing Chhattisgarh in Single as well as Double event whereas Radheshyam Tandhi and Ali Asgar would be participating in 40+ category. students are pursuing B.Sc in Hotel Management and Diploma in Hotel Management in the institute. The success of the institute can be evaluated from the fact that five-star Hotel Marriot has offered jobs to 12 students and Hotel Sayaji has offered jobs to 19 students, total 31 students gets the job offer. Mrs. Rekha Shukla, Institute's Principal said that the

talks have been initiated with many other hotels and these hotels have also offered jobs to the students. The Mayfair Hotel regularly invites the students of the institute for an internship. Hotel Management Institute of Chhattisgarh is touching the new height of success in providing new employment opportunities to the youth.

## 31 students of Hotel Management Institute get jobs in five star hotels within a year

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 05:** 31 students of Chhattisgarh Hotel Management Institute have been placed in five-star hotels. After a long time, the institute has been resumed last year on the special initiative of Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel. In a single year, this institute has set new heights of success. Total number of 116

students are pursuing B.Sc in Hotel Management and Diploma in Hotel Management in the institute. The success of the institute can be evaluated from the fact that five-star Hotel Marriot has offered jobs to 12 students and Hotel Sayaji has offered jobs to 19 students, total 31 students gets the job offer. Mrs. Rekha Shukla, Institute's Principal said that the

talks have been initiated with many other hotels and these hotels have also offered jobs to the students. The Mayfair Hotel regularly invites the students of the institute for an internship. Hotel Management Institute of Chhattisgarh is touching the new height of success in providing new employment opportunities to the youth.

# Efforts will be made for establishing central university in Bastar: Governor

Felicitates 95 students with gold medals

Attends 3rd Convocation ceremony of Shaheed Mahendra Karma Vishwavidyalaya

Jagdalpur, Mar 06:

Governor Anusuiya Uikey attended the 3rd convocation ceremony of Shaheed Mahendra Karma Vishwavidyalaya in Bastar on Saturday. The Governor cum Vice Chancellor Anusuiya Uikey on occasion of this convocation ceremony felicitated 95 students of the University with gold medals. Degrees were distributed to students graduating from Graduation and PG courses in 2019-20 and 2020-21. Addressing the convocation ceremony, Governor Anusuiya Uikey said that among the medal receivers, 75% of them are girls and which is indicative of the fact that girls are not lagging behind in any field. With their capa-



bilities, skills and commitment, they (girls) are ready to write new history of India, she added.

Uikey further said that in such a natural surrounding and beauty of Bastar, the students remained focussed towards their target amidst Corona pandemic is worth appreciating and it is with their sheer hard work and dedication that they achieved

their target. Uikey said that this University established in remote tribal dominated area has provided opportunity to students from far-flung area in higher studies. She said that in order to achieve the dreams of higher education by tribal youths in Bastar region, all should make efforts to establish central university in Bastar. Governor speaking

to students said that since they are all directly connected to the society in order to be aware of geographical, economic and social situation here. On going out from Bastar, she appealed students to inform others about the simple, natural and cordial behaviour of tribals and rich natural flora-fauna of Bastar region. She said that it is time for the youth

to return something back to the society and appealed all to fulfill their responsibilities and be part of progress and development of state and country.

The main speaker on the occasion former V-C Patna University Dr Arun Kumar Sinha chairing the programme held education as a constant flowing stream. He held the formal education along with informal education necessary for personality development. Chancellor Dr Shailendra Kumar Singh on this occasion gave information about development works in Shaheed Mahendra Karma Vishwavidyalaya. On this occasion LS MP Phulodevi Netam, Deepak Baij, Chairman Bastar Tribal Development Authority Laksheshwar Baghel, parliamentary secretary Rekchhand Jain, Mayor Safira Sahu, and lecturers and students of the University were present in large number.

# 'Majratola Vidyutikaran Yojana' to provide electricity to many villages

On the initiative of MLA Gulab Kamro



Manendragarh, Mar 06: Even after so many years of independence, basic facilities like electricity have not been restored in many unreachable areas of Bharatpur-Sonhat assembly constituency, but now with the meaningful efforts of regional MLA Gulab Kamro, lantern era is about to end, and an amount of about Rs.5 crore has been sanctioned by the state government for electrification in 11 un-electrified villages under the assembly constituency, which has created an atmosphere of joy and enthusiasm among the villagers. MLA Kamro has expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Speaker of the Assembly Dr. Charan Das Mahant for sanction-

ing a huge amount for basic facilities like electricity. Let us inform that since independence in the assembly constituency by Surguja Area Tribal Development Authority (Minister of State) and Bharatpur-Sonhat MLA Gulab Kamro, electricity facility has been provided under the electrification scheme in the electrified villages which are suffering from lack of basic facilities like electricity. On the demand of the MLA, Rs 4 crore 70 lakh 55 thousand 960 has been approved under the Chief Minister Majratola Vidyutikaran Yojana. With the sanctioned amount, electrification work will be done in 6 villages of Bharatpur block, 1 of Sonhat block and 11 villages of Manendragarh block.

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**Villages to be electrified**  
The villages which are to be electrified under Mukhyamantri Majratola Vidyutikaran Yojana include Mannaur, Mainpur, Karva, Murkil, Thiskoli and Neuer of Bharatpur, Sonhat development block, village Mendra and Padeva, Hanspur, Bodra Tola of Manendragarh development block. (Biharpur) and Nawadih. Here electrification works will be done on priority basis at a cost of Rs 4 crore 70 lakh 55 thousand 960.

# Legal awareness camp held in Gram Parasbod

Khairagarh, Mar 06: As per instructions from President District and Taluk Vidhik Sewa Pradhikaran (TVSP) Rajnandgaon, a legal and law awareness camp was organised in Gram Parasbod on Feb 2. In the two-day 'Ramayan Manas Gaan' competition, thousands of religious lovers came to hear about discourse on 'Ramcharitramanas'. So here the para legal volunteer gave information to people about laws and legal awareness. Addressing the people he informed about PCO Act 2012 and said that through this children are being provided safety from cases of atrocities, pornography and other serious crimes. Any type of sexual misconduct by children above 18 yrs comes under this crime and law. Under his law, a convicted can be sentenced imprisonment upto 7 yrs. It is by extending support towards young girls that they can be kept safe and prevented from falling prey to such heinous crime.

# Nagar Palika engineer inspects ward No. 2

To become familiar with problems faced



Dongargarh, Mar 06: On disclosure about encroachment on half-constructed 'Sulabh Shouchalaya' in ward no. 2 of city and it is after taking stock of all other problems by Nagar Palika officer Yaman Dewangan, the Engineer

from Nagar Palika Kishore Thakur and anti-encroachment team in-charge Amar Karse along with ward corporator Rajesh Gajbhiye and ward residents conducted inspection, so that the ward can be freed from all its

problems and work can be started in this direction. It is notable that Hindi daily has raised this issue prominently and it is taking cognizance of the same that the local administration took to its heels. Ward Corporator Rajesh

Gajbhiye apprised the Engineer of Nagar Palika and other employees towards the problems existing in the ward and informed them that all the roads in the wards in bad condition. On top of it, with no regular cleaning of drains, it has become clogged and resulting in awful odor and people are forced to live in such atmosphere, posing threat to various diseases.

During this inspection President Yuwa Boudha Samiti Manoj Sahare and other ward residents were present.

# Non-passing of Rs 20 cr bill delays construction of bridge

Konta, Mar 06:

## Konta residents suffer due to slow pace of bridge construction

State Government gave approval for construction of Konta-Motu culvert in Konta town of Sukma district 07 years back to the contractor of VCB Construction with the objective of facilitating the means of transportation of Odisha-Chhattisgarh. But till date it is not completed. The government is busy laying the foundation stone of a new bridge, but no interest is being shown in completing the bridge being built for seven years on the vital Shabari river.

Bill of Rs 20 cr not passed by the govt: Contractor



Regarding the construction work of Konta-Motu

bridge, the then contractor Ashok Sengar said that

since the year 2017 till date, the payment of bill for construction work of Rs 20 cr has not been given and due to which the construction of the bridge is getting delayed. When the money is withheld, how will the construction work of the bridge be accelerated?

If you give the bill which is to be paid, then I will complete the bridge in just three months and give it, says the contractor. The bridge work will not be completed until the bill is received. And the residents of Konta Nagar will have to wait for the completion of the bridge till then.

# BJYM to continue protest till justice is done

Dongargaon, Mar 06: With wish to provide 'sadbuddhi' to anti-tribal Congress, the BJP workers and office bearers on 7th day of their indefinite hunger strike, organised 'havan' in Dongargaon and demanded compensation of Rs 50 lakh to the family members of tribal farmer from Khujji Vidhan Sabha from Kumarda Bus Stand area.



The people from Adivasi Samaj and other sections of the society are sitting on hunger strike in order to ensure justice to family members of deceased tribal farmer along with widow Gaiindakunwar, who is also

sitting on hunger strike along with his 3 children. In the indefinite hunger strike being organised near Kumarda Bus Stand, the BJP is now staging protest in a do or die battle. From

the BJP corporator's team Khemin Yadav, Arun Damle, Ranu Jain, Gagan Aich, Vijay Rai, Gajju, Arun Sahu, Montu Yadav, Ajay Cheriya, Ashish Dongre, Kamlesh Bandhe,

Sewak U ikey and other reached the venue and extended their whole-hearted support. The BJP's Yuwa Morcha (BKYM) Kumarda Mandal state secretary Kailash Sharm addressing

the gathering said that it is outcome of fault on part of the local administration that Suresh Netam has to face in terms of his death. Kishnu Yadu, Manishankar Gupta, Arun Dewangan addressing the programme charged that Congress government is not sensitive towards tribals in Chhattisgarh and has failed on all fronts to provide justice to tribals. The wife of the deceased had to stage sit-in to get justice

and they all advocated for continuing 'dharna' till their demands of the widow and her family are fulfilled. On the 7th day of hunger strike, Late Suresh Netam's wife Gaiindakunwar, her three innocent sons Tanuja, Sudha and Lokita Netam, Harila Kaushal Chandravanshi Janpad member, Hriday Dewangan, Kissan Morcha, Annnt Tiwari, Bhupendra Mishra, and other took part in this strike on Sunday and extended their support.

In this strike on Sunday, hundreds of BJP Khujji VS party workers, villagers, farmers, labourers, women openly extended support.

# Shortage of building for ration purpose: Dewangan

In Supela

Anwari, Mar 06: There are about 10-12 buildings of every Samaj in Gram Panchayat Supela by the government, but there is no building vacant for ration for the consumers. Former Rural President Dashedel Dewangan of Supela informed that in every bhavan, there are about 2-3 or 5 persons dominating with personal ownership.

On the other hand, Dewangan charged in some other 'bhavans', some people have given it

on rent and earning monthly rental. Further he said that the government this time has decided to allot 2 month's ration at one time, but with no government building available, due to this the Sarpanch is not showing any interest. Therefore he urged the government and local administration to get these government buildings to Samaj vacated and then give it for social or government works and demanded action against those who are claiming personal ownership in these buildings.

# 'Panchayat Sachivs' to take out rally today

By BPSS Khairagarh office bearers in support of their one-point demand

Khairagarh, Mar 06:

In support of their pending demands, Panchayat Sachivs will now take out 'Vada nibhao Rally' tomorrow and prior to taking out rally, the office bearers of Khairagarh Block Panchayat Sachiv Sangh (BPSS) submitted memorandum in this regard to the Janpad CEO and informed about it.

Sachiv Sangh (CPSS) was held in Raipur on Feb 20. In this it was decided that all the BPSS Khairagarh members would stage protest in front of Collector's bhavan, below SBI ATM over-bridge and then take out 'Vada Nibhao Rally'.

After this another 'Vada Nibhao Rally' will be taken out on March 9 in support of other pending demands in the state capital and would go otu for Vidhan Sabha gherao and hold demonstration.

It is notable here that prior to this also 'Panchayat Sachivs' in support of demand for merger has staged demonstration and now once again with demand for regularisation as government employee they will be staging dharna.

# Jaishri Tamrakar of Manikanchan Kendra felicitated

By BCC President Yashoda Nilamber



Khairagarh, Mar 06:

BCC President Yashoda Nilamber Verma felicitated the in-Charge of Manikanchan Kendra run in Dharampura ward of city. It is notable here that Manikanchan Kendra In-Charge along with

Swachchata Didis, are contributing for sanitation in the city and collection of waste.

Along with this Manikanchan Kendra is also making good products from waste viz. pots, night lamps, Chandeliars, baskets etc. In the same way

they are also making items like 'diyias', 'Rakhi', wood from cow-dung, soap, 'dhoop', incense sticks, paints etc.

In addition to this they are also making items of day-to-day use like 'Nirma', 'perfume', 'Handwash', 'sanitizer',

'Phenyl', lip bam, liquid use for cleaning utensils and by using papers they are making paper bags, basket, paint etc.

Getting influenced from this work of 'Swachchata Didis' the government has felicitated only 25 centres from all over Chhattisgarh and from Rajnandgaon district, it is only the Manikanchan Kendra of Dharampura which was felicitated.

Verma on reaching Manikanchan Kendra felicitated Jaishri Tamrakar and her entire team and motivated them to continue work in the same manner in the near future. On this occasion District V-P Nilamber Verma, Block General Secy Prakash Verma, Dayalu Verma, Vijay Verma, Komal Verma, Avadh Verma, Baldev Verma were present.

# CJ Arup Goswami inaugurates BACL



Bilaspur, Mar 06: Under the aegis of Chhattisgarh High Court Bar Association, Bilaspur Advocate Cricket League (BACL) was inaugurated on Saturday at the hands of Chief Justice of Bilaspur High Court Arup Kumar Goswami. On this occasion CJ who himself is a former Ranji Trophy player too to crease for one over. Speaking on this occasion CJ underlining the importance of sports in life termed it as a medium to achieve discipline and lead a healthy life. In BACL 12

teams are participating which include two women team too. Three matches will be played on every Saturday and Sunday and matches are to start from 8:00 am. At the inauguration ceremony CJ was present as chief guest while other special guests were Justice Gautam Bhaduri, Justice Parth Pratim Sahu and Justice Deepak Kumar Tiwari. On this occasion Advocate General of High Court, president of District Bar Association and other invited guests were present.

## BRIEF

### Corridor

**Bhubaneswar:** The Odisha government in collaboration with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is planning to develop an economic corridor from the port town of Paradip to Barbil in Keonjhar district. In a meeting to review the progress of various national highway projects, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra said that the state government will provide all necessary support for land acquisition with industrial potential.

### Plans

**Agartala:** The Tripura government plans to establish a film institute in collaboration with Kolkata's Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI) and a campus of the National School of Drama (NSD) in the state, Chief Minister Biplab Deb said. Deb said that project proposals amounting to Rs 100 crore have been sent to the Ministry of Culture for approval.

### Agripreneur

**Kathua:** After serving the Indian Navy for several years, Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua resident Dheeraj Kumar is now the talk of the town, this time for his success as an agripreneur. Kumar cultivates three varieties of strawberries - Camarosa, Winter Dawn and Nubila - at his fields measuring 22 kanals (2.75 acres) in his native Hariipur village in Hiranagar border sub-division.

### Rescued

**Jammu:** Three years after she allegedly went missing from Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch, a young woman was rescued and her alleged abductor arrested from Dehradun in Uttarakhand. In 2019, a complaint had been lodged at the Mandi police station alleging that a 15-year-old girl was abducted by a local youth. The woman, now 18, and her alleged abductor, who is now aged 23, were brought back to Poonch and investigation underway.

### Irregularities

**Jaipur:** The Rajasthan government said it has suspended three officials with immediate effect in connection with irregularities in construction works pertaining to a panchayat samiti in Nagaur district. The officials face the allegation that they paid more than the fixed Basic Schedule of Rate (BSR) to the construction firm from 2015 to 2018.

### Survey

**Gurugram:** Days after nine people were killed in two separate accidents on Golf Course Road here, the police along with NHAI officials and a team of road engineers surveyed the mishap stretch in a bid to make it safer. In a related development in the wake of the twin accidents, police also increased the deployment of its traffic units, erecting over 13 traffic check-posts on roads for closer monitoring of the traffic and thwart the maladies.

## Liquid explosives return to terror theatre in J-K



Explosive seized in Jammu.

**Srinagar, Mar 06 (PTI):**

Liquid explosives appear to have returned to the militancy theatre of Jammu and Kashmir after 15 years with a consignment of three bottles of a white liquid recently being air-dropped by drones entering from Pakistan along the international border in Jammu, officials said on Sunday. Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police Dilbag Singh, during his recent interaction

with the media in Jammu, had hinted at the recovery of some chemical explosives and the same being sent to a forensic laboratory. Preliminary examination indicates it could be trinitrotoluene (TNT) or nitroglycerine, generally used in dynamites, but a final report was awaited, the officials said. The liquid explosive material, white in colour, was packed in three one-litre bottles and was part of the consignment dropped by drones, which had taken

flight from neighbouring Pakistan, on February 24.

After a thorough search, police recovered improvised explosive devices (IEDs), arms and ammunition, and these three bottles, along with detonators, the officials said, adding that the consignment was meant to be smuggled into Kashmir for terrorists or for possible use at a crowded market of Jammu.

They said Jammu has been a target of terrorist groups operating from Pakistan who want to trigger a communal clash in the city. So far, the Jammu and Kashmir Police has been able to thwart four such attempts.

The officials did not rule out the possibility that such explosives may have found their way into the Kashmir valley as some drone droppings, according to intelligence reports, could have succeeded.

## Jagan Govt in fix over AP capital Amaravati issue

Amaravati now presents desolate look

**Amaravati, Mar 06 (PTI):**

The YS Jagan Mohan Reddy regime is putting up a brave face on the three capitals' issue, knowing fully well that it is legally on a weak wicket.

Following the Andhra Pradesh High Court's March 3 verdict, that the state Legislature lacked competence to make any legislation for shifting, bifurcating or trifurcating the capital, the state government is literally not in a position to either go forward or backward.

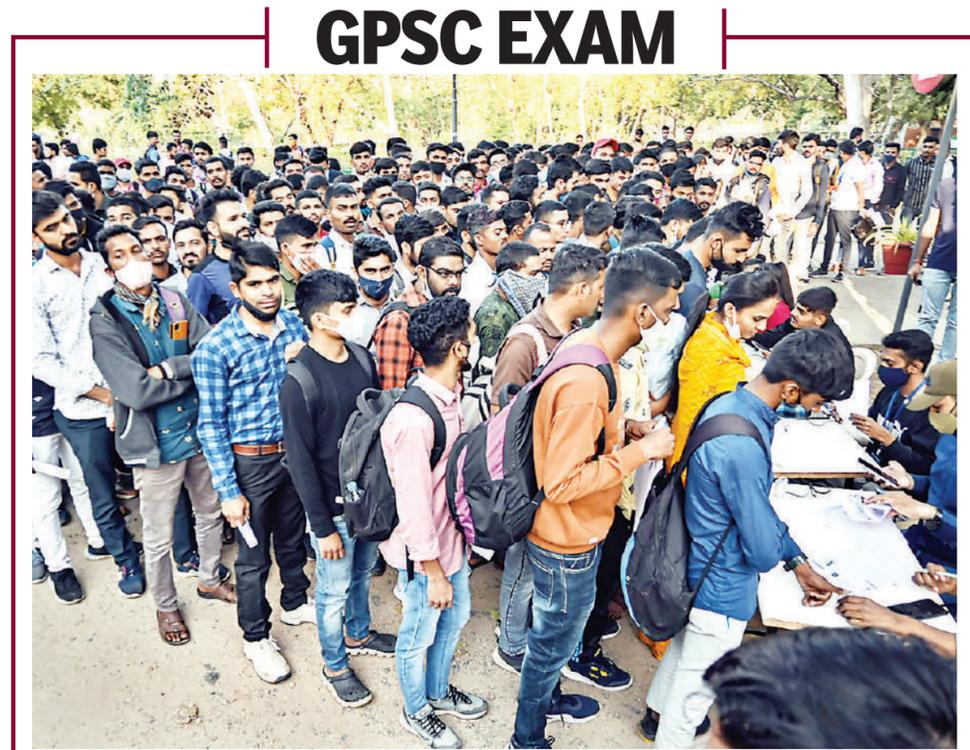
But still, the ruling dispensation is making noises that it will somehow or the other go ahead with its decentralisation plan and establish multiple capitals



A view of Amaravati.

for the state. To avoid any further legal complications, though, the government is claiming it's not shifting the capital as such, but only decentralising the administration. Importantly, the ruling YSR Congress is seeking

to make three capitals' a political issue and, in the first step, debate it in the Budget session of the Legislature beginning Monday. The state government actually has only two options: implement the High Court verdict and de-



Aspirants wait in queues to appear in Police Sub-Inspector (PSI) examinations of Gujarat Public Service Commission (GPSC), in Ahmedabad, Sunday.

## GPSC EXAM

## Nitish Kumar dedicates 'Blood Collection Center' to public

**Patna, Mar 06:** Chief Minister of Bihar Nitish Kumar inaugurated Maa Blood Center 'newly constructed by Maa Vaishno Devi Seva Samiti near Brahmasthan temple Daryapurghola, PS Purbahore, Patna on February 27, 2022. MP Rajya Sabha Sushil Kumar Modi, Health Minister Bihar Mangal Pandey, Building Construction Minister Bihar Ashok Choudhary, Legislative Councilor Lallan Sarraf, Acharya Kishor Kunal, Former I.P.S Chhotu Singh, Social Worker, Patna, Sunil Kumar, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Central Sector, CRPF, Lucknow (inhabitant of Patna) and other dignitaries of the society as a special guest in the inaugural programme of Maa Blood Center were also witnessed the function. Sunil Kumar, Deputy Inspector General of Police, has given his services from 2012 to June 2016 in Mata



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## PWD to revamp arterial Delhi roads

**New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI):**

Delhi's Public Works Department (PWD) will soon revamp its arterial roads having 30 metres or more right of way (ROW) following instructions from the city government to strengthen such stretches, officials said on Sunday.

These roads include Flag Staff Road, Sachivalaya Road, Velodrome Road, Satyagrah Marg, Club Road and IG Stadium slip road, among others, the PWD officials said. "This exercise will be separate from the regular maintenance drill of the major arterial roads. This exercise will focus on smaller arterial roads, tributary roads to bigger ones, slip roads etc. "An amount of

Rs 8.55 crore has also been set aside for the strengthening of such stretches," a PWD official told PTI on condition of anonymity.

Under the strengthening exercise, the PWD will adopt a "tailor-made solution" approach, which means that the identified roads will undergo minor repair work and resurfacing or recarpeting depending on the requirement.

The PWD manages roads in Delhi that are wider than 60 feet, while smaller roads are managed by municipal corporations. The PWD manages around 1,260 km of roads. According to the PWD official, this decision comes after complaints were received regarding the bad condition of roads in different areas of the city.

## Varun, Digvijaya demand measures to help returned students



Varun Gandhi and Digvijaya Singh

**New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI):** BJP MP Varun Gandhi on Sunday said that medical students returning from Ukraine should be structurally integrated into Indian institutions by relaxing rules, while suggesting that the NRI quota of medical colleges be utilised for them.

Underlining that the war in Ukraine has mentally broken the students,

many of them, an education stint in Ukraine has meant spending Rs 15-30 lakhs in savings to gain education at a college that has probably been destroyed by now, Gandhi said.

"Many of them suffer from mental trauma, exacerbated by a disrupted education and poor job prospects back in India, while loans pile on. We need to structurally integrate them into our education system," Gandhi said while suggesting that the NRI quota in medical colleges could be utilised for such students.

He further said the integration of these students in medical education system will help in improving the medical system when the next pandemic comes.

There are over 20,000 Indian students who are in the process of being evacuated from Ukraine. For

## Hot cuppa with a side of politics

**Varanasi, Mar 06 (PTI):**

As Varanasi gets ready to vote, tea stalls in the city are abuzz with political discussions and tea sellers have been busier than usual ensuring what appears to be an endless supply of steaming hot cups.

Tea sellers say their sales have increased over the past month, which witnessed high-decibel campaigning by political parties and leaders.

A few tea stalls have had some high-profile visitors. Pappu, who runs a humble tea stall in Assi area, played host to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday.

Modi, who represents Varanasi in the Lok Sabha, made a stopover at 'Pappu ki erri' (tea stall) near Banaras Hindu



Prime Minister Narendra Modi drank tea at Pappu tea stall in Varanasi during campaign.

University when he was returning after offering prayers at the Kashi Vishwanath temple.

Union Minister and BJP's election in-charge

for Uttar Pradesh Dharmendra Pradhan was waiting for the prime minister at the tea stall.

Modi sat on a bench inside the tea stall like a

commoner. When asked by an overawed Pappu what he would like to have, the prime minister said, "Banaras ki kulhad chai, jo sab ko pilate ho (Banaras' kulhad' tea that you serve to everyone)."

A photo online showed Modi holding up his 'kulhad' (earthen cup) as the tea seller poured tea into it from his kettle.

Modi, who has said he sold tea with his father as a child, also interacted with some locals at the tea stall.

Brisk business for tea sellers has also meant greater demand for 'kulhads'.

Kailash Rai, a tea seller in Mahmoorhganj, said due to the increase in demand for tea, he is finding it hard to procure an adequate number of 'kulhads'.

## 'Some leaders blaming WB BJP top brass for civic poll fiasco'

**Kolkata, Mar 06 (PTI):**

BJP National Vice President Dilip Ghosh on Sunday said a section of leaders who had evaded responsibilities in the past are now shifting blame on the state leadership for the party's poor performance in the recently held civic elections. His remarks came amid claims by party MP Lockett Chatterjee among other leaders that the state unit should introspect and find the reasons behind the poor show in the municipal polls and by-elections instead of just levelling vote rigging charges against the ruling TMC. Ghosh, while talking to reporters, said, "It is easy to pass sweeping comments. "Those who did not



Dilip Ghosh

work on the field during polls and evaded their responsibilities are making such critical comments, blaming the party... But what have they done for the organisation in the recent times?" He, however, refrained from taking names. The TMC bagged 102 of the 108 municipalities that went to the polls

last month. The CPI(M) and a Darjeeling-based outfit, Hamro Party, won one each while four urban bodies saw a hung house.

The ruling party with 63.45 per cent of the total votes polled emerged as the undisputed leader, with CPI(M) a distant second with 14.13 per cent of votes and BJP a close third with 12.57 per cent votes.

The saffron party had also fared poorly in the Kolkata Municipal Corporation elections. Veteran BJP leader Athagata Roy, who has often been critical of the party's style of functioning in Bengal, recently tweeted that the state unit's "ostrich-like behaviour" has led to its downfall.

## Eclectic mix of poll symbols in Delhi civic polls

'Ganna Kisan', noodles bowl, ice cream

**New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI):**

Independent candidates contesting the Delhi civic body polls this year will have an interesting mix of around 200 election symbols to choose from, including 'Ganna Kisan' (sugarcane farmer), 'Nagriki' (citizen), noodles bowl, ice cream, a range of daily use items, fruits, vegetables and kitchen appliances. The State Election Commission, Delhi, has notified that the election to 272 wards of three municipal corporations is scheduled to be held in April. The list of 197 poll symbols was issued on Friday by the Commission in its 'Municipal Corporation of Delhi Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 2022'. The 'free symbols' meant for independents and candidates of unrecognised parties include fruits like apples, grapes and pineapple; food items like biscuits, cake, bread; kitchen items

like pressure cooker, mixee, bread roller and many other electronic items. A few of the relatively obscure symbols like electric pole, gift pack, extension board, wall hook, envelope and door handle also find a place in the list. According to the order, each independent candidate will mention three preferences of chosen symbols in his nomination paper. In case more than one candidate falls for the same symbol, the returning officer of the elections will conduct a draw of lot for allocation of the symbol.

The candidates of national parties, including the All India Trinamool Congress, BSP, BJP, CPI, CPI(M), Indian National Congress and Meghalaya-based National People's Party will be allotted reserved symbols.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) recognised by the Election Commission of India as "Delhi State Party" has 'broom' symbol allotted to it, said the order.

## BRIEF

### Shoot

■ **Jerusalem:** Police shot and killed a Palestinian attacker after he stabbed an officer in Jerusalem's Old City, Israeli police said. The attacker approached officers who were stationed and stabbed one of them, injuring him lightly. The officers opened fire and shot and killed the man, identified as 19-year-old resident of east Jerusalem.

### Tornado

■ **Des Moines:** Six people were killed when a tornado swept through Iowa in US, damaging buildings and knocking down trees and power lines, authorities said. Emergency management officials in Madison County said four were injured in addition to those killed when the tornado touched down in the area southwest of Des Moines. Among those killed were children and adults. This is the worst anyone has seen in a very long time.

### Injured

■ **Mexico City:** At least 22 people were injured, including two critically when fans brawled during a soccer game in central Mexico. The match between the host Queretaro and Atlas from Guadalajara the reigning league champion was suspended in the 62nd minute when multiple fights broke out in the stands. Security personnel opened the gates to field so that fans could escape the stands. Fights moved to field with punching and kicking.

### Onslaught

■ **Nuremberg:** When Russia launched its war on Ukraine, a Syrian student in the city of Kharkiv joined the exodus of people fleeing the onslaught. It was the third time that 24 year old Orwa Staif, who grew up in the suburbs of Damascus, was being displaced by war and crises. For Staif, it was a jarring deja vu as columns of people, many on foot, carrying what few belongings they could. He had seen it all before, in his native Syria.

### Support

■ **London:** The importance of family support, the determination to succeed against all odds, a strong work ethic and optimism for the future are among the factors identified behind the success of the Indian diaspora in the UK, according to new research released in London. 'India in the UK: The Diaspora Effect 2.0', compiled by Grant Thornton and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and launched.

### Soured

■ **Irvine:** After fleeing her home in now-Taliban controlled Afghanistan, Mozghan Entazari did everything she could to find a new one for her family in the sunny, palm tree-lined communities of Southern California. The 34 year old mother of two scoured options on Zillow with her husband, while the family lived at a hotel in Irvine, south of Los Angeles.

# War in world's 'breadbasket' threatens food supply

● **China will improve layout of defence technology and industry**

Barcelona, Mar 06 (AP):

The Russian tanks and missiles besieging Ukraine also are threatening the food supply and livelihoods of people in Europe, Africa and Asia who rely on the vast, fertile farmlands of the Black Sea region known as the 'breadbasket of the world.'

Ukrainian farmers have been forced to neglect their fields as millions flee, fight or try to stay alive. Ports are shut down that send wheat and other food staples worldwide to be made into bread, noodles



Last year's image shows farmers harvest with their combines in a wheat field near the village Tbilisskaya, Russia.

and animal feed. And there are worries Russia, another agricultural powerhouse, could have its grain exports upended by Western sanctions.

While there have not yet been global disruptions to

wheat supplies, prices have surged 55% since a week before the invasion amid concerns about what could happen next. If the war is prolonged, countries that rely on affordable wheat exports from

Ukraine could face shortages starting in July, International Grains Council director Petit Arnold told The Associated Press.

That could create food insecurity and throw more people into poverty in places like Egypt and Lebanon, where diets are dominated by government-subsidized bread. In Europe, officials are preparing for potential shortages of products from Ukraine and increased prices for livestock feed that could mean more expensive meat and dairy if farmers are forced to pass along costs to customers.

Russia and Ukraine combine for nearly a third of the world's wheat and barley exports.

## South Koreans face stark choices to pick new president



Man looking at posters of South Korea's presidential candidates in Seoul ahead of the March 9 presidential election.

● **Elections have revolved around political rivalry**

Seoul, Mar 06 (AFP):

South Korea will elect a new president Wednesday and voters face a stark

choice: a feminist-bashing conservative or a scandal-plagued liberal? So far, it's a dead heat.

The two frontrunners, dour former prosecutor Yoon Suk-yeol of the People Power party and the incumbent Democratic party's maverick ex-governor Lee Jae-myung are trapped in a

neck-and-neck race to become the next leader of Asia's fourth largest economy.

And what propels one of them to victory will not be their populist campaign promises or North Korea policy, analysts say. Instead, it's what the papers have dubbed a "cycle of revenge" in South Korea's famously adversarial politics.

"This election is a battle between two opposite forces — the progressives and conservatives," said political analyst Park Sang-byoung. South Korean presidents are allowed by law to serve a single five year term, and every living former president has been investigated and jailed for corruption after leaving office.

## Some Rohingya refugees land on beach in Aceh



Rohingya refugees look on in the compounds of a mosque following their arrival by boat in Bireuen, Aceh.

Banda Aceh, Mar 06 (AP):

More than 100 hungry and weak Rohingya Muslims were found on a beach in Indonesia's northernmost province of Aceh on Sunday after weeks at sea, officials said.

The group arrived on Jangka beach near Alue

Buya Pasi, a fishing village in Bireuen district, early Sunday. The villagers who saw the 114 ethnic Rohingya on a rickety wooden boat helped them to land and then reported their arrival to authorities, said Badruddin Yunus, the leader of the local tribal fishing community. They

look very weak from hunger and dehydration after a long and severe voyage at sea, said Yunus, adding it wasn't clear where the group was traveling from or where it was headed because none of them could speak English or Malay.

The 58 men, 21 women and 35 children were given shelter and received help from villagers, police and military, while local authorities including the coronavirus task force were helping to process them, Yunus said.

More than 700,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled from Buddhist-majority Myanmar to refugee camps in Bangladesh since August 2017, when the Myanmar military launched a clear-cut operation in response to attacks by a rebel group. Myanmar security forces have been accused of mass

rapes, killings and the burning of thousands of homes.

Groups of Rohingya have attempted to leave the crowded camps in Bangladesh and travel by sea in hazardous voyages to other Muslim-majority countries in the region.

Muslim-dominated Malaysia has been a common destination for the boats, and traffickers have promised the refugees a better life there. But many Rohingya refugees who land in Malaysia face detention.

Although Indonesia is not a signatory to the United Nations' 1951 Refugee Convention, the UNHCR said that a 2016 presidential regulation provides a national legal framework governing the treatment of refugees on boats in distress near Indonesia and to help them disembark.

## Turkey tourism recovery hurt by Ukraine war

Istanbul, Mar 06 (AFP):

Every Sunday Noori Sani welcomes his old friends around a bountiful Turkish breakfast in Istanbul. But surrounding him now are empty tables on his terrace at the Blue Mosque.

"On a day like this, we should be full," the owner of Serbethane restaurant said in the city's historic district.

Within a few days of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, Ukrainians and Russians cancelled reservations for trips, disastrous for Turkey where tourism represented 10 percent of GDP before the pandemic.

There had been high hopes for a tourism re-

vival in 2022 and the sector was in desperate need of a boost after the Turkish lira lost significant value last year and inflation soared to over 50 percent in February.

Visitors from Ukraine and Russia made up over a quarter of all tourists who arrived in Turkey last year, usually opting for the turquoise beaches on the Mediterranean and Aegean, according to tourism ministry figures.

"Russia and Ukraine are very important markets for us," Hamit Kuk of the Association of Turkish Travel Agencies (TURSAB) said. Around 4.5 million Russian and two million Ukrainian tourists descended on Turkey last year.

TURSAB expected seven million Russians

and 2.5 million Ukrainians this year, but Kuk said it would "likely have to review these figures". "The war between Russia and Ukraine is making everyone nervous here. Both from a human and commercial point of view," Kuk said.

"Normally, there would be a rush of summer reservations in March. But the demand has stopped," he added.

"If it goes on like this, there will be a very serious problem," warned TURSAB president Firuz Ballikaya.

"We try to wait as calmly as we can." In front of the Hagia Sophia mosque, Russian tourists were rushing to follow their guide, ducking their heads and refusing interviews.

## Better data key to eradicate homelessness in EU

Brussels, Mar 06 (AFP):

The European Union this week agreed a plan to eradicate homelessness by 2030. One of the main objectives is get a more accurate view of how many people are without fixed accommodation across the 27 member states and adapt policies accordingly.

"2030 is a marker, an ideal, so that we can all share the same objective," the French minister of housing Emmanuelle Wargon told the press earlier this week when the agreement was announced.

Adopted under France's rotating presidency of the bloc which began in January, the plan was initiated in June 2021 by Portugal and is coordinated by Belgian Prime Minister Yves Leterme.

"We'll try and target zero, but there will always be people who fall through

## ASSISTING LOCALS



Australian Army soldiers assisting the locals of Lismore in moving water-damaged belongings during Operation Flood Assist 2022 on Sunday.

## Mexico's women police squad on protest frontline

Mexico City, Mar 06 (AFP):



Policewomen during a training session prior to the International Women's Day at the Mexico City Police facilities.

At a police station in Mexico City, women train with riot gear in preparation for an International Women's Day march in one of the countries hardest hit by gender-based violence.

The squad of 500 officers is tasked with ensuring the demonstrations that draw thousands of women do not block roads or damage public property. Although their work usually involves tense confrontations with fellow women, they feel united with the feminist cause because they too suffer violence and abuse by men.

But they question some of the protesters' methods.

The demonstrators "hit me because they see the uniform and because of history. You see a police uniform and (think of) repression, corruption, impunity," said Itzania Otero, 35, who commands the unit preparing to police Tuesday's march.

She favors empathy to show the protesters "that this uniform is not what they think," and that her officers only seek to contain — not repress — them. "We policewomen have also suffered a thousand things," she said.

In recent years, protests against gender-based violence have brought together thousands of women in

the capital and other Mexican cities. Mexico registered 1,006 femicides last year, marking an increase from 978 in 2020, according to government figures. Recent victims include Michelle Perez Tadeo, a 29-year-old television host and model whose body was found last month in a wooded area on the outskirts of the capital. Other gender-based crimes such as harassment, sexual abuse and domestic violence have increased in recent years, resulting in a rising number of calls to emergency lines. During the training session, instructor Tania Arrazola teaches the host how to put on their protective equipment, which includes a vest, gloves, helmet, shin guards and a shield.

## Pakistan claims to have unearthed network behind mosque blast



Policeman stand guard as mourners arrive to attend funeral prayers for bomb blast victim.

Peshawar, Mar 06 (PTI):

Pakistani investigation authorities on Sunday claimed to have unearthed the entire network and family members of the bombers responsible for the deadly suicide attack on a crowded Shia mosque in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province that

killed 63 people and wounded 200 others, a senior official said.

A suicide bomber, belonging to the ISIS-Khorasan, blew himself up inside a mosque in Qissa Khwani bazaar in Peshawar, capital of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province on Friday, in one of the deadliest attacks in the restive region, border-

ing Afghanistan.

Advisor to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister on Information Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif along with Peshawar City Police Chief Ijaz Khan told reporters that a rickshaw driver and facilitator have been traced while the police investigators are very close to family of the bombers as their identification process has been completed. The development came a day after Pakistan's Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed vowed to arrest the masterminds behind the deadly suicide attack. FIR has been registered against the unknown accused in Khan Raziq Police Station and forwarded to Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) police probing the blast.

**SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE FOR MISCELLANEOUS WORK**  
 Sr.No. (1) E-Tender No.-SrDEE-G-R-OTP-21-22-34, Date: 03.03.2022  
 Work: Hiring of truck/MUV mounted sky with operation for Electrical(G) overhead maintenance works over Raipur Division for three months.. Tender Value: Rs. 2,31,357.00/-, EMD Rs.: 4,700.00/- Submission of Tender: upto 11.45 hours on 04.04.2022.  
 For further details/purchase of tender document, eligibility criteria & the complete details for the above work, please contact office of the Sr. DEE/GR or refer/download tender document which is available on our website: www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offers received shall be rejected.  
 Sr. Divl. Elec. Engg. (G) PR/Sr. DEE(G)/AN/166 S.E.C.R., Raipur  
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# CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 9 No. 335

## Pension policy

Recent developments in many states have put the formal pension policy debate in limelight across India. Central government, state governments, political parties, trade unions and private sector have divergent views regarding formal pension system of India. Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot described the state budget presented by him as an 'elixir', saying it was prepared after detailed discussions with stakeholders as around 45,000 suggestions were received for it. Replying to a debate on the state Budget in the Assembly, he called the decision to revive the old pension scheme historic. Gehlot claimed the announcement of reviving the old pension scheme (OPS) for state government employees appointed on or after January 1, 2004 is receiving an overwhelming response. He said that the Human Rights Commission too had said that the New Pension System (NPS) should be re-considered. Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) had constantly pointed out issues with the NPS. The BJP government in Himachal Pradesh has also tweaked its pension policy in the budget. Himachal Pradesh also constituted a committee headed by the Chief Secretary to look into the issue of restoration of OPS. The Congress has said that if voted to power in the next Assembly elections, it would restore the old pension scheme. The government was under tremendous pressure to placate the employees, who too are on the warpath. The Samajwadi Party's (SP) pledge to restore the OPS if voted to power ignited a fresh debate on the retirement benefits for the more than 12 lakh Uttar Pradesh government employees, who may have a significant influence on the assembly elections. Soon after the election notification was issued in January, the SP announced its intent to reimplement the OPS by withdrawing the market-linked NPS. The announcement has buoyed state government employees who have been protesting against the NPS since it was implemented 15 years ago. There are several ongoing court cases regarding pension issues of central, state as well as private industry employees. In India, absence of a country-wide social security system, ageing population and social change on account of breakdown of traditional family support system are important considerations for introducing pension reform in the unorganized sector.

Whereas in the public sector, fiscal stress of the defined benefit pension system, applicable to the employees of the government sector, was the major driving force for pension reforms. Since 2001-02, a number of measures have been adopted by the government for underlining need for pension reforms for both central government and for unorganized sector for different reasons. Under the old system for state government employees, the pension benefit is defined. It is a share, usually half, of the salary drawn at the time of retirement. The pay-out is indexed to inflation. The contribution is made entirely by the government. According to some economists, it's not fair on future taxpayers, who will have to pay for the pensions of those currently in service. It also does not do justice to the old and the indigent who have little or no old age income support. To contain the high and rising salary and pension bill of its employees, the central government implemented the National Pension System for its employees joining on or after January 1, 2004. State governments (except West Bengal) also acceded to it. No one has retired under the new pension system. The first retirements will happen in 2035. So, it is hard to say with certainty what their pension will be. The government's fiscal burden in providing a safety net to the elderly could rise to as much as 4.1 percent of the GDP by 2030, a report showed. India's population aged 60 years and above will triple to 300 million by 2050. At present, 93 percent of the employees are in the informal sector. Since the private sector lacks a pension programme, government will have to largely bear the burden of providing a safety net to those over 60 years of age. Lack of unified and coherent pension system in India will hurt society in the long term.

## Need consensus

After its proposal to amend the All India Service Rules that would allow it to call any IAS, IPS or IFOs officer on central deputation with or without the state's consent, the Centre has issued another order on central deputation of Deputy Inspector General-level IPS officers that may not be palatable to the states. In an order issued on February 10, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has said that IPS officers coming to the Centre at DIG level would no longer be required to be empanelled at that level with the Union Government. Centre and state governments shall have consensus regarding administrative reforms irrespective of political party positions. In no other major country in the world does an equivalent of IAS and IPS exist in the sense that on a merit-based selection at the national level, the entrant is installed in the decision-making 'leadership' position of an Under Secretary of Government of India just within three years after the training as Collector and SP in the states represent that status granted at the start of the service career itself.

Slowly but steadily politicization of bureaucracy and police by the ruling parties of the states created the tendency among officers of holding on to their position in the state for vested interests. The state governments, for political reasons, also started giving weightage to state service officers directly recruited by them, inducing the IAS and IPS to become more and more 'compliant'. All of this resulted in the unhealthy trend of All India Civil Services officers looking weaker as they moved up the ladder as the Chief Secretary and DGP not minding even the transfers and postings of officers done by the political masters at their back. The Centre was justified in feeling concerned about the heads of administration and the police in the states not measuring up to their apolitical Constitutional responsibilities. The Central oversight on the two premiers All India Civil Services had to be maintained in the larger national interest.

Central Chronicle welcomes articles, write ups, comments on different issues for editorial page (800-900 words), Letter to editor for this page. It can be sent by e-mail at: [editor@centralchronicle@gmail.com](mailto:editor@centralchronicle@gmail.com)  
The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

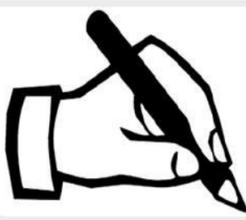
## FOOD FESTIVAL



A woman prepares serabi, made from rice flour and coconut milk, during a food festival in Banda Aceh, Indonesia.

## 'Silver Line' is not shining rail project

DR DUGGARAJU SRINIVASA RAO



The Kerala Left Front government headed by CPM leader Pinarayi Vijayan proposed and in a hurry to execute project called 'Silver Line' is being opposed by the people, organizations in Kerala because of the environmental issues involved and the state government's unconvincing replies on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as the government is bent on going ahead with the major rail project as it believes the 'Silver Line' is an golden opportunity for the state investments and generating employment. The Kerala economy is popularly called as the Money Order economy as the state is heavily dependent on the remittance from the people working in the Gulf States. This Gulf repatriates are major stake holders in the economic activities of the state. With Gulf opportunities lessened for many reasons including COVID-19 the government is finding it difficult to cater to the growing demands of the youth regarding employment opportunities. Unless a huge project is taken up spreading across the state it is very difficult to control the simmering anger hence this involving the initial estimation of Rs 63,941 crores, with a 28 percent share of Kerala and 10 percent share of Government of India. The other amount comes through the loans from various organizations, both national and international.

The Silver Line project, as per LDF government, is intended to create a new high speed connectivity to the north and southern areas of the Kerala state. This 530.6 Kilometers (Kms). Long rail line connecting the state cap-

ital of Thiruvananthapuram in the south with the northern most district head quarter town of Kasaragod is a semi-high speed rail planned as a standard gauge with 11 stations with ground, elevated and underground tracks. The project aims at reducing the time of the travel from north of the state to the south to 4 hours from the current 12-14 hour journey through the Indian railway lines in the state. The current railway tracks built mostly during the British time has many turns and curves thus reducing the average train speed to 45 Kilometre per hour (Kmph). The proposed silver line project aims to build a track for running the train at 200 Kmph. The project aims at building five new townships at Thiru-vanathapuram, Kollam, Ernakulam, Kottayam and Trissur. The proposed dead line for the completion of the project is 2027 with a provision to extend it up to 2030.

The first issue which baffles a commoner is standard gauge proposal instead of broad gauge that is the standard gauge in the country. With a different gauges Kerala state is harming itself in the absence of connection with the existing rail lines. Unless the new train line is synchronized with the existing rail system and connectivity improved the new line may remain exclusive for the passengers travelling from and to those 11 proposed stations and exclude others. This exclusivity of track and stations may not be a right one. The government estimated that silver line will carry around 80,000 passengers each day. One wonders whether those many passengers will

take that exclusive standard gauge train. The key aspect is the environmental issue involved in the silver line project. As per the statement of the CM Vijayan made in the assembly the project will pass through paddy fields for 115 Kms. with elevated tracks of 88 kms. It has to spend Rs 13,362 crores on the 1,198 hectare private land acquisition. The project will impact 9,314 buildings including residential structures and over 20,000 families will be displaced. Experts claim that proper Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Social Impact Assessment were not made. The government headed by CPM's enthusiasm is not shared by other Left partners.

The environmentalists are countering and even challenging the government claims. The activists call the claim of 'extraordinary industrial and financial breakthrough to the state of Kerala' as wishful thinking and on the other hand the activists project silver line project as 'environmental disaster in more than one way'. They say that the worrying point is the irrevocable damage the project is likely cause to the Kerala's many water ways, paddy fields, and wet lands. The EIA done by the Thiru-vanathapuram based Centre for Environment and development is challenged as the activists claim that the said institute is not authorized agency for such EIA assessment. More over the EIA basing on which the Kerala government is going ahead was not done for all the four seasons but was done only for one season. The environmentalist demand a comprehensive EIA for all the four seasons. The recent floods and consequent damage in Kerala through land sliding has not been taken in to consideration. They even quote the reports which appeared in the media where the pillars constructed for Cochin metro rail projects being getting tilted in some marshy areas. The fragility of the ecosystem and suitability of the soil are not properly assessed. The experts point out that the proposed rail line will pass through the famous tourist destinations of Kannur district, Kadalundi bird sanctuary, famous

Lotus lake in Malappuram district, and areas which harbor wide range of aquatic and semi aquatic plants and rare plants and animals.

Another issue raised is the topography of the state. Kerala has an average width of 70 Kms and a rail line going through the center will divide the state in to east and west Kerala. Kerala is tourism destination area where people wish to move in a leisurely pace enjoying the scenic beauty of the surroundings and not to zip at 200 Kmph speed in tunneled travel. Moreover the work from home culture is here to stay and people are going to be less mobile post pandemic and the expected 80,000 per day travelers may not be realized in future. Other experts challenge the economic estimations. They say 2027 completions is an unrealistic one. They compare the proposed silver line with the completed Delhi metro where the railway line completed per year was 14.3 Kms and Kochi metro was done at an average of 4.17 Kms per year. At Delhi metro speed it will take 37 years for completion of Silver Line, whereas at Kochi metro rate it will take 127 years to complete. More over the experts studied the project estimates over 20 infra projects and they revealed that final cost of the project was 3.8 times over the estimated cost and the time taken was 2.62 times than the original schedule. Basing on these studies the Silver Line project cost is likely to shoot up to Rs 2.47 lakh crores from the current estimated Rs 64 thousand crores. Thus the Kerala's proposed Silver Line project is neither economically viable nor it ecologically sustainable. The union government which has committed for 10 percent stake in the project seems to have rethink and is not coming with the final approval. 'If not now, when?' and 'people rejecting the bold ideas are not going to have the way this time' are the words of the CPM CM Vijayan and his insistence on priority to this silver line seems to have more than what appears outwardly.

(Dr Duggaraju Srinivasa Rao is political analyst and columnist based in Vijayawada.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Question

The Commonwealth is an organization made up of 53 countries from all over the world. Countries that were part of the British Empire or had links with Britain created it. Previously, it was known as British Commonwealth. Now here is my observation which might irk some of the political groups. Of the 54 Commonwealth countries, 53 countries got independence from colonial domination of the British during 1946-1956 without Gandhi-Nehru. Why did out of the 53 countries, one country undergo partition? What does that mean? My observation is that post-WW2, the British power got reduced considerably. Out of the 53 countries, why did India go for partition post-independence? It might be due to the appeasement policy, weak leadership and personal ambition of a leader who wanted to start dynasty politics.

Julie, via email

### Registration

India has the largest democracy in the world and other countries also follow the guidelines of Election Comm of India. At present any person who completes eighteen years on January 1 can register the vote but if a person completes eighteen years on January 2 then the same person has to wait for one year. In this regard the government has informed a parliamentary panel that it was working on fixing four cut-off dates every year for people to enroll as voters by amending the electoral law and has contended that the move would eventually pave the way for a common list of voters for the Lok Sabha, Assembly and local body which include both urban and rural polls. It appears that origin of this idea is based on the fast Digitalization otherwise this proposal was not feasible. and now the parliament panel has suggested four cut-off dates-Jan1, April 1, July 1, Oct 1. The legislative department in the law ministry is the nodal agency to deal with issues related to the Election Comm of arguing in favour of move, and due to this reason more new voters will be enrolled and we say it will strong the democracy. The ministry of law and justice said that a comprehensive draft Cabinet note "containing this proposal (of four qualifying dates) as well as a few other important electoral reform proposals taken up by the Election Comm is under preparation." It is expected that such kind of proposal should be accepted and implemented at the earliest to make the democratic process more strong and provide more chance to youngsters to exercise their franchise for development of country and have the say of these young persons in the formation of a government of be their choice.

Yoyesh, via email



## WHAT THEY TWEET!



**Aunindyo@AunindyoC**  
When a voter gets a job, they don't see the govt as their benefactor. Freebies, on the other hand, are provided in the name of the PM & CM. This is the Modi-Shah formula. So, losing UP could spell an end for the Modi-BJP's vote-gathering strategy.

**Divya Jain@Divajain2**  
In the 90's they also used to cook up stories of "demoralised" Indian troops selling their weapons to terrorists before going AWOL. Much like current stories on low Russian troop morale and how "sympathetic" FSB members have helped Zelenskyy evade several hit squads from Moscow.



**Raj Sandhu @Sandhu94717**  
Our farmers feed the world. They are up before dawn and work till well after sunset. They face any number of challenges they can't control, from too much rain to not enough, from disease to insect infestations. Still they are not getting any support.



**Glenn@ggreenwald**  
This is the fact nobody will confront. That Russia (not Putin, but the Russian political class, including Putin's critics) legitimately perceived NATO expansion as threatening wasn't invented by RT & Grayzone last week, but was the widespread view of top US officials for decades:



**chaturvedi\_upma@chaturvedi\_upma**  
Nature in #Lucknow.



**Sonam@Wangchuk66**  
I feel totally cheated. Sad to learn India has Companies no one can trust. To save others, I'll soon share about a Company who double confirmed engagement for a talk, made me change travel plans, then backed out on their word and changed terms. Corporate Lawyers pls volunteer ur help!

**Vivek@Vivek\_Investor**  
Watching the interviews of medical students returned from Ukraine, they said they went to Ukraine because the cost of medical education is 1/3rd of India. Why medical education is very expensive in India? Forget lower middle class, even it's expensive for upper middle class.

## BRIEF

### Revenue



**New Delhi:** Ezetap is targeting about five-fold growth in revenue to Rs 750 crore by 2024 driven by international expansion and increase in merchant base, CEO Byas Nambisan told PTI. It is also looking to raise around Rs 450 crore, also from primary market.

### Output

**Ranchi:** Coal India's subsidiary BCCL has posted a record 61 per cent growth in its production to 3.24 million tonne (mt) in February this year over the corresponding month last fiscal. It also claimed that it registered the highest offtake growth of around 66 per cent to 2.93 mt during the last month. The coal offtake was at 2.93 mt last month, up by 66 per cent from 1.76 mt in the year-ago month.

### Partnership



**Mumbai:** Ram Charan Company has inked a partnership with Bolt Mobility, the electric mobility venture co-founded by Olympic gold medalist Usain Bolt. Director Kaushik Palicha told PTI our investment is more in form of tech sharing but with an equity investment as well.

### Aims

**New Delhi:** ISS Facility Services India, a subsidiary of Denmark's ISS group, aims to double its revenue to more than Rs 2,500 crore by 2025 and plans to hire around 25,000 people over the next two years to grow its business. Denmark-based ISS is one of the leading workplace experience and facility management companies in the world.

### Wagons



**Kolkata:** Braithwaite & Co Ltd is betting big on domestic demand for wagons after the Russia-Ukraine crisis has derailed its export negotiations. CMD Yatish Kumar told PTI a prototype has been manufactured with RDSO design with focus on orders in domestic market.

### Attend

**New Delhi:** Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar will be attending the India Global Forum (IGF) event at Bengaluru on March 7-8, an official statement said on Sunday. The Minister is slated to meet and interact with the founders and CEOs of 30 unicorns during the event.

## GST Council may consider proposal to raise lowest slab to 8%

**New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI):**

The GST Council in its next meeting may look at raising the lowest tax slab to 8 per cent, from 5 per cent, and prune the exemption list in the Goods and Services Tax regime as it looks to increase revenues and do away with states' dependence on Centre for compensation, sources said on Sunday.

A panel of state finance ministers is likely to submit its report by this month end to the Council suggesting various steps to raise revenue, including hiking the lowest slab and rationalising the slab.

Currently, GST is a four-tier structure attracting a tax rate of 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent. Essential items are either exempted or taxed at the lowest slab, while luxury and demerit items attract the highest slab. Luxury and sin goods attract cess on top of the highest 28 per cent slab. This cess collection is used



to compensate states for the revenue loss due to GST rollout. According to sources, the GoM is likely to propose raising the 5 per cent slab to 8 per cent, which may yield an additional Rs 1.50 lakh crore annual revenues. As per calculations, 1 per cent increase in the lowest slab, which mainly include packaged food items, results in a revenue gain of Rs 50,000 crore annually.

As part of rationalisation, the GoM is also looking at a 3-tier GST structure, with rates at 8, 18 and 28 per cent. If the proposal

comes through, all the goods and services which are currently taxed at 12 per cent, will move to 18 per cent slab.

Besides, the GoM would also propose reducing the number of items which are exempted from GST. Currently, unbranded food and dairy items are exempted from GST.

Sources said the GST Council is expected to meet later this month or early next month and discuss the report of the GoM and take a view on the revenue position of the states.

## Govt may defer LIC IPO to next fiscal amid Ukraine crisis

**New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI):**

The government is expected to defer the mega initial public offering (IPO) of LIC to the next financial year as the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war has dampened fund managers' interest in the public issue, market experts said on Sunday.

The government was looking to sell 5 per cent stake in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) this month, which could have fetched over Rs 60,000 crore to the exchequer.

The IPO would have helped meet the curtailed disinvestment target of Rs 78,000 crore this fiscal.

"The current geopolitical issue between Russia and Ukraine makes the global equity markets jittery. Indian markets also reacted negatively to this



development and corrected nearly 11 per cent from its all time high.

"Thus, the current market volatility is not conducive for the LIC IPO and the government is most likely to defer the issue to next fiscal year," Arijit Malakar, Head of Retail Equity Research, Ashika Group, said.

Generally, in a highly volatile market, investors tend to play safe and refrain from making fresh investments. Thus, the equity

market needs to be stable, so that investors can get the confidence to make the investment in the LIC IPO.

Echoing a similar sentiment, Tanushree Banerjee Co-Head of Research-Equitymaster, said the weak market sentiments, especially in the wake of the Ukraine-Russia war, have been a dampener for the IPO. While there is a possibility of the IPO getting postponed, the issue remains critical to the gov-

## ICICI settle Rs 982 cr COVID-19 claims

**Mumbai, Mar 06:** ICICI Prudential Life Insurance's claim settlement ratio stood at 97.9% during FY2021 and the Company took 1.4 days, on an average, to settle non-investigated death claims. For the 9 months-ended FY2022, the Company has settled Rs. 982 crore worth of Covid-19 related claims. To make customer service including the claims settlement process faster, safer, and more convenient for customers, especially during the pandemic, the Company is using digital technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning, Robotic Process Automation (RPA) and Optical Character Recognition (OCR). Technologies such as RPA and OCR are also being used for underwriting, claims assessment, selling or renewing policies, and offering customized offers. Customers can use any of the digital touch-points such as WhatsApp, Mobile App, Website, Chatbot LiGo, etc. to initiate and conclude service requests, upload required documents and download premium paid certificates.

## NMDC receives Ministry of Steel's official language award



**Hyderabad, Mar 05:**

India's largest producer of iron ore, NMDC received 1st prize in the IspatRajbhasha Award for 2018-19 and 2020-21 and the Ispat Rajbhasha Prerna Award for 2019-20 in the meeting of the Hindi Salahakar Committee of the Ministry of Steel held in Madurai on 3rd March 2022. Union Minister of Steel, Ram Chandra Prasad Singh, presented the accolades to Sumit Deb, Chairman and Managing Director, NMDC. He appreciated the

efforts of all the Steel PSEs in putting into practice the official language of India and congratulated NMDC for winning the awards.

Minister of State for Steel Faggan Singh Kulaste presented the Citation for a period of three years to the Deputy General Manager (Official Language), NMDC on the occasion. NMDC presented a short film on the status of official language implementation in the company. This innovative effort of NMDC was highly appreciated by the mem-

bers of the Committee. The meeting was attended by the senior officials of the Ministry of Steel, Honourable Members of the Hindi Salahakar Committee, Chairman and Managing Directors of all Steel PSUs.

On this occasion, Sumit Deb said, "I take pride in NMDC's contribution in implementing and celebrating the Official Language. At NMDC, we foster original writing in Hindi on technical subjects and encourage the use of this language in daily interactions."

## Russia-Ukraine conflict likely to have adverse effects

### On economic growth, inflation

**New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI):**

Eminent economist Jayanth R Varma on Sunday said the Russia-Ukraine conflict is likely to have adverse effects on both economic growth as well as inflation and policy makers must remain alert and ready to respond rapidly to the emerging situation. Varma, who is also a member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank, in an interview to PTI said inflation is higher than target, though it is within the tolerance band. Listing challenges faced by the Indian economy, Varma said



while the economy has yet to recover from the cyclical economic slowdown which began around three years ago, investment has remained subdued during this period, and private consumption has not fully recovered from the pandemic. "The economy

faces new stresses emanating from geopolitical tensions," he said, adding that inflation is higher than the target though within the tolerance band. Varma, who is a professor of finance and accounting in IIM Ahmedabad said: "The conflict is likely to have adverse effects on both economic growth and on inflation... Policy makers must in my view remain alert and stand ready to respond rapidly to the emerging situation."

Asia's third-largest economy is projected to grow 8.9 per cent in the fiscal year ending March 31, slower than previously anticipated 9.2 per cent, according to the recent government data.

## Amul expects 18% growth in turnover

### To around Rs 46,000 cr this fiscal

**New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI):** India's leading dairy cooperative GCMMF, which markets dairy products under the Amul brand, is expecting an 18 per cent growth in its turnover this fiscal year to around Rs 46,000 crore on better demand, its Managing Director RS Sodhi said.

Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF) had posted a marginal growth of 2 per cent during the 2020-21 financial year to Rs 39,200 crore despite the COVID-19 pandemic. In an interview with PTI, Sodhi said: "We are expecting around 18 per cent growth this fiscal year to about Rs 46,000



crore." The demand for all products, like butter, ice cream, milk, has improved, he added. In volume terms also, Sodhi said the growth will be around 15 per cent. In the last financial year, the GCMMF turnover grew marginally as sales of ice cream were down 35 per cent mainly because of the nationwide lockdown during the summer to curb the COVID-19

pandemic. The commodity business of products like skimmed milk powder (SMP) was also impacted. The cooperative sells 150 lakh litres of milk per day, of which Gujarat contributes around 60 lakh litres, Delhi-NCR 37 lakh litres and Maharashtra 20 lakh litres, he added. It also sells milk in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Kolkata. The GCMMF has an installed processing capacity of nearly 400 lakh litres per day. In this fiscal year, it has hiked milk prices twice. The GCMMF hiked milk price by Rs 2 per litre across India from July 1 due to an increase in input costs. Last week, it announced another Rs 2 per litre increase with effect from March 1, saying that milk procurement prices have gone up.

## Govt working on 14 critical coal evacuation rail projects

**New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI):**

The government is planning to strengthen the rail infrastructure and has stressed on commissioning 14 critical coal-evacuation rail projects for faster transportation of fuel, as higher fuel prices is likely to put pressure on the railways for transportation of domestic coal.

The projects include — Tori-Shivpur Railway Line (on Deposit Basis), Jharsuguda-Barpali-Sardaga Rail Link at Ib Valley Coalfield of MCL in Odisha (on deposit basis) and Shivpur-Kathautia Railway line (through SPV). In a meeting held last month, under the Chairmanship of Coal Secretary AK Jain, the status and progress of these

### For faster transportation of fuel



projects was reviewed. Thermal power generation from imported coal-based plants is likely to drop further due to higher fuel prices and would put stress on the railways for transportation of domestic coal. "Almost eight per cent of the thermal power generation used to come from imported coal-based plants, which has fallen to

three per cent due to higher coal prices. This is most likely to drop further in future, this will bring stress on railways for transportation of domestic coal in order to eliminate/ substitute import of thermal coal," Jain said. According to the minutes of the meeting, this issue is linked with the necessity of energy for the country.

"Cabinet Secretary will be specially reviewing capability of Railways for transportation of coal up-country as most of the imported coal-based thermal power plants are located on coast and far off," he said. Coal handling plant and other first-mile connectivity projects will help in reducing turnaround time of wagons/rakes which is very important, the secretary said adding that commissioning of these 14 rail projects is pivotal for faster and efficient transportation of coal.

With regard to Tori-Shivpur Railway Line, it was informed during the meeting that the execution of this project is in full swing and is likely to be completed by March next year.

## India suggests WTO discussions on e-comm during pandemic

WTO is 164 member multilateral body

**New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI):**

India has suggested to convene a meeting under the aegis of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to discuss the role of e-commerce during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to a statement delivered by Ambassador of India to the WTO Brajendra Navnit at the General Council meeting held on February 23 to 24, many members have spoken about how e-commerce helped their economies during pandemic-led lockdowns.

"India suggests holding a discussion on the role of e-commerce during the time of the pandemic... Within the boundaries of



every country, there may have been positive examples. But, did international e-commerce play a big role? It will be good to hear member experiences specifically linked to cross-border trade," he has said.

He has suggested that this agenda item should be adopted by the General Council as a standing

agenda item for every meeting.

India has been a votary of rejuvenation of the work programme on e-commerce.

The General Council, highest decision-making body of the WTO after ministerial conference (MC), should now start the process of convening meetings of the work pro-

gramme and ensure that the original mandate is adhered to, he has added.

At the Nairobi Ministerial Conference in December 2015, WTO members adopted a decision on the work programme on e-commerce.

Member countries have considered the work programme at nearly all MCs. They have also agreed to continue the practice of not imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions until their next ministerial conference, but India has repeatedly asked to review the issues related with the moratorium on customs duties on e-commerce trade. Since 1998, the moratorium has been extended time and again for two years.

## Programme launched for improving quality of PSU bank boards

**New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI):**

The Banks Board Bureau (BBB) has introduced a development programme for the management of public sector banks with a view to improving the quality of bank boards.

The nine-month Directors' Development Programme (DDP) is designed for the directors of the PSBs and financial institutions with the key objective of enhancing director effectiveness to increase their impact on the boards, the BBB said in a statement.

It is expected that the programme will help the directors think of the road ahead in the business and elevate themselves to be a



source of wisdom and guidance for the management and stakeholders to raise the performance levels of Public Sector Banks in the global landscape, it said. The programme designed in collaboration with IBA and others will help empower and enrich the board critical for the decision making. Financial Services Secretary Sanjay

Malhotra, who is also a member of BBB said there is no end to learning when going through this training. The BBB, the headhunter for state-owned banks and financial institutions, formed in 2016. It was also entrusted with the task of engaging with the board of directors of all PSBs to formulate appropriate strategies for their growth and development.

The programme includes seminars, face-to-face interactive sessions, and self-paced online modules, it said, adding, the pedagogy follows a practitioners approach with orientation and refresher sections for first time and seasoned directors respectively.



## Urvashi Rautela to feature in Nithiin's 'Macherla Niyojakavargam'?

Actor Nithiin, who is all set to entertain with an entertaining, mass movie titled 'Macherla Niyojakavargam', is to jive with the noted Bollywood actress. Now, according to the latest report, Bollywood bombshell Urvashi Rautela has been roped in for 'Macherla Niyojakavargam' which has Nithiin as the leading man. Despite no confirmation regarding the same, it is reported that Urvashi Rautela will jive for a special song in the upcoming political drama. The makers are apparently preparing to make an official confirmation on the same. Billed to be a political drama, 'Macherla Niyojakavargam' is helmed by MS Raja Shekhar Reddy and has the music composed by Mahathi Swara Sagar. The Cinematography department is handled by Prasad Murella and editing is by Kotagiri Venkateswara Rao. The film 'Macherla Niyojakavargam' is produced by Sudhakar Reddy and Nikitha Reddy under the banner of Sreshth Movies.

'Macherla Niyojakavargam' has 'Uppena' fame Krithi Shetty as the female lead, and will hit the screens on April 29, 2022.

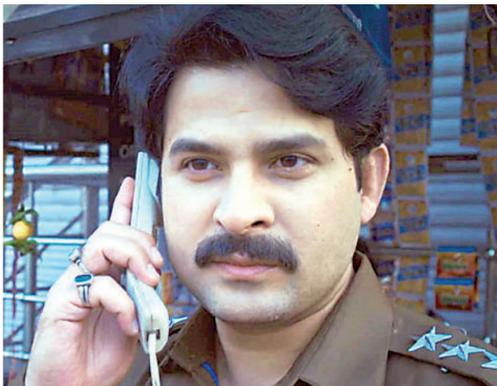
Actress Sanjana, who is a part of actor Vadivelu's comeback film 'Naai Sekar Returns', has expressed happiness at getting an opportunity to work with the ace comedian and has thanked the film's director Suraj for having given her the opportunity. Taking to Instagram, the actress said, "Very happy to be working with the legendary actor Vadivelu sir. Thank you so much sir for being kind and supportive. It is really an amazing experience. "Thank you so much Suraj sir for having me onboard and for all the love and support which you give me at the shooting spot. I feel so grateful." The film, which is being produced by Lyca productions, is among the most eagerly-awaited entertainers of the year. Recently, the core unit of the film, including music director Santhosh Narayanan, had flown to London for scoring the film's music.

## Happy to work with 'legendary' Vadivelu, says actress Sanjana



## Gireesh Sahdev dons 'khakhi' uniform

Over the years, crime as a genre has gained immense popularity amongst the Indian audience for its gripping narrative. And, Sony Entertainment Television's longest-running crime docu-drama 'Crime Patrol' has made an irreplaceable mark in this space. Showcasing compelling cases with gritty storytelling of the criminal activities from across India with a resolve to make people 'Satark', the channel brings back the marquee show in an all-new avatar with Crime Patrol 2.0. Taking up the thrill a notch higher, the new version will revolve



## Ashna Zaveri imparts some wellness 'gyaan' to Insta followers

Actress Ashna Zaveri, who announced her presence in the Tamil film industry with a strong performance in the Santhanam-starrer 'Vallavanukku Pullum Aayudham', has urged her followers on Instagram to get their priorities in order. The actress, who often gives wellness tips and shares her thoughts with her followers on Instagram, on Sunday put out a video that stressed on the significance of paying attention to important things first. "We have the ability to accomplish anything if we use our time wisely. Let's look at it this way," she said and showed a jar which she said represented life and the time we have to fill. "Say you fill it first with sand, which represents the least important things. That will leave you less time for other things," she said. She then attempted to fill the jar with pebbles, which she said were matters that needed one's attention but were not their priority. "This will leave you with very little or no time for the things that matter the most." Using balls to represent the things that money can't buy -- like family, friends, and passion, the actress showed that if importance was given to the meaningless things, one would not have time to spare for important things. She went on to then say, "However, if you plan and prioritise it well, giving time to the important things first, you'll be amazed at what you can accomplish. Starting with the important things followed by the least important things, you'll be able to fit in just about everything." She further wrote, "We all have finite time. Choose well what you do with it. If you spend all your energy and time on the small stuff, material things, you will never have room for the things that are truly most important. The rocks are the important things - your family, your partner, your health, your children - anything that is so important to you that if it were lost, you would be nearly destroyed. The pebbles are the other things in life that matter, but on a smaller scale. The pebbles represent things like your close encounters with criminals that is beyond our imagination! Taking the viewers on pursuits with the police as they attempt to solve the crime cases, the show will make the viewers understand the anatomy of a crime while also highlighting the unseen facets of the investigation, usage of new-age tools, the chase; the anticipation and drive to find an answer. Having worked in the Indian entertainment industry for around two decades across films and television, popular actor Gireesh Sahdev will be seen playing the role of a police officer in Crime Patrol 2.0. Bringing alive these gripping real-life-based crime stories as PI Ajit Pratap Singh, Gireesh will be a part of the cop squad solving some of the most spine-chilling crime cases in the city of UP. Naye Andaaz mein, satark karne aa raha hain 'Crime Patrol 2.0'- every Mon-Fri at 10 pm, starting 7th March only on Sony Entertainment Television.



## 'I had never been interested in doing a superhero movie'

From Warner Bros. Pictures comes filmmaker Matt Reeves' "The Batman," starring Robert Pattinson in the dual role of Gotham City's vigilante detective and his alter ego, reclusive billionaire Bruce Wayne. Released pan India on March 4, 2022, "The Batman" is a high-octane action film on a massive visual scale and a gritty, edgy and emotional exploration into the twisted inner workings of the mind, all set within an iconic city on the brink. Robert Pattinson, who says the titular role, really appreciated the heightened duality of the classically dual role. When asked about what made him certain of taking on this mammoth task of showcasing one of the most iconic superhero characters on screen again, he says, "I had never been interested in doing a superhero movie, it hadn't been in my periphery at all, but for some reason, Batman always stood out as a very special, separate entity. In the cultural lexicon, the character feels very individual and holds a lot of symbolic importance. Then, when I heard Matt was doing it, I just got really excited. When I finally talked to him, he showed me some of his very early storyboards and that set the



## HOROSCOPE MONDAY MARCH 07

- Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18**  
You blessed with a very high level of patience and practicality, and you can easily untangle any problem. But, it gives an excuse to the people around you to wash their hands of any responsibility. It may put you in a tight spot at times leaving you frustrated. It is not a nice feeling, agrees Ganesha, but learn to turn it your advantage, he adds.
- Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20**  
A day of mixed fortunes awaits you, where taking risks could prove to be your undoing, or provide you with handsome returns, says Ganesha. This is because you could come out on top by treading cautiously, but uncalculated risks will probably throw your calculations out of gear. Your success rate is unlikely to be too high; hence it may be a tough day for you. However, it will end on a promising note.
- Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20**  
If you're looking to get married, buy the ring today. But before you take the leap, weigh all the pros and cons carefully, says Ganesha. All in all, this may be a day filled with activities related to your relationship and by the time the day ends, you may be on cloud nine!
- Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21**  
This is one of those dreadful days when you could be unduly touchy and short tempered, fears Ganesha. Don't go around getting into fights and quarrels with anyone who seems unfriendly or ill mannered. You will only end up in spoiling some healthy relationships.
- Gemini: May 22 - June 21**  
You are desirous of perfection in everything that you do, and you practice this philosophy in every aspect of your life. You make sure that all of your energies are concentrated on taking forward your efforts in the right direction. You need to replenish your energies and increase your awareness today, to be able to continue your efforts, says Ganesha.
- Cancer: June 22 - July 22**  
A hectic day, combined with domestic pressure will make you exhausted. You feel a heavy burden on mind and heart. Don't be too emotional, says Ganesha. Take care not to pass domestic burdens on to your career or business, and thereby mar your capacity and efficiency.
- Leo: July 23 - Aug 23**  
You will pay more attention to the younger members in the family. You will guide the children in improving their daily schedule. An occasion to celebrate will present itself. You will be desirous of participating in some competition or program, says Ganesha.
- Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22**  
A fear of the unknown will keep lurking in your mind today. The shadow will only grow larger as the day progresses. You may find yourself spending too much on your foreign friends. Ganesha advises you to be cautious in this regard today.
- Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23**  
Ganesha says that today will be a lucky day for you. You may receive some financial gain. There will be some good news about your children's progress. This is the right time to invest in business. For financial investors and share brokers this period is beneficial, so make the most of it.
- Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22**  
It's the same old rut today, says Ganesha. Nothing new, nothing exciting. People from the opposite sex, however, may bring you out of the routine and try to enliven your spirits, predicts Ganesha.
- Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21**  
The rewards of hard labour will be sweet, so start off by unwinding with some fun today. Ganesha sees quality time being spent with friends and family. All in all, a fun day.
- Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20**  
Numerous projects and building work pressure can keep you busy, but get done with whatever you have on hand, for Ganesha says the day has a host of recreational activities lined up for you. This will also be the right time to reach out to more people, and devour whatever knowledge or information they have to offer.

## CROSSWORD

234

**ACROSS**

- Stockpile
- Bath powder
- Swiss peaks
- Roman gown
- Divya's solo
- Liquefy
- More aged
- Modern convenience
- Untidy conditions
- Bridge hand
- Water (Fr.)
- Salty drops
- Nab
- Organize
- District
- Feathery scarf
- Attention-getting sound
- Bride's path
- Merits
- CIA employee (abbr.)
- Prepare to propose
- Act toward

**DOWN**

- Molecule part
- Stubborn animal
- Connecting words
- Nap
- TV part
- Make a doily
- Zodiac sign
- Peru's capital
- Salad
- MD's group
- Embankment
- Entreaties
- Swagger
- Stripe of color
- Norse tale
- Go over again
- Drizzle
- Spur on
- Lion's cry
- Burger order
- US rail service
- Self-esteem
- Highway vehicle
- Ogle
- She, in Bordeaux
- Designate
- Mouse
- Little
- Buffalo's waterfront
- Shoppilifts
- Most insignificant
- Elaborate
- Brief review
- Wipe away
- Rabbits' kin
- Comic
- Martin
- Omit
- Love god
- Coin opening
- Recipe abbr.
- Chow down
- Primary color

**SOLUTION 233**

## Ashwin goes past Kapil Dev's 434 wickets

**Mohali:** Premier off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin on Sunday went past the legendary Kapil Dev's 434 Test scalps to become the second highest wicket-taker for India in the longest format of the game, reaching the mark in his 85th match. The 35-year-old Ashwin achieved the feat in the ongoing first Test against Sri Lanka. He began the match with 430 scalps and claimed two wickets in the first innings before adding three more in the second essay to cross Kapil's mark. Kapil had managed the feat in 131 matches. The legendary Anil Kumble tops the chart with 619 scalps which he claimed in 132 matches. Ashwin drew level with Kapil when he took the wicket of Pathum Nissanka during Sri Lanka's second innings. The tweaker then dismissed Charith Asalanka to get his 435th wicket. Only four Indian bowlers -- Kumble, Ashwin, Kapil and Harbhajan Singh -- have taken more than 400 wickets in Test cricket.



## Mithali becomes first woman to play in six World Cups



**Mount Maunganui:** One of the game's finest servants, India captain Mithali Raj on Sunday became only the third cricketer and the first woman to appear in six World Cups, joining the iconic Sachin Tendulkar and Pakistani great Javed Miandad. She achieved the feat as India locked horns with arch-rivals Pakistan in their much-anticipated opening match of the ICC Women's World Cup at the Bay Oval here. Raj, a 39-year-old veteran of many memorable matches, had made her maiden World Cup appearance in 2000, before playing the event in 2005, 2009, 2013, 2017 and now in 2022. In the women's game, the Indian batter surpassed former New Zealand cricketer Debbie Hockley and Charlotte Edwards of England. Fast bowler Jhulan Goswami, Raj's India teammate for the longest time, stands second on the list with five World Cup appearance.

## Indian women's 25m pistol team to fight for gold in WC

**Cairo:** The Indian women's 25m pistol team of Rahi Sarnobat, Esha Singh and Rhythm Sangwan reached the gold medal match in the ISSF World Cup here. The trio topped the second qualification stage with a combined effort of 441 out of a possible 450 late on Saturday night, to set up the summit clash with Singapore, who also shot the same score, but with three lesser inner 10s than India. Chinese Taipei and Japan will clash for the bronze medal. India already have two gold and one silver medal from the tournament and are currently placed second on the medals tally. Saurabh Chaudhary and the women's 10m air pistol team had struck gold, while Esha Singh had won silver in the individual women's 10m air pistol.

## Mary Kom to skip World Championships



**New Delhi:** Olympic bronze medalist boxer MC Mary Kom has decided to skip the World Championships and the Asian Games to be held later this year to give more exposure to youngsters. The six-time world champion wants to focus on her preparations for the Birmingham Commonwealth Games. The IBA Women's World Boxing Championships is scheduled to be held from May 6 to 21 in Istanbul, Turkey while the 2022 Commonwealth Games and 2022 Asian Games will begin on July 28 and September 10 respectively. In a communication to the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), Mary Kom said, "I would like to withdraw to give opportunity to the younger generation to make a name for themselves on the international stage and get exposure and experience of major tournaments."

## UP stun Maharashtra by six wickets to make knockouts

**Sultanpur:** Uttar Pradesh stunned Maharashtra by six wickets in their Ranji Trophy elite group G match to qualify for the knock-outs here on Sunday. Maharashtra, who had taken a crucial first innings lead, resumed the fourth and final day on 84 for 4 and they made quite a brave declaration at 211/5, with Rahul Tripathi remaining unbeaten on 123 off just 110 balls, with 17 fours and two sixes. Uttar Pradesh were thus set a stiff target of 357, but they rode on hundreds from opener Almas Shaukat (100) and skipper Karan Sharma (116) to win the match. Rinku Singh also chipped in with an unbeaten 78 off just 60 balls.

# Jadeja, Ashwin overwhelm Sri Lanka in 3 days

**Mohali, Mar 06 (PTI):**

Ravindra Jadeja stood tall with his all-round brilliance as he complemented his unbeaten 175 with nine wickets in India's innings and 222-run win against a Sri Lankan team that looked anything but Test class in a match that ended inside three days.

After being bowled out for 174 in the first innings, Sri Lanka, who lost 16 wickets on the day, were dismissed for 178 in their second essay. In the first innings, they were one short of Jadeja's individual score and in the second they were three more, which speaks about their plight.

India lead the two-match series 1-0, and will like to gain full 24 points from the rubber by winning the Pink Ball Test in Bengaluru, starting March 12.

The match as a contest was over on the first day when India scored 357 and then piled on Sri Lanka's misery with Jadeja toying with a depleted bowling attack. It is after 60 years that an Indian has scored 150 runs and taken five wickets in an innings. Vinoo Mankad, in 1952 against England at Lord's, and Polly Umrigar in 1962 versus West Indies at Delhi, are the other owners of this rare feat. If that wasn't enough, India got as many as 16 wickets on the third day to wrap up the match with a cumulative bowling effort of 125 overs



India's Ravindra Jadeja (L) celebrates with teammate Shreyas Iyer after the dismissal of Sri Lanka's Suranga Lakmal.

across two innings. Jadeja (175 not out, 5/41 and 4/46) made the match his own while Ravichandran Ashwin (4/47 in 21 overs) also had a satisfying run, replacing Kapil Dev (434 in

131 games) as India's second highest wicket-taker with 436 victims. He is now only behind Anil Kumble's 619 scalps.

One of the contemporary greats, Ashwin

## Khawaja misses ton as Australia cuts Pakistan lead to 205



**Rawalpindi, Mar 06 (AP):**

Usman Khawaja narrowly missed out on a century in the country of his birth as Australia's top batters made full use of a placid wicket to reach 271-2 on the third day of the first test against Pakistan on Sunday.

Khawaja, whose family migrated to Australia when he was four, capitalized on two dropped catches to score 97 while his opening partner David Warner (68) and Marnus Labuschagne (69 not out) also scored ag-

gressive half centuries. Bad light and heavy clouds brought an early closure to the third day's play, 21 overs ahead of schedule as Australia batters prospered on a grassless wicket.

Australia still trails by 205 runs in its first test in Pakistan in 24 years after the home team had declared at 476-4 late on the second day.

Labuschagne, who hit nine boundaries, raised his half century under overcast conditions in a shortened last session and vice-captain Steve Smith was

not out on 24 when umpires took the players off the field. The flat wicket has not changed to give any assistance to the bowlers over the last three days with batters continuing their domination in all nine sessions.

Pakistan's only productive period with the ball came when its spinners claimed the wickets of Khawaja and Warner in the second session.

Khawaja had escaped a second chance when on 62 with wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan unable to grab a sharp chance off a reverse sweep against left-arm spinner Nauman Ali (1-49).

However, he attempted the same extravagant shot again against Nauman and was caught close to the wicket when Pakistan successfully called for a television review against onfield umpire Aleem Dar's not out decision. Replays suggested Khawaja had gloved the ball as it ballooned to Imam-ul-Haq at short leg.

## Chennai Super Kings to face Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL lung-opener



**Mumbai, Mar 06 (PTI):**

Defending champions Chennai Super Kings will face Kolkata Knight Riders in the opening game of the 15th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) at the Wankhede stadium here on March 26.

The BCCI on Sunday announced the schedule of the cash-rich league, which will be played across four venues -- Wankhede Stadium and Cricket Club of India in

Mumbai, DY Patil stadium in Navi Mumbai and Maharashtra Cricket Association stadium in Pune.

A total number of 70 league matches and 4 play-off games will be played in the duration of 65 days, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a media release.

There will be 12 double-headers in the tournament and on such days, the first game will be played at 3.30pm and the evening matches will be played at 7.30pm.

## We ticked all boxes, says Rohit

**H**is Test captaincy stint off to a winning start, an elated Rohit Sharma on Sunday said India ticked all the boxes against Sri Lanka in the opening Test of the two-match series here. Ravindra Jadeja stood tall with his all-round brilliance as he followed up his unbeaten 175 with nine wickets in India's innings and 222-run win against Sri Lanka in the match that ended inside three days. After being bowled out for 174 in the first innings, Sri Lanka, who lost 16 wickets on the day, were dismissed for 178 in their second essay. "It was a good start. It was a great game of cricket from our perspective. We ticked all the boxes we wanted to. To be honest I didn't think it is going to be that kind of a Test match which would get over in three days. "It was a good batting pitch, there was some turn and some assistance for the seamers as well," Rohit said at the post-match presenta-



tion ceremony. "Lot of credit to the guys, they bowled very well in tandem, kept the pressure and never made it easier for the Sri Lanka batsmen. We just ensured we applied pressure from both ends. "Good signs for

India cricket. Lot of performances, landmark Test match for Virat (Kohli) and we wanted to come up out here and win the Test first and foremost. It was heartening to see such big individual performances," he added.

achieved the feat in his 85th Test match compared to Kapil's 131 games.

After Rohit Sharma asked Sri Lanka to follow-on after dismissing them for 174, 400 runs adrift of India's first-innings score of 574 for eight, the visitors were in trouble again after Lahiru Thirimanne be-

came Ashwin's 433rd victim. Post lunch, it was first-innings half-centurion Pathum Nissanka whose outside edge to a delivery that didn't turn much, was snapped by Rishabh Pant to complete a memorable feat for Ashwin. In between, Mohammed Shami got Dimuth Karunaratne

(27) to edge one to Pant, who took a low diving catch, while Ravindra Jadeja got his sixth scalp of the game by removing Dhananjaya de Silva (30).

Mathews (27 batting) and Charith Asalanka (20 batting) hit some lusty blows to entertain the Sunday crowd.

## Women's World Cup

# India thrash Pakistan in opener



**Mount Maunganui, Mar 06 (PTI):**

The Indian team thrashed arch-rivals Pakistan by 107 runs to begin their campaign in the ICC Women's World Cup on a rousing note here on Sunday, the much-anticipated face-off ending in a no contest.

Opting to bat after the coin landed in India's favour, in-form opener Smriti Mandhana, Sneh Rana and Pooja Vastrakar struck useful half-centuries to help their team recover from an early wobble and post 244 for seven at the Bay Oval.

Chasing a tricky target of 245, the Pakistan team fell way short of the mark and was all out for 137 in 43 overs, losing its 11th straight game against neighbours India in the 50-over format.

Left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad did the star turn with the ball, returning with excellent figures of 4/31 after her full quota of 10 overs. Seasoned pacer Jhulan Goswami bowled very well to finish the game with impressive figures of 2/29, while there were also two wickets for Rana (2/27), capping off her fine all-round show.

To start with however, the Indians found themselves under pressure after opener Shafali Verma was dismissed for a duck in the third over.

A 92-run stand between Mandhana (52 off 75 balls) and Deepti Sharma (40 off 57) helped steady the ship. However, Pakistan came back strongly by claiming a flurry of wickets, including the scalps of skipper Mithali Raj (9) and her deputy Haramanpreet Kaur (5). It wasn't a good outing for Raj with the willow but, by turning out in the India jersey on Sunday, the veteran 39-year-old became only the third cricketer after Sachin Tendulkar and Javed Miandad to appear in six World Cups and the first woman to achieve the feat. Raj, though, would take her cheap dismissal in her stride as her team achieved the result it sought. After the early dismissal of Shafali, the duo of Mandhana and Deepti got together to first steady the innings and then build a foundation for Rana and Vastrakar to take their team closer to 250.

Rana (53 not out) and Vastrakar (67) shared a crucial 122-run partnership -- the highest for the seventh wicket in ICC Women's World Cups -- to help boost the India total.

From the Pakistan point of view, the stand

between Rana and Vastrakar hit them hard as they were hoping to restrict India after reducing them to 114 for six at one point. In reply, Pakistan were precariously placed at 78 for five at the halfway point in their innings, 167 runs away from a win.

India were rewarded for some tight bowling early on, limiting Pakistan to just 26 for no loss at the end of the powerplay.

The pressure got to the openers as Javeria Khan departed in the 11th over, trying to take the aerial route.

After that, the Indian spinners continued to keep a lid on the scoring, with Deepti and Rana taking the important wickets of Pakistan skipper Bismah Maroof and Omaidha Sohail respectively. Goswami then got into the act, dismissing thKe settled Sidra Ameen, who was caught behind. Jhulan struck again in her next over to remove Dar for 4 as Pakistan stared at a big defeat. It was pleasing to see Jhulan, even after so many years, running in hard and giving everything for her team.

This is Pakistan's 15th defeat while chasing in the Women's World Cup games.

## AMIT SHAH TO CISF

# 'Develop hybrid security model to train, certify pvt security agencies'

Ghaziabad (UP), Mar 06 (PTI):

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday pitched for a "hybrid" security model where the CISF could train and certify private security agencies so that they can take over the task of efficiently guarding various kinds of industrial and manufacturing units in the country.

He said the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), raised in 1969, worked like a silent "karmayogi" to ensure the country's industrial development and secured the private manufacturing production units as India rode on to become a USD 2.5 trillion-strong economy. In the country's journey from a

USD 2.5 trillion economy to becoming a USD 5 trillion economy, many units in the manufacturing sector will be established and the CISF will face new scenarios, the home minister added. Without elaborating, he said the about 1.64-lakh-personnel-strong force could soon see an enhancement in its role. Shah was speaking at the



Home Minister Amit Shah speaks during the 53rd Raising Day celebrations of the Central Industrial Security Force, in Ghaziabad, Sunday.

53rd Raising Day celebrations of the CISF here. "The work of private security agencies is rapidly increasing... we have brought out rules and regulations for their functioning. Can the CISF take the responsibility of training these private security agencies?" he asked. "Can we prepare some model for say, a private manufacturing unit, that

employs between 1,000 and 5,000 staff? We will have to enhance the efficiency of the private security agencies as the CISF alone cannot render the task of securing the industrial and manufacturing units of the country," he said. The home minister said he believes that it is part of the CISF's work to ensure that all the agencies involved in industrial security are as efficient as the force in securing the sector. A hybrid model of security, where the CISF will prepare the strategy and where both private and the CISF personnel can work, can be developed so that the paramilitary force can gradually come out and hand over these tasks to private security agencies, he added.

## BEAUTIFICATION WORK



A woman sits outside her hut with its walls painted as part of beautification of the city, at a slum area in Kolkata, Sunday.

## 'Mission Hungry for Cargo'

# Railways mapping mining districts for higher freight transport share

New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI):

The Railways is mapping the mining districts across the country to connect them with the rail network in a bid to bite into a bigger slice of the freight transportation pie, officials told PTI.

Under its 'Mission Hungry for Cargo' initiative, the Railways is targeting a 45 per cent modal share in freight transportation from the current 27 per cent. As part of it, zones have been instructed to identify districts and survey the total produce of the mines in their regions and map the rail route around them.

So far, the ministry has approved the survey of

about 100 MT of production capacity mines across the country, officials said. As many as 52 districts have been identified so far. These include Tinsukia, with a production capacity of 0.62 MT, Raiganj 17 MT, Korba, 111 MT and Dantewada 23 MT.

The products include coal, iron ore and bauxite limestone which the Railways wants to transport at competitive pricing. Official figures show the national transporter's market share in transporting goods has been consistently reducing and it has been losing its dominance to other modes of transport like road and even waterways.

The Railways has in-

structed its Business Development Units across zones to go into detail about each major commodity in their areas and make all-out efforts to not only bring back the freight cargo but also add new products to their basket, officials said.

"The idea of mapping these mineral-rich areas is to ensure that we get to transport them on rail. The surveys will identify the nearest railroad to the mine and if there aren't any then we can lay the tracks there.

"The plan is to make railways not only the cheapest but the most convenient transporter of such goods," said a senior railway official.

# Bandh call evokes mixed response

Ranchi, March 06 (PTI):

Jharkhand bandh call given by non-tribal outfits led by Bhojpuri Magahi Maithili Angika Manch (BMMAM) on Sunday to press their demand for

inclusion of Bhojpuri and Magahi in the list of recognised regional languages of Dhanbad and Bokaro districts, evoked a mixed response.

The tribal organisations who oppose the demand, however, termed it a complete failure.

Members of different non-tribal organisations led by BMMAM took to the streets in Ranchi and other districts to try make the bandh a success.

However, the impact of the bandh call was miss-

ing in cities, as markets were open and traffic movement normal like other days.

Bandh supporters were seen marching from Ranchi's Birsa Chowk to Albert Ekka Chowk requesting traders to shut their shops.

Even though traffic was almost normal in Ranchi, number of passenger auto-rickshaws plying the streets were fewer compared to normal days.

The non-tribal outfits are demanding inclusion of Bhojpuri and Magahi in the list of regional languages for Dhanbad and Bokaro districts and are also protesting a move to use the 1932-'Khatiyani' (land records) as proof of domicile in the state.

BMMAM president Kailash Yadav told

media persons, It was a token bandh in the state on Sunday. If government does not include Bhojpuri and Magahi in the list of regional languages in Dhanbad and Bokaro, the agitation will be intensified. We also demand the government drop the idea of a 1932-'Khatiyani' based domicile policy.

Meanwhile, JMM legislator Lobin Hembrom and former Jharkhand minister Geetashree Oraon have termed the bandh call by non-tribal outfits as a complete failure.

The two tribal leaders on Sunday participated in an indefinite agitation staged by Jharkhand Bhasa Sangharsah Samiti (JBSS) near Governor House.

JBSS members have been agitating since

February 24 near Governor House in support of their demands for implementing 1932-Khatiyani based domicile policy.

The JMM legislator assured them that he would request the Chief Minister Hemant Soren in assembly on Monday to meet a delegation of JBSS and hear their grievances.

Hembrom told media persons, I am an Adivasi (tribal) first and then a legislator. I have been demanding in the assembly that we implement 1932-Khatiyani based domicile policy and have also sought a deadline from the government for implementing it.

Geetashree Oraon said that the government should clear its stand over 1932-Khatiyani.

## ITBP launches events to mark 75 years of India's Independence

New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI):

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police on Sunday launched public awareness and civic welfare programmes across the country, including at remote frontier locations, as part of celebrations for the 75th year of Independence, an official said. The events will be held for eight days, till March 13, as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav: Desh Ki Hifazat-Desh Ki Suraksha' series.

During the series, ITBP personnel will organise programmes on topics such as the human face of security, honour the families of personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty, band displays and assistance through the wives welfare association, a spokesperson of the force said.

"ITBP will also organise free medical camps, distribution of stationery and sports items for school children in the border regions and Naxal affected areas. Band displays will be held at prominent places in the deployment area of our units," he said.

The events are part of the directives issued in this context by the Ministry of Home Affairs to all paramilitary forces and other agencies under its command, the official said. The ITBP is primarily tasked to secure the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control with China.

## EXCHANGING COLOURS



Members of Bhumihar Mahila Sabha smear dry colors on each other, ahead of Holi festival, in Patna, Sunday.

## FOR A HUMANITARIAN CAUSE

# Indian medics abroad unite to help peers in Ukraine

New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI):

Need a cab for four people in Kyiv. Do we know someone in Poland who can drop food packets at the border? A group is starting from Kharkiv, any updates on trains?

Thousands of such messages keep pouring in WhatsApp, Telegram and social media groups created by Indian medical students abroad who have volunteered to help their peers stranded in Ukraine amid the Russian invasion. The volunteering students are studying in China, Uzbekistan and Philippines. While many of them are helping from their university campuses, the others are those who had returned to India in the wake of the COVID-

19 pandemic and are attending online classes. As soon as the news of Indian students being stranded in war-hit Ukraine spread, these volunteers sprung into action. "We were connected with some of the medical students in different countries since we went to coaching institutions together before leaving India.

"We also had multiple groups on Whatsapp and Telegram to exchange updates, notes and other information on Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE), which we are supposed to write to practice in India," P Sharma, a student of China's Harbin Medical University, told PTI. "When things started

going south in Ukraine, we thought why not use these to help our fellow students stranded there. We collated all contacts and shared the group links on social media. Within two days, there were over 5,000 subscribers in the Telegram group and we made it a virtual war room," he added.

Coordinating across time zones, managing hundreds of messages, watching the news to stay abreast of the constantly evolving situation in Ukraine keeps the young volunteers busy. Another Indian medical student at Cagayan State University in Philippines said the groups receive at least 100 messages every 15 minutes.

# Expenditure limit for candidates increased to Rs 8 lakh

DELHI CIVIC POLLS

New Delhi, Mar 06 (PTI): The State Election Commission of Delhi has increased the limit of expenditure that can be incurred by a candidate in the elections for the city's three municipal corporations to Rs 8 lakh from Rs 5.75 lakh. Polls for 272 wards of the three civic bodies in Delhi are slated to be held in April. A schedule is yet to be announced by the commission.

"I, S K Srivastava, State Election Commissioner of NCT of Delhi, hereby fix the maximum limit of expenditure to be incurred by

a candidate at an election to a ward of three municipal corporations of Delhi viz North Delhi, South Delhi and East Delhi, to be held hereafter as Rs 8 lakh," said an order issued on Friday.

Civic authorities said in the last municipal elections in 2017, the maximum expenditure limit was Rs 5.75 lakh. In the 2004 MCD polls, the maximum expenditure limit was Rs 4 lakh, which was increased to Rs 5 lakh in 2012.

"It was further increased by Rs 75,000 in the 2017 municipal elections. Now, it will be Rs 8 lakh this time," a functionary of the South

Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) told PTI on Sunday. SDMC councillor from Janakpuri Narendra Chawla hailed the decision and said it would help in establishing transparency during the elections.

"Increasing the expenditure limit is a good move. Some candidates anyway overstepped the prescribed expenditure limits in the previous elections. Those who crossed the limit used to prepare fake bills to fit the expenditure within the limit. But now, this decision of increasing the limit will bring transparency," Chawla claimed.

# 'Abrogation of Article 370 has created big political void in J-K'

Jammu, Mar 06 (PTI):

The unconstitutional and undemocratic decision to revoke the special status of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state has created a big political void and deep uncertainty, CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami said on Sunday.

The former legislator reiterated his demand for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, which was acknowledged by Article 370 of the Constitution. The BJP-led government had on August 9, 2019, abrogated this article and bifurcated the erst-

while state into two union territories Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.



M Y Tarigami

Through the scrapping of the constitutional rights, downgrading and bifurcating a historic state

into two union territories, not only has the BJP government undermined the basic structure of the Constitution but the relationship between Jammu and Kashmir and the union itself, Tarigami said during the addressing the

10th regional conference of CPI(M)'s Jammu unit here.

The conference, which was attended by hundreds of delegates, unanimously passed several resolutions on price rise, unemployment, agriculture, unity in the union territory, labour laws and education.

And the only way to put things back on track is by immediately restoring the constitutional rights and

statehood to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, the CPI(M) leader said.

He laughed off the claims made by the government on increasing investments, development and job avenues in Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of new land and domicile laws saying they were dreams and not reality.

Today, one gets surprised to see the economic condition in Jammu and Kashmir, and the status of jobs. Look what has happened to the land rights people had possessed after a hard struggle.

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