



### BRIEF



A yogi blows a conch during inauguration of Yoga Mahotsav-2022, at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, Sunday.

### Raid

**Jaipur:** Three different premises of a Rajasthan Financial Corporation (RFC) manager were raided by the Anti-Corruption Bureau after he was found to have accumulated disproportionate wealth, officials on Sunday said. Kailash Chand Bunkar posted at Kishangarh of Jaipur district had accumulated assets over Rs 6.50 crore, which was 758 per cent more than his legal income, an official statement said.

### Smugglers

**Jaipur:** Three people including a UP Police Sub Inspector were arrested here on Sunday with 35 ivory tusks weighing around 30 kg, police said. They were arrested by the Special Operations Group (SOG) of Rajasthan Police and Wild Life Crime Control Bureau in a joint operation. The arrests were made when a team intercepted an SUV in Jalupura area of the city acting on a tip-off about movement of ivory tusks and tiger skin.

### Arrested

**Kolkata:** Actor Rupa Dutta has been arrested for allegedly committing attention diversion theft at the venue of the International Kolkata Book Fair, police said on Sunday. Dutta, who has acted in television soaps, was arrested on Saturday after a policeman saw her throwing a purse into a dustbin, an officer of Bidhan Nagar North police station said. She was then detained and questioned, during which discrepancies were found in her answers.

### Mishap

**Machilipatnam:** Five of a family, including a six-month-old baby were killed and one person seriously injured, when the car in which they were travelling hit a culvert on a national highway in Krishna district on Sunday morning, police said. The car slammed into the culvert when the driver who was drowsy lost control of the vehicle, police said.

**Weather**  
High 35 Low 18

## 35 killed as Russian air strikes pound Ukraine military base

Lviv, Mar 13 (AP):

Waves of Russian missiles pounded a military training base close to Ukraine's western border with NATO member Poland, killing 35 people. The strike followed Russian threats to target foreign weapon shipments that are helping Ukrainian fighters defend their country against Russia's grinding invasion.

More than 30 Russian cruise missiles targeted the sprawling training facility that is less than 25 kilometers (15 miles) from the closest border point with Poland, according to the governor of Ukraine's western Lviv region. Poland is a key location for routing Western military aid to Ukraine.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine, Lviv had largely been spared the scale of destruction unfolding further east and become a destination for residents escaping bombarded cities and for many of the nearly 2.6 million refugees who have fled the country.

The training center in Yavoriv appears to be the most westward target struck so far in the 18-day invasion. The facility, also known as the International



A fire burns at an apartment building after it was hit by the shelling of a residential district in Mariupol, Ukraine.

### India temporarily relocates embassy from Ukraine to Poland

India has decided to temporarily relocate its embassy in Ukraine to Poland in view of the rapidly deteriorating security situation in the war-torn country including the Russian military offensive in its western region. The decision comes as Russian troops are closing in on key Ukrainian cities and towns including the capital Kyiv. "In view of the rapidly deteriorating security situation in Ukraine, including attacks in the western parts of the country, it has been decided that the Indian Embassy in Ukraine will be temporarily relocated to Poland," the Ministry of External Affairs said.

Peacekeeping and Security Center, has long been used to train Ukrainian military personnel, often with instructors from the United States and other NATO countries. It has also hosted international NATO drills. As such, the site

symbolizes what has long been a Russian complaint: That the NATO alliance of 30 member countries is moving ever closer to Russia's borders. Russian has demanded that Ukraine drop its ambitions to join NATO.

## PM for integrating latest technology in security apparatus

### Chairs CCS meeting

New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security to review India's security preparedness and the prevailing global scenario in the context of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

Modi, official sources said, emphasised on integrating latest technology in the security apparatus and reiterated that every effort must be made to make India self-reliant in



Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs a high-level meeting to review India's security preparedness, and the prevailing global scenario, amid Russia-Ukraine crisis, in New Delhi.

the defence sector so that it not only strengthens our security but also adds to the economy.

Modi was also given a detailed overview of glob-

al tech usage in the defence sector and India's advances in it, they said.

An official statement said Modi was briefed on latest developments and

different aspects of India's security preparedness in the border areas as well as in the maritime and air domain.

"The prime minister was also briefed on the latest developments in Ukraine, including the details of Operation Ganga to evacuate Indian nationals, along with some citizens of neighbouring countries, from Ukraine," it said.

Modi directed that all possible efforts should be made to bring back the mortal remains of Naveen Shekharappa, who died in Kharkiv.

## Budget session of Parl resumes today

New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):

The second part of the Parliament's Budget session begins on Monday with the Opposition set to corner the government on a range of issues, including rising unemployment, a reduction in the interest rate on employees' provident fund and the evacuation of Indians stranded in war-hit Ukraine.

Top on the government's agenda would be getting Parliament's approval to the budgetary proposals and presentation of the budget for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is set to

present the budget for Jammu and Kashmir in the Lok Sabha on Monday and it is expected to be taken up for discussion in the post-lunch sitting of the House.

The government has also listed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill for consideration and passing in the Lok Sabha.

With the COVID-19 situation easing out considerably, both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha will have simultaneous sittings from 11 am, instead of the two separate shifts during the first part of the Budget session from January 29 to February 11.

## Cong most credible of national Oppn parties: Tharoor

New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):

As Congress' top brass met to deliberate on its recent electoral debacle, its leader Shashi Tharoor on Sunday pointed to the party having the largest number of MLAs in the country in the Opposition camp and asserted that it was "worth reforming and reviving".

Taking to Twitter, Tharoor shared a list of the number of MLAs that respective parties in the county have nationwide. According to the list shared by him, the Congress has over 750 MLAs, the most after the BJP which has over 1,400

legislators. It was not clear when this list was compiled as the Samajwadi Party, which won 111 seats in the recent Uttar Pradesh assembly polls, did not figure, though it did have some parties with less than 100 legislators.

"This is why incindia remains by far the most credible of the national opposition parties. It's also why it's worth reforming & reviving," he said sharing the list.

The Congress lost Punjab to the AAP, could not wrest Uttarakhnad, Goa and Manipur from the BJP and gave its worst performance in the crucial state of Uttar Pradesh.

## Chorus for Rahul as Cong president grows louder as CWC meets



Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi and others attend the Congress Working Committee meeting after party's debacle in recent Assembly elections of five states, at AICC, in New Delhi, Sunday.

New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):

The chorus for making Rahul Gandhi Congress president again grew louder on Sunday as several

leaders and workers voiced support for him to take on the mantle of party chief.

Ahead of a crucial Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting,

### CONG POLL DEBACLE

## National Secretary Dipika Singh resigns

Ranchi, Mar 13 (PTI):

Jharkhand legislator Dipika Pandey Singh on Sunday resigned from the post of national secretary of the Congress and the party's co-in charge of Uttarakhand after its defeat in the recent assembly polls in the northern state. Her resignation came hours before the Congress Working Committee, the party's highest decision-making body, met in



New Delhi to discuss the outcome of the assembly elections in five states. "Taking responsibility of the defeats in Uttarakhand assembly elections, I have resigned as national secretary, co-in charge of Uttarakhand. I thank leadership for giving me the opportunity to serve the party at national level," she wrote on Twitter. Singh is an MLA from Mahagama assembly constituency in Jharkhand's Godda district.

## 4 members of B'desh terror group held

Bhopal, Mar 13 (PTI):

Four alleged members of the banned Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) have been arrested from Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal, state home minister Narottam Mishra said on Sunday. Jihad literature and electronic devices have been seized from their possession, Mishra said, adding that the organisation is banned in India since 2019 after their involvement was found in the Bodh Gaya blast in Bihar.

## Group of men sexually harass women in public view

Bhopal, Mar 13 (PTI):

Three tribal men were arrested on Sunday for allegedly sexually harassing women in full public view in Alirajpur district of Madhya Pradesh while two others were detained for filming this incident and posting videos on social media, police said on Sunday.

Efforts are on to arrest three to four more persons who were involved in harassing women and instigat-

### 3 held, 2 detained for filming video and making it viral

ed the other accused, a police officer said.

We have detained the man who made the video and another one who made it viral. Besides, we have arrested three accused who were seen misbehaving with women, Alirajpur Superintendent of Police Manoj Singh told PTI. The arrested accused and the de-

tained men are tribals, he said. The video showed some men, who appeared to be in their 20s, pushing and hugging some women walking on a crowded street and trying to kiss them forcibly amid shouting by other men. At least two men involved in the act were seen wearing saffron towels. However, the police denied that the "molesters" were politically affiliated. Singh said the trio was booked under sections 354 (assault or criminal force to woman

with an intent to outrage her modesty) and 345-A (sexual harassment) and 34 (criminal acts done by several persons with common intention) of the Indian Penal Code. No woman has lodged a complaint with us. We took the action based on the video that has gone viral, he added.

The incident occurred two days back in the Wallpur area of the tribal-dominated Alirajpur district, around 392 km away from Bhopal.

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# Our daughters bringing laurels to state from across the globe: Governor

**Central Chronicle News**

**Bhilai, Mar 13:** "I do not have enough words to praise the works that the daughters of Chhattisgarh are doing. Pandwani exponent Padmavibhushan Teejan Bai made the entire nation proud with her talent. When Padmashri Phoolbasan Yadav came in front of Amitabh Bachchan in KBC, her level confidence was clearly visible."

I also took the decision of serving the people in my life. I faced many problems but finally got success", said Governor Anusuiya Uikay while addressing the State Level Mahila Jagriti Sammelan organized by Baikunthdham Temple Committee in Chhawani on Sunday. She said that whenever

a woman moves ahead in any sector, she faces a lot of troubles. However, if she works with full dedication and determination, she succeeds.

When the daughters move forward, some people try to create obstacles in their path but there are many others who help the daughters to progress. She suggested the women to seek guidance from good people for ensuring success life. She honored 36 prominent women of different fields.

Narrating her life story, Governor said that when she was studying, it was an era when the girls were not encouraged for studies. As she



had decided to work in the field of public service, she decided to continue her studies.

During the student life, she entered politics and continued to work hard. She became an MLA at the age of 26 years and today she is working as the Governor. She added

that the daughters can achieve any position if they work hard.

Anusuiya added that she was feeling proud to attend the felicitation function. Today, women are actively participating and achieving success in every sphere including arts, science, education and politics.



When women come out of their house to work in any field, they have to face various obstacles. But they handle their responsibilities effectively while taking care of the house.

This proves that women are more capable than men. She urged all to change the mindset to-

wards daughters. When the family members give encouragement to the daughters, their spirit gets doubled.

On the occasion, MP Vijay Baghel said that it feels good when the girls score higher marks in exams. Women are now the leaders in every field. Governor paid obeisance

to Lord Mahadev, Maa Durga, Lord Hanuman, Shani Dev and other deities in the temple.

Padma Vibhushan Teejan Bai, Mayor Shashi Sinha, Former Minister Ramshila Sahu, District Panchayat President Shalini Yadav, Padma Shri Radheshyam Barle, Risali Municipal Corporation Speaker Keshav Banchore were present.

Governor honored 36 women with the Nari Shakti Samman. The convener of the committee, Amrita Barle presented the traditional ornaments of Chhattisgarh to the Governor. Radheshyam Barle pre-

sented Gourmukut and Nangar to her.

Governor informed that once 40 women from Bastar's Sulphipadar village visited Raj Bhavan to meet her. The women told that they protect the forest and also take the crop of black pepper. Governor informed that she appreciated them for their venture and decided to adopt this village. These women have changed the picture of the village with their enterprise.

She further informed that the daughters of Bastar, who are making delicacies from Kodo Kutki, Ragi are being recognized across the country. The chefs of Ashoka Hotel, which is a prestigious hotel in Delhi, took training from them to prepare dishes.

# Medical Department of BSP celebrates World Kidney Day BSF rescues road mishap victim

**Central Chronicle News**

**Bhilai, Mar 13:** World Kidney Day was observed in the Medical Department of BSP on March 10, 2022. The day is observed on the second Thursday of March every year. This year the theme is "Kidney Health for All-Bridging the gap for Better Kidney Care".

Kidney is one of the major organs of the body alongside with Brain, Heart, Lung and Liver. Kidney is located in the abdomen below the rib cage towards the backside. It removes waste and extra body fluids and maintains healthy balance of water, salt and minerals in the body.

It is observed that the number of patients with

kidney ailments are increasing leading to appalling human and economic cost. There is widespread ignorance about what kidneys are and how serious kidney disease can be. Hence the World Kidney Day is observed to sensitize the general public about organ, the impact of kidney disease and it being a silent killer.

At JLNH&RC a Poster session was inaugurated in the OPD. The display of posters, made by the Nursing Students illustrated various aspect about the functions of kidney, care and precautions that needed to be taken to have a healthy life.

The Poster was inaugurated by Dr SK Issar, ED (Medical) by lighting of



lamp in the presence of CMOs Dr Ravindranath M and Dr P Binayake.

After the inauguration, a question-answer session on Kidney was organised through interaction with general public who visited the Hospital. Dr Santosh Nashine anchored the session and in-

teracted with the public. Gifts were presented to the public who offered correct answers to the posed questions. Dr Pramod Binayake emphasized that Diabetes Milletus and hypertension adversely affect the kidneys. Hence persons who are affected by these

ailments should be regular in taking treatment.

Another important factor leading to kidney diseases is taking pain killers for a long period of time and other medicines as self-medication, without advice from the Doctors.

The Medical Team also visited the Plant and to spread the message through an interactive session with certain employees in the plant area.

Dr Vinod Srivastava, Dr Gayathri Devi, Tapan Kumar Saha and technical Staff of Biochemistry Department, Shyla Abraham and other staff from Nursing Administration actively co-operated with the Nephrology Unit in observing the day.

**Central Chronicle News**

**Bhilai, Mar 13:** Jawans of BSF 11th Battalion positioned at COB Kaleshwar rescued a mishap victim in a remote area of Kanker. The injured person was rushed to Civic Hospital in Narayanpur and his life was saved.

According to information, the Operation Party of BSF 11th Battalion was moving on State Highway Number 05. Near Temrugaon Triangle, the patrolling party spotted a man lying unconscious on the road.

It appeared that the man had suffered injuries after falling from a bike. The BSF team immediately called the ambulance and the injured was shifted to



Civil Hospital in Narayanpur. The victim got timely medical aid and his life was saved. BSF is not only fighting naxals in the state but is also con-

ducting its responsibilities towards the society. IG (BSF) SK Tyagi has appreciated the officials and jawans of COB Kaleshwar for this noble task.

# Devendra leads scooter rally to mark International Women's Day

**Central Chronicle News**

**Bhilai, Mar 13:** Just as the last couple of years this year too, Devendra Yadav, MLA Bhilaiinagar in a bid to encourage women, to express support to them, and give the message of gender equality, led a grand scooter rally on Sunday morning. The rally took off from Sector 9 square amidst music and songs being played on the DJ. While driving scooter he released balloons in the sky and said that if women keep their spirits up, they can touch the sky too.

Through this rally, he



gave a message that he would always be with the women of the city to and wherever needed would provide all support to make them move forward and win recognition. He was speaking as the chief

guest of the function. The function began with the releasing of balloons. The scooter rally began from Sector 9 Square and after passing on the Central Avenue ended at the Dome Shed in Sector 05 near the



residence of Mayor Neeraj Pal.

When the rally reached Sector 5, the NCC team of girls marched there and welcomed the chief guest Devendra Yadav. After this, many cultural pro-

grams for women were held here. In the main programme held at Sector 5, DJ was also played along with girls band to make women feel special.

There Devendra Yadav said that the purpose of

this rally on International Women's Day is that the sisters and daughters of our city should understand that they should always move forward without fear because we are standing shoulder to shoulder with them.

He said that the sisters and daughters of our city are progressing in every field and we salute their courage. He further said that our country is male dominated, so our country is a developing country.

The day it becomes female dominated, our country will become a developed country. Women have made full contribution in

the progress and development of India. Hundreds of women were present on this occasion.

The women who did excellent work including the talented women of the city were also honoured in the program. Janvi Choubey, who participated in the cultural program, gave a presentation of Bharat Natyam.

Anamika's group presented Chhattisgarhi dance. Kusum presented solo dance, Gurjeet, Aarti, Mamta sang songs and fascinated everyone. Hemlata and her group got a lot of applause on performing tribal dance.

**Health services in poor state as services not provided adequately**

**Dhantari, Mar 13:** The State Government is running various programs to aid the health services of the region, but adequate resources are not reaching the beneficiaries and many patients are not getting the direct benefit of these public oriented health schemes.

According to the norms of the National Health Mission, medical camps have to be organised in slums and other urban population region, to cater to the health and diagnostic features of the general public, but such camps are reportedly not being camped by eth concerned authorities, though funds are released by the government for this purpose from time to time.

# National Lok Adalat settles 6153 disputes

**Central Chronicle News**

**Bhilai, Mar 13:** Under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), New Delhi, National Lok Adalat was organized in the state of Chhattisgarh on Saturday from Tehsil level to High Court level. During the National Lok Adalat, the compoundable cases were settled with mutual cases between the contesting parties.

Executive Chairman of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) New Delhi, Justice UU Lalit spoke with Executive Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority, Justice Gautam Bhaduri through video conferencing and took information of the proceedings of National Lok Adalat organized in District Court of Rajnandgaon.

National Lok Adalat in District Court, Durg was inaugurated by District and Sessions Judge Rajesh Srivastava (/Chairman District Legal Services Authority Durg). He formally inaugurated the



National Lok Adalat by lighting lamps and garlanding the portrait of Goddess Saraswati.

A total of 35 benches were constituted in the National Lok Adalat. 24 Benches for District Court Durg, 04 Benches for Family Court Durg, 01 for Labor Court, 01 for Juvenile Justice Board Durg, 01 for Permanent Lok Adalat Public Utilities Service, 02 for Tehsil Court Bhilai-3 and 01 for Patan. Cases pending in the court and pre-litigation cases were listed for this mega legal event.

On the instructions of District and Sessions Judge Rajesh Srivastava the Paralegal Volunteers visited the place of an appellant in a case and facilitated her to join the proceedings through virtual medium.

The case was listed for the bench of Judicial Magistrate Dharendra Singh Dangi. This criminal case was pending in the first class court since the year 2011. The accused was facing charges of section- 294,506B, 323, 34 of IPC. There were a total of 05 offenders / applicants

in this pending case, out of which 04 were present before the bench.

One of the victims was unable to attend the National Lok Adalat due to a fractured leg. DJ Rajesh Srivastava took cognizance of the matter and a paralegal volunteer was sent at the residence of the victim and facilitate her with video conferencing. This case was settled through mutual compromise.

In another case, heard by the bench of Judicial Magistrate Ruchi Mishra, the matter of section



294,506B, 323 of the Indian Penal Code was pending since long. There were two victims in this pending case, out of which 01 appeared in the National Lok Adalat. One of the victims was a disabled lady and was unable to attend the proceedings.

When DJ Rajesh Srivastava came to know about the situation, he immediately sent a Paralegal Volunteer at the residence of the victim, from where she attended the proceedings through video conferencing. This case was also disposed of through mutu-

al compromise.

In another case, after 5 years of love marriage, the daughter-in-law entered into dispute with her husband and mother-in-law and started living separately. Later a criminal case was registered against the daughter-in-law in the year 2018.

Pre-seating was done between the parties and in view of the possibility of compromise, notice was issued to the parties. Due to old age and deteriorating health, the mother-in-law was unable to reach the National Lok Adalat. She

was also connected through video conferencing and the dispute was settled through mutual compromise.

In another significant case, a son who lost his mother in the accident got a compensation of Rs 25.75 lakh. Presiding Officer Aditya Joshi, Bench No 05, in the pending motor accident claim case, conducted conciliation of the victim as well as the insurance company after which the parties settled the claim case with a compensation amount of Rs 25,75,000/-. Judicial Magistrate

Umesh Upadhyay, First Class Division Bench No 11, conducted hearing of the criminal case in which the wife had filed a report against the husband and the offense of section-294, 506B, 323 was registered. The presiding officer of the concerned court conducted 3-4 sittings and counselled the parties. Keeping in mind the future and love of the children, the wife agreed to dispose off the matter through compromise.

A total of 2908 court cases and 3245 pre-litigation cases were resolved in the National Lok Adalat. The total settlement amount was Rs 77238811. The disposed off cases include 702 criminal cases, 15 electricity cases, 47 claims cases, 171 family cases, 258 cheque dishonor cases, 34 civil cases and 105 cases of labor court and other 1253 cases of Permanent Lok Adalat Public Utility Service, Durg. 3108 cases related to Revenue Courts were also settled. The second National Lok Adalat for the year 2022 will be organized on May 14, 2022.

## Baghel rules out any change in top leadership

Leaves for Delhi to attend CWC meeting

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 13:** Deliberations have begun in Congress after its poor performance in the assembly elections held in five states-UP, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur: Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Sunday left for New Delhi to attend Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting. In Raipur, he ruled out any change in the Congress top leadership.

Talking to the reporters at Raipur airport before leaving for New Delhi, Baghel said that he had been called to CWC meet-



ing being held today. The results of the assembly elections of five states will be discussed in the meeting being chaired by Congress National President Sonia Gandhi.

Other matters can also be discussed with the permission of the party president. Responding to a question, Baghel said, "There is no such thing as a change in the top leader-

ship."

The performance of the Congress in the elections of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur has been disappointing. The party could not return in Uttarakhand whereas in Punjab the party has lost power. Seats in Uttar Pradesh have already decreased. After poll results, voice of change of leadership has started rising from various factions of Congress.

Many people say that now the Gandhi family should leave the Congress leadership. However, a large section of the organization wants Rahul Gandhi to lead the Congress from the front.

Amidst the CWC meeting, Chhattisgarh Health Minister TS Singhdeo raised voice in support of

Rahul Gandhi. Singhdeo said from his official social media handle, Rahul Gandhi is the only leader in India who challenges the ideology of BJP-RSS.

His fight for the idea of 'India strengthens the spirit of millions of Congress workers across the country. His honesty scares the fascists. He is the leader that Congress and India need!

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will return from Delhi on Monday morning. It is not decided how long the CWC meeting will last. In such a situation, there is a possibility of the Chief Minister staying in Delhi for the night. The Chief Minister will return to Raipur in the morning. After that he will participate in the budget session of the assembly.

## Nari Shakti Samman ceremony



At Mahant Laxminarayan Das Mahavidyalaya

**Raipur, Mar 13:** Nari Shakti Samman ceremony was organized on the occasion of International Women's Day in collaboration with Nav Srijan Manch at Mahant Laxminarayan Das Mahavidyalaya located at local Gandhi Chowk. Dr Aruna Palta, Vice Chancellor of Hemchandra Yadav University, Durg

was present as the chief guest in the programme. Giving example of an intelligent woman like Tessy Thomas in her speech, she said that today's woman is not behind in any field.

The Principal of Mahant Laxminarayan Das Mahavidyalaya, Dr Devashish Mukherjee, while referring to veda mantra mentioned the respected position of women in the Sanatan culture. Nav Srijan Manch President Amarjeet Chhabra said that both men and women in the so-

ciety will have to walk like two wheels of a cart to retain respected position of women.

Personalities who made remarkable contribution in various fields of society were honored with citation and shawls and shripthal. The programme was conducted by Prof. Pritam Kumar Das. Vote of thanks was proposed by Prof. Jaya Chandra. All the professors of the college, all the office bearers and members of Nav Srijan Manch and many social workers were present.

## Intensive campaign continues for recovery of outstanding tax of vehicles

Transport Department takes action of collecting tax and confiscating vehicles

Flying squads reach Raipur, Durg, Ambikapur, Raigarh, Jagdalpur, Kondagaon, Dantewada, Kanker, Mungeli, Dhamtari, Bemetara, Mahasamund and Balod

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 13:** An intensive campaign is being run by the Chhattisgarh Transport Department to recover the outstanding

## Magisterial enquiry ordered into tragic death of farmer

**Raipur, Mar 13:** Magisterial enquiry has been ordered into the tragic death of Siyaram, a farmer who was present with the agitating farmers near NRDA Bhawan in Nava Raipur. Collector Sourabh Kumar has issued orders for Magisterial enquiry. For this, Additional District Magistrate NR Sahu has been made the Inquiry Officer.

Sahu will investigate the causes behind the death of Siyaram Patel besides finding out the circumstances that led to his death. The Inquiry Officer has also been directed to complete the investigation and submit the report at the earliest.

It is noteworthy that on March 11, Siyaram Patel, a resident of village Baroda police station Mana, died suddenly during his presence with the agitating farmers near NRDA Bhawan in Nava Raipur.



A 3-km 'Women Walkathon' on the subject of 'zero tolerance crime against women' was flagged off by Mayor Ejaz Dhebar, Chairperson State Women's Commission Kiranmayi Nayak and MLA Raipur (North) Kuldeep Juneja here on Sunday and it was organised by the state's health department and CTB and other sponsors and was enthusiastically participated by girls and women in large number.

## Governor inaugurates 'service fortnight' Sewing training center in Bal Ashram premises

**Raipur, Mar 13:** Governor Anusuiya Uikey inaugurated the 'service fortnight' of Sindhi Samaj at MAIC College auditorium related to youth development and health awareness. On this occasion Governor Anusuiya Uikey said that in the present day time, the youths are getting disoriented and since youth have important role in country's development, such type of programmes would always act as source of guidance for them. She hailed the initiative taken by Sindhi Yuwa Wing.

Speaking about health Ms Uikey said that if the society remains healthy, then the country too will progress. These days the youth getting



distracted and disoriented are falling prey to various negativities like intoxication, drugging, misbehaviour and others and have become careless and concern about their health. So there is need to create awareness among them about health. She said that if the youth remain healthy, then both the country and its future will be in safe hands. Uikey said that during the first two phases of

Covid-19 pandemic, we have lost many precious lives, but it has taught us many good things and after which one has become equally more conscious about his or her health.

During this 'service fortnight' by Sindhi Samaj, they will be organising programmes on services to senior citizens, hold blood donation camps and service camps. In this regard Ms. Anusuiya Uikey

said that those having human sentiments are always helped by the Supreme and therefore one must always render selfless services to others with open mind. The works for the benefit of the society and its people are definitely appreciable, she said, adding that such type of programmes are essential for progress and development of the society. For this she extended greetings to members of Sindhi Samaj.

In this programme, Sant Shri Sailal Dasji, former MLA Srichand Sundrani, Youth Wing President of Sindhi Samaj Amin Chimmani and other members of Sindhi Samaj were present in large number.

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 13:** A sewing machine training center was opened in the Bal Ashram premises Kutchery Chowk Raipur recently under the joint aegis of National School Committee, Bal Ashram Committee and Akhil Bharatvarish Maheshwari Mahila Sangathan for self-reliance of women. The centre was inaugurated on the occasion of International Women's Day at the hands of Congress MLA and former Minister of unified Madhya Pradesh Satyanarayan Sharma.

The inaugural function was presided over by the



Rajshree Mahant Dr Ram Sundar Das, Chairman, Rajya Gou Seva Ayog. Jyoti Rathi National Treasurer of Akhil Bharatvarshiya Mahila Sangathan was present as a special guest.

Apart from this, Rashtriya Vidyalaya Samiti

President Ajay Tiwari, Secretary Roop Chand Shri Shrimal, Anil Gupta Treasurer Rajkishore Nathanimani, etc. were also present in the programme. Pratibha ji Nathani, co-in-charge of Rashtriya Samiti and

Kalpna Rathi, coordinator, Akhil Bharatiya Maheshwari Mahila Sangathan were also present. Gokul Das Daga, Madanlal Taleda, Govardhan Das Daga, Vijay Dammani, PR Gola, Daga College Principal Dr Sangeeta Ghai were present. Chief guest Satyanarayan Sharma said that the deities reside wherever women power is worshipped. Mahant Dr Ram Sunder Das in his address admired Women's organizations for doing good work in the upliftment of women. He said that the institution Bal Ashram is in the hands of hard working people.

## Honour and respect for women defines our culture and civilization: CM

**Raipur, Mar 13:** In the 27th episode of radio programme 'Lokvaani' aired from Akashvani today, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel addressed people of the state on 'Chhattisgarh Sarkar- Naari Shakti Ke Sarokaar', saying that respect and honour for women is what defines our culture and civilization. Cultured society is the one that respects women. In Chhattisgarh, we are living up to our cultural value of honouring women and giving them the respect they deserve. This is the reason why women and daughters in the state are pursuing greater goals with confidence and determination.

Chief Minister Baghel said that we consider formation of Chhattisgarh state a historic event. Our forefathers had a wholesome vision for this state. For centuries, Chhattisgarh has been a folk state. People of this state are known for their tradi-

tions, festivals, vibrant colourful culture, love for nature, simplicity and love for motherland. Fortunately, we got the opportunity to select an appropriate state song that beautifully describes these qualities of the state and the people here. 'Arpa Pairi Ke Dhaar, Mahanadi He Apaar, Indravato Ha Pakharay Tor Paiya' written by Acharya Dr Narendra Dev Verma is the perfect tribute to Chhattisgarh Mahatari and it perfectly describes the devotion with which we want to serve Chhattisgarh state.

Chief Minister Mr. Baghel said that because of our forefathers we have got a constitution that gives equal rights to women. Percentage of women members in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly is higher than any other Legislative Assembly in the country. There is a provision of 50% reservation in the elections of Panchayati Raj institutions. Women here have equal

legal rights to own and control land, property and assets.

Chief Minister said that we have made several policy arrangements in the interest of women, which includes rights on immovable property. As a result of the provision of 1% exemption on stamp duty on registry of immovable property in the name of women, more than 50 thousand registries have been done in a year and exemption of more than Rs 37 crore has been provided. Facility of 30 percent reservation for recruitment on government posts has also been provided to women. In women's hostels and ashrams, 2 thousand 200 new posts of women's home guards have been created. Women help desks are being operated in 370 police stations of the state. Women's helpline 181 is being operated, by calling on which any women from any corner of the state can seek help in case of any problem.

## Rehabilitation facilities with 10 beds IPD in AIIMS Raipur

**Raipur, Mar 13:** To provide rehabilitation facilities to neurogenic, cerebral palsy, neural trauma, brain stroke, amputation, spinal cord injury and other severe patients, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences has started a 10 Beds IPD in the PMR Department. Patients will get state-of-the-art medical rehabilitation facilities with the help of IPD. Experts from reputed medical institutions around the country also discussed recent advances in brain injury rehabilitation during a CME and asked for expert collaborative medical management of the patients.

Prof. (Dr.) Nitin M. Nagarkar said that the new facility will give much-needed support to patients coming from different states. Now, they will need to be admitted to the IPD, and experts will provide them a



Prof. (Dr.) Nitin M. Nagarkar felicitating Prof. (Dr.) S.L. Yadav, AIIMS, New Delhi during the CME by PMR Department.

new lease of life with state-of-the-art rehabilitation facilities in the department.

The PMR Department also organized CME on emerging issues in brain injury and recent advances. According to Prof. Nagarkar, Traumatic Brain Injury is a leading

cause of death worldwide. Statistic shows in India alone there are almost 1.6 million Traumatic Brain Injury cases per year out of which almost 1 million requires rehabilitation. Major cause of Traumatic Brain Injury is Road Traffic Accidents which

is 60% of total cases. 'New technologies like robotics and Virtual Reality have helped a lot in the rehabilitation of patients. Various departments have to work together for comprehensive Rehabilitation service to all the patients, he said. HoD Dr. Jaydeep Nandi said that the new facility at Ayush Block would bridge the gap between OPD consultation and rehabilitation under expert supervision. Dr. S.L. Yadav, AIIMS, New Delhi, discussed the cognitive issue after brain injury and recent advances in the field. 'Cognitive insufficiency in the realm of attention, memory and executive functioning are troublesome for the individual, family members, and the society. Identifying the deficit is a challenge along with setting up a management plan, he said. Prof. Anil Kumar Gupta,

KGMU, Lucknow, elaborated on spasticity management after brain injury. 'The management issue is often overlooked as there are more pressing issues at hand early on. By the time it becomes a priority, it may become too late to make meaningful improvement, he added. Dr. Anupam Gupta, NIMHANS, Bangalore explained disorders of consciousness, rehabilitation strategies, and outcomes in brain injury. The CME witnessed a galaxy of expert lectures including Dr. Abhishek Srivastava, Mumbai, Dr. Koustubh Chakrabarty, Kolkata, and Dr. Navin BP from Bangalore. Dr. Raunak Kumar, Assistant Professor, PMR, Dr. Aradhna Shukla, Dr. Susheel Kumar Nayak, Dr. Anushree Akshay, and Dr. Lakhya R. contributed in organizing the CME.

## 'Drop ego and mutually settle matters'

**Old lady Maltibai appears in court through video conferencing, matter resolved with mutual reconciliation agreement**

**First National Lok Adalat of the year held**



Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 13:** As per the directions of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), New Delhi, the first National Lok Adalat of the year was organized from Tehsil level to High Court level in Chhattisgarh state today. NALSA Executive Chairman Justice UU Lalit gathered information from the Executive Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Legal

Services Authority (CSLSA), Justice Gautam Bhaduri, through video conferencing of the proceedings of the National Lok Adalat organized in the District Court Rajnandgaon. Justice UU Lalit reviewed the proceedings of settlement of criminal case between mother Maltibai and son Kishun Thakur, pending since the year 2018 in the court of Judicial Magistrate Anita Koshima (judicial presid-

ing officer) in Rajnandgaon District Court. Discussions were held with the judge and the parties. In the said case, the mother of the party, Maltibai, was unable to come to the court due to her old age. Paralegal volunteer of Legal Services Authority Neeraj Sahu ensured her presence in the court through video conferencing at Silvoha village. Thus the case of section 294, 506B, 323 was disposed

of by mutual conciliation in the presence of the judges.

Similarly, two counter cases pending in the court of first class judicial magistrate Rojmi Khakha (presiding officer) in Tehsil Court Ambargarh Chowki were settled through mutual agreement. The counter case of section 294, 323, 506B between the parties Bhishan Nishad and Madan Bandeshwar was settled through mutual agreement. Both the parties mutually agreed to settle case against each other. Justice UU Lalit also discussed the matter with the above parties and with the judges and members of Lok Adalat present. An explanation was given to avoid any kind of fight in future.

Executive Chairman of the State Legal Services Authority, Justice Gautam Bhaduri inspected the division benches of the

National Lok Adalat and encouraged the parties present at the court to resolve matter through mutual settlement. He also explained benefits of mutual settlement.

Justice Gautam Bhaduri also held discussion over Lok Adalat with bank officials, officials of Electricity Board, officers from various departments.

According to him people get quick justice from Lok Adalat. What they have to do is to drop their ego and settle matters through mutual agreement, he said. Efforts are being made to solve as many cases as possible through Lok Adalat. Chairman, District Legal Services Authority Vinay Kumar Kashyap, Member Secretary of State Legal Services Authority Siddharth Agrawal, Secretary of District Legal Services Authority and other judicial officers were present in large numbers.

## FESTIVAL OF COLOURS



Teachers and students of 'Kopalvani' celebrated festival of colours with students applying 'gulal' and celebrating the occasion.

## 5th INTUC STATE CONVENTION

## Sanjay Singh elected state president



**INTUC always for welfare of workers: Mahant**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 13:** The fifth convention of Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) Chhattisgarh unit was held at Hotel VW Canyon Raipur on Sunday. Speaker of

Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Dr Charan Das Mahant was the chief guest at the inaugural function of the convention.

Addressing the programme, Speaker Dr Mahant praised the INTUC for its restless efforts for the welfare of the labourers. Dr Mahant also praised the welfare works of INTUC Chhattisgarh State

President Sanjay Singh. INTUC State President Sanjay Singh gave the welcome address. He demanded the State government to provide land at Nava Raipur for the INTUC State office.

In the second phase of the convention Revenue Minister Jai Singh Agrawal was present as chief guest. He praised the honest functioning of Congress and assured to

be always with INTUC.

Later the INTUC state working committee was dissolved and new election was initiated. Sanjay Singh was reelected as state president and powers were disbursed on him to elect new office bearers. In the meeting INTUC state presidents of nine states gave their presence

State Vice Presidents Sameer Pandey, Ramavtar Algamkar, State General Secretaries Ashish Yadav, Naresh Dewangan, CITU State Secretary Dharamraj Mahapatra, INTUC Youth Wing President Sanjay Gaba, state presidents of nine states and other office-bearers participated in the convention.

## 'Mukhya Mantri Samuhik Kanya Vivah' programme in Arang

**62 couples enter wedlock**

**Raipur, Mar 13:** Department of Women and Child Development organized 'Mukhya Mantri Samuhik Kanya Vivah' (Chief Minister's mass marriage) ceremony at Dr Ambedkar Sarvsamaj Manglik Bhawan in Arang, in which 62 brides and grooms tied the knot as per social customs.

Shakun Dahria from Pragatishheel Satnami Samaj, Raipur, attended the programme as the chief guest. She congratulated the married couples for starting a newly married life and wished them a bright future. In the mass marriage ceremony, the marriage of the girls of poor family was completed with joy and social cus-



toms. Shakun Dahria said that under the Chief Minister's mass marriage scheme, marriages of needy poor girls are done. She expressed her gratitude to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel for such useful schemes being run in the interest of the poor. Dahria said that rising above religion and caste,

everyone should be a partner in the programme of welfare of the poor.

Dahria also thanked the Women and Child Development Department for organizing this programme at Arang. The programme was mainly attended by Chandrashekhar Chandrakar, Keshari

Mohan Sahu, Anita Thansing Sahu, Khileshwar Devangan, Hemlata Doomendra Sahu, Sharad Gupta along with Gauri Bai Devangan, Suraj Sonkar and many public representatives, families of newly-wedded couples and representatives of various societies were present.

## Students get solution to queries related to subjects

**Through CGBSE helpline**

**Raipur, Mar 13:** Students and parents made phone calls on helpline toll free number of Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education (CGBSE) for solving the problems of Class 12th subject - commercial mathematics. Subject specialists in the helpline, AK Dixit, Akhil Khare and AK Singh solved the problems related to the subject.

Apart from this, the Deputy Secretary of the Board, JK Agrawal, helpline coordinator Pradeep Kumar Sahu, Pradeendra Dubey and Preeti Shukla solved the problems raised by the students with the help of assistant professors.



Students got solutions to problems related to subjects besides getting information about upcoming exam subject. Class 10th students also raised questions on how to remember

answers of chemistry questions. They also raised queries related to Trigonometry, Theorem, Circumference Circle, Mensuration in Mathematics.

## 'Make empowered law against social boycott in VS'

**Raipur, Mar 13:** Andhha Sharddha Nirmoolan Samiti president Dr Dinesh Mishra expressing concern over the rising cases of social boycott at panchayat level has demanded for the formation of an empowered law in Vidhan Sabha to end this practice. He gave example that in some cases persons fall victim of social boycott as they acted as Swachata Mitra or seek information through RTI. As per a data available, more than 30,000 people in the state have fallen prey to



this social boycott stigma. Dr Mishra added that due this stigma there are cases of suicide by the victims and even sometimes the victims are forced to death due to physical torture by the society. In this connection Dr Mishra mentioned of a law against social boycott already applicable in the state of Maharashtra where it was unanimously passed on April 11, 2016 and after President gave his assent on June 20, 2017 was implemented in that state from July 03, 2017.

## Valedictory session of Initiation to Mathematics held

**Raipur, Mar 13:** The valedictory session of the six-days' programme on Initiation to Mathematics (InitMath) organised by Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar was held on 12th March 2022. The programme was organised under the aegis of MTTs Trust and was funded by National Board for Higher Mathematics. It was aimed for the students pursuing mathematics in third year B.Sc. or first year M.Sc.

Students from all over Chhattisgarh participated in the workshop coordinated by Mrs. Rajni Moona, Outreach Coordinator (Honorary) and were guided by eminent resource persons namely Dr. Vikas Bist (Panjab University, Chandigarh), Dr. A. Satyanarayana Reddy (Shiv Nadar University, Greater Noida) and Dr. Vikram Aithal (Institute

of Chemical Technology, Mumbai).

Dr. Vikas Kumar Jain (Professor/Joint Director, Directorate of Technical Education, Nawa Raipur), Dr. Shailesh Dhar Diwan (GEC Raipur) and Dr. Vivek Tiwari (IIT Naya Raipur) were also present in the event. Various participants shared their experiences about the week-long programme and appreciated the course as well as expressed their desire to participate in more such programmes in future. The experts also shared their experiences and motivated the participants for higher studies in mathematics and to develop their interest towards research in mathematics. All the subject experts emphasized that in order to understand the subject better one must be inquisitive, and should not be

afraid of asking questions. Mrs. Rajni Moona shared about how the journey of organising the mini-MTTs programme began at IIT Bhubaneswar and how students are getting benefitted from the programme. She stressed on the fact that more such programmes should be held in Chhattisgarh, and also that students must attend such programmes outside of Chhattisgarh too.

Dr. Vikas Kumar Jain encouraged the students to share their experiences with their peers so that more students develop interest to participate in the programme. The programme ended with certificate distribution to the participants, followed by felicitation of the guests with memento, and vote of thanks by Dr. Anurag Singh (Assistant Professor, IIT Bhubaneswar).

## Cesarean delivery successfully done



**In CHC Pandaria by team of doctors from District Hospital**

**Kawardha, Mar 13:** It was after a long time that the medical services in Maternity and Child Hospital in Pandaria started with performing of first cesarean operation here on Saturday. For this Gynecologist of District Hospital Dr Ajit Sadekar, Senior Gynecologist Dr Heena Ahmed, Anesthesia expert Dr KP Jangde and his team were sent to Pandaria and C-section services

were started. From Pandaria- Dr Anamika Patel and her team joined the group. It is notable here that as per intentions of the health department of the state government, institutional delivery is being promoted and in complex delivery cases, efforts are being made to start cesarean operation services in District Hospital Kabirdhaam and also at CHC level.

**Got C-section services due to govt's efforts:**

An expected mother Situ Vishwakarma of Dasrangpur became fearful when she came to know about membrane rupture and release of water

from the body and that her baby is wrapped around the feeding pipe. The condition is that of Cesarean operation, but with preparations on part of the health department, Situ appeared to be quite confident and happy. She expressed gratitude to all for her successful delivery through cesarean operation and saving life of her baby boy. She said that it is due to hard work by the Health Department that she got this facility near her home and got cesarean facility as well. Situ has safely delivered her baby boy and the doctors said that the surgery was bit complicated, but now both the mother and child are safe. District Collector Ramesh Kumar Sharma, Upper Collector BS Uikey, CMO Dr Sujoy Mukherjee extended greetings to entire Cesarean team and hoped that they would continue to render such services in the near future. BMO Pandaria Dr Jitendra Verma and his team were also hailed for their services.

## Family-focussed workshop under National Mental Health Programme

**Raipur, Mar 13:** A two-day state-level workshop on "Family Enrichment for Mental Health Staff" kicked off here on Thursday. Nearly three dozen trainers will be skilled on remodifying psycho-social care and other services at the grassroots, especially while dealing with the mental health issues emerging in the post-COVID scenario.

The workshop is being conducted by National Mental Health Mission Program (NMHP) in association with National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru. This is the first time that such a family-focussed training program had been started for psychologists, community nurses and psychiatric social workers in Chhattisgarh. Such an exercise will help them deal better with the situations in their own families



and the people they would go on to serve after completing the training.

Addressing the participants, Dr Jayakumar, Associate Professor NIMHANS said that due to the issues emerging from COVID-19, families have been severely affected. They have had to cope with the stress emerging from loss of members, health issues, disrupted routines, diminished earnings and other financial loss-

cally applicable, something that they can easily explain to people without using jargons. And that is how the message percolates deeper into the society and coping mechanism is improved," he said.

Dr Jayakumar used a range of exercises to explain the concept of family and its different dimensions. He told the participants about providing solutions specific to each family type such as joint, nuclear. The participants, too, interacted and shared their views about how they perceive the changed reality.

Training will be vital when we return to the field: Participants

Angelina Vaibhav Lal, a community nurse from Bilaspur, said that though she was aware about the impact family has in the life of an individual, what she picked up on the first day of the session was to what extent it impact-

ed one's socio-psychological behaviour.

P Atit Rao, a senior nursing officer from Raigarh, said that the different dimensions of family life that he learnt during the first day would help in providing solutions to patients. "For example, we were told about power dynamics within a family i.e. how it is concentrated in the hands of the head in a nuclear family or how it is more distributed in a joint family. These insights hold key to how behaviors are shaped and how intra-familial relations can be improved and bonds be strengthened. That ultimately will hold key to better mental health for all," he said. Nisha Patel - a psychiatric nurse, also from Raigarh - said that besides professional purposes, the training would also be useful for the trainers themselves in their personal lives.

# Pachpedi get full tehsil status, wave of joy in the area

### Success due to commendable initiative of Nagendra Rai



Secretary Arjun Tiwari, Block Congress Committee President Nagendra Rai demanded to make Pachpedi a tehsil, which was readily accepted by the in-charge Minister Jaisingh Agrawal. While declaring Pachpedi as a tehsil, the people of the area were fully assured of fulfilling their promise, which has

Secretary Takeshwar Patle, Uday Bhargava, Mukesh Banjare, Dr. RK Verma, Raju Tiwari, Dujaram Banjare, Dilip Patel, Bahtara Deputy Sarpanch, Sukhram Patel, Harsing Jagat Amakoni, Ramsagar, Kalesu Patel Son, Agluram Patel, Bhagatram, Daduram Patel, Santosh Kumar Dilesh, Santosh Kumar Son, Ghritalhare Railha, Santram Khande Pendri, Budhram Jangde Pachpedi, Sukhram Patel Sukulkari, Ramashankar Patwardhan Bakrakuda, Vyasa Narayan, Samelal Puraina Bhatchaura, Jaychand Patel, Basantpur, Ganesh Shreevas Sonsari reached the minister's residence in Raipur, expressing his gratitude. By presenting them sweetly, they gave their best wishes.

# JCC(J) demand latest facilities in regional hospital



### Submit memorandum to the collector

#### Central Chronicle News

**Chirmiri, Mar 13:** A delegation of Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (J) led by its district president Sahid Mahmood submitted a 21-point memorandum to the district collector in connection with the facilities

at Regional Hospital Chirmiri. While submitting the memorandum Mahmood apprised the collector that since 2017 JCC(J) is taking up the issue with senior officers of SECL and CMO of Regional Hospital but no initiative has been taken for the improvement of facilities in this hospital. Of the demands include availability of MRI ma-

chine, dialysis machine, modern laboratory, blood bank and other facilities in the hospital. While submitting memorandum they threatened to launch an agitation if their demands are not met. The delegation comprised of Aditya Raj David, Fanindra Hamam Mishra, Uday Singh, Sanu Jonsi, Sohan Singh, Sunil Sonwani and others.

# MLA Sharma stands with dismissed workers

### Ensures their resumption of work

**Baikunth, Mar 13:** In between two day break of ongoing Vidhan Sabha session, Balodabazar MLA Pramod Sharma on listening to the problem of five workers who were removed from service by Ultratech Cement management, immediately took their side and staged demonstration against the company management demanding taking back the dismissed workers.

His agitation forced the management to take back the five dismissed workers who were removed from the service. The workers expressed gratitude towards MLA for this noble cause. On this occasion along with MLA Sharma, Ajay Tiwari,



Ishan Vaishnav, zilla panchayat president Domeswari Verma, Tulsi Gautam, Devendra Yadu, Ashok Yadav and others were present.

# Two DRG jawans injured in encounter with Naxals

#### Central Chronicle News

**Konta, Mar 13:** Two jawans of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) were injured in an exchange of fire with Naxals in Sukma district on Sunday, a senior official said.

The skirmish took place in the morning in a forest near Chichorguda village under Kerlapal police station limits when a team of the state's anti-Naxal force DRG was patrolling to ensure security to a road construction work. Inspector General of Police (Bastar range) Sundarraj P said.

The road is being constructed between Chichorguda and Nilawaya villages, considered as a Maoist stronghold.

When the patrolling team was cordoning off the forest area near Chichorguja, located about 450 km from the state capital Raipur, it



One of the injured jawan's.

Security personnel conducting search operation after the incident.

came under fire from a group of Maoists, leading to the gunfight, he said. DRG constable Somdu Pyam and assistant constable Mehru Ram Kashyap suffered injuries in the gunfight," he said.

After being alerted, additional security personnel were rushed to the spot, the official said, adding that a search oper-

ation was underway in the area. The injured jawans were shifted to Sukma district hospital and another condition was said to be stable, he said.

# Pallavi Dhurandhar Nayak accomplishes rare feat



#### Central Chronicle News

**Kharora, Mar 13:** Pallavi Dhurandhar Nayak, achieved a rare feat of turning the critical times of the Corona pandemic into achievements. A list of 20 top social media marketing companies have come out in the Business General of Australia, and Pallavi Dhurandhar Nayak, daughter of Chhattisgarh and daughter-in-law of State Women's Commission Head is Kiranmayi Nayak's has also made a place in this list. On the occasion of International Women's Day, Governor Anusuiya UIkey also sent her best wishes to Mrs. Pallavi. Along with Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is in Uttarakhand state, he has also congratulated and blessed her on the phone.

Pallavi runs a social media marketing agency in Melbourne, and her team Works towards the common goal of creating awareness for its customers, increasing their awareness and making their marketing easier. Pallavi has recently been featured by the prestigious 'Australian Business Journal' as the only Indian among the top 20 social media managers in Australia to work in 2022. It proves that her dedication and hard work is no longer hidden. She says - "It was a very proud moment for

me as I am the only Indian woman to feature in the list. It is a very happy time and I feel blessed."Pallavi is a Bachelor of Designing degree from Royal Millbourne Institute of Technology and Social Media College Sydney, and is the wife of Vikram Nayak, son of Kiranmayi Nayak.

### DCB BANK

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

**JEWELLERY AUCTION CUM INVITATION NOTICE**  
The below mentioned borrowers have been issued notices to pay the entire dues in facilities availed by them against Jewellery from DCB Bank Limited. We are constrained to conduct auction of the pledged Jewellery as they have failed to pay the entire dues. DCB Bank Limited has the authority to remove account (s) / change the auction date (s) without any prior notice. The auction will be conducted online through <https://egold.auctiontiger.net> on 21.03.2022 & 22.03.2022 from 11:00 am to 02:00 pm

Sr. No.	Customer ID / No.	Customer Name	Sr. No.	Customer ID / No.	Customer Name
<b>Baloda Bazar Location</b>			<b>Khokhsa Location</b>		
1	101848334	Dhaneshwari Sahu	24	101392685	Pawan Kumar Yadav
2	102724186	Jahanna Begam	25	102680065	Laxmi Narayan Ajay Nirmal
3	102796980	Sharafat Hussain	26	102883438	Sanjay Kumar Sahu
<b>Bemetara Location</b>			<b>Kumhari Location</b>		
4	102806024	Bhojraj Singh Parmar	27	100702406	Hakkullah Chawdhary
<b>Berla Location</b>			28	101121877	Mahendra Kumar Sahu
5	101514316	Dilesh Sahu	29	102616204	Lalit Kumar Dhruv
6	102772735	Roshan Varma	30	102879119	Dhiraj Patle
<b>Dongergaon Location</b>			<b>Kurra Location</b>		
7	101049884	Uttam Kumar	31	101411917	Eshwar Lal Sahu
8	101069338	Sanjay Patil	32	102798601	Dinu Banjare
9	101541956	Tamanna Jain	<b>Parsada Location</b>		
10	102708535	Pooja Soni	33	102820641	Mahesh Kumar Yadav
11	102761311	Chandresh Kumar Nishad	34	102848754	Sarfraz Ali Usmani
12	102802233	Surendra Kumar Ramteke	35	102912895	Satish Sahu
13	102845804	Kanhaiya Lal Chandrakar	<b>Raipur Location</b>		
14	102883951	Neeraj Bhatia	36	102246137	Shailish Bisen
<b>Kawardha Location</b>			37	102637972	Soniya Sahu
15	102662562	Nashrin Bano	38	102682763	Abhinav Tiwari
16	102760249	Prem Lal Varma	39	102760245	Pushpa Verma
17	102781103	Vikash Kumar Pandey	40	102855828	Ajay Chandra
<b>Kharora Location</b>			41	102875884	Anil Sharma
18	101530493	Jawahar Dewangan	42	102878244	Aftab Farishta
19	102226194	Sagar Singh Rajpoot	<b>Ratnabandha Location</b>		
20	102753029	Yogeshwari Chandrakar	43	102765891	Chitesh Kumar Sahu
21	102845804	Kanhaiya Lal Chandrakar	44	102781820	Rambhagat Paikara
22	102896899	Rachana Dewangan	45	102814171	Priyansh Agrawal
23	102903437	Dilip Meher			

By way of this publication, the concerned Borrowers / Pledgers are hereby given final notice and last opportunity to pay the facility recalled amount in full, with all interest and charges before the scheduled auction date failing which the Jewellery will be auctioned. If the auction is not completed on the specified auction dates, the auction shall continue for 7 subsequent days without further notice. Participation in the auction and acceptance of bids will be at the sole discretion of the DCB Bank.

Please note that the auction shall be on "as is where is basis", "as is what is basis", "whatever there is basis" and "no recourse basis" the bank shall not be liable for any claims related to the jewellery. Bidders may kindly visit <https://egold.auctiontiger.net> for detailed terms & conditions for participation in the auctions.

Date: 14-03-2022

### GENERAL NOTICE

Know All Men That Mrs. Anita Singh W/O Mr. Mager Singh R/O-Kalshah Nagar, Ekta Chowk, Bhitoli, Distt. Durg (C.G.) Has Applied A Loan Application Before My Client Punjab National Bank, Branch Shyam Nagar, Raipur For Purchase Of Property Situated At Mouja-Changorahata, (New), Bhakti Mata Kama Ward No. 07, P.H.No.10359, R/O Raipur-1, Raipur, Tahsil & District Raipur (C.G.) Diverted Residential Land Khasra No. 88/177, Area 1200 Sq. Ft. From Mr. Rakesh Kumar Sharma R/O-Village-Joshi Persada, Gariyabandh, (C.G.) My Client Punjab National Bank, Branch-Shyam Nagar, Raipur (C.G.) Was Expected The Handover Current Sale Deeds Along With Previous Deeds But Said Owner Informed That The One Original Previous Original Chain Title Deed Duly Registered in Book No.-A-1, Volume No.47501, Document Sl. No.2249 (Kha), Dated 14-06-2010, There Having Lost By Him And Being Not Traceable & A Complaint In This Regard Had Been Lodge On 08-03-2022 In Police Station-Gariyabandh, Therefore, The Above Original Sale Deed Cannot Be Handover To Punjab National Bank.

Therefore, I hereby invite Objection From Any Person's, Society, Office, Bank, Department Or Other Legal Entity Misses Said Original Sale Deed Which Causes Any Loss Or Losses Any Way To My Person's, Institute, Office, Bank, Department (Government Or Semi Government) Or Any Other Legal Entity, Must Contact Or Write To Underigned, And Addressed Within 15 (Fifteen) Days From The Date Of Publication Of This Notice With Their Objections, Claims, Right Or Interest In The Aforesaid Property With Sufficient Documentary Proof. It May Be Noted That Any Objection Thereafter To The Above Declaration In Respect Of The Above Referred Property Will Have No Bona Fide And Shall Not Be Binding On The My Client Punjab National Bank, Branch-Shyam Nagar, Raipur, And Disbursement Of Loan Amount To Mrs. Anita Singh.

Date: 13-03-2022  
Place: Raipur (C.G.)

Shashikant Agrawal  
Advocate  
Mahant Laxminarayan Das Ward  
Turi Hatn, Purani Basti, Raipur (C.G.)  
Mob. - 9826357861

### न्यायालय कलेक्टर, जिला दुर्ग (छत्तीसगढ़)

व्यक्तिगत उपस्थिति समन  
रा.प्र.क्र. 25/ब-121/वर्ष2021-22

प्राधिकृत अधिकारी टाटा कैपिटल फाइनेंशियल सर्विसेस लिमि.  
शाखा प्रथम तल पुजारी कॉम्प्लेक्स, पंचपेड़ी नाका, टिकरापारा,  
रायपुर तहसील व जिला रायपुर (छ.ग.)

.....वादी प्रेषिती

- श्री कुणाल जायसवाल आ. विजय कुमार जाससवाल
- विजय कुमार जायसवाल,
- दोनो निवासी - म.नं. 45/4, मोतीलाल नेहरू नगर, ईस्ट गिलाई
- एक्सप्रेस टोपो फार्मस प्रा. लिमि. द्वारा कुणाल जायसवाल
- कृष कैपिटल प्रा. लि. द्वारा - विजय कुमार जाससवाल
- दोनो का पता - 4/1, प्रियदर्शिनी परिसर वेस्ट गिलाई, तहसील व जिला दुर्ग (छ.ग.)

.....अनावेदकगण

उपरोक्त वादी द्वारा न्यायालय में वित्तीय अस्तित्व का प्रामाणिकता और पुनर्गठन और प्रतिभूतिहित प्रवर्तन अधिनियम-2002 की धारा 14 के अन्तर्गत अनावेदकगण द्वारा आवेदक बैंक से वित्तीय सुविधा ऋण की सुरक्षा हेतु बैंक के पक्ष में रखी गई संकटक संपत्ति-प्लानट नं. 19, ब्लाक नं. - 04, रकबा 330.00 वर्गमीटर जो प्रियदर्शिनी परिसर आवासीय योजना गिलाई केसा नगर, वार्ड नं. 3, तहसील व दुर्ग में स्थित है, को बकाया राशि की अदायगी नहीं करने के कारण रिकू मौलिक आधिपत्य में प्राप्त करने हेतु प्रस्तुत आवेदन पत्र पर प्रकरण संस्थित कर प्राकृतिक न्याय सिद्धांत के अन्तर्गत अनावेदकगण को इस न्यायालय द्वारा समक्ष सुनवाई किये जाने हेतु सूचना पत्र जारी कर आहूत किया गया था। जारी नोटिस अदम्य तामिल वापस प्राप्त।

चूंकि अनावेदकगण को प्रकरण में समक्ष सुनवाई का युक्तियुक्त अवसर प्रदान किया जाना है। अतएव इस समन के जरिये अनावेदकगण को आदेश दिया जाता है कि आप इस मामले की आगामी पेशी दि. 04/04/2022 को कलेक्टर, दुर्ग के न्यायालय में व्यक्तिगत रूप से अनिवार्यतः उपस्थित होकर अपना पक्ष प्रस्तुत करें। यदि आप निर्धारित सुनवाई तिथि को अनुपस्थित पाये गये तो मामले की सुनवाई आपकी गैरहाजिरी में की जाकर आपके विरुद्ध एक पक्षीय कार्यवाही की जावेगी। आज दिनांक 08/03/2022 को मेरे हस्ताक्षर एवं न्यायालय की वदतद्वारा से जारी किया गया।

जिला दण्डाधिकारी  
दुर्ग दि. 08/03/2022

### SHUBHAM HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CO. LTD.

Corporate Office : 425, Udyog Vihar Phase IV, Gurgaon-122015 (Haryana)  
Ph. : 0124-4212530/31/32, E-Mail : customercare@shubham.co Website : www.shubham.co

#### POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of the Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited (hereinafter called Shubham) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice calling upon borrowers to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described hereinbelow in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited for an amount detailed below and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. Details are as below:

S. No.	Loan No., Borrower, Co-Borrower Name	Demand Notice Amount	Date of Demand Notice	Secured Asset	Affixation Date
1	Loan No. 08H180200005010997 Yogesh Kumar Vaishnav, Tribhuvan Lal	₹ 3,17,535/-	29.12.2021	Kh No 470/63 New, Old Khasra No 470/1 Part New P.H.No.13 Old P.H.No. 47 Ward No 05 BN 205 Jamul RNM Durg 1 Teh And Dist Durg, Chhattisgarh-490024.	10.03.2022
2	Loan No. 08A180700005014028 Kishor Kumar Majumdar, Maya Majumdar	₹ 3,99,993/-	29.12.2021	Part of Khasra No. 540/8 Village - Tikrapara, P.H.No. 114, R.N.M. Raipur Tehsil And Dist. Raipur Chhattisgarh-492001.	10.03.2022

Place : Gurgaon  
Date : 12.03.2022

Authorised Officer  
Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited

## BRIEF

### Arrests

**New Delhi:** The NIA has arrested six people who were allegedly part of a syndicate involved in the illegal trafficking of Rohingya Muslims into Indian territory, an official said. The network was operating in the border areas of Assam, West Bengal, Meghalaya as well as other parts of the country, the official of the premier investigation agency said. The six people were part of a syndicate involved in the illegal trafficking of Rohingyas.

### Bouncer

**Pune:** Police have registered a non-cognizable (NC) offence against a woman 'bouncer' working for a school in the city for allegedly roughing up two parents. The alleged incident took place at a school under the jurisdiction of Bibwewadi police station three days ago. Bouncers are generally associated with places such as pubs and nightclubs, but of late some educational institutes in the city are known to have hired bouncers to rein.

### E-autos

**New Delhi:** The Delhi government launched an online portal 'My EV' for the purchase and registration of electric autos in the city. The government will also provide five per cent interest subvention on the purchase of e-autos on loans under the Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy, an official statement said, adding Delhi has now become the first state to provide such a facility. Delhi government collaborated with CESL to develop the website.

### Rescues

**Thiruvananthapuram:** The Indian Coast Guard said it rescued the eight-member crew of a merchant vessel after it got stranded 18 nautical miles off Beypore in Kozhikode district of Kerala. The Coast Guard was alerted by a distress call from MSV Bilal which reported water ingress and engine failure while proceeding to Lakshadweep. The Coast Guard ship 'Vikram' responded. Also, interceptor boat C-404 on patrol was diverted.

### Ugandan

**Jaipur:** A 28-year-old Ugandan woman was arrested here after six capsules containing 67 grams of heroin were medically extracted from her abdomen. The woman reached here from Sharjah on March 5 and was detained by Customs officials on suspicion of carrying contraband capsules in her stomach, he said, adding she was then admitted to SMS Hospital here on permission from a special court adjudicating the NDPS cases.

### Shortage

**Mumbai:** The Maharashtra unit of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) protested the announcement made by a minister to suspend a doctor at the state-run JJ Hospital here for shortage of medicines.

# 'Adhikari defeated Mamata by unfair means'

**Says TMC's new entrant from BJP**

**Kolkata, Mar 13 (PTI):**

Days after switching over to the TMC from the BJP, veteran leader Joy Prakash Majumder stirred a controversy as he said that Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Suwendu Adhikari did not win the 2021 assembly polls from Nandigram by fair means.

Majumder, who was suspended by the BJP in the last week of January for "anti-party activities", claimed that it was "baffling" how Adhikari went on to clinch the seat, just hours after Mamata Banerjee was declared winner from the Purba Medinipur constituency



**Joy Prakash Majumder**

"I remember Suwendu had stated on the night of May 2 that he had to use tricks to win Nandigram," the newly appointed vice-president of the TMC, who was once a fierce critic of Mamata Banerjee, told reporters. "The counting process was not transparent in Nandigram. By sleight of hand, Suwendu suddenly pipped Mamata Banerjee,

who was initially declared the winner," Majumder said.

Former state minister Rajib Bandyopadhyay, who had unsuccessfully contested from Domjur on a BJP ticket and returned to the TMC shortly after, also claimed that Majumder's assertions were 100 per cent true.

"I know Suwendu Adhikari was not declared in a fair manner. I can vouch for that," Bandyopadhyay said.

BJP state spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya, however, trashed the allegations, stating that Majumder and Bandyopadhyay were revealing their "true colours" after crossing over to the TMC.

"Majumder is trying to raise his ratings before the new party supremo against whom he had lev-

elled snide remarks in the past. Footages of his comments at BJP press briefings are still available. Will he take back all those comments now?" Bhattacharya sought to know.

Talking about Rajib Bandyopadhyay, the BJP spokesperson said, I guess he wants to impress the TMC supremo by making these false claims. Given that he has been shifted to Tripura to look after the affairs of the TMC there, the former Domjur MLA must be desperately trying to get back."

According to the Election Commission, Adhikari defeated Mamata Banerjee by over 1,900 votes in Nandigram. The announcement was made just hours after reports suggested the TMC supremo had bagged the seat.

## Bomma rejects chances of defection of BJP leaders

**Bengaluru, Mar 13 (PTI):**

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday ruled out the possibility of anyone from the ruling BJP in the state defecting to other parties.

Regarding chances of leaders from other parties joining the BJP in the state, he said "just wait and see". These (defections) are just speculations, which have no basis. There is no question of anyone from BJP defecting to other parties. Neither earlier, nor now. I can tell you categorically that no one from our party will defect to other parties. As for anyone from other parties hopping onto BJP, just wait and see," Bommai



**Basavaraj Bommai**

told reporters here. To a query on the possibility of early elections following a favourable outcome for BJP in the assembly elections in five states, the Chief Minister dismissed it saying these were only media speculations whereas there were no talks at any level in the party. Regarding his visit to Delhi for the cabinet expansion as four ministerial berths were still

lying vacant, Bommai said he would wait for signals from the seniors in the party. Seniors had told me that they will give me a hint (about expansion). They have not given any indications yet. Once they do so, then I will immediately go there (Delhi), the Chief Minister said.

Against the sanctioned strength of 34, Karnataka has 30 ministers while lobbying is still on to grab the ministerial positions, BJP sources said. Regarding the state tour of the leaders and party programme, Bommai said the party state executive committee is due to take place on March 30 and 31 where these matters will be decided.

## Relieve TN Guv from Chancellor's responsibilities

**Chennai, Mar 13 (PTI):**

Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) chief Vaiko, an ally of the ruling DMK here, on Sunday demanded Tamil Nadu should follow Maharashtra in relieving Governor RN Ravi from the responsibilities of chancellor of universities for indulging in "political rhetoric going beyond his authority".

Taking strong exception to the Governor Ravi's view that India is not a contractual union like the US but was organically forged and sustained for thousands of years due to shared cultural spiritualities, expressed during the inaugural of the South Zone Vice-Chancellors' Meet held under the aegis of Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi at Bharathiar University,



**Vaiko**

Coimbatore, on March 11, Vaiko claimed that the Governor exceeded official capacity and indulged in political rhetoric.

"This is condemnable. The Governor had reflected the RSS and Sangh Parivar view and is talking about what the Delhi bosses are saying. He must explain where India was before 1947," Vaiko said in a statement here.

Inaugurating the Meet, the Governor had said

"those who talk about federalism and Indian Union should remember that India was not born in 1947 nor it is a contractual union like United States of America." He said the Union of India was organically forged and sustained for thousands of years by the shared cultural spiritualities of people who lived as one from one end to the other of Bharat irrespective of numerous kings and kingdoms.

"Article 1 of the Constitution of India says India shall be a Union of states. It says India that is Bharat," he said and added that Bharat has been one living entity since ages, praised by the ancient rishis and common people from Kanyakumari to Kashmir and from Kutch to Kamrup in their everyday rites and rituals.

## Security for Holi 'Laat Saab' procession in UP

**Shahjahanpur, Mar 13 (PTI):**

The 'Laat Saab' procession carried out on Holi here will be a challenge for the administration, as it coincides with Shab-e-Barat and Jumma namaz (Friday prayers), officials have said.

They said that around 40 mosques that are located on the route of the procession have been covered with plastic sheets.

Following an 18th-century tradition, Holi in Shahjahanpur begins with revellers hurling footwear at a man impersonating as 'Laat Saab'—a British Lord—seated in a bullock cart. Additional District Magistrate Ramsevak Dwivedi on Sunday said, "This time, the festival of Holi coincides with Shab-e-Barat and Jumma namaz.



**BJP activists stage a protest against Mumbai Police for issuing a notice to Devendra Fadnavis in alleged illegal tapping of phones case, in Thane, Sunday.**

## Hotel owner surrenders in POCSSO case

**Kochi, Mar 13 (PTI):** After the Supreme Court and the Kerala High Court denied any protection from arrest to city-based Hotel 18 owner in a POCSSO case, he surrendered before the police on Sunday. Hotel 18 owner, Roy J Vayalath, surrendered at the Kochi City Police Commissioner's office after the Supreme Court on Friday denied any relief to him in his plea seeking anticipatory bail in the case. Senior public prosecutor CK Suresh confirmed that the hotel owner surrendered at the Commissioner's office.



**Plastic sheets are used to cover premises of a mosque, ahead of the Lat Saab procession as part of Holi celebrations, in Shahjahanpur district, Sunday.**

In order to ensure that there is no untoward incident, around 40 mosques that are located on the route of the procession have been covered with plastic sheets.

Barricading is being done at all lanes located on the procession route."

The observance of Shab-

e-Barat involves a festive nightlong vigil with prayers. It is the night when people commemorate their deceased ancestors. The ADM also said that to ensure a smooth procession, two additional SPs, 8 circle officers, 50 inspectors, 225 sub-inspectors, 300 head constables, 1,100 con-

stables, 1 company of the PAC, and a company of Rapid Action Force have been deployed.

In addition to this, two drone cameras and 55 cameras have been installed to monitor the procession, he said.

A member of the organising committee of the procession said that search for the person who will be the 'Laat Saab' begins a month before, and after being selected as the 'Laat Saab', he is kept at a secret place, and looked after by the organisers.

"On the day of Holi, the procession of 'Bade Laat Saab' is taken out on a buffalo cart with Holi revellers hurling 'jutas' at him, Vikas Khurana, the head of History department of Swami Shukdevanand College told PTI.

## State assemblies see rise in number of MLAs aged above 55

**New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):**

After the recent round of elections, the state assemblies of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Manipur have acquired an elder profile owing to an increase in the number of MLAs aged above 55 years.

According to an analysis by PRS Legislative Research, the proportion of MLAs aged 55 years or below has decreased to 59.5 per cent in 2022 from 64.7 per cent in 2017.

On the other hand, the three newly elected assemblies now have more women MLAs when compared to the outgoing House.

The Uttar Pradesh assembly now has 47 women



legislators, compared to 42 in the outgoing assembly, while the number of women MLAs in Uttarakhand has increased from five in 2017 to eight in 2022.

The number of women legislators in the Manipur assembly has doubled to four when compared to five years ago.

In the 70-member Uttarakhand Assembly, the proportion of MLAs aged 55 years or below has decreased to 51 per cent in 2022 from 61 per cent in 2017.

In Manipur too the proportion of MLAs aged 55 years or below has decreased to 55 per cent in 2022 from 71.7 per cent in 2017.

In Uttar Pradesh, the number of MLAs with at least a Bachelor's degree has increased from 72.7 per cent in 2017 to 75.9 per cent in 2022.

In Uttarakhand, the number of MLAs with at least a Bachelor's degree has reduced from 77 per cent in 2017 to 68 per cent in 2022.

## FIR against Nitesh Rane, his brother for remarks against Sharad Pawar

**Mumbai, Mar 13 (PTI):**

Mumbai Police on Sunday registered an FIR against Maharashtra BJP MLA Nitesh Rane and his brother Nilesh Rane for allegedly making remarks against NCP chief Sharad Pawar, an official said.

The case was registered at the Azad Maidan police station under various Indian Penal Code section, including 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 499 (defamation), 153 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot) based on a complaint of NCP functionary Shrinivas alias Vyankatrao Suraj Chavan.

Chavan submitted to police some video clips in which the Rane brothers, sons of Union minister

Narayan Rane, were purportedly seen making the remarks.

In his complaint, Chavan mentioned that Nitesh Rane, while talking to reporters last Wednesday, asked why Pawar had not taken the resignation of Maharashtra minister and NCP's chief spokesperson Nawab Malik even though he was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case. According to the complaint, the BJP MLA had alleged that Pawar may also be an aid of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim.

The same day, former MP Nilesh Rane also allegedly made similar comments on Twitter, Chavan mentioned in his complaint. Meanwhile, Nitesh Rane

told reporters here on Sunday that, We will tell the police what we have to if an offence has been registered. What is wrong in what we said? We sided with Hindutva. We have not tried to instigate a riot. If it is a mistake to side with Hindutva, then we will commit that mistake 100 times." He said Pawar had alleged that Malik is being linked to Dawood Ibrahim because the minority affairs minister comes from Muslim community. So, I just questioned later whether (another) Maharashtra minister Anil Deshmukh was asked to resign because he is a Hindu? We just tried to reply to the issue Pawar saheb raised. Where is the question of instigating riots here? he asked.

## BJP reigns supreme in western UP amid SP-RLD rise

**Free ration scheme appears to worked in favour of BJP**

**Noida, Mar 13 (PTI):**

The BJP reigned supreme on nearly 70 per cent constituencies in western Uttar Pradesh despite losing 15 seats in the 2022 assembly polls, even as the Samajwadi Party (SP) and its ally Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) showed a rise in the region.

While the BJP completely swept some districts like Agra, Mathura, Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddha Nagar, the Opposition alliance too scored 100 per cent in Shamli and Moradabad, and put up a good show in Muzaffarnagar and Meerut. In the 2017 assem-

bled polls, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had swept over 300 of the 403 seats across Uttar Pradesh, the most populous state in the country. The party won 255 seats this year, while the SP with its allies notched up victory on 125 seats of the state, nearly double from its last electoral outing.

In the 126 seats across 24 districts of western Uttar Pradesh, the BJP had won 100 (or 79 per cent) of the seats in 2017. This time, its tally stood at 85 (or 67 per cent). The SP and the RLD together won 41 (or 32 per cent) of the 126 seats in the region. The Jayant Chaudhary-led RLD, which was reduced to a single seat in the 2017 polls, fought on 35 seats this time and won eight of them. The BJP lost all three

seats in Shamli district, including a sitting minister from Thana Bhawan, four of the seven seats in Meerut, and four of the six seats in Muzaffarnagar all three are Jat-dominated districts. It also lost all six seats in Moradabad, three of the four seats in both Rampur and Sambhal districts. The minister's defeat came even as another minister in Ghaziabad won by a margin of over 1 lakh votes and the BJP managed to fully sweep districts like Agra, Mathura, Aligarh — all three have a sizeable Jat population, Bulandshahr, Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddha Nagar, negating the idea that the recent farmers' agitation had an impact across western Uttar Pradesh, according to poll observers. The Bahujan Samaj

Party, the Congress and others failed to get even a single seat in the region.

There is no official demarcation of what constitutes western Uttar Pradesh. Political parties have different organisational structures and classifications for the region. However, 126 assembly constituencies in 24 districts that lie west of Etawah are generally taken to be western Uttar Pradesh. These 24 districts are Agra, Mathura, Aligarh, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Bulandshahr, Baghpat, Hapur, Muzaffarnagar, Shamli, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Amroha, Budaun, Bareilly, Bijnor, Moradabad, Rampur, Saharanpur, Sambhal, Shahjahanpur, Hathras, Etah, Kasganj and Firozabad.

## BRIEF

### Reactor

**Helsinki:** Finland's long-delayed and costly new nuclear reactor went online amid expectations that it will boost the Nordic country's electricity self-sufficiency and help to achieve its carbon neutrality targets. Finnish operator Teollisuuden Voima said the Olkiluoto 3 nuclear reactor in western Finland linked up to the national grid and started power generation. It will go through trial period of about four months during which it will generate electricity.

### Charged

**Lansing:** A former township clerk and current county elections supervisor in Michigan, US has been charged with ballot tampering in the August 2020 primary. Kathy Funk also is charged with misconduct in office, the Michigan attorney general's office said. Both charges are felonies punishable by up to five years in prison upon conviction. Funk faces arraignment in Genesee County's 67th District Court. Funk was Flint Township's clerk.

### Prosecute

**Addis Ababa:** Ethiopian authorities say they will prosecute individuals seen in a gruesome video in which armed men appear to burn at least three people alive. The video, shared widely on social media has sparked anger among many in this country facing war in its northern region as well as ethnic strife in other parts. The Ethiopian government confirmed that the incident in which armed men drag and then burn three people.

### Stabbed

**New York:** A man stabbed two people inside the Museum of Modern Art in New York after he was denied entrance for previous incidents of disorderly conduct, authorities said. Police said the two people who were stabbed were museum employees. Both were in stable condition at Bellevue Hospital.

### Stuck

**Bangkok:** Thousands of Russian tourists are stranded in Thailand's beach resorts because of the war in Ukraine, many unable to pay their bills or return home because of sanctions and cancelled flights. The crisis in Europe also put a crimp in recovery plans for the Southeast Asian nation's tourism industry, which has hosted more visitors from Russia than any of its neighbors before the pandemic hit.

### Surprise

**Mexico City:** The Vatican expressed surprise and pain at Nicaragua's expulsion of the papal nuncio, which comes at a time of growing pressure on opposition figures in the Central American nation. The church said in a statement that Nicaragua's action against Polish Msgr Waldemar Stanislaw Sommertag was grave and unjustified.

# China's COVID-19 cases rise, lockdown in many cities

Beijing, Mar 13 (AFP):

Chinese health authorities reported nearly 3,400 COVID-19 cases on Sunday, double the previous day, forcing lockdowns on virus hotspots as the country contends with its gravest outbreak in two years.

A nationwide surge in cases has seen authorities close schools in Shanghai and lock down several northeastern cities, as almost 19 provinces battle clusters of the Omicron and Delta variants.

The city of Jilin has been partially locked down, with hundreds of neighbourhoods sealed up, an official announced Sunday, while Yanji, an urban area of



A man looks at his phone on an empty street in Hong Kong on Sunday.

nearly 700,000 bordering North Korea, was fully closed off. China, where the virus was first detected in late 2019, has maintained a

strict 'zero-Covid' policy enforced by swift lockdowns, travel restrictions and mass testing when clusters have emerged.

But the latest flare-up, driven by the highly transmissible Omicron variant and a spike in asymptomatic cases, is challenging that approach. Zhang Yan, an official with the Jilin provincial health commission, admitted Sunday that local authorities' virus response so far had been lacking. "The emergency response mechanism in some areas is not robust enough, there is insufficient understanding of the characteristics of the Omicron variant... and judgment has been inaccurate," he said at a government press briefing. Residents of Jilin have completed six rounds of mass testing, local officials said.

# Unease and stoicism on Finland's Russian border

Imatra, Mar 13 (AFP):

In her wooden, snow-covered house 20 minutes from Russia, Maija Poyhia wears a traditional blue headscarf that her mother carried with her when fleeing the Soviet invasion of Finland during World War II.

In Finland, Russia's assault on Ukraine has stirred up some painful associations with the 1939 Winter War, when Red Army troops attacked the Nordic country across their shared border, which now runs to 1,340 kilometres (830 miles). As in Ukraine, the smaller Finnish army back then put up strong resistance



The border crossing between Finland and Russia in Nuijamaa, southeastern Finland.

and inflicted heavy losses on the Soviets.

But Finland ended up ceding a huge stretch of its eastern Karelia province, driving almost half a million Finns — 12 percent of the entire population — from their

homes. "My dad's childhood home is still on the Finnish side," Poyhia tells AFP, although her mother's family farm is now in Russia. "But back then, no one really understood how the border went."

# Missiles fired from Iran hit near US consulate in Iraq

Baghdad, Mar 13 (AP):

As many as 12 missiles struck near a sprawling US consulate complex in the northern Iraqi city of Irbil on Sunday, in what a US defense official and an Iraqi official said was a strike launched from neighboring Iran.

No injuries were reported in the attack, which marked a significant escalation between the US and Iran. Hostility between the longtime foes has often played out in Iraq, whose government is allied with both countries.

The Iraqi official in Baghdad initially said several missiles had hit the US consulate in Irbil and that it was the target of the attack. Later, Lawk Ghafari, the head of Kurdistan's foreign media



A woman inspects damage in the children's room at home following attack in Irbil on Sunday.

office, said none of the missiles had struck the US facility but that areas around the compound had been hit. The US defense official said it was still uncertain exactly how many missiles were fired and ex-

actly where they landed. A second US official said there was no damage at any US government facility and that there was no indication the target was the consulate building, which is new and current-

ly unoccupied. Neither the Iraqi official nor the US officials were authorized to discuss the event with the media and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Satellite broadcast channel Kurdistan24, which is located near the US consulate, went on air from their studio shortly after the attack, showing shattered glass and debris on their studio floor.

The attack came several days after Iran said it would retaliate for an Israeli strike near Damascus, Syria, that killed two members of its Revolutionary Guard. On Sunday, Iran's state-run IRNA news agency quoted Iraqi media acknowledging the attacks in Irbil, without saying where they originated.

# Rising food prices shake North Africa amid Ukraine war



A staff member arranges baked goods at a bakery which is unsubsidised, in the capital Tunis.

Tunis, Mar 13 (AFP):

Households across North Africa are rushing to stock up on flour, semolina and other staples as food prices rise following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, both key wheat exporters to the re-

gion. The scramble is worse coming just weeks before the start of the holy month of Ramadan, when Muslims traditionally break a dawn-to-dusk fast with lavish family meals.

Libya, along with several other Arab countries, import much of their wheat from Ukraine and Russia. Some fear the Russian invasion could lead to hunger and unrest, with memories of how rising food prices played a role in several Arab uprisings last decade.

In one supermarket in the Tunisian capital, the shelves were bare of flour or semolina, and only three packs of sugar sat on a shelf near a sign that read: "One kilo per customer, please". Store managers said the problem was "panic buying", not shortages. Shopper Houda Hjej, who said she hadn't been able to find rice or flour for two weeks, blamed the authorities. "With the war in Ukraine, they did not think ahead," the 52-year-old housewife in Tunis said.

Bulk-buying ahead of Ramadan, which is expected to start in early April this year, is common in Muslim countries. But some say the war in Ukraine has sparked a shopping frenzy.

Hedi Baccour, of Tunisia's union of supermarket owners, said daily sales of semolina—a staple across North Africa used in dishes of couscous—have jumped by "700 percent" in recent days. Sugar sales are up threefold as Tunisians stockpile basic foodstuffs, said Baccour, who insisted there were no food shortages. Each day pensioner Hedi Bouallegue, 66, makes the round of grocery shops in his Tunis neighbourhood to stock up on products like cooking oil and semolina. "I am even ready to pay double the price," he told AFP.

# Russia's war idles some European mills

Milan, Mar 13 (AP):

Italian paper mills that make everything from pizza boxes to furniture packaging ground to a halt as Russia's war in Ukraine has sent natural gas prices skyrocketing.

And it's not just paper: Italian steel mills, likewise, turned off electric furnaces last week. And fishermen, facing huge spikes in oil prices, stayed in port, mending nets instead of casting them. Nowhere more than in Italy, the European Union's third-largest economy, is dependence on Russian energy taking a higher toll on industry. Some 40% of electricity is generated from natural gas that largely comes from Russia, compared with roughly one-quarter in Germany, another major importer and the continent's largest economy.

Italy's dependence on Russian natural gas has surged from 27% to 43%, a fact lamented by Premier Mario Draghi. It will take at least two years to replace, his energy transition minister says. Even before the war, Europe was facing a serious energy crunch that drove up costs for electricity, food, supplies and everything in between for people and businesses. Ever higher prices tied to fears that the conflict will lead to an energy cutoff are hitting the continent much harder than the US because it imports so much of its oil and gas from Russia. European leaders meeting Friday in Versailles outside Paris discussed ways of easing the pain. Draghi pushed to diversify gas sources, develop renewables and introduce a cap on natural gas prices. He said his foreign minister, who recently visited Algeria and Qatar, was

working on new gas markets. "We are talking about errors made over many years," said Francesco Zago, CEO of the Veneto-based paper and packaging manufacturer Progest. "We get too much gas from Russia. In school, they tell us we need to diversify the sources, otherwise there is a danger." Natural gas prices were on the rise last year as reserves dwindled in Europe, but Zago said his company was able to stabilize prices and continue operating.

That changed with the Russian invasion, when already high prices soared from 90 euros a megawatt hour to over 300 euros a megawatt hour. "We found ourselves facing huge losses," Zago said. To remain profitable, he said they would have had to nearly double prices from 680 euros a ton to 1,200 euros not doable on the market-plate.

# Kenyan farmers turn to organic farming for better yields



Organic farming in Kenya.

Mwanja, Mar 13 (AFP):

Kenyan farmer Judith Mumbua noticed that using commercial fertilizers was creating problems for both her crops and the dirt on her farm in Mwanja village, eastern Kenya. "The chemicals affect soil by making it hard, and the plants, especially maize and beans, do very poorly," she says. That was

three years ago. Now, she has switched to organic farming, which, she says, has created a more positive outcome and a healthier way to grow crops. It is even better for her livestock, she says. "There are benefits in the production compared to previous farming methods I explored by using chemicals and fertilizers from shops," says Mumbua.

## ● Good soil health enables health crops

Mumbua started organic farming after a training program at a local agriculture organization. She admitted this farming method has helped her curb the antimicrobial crop resistance her plants had experienced for a number of years. "Antimicrobial resistance is when microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites change and no longer respond to medicine, making infections hard to treat and even manage in crops," she explains.

Organic agriculture or ecologically-based farming is basically the use of green manure, compost, biological agriculture and biological fertilizers derived from animal waste.

# Demand for ballots count by hand, not machines in US

Concord, Mar 13 (AP):

Growing suspicion about the security of voting systems has kindled a back-to-the-future moment among conservatives in some parts of the US.

Republican lawmakers in at least six states have introduced legislation that would require all election ballots to be counted by hand instead of electronic tabulators. Similar proposals have been floated within some local governments, including about a dozen New Hampshire towns and Washoe County in the presidential battleground state of Nevada.

The push for hand-counting ballots comes amid mistrust of elections among many Republicans who believe the false narrative that widespread fraud cost former President Donald Trump reelection in the 2020 presidential contest. Despite no evidence of



Lisa Prince, a volunteer, helps organize and count the ballots that were cast at the Hinsdale Middle High School.

widespread fraud or major irregularities, conspiracy theories have proliferated among his allies that voting systems were somehow manipulated to favor Democrat Joe Biden. That has prompted calls to ban electronic tabulators used to scan ballots, record votes and compile race tallies. "It's our responsibility, and it should be our desire, to count every vote and to imbue confi-

dence in our citizenry that our elections are fair and free, and that their vote is being counted," said New Hampshire state Rep Mark Alliegro, sponsor of a hand-counting bill that is similar to ones proposed in Arizona, Colorado, Missouri, Washington and West Virginia. Alliegro said he was motivated by his analysis of recounts in nearly 50 New Hampshire

state legislative races, not by the 2020 presidential election.

But some of the bill's supporters reference the 2020 election to explain why they feel his hand-count legislation is needed. They cite a belief that Trump actually won a landslide victory and that cheating is the only way to explain how New Hampshire voters elected a Republican governor and GOP majorities in the Legislature, but then backed Democrats for federal office. Critics of the proposals to ditch electronic ballot tabulators and return to hand-counting are blunt about what they see as the motivation. "It's coming from conspiracy theories and lies," said Sylvia Albert, director of voting and elections for Common Cause, a nonpartisan group that advocates for expanded voter access. "It's attempting to lower people's confidence in elections."



# CENTRAL Chronicle

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## Political experiment

The Congress' star women candidates, who entered the election fray as a symbol of struggle with the slogan 'Ladki Hoon, Lad Sakti Hoon', secured less than 3,000 votes each and had to even forfeit their deposits. Living up to the party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's promise to give 40 per cent of the tickets to women candidates, the Congress fielded 148 of them, of which only one Congress Legislature leader Aradhana Mishra secured victory. Uttar Pradesh Congress spokesperson Ashok Singh said the election results of its women candidates will be reviewed. He said there is no disappointment in the party due to their defeat and the Congress will still continue to work for women. The political experiment by Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was novel in its approach. The Congress was unable to pass the women's reservation bill during UPA era. This experiment by Priyanka Gandhi Vadra shows the need to reform social norms before improvement of politics. More than one in every two Indians say that women and men make equally good political leaders and over one in every ten believe women generally make better political leaders than men, according to a recent survey. Even when women are elected to office, it does not necessarily mean that they will be able to influence decision making within political parties to a great extent because of systemic inhibitions. The study, conducted among 30,000 adults nationwide, surveyed Indian attitudes toward gender roles. India has had powerful female politicians, with some of them managing to ascend to top political posts nationally and regionally, including president and prime minister. Indira Gandhi, for instance, India's first and only female prime minister to date, was a dominant political figure in the country from 1966 to 1984. But despite studies showing widespread public acceptance of female politicians, women's political participation remains low.

According to a 2020 report by the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) and National Election Watch (NEW), less than a tenth of the over 50,000 candidates contesting central and state elections are women. India slipped 28 places to rank 140th among 156 countries in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report in 2021, becoming the third-worst performer in South Asia. Women's participation as political actors has improved but their grip over power structure, at least at the party level, has not been impressive. Most of the decline occurred in the area of political empowerment, where India regressed considerably, with a significant drop in the number of women ministers in recent years from 23.1 per cent in 2019 to 9.1 per cent in 2021. Politics is often seen as a male bastion, and women are discouraged from entering it on the pretext that it is not a 'feminine' profession. People holding such views don't take into account the experiences of hundreds of women who are comfortable leading public political lives by leading self-help groups, civil society outfits and non-governmental organizations. Many female candidates are often made to contest in elections as "namesakes" for their husbands. Reserving seats for women is meaningless if women were treated as "puppets" by their male family members. There are senior female politicians who encourage women to defer to their husband or promote patriarchal views in public to walk the tightrope and not lose their allies. India has made strides in recent times in efforts to clean up the scourge of dirty money in politics even if candidates facing charges remain prominent. But the corrupting influence that comes from gender inequality remains a major fight. It will take more than a tonsured head to draw attention to the challenge.

## Economics is contextual

Indian retail inflation likely slipped marginally in February, thanks to lower food prices, according to economists who still warned that surging oil prices will push inflation much higher in the coming months. The spectre of inflation is once again stalking the world, after a long period of dormancy during which policymakers were more likely to be preoccupied by price deflation. Now, old debates have resurfaced on how best to restore price stability. Orthodox remedies for inflation often have costly side effects (such as bankruptcies and rising unemployment) and have not always produced the desired effects quickly enough. Price controls have sometimes worked, during wartime for example. That is why ridiculing currently unfashionable ideas on inflation as 'science denial' akin to rejecting COVID-19 vaccines, as some prominent economists have done, is so misplaced. In fact, when a particular claim about the real world appears inconsistent with existing theories, this is often an invitation for a young, smart economist to demonstrate that the claim can indeed be justified, under certain specific conditions. The true science of economics is contextual, not universal. Inflationary pressure seems to derive largely from a transitory set of factors, such as the pandemic-related reallocation of spending from services to goods, and supply-chain and other disruptions to production.

While expansionary monetary and fiscal policies have boosted incomes, these policies, too, are temporary. The alternative would have been a dramatic collapse in employment and living standards. Under current circumstances, then, policymakers should not over-react to the spike in inflation. The best argument against price controls is not that they are 'incompatible with science' but that nothing so radical needs to be considered for now. The same caution would apply to orthodox policy as well: central banks should be patient before raising interest rates. This undermines the argument that lower policy rates could effectively reduce production costs for firms. It indicates that the rise in interest rates reflects more fundamental problems with the economy, uncertainty about the conduct of economic policy, and higher inflation expectations for the future. Experiments that depart from conventional policy can be costly. But this does not mean that there are universal rules in economics or that the prevailing view among mainstream economists should determine policy. Economists should be humble when they recommend (or dismiss) various inflation-fighting strategies. And while policymakers must pay attention to economic evidence and arguments, they should be sceptical when the economists who advise them display excessive confidence.

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)

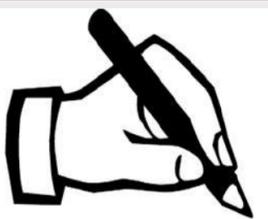
The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

## KEPT FOR DRYING



A potter arranges earthen pots kept for drying for onset of summer at the outskirts of Hyderabad, Telangana.

## Trend of Tamil cinema songs legitimising harmful behaviour

**GANGA RUDRAIAH**

Song and dance sequences are a staple feature of commercial cinema throughout India's diverse film production regions. Where dialogue cannot express desire or love, the hero and heroine often celebrate their union through song and dance. A distinct style of songs also addresses feelings of loss and longing when love does not flourish as expected. In Tamil cinema, these breakup songs are known as 'love-failure' songs. While both female and male characters sing and dance away their agony, a subset of love-failure songs give voice only to men who invariably go on a blaming spree, and attack women for breaking their hearts. Sociologist Premalatha Karupiah has aptly identified the misogyny of these songs while scholars of other film industries in India and globally have addressed similar issues in elements of film.

Beyond the misogyny of these love-failure songs from Tamil films, what is failing here is not just gender politics. The idea of love itself has been abandoned through the male protagonists' self-serving preoccupation with their egos. Western audiences may typically associate the habit of breaking into song and dance with Bollywood, a globally-recognized cultural category that refers to the aesthetics of Hindi-language cinema emerging from Mumbai. But song and dance routines are common to other regional film industries as

well. Although the first Tamil film, Keechaka Vatham, was produced in the silent era, the first Tamil talkie, Kalidas, released in 1931, featured 50 songs. What began as an element of attraction, borrowed from old theatrical traditions, has since evolved into a customary film formula. Each film contains a minimum of five to six songs to serve two main functions: to advertise the films within India and globally by promoting the film's music, and to help punctuate the different emotions playing out in the film narrative.

The quintessential melodramatic account of 'love failure' songs in Tamil is blame for a failed relationship, projected onto the figure of the woman. One of the earliest and striking instances where male romantic grief turns into an anxious, invective on women (and God who created them) is found in the song 'Kadavul Manithanaga Piraka Vendum' ('God must be born as human') from the 1963 film Vanambadi (Skylark). Through dramatic camera angles and movements combined with lyrical prowess, the male protagonist Sekar demands God to come down to earth and be born as a man to experience the suffering and betrayal of love at the hands of women. Contemporary iterations of this accusatory approach are usually situated at a public place where a group of men gather to sing and dance their woes against women. The Tamil song 'Why

this Kolaveri' (Why this murderous rage), an international hit from the 2012 film Moonu (Three), set the stage for the genre of 'soup' or 'flop' songs. The term 'soup', coined by the film's lead actor Dhanush, refers to the emotional state men find themselves in after being dumped.

In the song titled 'Local boys' from 2013's Ethir Neechal (Swimming Against the Tide) Dhanush makes a cameo appearance: he is seen consoling the hero who finds solidarity in strangers at a local bar. They come together because they claim to share the same fate with women and the same decision to drown their sorrows in booze. The song starts with the line 'I honestly don't need you,' and the lyrics go on to encourage men to shed their dependence on women and live freely without any worry. By interpreting rejection as women's fault, these songs not only soothe the male ego but they also help grieving men bond through their identification as 'soup boys.' This cinematically induced identity has not only potentially helped to legitimise stalking and other dangerous and unethical behavioural modes of pursuing women, but has also potentially galvanized narcissistic behaviour, something incompatible with love. In an acknowledgement of his social responsibility, another director apologized for similar lyrics by Dhanush for the 2011 film Mayakkam Enna (What is This Illusion?) in an interview.

In my preliminary research, I measure the philosophical durability of these songs. As lyrical expressions of personal failure, they reflect an excessive obsession with the self. The bereaved lover views his beloved as an investment that's supposed to have returns. When love is not reciprocated, blame gets thrown on the woman. Both love and the woman are declined together. But what every soup-boy needs to learn is actually that love's fundamental condition is

the onset of a broken, fractured self, even before a breakup and even if the betrayal is real. Because the moment one is in love, there is actually no self to possess. As the late French philosopher Jean-Luc Nancy discussed, when we are in love, what we know and recognize as an 'I' disintegrates into an ineffable connection with the other. There is no ego in love. There is no property to own. 'I love you' truly means: I am fully exposed to you in all my vulnerabilities and peculiarities. I am bare in front of you; I am already shattered in your presence. In my opinion, to counter the misogyny of love-failure songs, instead of portraying the inverse, women drinking and singing of their troubles with men, films should experiment with poetic pronouncements of love's true essence: how we risk everything when we love.

There are many examples of Tamil cinema exemplifying non-possessive ways of depicting love that 'love failure' genres could build upon. In Rajiv Menon's adaptation of Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility (Kandukondain Kandukondain (I Have Seen It, I Have Seen It)) Aishwarya Rai plays Meenakshi, based on Austen's Marianne Dashwood, a girl who is in love with love. In the song 'Enge enathu Kavithai?' ('Where has my poem gone?'), Meenakshi discovers her lover is to marry someone else. She yearns for her lost love in a mise-en-scene of pouring rain and flooded streets. Blinded by dejection, she slips into an open manhole only to be saved by a good-natured and more trustworthy man, the one she falls in love with later. The song does not resort to blaming anyone because in love there are no enemies. There is no 'I' or 'you' in love: only the cosmos that brings us together again and again.

(Ganga Rudraiah is PhD Candidate, Cinema Studies Institute, University of Toronto, Canada.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Genocide

The aftermath of violence that spread after Mahatma Gandhi's assassination has been kept under wraps for many years due to political reasons, but now it is making gradual waves in the mainstream national discourse. The pains of the violence have been preserved for years. The silencing of voices that followed one of the first large-scale massacres in Independent India accounts for one of the biggest cover-ups in modern India. It is the time that nation should know about the crimes committed against Brahmins of Maharashtra that erupted post the assassination of Gandhi. Gandhi was killed by Nathuram Vinayak Godse on January 30, 1948 in New Delhi which sent shock waves across the nation. Godse belonged to a Chittapavan Brahmin family living in Pune. Already some resentment was cultivated by that time, a response to their hegemony of century year old rule under the Peshwa dynasty. As soon as the family and caste details were made public, the violence against the Brahmins spread like wildfire across the State with Pune being the epicentre. On the very day, i.e., January 30, as many as 50 Brahmin people were murdered in Pune. The spurt of violence spread to other cities with Nagpur and Vidarbha emerged as hotbeds of violence too. The media during that manhunt turned a blind eye and State pressure was immense to discourage any recording of the events. That's why the nation doesn't have any recorded evidence of the violence available. It was only after the journalist Maureen Patterson, who was a British national, wrote decisively about the violence against the Brahmins of Maharashtra in 1948 that people started to talk about it. While the violence started with targeting of people with the surname Godse or the caste of Nathuram Godse, later on it quickly spread across all the caste and sub-caste of Brahmins. Like anti Sikh riots aftermath of assassination of Indira Gandhi the Congressmen too were involved in massacre of Maharashtra Brahmins during the killing of Mahatma Gandhi. The historians who wrote the earlier history textbooks chose to hide the facts or events.

Julie, via email

### Domestic abuse

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to wreak havoc across the world, reports of domestic violence keep growing. The world was already facing a crisis of domestic violence with women and children being the major victims. And now the pandemic is only exacerbating the problem. The rampant spread of the virus has forced the victims to stay indoors with the abusers, leaving them with little opportunities to seek refuge. With work places closed and visits of friends and relatives to houses politely dissuaded, abusers easily take control over the victims' milieu. The United Nations Population Fund has released a report, which says that pandemics increase the risk of gender-based violence. The report adds that during the Ebola outbreak, women and children had experienced higher rates of sexual violence. International development organizations must speed up their efforts to prevent and address this issue seriously in order to stop the pandemic of violence.

Ranganathan, via email



## WHAT THEY TWEET!



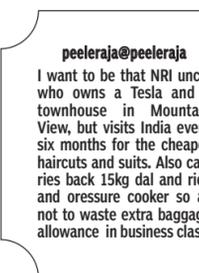
**vasabjit@vasabjit\_b**  
Russia sadly reminds me of the UK and France in the 1950s because the economic sanctions expose how much of its military and diplomatic power was underwritten by the post-1990s order. Its super power ambitions can't be supported by capabilities. Ukraine's like its Suez Crisis.

**Bharat@advbharatchugh**  
Devil's dictionary (of law!) CPC or Civil Procedure Code: Also, 'Cumbersome Procedure Code'. Picture it as a tail on a dog. A tail so powerful, convoluted, and wicked that it has not only started wagging the dog but is now - unabashedly - strangulating the dog.



**Sandeep@sandythapar**  
Don't ask where this came from but suddenly it struck me that I've never met or heard of a girl named Draupadi, in my life. Is it that I haven't & others have?? or is it a very uncommon name?? Or is there a reason to it. 5 husbands?? Can anyone clarify!

**Forest Service NW@ForestServiceNW**  
Never say there is nothing beautiful in the world anymore.



**peeleraja@peeleraja**  
I want to be that NRI uncle who owns a Tesla and a townhouse in Mountain View, but visits India every six months for the cheaper haircuts and suits. Also carries back 15kg dal and rice and oressure cooker so as not to waste extra baggage allowance in business class.



**Harsh Goenka@hvgoenka**  
At the Dessert counter of a Gujarati wedding, they put a TILAK on my forehead. I congratulated them for this practice. Man at the counter said 'Let me tell you the secret. It is not a sacred practice. It is only to ensure that you don't come for a second ice cream.' GUJJUS ROCK!

**Priyashmita@priyashmita**  
If u vote for parties that won't stand by you instead of ones who will, then why crib? Parties are currently not changing their stand at all. Most continue with their promises, even after u vote, be it of hate or ingoring you or standing by you and helping you.

## BRIEF

### Expects



**New Delhi:** Payworld expects to increase gross transactions on its platform by about 40 percent. Payworld CEO Praveen Dhabhai told PTI this financial year we will close at about Rs 11,000 crore and we are planning to almost double our net revenue.

### Transactions

**New Delhi:** Mixchange, an online platform for discounting trade receivables of MSMEs, is targeting to double its customer base and hit transaction value of Rs 30,000 crore in the next fiscal year, as the market has huge growth potential. The invoice discounting of the due payments of MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) was allowed by the Reserve Bank under the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) in 2015.

### Raises



**New Delhi:** Revfin has raised Rs 100 crore in debt, which it plans to use to expand into new geographies for financing three-wheelers. CEO Sameer Aggarwal told PTI we want to utilise this debt to first go into newer geographies for electric three-wheeler financing.

### Targets

**New Delhi:** Birla Estates expects sales revenue of around Rs 11,000 crore from its newly launched luxury housing project in south Mumbai and has already sold properties worth Rs 1,000 crore, its CEO KT Jithendran said.

### Tie-ups



**New Delhi:** RattanIndia Enterprises, which recently made a foray into the fintech business, looks to have tie-ups with all the banks by the end of the next financial year. Chairperson Rajiv Rattan told PTI plan is to cover all the banks by the end of next financial year.

### Establishing

**Mumbai:** Japanese financial group Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG) is establishing a USD 300 million fund to invest exclusively in Indian start ups. The fund intends not only to financially support Indian economic growth but to drive collaboration between MUFG and promising companies in the areas of technology and information and technology (IT). MUFG established MUFG Enterprise Solutions India (MESI) in 2020 as its global capability centre.

# Fertiliser subsidy may exceed RE by Rs 10K crore

**Fiscal deficit to remain close to 6.9% in FY-22**

**New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):**

The government's fertiliser subsidy bill in the current fiscal year may go up by about Rs 10,000 crore due to the Russia-Ukraine war, but higher tax revenues will help keep fiscal deficit close to the estimated 6.9 per cent level, an official said.

The official further said the oil prices are expected to cool in the next 2-3 months on higher production from the US and OPEC member countries.

The Revised Estimates (RE) had pegged the fertiliser subsidy at over Rs 1.40 lakh crore in current fiscal year, while the Budget Estimate (BE) for next fiscal year is estimated at over Rs 1.05 lakh crore.

"We expect oil prices to cool in next 2-3 months.



The rising oil prices would not alter the budget math of the government much in the current fiscal except for fertiliser subsidy which is likely to go up by about Rs 10,000 crore," the official said.

The official further said that since farmers need to stock up fertilisers before the beginning of the sowing season, import of potash - a key component in fertiliser manufacturing - cannot wait for international prices to cool.

Also, rise in prices of natural gas, a key raw material for the manufacturing of urea and comprising nearly 70 per cent of the total cost of producing urea, in the global market would lead to rise in domestic prices of urea.

International crude oil prices shot up to 14-year high of USD 140 per barrel early last week before retracting to near USD 112 on Friday. But even this rate is 45 per cent higher than the USD 80-87 range

of January when most of the Budget 2022-23 would have been prepared.

The official said that even at this elevated level of spending, the fiscal deficit would remain close to the 6.9 per cent level in the current fiscal year as pegged in the revised estimates.

"India's fiscal deficit would be close to 6.9 per cent as given in the revised estimate as higher tax revenues will offset the gap in the non-tax revenues and higher fertiliser subsidy outgo. As of now, we will remain close to the numbers given in the RE for this year and in the Budget Estimates for next fiscal," the official added.

In the RE for the current fiscal year ending March 31, the fiscal deficit has been revised a tad higher at 6.9 per cent of GDP, from 6.8 per cent estimated earlier. The deficit is projected to come down to 6.4 per cent of GDP in the next fiscal year.

# Bidding for DSF-III oil round to start on Apr 1

**New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):**

Bidding for 75 small and marginal oil and gas discoveries, mostly of ONGC, that are being offered in the DSF-III bid round, will begin on April 1 and close on May 16, according to the DGH.

The third bidding round under the Discovered Small Fields policy (DSF-III) was launched on June 10, 2021.

The original deadline for submission of bids was August 31, 2021. However, this was postponed to October 29, 2021. The start was again put off to February 1, 2022 and closing slated for March 15, 2022.

As the bid deadline approached, it was again postponed without any reasons being given.

"Bid submission for DSF Bid Round-III will start on April 1, 2022, and end on May 16, 2022, the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) said. DSF-III offers 32 contract



areas, comprising 75 fields/discoveries, with a combined total area of more than 13,000 square kilometres, in nine sedimentary basins.

The fields on offer include a few of the nomination fields of national oil company, ONGC, and some of the relinquished/unmonetised discoveries.

According to the DGH, the 32 offered contract areas have a total resource potential of around 230 million tonnes of oil equivalent (MMtoe)/1.7 billion barrels (oil and oil equivalent

of gas (OEG)). The government introduced DSF in October 2015 to monetise unmonetised discoveries of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL). Under the DSF policy, two bid rounds in 2016 and 2018 have been conducted wherein 54 contract areas with 101 fields were offered.

The offered discovered fields include 54 in shallow water, 2 in deepwater, and 19 are on-land fields.

These small and marginal fields were discovered by ONGC and OIL but they were not economically viable to be developed due to the fiscal regime and their small size.

Under DSF liberal terms including pricing and marketing freedom are offered, making them viable. Also, it is based on a revenue-sharing model, a single licence for hydrocarbon resources, no cess, full gas pricing freedom, and no riders for foreign companies/joint ventures.

# Adani, KKR, Piramal among 14 prominent bidders for Rel Cap

**New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):**

Adani Finserv, KKR, Piramal Finance and Poonawala Finance are among the 14 prominent firms that have expressed interest to acquire debt-ridden Reliance Capital Ltd, promoted by the Anil Ambani Group, sources said.

The last date for submission of bids for the debt-ridden firm was extended to March 25 from the previous fixed date of March 11 by the Reserve Bank-appointed administrator.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had on November 29 last year superseded the board of Reliance Capital Ltd (RCL) in view of payment defaults and serious governance issues. This is the third large non-banking financial com-



pany (NBFC) against which the central bank has initiated bankruptcy proceedings under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) recently. The other two were Srei Group NBFC and Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL).

The deadline has been extended on the request of some prospective bidders who have sought more time to submit the EOIs, sources said.

ArpWood, Varde Partners, Multiples Fund, Nippon Life, JC Flowers, Brookfield, Oaktree, Apollo

Global, Blackstone, and Hero Fincorp are the other major companies that have submitted Expressions of Interest (EoI) for Reliance Capital by 11 March, they said.

According to the sources, the vast majority of the bidders, who have submitted EOIs, have bid for the entire company.

The bidders have two options - either they can bid for the entire RCL or any one or more than one of the eight subsidiaries of the NBFC firm.

The Reliance Capital subsidiaries include Reliance General Insurance, Reliance Nippon Life Insurance, Reliance Securities, Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company, Reliance Home Finance and Reliance Commercial Finance.

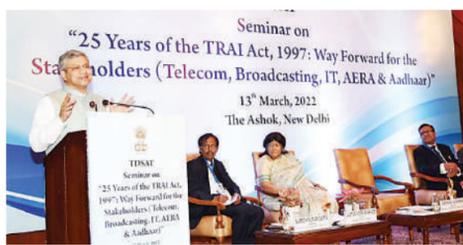
# Need to overhaul regulatory structure to promote tech development

**New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):**

The government is looking to overhaul the regulatory structure to facilitate development of technology and interaction with industry as a partner and not as adversaries, telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Sunday.

Addressing the inaugural session of a TDSAT seminar, Vaishnaw said that the system entangled everybody and some people who did not have sufficiently strong values created a mess which defamed the telecom market in the past.

"Can we have one regulator for the entire digital world? Those kinds of things are happening. We need to really overhaul our entire regulatory set-



Telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnaw addressing TDSAT seminar in New Delhi on Sunday.

up in terms of the legal structure, regulatory execution structure, the way our government bodies think, people are trained, the way we interact with the industry - not as adversaries but as partners. That's the next big thing that we have to do," Vaishnaw said.

He said that not much

has been done as of now but need to work in a direction to continue the development of the technology stack and adding more and more start-ups to it because this is a market which can create future generations of entrepreneurs.

"We were lagging when it was 2G and 3G. We are

trying to catch up with 4G. We should at least run together in 5G but in 6G we should take the lead. Otherwise what's the point of being a nation which is today called a talent nation."

"A talented nation should be thinking in that way where it takes the lead, sets the goal and sets the direction for the whole world," Vaishnaw said.

He said that a consortium of 11 institutions including IIT Chennai, IIT Kanpur, IIT Bombay, IISc Bangalore has created 4G technology in 14 months with expenditure of about USD 30 million which is a very small fraction of the cost at which dominant players in the telecom sector have created the technology.

# Govt has time till May 12 to launch LIC IPO

**Without seeking fresh Sebi approval**

**New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):**

The government has time till May 12 to launch the initial public offering (IPO) of LIC without filing fresh papers with market regulator Sebi, an official said.

The government's sale of about 31.6 crore shares or 5 per cent stake in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), which was estimated to fetch around Rs 60,000 crore to the exchequer, was originally planned to be launched in March, but the Russia-Ukraine crisis has derailed the plans as stock markets are highly volatile. On February 13, the government filed the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) for the IPO



with Sebi, which granted its approval for the same last week. "We have a window till May 12 to launch the IPO based on the papers filed with Sebi. We are watching the volatility and will file the RHP giving the price band soon," an official said.

The DRHP filed with Sebi had details of the financial results of LIC and also the embedded value till September 2021.

If the government misses the May 12 window available with it, LIC would have to file fresh papers with Sebi giving the

results of December quarter and also update the embedded value.

LIC's embedded value, which is a measure of the consolidated shareholders value in an insurance company, was pegged at about Rs 5.4 lakh crore as of September 30, 2021, by international actuarial firm Milliman Advisors. Although the DRHP does not disclose the market valuation of LIC, as per industry standards it would be about 3 times the embedded value. The official further said that although the market volatility has reduced in the last fortnight, it would wait for the market to stabilise further so that retail investors get confidence to invest in the stock. LIC has reserved up to 35 per cent of its total IPO size for retail investors.

# India GDP growth forecast cut to 7.9%

**New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):**

As higher oil prices torpedo economic recovery worldwide, Morgan Stanley has cut India's GDP forecast for the fiscal year beginning April 1 by 50 basis points to 7.9 per cent, raised retail inflation projection to 6 per cent and expects current account deficit to widen to 3 per cent of GDP.

"Even as we expect the cyclical recovery trend to continue, we expect it to be softer than we previously projected," it said in a report. "We believe that the ongoing geopolitical tensions exacerbate external risks and impart a stagflationary impulse to the economy."

India is affected through three key channels - higher prices for oil and other commodities; trade, and



tighter financial conditions, influencing business/investment sentiment.

"Building in higher oil prices, we trim our F23 GDP growth forecast 50bps, to 7.9 per cent, lift our CPI inflation forecast to 6 per cent, and expect the current account deficit to widen to 10-year high of 3 per cent of GDP," it said.

India is 85 per cent dependent on imports to meet its oil needs and the recent spurt in international oil prices, which pushed rates to a 14-year high of USD 140

per barrel before retracting, will result in the country paying more for the commodity. Also, higher prices will result in inflationary pressure.

The key channel of impact for the economy will be higher cost-push inflation, feeding into broader price pressures, which will weigh on all economic agents - households, business, and government.

Regarding India's exposure to macro stability risks, Morgan Stanley said even as macro stability indicators are expected to worsen, lack of domestic imbalances and focus on improving the productivity dynamic will help to mitigate risks. "As such, we do not expect that fiscal or monetary policy will need to tighten disruptively to manage macro stability

risks. The risk would stem from a further sustained rise in oil prices, leading to quick deterioration in macro stability and currency volatility," it said. The brokerage expected a repo rate hike in the June meeting of RBI's Monetary Policy Committee. "But we now expect the April policy to mark the process of policy normalization with a reverse repo rate hike."

"However, if the RBI were to delay its normalization process, the risk of disruptive policy rate hikes would rise. We see less room for fiscal policy stimulus to support growth given high deficit and debt levels - we see a possibility of a modest fuel tax cut and reliance on the national rural employment program as an automatic stabilizer," it said.

# Nine of top-10 firms gain Rs 1.91 lakh cr in m-cap

**New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):**

Nine of the 10 most valued companies together added a whopping Rs 1,91,434.41 crore in market valuation last week, with Reliance Industries, Infosys and TCS emerging as the biggest gainers.

ICICI Bank was the only laggard from the top-10 pack. Last week, the benchmark Sensex jumped 1,216.49 points or 2.23 per cent.

From the gainers' pack, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) added Rs 49,492.7 crore, taking its valuation to Rs 16,22,543.06 crore. The valuation of Infosys jumped Rs 41,533.59 crore to reach Rs

7,66,447.27 crore. The market valuation of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) climbed Rs 27,927.84 crore to Rs 13,31,917.43 crore and that of Bharti Airtel zoomed Rs 22,956.67 crore to Rs 3,81,586.05 crore.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of Hindustan Unilever Limited advanced Rs 17,610.19 crore to Rs 4,92,204.13 crore and that of HDFC Bank went higher by Rs 16,853.02 crore to Rs 7,74,463.18 crore.

State Bank of India's valuation went up by Rs 7,541.3 crore to Rs 4,19,813.73 crore and that of Bajaj Finance gained Rs 5,308.61 crore to Rs 4,00,014.04 crore.

# Tea industry seeks special financial package from Centre

**Kolkata, Mar 13 (PTI):**

Representative bodies of the tea industry have sought a special financial package from the Centre for retaining its viability which is now under serious threat, an official of the Indian Tea Association (ITA) said.

The tea industry bodies recently met the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce and submitted a representation on the challenges faced by the sector.

Secretary general of ITA Arijit Raha said that general issues of the industry had been discussed with a



special focus on Darjeeling. He said that production of beverage has drastically fallen in Darjeeling which is from 12 million kilograms to six million kilograms at the moment.

According to him, the reason for the drop in Darjeeling tea volumes are many, which are no place for expansion of the gardens since they are on a

hilly terrain and also replantation is difficult.

Raha said new yield after replantation generally takes a gestation period of five to seven years and the gardens will earn no revenue during that period.

"It becomes a financial challenge for the industry and also Darjeeling yields are falling. Since fixed costs are the same for Darjeeling gardens and those in the plains, cost of production is much high in the hills", he added. Above that, prices of Darjeeling tea are falling. In the last six years from 2016 to 2021, prices have fallen 1.7 per cent CAGR, Raha said.

# FPI selling continues, net outflows at Rs 45,608 cr

**New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):**

Continuing their selling spree for the sixth straight month, overseas investors have pulled out a net Rs 45,608 crore from the Indian markets in March so far.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) fear that India would be impacted more by commodity price hikes, particularly in crude oil, since India is a major importer, said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

As per depositories data, FPIs pulled out Rs 41,168 crore from equities, Rs 4,431 crore from the debt seg-

ment and Rs 9 crore from hybrid instruments, taking the total net outflow between March 2-11 to Rs 45,608 crore.

This is the sixth consecutive month of FPI outflows from the Indian markets.

The selling is mainly confined to financials and IT since these segments constitute the bulk of assets under the custody of FPIs, Vijayakumar noted.

"An important takeaway from FPI selling is that it is not impacting all segments. For instance, FPIs sold IT stocks worth Rs 10,984 crore in February, but in March IT is one of the best performing sectors," he added.

## Akshay Kumar gets nostalgic on father's love for his son's films



**A**kshay Kumar, the action superstar of Bollywood, graced the sets of Sony Entertainment Television's number one comedy show 'The Kapil Sharma Show' with his co-stars Arshad Warsi, Jacqueline Fernandez, Kriti Sanon and director Farhad Samji to promote their new and upcoming film 'Bachchan Pandey'. The actor may as well have fans all over the globe, but his number one fan is no other than his own father! On the show, the celebrated icon spoke about how parents can do anything to support their children and recounted a tale of his late father, who would diligently watch all of his son's films, many times!

Host Kapil Sharma asked Kriti Sanon about her mother who is known to fight for her daughter when it comes to internet trolls. The actress said that her mother is the most honest and unfiltered person that she knows of. On this note, Akshay Kumar also spoke about his father, who would support him through thick and thin, "Parents are like that only and I believe they should be like that! Whenever my films would be released, my father would see the film at least 14 to 15 times. Then sometimes, he used to randomly ask his friend, "Aur, Kya kar raha hein?... koi nai? Chal aa picture dekhta hein." He would himself buy the tickets, have snacks during the intervals and while watching the film, he would tap his friend's shoulder and say, "that's my son". So, that's what daddies and mummies are like and so, this is not astonishing that Kriti's mother fights for her. All mothers are like that."

Tune into The Kapil Sharma Show, every Sunday at 9:30 pm only on Sony Entertainment Television.

## Model Mahi Goswami makes acting debut with 'Gulam Begam Badshah'



**M**ahi Goswami who started her showbiz career as a fashion model is making her acting debut with upcoming series 'Gulam Begam Badshah'. She says: "I'm so blessed and excited to finally make my acting dream come true. I started as a model and after shooting with popular brands and celebrities. I was looking for such an opportunity. I feel actors enjoy more recognition compared to models. But yes I have always enjoyed modelling."

Mahi, earlier won a beauty pageant says she will be playing a titular role.

"I'm playing a beautiful lead role in the series. She has many different emotions and shades. It's always fun to play such challenging roles. I'm sure after web I'll get more opportunities to be part of TV shows and movies too."

## Shelfali Shah recalls challenges while shooting for 'Jalsa'



**A**ctress Shelfali Shah shares her experience of working in Vidya Balan-starrer 'Jalsa'. Shelfali shared: "Well, there were fun parts but right after the first shot, it's a very intense film. For me, creatively- it was very high."

Shelfali and Vidya are playing the leads in the movie. Shelfali is seen as Ruksana in the film and she talks about getting into the skin of character and challenges faced while shooting a sequence.

Talking about an incident from the shoot, she said: "There was one scene that was very maddening to shoot because of the continuity on camera of my dupatta, my purse. So, it was a scene where I walked into the garage and hit the boy. So, I asked the director if she is coming from the hospital and Ruksana being shy won't go out without the dupatta, so where is her dupatta."

Shelfali further explained her point to the director that her on-screen character will need dupatta and he asked her to do the shot in the same way. But the challenge was to maintain continuity while holding the bag or carrying a dupatta in the same way as the previous shot. So, that it looks real and natural to the audience. She added: "He said, 'Give her the dupatta', and I came and hit the guy. So, the way I wanted to do is— hit him, grab him, hit him with purse and he said, go ahead. I did it and it was good. But then when they started to take it from different angles they wanted to match the moment of my dupatta when it fell down, when my hand went up, one handle of the purse fell. I regret all my asking again. We had to re-do it to match the continuity."

## Actress Malavika hails Samantha for taking 'extra risk'



**A**ctress Malavika Mohanan, who was interviewed regarding her latest movie 'Maaran' starring Dhanush K Raja, spoke highly of fellow actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu. On being quizzed on who inspires her as an actress, the actress said that Samantha's work inspires her the most. The noted actress adds that Samantha has made bold career choices, which makes her more special than anyone else. "She never shy away from doing variant roles. Samantha took extra risks in her choices. For example, 'Family Man 2' as she knew that weightage of the series, took up the role, which has landed her in Bollywood, with grace", the 'Petta' actress said. Malavika thinks Samantha's choices has landed her in the top of her game. Malavika Mohanan's 'Maaran' has started streaming on Disney Hotstar from Friday. Malavika Mohanan is one of the most-happening actresses, and her appearance in Vijay-starrer 'Maste' earned her good name.



## &TV artists experience interesting situation

**T**his week &TV characters across its shows - Baal Shiv, BhabijiGhar Par Hai, Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai? and Happu Ki Ultan Paltan will be put to the test with challenging circumstances. It will be interesting for the viewers to see how they will overcome these situations.

Shivya Pathania aka Devi Parvatiin&TV's Baal Shiv shares, "Devi Parvati is in pain as Baal Shiv (Aan Tiwari) returns from Kailash and enters Pataal Lok to save MahasatiAnusuya (MouliGanguly) from Tarkasur (Kapil Nirmal). Parvati goes into "antardhyaan" and Baal Shiv is upset that he is unable to locate her. Meanwhile, Ajamukhi (Shrashti Maheshwari) attacks the children of Gurukul to the tune of the elusive flute and takes them to the hill. Rishi Atri (Sandeep Mohan) tries to stop her; but Ajamukhi hurts him and asks him to call his son. MahasatiAnusuya senses the threat and requests Baal Shiv to go and protect him. Baal Shiv neutralises the sound of the magical flute by playing damru and saves them.

About the track in &TV's Happu Ki Ultan PaltanYogesh Tripathi (Happu Singh) shares, "Kundali Pandit Ji predicts a lot suffering due to aggression for Malaika (Jasneet Kaur Kant) which gets Happu worried.

## HOROSCOPE MONDAY MARCH 14

**Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18**  
If Elvis Presley is who you dreamed of being, today may be your day! You seem to impress one and all, and even money flows in! You play smart today and everything seems to work in your favour. Take care, says Ganesha, things may not be as they seem.

**Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20**  
A hectic day of socialising awaits you. You will discover hidden talents and unnoticed traits about yourself. Either that, or whoever brought them to your notice was only lying to get some socialising action of their own. You are a person of action, as well as of words, and hence, will go on to act on what you have planned, says Ganesha.

**Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20**  
You may pick up the hammer and chisel today. No, you're not taking up sculpture; you're finally giving in to your spouse's demands to take some home improvement measures. It's in your interest to be speedy and focused, as you are the guilty party, says Ganesha.

**Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21**  
There is a strong possibility of receptivity and sensitivity in your love life. On the down side, your negativity may lead to mediocre results. You are a fire-fighter when it comes to others' problems, but can forget digging a well for your own home, says Ganesha.

**Gemini: May 22 - June 21**  
Today, you will toil as if you have to conquer Mt. Everest. And you will, says Ganesha. You may not get a standing ovation or a medal of honour for your hard work and dedication, but you will be lavishly appreciated by your superiors and colleagues.

**Cancer: June 22 - July 22**  
In all likelihood, this is going to be a fairly easy day for you, says Ganesha. The only tough part of the day would be how to spend it. There will be hardly anything to do, anyone to talk to. Ideally, this is what you would call a perfect day. But not today. Today, you'll miss people.

**Leo: July 23 - Aug 23**  
Call it an epiphany of sorts, but today promises to be a day of revelations for you. Finally, things fall into place as your Odyssey nears its end, and you come to terms with your hidden talents, says Ganesha. Follow your heart and dive into the bottomless pool of your imagination.

**Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22**  
Ganesha suggests that you take a much-needed break from the daily rigmarole. Introduce an element of the exotic in order to replace all the mundane work that fills up your day. You may attend private and social get-togethers, and Ganesha advises you to mingle with other people to keep your spirits high.

**Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23**  
Health is always a key issue, and today, you may have to pay some special attention to the same. It may be some elderly person in the family, or even you. Take the time to give it your full attention in order to avoid any further complications. You may do well to undergo a physical examination yourself. Remember, health is wealth.

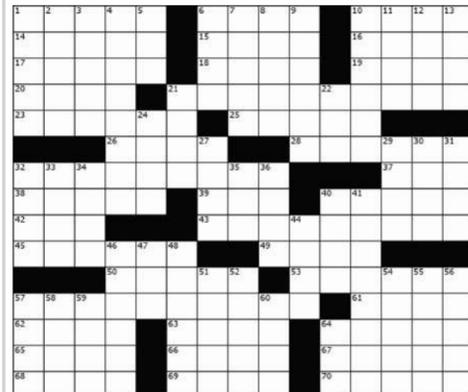
**Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22**  
The target is locked in and the arrow is shot. It is only a matter of time before Cupid celebrates and hits the bull's eye and you find yourself in the mush of things. Sentiments and romance will be the order of the day. There is a good chance that marriage proposals or new relationships will find their footing today, says Ganesha.

**Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 31**  
Whatever you take up today, you are on a winning spree, foresees Ganesha. A leader, you will guide and instruct your subordinates when they seek your advice. In a way, you even encourage and motivate them. All in all, you are a happy soul at the end of the day!

**Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20**  
Your intuition will get the better of you today, bagging you respect and recognition, says Ganesha. But it's not every day that you get so lucky, so try and make the most of what's on the platter, for all you know, intuitions could have a mood swing too.

## CROSSWORD

240

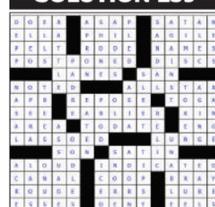


- 45. Whirlpools
  - 49. Listen
  - 50. Property documents
  - 53. Makes into law
  - 57. Slept through winter
  - 61. Leak
  - 62. On the ocean
  - 63. Harbinger
  - 64. Keyboard instrument
  - 65. Tattle
  - 66. Enjoy a book
  - 67. Autumn bloom
  - 68. Congers
  - 69. Requests
  - 70. \_\_\_\_\_ Witherspoon of "Legally Blonde"
- DOWN**
- 1. Ceases
  - 2. Lady's title
  - 3. Love, in Florence
  - 4. Scatterer
  - 5. Holds
  - 6. Impersonator
  - 7. Sings
  - 8. Map detail
  - 9. Moose's horn
  - 10. Gridiron number
  - 11. "Star Wars" character
  - 12. Tied
  - 13. Dispatched
  - 21. Doesn't exist
  - 22. New Year's \_\_\_\_\_
  - 24. Monthly expense
  - 27. Tethered
  - 29. Lincoln and Vigoda
  - 30. Lion's hair
  - 31. Chows down
  - 32. Alleviate
  - 33. Tater
  - 34. Beach feature
  - 35. Ripen
  - 36. \_\_\_\_\_ Ness
  - 40. Actor \_\_\_\_\_ Connery
  - 41. Utopia
  - 44. Marsh grass
  - 46. Guiding principles
  - 47. Always, poetically
  - 48. Madrid matron
  - 51. Noblewomen
  - 52. Siroloin, e.g.
  - 54. Box
  - 55. Prongs
  - 56. Mushroom "seed"
  - 57. Dislike intensely
  - 58. Understood! (2 wds.)
  - 59. Gong
  - 60. Finales
  - 64. Golf norm

### ACROSS

- 1. Break
- 6. Japan's continent
- 10. Spud buds
- 14. Florida City
- 15. Actor Sean \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. Deep affection
- 17. Perfumes
- 18. West's opposite
- 19. Adam's abode
- 20. Whittle down
- 21. Not pertinent
- 23. Smudges
- 25. Actor \_\_\_\_\_ Martin
- 26. Fender blemish
- 28. Retitle
- 32. Most important
- 37. Sheep's bleat
- 38. Separate
- 39. Self-importance
- 40. Used money
- 42. Earth's star
- 43. Lessons

### SOLUTION 239



## Won't play unless I'm 100% fit and had adequate training: Praneeth



**New Delhi:** Low on confidence after below-par performances in the last six months, India's B Sai Praneeth says his mantra this year is to compete only when he gets adequate training and is at the peak of his fitness. The 29-year-old Indian was hopeful of a good show at his maiden Olympics but everything went downhill for him starting from the Tokyo Games, where he failed to win a match. The rest of the season also didn't yield desired results as he turned up for India at the team events such as Sudirman Cup and Thomas and Uber Cup Finals, besides the world tour events, without adequate breaks or training. "My bad luck started since the Olympics. On hindsight, going to Sudirman cup without training was a mistake but it was a team event and it was about playing for India."

## Young gymnast Protistha Samanta selected for upcoming World Cups



**Agartala:** Young gymnast Protistha Samanta from West Bengal has been included in India's six-member contingent which will participate in the upcoming World Cups in Egypt and Azerbaijan. The 18-year-old, who had claimed a gold medal at the Khelo India Youth Games in women's under-17 all-round artistic gymnastics events in Pune in 2019, will be competing at the World Cup beginning at Cairo, Egypt from March 17 to 20. She will also participate at the Baku World Cup slated from March 29 to April 1. Samanta has been training in Tripura under Bisweshar Nandi, the coach who had played a key role in Olympian Dipa Karmakar's rise, for the last three years. For the past one month, she has been training in Delhi under the watchful eye of Nandi.

round artistic gymnastics events in Pune in 2019, will be competing at the World Cup beginning at Cairo, Egypt from March 17 to 20. She will also participate at the Baku World Cup slated from March 29 to April 1. Samanta has been training in Tripura under Bisweshar Nandi, the coach who had played a key role in Olympian Dipa Karmakar's rise, for the last three years. For the past one month, she has been training in Delhi under the watchful eye of Nandi.

## Mehuli Ghosh wins women's 10m air rifle gold in National T2 trials



**Bhopal:** Mehuli Ghosh of West Bengal beat Karnataka's Tilottama Sen 17-9 to win gold in the women's 10m air rifle National T2 trials here on Sunday. Mehuli, a Youth Olympics silver medalist, had finished second in the T1 trials on Friday. Tilottama, however, won the junior women's 10m air rifle T2 trial. She also finished second in the youth T2 competition, for a profitable three-medal day. Mehuli had shot 630.1 on Saturday to qualify for the top-eight stage in sixth position. Gujarat's Elavenil Valarivan had topped the field with 632.1. From the two semi-finals on Sunday, Mehuli, Tilottama and Elavenil were joined in the medal match by Haryana's Ramita.

trials here on Sunday. Mehuli, a Youth Olympics silver medalist, had finished second in the T1 trials on Friday. Tilottama, however, won the junior women's 10m air rifle T2 trial. She also finished second in the youth T2 competition, for a profitable three-medal day. Mehuli had shot 630.1 on Saturday to qualify for the top-eight stage in sixth position. Gujarat's Elavenil Valarivan had topped the field with 632.1. From the two semi-finals on Sunday, Mehuli, Tilottama and Elavenil were joined in the medal match by Haryana's Ramita.

## Brathwaite accuses Joe Root of being 'disrespectful'

**St John's:** Former West Indies all-rounder Carlos Brathwaite has accused Joe Root of being "disrespectful" after the England skipper waited until the last five balls to concede the draw on day 5 of the opening Test here. Chasing an improbable 286 to win, West Indies were reduced to 67 for four at the start of last session but the duo of Nkrumah Bonner (38 off 138) and Jason Holder (37 off 101) batted for a combined 239 deliveries, adding 80 off 35 overs to deny England a win. The visitors showed no desire to call it early, despite the day's remaining overs dwindling with the two holding fort.

## Rattled by spectator's outburst, Osaka loses at Indian Wells



**Indian Wells:** Rattled by a derogatory shout from a spectator, Naomi Osaka went on to lose 6-0, 6-4 to Veronika Kudermetova of Russia in the second round of the BNP Paribas Open. Osaka trailed in the first set when a woman in the stands shouted, Osaka, you suck. The Japanese star approached the chair umpire to ask that something be done. But the umpire explained that she didn't know who it was and could not take any action. I didn't hear what lady say because I really so focus on my game, on my serve game, I didn't understand what she say, Kudermetova said on Saturday night. But after that moment, I saw that Naomi, she start to cry.

# Perry, McGrath, Gardner power Australia to massive win over NZ

**Wellington, Mar 13 (PTI):**

Ellyse Perry, Tahila McGrath and Ashleigh Gardner's impressive all-round display powered Australia to a crushing 141-run win over New Zealand, their third consecutive, in the ICC Women's ODI World Cup here on Sunday.

Perry (68 off 86) and McGrath (57 off 56) hit fine half-centuries before Gardner played a 18-ball 48-run cameo to help Australia post a challenging 269 for eight after being asked to bat.

Defending the target, Australia dished out a cohesive bowling effort to bowl out trans-tasman rivals New Zealand for 128 in 30.2 overs.

Darcie Brown (3/22) was the pick of the bowlers for Australia while Amanda-Jade Wellington (2/34), Gardner (2/15), Perry (1/18), McGrath (1/17) and Megan Schutt (1/22) provided the perfect support from the other end.

With three wins from as many matches, Australia displaced India from the top of the eight-team standings with six points.

Sent into bat, the opening pair of Rachel Haynes (30) and Alyssa Healy (15) shared 37 runs in 9.5 overs as Australia made a sedate start.

Australia were dealt twin blows soon when skipper Meg Lanning (5) and Healy departed in quick succession. Perry and Beth Mooney (30) then stabilised the innings with a 57-run fourth-wicket stand before the latter perished.

Perry was then joined by McGrath as the duo took the attack to the opposition to stitch 90 runs off 84 balls to take Australia past the 200-run mark before both the batters were dismissed in quick time.

While Perry struck six boundaries and one six during her stay, McGrath's innings was laced with eight hits to the fence. The final push was provided by Gardner who used her long handle to great effect, hitting four boundaries and as many sixes to take Australia past the 250-run mark. Lea Tahuu (3/53) picked up three wickets for New Zealand. The Australian bowlers were right on the money while defending the target, picking up wickets at regular intervals which unsettled New Zealand.

### Brief Scores:

**Australia:** 269 for 8 in 50 overs (Ellyse Perry 68, Tahila McGrath 57, Ashleigh Gardner 48; Lea Tahuu 3/53).  
**New Zealand:** 128 all out in 30.2 overs (Amy Satterthwaite 44; Darcie Brown 3/22, Ashleigh Gardner 2/15, Amanda-Jade Wellington 2/34).



intervals which unsettled New Zealand.

New Zealand's chase never got going as they lost wickets in a heap from the word go and failed to counter Australia's inci-

sive bowling effort. Amy Satterthwaite was the top-scorer for New Zealand with 44 off 67 balls and the second best score was from tail-ender Tahuu who made 23 off 25 balls.

Katey Martin (19) and opener Suzie Bates (16) were the two other batters who managed double digit scores as New Zealand failed to put any sort of challenge.

## Pant lights up Chinnaswamy with fastest 50

**Bengaluru, Mar 13 (PTI):**

Skipper Rohit Sharma gifted away his wicket but Rishabh Pant conjured up a record-breaking half-century as India took a commanding position in the second Test against Sri Lanka by extending their overall lead to 342 at dinner on the second day, here Sunday.

With plenty of time at their disposal after bundling out Sri Lanka for 109 in the first session for a 143-run first innings lead, the India batters gained more experience of playing with pink ball on a wicket that assisted spinners.

Shreyas Iyer (18) and Ravindra Jadeja (10) took India to 199 for five at the break after flamboyant Pant hammered Lankan bowlers all around the park.

There is never a dull moment when Pant is at the crease and it did not change today. He cut, pulled, swept, reverse swept, drove, charged down the wicket at will and raised his fifty off just 28 balls with 40 of those runs coming in boundaries.

It was fastest Test fifty by an Indian, obliterating the 30-ball effort by Kapil Dev against Pakistan in 1982. He fell for an even 50, becoming the third scalp of left-arm spinner Praveen Jayawickrama (3/50).



The Indians scored at a good pace in the second session with Lankan bowlers failing to exploit the spin-friendly conditions.

Rohit was calculative in selecting his shots before lofting off-spinner Dhananjaya de Silva straight to Angelo Mathews to fall for 46. His footwork

looking good, he largely swept left-arm spinners and charged the wicket to counter off-spin of De Silva.

However, he could not resist the temptation of going after De Silva when he closed in on a half-century. Before walking back, Rohit added 42 runs with fellow opener Mayank Agarwal (22) and 56 for the second wicket with Hanuma Vihari (35), who also frittered away a solid start.

Agarwal edged one from left-arm spinner Lasith Embuldeniya, who got the ball to turn away from good length and the edge from the Indian's bat was taken by De Silva.

Vihari, who seemed to be making the number three spot his own, missed a straight one from Jayawickrama and lost his off stump.

Jayawickrama also sent back Virat Kohli (13), whose again fell leg before and his search for that elusive 71st international hundred just got longer. He is without an international hundred in 73 innings now. It was another delivery that kept low and he was trapped on the back-foot. In the morning session, fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah (5/24) completed his eighth five-wicket haul and first at home as India polished off the Sri Lankan lower-order in a jiffy.

## Medvedev debuts as No. 1, Nadal wins at Indian Wells

**Indian Wells, Mar 13 (AP):**

Daniil Medvedev beat Tomas Machac 6-3, 6-2 in the second round of the BNP Paribas Open, the Russian's first tournament since ascending to No. 1 in the world.

Medvedev made quick work of his Czech opponent, finishing Machac off in just over an hour. The Russian won 80% of his first-serve points and saved the lone break point he faced.

Rafael Nadal didn't have it as easy in opening his pursuit of a fourth title at Indian Wells. He got pushed to the limit by practice partner Sebastian Korda before winning 6-2, 1-6, 7-6 (3), giving Nadal a 16-0 record this year.

"I started to play a little bit more crosscourt with my forehand and with having a little bit more of calm," Nadal said. He made a couple mistakes and I was able to save myself."

Nadal won the Australian Open in January for his record 21st major championship, breaking a tie with Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic. He won other titles in Melbourne and in Mexico.

Nadal trailed 5-2 in the third set before winning four straight games with two breaks of Korda to take



a 6-5 lead. Korda held at 6-all to force the tiebreaker. The 38th-ranked Korda led 3-2 and then Nadal reeled off five straight points to close out the 2 1/2-hour match.

"He's one of the greatest players of all time. He's super hot. Hasn't lost a match this year, Korda said. To kind of push him to the edge was awesome. Shows a lot of my game, how dangerous it can be against tough opponents.

Before the match, Nadal

withdrew from the Miami Open, which begins March 21. He is managing a chronic condition in his left foot.

Earlier this week, Medvedev received a trophy commemorating his status atop the ATP Tour rankings. He displaced Djokovic, who wasn't allowed to enter the U.S. to play because he's not vaccinated against COVID-19. Medvedev has to reach the quarterfinals in the desert to stay in the top spot.

## Lakshya Sen stuns Olympic champion Axelsen, enters German Open final

**Muelheim Am Der Ruhr, Mar 12 (PTI):**

World Championships bronze medallist Lakshya Sen stunned Olympic gold winner Viktor Axelsen in a hard-fought match to enter the final of German Open Super 300 tournament here on Saturday.

The 20-year-old Sen, who had claimed his maiden Super 500 title at the India Open in January, continued his rich vein of form as he sent the world No. 1 and top-seed Axelsen packing with a 21-13 12-21 22-20 win in the semi-final that lasted one hour and 10 minutes.

It was a memorable performance from the world No. 12 Indian as he recorded his first win over his highly-fancied rival who has a 4-0 head-to-head



record before Saturday's match.

In the final on Sunday, Sen will face Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn who beat Lee Zii Jia of Malaysia in the other semi-final.

Sen was ahead throughout the first game that lasted 21 minutes. He did not give the Dane any chance to get ahead of him. Axelsen found it difficult to match Sen's pace in the first game.

## West Indies hold out England for draw in 1st test

**St John's, Mar 13 (AP):**

West Indies held on to draw the first test after England made a bold declaration on the final day at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

The home team held out within six wickets of winning on a sluggish pitch with an undermanned bowling attack seamer Mark Wood was injured was testament to its tenacity.

West Indies also deserved credit for holding out after being reduced to 67-4. Nkrumah Bonner and Jason Holder kept England at bay for the last 36 overs, but not without some drama.

After England captain Joe Root notched his 24th test century and was out for 109, England declared its second innings at 349-6 just before lunch and



Nkrumah Bonner (L) and Jason Holder (R), of West Indies, 50 runs partnership during the fifth and final day of the 1st Test between England and West Indies at Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium in North Sound, Antigua and Barbuda.

tempted West Indies with a winning target of 286 from 70 overs.

But West Indies lost too many wickets after lunch and went into survival mode, finishing on 147-4. Bonner was 38 not out

after facing 138 balls and Holder 37 not out after 101.

Spinner Jack Leach was the main tormentor. In the 49th over, he rapped Holder on his back pad on 13 but England didn't review.

England finished its second innings in the morning, resuming on 217-1. Zac Crawley added four runs to his overnight score before he was yoked by Holder on 121, and Root moved from 84 to 109 then was bowled by Alzarri Joseph.

## 'Punjab going to get honest CM after years'

Amritsar, Mar 13 (PTI):

AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday said after many years, Punjab is going to get an honest chief minister and asserted that his party will give an honest government to the state. "Tussi kamaal kar dita... I love you Punjab," he said, thanking the voters of the state for the huge mandate they have given to his party.

"The whole world is discussing you. The world is yet to believe that such a big inqilab (revolution) has come to Punjab," Kejriwal said during a roadshow organised by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) to celebrate its landslide poll victory. AAP's chief minister-designate



AAPs Punjab Chief Minister-elect Bhagwant Mann with Delhi CM and party convenor Arvind Kejriwal offers prayer at Golden Temple, in Amritsar, Sunday.

Bhagwant Mann also took part in the roadshow. The AAP won 92 of the 117 Assembly seats in Punjab, decimating the Congress and the SAD-BSP combine. Kejriwal noted that

the voters of Punjab made leaders like Parkash Singh Badal, Sukhbir Singh Badal, Navjot Singh Sidhu, Charanjit Singh Channi, Bikram Singh Majithia, Adesh Partap

Singh Kairon, Manpreet Singh Badal and Rajinder Kaur Bhattal bite the dust in the just-concluded election. "It is a very big inqilab and only Punjabis could do this," he said.

"I am happy that after many years, Punjab is going to get an honest chief minister. My younger brother Bhagwant is fiercely honest. An honest government will be formed," the Delhi chief minister said. He said if a minister or an MLA of the party is found to be indulging in any kind of wrongdoing, he will be put behind bars. "There will be a fiercely honest government," Kejriwal said while targeting other political parties for allegedly looting the state.

## BASANT UTSAV



Women play with colours during celebrations of the upcoming 'Basant Utsav, at Maidan in Kolkata, Sunday.

## Exercise on to smoke out Maoists in Jharkhand

Ranchi, Mar 13 (PTI):

Parts of tribal-dominated Jharkhand suffering from the Maoist menace for long are of late witnessing a surge in clashes between security forces and the red rebels - an indication that exercises are on to get them out of their hiding places.

Jharkhand, with a population of little more than 3 crore, has 19 out of the total 90 extremist-hit districts across India. The country has 30 severely extremist affected districts and 13 of them are in this state.

The presence of left wing extremists has now been restricted to three-four regions of the state.

### Govt plans to publicise its social welfare schemes, benefits

New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI): The central government plans to spread the message on the way various social welfare schemes have benefited the masses, including women, and people from SC and ST communities. A decision was taken last week to ask the various central ministries to collate the various welfare schemes launched by them in the past seven-and-a-half years and the number of people they have benefited. After a thorough review, the government will launch a campaign to amplify the schemes and their benefits extended across India, sources aware of the decision said on Sunday. Various welfare schemes of the government are said to have played a key role in helping BJP win assembly polls in four out of five states, including Uttar Pradesh.

The anti-Maoist operation will continue. We urge them to surrender under the state's surrender and rehabilitation policy, a top police official, who did not wish to be quoted, said.

There has been visible reduction in Maoists' activities in Jharkhand in the past few years due to continuous operations against them by security forces, the official said.

The state police in association with central forces have been carrying out raids to nab Maoists, as part of the Operation Double Bull, in the jungles of Lohardaga and its neighbouring districts since February 8.

Till now, nine Maoists of the rank of sub-zonal com-

mander and area commander have been arrested, while one has been killed in 'Operation Double Bull'.

Since February 25, five top Maoist leaders, carrying rewards ranging from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 25 lakh on their heads, have also surrendered before the security forces.

Under the surrender policy, which was implemented by the Jharkhand government in 2010, altogether 231 Maoists have laid down arms till January this year; a police official said.

As many as 9,631 Maoists have been arrested since the formation of Jharkhand in 2000 and 931 others have been killed.

New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court has sought response of microblogging platform Twitter on a plea challenging the suspension of a user account for alleged violation of rules.

Justice V Kameswar Rao issued notice to Twitter and the Centre on the petition by Jasdeep Munjal who said that on February 24, when he tried to login to his Twitter handle @MeghBulletin, he saw that his account was suspended by the US-based social media platform without giving any notice to him.

The court listed the petition for further hearing on March 30, when several other similar matters will

be heard. The Centre was represented through standing counsel Manish Mohan. Senior advocate Sajjan Poovayya, representing Twitter, said the writ petition was not maintainable against the platform as it was a private entity.

The petition said after suspension of the account, the petitioner received an email from Twitter stating that the account has been suspended for violating the Twitter rules.

"A lot of Twitter users,

Delhi HC to Twitter

## 'Respond to plea against suspension of user account'

including various social media influencers and friends, expressed their sympathy for the arbitrary suspension of the petitioner's account.

The same thing happened with the petitioner's previous twitter handle @MeghUpdates which had more than 1,68,000 followers and millions of impressions per month at the time of its suspension," Munjal, represented through advocate Raghav Awasthi, said.

He claimed that there

were multiple accounts which were impersonating the petitioner's account for getting indirect benefits and removing his handle from the platform without any notice has also given an unquestioned opportunity to fake handles in spreading false news in his name.

"The action of Twitter is violative of various provisions of the Constitution including Articles 14, 19 and 21 inasmuch as it is an impairment of the right to free

speech and is arbitrary. "Furthermore, there is no provision under which content can be edited or modified before transmission suo-motu by an intermediary like Twitter.

In other words, there is no sanction for this action under the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021," the plea, filed through advocate Mukesh Sharma, said.

## 'Sufism is weapon against extremism, terrorism'

New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):

Sufism is a weapon against extremism and there is a need to re-establish and promote it in the country, the chief of a body of the Sufi sect said on Sunday.

Calling on people to give priority to humanity and the nation's progress, All India Sufi Sajjadanashin Council (AISSC) chairman Syed Naseruddin Chishti said Islam never talks about violence in the name of religion, and people should refrain from violent activities in such delicate times.

"Sufism is a weapon against extremism and terrorism. So there is a need to re-establish and promote Sufism on the ground. Sufis are seen as a



Syed Naseruddin Chishti

strong foundation of unity between Hindus and Muslims, which is very much required in the county currently," he said while addressing a Sufi meet at the Mashaikh Manzil near the Hazrat Nizamuddin Dargah here.

Organised by the AISSC's Delhi chapter, the meet was attended by

heads of around 200 dargahs from across the country. Chishti stressed that people should keep religious extremism aside and give priority to humanity and the country's progress. These days some extremist groups are spreading hate and misleading the youth for their interests, he said.

"In such a scenario it is our responsibility that we caution Muslims and tell them that they should not let their children join such extremist organisations. They should make efforts for good education of their wards," Chishti said.

Progress and success can be achieved only through good education and hard work not by terrorism and weapons, he said.

### Stereotyping of North-East must end: VP

New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI): Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday lamented that even after several years, the general attitude toward the North-East is largely characterised by ignorance, lack of appreciation and "stereotyping" in the rest of India.

"This must change," he said in a Facebook post after his visit to Mizoram and Sikkim.

Efforts must be made, Naidu asserted, to include inspiring stories from the North-East in the school curriculum.

"I am sure such efforts will bring positive change in people's mindset towards Northeastern India, and this would strengthen our national unity," he said.

## AIADMK taunts ruling DMK, Left activist over liquor ban

Chennai, Mar 13 (PTI):

The main opposition AIADMK on Sunday accused the ruling DMK of being silent over implementation of prohibition and also targeted activists who had held campaigns seeking liquor ban during its regime.

Ten months have rolled by after the DMK assumed power in Tamil Nadu and the number of state-run liquor outlets are increasing, alleged AIADMK's Tamil daily 'Namadhu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma' in a write-up.

The DMK had assured ahead of the 2016 Assembly election that liquor shops would be

closed immediately, the AIADMK said. Before the 2021 Assembly polls, the DMK promised closure of liquor outlets in a staggered manner, the AIADMK organ said.

When this was the case, the DMK government earned huge revenue as about 'Rs 40,000 crore' is the annual liquor sale, the AIADMK claimed and accused the ruling party of being 'mute' when the question of liquor ban was posed.

The DMK had demanded prohibition while in opposition and now that it is in the saddle of power, the AIADMK claimed that its arch-rival led government opened more liquor out-

lets and gave licence to new breweries. "This is the DMK's wont and innocent public should realise it."

Referring to activist Kovan, a functionary of a Left outfit 'Makkal Kalai Ilakkiya Kazhagam' who became popular for his 'Moodu tasmacai moodu' (Close down TASMALC liquor shops) campaign during the AIADMK regime, the main opposition party asked 'in which bunker is he hiding now?'

It was a song and dance based campaign seeking closure of all liquor outlets. Protests were also held in many parts of the state seeking closure of liquor shops.

## परिहार हॉस्पिटल

Mother and children hospital

### स्त्री रोग विशेषज्ञ

## डॉ. प्रियंका सिंह परिहार

(M.B.B.S., D.G.O.) Reg. No. C.G.M.C. 1533/2008

- गर्भावस्था की संपूर्ण जांच व इलाज
- नार्मल एवं सिजेरियन द्वारा प्रसूति की सुविधा
- बच्चेदानी निकालने का ऑपरेशन
- बांझपन की जांच एवं इलाज
- मासिक धर्म संबंधित बीमारियों का इलाज

### बाल्य एवं शिशु रोग विशेषज्ञ

## डॉ. शशिकपुर सिंह परिहार

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- नवजात शिशु की गहन चिकित्सा यूनिट (NICU)
- गंभीर बच्चों के लिए गहन चिकित्सा यूनिट (PICU)
- प्रतिदिन सम्पूर्ण टीकाकरण की सुविधा
- C-PAP एवं वेन्टीलेटर की सुविधा उपलब्ध
- बच्चों के आहार संबंधी परामर्श
- बच्चों के हृदय रोग एवं मस्तिष्क रोग विशेषज्ञ से जांच एवं परामर्श सुविधा

**उपलब्ध सुविधाएं -**

- 24x7 पैथोलॉजी व एम्बुलेंस सेवा की सुविधा
- एक्स-रे, सोनोग्राफी, E.C.G., E.E.G. सुविधा
- 24x7 ओ.पी.डी. एवं आपातकालीन सुविधा

- जांच एवं परामर्श (O.P.D.) का समय -

सुबह 10.00 बजे से दोपहर 02.00 बजे तक, शाम 05.00 बजे से रात्रि 08.00 बजे तक

संपर्क करें- 9753059148, 8103019449, 9630320115

पता - मां दन्तेश्वरी मंदिर गेट के सामने, मिनीमाता चौक, बिलासपुर रोड, कवर्धा (छ.ग.)



### BRIEF



A yogi blows a conch during inauguration of Yoga Mahotsav-2022, at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, Sunday.

### Raid

**Jaipur:** Three different premises of a Rajasthan Financial Corporation (RFC) manager were raided by the Anti-Corruption Bureau after he was found to have accumulated disproportionate wealth, officials on Sunday said. Kailash Chand Bunkar posted at Kishangarh of Jaipur district had accumulated assets over Rs 6.50 crore, which was 758 per cent more than his legal income, an official statement said.

### Smugglers

**Jaipur:** Three people including a UP Police Sub Inspector were arrested here on Sunday with 35 ivory tusks weighing around 30 kg, police said. They were arrested by the Special Operations Group (SOG) of Rajasthan Police and Wild Life Crime Control Bureau in a joint operation. The arrests were made when a team intercepted an SUV in Jalupura area of the city acting on a tip-off about movement of ivory tusks and tiger skin.

### Arrested

**Kolkata:** Actor Rupa Dutta has been arrested for allegedly committing attention diversion theft at the venue of the International Kolkata Book Fair, police said on Sunday. Dutta, who has acted in television soaps, was arrested on Saturday after a policeman saw her throwing a purse into a dustbin, an officer of Bidhan Nagar North police station said. She was then detained and questioned, during which discrepancies were found in her answers.

### Mishap

**Machilipatnam:** Five of a family, including a six-month-old baby were killed and one person seriously injured, when the car in which they were travelling hit a culvert on a national highway in Krishna district on Sunday morning, police said. The car slammed into the culvert when the driver who was drowsy lost control of the vehicle, police said.

**Weather**  
High 35 Low 18

## 35 killed as Russian air strikes pound Ukraine military base

Lviv, Mar 13 (AP):

Waves of Russian missiles pounded a military training base close to Ukraine's western border with NATO member Poland, killing 35 people. The strike followed Russian threats to target foreign weapon shipments that are helping Ukrainian fighters defend their country against Russia's grinding invasion.

More than 30 Russian cruise missiles targeted the sprawling training facility that is less than 25 kilometers (15 miles) from the closest border point with Poland, according to the governor of Ukraine's western Lviv region. Poland is a key location for routing Western military aid to Ukraine.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine, Lviv had largely been spared the scale of destruction unfolding further east and become a destination for residents escaping bombarded cities and for many of the nearly 2.6 million refugees who have fled the country.

The training center in Yavoriv appears to be the most westward target struck so far in the 18-day invasion. The facility, also known as the International



A fire burns at an apartment building after it was hit by the shelling of a residential district in Mariupol, Ukraine.

### India temporarily relocates embassy from Ukraine to Poland

India has decided to temporarily relocate its embassy in Ukraine to Poland in view of the rapidly deteriorating security situation in the war-torn country including the Russian military offensive in its western region. The decision comes as Russian troops are closing in on key Ukrainian cities and towns including the capital Kyiv. "In view of the rapidly deteriorating security situation in Ukraine, including attacks in the western parts of the country, it has been decided that the Indian Embassy in Ukraine will be temporarily relocated to Poland," the Ministry of External Affairs said.

Peacekeeping and Security Center, has long been used to train Ukrainian military personnel, often with instructors from the United States and other NATO countries. It has also hosted international NATO drills. As such, the site

symbolizes what has long been a Russian complaint: That the NATO alliance of 30 member countries is moving ever closer to Russia's borders. Russian has demanded that Ukraine drop its ambitions to join NATO.

## PM for integrating latest technology in security apparatus

### Chairs CCS meeting

New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security to review India's security preparedness and the prevailing global scenario in the context of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

Modi, official sources said, emphasised on integrating latest technology in the security apparatus and reiterated that every effort must be made to make India self-reliant in



Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs a high-level meeting to review India's security preparedness, and the prevailing global scenario, amid Russia-Ukraine crisis, in New Delhi.

the defence sector so that it not only strengthens our security but also adds to the economy.

Modi was also given a detailed overview of glob-

al tech usage in the defence sector and India's advances in it, they said.

An official statement said Modi was briefed on latest developments and

different aspects of India's security preparedness in the border areas as well as in the maritime and air domain.

"The prime minister was also briefed on the latest developments in Ukraine, including the details of Operation Ganga to evacuate Indian nationals, along with some citizens of neighbouring countries, from Ukraine," it said.

Modi directed that all possible efforts should be made to bring back the mortal remains of Naveen Shekharappa, who died in Kharkiv.

## Budget session of Parl resumes today

New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):

The second part of the Parliament's Budget session begins on Monday with the Opposition set to corner the government on a range of issues, including rising unemployment, a reduction in the interest rate on employees' provident fund and the evacuation of Indians stranded in war-hit Ukraine.

Top on the government's agenda would be getting Parliament's approval to the budgetary proposals and presentation of the budget for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is set to

present the budget for Jammu and Kashmir in the Lok Sabha on Monday and it is expected to be taken up for discussion in the post-lunch sitting of the House.

The government has also listed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill for consideration and passing in the Lok Sabha.

With the COVID-19 situation easing out considerably, both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha will have simultaneous sittings from 11 am, instead of the two separate shifts during the first part of the Budget session from January 29 to February 11.

## Cong most credible of national Oppn parties: Tharoor

New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):

As Congress' top brass met to deliberate on its recent electoral debacle, its leader Shashi Tharoor on Sunday pointed to the party having the largest number of MLAs in the country in the Opposition camp and asserted that it was "worth reforming and reviving".

Taking to Twitter, Tharoor shared a list of the number of MLAs that respective parties in the county have nationwide. According to the list shared by him, the Congress has over 750 MLAs, the most after the BJP which has over 1,400

legislators. It was not clear when this list was compiled as the Samajwadi Party, which won 111 seats in the recent Uttar Pradesh assembly polls, did not figure, though it did have some parties with less than 100 legislators.

"This is why incindia remains by far the most credible of the national opposition parties. It's also why it's worth reforming & reviving," he said sharing the list.

The Congress lost Punjab to the AAP, could not wrest Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur from the BJP and gave its worst performance in the crucial state of Uttar Pradesh.

## Chorus for Rahul as Cong president grows louder as CWC meets



Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi and others attend the Congress Working Committee meeting after party's debacle in recent Assembly elections of five states, at AICC, in New Delhi, Sunday.

New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):

The chorus for making Rahul Gandhi Congress president again grew louder on Sunday as several

leaders and workers voiced support for him to take on the mantle of party chief.

Ahead of a crucial Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting,

### CONG POLL DEBACLE

### National Secretary Dipika Singh resigns

Ranchi, Mar 13 (PTI):

Jharkhand legislator Dipika Pandey Singh on Sunday resigned from the post of national secretary of the Congress and the party's co-in charge of Uttarakhand after its defeat in the recent assembly polls in the northern state. Her resignation came hours before the Congress Working Committee, the party's highest decision-making body, met in



me the opportunity to serve the party at national level," she wrote on Twitter. Singh is an MLA from Mahagama assembly constituency in Jharkhand's Godda district.

### 4 members of B'desh terror group held

Bhopal, Mar 13 (PTI):

Four alleged members of the banned Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) have been arrested from Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal, state home minister Narottam Mishra said on Sunday. Jihad literature and electronic devices have been seized from their possession, Mishra said, adding that the organisation is banned in India since 2019 after their involvement was found in the Bodh Gaya blast in Bihar.

## Group of men sexually harass women in public view

Bhopal, Mar 13 (PTI):

Three tribal men were arrested on Sunday for allegedly sexually harassing women in full public view in Alirajpur district of Madhya Pradesh while two others were detained for filming this incident and posting videos on social media, police said on Sunday.

Efforts are on to arrest three to four more persons who were involved in harassing women and instigat-

### 3 held, 2 detained for filming video and making it viral

ed the other accused, a police officer said.

We have detained the man who made the video and another one who made it viral. Besides, we have arrested three accused who were seen misbehaving with women, Alirajpur Superintendent of Police Manoj Singh told PTI. The arrested accused and the de-

tained men are tribals, he said. The video showed some men, who appeared to be in their 20s, pushing and hugging some women walking on a crowded street and trying to kiss them forcibly amid shouting by other men. At least two men involved in the act were seen wearing saffron towels. However, the police denied that the "molesters" were politically affiliated. Singh said the trio was booked under sections 354 (assault or criminal force to woman

with an intent to outrage her modesty) and 345-A (sexual harassment) and 34 (criminal acts done by several persons with common intention) of the Indian Penal Code. No woman has lodged a complaint with us. We took the action based on the video that has gone viral, he added.

The incident occurred two days back in the Wallpur area of the tribal-dominated Alirajpur district, around 392 km away from Bhopal.

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# Our daughters bringing laurels to state from across the globe: Governor

**Central Chronicle News**

**Bhilai, Mar 13:** "I do not have enough words to praise the works that the daughters of Chhattisgarh are doing. Pandwani exponent Padmavibhushan Teejan Bai made the entire nation proud with her talent. When Padmashri Phoolbasan Yadav came in front of Amitabh Bachchan in KBC, her level confidence was clearly visible."

I also took the decision of serving the people in my life. I faced many problems but finally got success", said Governor Anusuiya Uikay while addressing the State Level Mahila Jagriti Sammelan organized by Baikunthdham Temple Committee in Chhawani on Sunday. She said that whenever

a woman moves ahead in any sector, she faces a lot of troubles. However, if she works with full dedication and determination, she succeeds.

When the daughters move forward, some people try to create obstacles in their path but there are many others who help the daughters to progress. She suggested the women to seek guidance from good people for ensuring success life. She honored 36 prominent women of different fields.

Narrating her life story, Governor said that when she was studying, it was an era when the girls were not encouraged for studies. As she



had decided to work in the field of public service, she decided to continue her studies.

During the student life, she entered politics and continued to work hard. She became an MLA at the age of 26 years and today she is working as the Governor. She added

that the daughters can achieve any position if they work hard.

Anusuiya added that she was feeling proud to attend the felicitation function. Today, women are actively participating and achieving success in every sphere including arts, science, education and politics.



When women come out of their house to work in any field, they have to face various obstacles. But they handle their responsibilities effectively while taking care of the house.

This proves that women are more capable than men. She urged all to change the mindset to-

wards daughters. When the family members give encouragement to the daughters, their spirit gets doubled.

On the occasion, MP Vijay Baghel said that it feels good when the girls score higher marks in exams. Women are now the leaders in every field. Governor paid obeisance

to Lord Mahadev, Maa Durga, Lord Hanuman, Shani Dev and other deities in the temple.

Padma Vibhushan Teejan Bai, Mayor Shashi Sinha, Former Minister Ramshila Sahu, District Panchayat President Shalini Yadav, Padma Shri Radheshyam Barle, Risali Municipal Corporation Speaker Keshav Banchore were present.

Governor honored 36 women with the Nari Shakti Samman. The convener of the committee, Amrita Barle presented the traditional ornaments of Chhattisgarh to the Governor. Radheshyam Barle pre-

sented Gourmukut and Nangar to her.

Governor informed that once 40 women from Bastar's Sulphipadar village visited Raj Bhavan to meet her. The women told that they protect the forest and also take the crop of black pepper. Governor informed that she appreciated them for their venture and decided to adopt this village. These women have changed the picture of the village with their enterprise.

She further informed that the daughters of Bastar, who are making delicacies from Kodo Kutki, Ragi are being recognized across the country. The chefs of Ashoka Hotel, which is a prestigious hotel in Delhi, took training from them to prepare dishes.

# Medical Department of BSP celebrates World Kidney Day BSF rescues road mishap victim

**Central Chronicle News**

**Bhilai, Mar 13:** World Kidney Day was observed in the Medical Department of BSP on March 10, 2022. The day is observed on the second Thursday of March every year. This year the theme is "Kidney Health for All-Bridging the gap for Better Kidney Care".

Kidney is one of the major organs of the body alongside with Brain, Heart, Lung and Liver. Kidney is located in the abdomen below the rib cage towards the backside. It removes waste and extra body fluids and maintains healthy balance of water, salt and minerals in the body.

It is observed that the number of patients with

kidney ailments are increasing leading to appalling human and economic cost. There is widespread ignorance about what kidneys are and how serious kidney disease can be. Hence the World Kidney Day is observed to sensitize the general public about organ, the impact of kidney disease and it being a silent killer.

At JLNH&RC a Poster session was inaugurated in the OPD. The display of posters, made by the Nursing Students illustrated various aspect about the functions of kidney, care and precautions that needed to be taken to have a healthy life.

The Poster was inaugurated by Dr SK Issar, ED (Medical) by lighting of



lamp in the presence of CMOs Dr Ravindranath M and Dr P Binayake.

After the inauguration, a question-answer session on Kidney was organised through interaction with general public who visited the Hospital. Dr Santosh Nashine anchored the session and in-

teracted with the public. Gifts were presented to the public who offered correct answers to the posed questions. Dr Pramod Binayake emphasized that Diabetes Milletus and hypertension adversely affect the kidneys. Hence persons who are affected by these

ailments should be regular in taking treatment.

Another important factor leading to kidney diseases is taking pain killers for a long period of time and other medicines as self-medication, without advice from the Doctors.

The Medical Team also visited the Plant and to spread the message through an interactive session with certain employees in the plant area.

Dr Vinod Srivastava, Dr Gayathri Devi, Tapan Kumar Saha and technical Staff of Biochemistry Department, Shyla Abraham and other staff from Nursing Administration actively co-operated with the Nephrology Unit in observing the day.

**Central Chronicle News**

**Bhilai, Mar 13:** Jawans of BSF 11th Battalion positioned at COB Kaleshwar rescued a mishap victim in a remote area of Kanker. The injured person was rushed to Civic Hospital in Narayanpur and his life was saved.

According to information, the Operation Party of BSF 11th Battalion was moving on State Highway Number 05. Near Temrugaon Triangle, the patrolling party spotted a man lying unconscious on the road.

It appeared that the man had suffered injuries after falling from a bike. The BSF team immediately called the ambulance and the injured was shifted to



Civil Hospital in Narayanpur. The victim got timely medical aid and his life was saved. BSF is not only fighting naxals in the state but is also con-

ducting its responsibilities towards the society. IG (BSF) SK Tyagi has appreciated the officials and jawans of COB Kaleshwar for this noble task.

# Devendra leads scooter rally to mark International Women's Day

**Central Chronicle News**

**Bhilai, Mar 13:** Just as the last couple of years this year too, Devendra Yadav, MLA Bhilaiinagar in a bid to encourage women, to express support to them, and give the message of gender equality, led a grand scooter rally on Sunday morning. The rally took off from Sector 9 square amidst music and songs being played on the DJ. While driving scooter he released balloons in the sky and said that if women keep their spirits up, they can touch the sky too.

Through this rally, he



gave a message that he would always be with the women of the city to and wherever needed would provide all support to make them move forward and win recognition. He was speaking as the chief

guest of the function. The function began with the releasing of balloons. The scooter rally began from Sector 9 Square and after passing on the Central Avenue ended at the Dome Shed in Sector 05 near the



residence of Mayor Neeraj Pal.

When the rally reached Sector 5, the NCC team of girls marched there and welcomed the chief guest Devendra Yadav. After this, many cultural pro-

grams for women were held here. In the main programme held at Sector 5, DJ was also played along with girls band to make women feel special.

There Devendra Yadav said that the purpose of

this rally on International Women's Day is that the sisters and daughters of our city should understand that they should always move forward without fear because we are standing shoulder to shoulder with them.

He said that the sisters and daughters of our city are progressing in every field and we salute their courage. He further said that our country is male dominated, so our country is a developing country.

The day it becomes female dominated, our country will become a developed country. Women have made full contribution in

the progress and development of India. Hundreds of women were present on this occasion.

The women who did excellent work including the talented women of the city were also honoured in the program. Janvi Choubey, who participated in the cultural program, gave a presentation of Bharat Natyam.

Anamika's group presented Chhattisgarhi dance. Kusum presented solo dance, Gurjeet, Aarti, Mamta sang songs and fascinated everyone. Hemlata and her group got a lot of applause on performing tribal dance.

**Health services in poor state as services not provided adequately**

**Dhantari, Mar 13:** The State Government is running various programs to aid the health services of the region, but adequate resources are not reaching the beneficiaries and many patients are not getting the direct benefit of these public oriented health schemes.

According to the norms of the National Health Mission, medical camps have to be organised in slums and other urban population region, to cater to the health and diagnostic features of the general public, but such camps are reportedly not being camped by eth concerned authorities, though funds are released by the government for this purpose from time to time.

# National Lok Adalat settles 6153 disputes

**Central Chronicle News**

**Bhilai, Mar 13:** Under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), New Delhi, National Lok Adalat was organized in the state of Chhattisgarh on Saturday from Tehsil level to High Court level. During the National Lok Adalat, the compoundable cases were settled with mutual cases between the contesting parties.

Executive Chairman of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) New Delhi, Justice UU Lalit spoke with Executive Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority, Justice Gautam Bhaduri through video conferencing and took information of the proceedings of National Lok Adalat organized in District Court of Rajnandgaon.

National Lok Adalat in District Court, Durg was inaugurated by District and Sessions Judge Rajesh Srivastava (/Chairman District Legal Services Authority Durg). He formally inaugurated the



National Lok Adalat by lighting lamps and garlanding the portrait of Goddess Saraswati.

A total of 35 benches were constituted in the National Lok Adalat. 24 Benches for District Court Durg, 04 Benches for Family Court Durg, 01 for Labor Court, 01 for Juvenile Justice Board Durg, 01 for Permanent Lok Adalat Public Utilities Service, 02 for Tehsil Court Bhilai-3 and 01 for Patan. Cases pending in the court and pre-litigation cases were listed for this mega legal event.

On the instructions of District and Sessions Judge Rajesh Srivastava the Paralegal Volunteers visited the place of an appellant in a case and facilitated her to join the proceedings through virtual medium.

The case was listed for the bench of Judicial Magistrate Dharendra Singh Dangi. This criminal case was pending in the first class court since the year 2011. The accused was facing charges of section- 294,506B, 323, 34 of IPC. There were a total of 05 offenders / applicants

in this pending case, out of which 04 were present before the bench.

One of the victims was unable to attend the National Lok Adalat due to a fractured leg. DJ Rajesh Srivastava took cognizance of the matter and a paralegal volunteer was sent at the residence of the victim and facilitate her with video conferencing. This case was settled through mutual compromise.

In another case, heard by the bench of Judicial Magistrate Ruchi Mishra, the matter of section



294,506B, 323 of the Indian Penal Code was pending since long. There were two victims in this pending case, out of which 01 appeared in the National Lok Adalat. One of the victims was a disabled lady and was unable to attend the proceedings.

When DJ Rajesh Srivastava came to know about the situation, he immediately sent a Paralegal Volunteer at the residence of the victim, from where she attended the proceedings through video conferencing. This case was also disposed of through mutu-

al compromise.

In another case, after 5 years of love marriage, the daughter-in-law entered into dispute with her husband and mother-in-law and started living separately. Later a criminal case was registered against the daughter-in-law in the year 2018.

Pre-seating was done between the parties and in view of the possibility of compromise, notice was issued to the parties. Due to old age and deteriorating health, the mother-in-law was unable to reach the National Lok Adalat. She

was also connected through video conferencing and the dispute was settled through mutual compromise.

In another significant case, a son who lost his mother in the accident got a compensation of Rs 25.75 lakh. Presiding Officer Aditya Joshi, Bench No 05, in the pending motor accident claim case, conducted conciliation of the victim as well as the insurance company after which the parties settled the claim case with a compensation amount of Rs 25,75,000/-. Judicial Magistrate

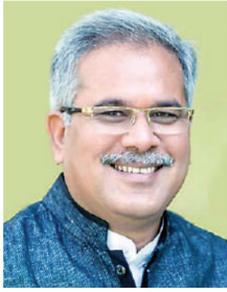
Umesh Upadhyay, First Class Division Bench No 11, conducted hearing of the criminal case in which the wife had filed a report against the husband and the offense of section-294, 506B, 323 was registered. The presiding officer of the concerned court conducted 3-4 sittings and counselled the parties. Keeping in mind the future and love of the children, the wife agreed to dispose off the matter through compromise.

A total of 2908 court cases and 3245 pre-litigation cases were resolved in the National Lok Adalat. The total settlement amount was Rs 77238811. The disposed off cases include 702 criminal cases, 15 electricity cases, 47 claims cases, 171 family cases, 258 cheque dishonor cases, 34 civil cases and 105 cases of labor court and other 1253 cases of Permanent Lok Adalat Public Utility Service, Durg. 3108 cases related to Revenue Courts were also settled. The second National Lok Adalat for the year 2022 will be organized on May 14, 2022.

## Baghel rules out any change in top leadership

Leaves for Delhi to attend CWC meeting

Central Chronicle News



**Raipur, Mar 13:** Deliberations have begun in Congress after its poor performance in the assembly elections held in five states-UP, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur; Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Sunday left for New Delhi to attend Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting. In Raipur, he ruled out any change in the Congress top leadership.

Talking to the reporters at Raipur airport before leaving for New Delhi, Baghel said that he had been called to CWC meet-

ing being held today. The results of the assembly elections of five states will be discussed in the meeting being chaired by Congress National President Sonia Gandhi.

Other matters can also be discussed with the permission of the party president. Responding to a question, Baghel said, "There is no such thing as a change in the top leader-

ship."

The performance of the Congress in the elections of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur has been disappointing. The party could not return in Uttarakhand whereas in Punjab the party has lost power. Seats in Uttar Pradesh have already decreased. After poll results, voice of change of leadership has started rising from various factions of Congress.

Many people say that now the Gandhi family should leave the Congress leadership. However, a large section of the organization wants Rahul Gandhi to lead the Congress from the front.

Amidst the CWC meeting, Chhattisgarh Health Minister TS Singhdeo raised voice in support of

Rahul Gandhi. Singhdeo said from his official social media handle, Rahul Gandhi is the only leader in India who challenges the ideology of BJP-RSS.

His fight for the idea of ??India strengthens the spirit of millions of Congress workers across the country. His honesty scares the fascists. He is the leader that Congress and India need!

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will return from Delhi on Monday morning. It is not decided how long the CWC meeting will last. In such a situation, there is a possibility of the Chief Minister staying in Delhi for the night. The Chief Minister will return to Raipur in the morning. After that he will participate in the budget session of the assembly.

## Nari Shakti Samman ceremony



At Mahant Laxminarayan Das Mahavidyalaya

**Raipur, Mar 13:** Nari Shakti Samman ceremony was organized on the occasion of International Women's Day in collaboration with Nav Srijan Manch at Mahant Laxminarayan Das Mahavidyalaya located at local Gandhi Chowk. Dr Aruna Palta, Vice Chancellor of Hemchandra Yadav University, Durg

was present as the chief guest in the programme. Giving example of an intelligent woman like Tessy Thomas in her speech, she said that today's woman is not behind in any field.

The Principal of Mahant Laxminarayan Das Mahavidyalaya, Dr Devashish Mukherjee, while referring to veda mantra mentioned the respected position of women in the Sanatan culture. Nav Srijan Manch President Amarjeet Chhabra said that both men and women in the so-

ciety will have to walk like two wheels of a cart to retain respected position of women.

Personalities who made remarkable contribution in various fields of society were honored with citation and shawls and shripthal. The programme was conducted by Prof. Pritam Kumar Das. Vote of thanks was proposed by Prof. Jaya Chandra. All the professors of the college, all the office bearers and members of Nav Srijan Manch and many social workers were present.

## Intensive campaign continues for recovery of outstanding tax of vehicles

Transport Department takes action of collecting tax and confiscating vehicles

Flying squads reach Raipur, Durg, Ambikapur, Raigarh, Jagdalpur, Kondagaon, Dantewada, Kanker, Mungeli, Dhamtari, Bemetara, Mahasamund and Balod

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 13:** An intensive campaign is being run by the Chhattisgarh Transport Department to recover the outstanding



tax of vehicles under the guidance of Transport Minister Mohammad Akbar. Instructions have been given by the Commissioner Transport Dipanshu Kabra to the transport officers of all the districts to ensure necessary action. Accordingly the departmental flying squad and the staff of the check post carried out campaigns in Raipur, Durg, Ambikapur,

## 'WOMEN WALKATHON'



A 3-km 'Women Walkathon' on the subject of 'zero tolerance crime against women' was flagged off by Mayor Ejaz Dhebar, Chairperson State Women's Commission Kiranmayi Nayak and MLA Raipur (North) Kuldeep Juneja here on Sunday and it was organised by the state's health department and CTB and other sponsors and was enthusiastically participated by girls and women in large number.

87 thousand 348. The demand notices were served on the addresses of the vehicle owners by the Regional Transport Office, Raipur. Similarly, 14 vehicles were confiscated in Durg for non-payment of tax dues.

In Ambikapur, a demand letter and notice was given for the recovery of a total of 40 vehicles. One vehicle which is included in OTS was found to be in dilapidated condition, to which notice was given. Registration cancellation certificates were produced by 03 vehicle owners. Notices were issued for the cars parked in the yard in Raigarh. The RTO issued notices to the finance companies to pay the tax of seized vehicles in the yards. The administration has become strict for the arrears of RTO tax on a large number of vehicles in the district, including those vehicles, which have been confiscated by the financiers on the basis of hypothecation for non-payment of installments and parked in their designated yards. One Time Settlement Scheme is being run by the Transport Department, till 31st March, under which the amount of penalty has been waived in the tax arrears of vehicles from the year 2013 to 2018 and only the amount of tax and interest will be payable. Instructions were given by the Transport Commissioner to all the transport officers of the district for recovery of outstanding tax. Vehicle owners whose tax is due and not paid will be auctioned with attachment of their property for recovery of tax.

## Governor inaugurates 'service fortnight' Sewing training center in Bal Ashram premises

**Raipur, Mar 13:** Governor Anusuiya Uikey inaugurated the 'service fortnight' of Sindhi Samaj at MAIC College auditorium related to youth development and health awareness. On this occasion Governor Anusuiya Uikey said that in the present day time, the youths are getting disoriented and since youth have important role in country's development, such type of programmes would always act as source of guidance for them. She hailed the initiative taken by Sindhi Yuwa Wing.

Speaking about health Ms Uikey said that if the society remains healthy, then the country too will progress. These days the youth getting



distracted and disoriented are falling prey to various negativities like intoxication, drugging, misbehaviour and others and have become careless and concern about their health. So there is need to create awareness among them about health. She said that if the youth remain healthy, then both the country and its future will be in safe hands. Uikey said that during the first two phases of

Covid-19 pandemic, we have lost many precious lives, but it has taught us many good things and after which one has become equally more conscious about his or her health.

During this 'service fortnight' by Sindhi Samaj, they will be organising programmes on services to senior citizens, hold blood donation camps and service camps. In this regard Ms. Anusuiya Uikey

said that those having human sentiments are always helped by the Supreme and therefore one must always render selfless services to others with open mind. The works for the benefit of the society and its people are definitely appreciable, she said, adding that such type of programmes are essential for progress and development of the society. For this she extended greetings to members of Sindhi Samaj.

In this programme, Sant Shri Sailal Dasji, former MLA Srichand Sundrani, Youth Wing President of Sindhi Samaj Amin Chimmani and other members of Sindhi Samaj were present in large number.

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 13:** A sewing machine training center was opened in the Bal Ashram premises Kutchery Chowk Raipur recently under the joint aegis of National School Committee, Bal Ashram Committee and Akhil Bharatvarish Maheshwari Mahila Sangathan for self-reliance of women. The centre was inaugurated on the occasion of International Women's Day at the hands of Congress MLA and former Minister of unified Madhya Pradesh Satyanarayan Sharma.

The inaugural function was presided over by the



Rajshree Mahant Dr Ram Sundar Das, Chairman, Rajya Gou Seva Ayog, Jyoti Rathi National Treasurer of Akhil Bharatvarshiya Mahila Sangathan was present as a special guest.

Apart from this, Rashtriya Vidyalaya Samiti

President Ajay Tiwari, Secretary Roop Chand Shri Shrimal, Anil Gupta Treasurer Rajkishore Nathanimani, etc. were also present in the programme. Pratibha ji Nathani, co-in-charge of Rashtriya Samiti and

Kalpna Rathi, coordinator, Akhil Bharatiya Maheshwari Mahila Sangathan were also present. Gokul Das Daga, Madanlal Taleda, Govardhan Das Daga, Vijay Dammani, PR Gola, Daga College Principal Dr Sangeeta Ghai were present. Chief guest Satyanarayan Sharma said that the deities reside wherever women power is worshipped. Mahant Dr Ram Sunder Das in his address admired Women's organizations for doing good work in the upliftment of women. He said that the institution Bal Ashram is in the hands of hard working people.

## Honour and respect for women defines our culture and civilization: CM

**Raipur, Mar 13:** In the 27th episode of radio programme 'Lokvaani' aired from Akashvani today, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel addressed people of the state on 'Chhattisgarh Sarkar- Naari Shakti Ke Sarokaar', saying that respect and honour for women is what defines our culture and civilization. Cultured society is the one that respects women. In Chhattisgarh, we are living up to our cultural value of honouring women and giving them the respect they deserve. This is the reason why women and daughters in the state are pursuing greater goals with confidence and determination.

Chief Minister Baghel said that we consider formation of Chhattisgarh state a historic event. Our forefathers had a wholesome vision for this state. For centuries, Chhattisgarh has been a folk state. People of this state are known for their tradi-

tions, festivals, vibrant colourful culture, love for nature, simplicity and love for motherland. Fortunately, we got the opportunity to select an appropriate state song that beautifully describes these qualities of the state and the people here. 'Arpa Pairi Ke Dhaar, Mahanadi He Apaar, Indravato Ha Pakharay Tor Paiya' written by Acharya Dr Narendra Dev Verma is the perfect tribute to Chhattisgarh Mahatari and it perfectly describes the devotion with which we want to serve Chhattisgarh state.

Chief Minister Mr. Baghel said that because of our forefathers we have got a constitution that gives equal rights to women. Percentage of women members in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly is higher than any other Legislative Assembly in the country. There is a provision of 50% reservation in the elections of Panchayati Raj institutions. Women here have equal

legal rights to own and control land, property and assets.

Chief Minister said that we have made several policy arrangements in the interest of women, which includes rights on immovable property. As a result of the provision of 1% exemption on stamp duty on registry of immovable property in the name of women, more than 50 thousand registries have been done in a year and exemption of more than Rs 37 crore has been provided. Facility of 30 percent reservation for recruitment on government posts has also been provided to women. In women's hostels and ashrams, 2 thousand 200 new posts of women's home guards have been created. Women help desks are being operated in 370 police stations of the state. Women's helpline 181 is being operated, by calling on which any women from any corner of the state can seek help in case of any problem.

## Rehabilitation facilities with 10 beds IPD in AIIMS Raipur

**Raipur, Mar 13:** To provide rehabilitation facilities to neurogenic, cerebral palsy, neural trauma, brain stroke, amputation, spinal cord injury and other severe patients, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences has started a 10 Beds IPD in the PMR Department. Patients will get state-of-the-art medical rehabilitation facilities with the help of IPD. Experts from reputed medical institutions around the country also discussed recent advances in brain injury rehabilitation during a CME and asked for expert collaborative medical management of the patients.

Prof. (Dr.) Nitin M. Nagarkar said that the new facility will give much-needed support to patients coming from different states. Now, they will need to be admitted to the IPD, and experts will provide them a



Prof. (Dr.) Nitin M. Nagarkar felicitating Prof. (Dr.) S.L. Yadav, AIIMS, New Delhi during the CME by PMR Department.

new lease of life with state-of-the-art rehabilitation facilities in the department.

The PMR Department also organized CME on emerging issues in brain injury and recent advances. According to Prof. Nagarkar, Traumatic Brain Injury is a leading

cause of death worldwide. Statistic shows in India alone there are almost 1.6 million Traumatic Brain Injury cases per year out of which almost 1 million requires rehabilitation. Major cause of Traumatic Brain Injury is Road Traffic Accidents which

is 60% of total cases. 'New technologies like robotics and Virtual Reality have helped a lot in the rehabilitation of patients. Various departments have to work together for comprehensive Rehabilitation service to all the patients, he said. HoD Dr. Jaydeep Nandi said that the new facility at Ayush Block would bridge the gap between OPD consultation and rehabilitation under expert supervision. Dr. S.L. Yadav, AIIMS, New Delhi, discussed the cognitive issue after brain injury and recent advances in the field. 'Cognitive insufficiency in the realm of attention, memory and executive functioning are troublesome for the individual, family members, and the society. Identifying the deficit is a challenge along with setting up a management plan, he said. Prof. Anil Kumar Gupta,

KGMU, Lucknow, elaborated on spasticity management after brain injury. 'The management issue is often overlooked as there are more pressing issues at hand early on. By the time it becomes a priority, it may become too late to make meaningful improvement, he added. Dr. Anupam Gupta, NIMHANS, Bangalore explained disorders of consciousness, rehabilitation strategies, and outcomes in brain injury. The CME witnessed a galaxy of expert lectures including Dr. Abhishek Srivastava, Mumbai, Dr. Koustubh Chakrabarty, Kolkata, and Dr. Navin BP from Bangalore. Dr. Raunak Kumar, Assistant Professor, PMR, Dr. Aradhna Shukla, Dr. Susheel Kumar Nayak, Dr. Anushree Akshay, and Dr. Lakhya R. contributed in organizing the CME.

## 'Drop ego and mutually settle matters'

**Old lady Maltibai appears in court through video conferencing, matter resolved with mutual reconciliation agreement**

**First National Lok Adalat of the year held**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 13:** As per the directions of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), New Delhi, the first National Lok Adalat of the year was organized from Tehsil level to High Court level in Chhattisgarh state today. NALSA Executive Chairman Justice UU Lalit gathered information from the Executive Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Legal



Services Authority (CSLSA), Justice Gautam Bhaduri, through video conferencing of the proceedings of the National Lok Adalat organized in the District Court Rajnandgaon. Justice UU Lalit reviewed the proceedings of settlement of criminal case between mother Maltibai and son Kishun Thakur, pending since the year 2018 in the court of Judicial Magistrate Anita Koshima (judicial presid-

ing officer) in Rajnandgaon District Court. Discussions were held with the judge and the parties. In the said case, the mother of the party, Maltibai, was unable to come to the court due to her old age. Paralegal volunteer of Legal Services Authority Neeraj Sahu ensured her presence in the court through video conferencing at Silvoha village. Thus the case of section 294, 506B, 323 was disposed

of by mutual conciliation in the presence of the judges.

Similarly, two counter cases pending in the court of first class judicial magistrate Rojmi Khakha (presiding officer) in Tehsil Court Ambargarh Chowki were settled through mutual agreement. The counter case of section 294, 323, 506B between the parties Bhishan Nishad and Madan Bandeshwar was settled through mutual agreement. Both the parties mutually agreed to settle case against each other. Justice UU Lalit also discussed the matter with the above parties and with the judges and members of Lok Adalat present. An explanation was given to avoid any kind of fight in future.

Executive Chairman of the State Legal Services Authority, Justice Gautam Bhaduri inspected the division benches of the

National Lok Adalat and encouraged the parties present at the court to resolve matter through mutual settlement. He also explained benefits of mutual settlement.

Justice Gautam Bhaduri also held discussion over Lok Adalat with bank officials, officials of Electricity Board, officers from various departments.

According to him people get quick justice from Lok Adalat. What they have to do is to drop their ego and settle matters through mutual agreement, he said. Efforts are being made to solve as many cases as possible through Lok Adalat. Chairman, District Legal Services Authority Vinay Kumar Kashyap, Member Secretary of State Legal Services Authority Siddharth Agrawal, Secretary of District Legal Services Authority and other judicial officers were present in large numbers.

## FESTIVAL OF COLOURS



Teachers and students of 'Kopalvani' celebrated festival of colours with students applying 'gula' and celebrating the occasion.

## 5th INTUC STATE CONVENTION

## Sanjay Singh elected state president



**INTUC always for welfare of workers: Mahant**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 13:** The fifth convention of Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) Chhattisgarh unit was held at Hotel VW Canyon Raipur on Sunday. Speaker of

Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Dr Charan Das Mahant was the chief guest at the inaugural function of the convention.

Addressing the programme, Speaker Dr Mahant praised the INTUC for its restless efforts for the welfare of the labourers. Dr Mahant also praised the welfare works of INTUC Chhattisgarh State

President Sanjay Singh. INTUC State President Sanjay Singh gave the welcome address. He demanded the State government to provide land at Nava Raipur for the INTUC State office.

In the second phase of the convention Revenue Minister Jai Singh Agrawal was present as chief guest. He praised the honest functioning of Congress and assured to

be always with INTUC.

Later the INTUC state working committee was dissolved and new election was initiated. Sanjay Singh was reelected as state president and powers were disbursed on him to elect new office bearers. In the meeting INTUC state presidents of nine states gave their presence

State Vice Presidents Sameer Pandey, Ramavtar Algamkar, State General Secretaries Ashish Yadav, Naresh Dewangan, CITU State Secretary Dharamraj Mahapatra, INTUC Youth Wing President Sanjay Gaba, state presidents of nine states and other office-bearers participated in the convention.

## 'Mukhya Mantri Samuhik Kanya Vivah' programme in Arang

**62 couples enter wedlock**

**Raipur, Mar 13:** Department of Women and Child Development organized 'Mukhya Mantri Samuhik Kanya Vivah' (Chief Minister's mass marriage) ceremony at Dr Ambedkar Sarvsamaj Manglik Bhawan in Arang, in which 62 brides and grooms tied the knot as per social customs.

Shakun Dahria from Pragatishheel Satnami Samaj, Raipur, attended the programme as the chief guest. She congratulated the married couples for starting a newly married life and wished them a bright future. In the mass marriage ceremony, the marriage of the girls of poor family was completed with joy and social cus-



tom. Shakun Dahria said that under the Chief Minister's mass marriage scheme, marriages of needy poor girls are done. She expressed her gratitude to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel for such useful schemes being run in the interest of the poor. Dahria said that rising above religion and caste,

everyone should be a partner in the programme of welfare of the poor.

Dahria also thanked the Women and Child Development Department for organizing this programme at Arang. The programme was mainly attended by Chandrashekhar Chandrakar, Keshari

Mohan Sahu, Anita Thansing Sahu, Khilleshwar Devangan, Hemlata Doomendra Sahu, Sharad Gupta along with Gauri Bai Devangan, Suraj Sonkar and many public representatives, families of newly-wedded couples and representatives of various societies were present.

## Students get solution to queries related to subjects

**Through CGBSE helpline**

**Raipur, Mar 13:** Students and parents made phone calls on helpline toll free number of Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education (CGBSE) for solving the problems of Class 12th subject - commercial mathematics. Subject specialists in the helpline, AK Dixit, Akhil Khare and AK Singh solved the problems related to the subject.



Students got solutions to problems related to subjects besides getting information about upcoming exam subject. Class 10th students also raised questions on how to remember

answers of chemistry questions. They also raised queries related to Trigonometry, Theorem, Circumference Circle, Mensuration in Mathematics.

## 'Make empowered law against social boycott in VS'

**Raipur, Mar 13:** Andhha Sharddha Nirmoolan Samiti president Dr Dinesh Mishra expressing concern over the rising cases of social boycott at panchayat level has demanded for the formation of an empowered law in Vidhan Sabha to end this practice. He gave example that in some cases persons fall victim of social boycott as they acted as Swachata Mitra or seek information through RTI. As per a data available, more than 30,000 people in the state have fallen prey to



this social boycott stigma. Dr Mishra added that due this stigma there are cases of suicide by the victims and even sometimes the victims are forced to death due to physical torture by the society. In this connection Dr Mishra mentioned of a law against social boycott already applicable in the state of Maharashtra where it was unanimously passed on April 11, 2016 and after President gave his assent on June 20, 2017 was implemented in that state from July 03, 2017.

## Valedictory session of Initiation to Mathematics held

**Raipur, Mar 13:** The valedictory session of the six-days' programme on Initiation to Mathematics (InitMath) organised by Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar was held on 12th March 2022. The programme was organised under the aegis of MTTs Trust and was funded by National Board for Higher Mathematics. It was aimed for the students pursuing mathematics in third year B.Sc. or first year M.Sc.

Students from all over Chhattisgarh participated in the workshop coordinated by Mrs. Rajni Moona, Outreach Coordinator (Honorary) and were guided by eminent resource persons namely Dr. Vikas Bist (Panjab University, Chandigarh), Dr. A. Satyanarayana Reddy (Shiv Nadar University, Greater Noida) and Dr. Vikram Aithal (Institute

of Chemical Technology, Mumbai).

Dr. Vikas Kumar Jain (Professor/Joint Director, Directorate of Technical Education, Nawa Raipur), Dr. Shailesh Dhar Diwan (GEC Raipur) and Dr. Vivek Tiwari (IIT Naya Raipur) were also present in the event. Various participants shared their experiences about the week-long programme and appreciated the course as well as expressed their desire to participate in more such programmes in future. The experts also shared their experiences and motivated the participants for higher studies in mathematics and to develop their interest towards research in mathematics. All the subject experts emphasized that in order to understand the subject better one must be inquisitive, and should not be

afraid of asking questions. Mrs. Rajni Moona shared about how the journey of organising the mini-MTTs programme began at IIT Bhubaneswar and how students are getting benefitted from the programme. She stressed on the fact that more such programmes should be held in Chhattisgarh, and also that students must attend such programmes outside of Chhattisgarh too.

Dr. Vikas Kumar Jain encouraged the students to share their experiences with their peers so that more students develop interest to participate in the programme. The programme ended with certificate distribution to the participants, followed by felicitation of the guests with memento, and vote of thanks by Dr. Anurag Singh (Assistant Professor, IIT Bhubaneswar).

## Cesarean delivery successfully done



**In CHC Pandaria by team of doctors from District Hospital**

**Kawardha, Mar 13:** It was after a long time that the medical services in Maternity and Child Hospital in Pandaria started with performing of first cesarean operation here on Saturday. For this Gynecologist of District Hospital Dr Ajit Sadekar, Senior Gynecologist Dr Heena Ahmed, Anesthesia expert Dr KP Jangde and his team were sent to Pandaria and C-section services

were started. From Pandaria- Dr Anamika Patel and her team joined the group. It is notable here that as per intentions of the health department of the state government, institutional delivery is being promoted and in complex delivery cases, efforts are being made to start cesarean operation services in District Hospital Kabirdhaam and also at CHC level.

**Got C-section services due to govt's efforts:**

An expected mother Situ Vishwakarma of Dasrangpur became fearful when she came to know about membrane rupture and release of water

from the body and that her baby is wrapped around the feeding pipe. The condition is that of Cesarean operation, but with preparations on part of the health department, Situ appeared to be quite confident and happy. She expressed gratitude to all for her successful delivery through cesarean operation and saving life of her baby boy. She said that it is due to hard work by the Health Department that she got this facility near her home and got cesarean facility as well. Situ has safely delivered her baby boy and the doctors said that the surgery was bit complicated, but now both the mother and child are safe. District Collector Ramesh Kumar Sharma, Upper Collector BS Uikey, CMO Dr Sujoy Mukherjee extended greetings to entire Cesarean team and hoped that they would continue to render such services in the near future. BMO Pandaria Dr Jitendra Verma and his team were also hailed for their services.

## Family-focussed workshop under National Mental Health Programme

**Raipur, Mar 13:** A two-day state-level workshop on "Family Enrichment for Mental Health Staff" kicked off here on Thursday. Nearly three dozen trainers will be skilled on remodifying psycho-social care and other services at the grassroots, especially while dealing with the mental health issues emerging in the post-COVID scenario.

The workshop is being conducted by National Mental Health Mission Program (NMHP) in association with National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru. This is the first time that such a family-focussed training program had been started for psychologists, community nurses and psychiatric social workers in Chhattisgarh. Such an exercise will help them deal better with the situations in their own families



and the people they would go on to serve after completing the training.

Addressing the participants, Dr Jayakumar, Associate Professor NIMHANS said that due to the issues emerging from COVID-19, families have been severely affected. They have had to cope with the stress emerging from loss of members, health issues, disrupted routines, diminished earnings and other financial loss-

es. This stress, he said, often took a dangerous turn and caused serious mental health issues. "Enriching family lives can be further divided into three major heads - reducing distress, enhancing the well-being through positive coping and building resilience. We are reinforcing these in the participants who will in turn train and counsel the patients in their respective areas. This training is ground oriented and practi-

cally applicable, something that they can easily explain to people without using jargons. And that is how the message percolates deeper into the society and coping mechanism is improved," he said.

Dr Jayakumar used a range of exercises to explain the concept of family and its different dimensions. He told the participants about providing solutions specific to each family type such as joint, nuclear. The participants, too, interacted and shared their views about how they perceive the changed reality.

Training will be vital when we return to the field: Participants Angelina Vaibhav Lal, a community nurse from Bilaspur, said that though she was aware about the impact family has in the life of an individual, what she picked up on the first day of the session was to what extent it impact-

ed one's socio-psychological behaviour.

P Atit Rao, a senior nursing officer from Raigarh, said that the different dimensions of family life that he learnt during the first day would help in providing solutions to patients. "For example, we were told about power dynamics within a family i.e. how it is concentrated in the hands of the head in a nuclear family or how it is more distributed in a joint family. These insights hold key to how behaviors are shaped and how intra-familial relations can be improved and bonds be strengthened. That ultimately will hold key to better mental health for all," he said. Nisha Patel - a psychiatric nurse, also from Raigarh - said that besides professional purposes, the training would also be useful for the trainers themselves in their personal lives.

# Pachpedi get full tehsil status, wave of joy in the area

Success due to commendable initiative of Nagendra Rai

## Central Chronicle News

**Masturi, Mar 13:** Giving a big gift to the people of the area, Minister in-charge of Revenue and District Jai Singh Aggarwal gave the status of full tehsil to Pachpedi, Gram Panchayat of Masturi, development block.

It is noteworthy that on December 26, Baba Guru Ghasidas Jayanti program was organized under the banner of Block Congress Committee and Minimata Management Committee Trust, Pachpedi, in which the revenue and district in-charge minister Jai Singh Agrawal had arrived as the chief guest.

During the Jayanti program, in view of the sentiments of the people of Pachpedi area of Masturi development block, on the initiative of State General



Secretary Arjun Tiwari, Block Congress Committee President Nagendra Rai demanded to make Pachpedi a tehsil, which was readily accepted by the in-charge Minister Jaisingh Agrawal.

While declaring Pachpedi as a tehsil, the people of the area were fully assured of fulfilling their promise, which has

started the process of implementing it without delay by bringing it into the paper process of the government. People of Pachpedi area will get a lot of relief in revenue matters by getting a big gift to the people of the area. In this, the role of Block Congress Committee executive Masturi is commendable.

As soon as the news of

this process was received, State General Secretary Arjun Tiwari, Block President Nagendra Rai, Minimata Management Committee President Sukhram Khuten along with the office bearers and members of the committee and the villagers of the area as well as District President Om Prakash Pankara, District Congress Committee

Secretary Takeshwar Patle, Uday Bhargava, Mukesh Banjare, Dr. RK Verma, Raju Tiwari, Dujaram Banjare, Dilip Patel, Bahtara Deputy Sarpanch, Sukhram Patel, Harsing Jagat Amakoni, Ramsagar, Kalesu Patel Son, Agluram Patel, Bhagatram, Daduram Patel, Santosh Kumar Dilesh, Santosh Kumar Son, Ghrithalhare Railha, Santram Khande Pendri, Budhram Jangde Pachpedi, Sukhram Patel Sukulkari, Ramashankar Patwardhan Bakrakuda, Vyas Narayan, Samelal Puraina Bhatchaura, Jaychand Patel, Basantpur, Ganesh Shreevas Sonsari reached the minister's residence in Raipur, expressing his gratitude. By presenting them sweetly, they gave their best wishes.

# JCC(J) demand latest facilities in regional hospital



## Submit memorandum to the collector

### Central Chronicle News

**Chirmiri, Mar 13:** A delegation of Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (J) led by its district president Sahid Mahmood submitted a 21-point memorandum to the district collector in connection with the facilities

at Regional Hospital Chirmiri.

While submitting the memorandum Mahmood apprised the collector that since 2017 JCC(J) is taking up the issue with senior officers of SECL and CMO of Regional Hospital but no initiative has been taken for the improvement of facilities in this hospital.

Of the demands include availability of MRI ma-

chine, dialysis machine, modern laboratory, blood bank and other facilities in the hospital. While submitting memorandum they threatened to launch an agitation if their demands are not met.

The delegation comprised of Aditya Raj David, Fanindra Hamam Mishra, Uday Singh, Sanu Jonsi, Sohan Singh, Sunil Sonwani and others.

# MLA Sharma stands with dismissed workers

## Ensures their resumption of work

**Baikunth, Mar 13:** In between two day break of ongoing Vidhan Sabha session, Balodabazar MLA Pramod Sharma on listening to the problem of five workers who were removed from service by Ultratech Cement management, immediately took their side and staged demonstration against the company management demanding taking back the dismissed workers.

His agitation forced the management to take back the five dismissed workers who were removed



from the service. The workers expressed gratitude towards MLA for this noble cause. On this occasion along with MLA Sharma, Ajay Tiwari,

Ishan Vaishnav, zilla panchayat president Domeswari Verma, Tulsu Gautam, Devendra Yadu, Ashok Yadav and others were present.

# Two DRG jawans injured in encounter with Naxals

## Central Chronicle News

**Konta, Mar 13:** Two jawans of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) were injured in an exchange of fire with Naxals in Sukma district on Sunday, a senior official said.

The skirmish took place in the morning in a forest near Chichorguda village under Kerlapal police station limits when a team of the state's anti-Naxal force DRG was patrolling to ensure security to a road construction work, Inspector General of Police (Bastar range) Sundarraj P said.

The road is being constructed between Chichorguda and Nilawaya villages, considered as a Maoist

stronghold. When the patrolling team was cordoning off the forest area near Chichorguja, located about 450 km from the state capital Raipur, it came under fire from a group of Maoists, leading to the gunfight, he said.

DRG constable Somdu Pyam and assistant constable Mehru Ram Kashyap suffered injuries in the gunfight," he said.

After being alerted, additional security personnel were rushed to the spot, the official said, adding that a search operation was underway in the area.

The injured jawans were shifted to Sukma district hospital and their condition was said to be stable, he said.



One of the injured jawan's. Security personnel conducting search operation after the incident.

## About the incident

He skirmish took place on Sunday morning in a forest near Chichorguda village under Kerlapal police station limits when a team of the state's anti-Naxal force DRG was patrolling to ensure security to a road construction work. The road is being constructed between Chichorguda and Nilawaya villages, considered as a Maoist stronghold. When the patrolling team was cordoning off the forest area near Chichorguja, located about 450 km from the state capital Raipur, it came under fire from a group of Maoists, leading to the gunfight. DRG constable Somdu Pyam and assistant constable Mehru Ram Kashyap suffered injuries in the gunfight.

# Girls, women informed about legal issues

In discussions on Int'l Women's Day at RRDSGC

## Central Chronicle News

**Khairagarh, Mar 13:** In the discussions organised on occasion of International Women's Day in Rani Rashmi Devi Singh Government College (RRDSGC) on March 8, the Addl. District and Session Judge (ADJ) Chandra Kumar Kashyap was the chief guest and it was chaired by Principal Dr DK Balendra.

Chief guest ADJ Kashyap giving information about law to students were informed about traffic safety rules; vehicle insurance; driving licence; cheating and irregularities through banking system; and about filing of FIR



biles; and others in detail. Under the legal information to students, they were informed about traffic safety rules; vehicle insurance; driving licence; cheating and irregularities through banking system; and about filing of FIR

against crime against women and the orders issued for the same. Principal Dr DK Balendra appealed students to make preparations for the forthcoming exams and study likewise. The programme was con-

ducted by Prof Jitendra Sakhare. In different competitions organised by Red-Ribbon Club, the prizes and certificates were distributed by the guests to Manisha Baghel, Sarita Dewangan; Rita Deshmukh; Kalpan Dewangan.

The vote of thanks in the programme was proposed by Student's Union in-Charge JK Vaishnav. On this occasion Prof. Advani; Prof. Yashpal; Prof. Satish; Dr Samiksha Tamrkar; Ranjana Ambade; Anjali Patel; Dr Umendra Chandel; Nathuram Nishad; Vijendra Verma and Homan Sahu and other students were present in large number.

# Safe return of bonded laborers trapped in K'taka

## Central Chronicle News

**Sukma, Mar 13:** Sukma District Administration and Police Department have achieved a big success, when bonded laborers trapped in Karnataka, returned safely to their home towns.

As per the instructions of Industries Minister Kawasi Lakhma, with the initiative of District Collector Vineet Nandanwar, the bonded laborers trapped in Karnataka have been efficiently brought back to their home state.

Some youths from Sukma, Mahamaya in Bijapur, Dantewada and Bastar districts had gone to Sagra in Karnataka state to do labor in the greed of more



income. Far from getting more wages there, even full remuneration was not being received by them. On receiving the complaint, the district administration took prompt action and formed a team and completed the process of bringing back these laborers successfully.

Ganga Kawasi, a resident of Banda, who successfully reached her home district Sukma, informed that in the month of January, along with her colleagues, she had gone to Bhadrachalam to do work of plucking chillies, from where they were taken to Karnataka on the

pretext of good labor. Stuck with no remuneration and daily resources, they were not allowed to return home.

The workers expressed their gratitude to the collector and the district administration for their safe return. On the workers' return home, Collector Vineet Nandanwar has directed the Labor Department to provide the benefits of related schemes by registering these workers under the Building and Other Construction Works Board on priority.

Along with this, CEO District Panchayat has been directed to provide benefits to the workers under the welfare schemes of the government.

# Pallavi Dhurandhar Nayak accomplishes rare feat

## Central Chronicle News

**Kharora, Mar 13:** Pallavi Dhurandhar Nayak, achieved a rare feat of turning the critical times of the Corona pandemic into achievements. A list of 20 top social media marketing companies have come out in the Business General of Australia, and Pallavi Dhurandhar Nayak, daughter of Chhattisgarh and daughter-in-law of State Women's Commission Head is Kiranmayi Nayak's has also made a place in this list. On the occasion of International Women's Day, Governor Anusuiya Uikey also sent her best wishes to Mrs. Pallavi. Along with Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is in Uttarakhand state, he has also congratulated and blessed her on the phone. Pallavi runs a so-



cial media marketing agency in Melbourne, and her team works towards the common goal of creating awareness for its customers, increasing their awareness and making their marketing easier. Pallavi has recently been featured by the prestigious 'Australian Business Journal' as the only Indian among the top 20 social media managers in Australia to work in 2022. It proves that her dedi-

cation and hard work is no longer hidden. She says - "It was a very proud moment for me as I am the only Indian woman to feature in the list. It is a very happy time and I feel blessed." Pallavi is a Bachelor of Designing degree from Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and Social Media College Sydney, and is the wife of Vikram Nayak, son of Kiranmayi Nayak.

# Society bows before maternal power: Nawaz

## Central Chronicle News

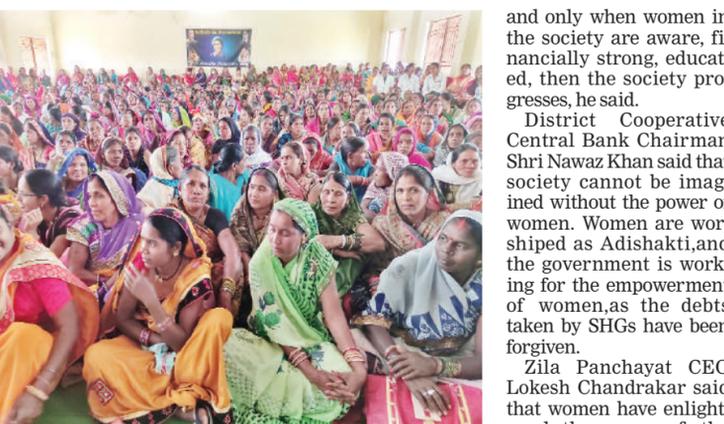
**Dongargarh, Mar 13:** Collector Taran Prakash Sinha and District Cooperative Central Bank Chairman Nawaz Khan attended the Mahila Samman function organized by Priya Darshini (Indira) Mahila Shakti and Janakalyan Sangathan in Lal Bahadur Nagar of Dongargarh block hq's on the occasion of International Women's Day.

Women who have done excellent work in the field of livelihood promotion through various activities were honored at the Mahila Samman function.

District Panchayat Member Smt. Prabha Sahu, District Panchayat CEO Lokesh Chandrakar,

General Manager of District Central Cooperative Bank Sunil Verma were present on the occasion.

Collector Taran Prakash Sinha in his address said that women are very important part of our culture, where Mahamaya in Ambikapur of Chhattisgarh, Mahamaya in Ratanapur, Chandrasani in Chandrapur, Samaleshwari in Saranggarh, Bamleshwari in Dongargarh and Danteshwari in Dantewada are the revered Goddess is enthroned. He said that



Rajnandgaon district is a leader in economic activities and the women of the self help group of the district are moving towards self reliance by taking var-

ious loans of Rs. 107 crore and installing various machines in the entire state. Education and self reliance are essential for women empowerment,

and only when women in the society are aware, financially strong, educated, then the society progresses, he said.

District Cooperative Central Bank Chairman Shri Nawaz Khan said that society cannot be imagined without the power of women. Women are worshipped as Adishakti, and the government is working for the empowerment of women, as the debts taken by SHGs have been forgiven.

Zila Panchayat CEO Lokesh Chandrakar said that women have enlightened the name of the country, state and district. The program was attended by public representatives, officials, employees, women from rural and self help groups.

## BRIEF

### Arrests

**New Delhi:** The NIA has arrested six people who were allegedly part of a syndicate involved in the illegal trafficking of Rohingya Muslims into Indian territory, an official said. The network was operating in the border areas of Assam, West Bengal, Meghalaya as well as other parts of the country, the official of the premier investigation agency said. The six people were part of a syndicate involved in the illegal trafficking of Rohingyas.

### Bouncer

**Pune:** Police have registered a non-cognizable (NC) offence against a woman 'bouncer' working for a school in the city for allegedly roughing up two parents. The alleged incident took place at a school under the jurisdiction of Bibwewadi police station three days ago. Bouncers are generally associated with places such as pubs and nightclubs, but of late some educational institutes in the city are known to have hired bouncers to rein.

### E-autos

**New Delhi:** The Delhi government launched an online portal 'My EV' for the purchase and registration of electric autos in the city. The government will also provide five per cent interest subvention on the purchase of e-autos on loans under the Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy, an official statement said, adding Delhi has now become the first state to provide such a facility. Delhi government collaborated with CESL to develop the website.

### Rescues

**Thiruvananthapuram:** The Indian Coast Guard said it rescued the eight-member crew of a merchant vessel after it got stranded 18 nautical miles off Beypore in Kozhikode district of Kerala. The Coast Guard was alerted by a distress call from MSV Bilal which reported water ingress and engine failure while proceeding to Lakshadweep. The Coast Guard ship 'Vikram' responded. Also, interceptor boat C-404 on patrol was diverted.

### Ugandan

**Jaipur:** A 28-year-old Ugandan woman was arrested here after six capsules containing 67 grams of heroin were medically extracted from her abdomen. The woman reached here from Sharjah on March 5 and was detained by Customs officials on suspicion of carrying contraband capsules in her stomach, he said, adding she was then admitted to SMS Hospital here on permission from a special court adjudicating the NDPS cases.

### Shortage

**Mumbai:** The Maharashtra unit of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) protested the announcement made by a minister to suspend a doctor at the state-run JJ Hospital here for shortage of medicines.

# 'Adhikari defeated Mamata by unfair means'

**Says TMC's new entrant from BJP**

**Kolkata, Mar 13 (PTI):**

Days after switching over to the TMC from the BJP, veteran leader Joy Prakash Majumder stirred a controversy as he said that Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly Suwendu Adhikari did not win the 2021 assembly polls from Nandigram by fair means.

Majumder, who was suspended by the BJP in the last week of January for "anti-party activities", claimed that it was "baffling" how Adhikari went on to clinch the seat, just hours after Mamata Banerjee was declared winner from the Purba Medinipur constituency



**Joy Prakash Majumder**

"I remember Suwendu had stated on the night of May 2 that he had to use tricks to win Nandigram," the newly appointed vice-president of the TMC, who was once a fierce critic of Mamata Banerjee, told reporters. "The counting process was not transparent in Nandigram. By sleight of hand, Suwendu suddenly pipped Mamata Banerjee,

who was initially declared the winner," Majumder said.

Former state minister Rajib Bandyopadhyay, who had unsuccessfully contested from Domjur on a BJP ticket and returned to the TMC shortly after, also claimed that Majumder's assertions were 100 per cent true.

"I know Suwendu Adhikari was not declared in a fair manner. I can vouch for that," Bandyopadhyay said.

BJP state spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya, however, trashed the allegations, stating that Majumder and Bandyopadhyay were revealing their "true colours" after crossing over to the TMC.

"Majumder is trying to raise his ratings before the new party supremo against whom he had lev-

elled snide remarks in the past. Footages of his comments at BJP press briefings are still available. Will he take back all those comments now?" Bhattacharya sought to know.

Talking about Rajib Bandyopadhyay, the BJP spokesperson said, I guess he wants to impress the TMC supremo by making these false claims. Given that he has been shifted to Tripura to look after the affairs of the TMC there, the former Domjur MLA must be desperately trying to get back."

According to the Election Commission, Adhikari defeated Mamata Banerjee by over 1,900 votes in Nandigram. The announcement was made just hours after reports suggested the TMC supremo had bagged the seat.

## Bomma rejects chances of defection of BJP leaders

**Bengaluru, Mar 13 (PTI):**

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday ruled out the possibility of anyone from the ruling BJP in the state defecting to other parties.

Regarding chances of leaders from other parties joining the BJP in the state, he said "just wait and see". These (defections) are just speculations, which have no basis. There is no question of anyone from BJP defecting to other parties. Neither earlier, nor now. I can tell you categorically that no one from our party will defect to other parties. As for anyone from other parties hopping onto BJP, just wait and see," Bommai



**Basavaraj Bommai**

told reporters here. To a query on the possibility of early elections following a favourable outcome for BJP in the assembly elections in five states, the Chief Minister dismissed it saying these were only media speculations whereas there were no talks at any level in the party. Regarding his visit to Delhi for the cabinet expansion as four ministerial berths were still

lying vacant, Bommai said he would wait for signals from the seniors in the party. Seniors had told me that they will give me a hint (about expansion). They have not given any indications yet. Once they do so, then I will immediately go there (Delhi), the Chief Minister said.

Against the sanctioned strength of 34, Karnataka has 30 ministers while lobbying is still on to grab the ministerial positions, BJP sources said. Regarding the state tour of the leaders and party programme, Bommai said the party state executive committee is due to take place on March 30 and 31 where these matters will be decided.

## Relieve TN Guv from Chancellor's responsibilities

**Chennai, Mar 13 (PTI):**

Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) chief Vaiko, an ally of the ruling DMK here, on Sunday demanded Tamil Nadu should follow Maharashtra in relieving Governor RN Ravi from the responsibilities of chancellor of universities for indulging in "political rhetoric going beyond his authority".

Taking strong exception to the Governor Ravi's view that India is not a contractual union like the US but was organically forged and sustained for thousands of years due to shared cultural spiritualities, expressed during the inaugural of the South Zone Vice-Chancellors' Meet held under the aegis of Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi at Bharathiar University,



**Vaiko**

Coimbatore, on March 11, Vaiko claimed that the Governor exceeded official capacity and indulged in political rhetoric.

"This is condemnable. The Governor had reflected the RSS and Sangh Parivar view and is talking about what the Delhi bosses are saying. He must explain where India was before 1947," Vaiko said in a statement here.

Inaugurating the Meet, the Governor had said

"those who talk about federalism and Indian Union should remember that India was not born in 1947 nor it is a contractual union like United States of America." He said the Union of India was organically forged and sustained for thousands of years by the shared cultural spiritualities of people who lived as one from one end to the other of Bharat irrespective of numerous kings and kingdoms.

"Article 1 of the Constitution of India says India shall be a Union of states. It says India that is Bharat," he said and added that Bharat has been one living entity since ages, praised by the ancient rishis and common people from Kanyakumari to Kashmir and from Kutch to Kamrup in their everyday rites and rituals.

## FIR against Nitesh Rane, his brother for remarks against Sharad Pawar

**Mumbai, Mar 13 (PTI):**

Mumbai Police on Sunday registered an FIR against Maharashtra BJP MLA Nitesh Rane and his brother Niles Rane for allegedly making remarks against NCP chief Sharad Pawar, an official said.

The case was registered at the Azad Maidan police station under various Indian Penal Code section, including 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 499 (defamation), 153 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot) based on a complaint of NCP functionary Shrinivas alias Vyankatrao Suraj Chavan.

Chavan submitted to police some video clips in which the Rane brothers, sons of Union minister

Narayan Rane, were purportedly seen making the remarks.

In his complaint, Chavan mentioned that Nitesh Rane, while talking to reporters last Wednesday, asked why Pawar had not taken the resignation of Maharashtra minister and NCP's chief spokesperson Nawab Malik even though he was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case. According to the complaint, the BJP MLA had alleged that Pawar may also be an aid of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim.

The same day, former MP Niles Rane also allegedly made similar comments on Twitter, Chavan mentioned in his complaint. Meanwhile, Nitesh Rane

told reporters here on Sunday that, We will tell the police what we have to if an offence has been registered. What is wrong in what we said? We sided with Hindutva. We have not tried to instigate a riot. If it is a mistake to side with Hindutva, then we will commit that mistake 100 times." He said Pawar had alleged that Malik is being linked to Dawood Ibrahim because the minority affairs minister comes from Muslim community. So, I just questioned later whether (another) Maharashtra minister Anil Deshmukh was asked to resign because he is a Hindu? We just tried to reply to the issue Pawar saheb raised. Where is the question of instigating riots here? he asked.

## Security for Holi 'Laa Saab' procession in UP

**Shahjahanpur, Mar 13 (PTI):**

The 'Laa Saab' procession carried out on Holi here will be a challenge for the administration, as it coincides with Shab-e-Barat and Jumma namaz (Friday prayers), officials have said.

They said that around 40 mosques that are located on the route of the procession have been covered with plastic sheets.

Following an 18th-century tradition, Holi in Shahjahanpur begins with revellers hurling footwear at a man impersonating as 'Laa Saab'—a British Lord—seated in a bullock cart. Additional District Magistrate Ramsevak Dwivedi on Sunday said, "This time, the festival of Holi coincides with Shab-e-Barat and Jumma namaz.



**BJP activists stage a protest against Mumbai Police for issuing a notice to Devendra Fadnavis in alleged illegal tapping of phones case, in Thane, Sunday.**

## Hotel owner surrenders in POCSSO case

**Kochi, Mar 13 (PTI):** After the Supreme Court and the Kerala High Court denied any protection from arrest to city-based Hotel 18 owner in a POCSSO case, he surrendered before the police on Sunday. Hotel 18 owner, Roy J Vayalath, surrendered at the Kochi City Police Commissioner's office after the Supreme Court on Friday denied any relief to him in his plea seeking anticipatory bail in the case. Senior public prosecutor CK Suresh confirmed that the hotel owner surrendered at the Commissioner's office.



**Plastic sheets are used to cover premises of a mosque, ahead of the La Saheb procession as part of Holi celebrations, in Shahjahanpur district, Sunday.**

In order to ensure that there is no untoward incident, around 40 mosques that are located on the route of the procession have been covered with plastic sheets.

Barricading is being done at all lanes located on the procession route."

The observance of Shab-

e-Barat involves a festive nightlong vigil with prayers. It is the night when people commemorate their deceased ancestors. The ADM also said that to ensure a smooth procession, two additional SPs, 8 circle officers, 50 inspectors, 225 sub-inspectors, 300 head constables, 1,100 con-

stables, 1 company of the PAC, and a company of Rapid Action Force have been deployed.

In addition to this, two drone cameras and 55 cameras have been installed to monitor the procession, he said.

A member of the organising committee of the procession said that search for the person who will be the 'Laa Saab' begins a month before, and after being selected as the 'Laa Saab', he is kept at a secret place, and looked after by the organisers.

"On the day of Holi, the procession of 'Bade Laa Saab' is taken out on a buffalo cart with Holi revellers hurling 'jutas' at him, Vikas Khurana, the head of History department of Swami Shukdevanand College told PTI.

## State assemblies see rise in number of MLAs aged above 55

**New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):**

After the recent round of elections, the state assemblies of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Manipur have acquired an elder profile owing to an increase in the number of MLAs aged above 55 years.

According to an analysis by PRS Legislative Research, the proportion of MLAs aged 55 years or below has decreased to 59.5 per cent in 2022 from 64.7 per cent in 2017.

On the other hand, the three newly elected assemblies now have more women MLAs when compared to the outgoing House.

The Uttar Pradesh assembly now has 47 women



legislators, compared to 42 in the outgoing assembly, while the number of women MLAs in Uttarakhand has increased from five in 2017 to eight in 2022.

The number of women legislators in the Manipur assembly has doubled to four when compared to five years ago.

In the 70-member Uttarakhand Assembly, the proportion of MLAs aged 55 years or below has decreased to 51 per cent in 2022 from 61 per cent in 2017.

In Manipur too the proportion of MLAs aged 55 years or below has decreased to 55 per cent in 2022 from 71.7 per cent in 2017.

In Uttar Pradesh, the number of MLAs with at least a Bachelor's degree has increased from 72.7 per cent in 2017 to 75.9 per cent in 2022.

In Uttarakhand, the number of MLAs with at least a Bachelor's degree has reduced from 77 per cent in 2017 to 68 per cent in 2022.

## BJP reigns supreme in western UP amid SP-RLD rise

**Free ration scheme appears to worked in favour of BJP**

**Noida, Mar 13 (PTI):**

The BJP reigned supreme on nearly 70 per cent constituencies in western Uttar Pradesh despite losing 15 seats in the 2022 assembly polls, even as the Samajwadi Party (SP) and its ally Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) showed a rise in the region.

While the BJP completely swept some districts like Agra, Mathura, Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddha Nagar, the Opposition alliance too scored 100 per cent in Shamli and Moradabad, and put up a good show in Muzaffarnagar and Meerut. In the 2017 assem-

bly polls, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had swept over 300 of the 403 seats across Uttar Pradesh, the most populous state in the country. The party won 255 seats this year, while the SP with its allies notched up victory on 125 seats of the state, nearly double from its last electoral outing.

In the 126 seats across 24 districts of western Uttar Pradesh, the BJP had won 100 (or 79 per cent) of the seats in 2017. This time, its tally stood at 85 (or 67 per cent). The SP and the RLD together won 41 (or 32 per cent) of the 126 seats in the region. The Jayant Chaudhary-led RLD, which was reduced to a single seat in the 2017 polls, fought on 35 seats this time and won eight of them. The BJP lost all three

seats in Shamli district, including a sitting minister from Thana Bhawan, four of the seven seats in Meerut, and four of the six seats in Muzaffarnagar all three are Jat-dominated districts. It also lost all six seats in Moradabad, three of the four seats in both Rampur and Sambhal districts. The minister's defeat came even as another minister in Ghaziabad won by a margin of over 1 lakh votes and the BJP managed to fully sweep districts like Agra, Mathura, Aligarh — all three have a sizeable Jat population, Bulandshahr, Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddha Nagar, negating the idea that the recent farmers' agitation had an impact across western Uttar Pradesh, according to poll observers. The Bahujan Samaj

Party, the Congress and others failed to get even a single seat in the region.

There is no official demarcation of what constitutes western Uttar Pradesh. Political parties have different organisational structures and classifications for the region. However, 126 assembly constituencies in 24 districts that lie west of Etawah are generally taken to be western Uttar Pradesh. These 24 districts are Agra, Mathura, Aligarh, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Bulandshahr, Baghpat, Hapur, Muzaffarnagar, Shamli, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Amroha, Budaun, Bareilly, Bijnor, Moradabad, Rampur, Saharanpur, Sambhal, Shahjahanpur, Hathras, Etah, Kasganj and Firozabad.

## BRIEF

### Reactor

**Helsinki:** Finland's long-delayed and costly new nuclear reactor went online amid expectations that it will boost the Nordic country's electricity self-sufficiency and help to achieve its carbon neutrality targets. Finnish operator Teollisuuden Voima said the Olkiluoto 3 nuclear reactor in western Finland linked up to the national grid and started power generation. It will go through trial period of about four months during which it will generate electricity.

### Charged

**Lansing:** A former township clerk and current county elections supervisor in Michigan, US has been charged with ballot tampering in the August 2020 primary. Kathy Funk also is charged with misconduct in office, the Michigan attorney general's office said. Both charges are felonies punishable by up to five years in prison upon conviction. Funk faces arraignment in Genesee County's 67th District Court. Funk was Flint Township's clerk.

### Prosecute

**Addis Ababa:** Ethiopian authorities say they will prosecute individuals seen in a gruesome video in which armed men appear to burn at least three people alive. The video, shared widely on social media has sparked anger among many in this country facing war in its northern region as well as ethnic strife in other parts. The Ethiopian government confirmed that the incident in which armed men drag and then burn three people.

### Stabbed

**New York:** A man stabbed two people inside the Museum of Modern Art in New York after he was denied entrance for previous incidents of disorderly conduct, authorities said. Police said the two people who were stabbed were museum employees. Both were in stable condition at Bellevue Hospital.

### Stuck

**Bangkok:** Thousands of Russian tourists are stranded in Thailand's beach resorts because of the war in Ukraine, many unable to pay their bills or return home because of sanctions and cancelled flights. The crisis in Europe also put a crimp in recovery plans for the Southeast Asian nation's tourism industry, which has hosted more visitors from Russia than any of its neighbors before the pandemic hit.

### Surprise

**Mexico City:** The Vatican expressed surprise and pain at Nicaragua's expulsion of the papal nuncio, which comes at a time of growing pressure on opposition figures in the Central American nation. The church said in a statement that Nicaragua's action against Polish Msgr Waldemar Stanislaw Sommertag was grave and unjustified.

# China's COVID-19 cases rise, lockdown in many cities

Beijing, Mar 13 (AFP):

Chinese health authorities reported nearly 3,400 COVID-19 cases on Sunday, double the previous day, forcing lockdowns on virus hotspots as the country contends with its gravest outbreak in two years.

A nationwide surge in cases has seen authorities close schools in Shanghai and lock down several northeastern cities, as almost 19 provinces battle clusters of the Omicron and Delta variants.

The city of Jilin has been partially locked down, with hundreds of neighbourhoods sealed up, an official announced Sunday, while Yanji, an urban area of



A man looks at his phone on an empty street in Hong Kong on Sunday.

nearly 700,000 bordering North Korea, was fully closed off. China, where the virus was first detected in late 2019, has maintained a

strict 'zero-Covid' policy enforced by swift lockdowns, travel restrictions and mass testing when clusters have emerged.

But the latest flare-up, driven by the highly transmissible Omicron variant and a spike in asymptomatic cases, is challenging that approach. Zhang Yan, an official with the Jilin provincial health commission, admitted Sunday that local authorities' virus response so far had been lacking. "The emergency response mechanism in some areas is not robust enough, there is insufficient understanding of the characteristics of the Omicron variant... and judgment has been inaccurate," he said at a government press briefing. Residents of Jilin have completed six rounds of mass testing, local officials said.

# Unease and stoicism on Finland's Russian border

Imatra, Mar 13 (AFP):

In her wooden, snow-covered house 20 minutes from Russia, Maija Poyhia wears a traditional blue headscarf that her mother carried with her when fleeing the Soviet invasion of Finland during World War II.

In Finland, Russia's assault on Ukraine has stirred up some painful associations with the 1939 Winter War, when Red Army troops attacked the Nordic country across their shared border, which now runs to 1,340 kilometres (830 miles). As in Ukraine, the smaller Finnish army back then put up strong resistance



The border crossing between Finland and Russia in Nuijamaa, southeastern Finland.

and inflicted heavy losses on the Soviets.

But Finland ended up ceding a huge stretch of its eastern Karelia province, driving almost half a million Finns — 12 percent of the entire population — from their

homes. "My dad's childhood home is still on the Finnish side," Poyhia tells AFP, although her mother's family farm is now in Russia. "But back then, no one really understood how the border went."

# Missiles fired from Iran hit near US consulate in Iraq

Baghdad, Mar 13 (AP):

As many as 12 missiles struck near a sprawling US consulate complex in the northern Iraqi city of Irbil on Sunday, in what a US defense official and an Iraqi official said was a strike launched from neighboring Iran.

No injuries were reported in the attack, which marked a significant escalation between the US and Iran. Hostility between the longtime foes has often played out in Iraq, whose government is allied with both countries.

The Iraqi official in Baghdad initially said several missiles had hit the US consulate in Irbil and that it was the target of the attack. Later, Lawk Ghafari, the head of Kurdistan's foreign media



A woman inspects damage in the children's room at home following attack in Irbil on Sunday.

office, said none of the missiles had struck the US facility but that areas around the compound had been hit. The US defense official said it was still uncertain exactly how many missiles were fired and ex-

actly where they landed. A second US official said there was no damage at any US government facility and that there was no indication the target was the consulate building, which is new and current-

ly unoccupied. Neither the Iraqi official nor the US officials were authorized to discuss the event with the media and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Satellite broadcast channel Kurdistan24, which is located near the US consulate, went on air from their studio shortly after the attack, showing shattered glass and debris on their studio floor.

The attack came several days after Iran said it would retaliate for an Israeli strike near Damascus, Syria, that killed two members of its Revolutionary Guard. On Sunday, Iran's state-run IRNA news agency quoted Iraqi media acknowledging the attacks in Irbil, without saying where they originated.

# Rising food prices shake North Africa amid Ukraine war



A staff member arranges baked goods at a bakery which is unsubsidised, in the capital Tunis.

Tunis, Mar 13 (AFP):

Households across North Africa are rushing to stock up on flour, semolina and other staples as food prices rise following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, both key wheat exporters to the re-

gion. The scramble is worse coming just weeks before the start of the holy month of Ramadan, when Muslims traditionally break a dawn-to-dusk fast with lavish family meals.

Libya, along with several other Arab countries, import much of their wheat from Ukraine and Russia. Some fear the Russian invasion could lead to hunger and unrest, with memories of how rising food prices played a role in several Arab uprisings last decade.

In one supermarket in the Tunisian capital, the shelves were bare of flour or semolina, and only three packs of sugar sat on a shelf near a sign that read: "One kilo per customer, please". Store managers said the problem was "panic buying", not shortages. Shopper Houda Hjej, who said she hadn't been able to find rice or flour for two weeks, blamed the authorities. "With the war in Ukraine, they did not think ahead," the 52-year-old housewife in Tunis said.

Bulk-buying ahead of Ramadan, which is expected to start in early April this year, is common in Muslim countries. But some say the war in Ukraine has sparked a shopping frenzy.

Hedi Baccour, of Tunisia's union of supermarket owners, said daily sales of semolina—a staple across North Africa used in dishes of couscous—have jumped by "700 percent" in recent days. Sugar sales are up threefold as Tunisians stockpile basic foodstuffs, said Baccour, who insisted there were no food shortages. Each day pensioner Hedi Bouallegue, 66, makes the round of grocery shops in his Tunis neighbourhood to stock up on products like cooking oil and semolina. "I am even ready to pay double the price," he told AFP.

# Russia's war idles some European mills

Milan, Mar 13 (AP):

Italian paper mills that make everything from pizza boxes to furniture packaging ground to a halt as Russia's war in Ukraine has sent natural gas prices skyrocketing.

And it's not just paper: Italian steel mills, likewise, turned off electric furnaces last week. And fishermen, facing huge spikes in oil prices, stayed in port, mending nets instead of casting them. Nowhere more than in Italy, the European Union's third-largest economy, is dependence on Russian energy taking a higher toll on industry. Some 40% of electricity is generated from natural gas that largely comes from Russia, compared with roughly one-quarter in Germany, another major importer and the continent's largest economy.

Italy's dependence on Russian natural gas has surged from 27% to 43%, a fact lamented by Premier Mario Draghi. It will take at least two years to replace, his energy transition minister says. Even before the war, Europe was facing a serious energy crunch that drove up costs for electricity, food, supplies and everything in between for people and businesses. Ever higher prices tied to fears that the conflict will lead to an energy cutoff are hitting the continent much harder than the US because it imports so much of its oil and gas from Russia. European leaders meeting Friday in Versailles outside Paris discussed ways of easing the pain. Draghi pushed to diversify gas sources, develop renewables and introduce a cap on natural gas prices. He said his foreign minister, who recently visited

Algeria and Qatar, was working on new gas markets. "We are talking about errors made over many years," said Francesco Zago, CEO of the Veneto-based paper and packaging manufacturer Progest. "We get too much gas from Russia. In school, they tell us we need to diversify the sources, otherwise there is a danger." Natural gas prices were on the rise last year as reserves dwindled in Europe, but Zago said his company was able to stabilize prices and continue operating.

That changed with the Russian invasion, when already high prices soared from 90 euros a megawatt hour to over 300 euros a megawatt hour. "We found ourselves facing huge losses," Zago said. To remain profitable, he said they would have had to nearly double prices from 680 euros a ton to 1,200 euros not doable on the market-plate.

# Kenyan farmers turn to organic farming for better yields



Organic farming in Kenya.

Mwanja, Mar 13 (AFP):

Kenyan farmer Judith Mumbua noticed that using commercial fertilizers was creating problems for both her crops and the dirt on her farm in Mwanja village, eastern Kenya. "The chemicals affect soil by making it hard, and the plants, especially maize and beans, do very poorly," she says. That was

three years ago. Now, she has switched to organic farming, which, she says, has created a more positive outcome and a healthier way to grow crops. It is even better for her livestock, she says. "There are benefits in the production compared to previous farming methods I explored by using chemicals and fertilizers from shops," says Mumbua.

## ● Good soil health enables health crops

Mumbua started organic farming after a training program at a local agriculture organization. She admitted this farming method has helped her curb the antimicrobial crop resistance her plants had experienced for a number of years. "Antimicrobial resistance is when microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites change and no longer respond to medicine, making infections hard to treat and even manage in crops," she explains.

Organic agriculture or ecologically-based farming is basically the use of green manure, compost, biological agriculture and biological fertilizers derived from animal waste.

# Demand for ballots count by hand, not machines in US

Concord, Mar 13 (AP):

Growing suspicion about the security of voting systems has kindled a back-to-the-future moment among conservatives in some parts of the US.

Republican lawmakers in at least six states have introduced legislation that would require all election ballots to be counted by hand instead of electronic tabulators. Similar proposals have been floated within some local governments, including about a dozen New Hampshire towns and Washoe County in the presidential battleground state of Nevada.

The push for hand-counting ballots comes amid mistrust of elections among many Republicans who believe the false narrative that widespread fraud cost former President Donald Trump reelection in the 2020 presidential contest. Despite no evidence of



Lisa Prince, a volunteer, helps organize and count the ballots that were cast at the Hinsdale Middle High School.

widespread fraud or major irregularities, conspiracy theories have proliferated among his allies that voting systems were somehow manipulated to favor Democrat Joe Biden. That has prompted calls to ban electronic tabulators used to scan ballots, record votes and compile race tallies. "It's our responsibility, and it should be our desire, to count every vote and to imbue confi-

dence in our citizenry that our elections are fair and free, and that their vote is being counted," said New Hampshire state Rep Mark Alliegro, sponsor of a hand-counting bill that is similar to ones proposed in Arizona, Colorado, Missouri, Washington and West Virginia. Alliegro said he was motivated by his analysis of recounts in nearly 50 New Hampshire

state legislative races, not by the 2020 presidential election.

But some of the bill's supporters reference the 2020 election to explain why they feel his hand-count legislation is needed. They cite a belief that Trump actually won a landslide victory and that cheating is the only way to explain how New Hampshire voters elected a Republican governor and GOP majorities in the Legislature, but then backed Democrats for federal office. Critics of the proposals to ditch electronic ballot tabulators and return to hand-counting are blunt about what they see as the motivation. "It's coming from conspiracy theories and lies," said Sylvia Albert, director of voting and elections for Common Cause, a nonpartisan group that advocates for expanded voter access. "It's attempting to lower people's confidence in elections."



# CENTRAL Chronicle

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## Political experiment

The Congress' star women candidates, who entered the election fray as a symbol of struggle with the slogan 'Ladki Hoon, Lad Sakti Hoon', secured less than 3,000 votes each and had to even forfeit their deposits. Living up to the party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's promise to give 40 per cent of the tickets to women candidates, the Congress fielded 148 of them, of which only one Congress Legislature leader Aradhana Mishra secured victory. Uttar Pradesh Congress spokesperson Ashok Singh said the election results of its women candidates will be reviewed. He said there is no disappointment in the party due to their defeat and the Congress will still continue to work for women. The political experiment by Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was novel in its approach. The Congress was unable to pass the women's reservation bill during UPA era. This experiment by Priyanka Gandhi Vadra shows the need to reform social norms before improvement of politics. More than one in every two Indians say that women and men make equally good political leaders and over one in every ten believe women generally make better political leaders than men, according to a recent survey. Even when women are elected to office, it does not necessarily mean that they will be able to influence decision making within political parties to a great extent because of systemic inhibitions. The study, conducted among 30,000 adults nationwide, surveyed Indian attitudes toward gender roles. India has had powerful female politicians, with some of them managing to ascend to top political posts nationally and regionally, including president and prime minister. Indira Gandhi, for instance, India's first and only female prime minister to date, was a dominant political figure in the country from 1966 to 1984. But despite studies showing widespread public acceptance of female politicians, women's political participation remains low.

According to a 2020 report by the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) and National Election Watch (NEW), less than a tenth of the over 50,000 candidates contesting central and state elections are women. India slipped 28 places to rank 140th among 156 countries in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report in 2021, becoming the third-worst performer in South Asia. Women's participation as political actors has improved but their grip over power structure, at least at the party level, has not been impressive. Most of the decline occurred in the area of political empowerment, where India regressed considerably, with a significant drop in the number of women ministers in recent years from 23.1 per cent in 2019 to 9.1 per cent in 2021. Politics is often seen as a male bastion, and women are discouraged from entering it on the pretext that it is not a 'feminine' profession. People holding such views don't take into account the experiences of hundreds of women who are comfortable leading public political lives by leading self-help groups, civil society outfits and non-governmental organizations. Many female candidates are often made to contest in elections as "namesakes" for their husbands. Reserving seats for women is meaningless if women were treated as "puppets" by their male family members. There are senior female politicians who encourage women to defer to their husband or promote patriarchal views in public to walk the tightrope and not lose their allies. India has made strides in recent times in efforts to clean up the scourge of dirty money in politics even if candidates facing charges remain prominent. But the corrupting influence that comes from gender inequality remains a major fight. It will take more than a tonsured head to draw attention to the challenge.

## Economics is contextual

Indian retail inflation likely slipped marginally in February, thanks to lower food prices, according to economists who still warned that surging oil prices will push inflation much higher in the coming months. The spectre of inflation is once again stalking the world, after a long period of dormancy during which policymakers were more likely to be preoccupied by price deflation. Now, old debates have resurfaced on how best to restore price stability. Orthodox remedies for inflation often have costly side effects (such as bankruptcies and rising unemployment) and have not always produced the desired effects quickly enough. Price controls have sometimes worked, during wartime for example. That is why ridiculing currently unfashionable ideas on inflation as 'science denial' akin to rejecting COVID-19 vaccines, as some prominent economists have done, is so misplaced. In fact, when a particular claim about the real world appears inconsistent with existing theories, this is often an invitation for a young, smart economist to demonstrate that the claim can indeed be justified, under certain specific conditions. The true science of economics is contextual, not universal. Inflationary pressure seems to derive largely from a transitory set of factors, such as the pandemic-related reallocation of spending from services to goods, and supply-chain and other disruptions to production.

While expansionary monetary and fiscal policies have boosted incomes, these policies, too, are temporary. The alternative would have been a dramatic collapse in employment and living standards. Under current circumstances, then, policymakers should not over-react to the spike in inflation. The best argument against price controls is not that they are 'incompatible with science' but that nothing so radical needs to be considered for now. The same caution would apply to orthodox policy as well: central banks should be patient before raising interest rates. This undermines the argument that lower policy rates could effectively reduce production costs for firms. It indicates that the rise in interest rates reflects more fundamental problems with the economy, uncertainty about the conduct of economic policy, and higher inflation expectations for the future. Experiments that depart from conventional policy can be costly. But this does not mean that there are universal rules in economics or that the prevailing view among mainstream economists should determine policy. Economists should be humble when they recommend (or dismiss) various inflation-fighting strategies. And while policymakers must pay attention to economic evidence and arguments, they should be sceptical when the economists who advise them display excessive confidence.

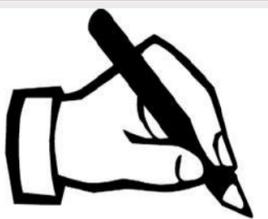
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## KEPT FOR DRYING



A potter arranges earthen pots kept for drying for onset of summer at the outskirts of Hyderabad, Telangana.

## Trend of Tamil cinema songs legitimising harmful behaviour

**GANGA RUDRAIAH**

Song and dance sequences are a staple feature of commercial cinema throughout India's diverse film production regions. Where dialogue cannot express desire or love, the hero and heroine often celebrate their union through song and dance. A distinct style of songs also addresses feelings of loss and longing when love does not flourish as expected. In Tamil cinema, these breakup songs are known as 'love-failure' songs. While both female and male characters sing and dance away their agony, a subset of love-failure songs give voice only to men who invariably go on a blaming spree, and attack women for breaking their hearts. Sociologist Premalatha Karupiah has aptly identified the misogyny of these songs while scholars of other film industries in India and globally have addressed similar issues in elements of film.

Beyond the misogyny of these love-failure songs from Tamil films, what is failing here is not just gender politics. The idea of love itself has been abandoned through the male protagonists' self-serving preoccupation with their egos. Western audiences may typically associate the habit of breaking into song and dance with Bollywood, a globally-recognized cultural category that refers to the aesthetics of Hindi-language cinema emerging from Mumbai. But song and dance routines are common to other regional film industries as

well. Although the first Tamil film, Keechaka Vatham, was produced in the silent era, the first Tamil talkie, Kalidas, released in 1931, featured 50 songs. What began as an element of attraction, borrowed from old theatrical traditions, has since evolved into a customary film formula. Each film contains a minimum of five to six songs to serve two main functions: to advertise the films within India and globally by promoting the film's music, and to help punctuate the different emotions playing out in the film narrative.

The quintessential melodramatic account of 'love failure' songs in Tamil is blame for a failed relationship, projected onto the figure of the woman. One of the earliest and striking instances where male romantic grief turns into an anxious, invective on women (and God who created them) is found in the song 'Kadavul Manithanaga Piraka Vendum' ('God must be born as human') from the 1963 film Vanambadi (Skylark). Through dramatic camera angles and movements combined with lyrical prowess, the male protagonist Sekar demands God to come down to earth and be born as a man to experience the suffering and betrayal of love at the hands of women. Contemporary iterations of this accusatory approach are usually situated at a public place where a group of men gather to sing and dance their woes against women. The Tamil song 'Why

this Kolaveri' (Why this murderous rage), an international hit from the 2012 film Moonu (Three), set the stage for the genre of 'soup' or 'flop' songs. The term 'soup', coined by the film's lead actor Dhanush, refers to the emotional state men find themselves in after being dumped.

In the song titled 'Local boys' from 2013's Ethir Neechal (Swimming Against the Tide) Dhanush makes a cameo appearance: he is seen consoling the hero who finds solidarity in strangers at a local bar. They come together because they claim to share the same fate with women and the same decision to drown their sorrows in booze. The song starts with the line 'I honestly don't need you,' and the lyrics go on to encourage men to shed their dependence on women and live freely without any worry. By interpreting rejection as women's fault, these songs not only soothe the male ego but they also help grieving men bond through their identification as 'soup boys.' This cinematically induced identity has not only potentially helped to legitimise stalking and other dangerous and unethical behavioural modes of pursuing women, but has also potentially galvanized narcissistic behaviour, something incompatible with love. In an acknowledgement of his social responsibility, another director apologized for similar lyrics by Dhanush for the 2011 film Mayakkam Enna (What is This Illusion?) in an interview.

In my preliminary research, I measure the philosophical durability of these songs. As lyrical expressions of personal failure, they reflect an excessive obsession with the self. The bereaved lover views his beloved as an investment that's supposed to have returns. When love is not reciprocated, blame gets thrown on the woman. Both love and the woman are declined together. But what every soup-boy needs to learn is actually that love's fundamental condition is

the onset of a broken, fractured self, even before a breakup and even if the betrayal is real. Because the moment one is in love, there is actually no self to possess. As the late French philosopher Jean-Luc Nancy discussed, when we are in love, what we know and recognize as an 'I' disintegrates into an ineffable connection with the other. There is no ego in love. There is no property to own. 'I love you' truly means: I am fully exposed to you in all my vulnerabilities and peculiarities. I am bare in front of you; I am already shattered in your presence. In my opinion, to counter the misogyny of love-failure songs, instead of portraying the inverse, women drinking and singing of their troubles with men, films should experiment with poetic pronouncements of love's true essence: how we risk everything when we love.

There are many examples of Tamil cinema exemplifying non-possessive ways of depicting love that 'love failure' genres could build upon. In Rajiv Menon's adaptation of Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility (Kandukondain Kandukondain (I Have Seen It, I Have Seen It)) Aishwarya Rai plays Meenakshi, based on Austen's Marianne Dashwood, a girl who is in love with love. In the song 'Enge enathu Kavithai?' ('Where has my poem gone?'), Meenakshi discovers her lover is to marry someone else. She yearns for her lost love in a mise-en-scene of pouring rain and flooded streets. Blinded by dejection, she slips into an open manhole only to be saved by a good-natured and more trustworthy man, the one she falls in love with later. The song does not resort to blaming anyone because in love there are no enemies. There is no 'I' or 'you' in love: only the cosmos that brings us together again and again.

(Ganga Rudraiah is PhD Candidate, Cinema Studies Institute, University of Toronto, Canada.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Genocide

The aftermath of violence that spread after Mahatma Gandhi's assassination has been kept under wraps for many years due to political reasons, but now it is making gradual waves in the mainstream national discourse. The pains of the violence have been preserved for years. The silencing of voices that followed one of the first large-scale massacres in Independent India accounts for one of the biggest cover-ups in modern India. It is the time that nation should know about the crimes committed against Brahmins of Maharashtra that erupted post the assassination of Gandhi. Gandhi was killed by Nathuram Vinayak Godse on January 30, 1948 in New Delhi which sent shock waves across the nation. Godse belonged to a Chittapavan Brahmin family living in Pune. Already some resentment was cultivated by that time, a response to their hegemony of century year old rule under the Peshwa dynasty. As soon as the family and caste details were made public, the violence against the Brahmins spread like wildfire across the State with Pune being the epicentre. On the very day, i.e., January 30, as many as 50 Brahmin people were murdered in Pune. The spurt of violence spread to other cities with Nagpur and Vidarbha emerged as hotbeds of violence too. The media during that manhunt turned a blind eye and State pressure was immense to discourage any recording of the events. That's why the nation doesn't have any recorded evidence of the violence available. It was only after the journalist Maureen Patterson, who was a British national, wrote decisively about the violence against the Brahmins of Maharashtra in 1948 that people started to talk about it. While the violence started with targeting of people with the surname Godse or the caste of Nathuram Godse, later on it quickly spread across all the caste and sub-caste of Brahmins. Like anti Sikh riots aftermath of assassination of Indira Gandhi the Congressmen too were involved in massacre of Maharashtra Brahmins during the killing of Mahatma Gandhi. The historians who wrote the earlier history textbooks chose to hide the facts or events.

Julie, via email

### Domestic abuse

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to wreak havoc across the world, reports of domestic violence keep growing. The world was already facing a crisis of domestic violence with women and children being the major victims. And now the pandemic is only exacerbating the problem. The rampant spread of the virus has forced the victims to stay indoors with the abusers, leaving them with little opportunities to seek refuge. With work places closed and visits of friends and relatives to houses politely dissuaded, abusers easily take control over the victims' milieu. The United Nations Population Fund has released a report, which says that pandemics increase the risk of gender-based violence. The report adds that during the Ebola outbreak, women and children had experienced higher rates of sexual violence. International development organizations must speed up their efforts to prevent and address this issue seriously in order to stop the pandemic of violence.

Ranganathan, via email



## WHAT THEY TWEET!



**vasabjit@vasabjit\_b**  
Russia sadly reminds me of the UK and France in the 1950s because the economic sanctions expose how much of its military and diplomatic power was underwritten by the post-1990s order. Its super power ambitions can't be supported by capabilities. Ukraine's like its Suez Crisis.

**Bharat@advbharatchugh**  
Devil's dictionary (of law!) CPC or Civil Procedure Code: Also, 'Cumbersome Procedure Code'. Picture it as a tail on a dog. A tail so powerful, convoluted, and wicked that it has not only started wagging the dog but is now - unabashedly - strangulating the dog.



**Sandeep@sandythapar**  
Don't ask where this came from but suddenly it struck me that I've never met or heard of a girl named Draupadi, in my life. Is it that I haven't & others have?? or is it a very uncommon name?? Or is there a reason to it. 5 husbands?? Can anyone clarify!



**peeleraja@peeleraja**  
I want to be that NRI uncle who owns a Tesla and a townhouse in Mountain View, but visits India every six months for the cheaper haircuts and suits. Also carries back 15kg dal and rice and oressure cooker so as not to waste extra baggage allowance in business class.



**Forest Service NW@ForestServiceNW**  
Never say there is nothing beautiful in the world anymore.



**Harsh Goenka@hvgoenka**  
At the Dessert counter of a Gujarati wedding, they put a TILAK on my forehead. I congratulated them for this practice. Man at the counter said 'Let me tell you the secret. It is not a sacred practice. It is only to ensure that you don't come for a second ice cream.' GUJJUS ROCK!

**Priyashmita@priyashmita**  
If u vote for parties that won't stand by you instead of ones who will, then why crib? Parties are currently not changing their stand at all. Most continue with their promises, even after u vote, be it of hate or ingoring you or standing by you and helping you.

**BRIEF**

**Expects**



**New Delhi:** Payworld expects to increase gross transactions on its platform by about 40 percent. Payworld CEO Praveen Dhabhai told PTI this financial year we will close at about Rs 11,000 crore and we are planning to almost double our net revenue.

**Transactions**

**New Delhi:** Mixchange, an online platform for discounting trade receivables of MSMEs, is targeting to double its customer base and hit transaction value of Rs 30,000 crore in the next fiscal year, as the market has huge growth potential. The invoice discounting of the due payments of MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) was allowed by the Reserve Bank under the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) in 2015.

**Raises**



**New Delhi:** Revfin has raised Rs 100 crore in debt, which it plans to use to expand into new geographies for financing three-wheelers. CEO Sameer Aggarwal told PTI we want to utilise this debt to first go into newer geographies for electric three-wheeler financing.

**Targets**

**New Delhi:** Birla Estates expects sales revenue of around Rs 11,000 crore from its newly launched luxury housing project in south Mumbai and has already sold properties worth Rs 1,000 crore, its CEO KT Jithendran said.

**Tie-ups**



**New Delhi:** RattanIndia Enterprises, which recently made a foray into the fintech business, looks to have tie-ups with all the banks by the end of the next financial year. Chairman Rajiv Rattan told PTI plan is to cover all the banks by the end of next financial year.

**Establishing**

**Mumbai:** Japanese financial group Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG) is establishing a USD 300 million fund to invest exclusively in Indian start ups. The fund intends not only to financially support Indian economic growth but to drive collaboration between MUFG and promising companies in the areas of technology and information and technology (IT). MUFG established MUFG Enterprise Solutions India (MESI) in 2020 as its global capability centre.

## Fertiliser subsidy may exceed RE by Rs 10K crore

**Fiscal deficit to remain close to 6.9% in FY-22**

**New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):**

The government's fertiliser subsidy bill in the current fiscal year may go up by about Rs 10,000 crore due to the Russia-Ukraine war, but higher tax revenues will help keep fiscal deficit close to the estimated 6.9 per cent level, an official said.

The official further said the oil prices are expected to cool in the next 2-3 months on higher production from the US and OPEC member countries.

The Revised Estimates (RE) had pegged the fertiliser subsidy at over Rs 1.40 lakh crore in current fiscal year, while the Budget Estimate (BE) for next fiscal year is estimated at over Rs 1.05 lakh crore.

"We expect oil prices to cool in next 2-3 months.



The rising oil prices would not alter the budget math of the government much in the current fiscal except for fertiliser subsidy which is likely to go up by about Rs 10,000 crore," the official said.

The official further said that since farmers need to stock up fertilisers before the beginning of the sowing season, import of potash - a key component in fertiliser manufacturing - cannot wait for international prices to cool.

Also, rise in prices of natural gas, a key raw material for the manufacturing of urea and comprising nearly 70 per cent of the total cost of producing urea, in the global market would lead to rise in domestic prices of urea.

International crude oil prices shot up to 14-year high of USD 140 per barrel early last week before retracting to near USD 112 on Friday. But even this rate is 45 per cent higher than the USD 80-87 range

of January when most of the Budget 2022-23 would have been prepared.

The official said that even at this elevated level of spending, the fiscal deficit would remain close to the 6.9 per cent level in the current fiscal year as pegged in the revised estimates.

"India's fiscal deficit would be close to 6.9 per cent as given in the revised estimate as higher tax revenues will offset the gap in the non-tax revenues and higher fertiliser subsidy outgo. As of now, we will remain close to the numbers given in the RE for this year and in the Budget Estimates for next fiscal," the official added.

In the RE for the current fiscal year ending March 31, the fiscal deficit has been revised a tad higher at 6.9 per cent of GDP, from 6.8 per cent estimated earlier. The deficit is projected to come down to 6.4 per cent of GDP in the next fiscal year.

## Bidding for DSF-III oil round to start on Apr 1

**New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):**

Bidding for 75 small and marginal oil and gas discoveries, mostly of ONGC, that are being offered in the DSF-III bid round, will begin on April 1 and close on May 16, according to the DGH.

The third bidding round under the Discovered Small Fields policy (DSF-III) was launched on June 10, 2021.

The original deadline for submission of bids was August 31, 2021. However, this was postponed to October 29, 2021. The start was again put off to February 1, 2022 and closing slated for March 15, 2022.

As the bid deadline approached, it was again postponed without any reasons being given.

"Bid submission for DSF Bid Round-III will start on April 1, 2022, and end on May 16, 2022, the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) said. DSF-III offers 32 contract



areas, comprising 75 fields/discoveries, with a combined total area of more than 13,000 square kilometres, in nine sedimentary basins.

The fields on offer include a few of the nomination fields of national oil company, ONGC, and some of the relinquished/unmonetised discoveries.

According to the DGH, the 32 offered contract areas have a total resource potential of around 230 million tonnes of oil equivalent (MMtoe)/1.7 billion barrels (oil and oil equivalent

of gas (OEG)). The government introduced DSF in October 2015 to monetise unmonetised discoveries of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL). Under the DSF policy, two bid rounds in 2016 and 2018 have been conducted wherein 54 contract areas with 101 fields were offered.

The offered discovered fields include 54 in shallow water; 2 in deepwater; and 19 are on-land fields.

These small and marginal fields were discovered by ONGC and OIL but they were not economically viable to be developed due to the fiscal regime and their small size.

Under DSF liberal terms including pricing and marketing freedom are offered, making them viable. Also, it is based on a revenue-sharing model, a single licence for hydrocarbon resources, no cess, full gas pricing freedom, and no riders for foreign companies/joint ventures.

## Adani, KKR, Piramal among 14 prominent bidders for Rel Cap

**New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):**

Adani Finserv, KKR, Piramal Finance and Poonawala Finance are among the 14 prominent firms that have expressed interest to acquire debt-ridden Reliance Capital Ltd, promoted by the Anil Ambani Group, sources said.

The last date for submission of bids for the debt-ridden firm was extended to March 25 from the previous fixed date of March 11 by the Reserve Bank-appointed administrator.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had on November 29 last year superseded the board of Reliance Capital Ltd (RCL) in view of payment defaults and serious governance issues. This is the third large non-banking financial com-



pany (NBFC) against which the central bank has initiated bankruptcy proceedings under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) recently. The other two were Srei Group NBFC and Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL).

The deadline has been extended on the request of some prospective bidders who have sought more time to submit the EOIs, sources said.

ArpWood, Varde Partners, Multiples Fund, Nippon Life, JC Flowers, Brookfield, Oaktree, Apollo

Global, Blackstone, and Hero Fincorp are the other major companies that have submitted Expressions of Interest (EoI) for Reliance Capital by 11 March, they said.

According to the sources, the vast majority of the bidders, who have submitted EOIs, have bid for the entire company.

The bidders have two options - either they can bid for the entire RCL or any one or more than one of the eight subsidiaries of the NBFC firm.

The Reliance Capital subsidiaries include Reliance General Insurance, Reliance Nippon Life Insurance, Reliance Securities, Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company, Reliance Home Finance and Reliance Commercial Finance.

## Need to overhaul regulatory structure to promote tech development

**New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):**

The government is looking to overhaul the regulatory structure to facilitate development of technology and interaction with industry as a partner and not as adversaries, telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnav said on Sunday.

Addressing the inaugural session of a TDSAT seminar, Vaishnav said that the system entangled everybody and some people who did not have sufficiently strong values created a mess which defamed the telecom market in the past.

"Can we have one regulator for the entire digital world? Those kinds of things are happening. We need to really overhaul our entire regulatory set-



Telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnav addressing TDSAT seminar in New Delhi on Sunday.

up in terms of the legal structure, regulatory execution structure, the way our government bodies think, people are trained, the way we interact with the industry - not as adversaries but as partners. That's the next big thing that we have to do," Vaishnav said.

He said that not much

has been done as of now but need to work in a direction to continue the development of the technology stack and adding more and more start-ups to it because this is a market which can create future generations of entrepreneurs.

"We were lagging when it was 2G and 3G. We are

trying to catch up with 4G. We should at least run together in 5G but in 6G we should take the lead. Otherwise what's the point of being a nation which is today called a talent nation."

"A talented nation should be thinking in that way where it takes the lead, sets the goal and sets the direction for the whole world," Vaishnav said.

He said that a consortium of 11 institutions including IIT Chennai, IIT Kanpur, IIT Bombay, IISc Bangalore has created 4G technology in 14 months with expenditure of about USD 30 million which is a very small fraction of the cost at which dominant players in the telecom sector have created the technology.

## Govt has time till May 12 to launch LIC IPO

**Without seeking fresh Sebi approval**

**New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):**

The government has time till May 12 to launch the initial public offering (IPO) of LIC without filing fresh papers with market regulator Sebi, an official said.

The government's sale of about 31.6 crore shares or 5 per cent stake in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), which was estimated to fetch around Rs 60,000 crore to the exchequer, was originally planned to be launched in March, but the Russia-Ukraine crisis has derailed the plans as stock markets are highly volatile. On February 13, the government filed the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) for the IPO



with Sebi, which granted its approval for the same last week. "We have a window till May 12 to launch the IPO based on the papers filed with Sebi. We are watching the volatility and will file the RHP giving the price band soon," an official said.

The DRHP filed with Sebi had details of the financial results of LIC and also the embedded value till September 2021.

If the government misses the May 12 window available with it, LIC would have to file fresh papers with Sebi giving the

results of December quarter and also update the embedded value.

LIC's embedded value, which is a measure of the consolidated shareholders value in an insurance company, was pegged at about Rs 5.4 lakh crore as of September 30, 2021, by international actuarial firm Milliman Advisors. Although the DRHP does not disclose the market valuation of LIC, as per industry standards it would be about 3 times the embedded value. The official further said that although the market volatility has reduced in the last fortnight, it would wait for the market to stabilise further so that retail investors get confidence to invest in the stock. LIC has reserved up to 35 per cent of its total IPO size for retail investors.

## India GDP growth forecast cut to 7.9%

**New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):**

As higher oil prices torpedo economic recovery worldwide, Morgan Stanley has cut India's GDP forecast for the fiscal year beginning April 1 by 50 basis points to 7.9 per cent, raised retail inflation projection to 6 per cent and expects current account deficit to widen to 3 per cent of GDP.

"Even as we expect the cyclical recovery trend to continue, we expect it to be softer than we previously projected," it said in a report. "We believe that the ongoing geopolitical tensions exacerbate external risks and impart a stagflationary impulse to the economy."

India is affected through three key channels - higher prices for oil and other commodities; trade, and



tighter financial conditions, influencing business/investment sentiment.

"Building in higher oil prices, we trim our F23 GDP growth forecast 50bps, to 7.9 per cent, lift our CPI inflation forecast to 6 per cent, and expect the current account deficit to widen to 10-year high of 3 per cent of GDP," it said.

India is 85 per cent dependent on imports to meet its oil needs and the recent spurt in international oil prices, which pushed rates to a 14-year high of USD 140

per barrel before retracting, will result in the country paying more for the commodity. Also, higher prices will result in inflationary pressure.

The key channel of impact for the economy will be higher cost-push inflation, feeding into broader price pressures, which will weigh on all economic agents - households, business, and government.

Regarding India's exposure to macro stability risks, Morgan Stanley said even as macro stability indicators are expected to worsen, lack of domestic imbalances and focus on improving the productivity dynamic will help to mitigate risks. "As such, we do not expect that fiscal or monetary policy will need to tighten disruptively to manage macro stability

risks. The risk would stem from a further sustained rise in oil prices, leading to quick deterioration in macro stability and currency volatility," it said. The brokerage expected a repo rate hike in the June meeting of RBI's Monetary Policy Committee. "But we now expect the April policy to mark the process of policy normalization with a reverse repo rate hike."

"However, if the RBI were to delay its normalization process, the risk of disruptive policy rate hikes would rise. We see less room for fiscal policy stimulus to support growth given high deficit and debt levels - we see a possibility of a modest fuel tax cut and reliance on the national rural employment program as an automatic stabilizer," it said.

## Nine of top-10 firms gain Rs 1.91 lakh cr in m-cap

**New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):**

Nine of the 10 most valued companies together added a whopping Rs 1,91,434.41 crore in market valuation last week, with Reliance Industries, Infosys and TCS emerging as the biggest gainers.

ICICI Bank was the only laggard from the top-10 pack. Last week, the benchmark Sensex jumped 1,216.49 points or 2.23 per cent.

From the gainers' pack, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) added Rs 49,492.7 crore, taking its valuation to Rs 16,22,543.06 crore. The valuation of Infosys jumped Rs 41,533.59 crore to reach Rs

7,66,447.27 crore. The market valuation of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) climbed Rs 27,927.84 crore to Rs 13,31,917.43 crore and that of Bharti Airtel zoomed Rs 22,956.67 crore to Rs 3,81,586.05 crore.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of Hindustan Unilever Limited advanced Rs 17,610.19 crore to Rs 4,92,204.13 crore and that of HDFC Bank went higher by Rs 16,853.02 crore to Rs 7,74,463.18 crore.

State Bank of India's valuation went up by Rs 7,541.3 crore to Rs 4,19,813.73 crore and that of Bajaj Finance gained Rs 5,308.61 crore to Rs 4,00,014.04 crore.

## Tea industry seeks special financial package from Centre

**Kolkata, Mar 13 (PTI):**

Representative bodies of the tea industry have sought a special financial package from the Centre for retaining its viability which is now under serious threat, an official of the Indian Tea Association (ITA) said.

The tea industry bodies recently met the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce and submitted a representation on the challenges faced by the sector.

Secretary general of ITA Arijit Raha said that general issues of the industry had been discussed with a



special focus on Darjeeling. He said that production of beverage has drastically fallen in Darjeeling which is from 12 million kilograms to six million kilograms at the moment.

According to him, the reason for the drop in Darjeeling tea volumes are many, which are no place for expansion of the gardens since they are on a

hilly terrain and also replantation is difficult.

Raha said new yield after replantation generally takes a gestation period of five to seven years and the gardens will earn no revenue during that period.

"It becomes a financial challenge for the industry and also Darjeeling yields are falling. Since fixed costs are the same for Darjeeling gardens and those in the plains, cost of production is much high in the hills", he added. Above that, prices of Darjeeling tea are falling. In the last six years from 2016 to 2021, prices have fallen 1.7 per cent CAGR, Raha said.

## FPI selling continues, net outflows at Rs 45,608 cr

**New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):**

Continuing their selling spree for the sixth straight month, overseas investors have pulled out a net Rs 45,608 crore from the Indian markets in March so far.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) fear that India would be impacted more by commodity price hikes, particularly in crude oil, since India is a major importer, said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

As per depositories data, FPIs pulled out Rs 41,168 crore from equities, Rs 4,431 crore from the debt seg-

ment and Rs 9 crore from hybrid instruments, taking the total net outflow between March 2-11 to Rs 45,608 crore.

This is the sixth consecutive month of FPI outflows from the Indian markets.

The selling is mainly confined to financials and IT since these segments constitute the bulk of assets under the custody of FPIs, Vijayakumar noted.

"An important takeaway from FPI selling is that it is not impacting all segments. For instance, FPIs sold IT stocks worth Rs 10,984 crore in February, but in March IT is one of the best performing sectors," he added.

## Akshay Kumar gets nostalgic on father's love for his son's films



**A**kshay Kumar, the action superstar of Bollywood, graced the sets of Sony Entertainment Television's number one comedy show 'The Kapil Sharma Show' with his co-stars Arshad Warsi, Jacqueline Fernandez, Kriti Sanon and director Farhad Samji to promote their new and upcoming film 'Bachchan Pandey!'. The actor may as well have fans all over the globe, but his number one fan is no other than his own father! On the show, the celebrated icon spoke about how parents can do anything to support their children and recounted a tale of his late father, who would diligently watch all of his son's films, many times!

Host Kapil Sharma asked Kriti Sanon about her mother who is known to fight for her daughter when it comes to internet trolls. The actress said that her mother is the most honest and unfiltered person that she knows of. On this note, Akshay Kumar also spoke about his father, who would support him through thick and thin, "Parents are like that only and I believe they should be like that! Whenever my films would be released, my father would see the film at least 14 to 15 times. Then sometimes, he used to randomly ask his friend, 'Aur, Kya kar raha hein?... koi nai? Chal aa picture dekhta hein.'" He would himself buy the tickets, have snacks during the intervals and while watching the film, he would tap his friend's shoulder and say, "that's my son". So, that's what daddies and mummies are like and so, this is not astonishing that Kriti's mother fights for her. All mothers are like that."

Tune into The Kapil Sharma Show, every Sunday at 9:30 pm only on Sony Entertainment Television.



### Model Mahi Goswami makes acting debut with 'Gulam Begam Badshah'

**M**ahi Goswami who started her showbiz career as a fashion model is making her acting debut with upcoming series 'Gulam Begam Badshah'. She says: "I'm so blessed and excited to finally make my acting dream come true. I started as a model and after shooting with popular brands and celebrities. I was looking for such an opportunity. I feel actors enjoy more recognition compared to models. But yes I have always enjoyed modelling."

Mahi, earlier won a beauty pageant says she will be playing a titular role.

"I'm playing a beautiful lead role in the series. She has many different emotions and shades. It's always fun to play such challenging roles. I'm sure after web I'll get more opportunities to be part of TV shows and movies too."



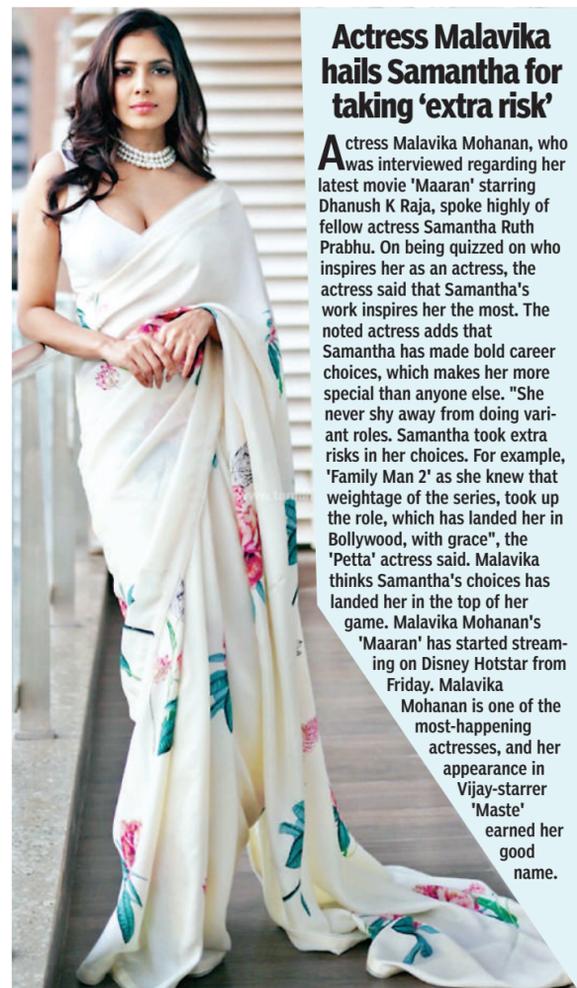
### Shefali Shah recalls challenges while shooting for 'Jalsa'

**A**ctress Shefali Shah shares her experience of working in Vidya Balan-starrer 'Jalsa'. Shefali shared: "Well, there were fun parts but right after the first shot, it's a very intense film. For me, creatively- it was very high."

Shefali and Vidya are playing the leads in the movie. Shefali is seen as Ruksana in the film and she talks about getting into the skin of character and challenges faced while shooting a sequence.

Talking about an incident from the shoot, she said: "There was one scene that was very maddening to shoot because of the continuity on camera of my dupatta, my purse. So, it was a scene where I walked into the garage and hit the boy. So, I asked the director if she is coming from the hospital and Ruksana being shy won't go out without the dupatta, so where is her dupatta."

Shefali further explained her point to the director that her on-screen character will need dupatta and he asked her to do the shot in the same way. But the challenge was to maintain continuity while holding the bag or carrying a dupatta in the same way as the previous shot. So, that it looks real and natural to the audience. She added: "He said, 'Give her the dupatta', and I came and hit the guy. So, the way I wanted to do is— hit him, grab him, hit him with purse and he said, go ahead. I did it and it was good. But then when they started to take it from different angles they wanted to match the moment of my dupatta when it fell down, when my hand went up, one handle of the purse fell. I regret all my asking again. We had to re-do it to match the continuity."



### Actress Malavika hails Samantha for taking 'extra risk'

**A**ctress Malavika Mohanan, who was interviewed regarding her latest movie 'Maaran' starring Dhanush K Raja, spoke highly of fellow actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu. On being quizzed on who inspires her as an actress, the actress said that Samantha's work inspires her the most. The noted actress adds that Samantha has made bold career choices, which makes her more special than anyone else. "She never shy away from doing variant roles. Samantha took extra risks in her choices. For example, 'Family Man 2' as she knew that weightage of the series, took up the role, which has landed her in Bollywood, with grace", the 'Petta' actress said. Malavika thinks Samantha's choices has landed her in the top of her game. Malavika Mohanan's 'Maaran' has started streaming on Disney Hotstar from Friday. Malavika Mohanan is one of the most-happening actresses, and her appearance in Vijay-starrer 'Maste' earned her good name.



### &TV artists experience interesting situation

**T**his week &TV characters across its shows - Baal Shiv, BhabijiGhar Par Hai, Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai? and Happu Ki Ultan Paltan will be put to the test with challenging circumstances. It will be interesting for the viewers to see how they will overcome these situations.

Shivya Pathania aka Devi Parvatiin&TV's Baal Shiv shares, "Devi Parvati is in pain as Baal Shiv (Aan Tiwari) returns from Kailash and enters Pataal Lok to save MahasatiAnusuya (MouliGanguly) from Tarkasur (Kapil Nirmal). Parvati goes into "antardhyaan" and Baal Shiv is upset that he is unable to locate her. Meanwhile, Ajamukhi (Shrashti Maheshwari) attacks the children of Gurukul to the tune of the elusive flute and takes them to the hill. Rishi Atri (Sandeep Mohan) tries to stop her; but Ajamukhi hurts him and asks him to call his son. MahasatiAnusuya senses the threat and requests Baal Shiv to go and protect him. Baal Shiv neutralises the sound of the magical flute by playing damru and saves them.

About the track in &TV's Happu Ki Ultan PaltanYogesh Tripathi (Happu Singh) shares, "Kundali Pandit Ji predicts a lot suffering due to aggression for Malaika (Jasneet Kaur Kant) which gets Happu worried.

## HOROSCOPE MONDAY MARCH 14

<b>Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18</b> If Elvis Presley is who you dreamed of being, today may be your day! You seem to impress one and all, and even money flows in! You play smart today and everything seems to work in your favour. Take care, says Ganesha, things may not be as they seem.	<b>Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20</b> A hectic day of socialising awaits you. You will discover hidden talents and unnoticed traits about yourself. Either that, or whoever brought them to your notice was only lying to get some socialising action of their own. You are a person of action, as well as of words, and hence, will go on to act on what you have planned, says Ganesha.	<b>Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20</b> You may pick up the hammer and chisel today. No, you're not taking up sculpture; you're finally giving in to your spouse's demands to take some home improvement measures. It's in your interest to be speedy and focused, as you are the guilty party, says Ganesha.	<b>Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21</b> There is a strong possibility of receptivity and sensitivity in your love life. On the down side, your negativity may lead to mediocre results. You are a fire-fighter when it comes to others' problems, but can forget digging a well for your own home, says Ganesha.
<b>Gemini: May 22 - June 21</b> Today, you will toil as if you have to conquer Mt. Everest. And you will, says Ganesha. You may not get a standing ovation or a medal of honour for your hard work and dedication, but you will be lavishly appreciated by your superiors and colleagues.	<b>Cancer: June 22 - July 22</b> In all likelihood, this is going to be a fairly easy day for you, says Ganesha. The only tough part of the day would be how to spend it. There will be hardly anything to do, anyone to talk to. Ideally, this is what you would call a perfect day. But not today. Today, you'll miss people.	<b>Leo: July 23 - Aug 23</b> Call it an epiphany of sorts, but today promises to be a day of revelations for you. Finally, things fall into place as your Odyssey nears its end, and you come to terms with your hidden talents, says Ganesha. Follow your heart and dive into the bottomless pool of your imagination.	<b>Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22</b> Ganesha suggests that you take a much-needed break from the daily rigmarole. Introduce an element of the exotic in order to replace all the mundane work that fills up your day. You may attend private and social get-togethers, and Ganesha advises you to mingle with other people to keep your spirits high.
<b>Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23</b> Health is always a key issue, and today, you may have to pay some special attention to the same. It may be some elderly person in the family, or even you. Take the time to give it your full attention in order to avoid any further complications. You may do well to undergo a physical examination yourself. Remember, health is wealth.	<b>Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22</b> The target is locked in and the arrow is shot. It is only a matter of time before Cupid celebrates and hits the bull's eye and you find yourself in the mush of things. Sentiments and romance will be the order of the day. There is a good chance that marriage proposals or new relationships will find their footing today, says Ganesha.	<b>Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21</b> Whatever you take up today, you are on a winning spree, foresees Ganesha. A leader, you will guide and instruct your subordinates when they seek your advice. In a way, you even encourage and motivate them. All in all, you are a happy soul at the end of the day!	<b>Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20</b> Your intuition will get the better of you today, bagging you respect and recognition, says Ganesha. But it's not every day that you get so lucky, so try and make the most of what's on the platter, for all you know, intuitions could have a mood swing too.

## CROSSWORD

**240**

**ACROSS**

- Break
- Japan's continent
- Spud buds
- Florida City
- Actor Sean
- Deep affection
- Perfumes
- West's opposite
- Adam's abode
- Whittle down
- Not pertinent
- Smudges
- Actor \_\_\_\_\_ Martin
- Fender blemish
- Retitle
- Most important
- Sheep's bleat
- Separate
- Self-importance
- Used money
- Earth's star
- Lessens

**DOWN**

- Whirlpools
- Listen
- Property documents
- Makes into law
- Slept through winter
- Leak
- On the ocean
- Harbinger
- Keyboard instrument
- Tattle
- Enjoy a book
- Autumn bloom
- Congers
- Requests
- \_\_\_\_\_ Witherspoon of "Legally Blonde"
- Lion's hair
- Chows down
- Alleviate
- Tater
- Beach feature
- Ripen
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ness
- Actor \_\_\_\_\_ Connery
- Utopia
- Marsh grass
- Guiding principles
- Always, poetically
- Madrid matron
- Noblewomen
- Sirloin, e.g.
- Box
- Prongs
- Mushroom "seed"
- Dislike intensely
- Understood! (2 wds.)
- Gong
- Finales
- Golf norm

**SOLUTION 239**

## Won't play unless I'm 100% fit and had adequate training: Praneeth



**New Delhi:** Low on confidence after below-par performances in the last six months, India's B Sai Praneeth says his mantra this year is to compete only when he gets adequate training and is at the peak of his fitness. The 29-year-old Indian was hopeful of a good show at his maiden Olympics but everything went downhill for him starting from the Tokyo Games, where he failed to win a match. The rest of the season also didn't yield desired results as he turned up for India at the team events such as Sudirman Cup and Thomas and Uber Cup Finals, besides the world tour events, without adequate breaks or training. "My bad luck started since the Olympics. On hindsight, going to Sudirman cup without training was a mistake but it was a team event and it was about playing for India."

## Young gymnast Protistha Samanta selected for upcoming World Cups



**Agartala:** Young gymnast Protistha Samanta from West Bengal has been included in India's six-member contingent which will participate in the upcoming World Cups in Egypt and Azerbaijan. The 18-year-old, who had claimed a gold medal at the Khelo India Youth Games in women's under-17 all-round artistic gymnastics events in Pune in 2019, will be competing at the World Cup beginning at Cairo, Egypt from March 17 to 20. She will also participate at the Baku World Cup slated from March 29 to April 1. Samanta has been training in Tripura under Bisweshar Nandi, the coach who had played a key role in Olympian Dipa Karmakar's rise, for the last three years. For the past one month, she has been training in Delhi under the watchful eye of Nandi.

round artistic gymnastics events in Pune in 2019, will be competing at the World Cup beginning at Cairo, Egypt from March 17 to 20. She will also participate at the Baku World Cup slated from March 29 to April 1. Samanta has been training in Tripura under Bisweshar Nandi, the coach who had played a key role in Olympian Dipa Karmakar's rise, for the last three years. For the past one month, she has been training in Delhi under the watchful eye of Nandi.

## Mehuli Ghosh wins women's 10m air rifle gold in National T2 trials



**Bhopal:** Mehuli Ghosh of West Bengal beat Karnataka's Tilottama Sen 17-9 to win gold in the women's 10m air rifle National T2 trials here on Sunday. Mehuli, a Youth Olympics silver medalist, had finished second in the T1 trials on Friday. Tilottama, however, won the junior women's 10m air rifle T2 trial. She also finished second in the youth T2 competition, for a profitable three-medal day. Mehuli had shot 630.1 on Saturday to qualify for the top-eight stage in sixth position. Gujarat's Elavenil Valarivan had topped the field with 632.1. From the two semi-finals on Sunday, Mehuli, Tilottama and Elavenil were joined in the medal match by Haryana's Ramita.

trials here on Sunday. Mehuli, a Youth Olympics silver medalist, had finished second in the T1 trials on Friday. Tilottama, however, won the junior women's 10m air rifle T2 trial. She also finished second in the youth T2 competition, for a profitable three-medal day. Mehuli had shot 630.1 on Saturday to qualify for the top-eight stage in sixth position. Gujarat's Elavenil Valarivan had topped the field with 632.1. From the two semi-finals on Sunday, Mehuli, Tilottama and Elavenil were joined in the medal match by Haryana's Ramita.

## Brathwaite accuses Joe Root of being 'disrespectful'

**St John's:** Former West Indies all-rounder Carlos Brathwaite has accused Joe Root of being "disrespectful" after the England skipper waited until the last five balls to concede the draw on day 5 of the opening Test here. Chasing an improbable 286 to win, West Indies were reduced to 67 for four at the start of last session but the duo of Nkrumah Bonner (38 off 138) and Jason Holder (37 off 101) batted for a combined 239 deliveries, adding 80 off 35 overs to deny England a win. The visitors showed no desire to call it early, despite the day's remaining overs dwindling with the two holding fort.

## Rattled by spectator's outburst, Osaka loses at Indian Wells



**Indian Wells:** Rattled by a derogatory shout from a spectator, Naomi Osaka went on to lose 6-0, 6-4 to Veronika Kudermetova of Russia in the second round of the BNP Paribas Open. Osaka trailed in the first set when a woman in the stands shouted, Osaka, you suck. The Japanese star approached the chair umpire to ask that something be done. But the umpire explained that she didn't know who it was and could not take any action. I didn't hear what lady say because I really so focus on my game, on my serve game, I didn't understand what she say, Kudermetova said on Saturday night. But after that moment, I saw that Naomi, she start to cry.

# Perry, McGrath, Gardner power Australia to massive win over NZ

**Wellington, Mar 13 (PTI):**

Ellyse Perry, Tahila McGrath and Ashleigh Gardner's impressive all-round display powered Australia to a crushing 141-run win over New Zealand, their third consecutive, in the ICC Women's ODI World Cup here on Sunday.

Perry (68 off 86) and McGrath (57 off 56) hit fine half-centuries before Gardner played a 18-ball 48-run cameo to help Australia post a challenging 269 for eight after being asked to bat.

Defending the target, Australia dished out a cohesive bowling effort to bowl out trans-tasman rivals New Zealand for 128 in 30.2 overs.

Darcie Brown (3/22) was the pick of the bowlers for Australia while Amanda-Jade Wellington (2/34), Gardner (2/15), Perry (1/18), McGrath (1/17) and Megan Schutt (1/22) provided the perfect support from the other end.

With three wins from as many matches, Australia displaced India from the top of the eight-team standings with six points.

Sent into bat, the opening pair of Rachel Haynes (30) and Alyssa Healy (15) shared 37 runs in 9.5 overs as Australia made a sedate start.

Australia were dealt twin blows soon when skipper Meg Lanning (5) and Healy departed in quick succession. Perry and Beth Mooney (30) then stabilised the innings with a 57-run fourth-wicket stand before the latter perished.

Perry was then joined by McGrath as the duo took the attack to the opposition to stitch 90 runs off 84 balls to take Australia past the 200-run mark before both the batters were dismissed in quick time.

While Perry struck six boundaries and one six during her stay, McGrath's innings was laced with eight hits to the fence. The final push was provided by Gardner who used her long handle to great effect, hitting four boundaries and as many sixes to take Australia past the 250-run mark. Lea Tahuu (3/53) picked up three wickets for New Zealand. The Australian bowlers were right on the money while defending the target, picking up wickets at regular intervals which unsettled New Zealand.

### Brief Scores:

**Australia:** 269 for 8 in 50 overs (Ellyse Perry 68, Tahila McGrath 57, Ashleigh Gardner 48; Lea Tahuu 3/53).  
**New Zealand:** 128 all out in 30.2 overs (Amy Satterthwaite 44; Darcie Brown 3/22, Ashleigh Gardner 2/15, Amanda-Jade Wellington 2/34).



intervals which unsettled New Zealand.

New Zealand's chase never got going as they lost wickets in a heap from the word go and failed to counter Australia's inci-

sive bowling effort. Amy Satterthwaite was the top-scorer for New Zealand with 44 off 67 balls and the second best score was from tail-ender Tahuu who made 23 off 25 balls.

Katey Martin (19) and opener Suzie Bates (16) were the two other batters who managed double digit scores as New Zealand failed to put any sort of challenge.

## Pant lights up Chinnaswamy with fastest 50

**Bengaluru, Mar 13 (PTI):**

Skipper Rohit Sharma gifted away his wicket but Rishabh Pant conjured up a record-breaking half-century as India took a commanding position in the second Test against Sri Lanka by extending their overall lead to 342 at dinner on the second day, here Sunday.

With plenty of time at their disposal after bundling out Sri Lanka for 109 in the first session for a 143-run first innings lead, the India batters gained more experience of playing with pink ball on a wicket that assisted spinners.

Shreyas Iyer (18) and Ravindra Jadeja (10) took India to 199 for five at the break after flamboyant Pant hammered Lankan bowlers all around the park.

There is never a dull moment when Pant is at the crease and it did not change today. He cut, pulled, swept, reverse swept, drove, charged down the wicket at will and raised his fifty off just 28 balls with 40 of those runs coming in boundaries.

It was fastest Test fifty by an Indian, obliterating the 30-ball effort by Kapil Dev against Pakistan in 1982. He fell for an even 50, becoming the third scalp of left-arm spinner Praveen Jayawickrama (3/50).



The Indians scored at a good pace in the second session with Lankan bowlers failing to exploit the spin-friendly conditions.

Rohit was calculative in selecting his shots before lofting off-spinner Dhananjaya de Silva straight to Angelo Mathews to fall for 46. His footwork

looking good, he largely swept left-arm spinners and charged the wicket to counter off-spin of De Silva.

However, he could not resist the temptation of going after De Silva when he closed in on a half-century. Before walking back, Rohit added 42 runs with fellow opener Mayank Agarwal (22) and 56 for the second wicket with Hanuma Vihari (35), who also frittered away a solid start.

Agarwal edged one from left-arm spinner Lasith Embuldeniya, who got the ball to turn away from good length and the edge from the Indian's bat was taken by De Silva.

Vihari, who seemed to be making the number three spot his own, missed a straight one from Jayawickrama and lost his off stump.

Jayawickrama also sent back Virat Kohli (13), whose again fell leg before and his search for that elusive 71st international hundred just got longer. He is without an international hundred in 73 innings now. It was another delivery that kept low and he was trapped on the back-foot. In the morning session, fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah (5/24) completed his eighth five-wicket haul and first at home as India polished off the Sri Lankan lower-order in a jiffy.

## Medvedev debuts as No. 1, Nadal wins at Indian Wells

**Indian Wells, Mar 13 (AP):**

Daniil Medvedev beat Tomas Machac 6-3, 6-2 in the second round of the BNP Paribas Open, the Russian's first tournament since ascending to No. 1 in the world.

Medvedev made quick work of his Czech opponent, finishing Machac off in just over an hour. The Russian won 80% of his first-serve points and saved the lone break point he faced.

Rafael Nadal didn't have it as easy in opening his pursuit of a fourth title at Indian Wells. He got pushed to the limit by practice partner Sebastian Korda before winning 6-2, 1-6, 7-6 (3), giving Nadal a 16-0 record this year.

"I started to play a little bit more crosscourt with my forehand and with having a little bit more of calm," Nadal said. He made a couple mistakes and I was able to save myself."

Nadal won the Australian Open in January for his record 21st major championship, breaking a tie with Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic. He won other titles in Melbourne and in Mexico.

Nadal trailed 5-2 in the third set before winning four straight games with two breaks of Korda to take



a 6-5 lead. Korda held at 6-all to force the tiebreaker. The 38th-ranked Korda led 3-2 and then Nadal reeled off five straight points to close out the 2 1/2-hour match.

"He's one of the greatest players of all time. He's super hot. Hasn't lost a match this year, Korda said. To kind of push him to the edge was awesome. Shows a lot of my game, how dangerous it can be against tough opponents.

Before the match, Nadal

withdrew from the Miami Open, which begins March 21. He is managing a chronic condition in his left foot.

Earlier this week, Medvedev received a trophy commemorating his status atop the ATP Tour rankings. He displaced Djokovic, who wasn't allowed to enter the U.S. to play because he's not vaccinated against COVID-19. Medvedev has to reach the quarterfinals in the desert to stay in the top spot.

## Lakshya Sen stuns Olympic champion Axelsen, enters German Open final

**Muelheim Am Der Ruhr, Mar 12 (PTI):**

World Championships bronze medallist Lakshya Sen stunned Olympic gold winner Viktor Axelsen in a hard-fought match to enter the final of German Open Super 300 tournament here on Saturday.

The 20-year-old Sen, who had claimed his maiden Super 500 title at the India Open in January, continued his rich vein of form as he sent the world No. 1 and top-seed Axelsen packing with a 21-13 12-21 22-20 win in the semi-final that lasted one hour and 10 minutes.

It was a memorable performance from the world No. 12 Indian as he recorded his first win over his highly-fancied rival who has a 4-0 head-to-head



record before Saturday's match.

In the final on Sunday, Sen will face Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn who beat Lee Zii Jia of Malaysia in the other semi-final.

Sen was ahead throughout the first game that lasted 21 minutes. He did not give the Dane any chance to get ahead of him. Axelsen found it difficult to match Sen's pace in the first game.

## West Indies hold out England for draw in 1st test

**St John's, Mar 13 (AP):**

West Indies held on to draw the first test after England made a bold declaration on the final day at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

England came within six wickets of winning on a sluggish pitch with an undermanned bowling attack seamer Mark Wood was injured was testament to its tenacity.

West Indies also deserved credit for holding out after being reduced to 67-4. Nkrumah Bonner and Jason Holder kept England at bay for the last 36 overs, but not without some drama.

After England captain Joe Root notched his 24th test century and was out for 109, England declared its second innings at 349-6 just before lunch and



Nkrumah Bonner (L) and Jason Holder (R), of West Indies, 50 runs partnership during the fifth and final day of the 1st Test between England and West Indies at Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium in North Sound, Antigua and Barbuda.

tempted West Indies with a winning target of 286 from 70 overs.

But West Indies lost too many wickets after lunch and went into survival mode, finishing on 147-4. Bonner was 38 not out

after facing 138 balls and Holder 37 not out after 101.

Spinner Jack Leach was the main tormentor. In the 49th over, he rapped Holder on his back pad on 13 but England didn't review.

England finished its second innings in the morning, resuming on 217-1. Zac Crawley added four runs to his overnight score before he was yoked by Holder on 121, and Root moved from 84 to 109 then was bowled by Alzarri Joseph.

## 'Punjab going to get honest CM after years'

Amritsar, Mar 13 (PTI):

AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday said after many years, Punjab is going to get an honest chief minister and asserted that his party will give an honest government to the state. "Tussi kamaal kar dita... I love you Punjab," he said, thanking the voters of the state for the huge mandate they have given to his party.

"The whole world is discussing you. The world is yet to believe that such a big inqilab (revolution) has come to Punjab," Kejriwal said during a roadshow organised by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) to celebrate its landslide poll victory. AAP's chief minister-designate



AAPs Punjab Chief Minister-elect Bhagwant Mann with Delhi CM and party convenor Arvind Kejriwal offers prayer at Golden Temple, in Amritsar, Sunday.

Bhagwant Mann also took part in the roadshow. The AAP won 92 of the 117 Assembly seats in Punjab, decimating the Congress and the SAD-BSP combine. Kejriwal noted that

the voters of Punjab made leaders like Parkash Singh Badal, Sukhbir Singh Badal, Navjot Singh Sidhu, Charanjit Singh Channi, Bikram Singh Majithia, Adesh Partap

Singh Kairon, Manpreet Singh Badal and Rajinder Kaur Bhattal bite the dust in the just-concluded election. "It is a very big inqilab and only Punjabis could do this," he said.

"I am happy that after many years, Punjab is going to get an honest chief minister. My younger brother Bhagwant is fiercely honest. An honest government will be formed," the Delhi chief minister said. He said if a minister or an MLA of the party is found to be indulging in any kind of wrongdoing, he will be put behind bars. "There will be a fiercely honest government," Kejriwal said while targeting other political parties for allegedly looting the state.

## BASANT UTSAV



Women play with colours during celebrations of the upcoming 'Basant Utsav, at Maidan in Kolkata, Sunday.

## Exercise on to smoke out Maoists in Jharkhand

Ranchi, Mar 13 (PTI):

Parts of tribal-dominated Jharkhand suffering from the Maoist menace for long are of late witnessing a surge in clashes between security forces and the red rebels - an indication that exercises are on to get them out of their hiding places.

Jharkhand, with a population of little more than 3 crore, has 19 out of the total 90 extremist-hit districts across India. The country has 30 severely extremist affected districts and 13 of them are in this state.

The presence of left wing extremists has now been restricted to three-four regions of the state.

### Govt plans to publicise its social welfare schemes, benefits

New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI): The central government plans to spread the message on the way various social welfare schemes have benefited the masses, including women, and people from SC and ST communities. A decision was taken last week to ask the various central ministries to collate the various welfare schemes launched by them in the past seven-and-a-half years and the number of people they have benefited. After a thorough review, the government will launch a campaign to amplify the schemes and their benefits extended across India, sources aware of the decision said on Sunday. Various welfare schemes of the government are said to have played a key role in helping BJP win assembly polls in four out of five states, including Uttar Pradesh.

The anti-Maoist operation will continue. We urge them to surrender under the state's surrender and rehabilitation policy, a top police official, who did not wish to be quoted, said.

There has been visible reduction in Maoists' activities in Jharkhand in the past few years due to continuous operations against them by security forces, the official said.

The state police in association with central forces have been carrying out raids to nab Maoists, as part of the Operation Double Bull, in the jungles of Lohardaga and its neighbouring districts since February 8.

Till now, nine Maoists of the rank of sub-zonal com-

mander and area commander have been arrested, while one has been killed in 'Operation Double Bull'.

Since February 25, five top Maoist leaders, carrying rewards ranging from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 25 lakh on their heads, have also surrendered before the security forces.

Under the surrender policy, which was implemented by the Jharkhand government in 2010, altogether 231 Maoists have laid down arms till January this year; a police official said.

As many as 9,631 Maoists have been arrested since the formation of Jharkhand in 2000 and 931 others have been killed.

New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court has sought response of microblogging platform Twitter on a plea challenging the suspension of a user account for alleged violation of rules.

Justice V Kameswar Rao issued notice to Twitter and the Centre on the petition by Jasdeep Munjal who said that on February 24, when he tried to login to his Twitter handle @MeghBulletin, he saw that his account was suspended by the US-based social media platform without giving any notice to him.

The court listed the petition for further hearing on March 30, when several other similar matters will

be heard. The Centre was represented through standing counsel Manish Mohan. Senior advocate Sajjan Poovayya, representing Twitter, said the writ petition was not maintainable against the platform as it was a private entity.

The petition said after suspension of the account, the petitioner received an email from Twitter stating that the account has been suspended for violating the Twitter rules.

"A lot of Twitter users,

### Delhi HC to Twitter

## 'Respond to plea against suspension of user account'

including various social media influencers and friends, expressed their sympathy for the arbitrary suspension of the petitioner's account.

The same thing happened with the petitioner's previous twitter handle @MeghUpdates which had more than 1,68,000 followers and millions of impressions per month at the time of its suspension,"

Munjal, represented through advocate Raghav Awasthi, said. He claimed that there

were multiple accounts which were impersonating the petitioner's account for getting indirect benefits and removing his handle from the platform without any notice has also given an unquestioned opportunity to fake handles in spreading false news in his name.

"The action of Twitter is violative of various provisions of the Constitution including Articles 14, 19 and 21 inasmuch as it is an impairment of the right to free

speech and is arbitrary. "Furthermore, there is no provision under which content can be edited or modified before transmission suo-motu by an intermediary like Twitter.

In other words, there is no sanction for this action under the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021," the plea, filed through advocate Mukesh Sharma, said.

## 'Sufism is weapon against extremism, terrorism'

New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):

Sufism is a weapon against extremism and there is a need to re-establish and promote it in the country, the chief of a body of the Sufi sect said on Sunday.

Calling on people to give priority to humanity and the nation's progress, All India Sufi Sajjadanashin Council (AISSC) chairman Syed Naseruddin Chishti said Islam never talks about violence in the name of religion, and people should refrain from violent activities in such delicate times.

"Sufism is a weapon against extremism and terrorism. So there is a need to re-establish and promote Sufism on the ground. Sufis are seen as a



Syed Naseruddin Chishti

strong foundation of unity between Hindus and Muslims, which is very much required in the county currently," he said while addressing a Sufi meet at the Mashaikh Manzil near the Hazrat Nizamuddin Dargah here.

Organised by the AISSC's Delhi chapter, the meet was attended by

heads of around 200 dargahs from across the country. Chishti stressed that people should keep religious extremism aside and give priority to humanity and the country's progress. These days some extremist groups are spreading hate and misleading the youth for their interests, he said.

"In such a scenario it is our responsibility that we caution Muslims and tell them that they should not let their children join such extremist organisations. They should make efforts for good education of their wards," Chishti said.

Progress and success can be achieved only through good education and hard work not by terrorism and weapons, he said.

### Stereotyping of North-East must end: VP

New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI): Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday lamented that even after several years, the general attitude towards the North-East is largely characterised by ignorance, lack of appreciation and "stereotyping" in the rest of India.

"This must change," he said in a Facebook post after his visit to Mizoram and Sikkim.

Efforts must be made, Naidu asserted, to include inspiring stories from the North-East in the school curriculum.

"I am sure such efforts will bring positive change in people's mindset towards Northeastern India, and this would strengthen our national unity," he said.

## AIADMK taunts ruling DMK, Left activist over liquor ban

Chennai, Mar 13 (PTI):

The main opposition AIADMK on Sunday accused the ruling DMK of being silent over implementation of prohibition and also targeted activists who had held campaigns seeking liquor ban during its regime.

Ten months have rolled by after the DMK assumed power in Tamil Nadu and the number of state-run liquor outlets are increasing, alleged AIADMK's Tamil daily 'Namadhu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma' in a write-up.

The DMK had assured ahead of the 2016 Assembly election that liquor shops would be

closed immediately, the AIADMK said. Before the 2021 Assembly polls, the DMK promised closure of liquor outlets in a staggered manner, the AIADMK organ said.

When this was the case, the DMK government earned huge revenue as about 'Rs 40,000 crore' is the annual liquor sale, the AIADMK claimed and accused the ruling party of being 'mute' when the question of liquor ban was posed.

The DMK had demanded prohibition while in opposition and now that it is in the saddle of power, the AIADMK claimed that its arch-rival led government opened more liquor out-

lets and gave licence to new breweries. "This is the DMK's wont and innocent public should realise it."

Referring to activist Kovan, a functionary of a Left outfit 'Makkal Kalai Ilakkiya Kazhagam' who became popular for his 'Moodu tasmacai moodu' (Close down TASMALC liquor shops) campaign during the AIADMK regime, the main opposition party asked 'in which bunker is he hiding now?'

It was a song and dance based campaign seeking closure of all liquor outlets. Protests were also held in many parts of the state seeking closure of liquor shops.

## परिहार हॉस्पिटल

Mother and children hospital

### स्त्री रोग विशेषज्ञ

## डॉ. प्रियंका सिंह परिहार

(M.B.B.S., D.G.O.) Reg. No. C.G.M.C. 1533/2008

- गर्भावस्था की संपूर्ण जांच व इलाज
- नार्मल एवं सिजेरियन द्वारा प्रसूति की सुविधा
- बच्चेदानी निकालने का ऑपरेशन
- बांझपन की जांच एवं इलाज
- मासिक धर्म संबंधित बीमारियों का इलाज

### बाल्य एवं शिशु रोग विशेषज्ञ

## डॉ. शशिकपुर सिंह परिहार

(M.B.B.S., M.D.) Reg. No. CGMC 263/04

- नवजात शिशु की गहन चिकित्सा यूनिट (NICU)
- गंभीर बच्चों के लिए गहन चिकित्सा यूनिट (PICU)
- प्रतिदिन सम्पूर्ण टीकाकरण की सुविधा
- C-PAP एवं वेन्टीलेटर की सुविधा उपलब्ध
- बच्चों के आहार संबंधी परामर्श
- बच्चों के हृदय रोग एवं मस्तिष्क रोग विशेषज्ञ से जांच एवं परामर्श सुविधा

**उपलब्ध सुविधाएं -**

- 24x7 पैथोलॉजी व एम्बुलेंस सेवा की सुविधा
- एक्स-रे, सोनोग्राफी, E.C.G., E.E.G. सुविधा
- 24x7 ओ.पी.डी. एवं आपातकालीन सुविधा

**डॉ. स्वयंसेवक बचेल स्वास्थ्य योजना के तहत राशन कार्ड एवं स्मार्ट कार्ड से निःशुल्क इलाज**

**- जांच एवं परामर्श (O.P.D.) का समय -**

**सुबह 10.00 बजे से दोपहर 02.00 बजे तक, शाम 05.00 बजे से रात्रि 08.00 बजे तक**

**संपर्क करें- 9753059148, 8103019449, 9630320115**

**पता - मां दन्तेश्वरी मंदिर गेट के सामने, मिनीमाता चौक, बिलासपुर रोड, कवर्धा (छ.ग.)**