



## BRIEF



School teachers pose for photos, after playing with colours ahead of the upcoming festival of Holi, at a school, in Moradabad, Monday.

## Appointed

■ New Delhi: N Chandrasekaran, chairman of Tata Sons, has been appointed as the chairman of Air India by the airline's board, aviation industry sources said on Monday. Salt-to-software conglomerate Tata Group had on October 8 last year won the bid to acquire debt-laden state-run Air India by offering Rs 18,000 crore for it. Tata Sons is yet to appoint the chief executive officer and managing director (CEO&MD) of Air India.

## Collapses

■ New Delhi: Eight workers were rescued and several others are feared trapped after an under-construction building collapsed in Kashmir Gate area here on Monday, police said. The fire department said it received information about the incident at 5.24 pm, following which three fire tenders were rushed to the spot. Deputy Commissioner of Police (north) Sagar Singh Kalsi said, "Information was received regarding a building collapse at Nicholson Road, Kashmir Gate.

## Denied bail

■ Mumbai: A special PMLA court here on Monday refused bail to former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh in an alleged money laundering case. Deshmukh, an NCP leader, was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on November 2, 2021. He is currently in judicial custody. Special judge RN Rokade rejected his bail plea on Monday. There is "enough evidence" to prima facie hold that he was "involved" in the money laundering case, the judge said.

## Judicial custody

■ New Delhi: A Delhi court on Monday sent to 14-day judicial custody former managing director and chief executive officer of National Stock Exchange (NSE) Chitra Ramkrishna in connection with the co-location scam case while turning down her request for certain facilities in jail, saying she cannot be treated differently. Special Judge Sanjeev Aggarwal ordered that Ramakrishna be physically produced before the court next on March 28 and rejected her counsel's request for home-cooked food in jail.

Weather	
	High 36 Low 19
MARKET	
NIFTY	16,871.30 ▲
SENSEX	56,486.02 ▲
BULLION	
GOLD	52,131
SILVER	68,645

## MAJOR DECISION

# Covid vaccination for 12-14 yrs to begin from Mar 16

## Comorbidity clause removed for precaution doses

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

The COVID vaccination for children in the age group of 12-14 years will begin from Wednesday, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya announced on Monday.

The COVID-19 vaccine to be administered to the 12-14 years age group would be Corbevax manufactured by Biological E. Limited, Hyderabad, the Union health ministry said. Tweeting the announcement in Hindi, the minister said, "if the children are safe then the country is safe! I am happy to inform that the COVID vaccination of children in the age group of 12 to 13 and 13 to 14 is starting from March 16. Also, everyone aged 60 years and above will now be able to get precaution doses."

Mandaviya also urged the families of children and people in the age group of 60 years and



above that they must get the vaccination done.

The Union Government after due deliberations with scientific bodies has decided to start COVID-19 vaccination for 12-13 yr and 13-14 yr age groups (those born in 2008, 2009 and 2010 i.e those who are already above 12 years of age) of the population from March 16, 2022, the ministry said in a statement. According to official sources, around 7.11 crore

children will be vaccinated under the new age group. Biological E Ltd has supplied 5 crore doses of Corbevax to the Centre and the vaccine has been distributed to states, sources said.

The announcement comes at a time when schools across the country are opening up given the considerable decline in the COVID cases. The Government has also decided that the condition of comorbidity for COVID19 precaution dose for population over 60 years of age will be removed forthwith, the ministry said.

"Hence, from 16th March 2022 onwards, the entire population above 60 years of age will be eligible for precautionary doses of COVID19 vaccine," the ministry said.

The population above 14 years of age is already being inoculated under the ongoing COVID vaccination program.

## JEE-Main 2022 rescheduled to avoid clash

With Class 12 board exams

New Delhi: The National Testing Agency (NTA) has rescheduled the first session of engineering entrance exam JEE-Main as its dates were clashing with Class 12 board exams, according to officials.

The exam will now be held on April 21, 24, 25, 29 and May 1 and 4. Earlier, the first session was scheduled from April 16 to 21. "Representations are being received from candidates seeking change of dates of first session on account of clashing of their board exam date with JEE-Main. In view of persistent demand from student community, the NTA has decided to reschedule the dates," a senior NTA official said. The Joint Entrance Examination-Main comprises two papers. Paper one is conducted for admission to undergraduate engineering programmes — BE and B.Tech — at NITs, IITs and other centrally-funded technical institutions, and institutions and universities funded and recognised by participating state governments. It is also an eligibility test for JEE (Advanced), which is conducted for admission to IITs. The second phase of the exam is scheduled from May 24 to 29, 2022.

## Naxal couple with Rs 13 lakh reward on their heads surrenders

Kabirdham, Mar 14:

A Naxal couple with a collective reward of Rs 13 lakh on their heads surrendered in Kabirdham district on Monday, police said.

Kabirdham Superintendent of Police Dr Lal Umed Singh identified the couple as Karan alias Suddhu Hemla (26) and his wife Anita (22).

"Hemla was active as Bodla Area Committee commander and Anita was a member of this committee. They were part of the outlawed movement's Kanha Bhoramdev division committee," the SP said. "Hemla was involved in three incidents of violence and was carrying a

The couple was identified as Karan alias Suddhu Hemla (26) and his wife Anita (22). Hemla was involved in three incidents of violence and was carrying a reward of Rs 8 lakh.. His wife Anita has taken part in five incidents of Maoist violence and the bounty on her head was Rs 5 lakh.

reward of Rs 8 lakh.. His wife Anita has taken part in five incidents of Maoist violence and the bounty on her head was Rs 5 lakh. They left the movement in 2019 and decided to surrender now," he added. They were given Rs 10,000 each after the surrender and they will be rehabilitated as per the state government's policy, he said.

## 'India to achieve SDG target of 70/lakh live births'

■ By 2030

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI): The maternal mortality ratio of India has declined by 10 points, the Union health ministry said on Monday, noting that the country is on the verge of achieving its SDG target of 70 per lakh live births by 2030.

Quoting a special bulletin on Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) released by the Registrar General of India, the ministry said the country has been witnessing a progressive reduction in MMR from 130/lakh in 2014-2016, 122/lakh in 2015-17, 113/lakh in 2016-18, and

## What is SDG....

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) is a target of 70 per lakh live births by 2030. Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) released by the Registrar General of India, the ministry said the country has been witnessing a progressive reduction in MMR from 130/lakh in 2014-2016, 122/lakh in 2015-17, 113/lakh in 2016-18, and 103 per lakh live births in 2017-19.

103 per lakh live births in 2017-19.

The maternal mortality ratio is the number of maternal deaths during a given time period per 1,00,000 live births during the same time period.

With this persistent decline, the ministry said India is on the verge of achieving National Health Policy (NHP) target of 100/lakh live births by

2020 and certainly on track to achieve the sustainable development goal (SDG) target of 70 per lakh live births by 2030.

The number of states which have achieved the SDG target has now risen from five to seven — Kerala (30), Maharashtra (38), Telangana (56), Tamil Nadu (58), Andhra Pradesh (58), Jharkhand (61), and Gujarat (70).

## NAXAL VIOLENCE

# ITBP official killed, 2 jawans injured in Naxal blasts

Narayanpur, Mar 14 (PTI):

An official of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) was killed and two jawans suffered injuries in two separate incidents of Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blasts triggered by Naxals in Narayanpur district on Monday, a police official said.

One of the incidents took place around 8.30 am between Dondribeda and Sonpur villages when a team of the ITBP's 53rd battalion was out on patrolling duty to ensure security to a road construction work, Inspector General of Police (Bastar range) Sundarraj P told PTI.

When the patrolling team was cordoning off a forest patch, security personnel came in contact with the pressure IED, triggering an explosion, he said. Assistant Sub-Inspector Rajendra Singh, hailing from Tehri in Uttarakhand

## About the incidents

One of the incidents took place around 8.30 am on Monday between Dondribeda and Sonpur villages when a team of the ITBP's 53rd battalion was out on patrolling duty to ensure security to a road construction work. When the patrolling team was cordoning off a forest patch, security personnel came in contact with the pressure IED, triggering an explosion. Assistant Sub-Inspector Rajendra Singh, hailing from Tehri in Uttarakhand was killed in the blast, while head constable Mahesh received injuries. In another incident, constable Soyam Bheema of the Chhattisgarh Armed Force (CAF) was injured after he came in contact with a pressure IED in Chotedonger police limits around 12.30 pm

was killed in the blast, while head constable Mahesh received injuries, he said.

The injured jawan was shifted to the district hospital, the official said.

In another incident, constable Soyam Bheema of the Chhattisgarh Armed Force (CAF) was injured after he came in contact with a pressure IED in Chotedonger police lim-

its around 12.30 pm, the official said. He was part of a road opening party which was patrolling between Amdai camp and Dhanora police station.

The injured constable was provided first-aid at the Chotedonger primary health centre and then airlifted to the state capital Raipur for better medical assistance, the official said, adding that he was out of danger.

## 'Fully compliant with RBI data localisation directions'

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI): Paytm Payments Bank on Monday said it is fully compliant with the data localisation rules of the Reserve Bank of India and the entire data of the bank resides in the country. The RBI last week directed Vijay Shekhar Sharma-promoted Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) to stop opening new accounts amid "material supervisory concerns" observed in the bank.

"All of the Bank's data resides within the country. We are true believers of the Digital India initiative, and remain com-

mitted to driving financial inclusion in the country," PPBL said in a statement. Shares of the parent company of PPBL, One97 Communications, were hammered on BSE and National Stock Exchange after a report claimed that Paytm Payments Bank Ltd's servers were sharing information with China-based entities that indirectly own a stake in Paytm Payments Bank. The company has rejected the report.

Sharma holds 51 per cent stake in Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL), while the remaining 49 per cent is held by One97 Communications.

## SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS

# Govt seeks Par nod for extra spending of Rs 1.07 lakh cr

Rs 15K cr towards fertilizer subsidy

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI): The government on Monday sought Parliament nod for net additional spending of over Rs 1.07 lakh crore, including about Rs 15,000 crore towards fertilizer subsidy, in the third batch of supplementary demands for current fiscal year. As per the third batch of supplementary demands for grants tabled in the Lok Sabha, approval is being sought for gross additional expenditure of over Rs 1.58 lakh crore. Of this,

proposals involving net cash outgo aggregate to over Rs 1.07 lakh crore and gross additional expenditure, matched by savings of ministries/departments or by enhanced receipts aggregates to over Rs 50,946 crore. For payment towards fertilizer subsidy, the government has sought additional fund to the tune of Rs 14,902 crore and Rs 13,049 crore for capital infusion in National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development. This

also includes Rs 5,000 crore as grant in aid. In addition, the government also sought Rs 5,000 crore for recapitalisation of public sector general insurance companies, according to document.

There are four public sector general insurance companies— New India Assurance Company, National Insurance Company Limited (NICL), United India Insurance Company Limited (UIICL) and Oriental Insurance Company Limited (OICL).

## 'Covid ex-gratia to be paid for each death in family'

New Delhi, Mar 14:

The Supreme Court Monday said its earlier order regarding ex-gratia of Rs 50,000 to the family members of those who lost their lives due to COVID-19 is "very clear" and the payment is to be made for each death.

The apex court said this while dealing with an application filed by Assam which had sought a clarification whether each of the children of the deceased parents would be provided ex-gratia payment of Rs 50,000, in case there is more than one child.

"In fact, our earlier order is very clear and the ex-gratia payment of Rs

50,000 shall be qua each death," a bench of Justices M R Shah and B V Nagarathna said.

"Therefore, it is observed and clarified that if there is more than one child, only one child/family member, as the case may be, shall get ex-gratia payment of Rs 50,000," it said.

The top court observed that in case both the parents have died, the child shall get Rs 50,000 qua each death, that is one for the deceased father and another for the deceased mother.

In an effort to provide some help to over 10,000 children who have lost both their parents to COVID-19, the apex court

had on January 19 directed all the state governments to reach out to those kids and pay them compensation. During the hearing on Monday, the counsel appearing for Assam said they have filed an application seeking clarification on the issue as there are such families in the state where there are more than one children.

"Whether we are supposed to give it to both the children or should it be one ex-gratia payment made to the family," the counsel said. The bench observed that its order is very clear.

"It is per death Rs 50,000," it said, while disposing of the application.

## Ukraine, Russia resume talks as fighting nears Kyiv

Lviv (Ukraine), Mar 14 (AP):

Russian and Ukrainian negotiators held a new round of talks on Monday, even as Russia's military forces kept up their punishing campaign to capture Ukraine's capital with fighting and artillery fire in Kyiv's suburbs.

After an airstrike on a military base near the Polish border brought the war dangerously close to NATO's doorstep, the talks raised hopes for progress in evacuating civilians from besieged Ukrainian cities and getting emergency supplies to areas without enough food, water and medicine. Everyone is waiting for



A woman holding a small dog walks in front of an apartment in a block which was destroyed by an artillery strike in Kyiv, Ukraine, Monday.

news. We will definitely report in the evening, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a new video address.

The negotiations taking place by video conference are the fourth round in-

volving higher-level officials from the two countries and the first held in a week. The previous discussions took place in person in Belarus, and did not produce breakthroughs to end the fighting in Ukraine or lasting

## 'I wish this war would end'

Warsaw: As Russia's war in Ukraine becomes a grim new reality for millions of Ukrainians, the tens of thousands who make the increasingly treacherous journey toward safety in the European Union each day are left with no sense of when, or if, they'll ever return home.

agreements on humanitarian routes. Communication is being held, yet it's hard, Ukrainian presidential aide Mykhailo Podolyak tweeted along with a photo of the two sides meeting by video link.



# Sextortion accused arrested from Haryana

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 14:** With the arrest of a ruffian, police claimed to have busted a gang involved in sextortion. The accused was arrested from Mewat in Haryana. Under the able guidance of SSP Badri Narayan Meena, the joint team of Bori Police Station and Cyber cell succeeded in solving this case. The accused had extorted money from several people from across the country. Two other accused are at large. Police have sealed six bank accounts of the accused.

While addressing media persons here at Police Control Room on Monday, SSP Badri Narayan Meena informed that one Deepak Dewangan had committed suicide by hanging self.

While investigating the matter, the team of Bori Police Station came to know that Deepak was very disturbed for the last 02-03 days. Police conducted technical investigation of his mobile phone and discovered that an unknown girl was blackmailing him and demanding money. She had some obscene video of the deceased. An FIR was lodged under sections 306, 384, 34 of IPC and 67, 67 (a) of IT Act.

Taking the matter into serious cognizance, SSP Badri Narayan Meena directed his subordinates to trap the accused. Cyber Cell analysed the mobile numbers and social media accounts used by the accused and discovered that a Sextortion Gang of Mewat Haryana was in-

volved.

The Cyber Cell led by Inspector Gaurav Tiwari continued tracking the technical spheres while the second team led by Inspector Santosh Mishra (SHO, Bori) went to Mewat, Haryana and Rajasthan. The team collected information about the residence of the accused and found that most of the people at his village had criminal background. Police team tried to search the accused in villages Punhana, Lohingkhurd, Tigaon, Chandaka, Firozpur, Jhirka and Gokalpur but did not succeed. In the meanwhile, Wakil Ahmed, the prime accused in the



case, was located in village Lohingkhurd. A violent clash between two parties in village Lohingkhurd was going on at that time. The difficult geographical situation of the village and the criminal background of the locals could not demoralise the police team. Posing as agricul-

tural labourers, the police team camped outside the village for three days. On the third day, the accused came out of the village in a private vehicle. Police team chased him for about 30 kilometers and finally took him in custody.

During interrogation, the accused revealed that

he has been using fake IDs of girls on Facebook for the last two years. He used to send friend request to people on Facebook and encourage them to make a video call through Facebook Messenger. Posing as a girl, the accused seduced the targets and made them remove the clothes. Later he played porn videos on the facebook messenger and recorded the activities of the person on the other side. Later they threatened their targets of uploading the video on social media and extorted money from them. Accused Wakil Ahmed (30) son of Saheed Ahmed a resident of Lohingkhurd,

Police Station Punhana was arrested and brought to Durg on transit remand. The absconding accused are Zaheer Abbas son of Noor Mohammad a resident of Gokalpur (Mewat) and Azharuddin son of Aasu a resident of Lohingkhurd (Mewat).

SSP Badri Narayan Meena said that the trend of sextortion is increasing rapidly. He appealed the people for not hesitating from approaching police. Connecting with an unknown person via video call can be a risk your data is also transferred along with the video. In cases of sextortion, the accused record the video of your sexual activity, edit it and prepare an objectionable video for blackmailing.

SSP Meena suggested the people for not accept-

ing friend request of any unknown girl on Facebook; Do not make friends with strangers in Facebook or social media apps; If you become a victim of a crime like honey trap, contact the cyber cell immediately and Do not talk to any unknown person on video call.

Inspector Santosh Mishra, Head Constable Ramkrishna Tiwari, Constable Shahbaz Khan, Pankaj Chaturvedi, Rajkumar Chandra, Jagjit Singh from Bori Police Station and Inspector Gaurav Tiwari, ASI Shamit Mishra, Head Constable Chandrashekhar Banjeer, Constable Vikrant Yadu, Vijay Shukla and Javed Khan from Cyber Cell played vital role in arresting the accused.

## Universal Rail Mill records New Highs in Performance

### Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 14:** SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Universal Rail Mill (URM) that rolls out world's longest 130 metre rail in single piece and supplies 260 metre welded rail panels to Indian Railways has created several records in production of R 260 grade and 60E1 profile rails on March 13, 2022.

URM rolled highest number of 367 blooms on March 13 as against previous best of 360 blooms rolled on February 04, 2022. The modern mill rolled out the highest number of 253 numbers of 130 metre rails in a day on March 13 as against previous best of 239 numbers



on Feb 26, 2022.

URM recorded its highest tonnage of prime rails production at 2674 Tonnes on March 13 as against previous best of 2561 Tonnes on August 27, 2021.

Finished rail production at 2858 Tonnes on March 13 was the highest in any single day as against previous best of 2747 T on October 31, 2021. Highest number of 363 rails were

tested in the Mill's non-destructive testing facility on March 13 as against previous best of 354 on August 24, 2021. Highest number of 366 rails were visually inspected on March 13 as against previous best of 352 on October 31, 2021. As many as 151 numbers of 260 metre long rail welded panels (RWL) were inspected on March 13 - the highest in any single day - as against previous best of 150 on March 02, 2022.

SAIL-BSP has been producing the exact specification based rails for the Indian Railways through-

out its association of more than six decades. The R260 grade of Rails is targeted to meet the requirements of Indian Railways for higher speed and higher axle load.

Specifications given by RDSO for this new grade of rails are even more stringent than the specifications of rails used in European countries.

As such the steel for this new grade of rails is cleaner and the rails have higher yield strength and better mechanical properties. SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant is producing this new grade and profile of rails from both its modern Universal Rail Mill and its older Rail & Structural Mill.

## Assistant Professors arrested for abetting I/c Principal's suicide

### Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 14:** Police have arrested three faculty members of Government Nagrik Kalyan Mahavidyalaya, Nandini Ahiwara for allegedly abetting the in-charge Principal to commit suicide. The accused used to mentally torture the i/c Principal and insult him publicly. They often threatened him to get him transferred to other place.

It needs to be mentioned here that Bhuvaneswar Nayak (61) son of Late Bodlal Nayak a resident of Nandini Nagar had committed suicide by hanging self in the old college building of Government Nagrik Kalyan Mahavidyalaya, Nandini Nagar



on October 28, 2021. Police had recovered a suicide note from his pockets. Forensic investigation of the suicide note was conducted and it was discovered that the handwriting was of the deceased.

On the basis of the suicide note and statements of other people, police have arrested three faculty members of the college for abetting his suicide. The accused are Prashant

Kannauje (54) son of Meghnath Kannauje a resident of Vivekanand Nagar, Basantpur (Rajnandgaon); Dhalesh Kumar Patel (45) son of Bhojram Patel a resident of Nandini Nagar and Premendra Kumar Upadhyaya (51) son of Rameshwar Upadhyaya a resident of Samta Colony, Raipur. They have been booked under the provisions mentioned in section 306, 34 of IPC.

## WCD Minister honours women with Nari Shakti Samman

### Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 14:** On the occasion of International Women's Day, Unnati Mahila Sahakari Sahakar Samiti Limited Bhilai Durg and social service organization Lokparan Samiti organised a felicitation function at Vishali Nagar on Sunday. Empowered women from different fields were honoured on the occasion. Women SHGs had put up 21 stalls for display cum sale of their products.

The program began with lighting of lamps. Women and Child Development Minister Anila Bhendia said that today women are successfully working in every field. Even the women of the remote areas like Bastar are becoming self-reliant.

The demand for the forest produce and other products of Bastar is increasing across the world. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has introduced several programmes for welfare of women, which are bring-



ing significant change.

Bhilai City District Congress President Mukesh Chandrakar, Antyavasayi Corporation Vice President Neeta Lodhi, State Women's Commission member Tulsi Sahu, Durg Rural Congress Vice President Sarita Jitendra Sahu, Block Congress Committee Supela Kosanagar President Nandkumar Kashyap were the special guests. BMC Zone President Ramanand Maurya, State President of Lokarpan Samiti Ismail Khan, Zone Commissioner

Pooja Pillai, Women and Child Development Department Project Officer Pooja Aggarwal and others were present.

Padmashri Shamshad Begum, Inspector Prabha Rao, New Press Club of Bhilai Nagar President Bhavana Pandey, Usha Manikpuri in the field of Arts, Nidhi Chandrakar (self-employed woman), Zeenat Shakoore for Women and Child Development, Dr Anju Gupta, Durg Bar Association President Neeta Jain, Archana Mulay, Sefia Qureshi,

Simmi Sharma, Manju Sahu and Al Madad Welfare and Education Society Sector 10 were honoured.

Shaheen Siddiqui won the prize in bouquet making competition, Indu Vishwakarma in Rangoli, Meena Pal won the prize in Stall Decoration. Meenakshi Dubey, Ratna Chakraborty, Simmi Sharma, Rehana Khan, Sunita Tamrakar, Tara Vishwakarma, Mahrun Nisha, Priyanka Tamrakar, Sunita Kumar, Rajeshwari Samridhi Tamrakar, Rekha Das, Dr Sangya Pandey, Pratima Pardhi, Shamim Akhtar, Firoza Begum, Jyoti Sonone of Unnati Mahila Samiti and Awadh Vishwakarma, Dinesh Pathak, Keshav Choubey, Avinash Dubey, Dinesh Thakur, Ratna, Manju Sahu, Medha Sahu, Gudiya Yadav, Sangeeta Devangan, Dr Pikki Verma and other members of Lokarpan Samiti played vital role in organising the programme.

## Subhadra Singh hosts felicitation function on IWD

### Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 14:** Corporator and Congress leader Subhadra Singh is organising felicitation functions for women on the occasion of International Women's Day for the last 20 years. Hundreds of women attended and enjoyed the programme. Women who achieved success and distinct position in different fields were honoured with garlands, shawls and mementos.

The gathering raised the slogan given by Priyanka Gandhi, "Ladki Hoon Lad Sakti Hoon". Former MLA Pratima Chandrakar graced the function as chief guest. She appreciated Subhadra Singh for organising the event continu-



ously for the last 20 years. Dr Rashmi Bhure was the special guest. She thanked Subhadra Singh and said that it was a privilege to attend such a program. Third Gender Organisation President Guru Pooja Mausi said in

her remark that for the first time in Bhilai, their community is being honored. Special Guests were Bar Association President Neeta Jain, Sarita Sahu, Jha Madam, Doctor Manasi Gulati, Folk dancer Jageshwari

Meshram, Principal Rachna Jha, Urvashi Sahu and Rukhsana Begum. The newly elected women councilors including Malti Thakur, Meera Banjare, Anju Sinha, D Sujata were honoured.

Congress Block President Tulsi Patel, Dinsha Tumanee, Raksha Sahu and others were honoured. Chhattisgarhi folk dance was presented by well-known artist Urvashi Sahu and her team.

Subhadra Singh said that as per the intentions of the Chief Minister, they are trying to ensure food security for every family. On the occasion of IWD, ration cards are being distributed among 50 families. She had provided Ration Cards to about 1000 families till date.

प्रेरणारत्नोत् आदरणीय बड़े भईया

**मान. श्री विजय बघेल जी**

**को जन्मदिन की**

**हार्दिक बधाई एवं**

**अशेष शुभकामनाएं...**

**मान. विजय बघेल जी**

**सांसद, दुर्ग लोकसभा**

**राजा पाठक**

**सांसद प्रतिनिधि**



# Adasmeta encounter found fake in judicial probe

**'Security forces opened fire in panic, killing villagers'**

**Report tabled in Chhattisgarh Assembly**

**Central Chronicle News**

**Raipur, Mar 14:** The alleged encounter that had taken place in Adasmeta of Bijapur almost a decade ago was fake. Security forces had opened fire in panic, during celebration of Beej Pandum festival, leading to killing of eight villagers. This was the finding of the Adasmeta



Special Judicial Inquiry Commission.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel laid report of the Judicial Commission on the table of Chhattisgarh Legislative assembly on Monday. According to the report on the night of 17-18 May 2013, while passing near the village of Adasmeta, the security forces noticed a gathering of people near the fire.

Suspecting villagers as

Naxalites the security forces started firing on the crowd. According to the report this firing was not done in self-defense. No facts have been found, which shows that the security forces were fired or attacked by the villagers. According to the commission the firing had taken place due to mistake in identifying the villagers and panic on their side.

According to the commission this incident would have been averted if security forces had adequate security equipment, modern means of communication and better training. The commission noted in the report that the team that opened fire that

night at Adasmeta was briefed before being dispatched.

In order to prevent such incidents the Commission suggested making a training module to make the security forces familiar with the social conditions and religious festivals of Bastar and also about the mountainous and forested areas, improving communication system between the units involved in the operation, providing bulletproof jackets and night vision equipment to all security personnel to help them operate with greater accuracy and without panic, imparting adequate training to the security forces to deal with the

guerrilla fighting method of Naxalites and encouraging security forces to interact more with the local people.

Eight villagers including four children were killed in firing by security forces on the night of 17-18 May 2013. The security forces claimed that there were Naxalites who made the villagers as shield and they died in cross firing. The villagers claimed that that night the people of the village had gathered there to celebrate the Beej Pandum (local festival). There were no Naxalites there. The security forces who reached the place started firing on seeing them.

## 'SHOBHA YATRA'



Members of Sindhi Samaj took out 'Shobha Yatra' drenched in variety of colours prior to 'Chettri Chand' festival here on Monday.

## MLA Khujji raises issue of dilapidated school buildings

**Charges that it is putting lives of students at risk**

**Central Chronicle News**

**Raipur, Mar 14:** MLA Khujji, Channi Sahu, shot volley of queries against the School Education Minister over dilapidated condition of school buildings in her VS area.

The first question on the 6th day of Budget Session of the Assembly was by MLA Khujji Channi Sahu. She raised the issue of many school buildings turning into dilapidated condition. She

charged that many school buildings in her VS area either without building and those with building are already in dilapidated condition. She charged that this is playing with the life and death of children studying in these building. There are many schools running in small rooms made out of wooden boxes.

On this School Education Minister Preamsai Singh Tekam informed that there 3 High Schools without building in Khujji VS area and 30 are Primary and 6 are Middle Schools, which are dilapidated condition.

## Speaker orders probe into faulty tablets

**Cong MLA gheraoes School Education Minister**

**Tablets issued to teachers for attendance**

**Central Chronicle News**

**Raipur, Mar 14:** Congress MLAs gheraoed the School Education Minister Dr Preamsai Singh Tekam on charges of fault developing in the Tablets given for taking attendance of School teachers. On this question, Speaker Dr Charandas Mahant also raised quite a few questions and finally he hand-



ed over probe into the case to Vidhan Sabha Committee and names of members of Committee will be declared in a day or two.

During the question-hour session in the House on Monday, Congress MLA Lakheshwar Baghel in his question informed that form 2017-18 to 21-22, pay-



ment worth crore was made to a Company for supply of Tablets, but the total 637 tablets distributed were of no use, as it developed some fault.

He questioned the School Education Minister as to when these tablets became out of use and out of these how many of them were re-

paired? School Education Minister Tekam informed that this Scheme for the teachers was sanctioned in 2017-18 and by spending Rs 1.41 cr in Bastar district and the Company was supposed to supply the Tablets by 2021. Once the tablets is out of order, it cannot be repaired and it directly needs to be replaced.

On this MLA Baghel and Speaker VS Dr Charandas Mahant jointly raised a question as to what is the cost of on Tablet and in what period it gets out of order? Minister informed that period is that of 3 yrs and those which are out of use now cannot be repaired. On this Speaker said that

for such faulty supply complaint should be lodged against the firm and get it black-listed. MLA Baghel charged that this is case of around purchase worth Rs 200 crore and no tablets were supplied last year. On this Minister informed the House that this is two year's scheme and it has now lapsed.

Rules of purchase not followed:

Baghel charged that in this purchase the rules of 'Bhandar Kray' were not followed. As such tender should have been given to three firms and in this case two tenders were received and out of which one of the Company was

issued the order. Baghel questioned whether the Minister will get it investigated by the VS Samiti? The Education Minister Tekam accepted that the condition is such to get this matter investigated. 'I have also seen the sample of the tablet and it is beyond repair. On this BJP MLA Ajay Chandrakar said that since the Minister has accepted than declaration for inquiry should be made. Speaker Mahant said that if he hold interest for inquiry for 2.5-5%, then I make declaration for holding investigation by VS Samiti and members of the Samiti will be declared soon.

## ED conducts raid against Cong couple and relatives

**In Patan and other areas**

**Also reports of raid in house of Subhash Sharma in Balod**

**Central Chronicle News**

**Raipur, Mar 14:** Enforcement Directorate has conducted raid in the house of Congress couple from Patan and on a liquor trader from Balod. A 13-member team of ED reached Gram Gatapar of Patan on Monday morning and here raid was conducted in the house of former District Panchayat President Jayanti Sahu and Vimal Sahu. The officers of ED are checking all the documents. There are also reports of raid in the residence of their relative in Dalli-Rajhara and other places as well.

On the other hand, ED team had also raided house of Subhash Sharma

on charges of taking loan by forming fake companies. Though these days Sharma is on remand with ED and it is based upon the inputs after inquiry, the ED team raided his house and other places.

Sources also informed that a team of ED had also reached house of Subhash Sharma in Balod. It is notable here that cases were lodged against Subhash Sharma associated with liquor and hotel business in Golebazar Police Station in Raipur. It was in 2015, a person named Vikram Rana had filed case of cheating against Subhash Sharma in Golebazar thana. According to him, Subhash Sharma held Rana's land as security and on this he got loan of Rs 16.50 cr by mortgaging it with PNB. Failing to get installment, the Bank sent notice to Rana and after this he came to know about the fraud. In this case Golebazar police

arrested him in 2018 and later he got the bail and left the city. Subhash Sharma has taken loan to the tune of Rs 38.50 cr for Hotel Sapphire Inn, Goodluck Petroleum Company; and M/s Viddit Trading Company and this amount was taken from Axis Bank and Punjab National Bank Raipur. But failing to repay the amount, the Bank declared his account as fraud.

Sources of ED informed that Subhash Sharma has opened many fake companies on papers and there used to be no work in these companies and there are charges that he has opened these companies to take loan from the Banks. According to ED, Subhash Sharma has taken loan worth crore through fake documents and therefore a case has been filed against him in state police and CBI for scam worth Rs 54 crore.

## Oppn MLAs creates din over farmers' movement

**House adjourned for 5 minutes**

**Central Chronicle News**

**Raipur, Mar 14:** The members of Opposition in the House raised the issue of farmers protest, movement and death of a farmer during the protest. BJP MLA Brijmohan Agrawal, Shivratna Sharma, Dharamjeet Singh raised this issue. Apart from BJP, BSP and CJC (J) MLA also put for their views on this issue.

The Opposition members questioned as to who is responsible for death of farmer Siya Ram and why there is criminal type behaviour with the farmers? Farmers of 27 villages are on strike for last 70 days and they were not allowed to meet Rahul Gandhi and instead 'lathi-charge' was done and were brutally beaten by

the police.

On the other hand, the Opposition members highlighted that the farmers of Lakhimpur in UP were paid Rs 50 lakh and that of Chhattisgarh was paid just Rs 4 lakh as compensation. The Opposition gheraoing the CM said that CM Baghel is getting tents erected for farmer's movement in Punjab-Delhi ad sending rice from Chhattisgarh for them and family of deceased farmer of Chhattisgarh is being paid only Rs 4 lakh and questioned as to whether this is pro-farmer and farmer-sensitive government of Chhattisgarh?

An adjournment motion was submitted on farmers' movement and death of a farmer in the Vidhan Sabha on Monday. On this issue the Opposition MLAs created din in the House and after which the House was adjourned for five minutes.

## BJYM's Jan Akrosh Rally in protest against illegal traffic collection, increasing crime



**Central Chronicle News**

**Raipur, Mar 14:** Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) Raipur district today took out Jan Akrosh Rally from BJP of office in Ekatma Parisar here today in protest against illegal recovery by traffic police and growing crime. BJYM District President Govinda Gupta alleged that criminal incidents were on rise in the

capital of Chhattisgarh and traffic police was creating atmosphere of fear with illegal traffic collection.

He said that BJYM apprised the government several times about crime but the administration remained silent. Criminal incidents like knife-fighting, theft, murder have become common in Raipur, he said. Instead of controlling crime police were in-

involved in illegal traffic collection and harassing the public in the road intersections. Raipur, which was known as a peaceful city, seems to be turning into a centre of crime. The BJYM leader said that growing incidents of crime also made it difficult for women to come out of their houses and pass through the city roads.

The BJYM also handed over a memorandum to SP Prashant Agrawal demanding immediate action to check crime and stop harassing public in the name of traffic. The BJYM also warned of intense agitation. Among BJYM leaders who took part in Jan Akrosh Rally were Rajesh Pandey, Govind Gupta, Rahul Rao, Arpit Suryavanshi, Vishal Pandey, Ambar Agrawal, Hari Om Sahu, Pranay Sahu, Rahul Jain, Mukesh Patel, Deepak Tanna, Rahul Yadav, Shankar Sahu, Vikas Mittal, Akash Tiwari, Sonu Yadav, Vijay Laharwani, Samir Farikar and others.

## Budget of Raipur Municipal Corporation today

**Speaker Pramod Dubey holds meeting of corporators**

**Central Chronicle News**

**Raipur, Mar 14:** Raipur Municipal Corporation Speaker Pramod Dubey on Monday held a meeting of Congress, BJP and independent corporators to seek their support in corporation's budget to be presented on March 15 (Tuesday). Dubey asked all corporators to attend general body meeting to be held on the same day. He asked the corporators to rise above party politics and maintain dignity of the house besides giving meaningful suggestions and ideas for city development.

For the first time Governor Ms Anusuiya Uike will specially attend the General Body meeting. Dubey also discussed the preparations for the



meeting with the officials. Speaker Dubey asked to discuss openly in the public interest on the agenda related to urban development coming in the general meeting. Budget discussion would take place after the presentation of the budget speech on the financial year 2022-23 of the Municipal Corporation by Mayor Aijaz Dhebar. Prior to this the meeting called on March 15 at 11 am will start and the duration of

one hour is fixed for the question hour.

The meeting called by the Speaker was attended by Congress corporators Sameer Akhtar, Sunder Lal Jogi, Akash Tiwari, Jitendra Agrawal, Suresh Channawar, Sahdev Vyavhar, Droupadi Hemant Patel, Anjani Radheshyam Vibhar, Zone president Maniram Sahu, Ghanshyam Kshatri, Sheetal Kuldeep Boga, Neelam Neelkanth Jagat, Anwar Hussain, Prakash

Jagat, Amit Das, Alderman Afroj Anjum, Sunil Chhatwani.

BJP corporators including opposition leader Meenal Choubey, former opposition leader Suryakant Rathor, zone-3 president Dr Pramod Sahu, corporator Mrityunjay Dubey, Narad Koushal, Sarita Verma, Seema Santosh Sahu, Sushila Dhiwar, Deepak Jaiswal and independent corporator Amar Bansal were also present.

## More than 50 students fall ill, admitted in private hospital in Kharora

**Raipur, Mar 14:** Around 50 students of Amity University near Gram Math in Kharora have fallen ill after eating canteen's food. Students studying in Amity University have been admitted in Mahamaya Super Speciality Hospital and Krishna Hospital in Kharora with complaints of diarrhoea, stomach upset and vomiting. Caretaker Kamlesh Kumar Jaiswal is providing treatment to all. Though many of the students got well in the Hostel itself and only few were admitted in a private hospital in Kharora, where they recovered as well. Some of the students in the name of keeping their names anonymous informed that more than 50 students of Amity University had fallen ill after eating food from the canteen. Most of them were having symptoms of Diarrhoea. The students informed that they have lodged complaint in this regard with the University administration, but so far no action has been taken by them. Now they are all fearful of eating the canteen food and somehow managing by bringing fruits and snacks from outside.

## Would not stake conterdership in Khairagarh by-poll: Vibha Singh

**Raipur, Mar 14:** On declaration of by-polls for Khairagarh, the fight between two wives of deceased MLA Devbrath Singh has again come to fore. At one place where the first wife is preparing to contest the elections, on the other, the second wife charged her with serious charges of drawing political benefits.

The second wife of deceased MLA Devbrath Singh from Khairagarh VS Vibha Devbrath Singh has charged that she has not made any contendership for the Khairagarh by-poll, whereas first wife of her husband Padma Singh even after the divorce, is making preparations to stake claim in the property and avail political benefits through election.

Addressing a press conference in press club here on Monday, Vibha Singh



charged that Padma Singh is actually no longer 'Padma Singh' and is now Padma Pant, as after divorce from Devbrath Singh she got married to one Nitin Pant of Himachal Pradesh. It is because of such behaviour by Padma Singh that her husband Late Devbrath Singh divorced her.

Speaking further she informed that Padma Singh divorced her husband taking an hefty amount Rs 11 crore. Late Devbrath Singh paid this amount to her at the time

of divorce by selling his ancestral property and by which he was badly shaken. Further she is now remembering her sons for gaining political mileage. Vibha Singh informed that when Padma was divorced, the age of her sons was very less and they were in need of mother-figure. But at that time she divorced and got married to Nitin Pant.

On this Vibha Singh questioned that after getting married to Nitin Pant, in what capacity she can claim and live in Khairagarh and this is nothing but purely for political gains, she alleged. Vibha charged that Padma roaming in Khairagarh is trying to encash upon the situation claiming herself to be better-half of late Devbrath Singh, whereas she is no longer his wife and is the wife of Nitin Pant.



# Vaccines will also be given to children of 12 to 14 years

**To protect them from corona, will start from March 16**

**Vaccines will be given to children born in the year 2008, 2009 and 2010**

**Central Chronicle News**

**Raipur, Mar 14:** Vaccines will also be given to children of 12 to 14 years to protect against corona. It will be started in the state from March 16. The preparations for vaccination of 13 lakh 21 thousand 286 children of this age group have been completed across the state by the Health Department. For this, eligible beneficiaries can

register themselves on the Covin app. State Nodal Officer for Corona Vaccination and Director of National Health Mission Dr. Priyanka Shukla informed that children in the age group of 12 to 14 years will be given Corbevax vaccines manufactured by Biological-E, Hyderabad.

The second dose will be administered four weeks after the first dose. For this, the vaccination officers of all the districts have been oriented.

Dr. Shukla informed that the requirement of comorbidity has been abolished in the state for people above the age of 60 years for the preparation dosage. People in this age group who have completed nine months or 39

weeks for the second dose can take their third dose at the nearest COVID vaccination centre. Eligible citizens can get the third vaccine by registering in the Covin app. At present, more than one lakh 64 thousand vaccines are available for covid vaccination in the state. To prevent corona infection, one crore 73 lakh 26 thousand 449 people of the state have been given both the vaccines.

At the same time, almost all eligible people above 18 years of age have got the first vaccine of corona vaccine. One crore 97 lakh 95 thousand 312 citizens of this age group have been given the first dose of anti-coronavirus vaccine. At the same time, one crore 65 lakh 80 thou-

sand 649 people have been given both the vaccines. In the state, 11 lakh 16 thousand 786 adolescents in the age group of 15 to 18 years have also been vaccinated. 68 percent of children in this age group have received the first dose, while 45 percent of adolescents have received both.

Here seven lakh 45 thousand 800 children have got both the vaccines. Precaution doses have also been applied to four lakh five thousand 018 health workers, front-line workers and citizens above 60 years of age. A total of three crore 86 lakh 43 thousand 565 vaccines have been administered in the state so far (till March 13, 2022) to protect against corona.

## 'NAGADAS ON DEMAND'



The traditional drums 'Nagadas' are still on demand in the local market and one of the customers checking the beats here on Monday.

# Mainpat festival is now being recognized at the national level: Dr. Dahria

**In-charge Minister Dr. Shivkumar attended the closing ceremony of Mainpat Mahotsav**

**Central Chronicle News**

**Raipur, Mar 14:** Under the chairmanship of Chief Hospitality and Culture Minister Mr. Amarjeet Bhagat, Urban Administration and Development Minister of C h h a t t i s g a r h Government, Dr. Shivkumar Dahria, the closing ceremony of the three-day Mainpat Mahotsav concluded on March 13. On this occasion, C-Mart operated in Ambikapur and Humeic Acid manufacturing unit at Soha Gothan were inaugurated. Along with this the Gouthan calendar was also released.



Addressing the function, Minister-in-Charge Dr. Shivkumar Dahria said that the fame of Mainpat Mahotsav is increasing year after year and this is the reason why this festival is now being recognized at the national level as well. In the festival, colorful cultural performances are given by artists from local to national level. He said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh

Baghel, our government is making continuous efforts to advance the art and culture of Chhattisgarh.

It is working towards giving Chhattisgarh a separate identity in the country. Publicity is being done on a wide scale by holding exhibitions of public welfare schemes run by various departments of the government at the festival site, which will benefit the general

public. He said that the concept of our government is that every person should get the benefit of the schemes of the government under Garhbo Nava Chhattisgarh. If the information about the schemes is made available to the public representatives and the implementation of the scheme will be done by the officials, then all the people will get its benefit.

Congratulating the successful organization of Mainpat Mahotsav, Culture Minister Amarjeet Bhagat said that along with preserving and promoting the art culture, development works are also being done at a rapid pace. Work is also being done to make Mainpat a center of attraction. He said that every year a new chapter is being added to the Mainpat festival. This

time a wrestling competition was organized for the first time in the festival, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the residents. Now every year wrestling competition will be organized in the festival. This time a wrestling competition was organized for the first time in the festival, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the residents. Now every year wrestling competition will be organized in the festival. On this occasion, Member of Chhattisgarh Cow Service Commission, Atal Bihari Yadav, Superintendent of Police, Amit Tukaram Kamble, Chief Conservator of Forest, Anurag Shrivastava, District Panchayat CEO, Vinay Kumar Langeh, along with other public representatives, officers-employees and a large number of spectators were present.

# IIIT Naya Raipur selected by Samsung PRISM

**For Network Security project**

**Central Chronicle News**

**Raipur, Mar 14:** International Institute of Information Technology, Naya Raipur has been selected by Samsung PRISM for a network security project to enhance the security of emergency calls.

Network Security project named 'MCPTT-Network Emulator for Key Management Server-KMS' was handed over to a team of three students of B.Tech III year namely Deepraj Chowdhury, Sayantan Roy, Sushant Singh led by Assistant Professor of IIIT-NR Dr. Ruhul Aminto make the platform more secured



which will enhance the security of emergency calls made by its customers like police officials, etc.

The team worked for five months on the project and they were felicitated with a certificate of excellence along with cash vouchers.

The selection of students was done based on an online coding exam in which students had to solve 3 coding-related questions in 75 minutes. Under this collaborative program, the selected students from IIIT-NR worked on live projects under

the mentorship of Samsung Research and Development experts, and each month, the Samsung mentor holds a review meeting to know the progress of the project.

Dr. Pradeep Kumar Sinha, Director-IIIT NR congratulated the team and wished them luck for their future. He also emphasized that despite the institute being only six years old, it has world-class research and innovation facilities and every student is doing some innovative research to change the world.

# Webinar on 'Role of Media in Empowerment of Women'

**In Central University Bilaspur from March 16**

**Bilaspur, Mar 14:** An online webinar will be organized by the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication of the Guru Ghasidas Central University on 16th March 2022 at 11:00 PM on the topic "Role of Media in Empowerment of Women". The event will be patronized and presided over by the Vice-Chancellor of Guru Ghasidas University, Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawal. The co-patron is Prof.

Shailendra Kumar, Registrar of the University.

Shatabdi Subodh Pandey, National Head, Mahila Sahakari Sahakar Bharati, Raipur will be the keynote speaker and senior TV journalist and film producer, Rajesh Badal, and eminent Professor, Govind Singh of Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi will be the special speakers.

The Convener of the webinar is Dr. Gopa Bagchi, Head of Department of Journalism and Mass Communication and the Co-convener is Assistant Professor, Dr. Anupama

Kumari. Organizing Secretary is research scholar, Avinash Tripathi. To join the webinar on Google Meet, you can connect through this link: <https://meet.google.com/gsr-totv-dtf> and you can register yourself by visiting (<https://forms.gle/1SUUgWfg8BSDC39A>).

This webinar will focus on the status of women in journalism and empowerment of women through journalism.

This webinar will prove to be useful and informative for professors, researchers, academia, organizational sector, people associated with the media world, women and others.

# Educational tour of Devbhog Dairy Plant organised

**For students of CU**

**Bilaspur, Mar 14:** A total of 37 students of the sixth semester of B.Sc. Rural Technology programme, run by the Department of Rural Technology and Social Development, of Guru Ghasidas University Bilaspur went for an educational tour of the Devbhog Dairy Plant at Koni today, on March 14.

In the above tour program, the Director of the dairy plant, NN Dwivedi, gave brief information about the activities going on in the plant. In-charge of milk production unit working in the plant, Namrata Dutta explained in detail the processing techniques



to be adopted after collection of milk. She explained the process of breaking down the fat particles in the

plant and mixing it in equal quantity in the milk so that the milk can be kept safe for maximum time. The work-

ing method of packaging machines for milk produced in the plant was also explained by her.

Satyam Pandey, working in the plant, also apprised the students about the process of how various products are made from milk like Ghee, Rabdi, Butter, Khova etc. The students asked a lot of questions about the adulteration of milk and ghee and the process of their investigation. On behalf of the dairy plant, packets of rabri manufactured by them were given to all the students as a gift. The Head of the department, Dr. Pushpraj Singh thanked the Director of the dairy plant for organizing the educational tour. The educational tour was conducted by the Assistant Professor of the department, Dr. Lokesh Kumar Tinde.

# JNIL, SEMI, HDFC and SKY Automobiles emerge winner

**Raipur, Mar 14:** Today's Suresh Agrawal memorial Cricket tournament had 4 matches, the first match was in between SBI Jagdalpur and JNIL, SBI won the toss and selected bating first in which as core of 75 runs was made by losing 9 wickets, playing the next innings JNIL team players could score the target very easily in 6 overs with hardly losing a single wicket, in this match an experienced bowler Mr. Rajesh Verma was felicitated as the player of the match for making 39 runs in 4 overs.

The next match was in between SEMI and Yes Bank, Yes Bank after wining the toss selected bowling, in the opening SEMI Team made 135 runs by losing 6 wickets, countering in the next inning Yes Bank batsman's couldn't make the target and



after losing a 3wickets and made only 93 runs and that's how they handed over victory to Sarda Energy and Minerals Teams, Sandeep Verma was rewarded as the player of match for hitting 27runs in 2 overs.

While in the evening the third game happened in between S.A. Rubber



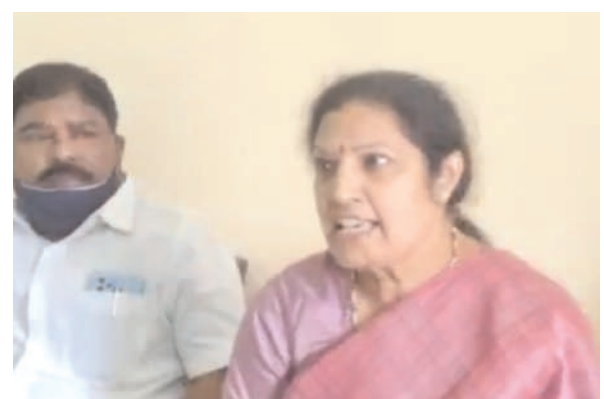
Industries and HDFC Bank, in which SARI team won the toss and selected batting first, they scored 61 runs in with the loss of 6 wickets, playing in the next innings HDFC after losing 2 wickets could easily achieve the target in 8 overs and won the match. For achieving 32 runs in 3 overs the man of the match award was offered to Yuvraj Dwivedi.

Last match of the 10th day was in between Sky

Automobiles and Axis Bank, Axis won the toss and decided to bat 1st. Playing the 1st innings the Axis players made 57 runs while losing 7 wickets, in the second innings Sky Automobiles made the game's victory very easily by losing mere 4 wickets in 8 overs. For achieving 3wickets in 3 overs Mr. Aakash Singh from Sky Team was felicitated with the player of the match trophy.

**Ch'garh is being used as ATM by Cong govt, she alleged**

**Konta/Sukma, Mar 14:** BJP's state in-charge D. Purandeshwari reached Sukma today and she was accorded warm welcome by the BJP workers. Talking to the journalists of Sukma district, BJP state in-charge D. Purandeshwari fiercely targeted the Bhupesh government. She charged that the budget of the government is limited only on papers. It is said that Bhupesh Baghel talks about Chhattisgarhi and Chhattisgarh respect, but the reality is that he sees



Chhattisgarh only from the point of view of ATM and Chhattisgarh is being used as an ATM machine, she alleged.

Purandeshwari while commenting upon the statement made by Minister Kawasi Lakhma that the roads in region are like Hema Malini's cheek, said that this is a wrong statement made by Minister Kawasi Lakhma. Purandeshwari charged that the roads in Jagdalpur and Bastar region are in bad shape and questioned

as to why the Minister who raised voice against road construction is keeping silent today? She charged that after Congress government coming to power, they have not even put a lump of soil on the road. After talking to our BJP workers, it has been said that whatever development has taken place here has happened during term of BJP.

Purandeshwari said that our workers will rise from factionalism and work jointly in the elections. The party has recently won in four out of five states with good majority and we are equally hopeful that with the hard work of the workers, the party will win the next elections in Chhattisgarh as well.



# BJP leaders, party workers take out victory rally

On party's historic win in UP, Goa, U'khand, Manipur

Central Chronicle News

**Nandini-Ahirwara, Mar 14:** On historic win of BJP in UP, Manipur, Goa and Uttarakhand VS pols, it was under leadership of BJP Youth Leader Harsh Jain a massive 'vijay julus' (victory rally) was taken out, starting from Ahirwara Bus Stand and passing through main thoroughfares of city. On this occasion all the BJP office bearers, party workers and residents and traders extended greetings on party's win.

With this rally, entire city was turned and illuminated saffron in colour, as all the party workers



were carrying party's saffron flag and raising slogans 'Jai Shri Ram'. On this occasion even many a senior citizens and youths

Parliamentary Secretary Labhchand Bafna, Ahirwara Palika President Natwar Tamrakar, District Treasurer Chanchal Bafna, Mandal President Leeman Sahu, corporator Anuj Sahu, Shivnarayan Agrawal, BJYM State working committee member Dau Anand Tamrakar, Ishwar Sharma, gen. secy. Rahul Chandel, secy. Shekhar Baba, Nagar V-P Sahil Khan, Tushad Yadav, Sandeep Singh, District office bearers Budhram Sahu, Monu Sahu, Shekhar Sahu, Bunty Sahu and others were present in large number.

On this occasion ex-

# Emission of dust from road posing health problems

- To residents in 200 Units of Nandini Mines area
- For road work from Nandini to Bhilai

Central Chronicle News

**Nandini-Ahirwara, Mar 14:** The road construction work from Nandini to Bhilai for 20 km distance is still underway and this is causing huge blow of dust and causing lots of problems to residents living in 200 units in Nandini Mines.

In order to stop the dust blowing from the site, the contractor should use water in the site, but no such thing is being done. On the other hand, no sign



board has been put for road diversion and due to which the passer-by are made to face dusty terrain all their way to home.

Complaint in this regard has been made by the residents, but still the road contractor is not spraying water on the top and if

this situation persist for long, then it could pose lot of health-hazard to the people living nearby. Residents charged that the contractor is carrying out work sidelining the health aspects of people nearby.

BJP district cum treasurer Chanchal Bafna said

that the contractor is not utilising water at the site of road construction and at many places digging of holes has been done and left open, posing problems of falling of children or animals and all this is posing lots of problems for people of the region.

# CG Budget 2022-23 gets mixed response

Central Chronicle News

**Mungeli, Mar 14:** Chhattisgarh budget 2022-23, presented by CM Bhupesh Baghel, has got mixed response from across the region, with some hailing the budget while another criticizing the government and the budget as anti development.

Ruling Congress Party is continuously terming the budget developmental, while the opposition has termed it apartheid and divisional on the economic

front. According to MP Arun Sao, the budget is anti development as no employment grants and schemes are missing in the budget. The parliamentarian has also opined the budget as poor, as there has been no provisions kept for women and health sector. Dhaneshwar Sahu, President Pichda Varg Aayog, has hailed the budget and termed it as one which has been made taking care of all the classes of the society particularly the youth, trade and commerce

and farmers. District Panchayat member Sheelu Sahu has condemned the budget and opined the budget to be poor in terms of providing benefits to all. For the farmers and the unemployed the budget brings nothing, she said.

BJP Yuva Morcha President Tarun Khandekar, has also condemned the budget and termed it adverse to the states economic condition. The youths have got no special provisions, nor has the unemployed been any provision, he said.

# Hansraj Sahu elected President, Sujata Sahu as V-P

Elections of Tehsil Sahu Sangh held peacefully

Central Chronicle News

**Dongargarh, Mar 14:** In the Tehsil Sahu Sangh election, former President Hansraj Sahu has once again being given responsibility as President and Nobel Sahu as V-P.

Observer Gajendra Sav andn Chumman Sahu Churiya and CEO Maheshwar Prasad Sahu and colleagues were present and the election for Dongargarh Tehsil Sahu Sangh were held peacefully.

As per information from the senior party worker of



Samaj Hemant Sahu, for the post of President TSS the elected Hansraj Sahu

defeated Ishwar Lal Sahu with 77 votes. For post of V-P (Male), Nobel Sahu de-

feated in triangular fight to Netram Sahu and Mahendra Das Sahu.

For post of V-P (female), Sujata Sahu defeated Lata Sahu. Revaram Sahu organisation secy; Gangadhar Sahu secretary; Hemlata Sahu Secretary; Chavi Das Sahu Dy. Treasurer and Kawal Ram Sahu was elected as the accountant.

To help in this election work, on behalf of District Sahu Sangh, Hemant Sahu was present as Addl. Presiding officer, along with Bhuwal Sahu, Anjore Das, Asst. Presiding officer was Nohar Sahu, Devendra Sahu.

# Oath ceremony of PSS held

Central Chronicle News

**Anwari, Mar 14:** The oath ceremony and felicitation programme of newly elected and nominated office bearers of 'Parikshetriya Sahu Samaj' (PSS) was held here on Sunday. The chief guest was Dayaram Sahu President District Sahu Sangh Dhamtari and it was chaired by Dr Radheshyam Sahu President Tehsil Sahu Sangh Kurud.

The programme began with condolences to late Arjun Hirwani President Sahu Samaj Sangh Raipur.



Further in the programme, Dayaram Sahu administered oath to newly elected office bearers. In this for the post of President, Kamlesh Sahu of Darba, for V-P Tuled Sahu; Chitraksha Sahu as V-P (female) and other nominated

members were administered oath. The speakers held the need to keep all from Sahu Samaj united and march on path of progress. Radheshyam Sahu in his address informed about 'patta' and other works in Tehsil

Bhavan and moving ahead in Darba circle. Sharda Loknath Sahu President tehsil Sahu Sangh Kurud in his address said that if a society moved ahead remaining united, then any of the problems can be easily overcome. He said that mar-

riage of all the daughters from Sahu samaj is their responsibility and asked all to help each other.

In this programme Santram Santram Sahu, Suman Santosh Sahu, Sharda Loknath Sahu, Narayan Sahu, Vishwanath Sahu, Ghanshyam Sahu, Kamlesh Sahu, Alakh Ram Sahu, Teerath Ram Sahu, Ratni Bai Sahu, Bhuneswar Sahu, Kaushaliya Bai Sahu, KR Sahu, Leela Ram Sahu, Gopal Sahu, Kamta Sahu and others from Sahu Samaj were present in large number.

Notice under section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (The Act)				
Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) (A)	Particulars of Mortgaged property/properties (B)	Date Of NPA (C)	Outstanding amount (Rs.) (D)
1.	LOAN ACCOUNT NO. HHLRPR00232301 1. PRATIK SHARMA 2. MADAN LAL SHARMA 3. SHASHI BALA SHARMA	PLOT NO 33, KHASRA NO. 93/5 & 927/ADMEASURING TOTAL 1692 SQ. FT. IN THE COLONY MADE BY "SIDHI VINAYAK BUILDCON", SITUATED AT VILLAGE BORIYAKALA, P.H. NO. 117/53, RAIPUR NIGAM MANDAL, TEHSIL & DISTRICT RAIPUR-492001, CHHATTISGARH.	10.12.2021	Rs. 8,38,919.34/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Thirty-Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-Four only) As On 10.12.2021
That the above named borrower(s) have failed to maintain the financial discipline towards their loan account (s) and as per books of accounts maintained in the ordinary course of business by the Company, Column D indicates the outstanding amount. Due to persistent default in repayment of the Loan amount on the part of the Borrower(s) the above said loan account has been classified by the Company as Non Performing Asset (as on date in Column C) within the guidelines relating to assets classification issued by Regulating Authority. Consequently, notices under Sec. 13(2) of the Act were also issued to each of the borrower. In view of the above, the Company hereby calls upon the above named Borrower(s) to discharge in full his/her liabilities towards the Company by making the payment of the entire outstanding dues indicated in Column D above including up to date interest, costs, and charges within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, the Company shall be entitled to take possession of the Mortgaged Property mentioned in Column B above and shall also take such other actions as is available to the Company in law.				
Please note that in terms of provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, "A borrower can tender the entire amount of outstanding dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Secured Creditor only till the date of publication of the notice for sale of the secured asset(s) by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty. Further it may also be noted that in case Borrower fails to redeem the secured asset within aforesaid legally prescribed time frame, Borrower may not be entitled to redeem the property."				
In terms of provision of sub-section (13) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of his business) any of the secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of secured creditor.				
Place: RAIPUR				For Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. Authorised Officer

# SP conducts surprise inspection of Traffic police



**Balod, Mar 14:** The newly appointed SP Balo Govardhan Ram Thakur conducted surprise inspection of Traffic Police office in city and after holding talks with the police officers and employees he took to streets and in this action was taken against many without valid vehicle documents and violating traffic norms. SP informed that to check traffic is top priority of police and therefore the traffic police department has taken to street and this campaign will be launched all over the district.

Need for modern resources:

Speaking to media persons, SP Govardhan Ram Thakur said that there are many shortcomings which came to fore during inspection in the Traffic department office and said that there is need for many modern resources and equipments, so that the traffic system can be streamlined. He said that soon the department will be provided with all mod-

ern resources, so that traffic in the district headquarters and other parts of

the district can be streamlined.

**News of Police checking spread like wildfire:**

DSP Balod District along with TI and other police officers and employees took a small de-tour of the city and the beats of their march-past in the city can be very well heard by all and people started correcting their wrong moves. The vehicles parked illegally and in an unorganised manner in

different parts of city were made more organised and were directed to ensure that same is followed the next day and warned of action, if not done. Some of the vehicles were fined for disrupting traffic and during this DSP Rajesh Bagdi, DSP Prateek Chaturvedi, Inspector Manish Sharma, Inspector Padma and other police staff of Balod traffic police were present in large number.

SVATANTRA MICRO HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LTD.		
Office no 1, Ground floor, Pushpak CHS, Opp. Gomantak Hall, Malaviya Road, Vile Parle (East), Mumbai 400 057. TEL- 18001234427 / 022 26101076-79 Email : collections@mhfcindia.com		
DEMAND NOTICE		
NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002		
NOTICE is hereby given that the following borrower/s who have availed loan from Svatanttra Micro Housing Finance Corporation Limited (SMHFC) have failed to pay Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs) of their loan to SMHFC and that their loan account has been classified as Non-performing Asset as per the guidelines issued by National Housing Bank. The borrower(s) have provided security of the immovable property/ies to SMHFC, the details of which are described herein below. The details of the loan and the amounts outstanding and payable by the borrower/s to SMHFC as on date are also indicated here below. The borrower(s) as well as the public in general are hereby informed that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of SMHFC, the secured creditor has initiated action against the following borrower(s) under the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the SARFAESI Act). If the following borrower(s) fail to repay the outstanding dues indicated against their names within 60 (Sixty) days of this notice, the undersigned will exercise any one or more of the powers conferred on the Secured Creditor under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, including power to take possession of the property/ies and sell the same. The public in general is advised not to deal with property/ies described here below.		
Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor (s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of secured asset(s) (immovable property/ies)
Loan No : APP-009-036 Mr. Rakesh Kumar Bhavari Lal Sharma, Mrs. Raj Kumari Rakesh Sharma	03/03/2022 Rs. 1,09,529/-	Flat No. 194 (Plot Area 560 sq. ft.), Atal Awas Pandri Rajnandgaon EWS, CHB - Atal Awas Pandri Housing Board Colony At Pandri, Tehsil - Rajnandgaon, Dist- Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh, Pin Code - 491441.
Loan No : APP-023-826 + TOP-023-826 Mrs. Pushpa Pandey Mr. Manish Pandey	03/03/2022 Rs. 6,30,514/- + Rs. 1,65,880/-	Flat No. EWS R-02 Sec 1/2 (Plot Area 596 sq ft), RDA Kamal Vihar - EWS, RDA-Kamal Vihar-Sector 1 Kamal Vihar, Sector 1, Raipur, District : Raipur, Chhattisgarh - 492015
Loan Code: APP-028-727 Mr. Vijay Kumar Bajaj Mrs. Jamani Devi	04/02/2022 Rs. 3,08,964/-	Flat No. 203, EWS - 30, CHB - Sector 30 Naya Raipur Housing Board Colony, Sector 30, New Raipur, District Raipur, Chhattisgarh - 492001
Place: Chhattisgarh Date : 15.03.2022		Authorised Officer For Svatanttra Micro Housing Finance Corporation Limited



**Chola**  
Enter a better life

**CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED**

Corporate Office: No.2, Dare House, 1st Floor, NSC Bose Road, Chennai- 600 001.

Branch Office: Shop No.- 416, 4th Floor National Corporate Park, Infront Of Maruti Business Park, G.E. Road, Raipur C.G-492001, Contact No: Prakash Verma-9981343191, Anshul Agrawal-9713436260

## PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION CUM SALE

Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of M/s Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Company Ltd under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 for the recovery of amount due from borrower/s, offers are invited by the undersigned in sealed covers for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the Possession on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS', 'AS IS WHAT IS BASIS' and 'WHATSOEVER IS THERE IS BASIS', Particulars of which are given below:-

Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit	Total Loan Outstanding
<b>Loan Account No X0HERRH00001059376</b> <b>Borrower and Co-borrower names</b> 1. GAYATRI AGRAWAL 2. SHANKAR LAL AGRAWAL 3. VISHAL AGRAWAL All Residing at FLAT NO - 201 BLOCK NO - 25 ASHOKA RATAN VIDHAN SABHA ROAD, RAIPUR - 492001	<b>31.05.2021 &amp; ₹ 3,43,796.66 as on 31.05.2021</b>	All that part and parcel of the property bearing Flat No. 201 at Second Floor of Block No. 25 admeasuring super built up area 1041 sq.ft situated at "Ashoka Ratna" Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Ward No. 27 part of Survey Nos.181/2, 182/3, 183, 184, 185, 186,1119/4, 1120/2, 1120/5, 181/1, 182/1, 182/2 and 181/3 village- Shankar Nagar (Khamhardin) P.H.No. 110, R.I.C Raipur-i City Tahsil and Dist-Raipur (C.G) The Boundaries as per Sale Deed: North-Sellers Property South- Sellers Property, East- Sellers Property, West-Sellers Property.	<b>₹ 22,50,000/-</b>	<b>₹ 2,25,000/-</b>	<b>₹ 39,16,708.42</b> as on <b>14.03.2022</b> together with further interest, penal interest, costs and charges thereon till the date of payment.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING AUCTION PROCESS

1. Date of Auction	<b>05.04.2022 on 10:00 AM</b>	3. Date of Inspection of Property	<b>31-03-2022 to 01-04-2022 (In business Hours)</b>
2. Place of Submission of Bids and Place of Auction	Shop No.- 416, 4th Floor National Corporate Park, Infront Of Maruti Business Park G.E Raod Raipur C.G-492001	4. Last date for Submission of Bids	<b>04.04.2022 before 5.00 pm</b>

\* A bidder may, on his own choice, avail the facility in the auction by making application in prescribed format which is available along with the offer/tender document on the given office address mentioned hereunder. Sale is strictly subject to terms and conditions incorporated in this advertisement and the prescribed Bid / Tender Document. This notice is also to be treated as a 15 days' notice under Rule 8(5)(c) and 8(6) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002, " (Rule 8 and 9)

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AUCTION

1) The property is sold on 'As is where is basis' 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis'. 2) The Bidder is obliged to exercise full due diligence in all respects, including to inspect each of the details of the property mentioned above on the scheduled date & time. 3) Submission of bids to M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited would be construed a deemed acceptance by the bidder that (i) he/she/it has exercised due diligence in all respects; (ii) Is satisfied with all details/measurements of property; (iii) Acknowledges full knowledge of terms and conditions that govern the auction and (iv) Waives all his/her/its rights to make any contrary claims against company at any future date. 4) The sale is subject to confirmation by the Authorized officer if the borrower/guarantor pays the entire outstanding amount in full before sale, no sale will be conducted. 5) The Bidder shall remit Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) by Banker's Cheque / DD drawn in favour of M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited for the respective Loan A/c, along with the bid form in a Sealed Cover addressed to The Authorized Officer, M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited up to 5.00 P.M on 04-04-2022. Please note that, in reference to successful bidder(s), EMD is adjustable against the sale consideration receivable by M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited. Also, EMD is refundable to the unsuccessful bidder(s). 6) The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the bid amount immediately on the sale being knocked down in his/her/its favour and the balance within 15 days by Banker's Cheque / DD drawn in favour of M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited for the respective Loan A/c Number. 7) In case the successful bidder fails to deposit 25% of the bid amount immediately on sale being knocked down in his/her/its favour and/or the balance amount, within 15 days the deposit made by the bidder shall be forfeited without any prior intimation. 8) The charges / fees payable for conveyance as stamp duty, registration fee, maintenance charges electricity charges etc., shall be borne by the successful bidder. The Authorized Officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, property tax or any other dues to the Government or local body or any other authority in respect of the property under sale. 9) The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or adjourn / postpone/cancel the sale/modify any terms and conditions of the sale without any prior notice or assigning any reason therefore. 10) The Sale will only be in favour of successful bidder and not his/her nominee. 11) This Notice is also to the Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general. The borrower has absolute right for the redemption of property till the confirmation of the sale Process. M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited are not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the property as mentioned above. The Property shall be auctioned on 'As Is Where Is Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis'. For further details, contact the Authorized Officer, at the above mentioned Office address.

Date: 14.03.2022, Place: Raipur (C.G.)

Authorised Officer/ M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited



## BRIEF

## Kangaroo

■ **Alipurduar:** A kangaroo was rescued from a goods vehicle in West Bengal's Alipurduar district for first time and two persons from Hyderabad were arrested for allegedly being involved in trafficking of the animal. Acting on tip-off, police team intercepted a mini-truck on National Highway-31 in Barobisha area near Assam West Bengal border and rescued the animal. It is suspected that the two arrested persons were trying to smuggle.

## Rescued

■ **Mathura:** An 8-year-old boy, who was kidnapped for ransom two days ago from Govind Nagar area here, was rescued by the police, officials said. One person has been taken into custody in connection with the incident, the police officials said. The boy was kidnapped while he was playing outside his house in Govind Nagar. His family members found out only when the kidnappers called them to demand ransom, the police said.

## Threatening

■ **Aizawl:** A 37-year-old man was arrested for allegedly threatening to assassinate Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga if he did not resign within three months, police said. The accused had earlier been arrested in 2018 for writing a threatening letter to former chief minister Lal Thanhawla, a senior police officer said. The man, identified as Rodinliana alias Apuia Tocchhawng, a native of Khawzawl town and resident of Chanmari West locality.

## Injured

■ **Morigaon:** A man, accused of lifting motorcycles, was injured in police firing when he allegedly tried to escape from custody in Morigaon district of Assam. According to Morigaon Superintendent of Police Aparna N, the accused was arrested. While the man was being brought to Laharighat Police Station, he tried to flee the custody. He was asked to stop but did not listen to the policemen there.

## Setback

■ **Jammu:** National Panthers Party (NPP) suffered a setback when its entire Samba district unit resigned from the basic membership of the party. NPP district president, Samba, Rajeshwar Singh said the unit resigned due to reckless attitude of the party chairman and former minister Harsh Dev Singh. They were fed up with internal bickering, fight for supremacy among the party leaders, and above all the reckless attitude of the party chairman.

## Suspended

■ **Indore:** Three policemen, including an assistant sub-inspector, were suspended for allegedly thrashing and kicking a naked man in Madhya Pradesh's Indore. After a video of the incident which occurred became viral, the ASI and two constables were suspended.

# India unsure of Russian arms to meet China, Pak threats

## US unwillingness to provide technology transfers

New Delhi, Mar 14 (AP):

India is exploring ways to avoid a major disruption in its supply of Russian-made weaponry amid US sanctions following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tightrope walk could become more difficult due to a continuing border stand-off with China.

Experts say up to 60 per cent of Indian defense equipment comes from Russia, and New Delhi finds itself in a bind at a time when it is facing a two-year-old standoff with China in eastern Ladakh over a territorial dispute, with tens of thousands of



T-90 tanks with many imported Russian components assembled at Avadi, Tamil Nadu.

soldiers within shooting distance after Galwan clash.

"The nightmare scenario for India would be if the US comes to the conclusion that it confronts a greater threat from Russia and that this justifies a strategic accommodation with China. In blunt terms, con-

cede Chinese dominance in Asia while safeguarding its European flank," Shyam Saran, India's former foreign secretary, wrote in a recent blogpost.

Would China, drawing lessons from Ukraine, be an aggressor in disputed eastern Ladakh or in Taiwan? 'It is very possible

they might do it,' said Jitendra Nath Misra, a retired diplomat and distinguished fellow in the Jindal School of International Affairs.

President Joe Biden has spoken about unresolved differences with India after the country abstained from voting on United Nations resolutions against Russian aggression in Ukraine. Modi has so far avoided voting against Russia or criticizing Putin for invading Ukraine.

In the early 1990s, about 70 per cent of Indian army weapons, 80 per cent of its air force systems and 85 per cent of its navy platforms were of Soviet origin. India is now reducing its dependency on Russian arms and diversifying its defense procurements, buying more from countries like the United States, Israel, France and Italy.

# 'Recording of Fadnavis' statement routine exercise'

## ● In phone tapping case

Mumbai, Mar 14 (PTI):

Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil on Monday said the recording of statement of BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis by Mumbai police in a case of alleged illegal tapping of phones was a "routine" exercise.

But, former state chief minister Fadnavis claimed questions that the police asked him on Sunday were "meant for an accused".

A team of the BKC cyber police in Mumbai recorded Fadnavis' statement for almost two hours on Sunday at his residence. The police had earlier issued a notice to Fadnavis, who is leader of opposition in the state Assembly, in connection with the probe into the leak of confidential information on corruption in police transfers and al-



Dilip Walse Patil

leged illegal tapping of phones. Speaking in the state Assembly on Monday, Walse Patil said there was no immunity in criminal cases.

A notice sent to Fadnavis, not as an accused but to record his statement. "It was a routine exercise, nothing has been done deliberately," he said. An FIR has been filed in the illegal phone tapping case and statements of 24 people have been recorded, the minister informed. A notice under CrPC Section 160

means the statement can be recorded at home or at the police station, he told the House.

The police have also asked Union home secretary to share the pen drive (about the alleged corruption in police transfers) given by Fadnavis, he added.

The opposition BJP in the state said it was Fadnavis who unearthed the "scam" in police transfers.

Raising the issue through an adjournment notice in the House, BJP leader Sudhir Mungantiwar said members of the Legislature are protected by privilege and cannot share their sources. The Supreme Court has also upheld this, he added.

Fadnavis, who was present in the House, said when he got the questionnaire few days ago, he had said he would respond.

## TRAFFIC JAM SITUATION



Heavy traffic jam on the Cyber City Road, near Shankar Chowk, in Gurugram, Haryana on Monday.

# Govt assures on future of students evacuated from Ukraine

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

The government on Monday assured the Lok Sabha it will look into measures that can be taken so Indian students brought back to the country from Ukraine under Operation Ganga can complete their education.

Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan also said that Operation Ganga, carried out under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to evacuate Indian students from Ukraine, is proof of the "collective wisdom of 130 crore Indians".

Pradhan was replying to a question by Congress member Gaurav Gogoi who wanted to know if the government was considering working out "any poli-



Education minister Dharmendra Pradhan answering to questions in Lok Sabha on Monday.

cy or holding talks" with universities in countries neighbouring Ukraine to enable Indian students to complete their studies.

"When we have brought them, you remain assured that government will ponder over making arrangements, whatsoever is required, to enable them to become doctors in fu-

ture," the minister said in response.

"At present, it is time for getting them out of the shock. We are all engaged in that," the minister added.

The Congress should congratulate the prime minister for the Operation Ganga, he added.

"I was expecting that from his party (Congress) and the House, prime minister will be congratulated for Operation Ganga...." the minister told Lok Sabha during Question Hour.

Parliamentarians on Monday demanded that the government formulate a policy to allow students evacuated from war-torn Ukraine to complete their medical education in universities in India.

Raising the issue during the Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha, Congress member Rajmohan Unnithan (Kasargod) claimed that thousands of students from Kerala were still stranded in Sumy in Ukraine and demanded that the government take urgent steps to bring them to safety.

# TMC's ambitions take hit after misadventures in Goa, Tripura

Kolkata, Mar 14 (PTI):



The TMC's flop show in Goa polls, preceded by the civic election debacle in Tripura a few months ago, seems to have dealt a body blow to its national ambitions and the efforts to project the party as the glue of an opposition alliance against the BJP.

After its emphatic victory in the 2021 Bengal assembly polls, the TMC, set to spread its wings far and wide, had begun the groundwork in Goa, but despite its high-decibel campaign in the coastal state, alliance with a local outfit and induction of several leaders from rival camps, the party managed to garner just 5.21 per cent of the total votes polled, drawing a blank in the 40-member Assembly.

Having failed its litmus test, the Bengal's ruling

party is back to square one, trying to draw up a fresh strategy ahead of the polls in Meghalaya and Tripura.

"If you lose one or two elections, it doesn't mean you are done with. It takes just one win to change the mood. Everybody talks about the seats you win or lose; no one talks about the percentage of votes garnered. We had entered Goa only a few months ago and managed to get over five per cent votes. I think that was a good start," TMC national vice-president Yashwant Sinha said.

In Tripura civic polls last year, the party had

bagged 24 per cent votes but failed to clinch any civic body.

A senior TMC leader said the party's performance in Goa was not on the expected lines and that necessitated a review of its strategies.

"It is a blow to our national ambitions. We had invested a lot of time and energy in Goa, but that did not yield any result. We need to reassess our plans before we move forward in the coming days," the TMC leader, who did not wish to disclose his identity, said.

He also stated that it was unlikely that the party would venture out into other states for the "time being", barring the ones where it had already opened a unit. Speaking on the issue of opposition leadership, the TMC leader said, "There are

many leaders in the opposition camp, but Mamata Banerjee is the senior-most one." In an apparent bid to project Banerjee as the main opposition face against Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2024, the TMC had been inducting people from diverse geographies and political backgrounds, and cornering the Congress on every occasion, but the recent setbacks prompted the party to sing a slightly different tune. Neither Mamata Banerjee nor any leader of the TMC claimed that she will be the leader of the opposition. She has called upon everyone, who is opposed to the BJP, to come together and fight against the BJP. "Politics is a long-drawn battle. The AAP after camping in Goa for the last two to three years, bagged just two seats in Goa.

# 274 cases against 427 NDFB cadre withdrawn: Assam Guv

Guwahati, Mar 14 (PTI):

Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi on Monday said 274 cases registered against 427 erstwhile cadre of the militant group National Democratic Front of Boroland (NDFB) have been withdrawn.

Addressing the Assam assembly on the first day of the budget session, Mukhi also said that a total of 4,203 cadre of various groups have been rehabilitated under the Bodo Accord. "The State Level Committee for withdrawal of cases (non-heinous) under trial against NDFB cadre after thorough review has withdrawn 274 cases against 427 former NDFB cadre," he added.



Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi addresses Assam assembly in Guwahati on Monday.

A "proactive implementation of the Bodo Accord has led to the rehabilitation of 4,203 surrendered cadre with financial assistance of Rs 168.12 crore, the governor said.

In July last year, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa

Sarma had announced that non-heinous crime cases against the surrendered NDFB cadre would be disposed of soon and all the cases pending with National Investigation Agency (NIA) would be transferred to the police.

# Five TDP members suspended from AP Assembly

## ● Amid pandemonium

Amaravati, Mar 14 (PTI):

The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly on Monday witnessed unprecedented scenes as the House Marshals virtually manhandled the Telugu Desam Party legislators and pushed them away even as five members of the opposition were suspended from the House for the duration of the Budget session. The suspension was a culmination of acrimonious scenes the House witnessed since the start on Monday morning as the principal opposition sought an immediate discussion on the illicit ar-rack tragedy in West Godavari district in which about 18 people reportedly died over the past few



Five TDP MLAs meet after suspension in Amaravati on Monday.

days. The Speaker rejected the adjournment motion moved by the TDP and sought to take up regular business, which the opposition did not allow.

The House was adjourned twice as there was no order for conduct of business.

The TDP MLAs were suspended when the proceedings resumed after the second adjournment and they continued with their protest. Telugu Desam

Legislature Party deputy leaders K Atchannaidu, Nimmala Ramanaidu, senior members Gorantla Butchaiah Choudary, Payyavula Keshav and DB V Swamy were those suspended.

Though the Speaker announced that Deputy Chief Minister (Health) AKK Srinivas would make a statement on the episode, the TDP members insisted on a discussion to bring out the facts.

# RSS stresses 'Bharat-centric' job models to tackle unemployment

Ahmedabad, Mar 14 (PTI):

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has called for "Bharat-centric" models of employment generation to strengthen the economy and achieve sustainable and holistic development.

In the wake of several youth in the country facing unemployment, the Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha (ABPS), the top decision-making body of the RSS, passed a resolution to promote work opportunities to make the country self-reliant.

In the resolution, the ABPS said it wishes to emphasise that the entire so-



RSS leaders at meeting in Ahmedabad.

cety has to play a proactive role in harnessing work opportunities to mitigate the overall employment challenge.

"As we have experienced the impact of the recent COVID-19 pandemic on employment and livelihood, we have also witnessed opening up of new opportunities of which some sections of the socie-

ty have taken benefit," it said. The ABPS is of the opinion that thrust is to be given to "Bharatiya economic model" that is human-centric, labour intensive, eco-friendly and lays stress on decentralisation and equitable distribution of benefits and augments village economy, micro scale, small scale and agro-based industries,

the resolution said.

"The ABPS calls upon citizens to work on Bharat-centric models of employment generation to strengthen the economy and achieve sustainable and holistic development," it said. The three-day meeting of the ABPS concluded at Pirana on the outskirts of Ahmedabad. According to the resolution, the areas like rural employability, unorganised sector employment, jobs to women and their overall participation in the economy need to be boosted. Efforts are essential to adapt new technologies and soft skills appropriate to the societal conditions, it said.



## BRIEF

## Diversity

■ **Singapore:** Singapore's diversity is not static, and the country welcomes migrants from all over the world while keeping its broad ethnic balance stable, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said, celebrating the success of the Sindh community here. It is important for such new arrivals to make efforts to integrate into the local society, even as they preserve their distinct identities and cultures. Each group adds to Singapore's rich social tapestry.

## Talks

■ **Doha:** Chad's ruling military council and representatives of rebel forces met for the formal opening of peace talks in Qatar, part of a broader diplomatic effort to halt decades of fighting and instability in the vast, faction-ridden nation. The negotiations aim to pave the way for the head of the junta, Gen Mahamat Idriss Deby, to lead the strategic central African country toward new elections in 18 months. Delegations gathered with officials.

## Arrested

■ **Kathmandu:** Two Nepali men have been arrested for allegedly murdering an Indian national in Kailali district earlier in the week, officials said. Kuldeep Gupta, 42, who hailed from Sahejapur in Uttar Pradesh, was killed, they said.

# US alleges Russia seeking military aid from China

Washington, Mar 14 (AP):

A US official said Russia asked China for military equipment to use in its invasion of Ukraine, a request that heightened tensions about the ongoing war ahead of a Monday meeting in Rome between top aides for the US and Chinese governments. Meanwhile, Beijing has accused Washington of spreading "disinformation" over China's role in the Ukraine war.

The prospect of China offering Russia financial help is one of several concerns for President Joe Biden. A US official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters, said that in recent days, Russia had requested support from China, including military equipment, to press forward in its ongoing war with Ukraine. The official did not provide details on the scope of the request. The Biden administration



Russian military truck factory with alleged Chinese tyre supply.

sitive matters, said that in recent days, Russia had requested support from China, including military equipment, to press forward in its ongoing war with Ukraine. The official did not provide details on the scope of the request. The Biden administration

tion is also accusing China of spreading Russian disinformation that could be a pretext for Russian President Vladimir Putin's forces to attack Ukraine with chemical or biological weapons. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has put China in a delicate spot with two of its biggest trading partners: the US and European Union. China needs access to those markets, yet it also has shown support for Moscow, joining with Russia in declaring a friendship with 'no limits.' The United Nations has said it has received no information backing up such accusations.

## Peru's worst ecological disaster slams small-scale fishing

Ciudad, Mar 14 (AP):

Walter de la Cruz scrambled down a large sand dune in the fog to reach a rock overlooking the Pacific Ocean, where he has fished for three decades. He cast a hook into the waters off Peru's coast several times, with no luck. One attempt yielded a piece of plastic stained with oil.

De la Cruz, 60, is one of more than 2,500 fishermen whose livelihoods have been cast into doubt as a result of a large crude-oil spill at the Spanish-owned Repsol oil refinery on Jan. 15. 'We are desperate,' he said, counting on his fingers the debts that overwhelm him, including a bank loan, bills for water, electricity, gas, and school supplies for his two grand-

children. Peru has characterized the spill of 11,900 barrels in front of a Repsol refinery as its 'worst ecological disaster.' A report by United Nations experts estimates it involved about 2,100 tons of crude, well above the 700 tons the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited considers the threshold for a large spill and an unprecedented amount for the type of crude that leaked. The oil was extracted from Buzios, the world's largest deep water oil field and the most productive in Brazil. The spill happened when the Mare Doricum, an Italian-flagged tanker, was unloading oil at the La Pampilla refinery, just off Peru's coast north of the capital. The ship's captain told the South American coun-

try's Congress that oil spilled into the ocean for at least eight minutes.

Peru which has a vast informal economy does not have exact data on the number of fishermen affected, or of the people on the docks and ports who depend on the fishing industry, including restaurants, food vendors, and those who rent sun umbrellas or boats. One thing is for sure: The affected artisanal fishermen are among the most economically vulnerable in Peru, harvesting small amounts of fish very close to the coast, sometimes from small boats and sometimes from the shore, said Juan Carlos Sueiro, an expert on the economics of fishing with the international conservation group Oceana.

## LINE-UP FOR WATER



People line-up to fill containers with water as people faced water shortages due to power outages in Yangon, Myanmar on Monday.

## Doubts over China's zero-COVID strategy amid lockdown

Shanghai, Mar 14 (AFP):

China, the country where the coronavirus was first detected in 2019, is among the last remaining devotees to a zero-Covid approach to the pandemic.

But after two years of virtually closed borders, mass testing, targeted lockdowns and quarantines, the strategy is being stress-tested like never before as cases surge across the country.

With millions currently under lockdown, can China's approach hold out against the march of the Omicron variant? China essentially closed itself off from the world in March 2020 to follow a formula it calls "dynamic zero" for



Police and workers next to some lockdown areas in Shanghai on Monday.

curbing outbreaks: strict lockdowns and immediate mass testing. Unlike during softer lockdowns elsewhere, people in China can be banned from leaving their building or forced to remain inside a hotel room if they are con-

sidered high-risk contacts. Mandatory track and trace apps mean close contacts are usually detected and quarantined quickly. Shops, schools, tourist sites, office blocks and malls have been summarily locked down with peo-

ple inside after the detection of a single close contact. Officials are routinely dismissed or castigated in state media for outbreaks in their areas. That puts the onus on local authorities to move fast and hard on any clusters. Residents are forced to stay at home at a moment's notice, including the 17 million people of Shenzhen who were locked down. International flight volumes have also collapsed, with the limited arrivals undergoing strict weeks-long quarantine.

The government has said it will not renew expiring Chinese passports unless the holder has a good reason for travel — shredding outbound demand for travel.



सत्यमेव जयते

## Department of Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Government of India

# National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS)

**Scheme for Residential Education for Students, in High Classes In Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA)** provides for high quality education for meritorious SC students in CBSE-affiliated reputed residential schools **Approximately 3,000 seats would be provided in class 9th and 11th fully funded by the Central Government.**

**The National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS)** will be an online test conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for selecting students for admission in Class 9 and 11. There is no fee for the examination.

## NETS

- Date of exam: 7th May 2022
- Entrance examination will be conducted in all States/UTs
- Both in English/Hindi medium

## Eligibility

- Students belonging to Scheduled Castes; studying in class 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in the current academic year (2021-22)
- Parent's annual income is up to Rs. 2.5 lacs

## Application

- Willing and eligible SC students may register themselves through online portal <https://shreshta.nta.nic.in> free of cost
- Portal would be open from 11 am. on 14<sup>th</sup> March to 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022

## Result and admission

- Result of the exam would be declared by 20<sup>th</sup> May
- Web counselling for admission would be done 21<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> May

For any queries, contact **Shri Dipta Bhanu Das, Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Tel: 011-20863276** or **Shri Rajesh Kumar, Under Secretary to the Government of India, Tel: 011-20863299**

davp 38101/11/0024/2122

### GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES & GROUND WATER SURVEY CIRCLE SIHAVA BHAWAN CAMPUS, CIVIL LINES, RAIPUR (C.G.)

#### e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

(1st Call)

System Tender No. 94925 / NIT No.: 11/SAC/2021-22  
Raipur Dated: 11.03.2022

Online Tenders are Invited for The Following Works up to  
04.04.2022 at 17.30 Hour (IST) :-

Name of Work: RENOVATION OF HEAD WORK, HEAD SLUICE, REMODELLING AND C.C. LINING FROM R.D. 0 TO 2550 M OF MAIN CANAL, CONSTRUCTION OF 06 NO. STRUCTURE (05 NO.V.R.B., 01NO. SUPER PASSAGE) AND 10 NO OUTLETS OF PALOUD STOP DAM OF ARANG BLOCK OF RAIPUR DISTRICT.

Probable Amount of Contract :- Rs.126.32 Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 21.03.2022, at 17.31 Hours. (IST) onwards.

NOTE :- All eligible/intrested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
Water Resources Division, Raipur  
For, Superintending Engineer, Water Resources & Ground Water Survey Circle, Raipur (C.G.)

G-68681/1

### कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड, दन्तेवाड़ा (ई - मेल - [eedan-phe-cg@nic.in](mailto:eedan-phe-cg@nic.in))

निविदा सू. क्र./184-191/ते.श.ल./का.ब./लो.स्वा.यां./2022 दत्तेवाड़ा, दिनांक: 10/03/2022

#### //निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना//

एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से प्रपत्र "ए" प्रतिशत दर पर निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी है।

कार्य का नाम :- जल जीवन मिशन के अंतर्गत सिंगल विलेज का कार्य।

निविदा क्रमांक	सिस्टम टेण्डर क्रमांक	ग्राम/विकासखण्ड	अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)	रिमांक
184 / 10.03.2022	95017	मड़कामीरास / कुआकोण्डा	49.57	तृतीय निविदा आमंत्रण
185 / 10.03.2022	95045	मंडपाल / कुआकोण्डा	12.56	प्रथम निविदा आमंत्रण
186 / 10.03.2022	95046	नेलगोड़ा / गौदम	48.36	द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रण
187 / 10.03.2022	95047	पेरपा / कुआकोण्डा	48.94	तृतीय निविदा आमंत्रण
188 / 10.03.2022	95048	रेका / गौदम	51.00	द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रण
189 / 10.03.2022	95049	सालनार / गौदम	50.44	द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रण
190 / 10.03.2022	95150	कुहचेपाल / दन्तेवाड़ा	47.13	प्रथम निविदा आमंत्रण
191 / 10.03.2022	95151	मुस्कल / दन्तेवाड़ा	94.86	प्रथम निविदा आमंत्रण

निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें एवं अन्य जानकारी वेबसाईट पोर्टल <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर दर्शित है।  
टीप :- निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 23.03.2022 है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता  
लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खंड  
दन्तेवाड़ा

G-68678/2

### कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड कबीरधाम (छ.ग.)

#### द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ऑनलाइन निविदाएं "प्रपत्र-ए" में प्रतिशत दर पर नीचे उल्लेखित कार्य के लिये DWSM, KABIRDHAM की ओर से कार्यपालन अभियंता एवं सदस्य सचिव DWSM द्वारा एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था ई-रजिस्ट्रेशन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

कार्य का विवरण :- कबीरधाम जिले के विकासखंड पण्डरिया में स्वीकृत ट्रेडोफिटिंग नल जल प्रदाय योजनांतर्गत पेयजल प्रदाय एवं इत्यादि कार्य।

निविदा क्रमांक/दिनांक	निविदा सिस्टम क्रमांक	योजना का नाम एवं विकासखंड	अनुमानित लागत (रुपए लाख में)
228/Dt. 10-03-2022	94957	विकासखंड पंडरिया के ग्राम झरियाखुर्द ट्रेडोफिटिंग नल जल प्रदाय योजना	73.93

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापित, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्राक्वोरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> में 10.03.2022 से देखी जा सकती है।

निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि :- 24.03.2022

कार्यपालन अभियंता  
लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड  
कबीरधाम (छ.ग.)

G-68670/2

### कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड अम्बिकापुर जिला सरगुजा (छ.ग.)

#### // Notice Inviting Tender //

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन सरगुजा (जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत) ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

Sr	Tender No. (System No.) & Date	Last Date (Bid Due Date)	Name of Work	P.A.C (Rs. In Lakh)
1	162 (94825) Date 08.03.2022	22.03.2022	Constt of. O.H.T., Pipeline work, Instt. Of Submersible Pump, Providing of FHTC, etc. At Village- Amadarha & Kuberpur Block-Ambikapur, Under JJM.	168.10
2	163 (94829) Date 08.03.2022	22.03.2022	Constt of. O.H.T., Pipeline work, Instt. Of Submersible Pump, Providing of FHTC, etc. At Village-Jodhpur Block-Lakhanpur, Under JJM.	60.92
3	164 (94836) Date 08.03.2022	22.03.2022	Constt of. O.H.T., Pipeline work, Instt. Of Submersible Pump, Providing of FHTC, etc. At Village-Jaipur Block-Lakhanpur, Under JJM.	60.92
4	165 (94837) Date 08.03.2022	22.03.2022	Constt a O.H.T., Pipeline work, Instt. Of Submersible Pump, Providing of FHTC, etc. At Village Binkara Block-Lakhanpur, Under JJM.	96.84

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की (Online Tender) टेण्डर आमंत्रित की जाती है। धरोहर राशि एवं अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेब पोर्टल (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) पर देखी जा सकती है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता  
लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड  
अम्बिकापुर

G-68659/1



CENTRAL  
Chronicle

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Alarming Russian  
dependence

Russia has turned to China for military equipment and aid in the weeks since it began its invasion of Ukraine, US officials familiar with the matter told media. The officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject, did not describe what kind of weaponry had been requested, or whether they know how China responded. This kind of development was already in knowledge of government of India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised on integrating latest technology in the security apparatus and reiterated that every effort must be made to make India self-reliant in 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 global tech usage in the defence sector and India's advances in it. India is alarmed at developments regarding Russian invasion of Ukraine and sanctions on Russian defence companies, which supply weapons to India. Subsequently, Russian dependence on China for hardware components has forced India to accelerate programmes for replacing Russian weapons from armed forces. In a landmark development, India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently took to Twitter to announce the proverbial 'metal cutting' for the first prototype of India's next-generation fighter jet, the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA). With AMCA, India looks set to become only the fourth country to launch an indigenously produced stealth fighter aircraft. However, Turkey is also aggressively pursuing its own fifth-generation aircraft, known as the TF-X, that shares almost the same timeline of launch as Indian AMCA. Then South Korea (KF-21) and the European nations (Tempest and FCAS) are also developing fifth-gen fighter jets. In line with the announcement in the Union budget 2022-23, the defence ministry last week said that it has identified 18 major platforms for industry-led design and development under various routes.

The platforms include Hypersonic glide vehicle Directed energy weapons (300 KW and more), Naval shipborne unmanned aerial system (NSUAS), Lightweight tank, Self-healing minefields, Unmanned autonomous AI-based land robot, 127 mm naval gun, 127 mm guided projectile, Electric propulsion (engines) for ships, Standoff airborne jammer, Li-ion cells and li-sulphur cells, Communication system (AFNET system switches, routers, encryptors and VOIP phones), Electro-optical (EO) pod (with subsequent upgrade to EO/IR) with high-resolution sensing and 'Plug and Play' housing/infrastructure for soldiers posted at extreme altitudes. Projects involving the design and development of equipment, systems, major platforms or upgrades thereof by the industry can be taken up under this category. Under SPV model, Long-range unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for high altitude long endurance and Indian multi-role helicopter (IMRH) projects approved. Under the iDEX category Low orbit pseudo satellites being considered. Self sufficiency in defence systems is paramount as according to reports, cheap Chinese tires have been blamed for a Russian convoy of armoured vehicles being unable to reach Kyiv. Russian trucks use Chinese military tires, specifically the Yellow Sea YS20. China is considering buying or increasing stakes in Russian energy and commodities companies, according to people familiar with the matter. It would be wrong to assume that the expanded trading relationship between Russia and China will only cover raw materials. Russia is working on sourcing spare parts for aircraft from China and other Asian countries and has not yet decided whether to buy foreign airplanes leased by Russian airlines. After collapse of Soviet Union, Russia has not been able to modernise its manufacturing industries and may be forced to depend on China for imports. This is double whammy situation for India. Performance of Russian supplied equipment has been questioned as recent cases of Brahmos missile misfire with Russian made engine and Russian made helicopter crash of late CDS Bipin Rawat show. India has to develop its military industrial complex urgently.

## Corporate taxation

Most companies and large businesses are familiar with the corporate tax rate, but not all of them are knowledgeable about the list of countries where corporate tax rates are high, which include the United States, Switzerland, Ireland, Singapore, and others. One of the most underappreciated advantages of a worldwide corporate tax strategy is the ability to optimise your global tax structure and reduce tax liabilities when a taxable event occurs. Certain nations in the developed market bloc, such as the United States and Canada, have corporation tax rates of around 35 percent. Despite the fact that India enacted a corporate tax overhaul in July 2019 that generated protests and resulted in a political deadlock in the Indian parliament, India is not in list of nations with lower corporation tax rates. Even after the decreased rate was imposed in July, India's corporation tax rate has remained at 19 percent since 2016. India's corporate income tax rate is still one of the highest in the world. The United Kingdom is in second place, with a new rate of 12 percent. Certain nations, such as Italy, Ireland, France, and Poland, are considering lowering their corporation tax rates in the future.

In India, basically, there are two optional schemes of section 115BAA and section 115BAB, neither of which can be disowned once embraced. The other common features of the two are they are in lieu of all the tax incentives and exemptions including the accelerated 100 percent depreciation prescribed for select industries from time to time. In addition, the right to carry forward unabsorbed depreciation and losses has to be foresworn. Under the first, tax rate is 22 percent plus 10 percent surcharge and 4 percent education and health cess on the tax as increased by surcharge for a domestic company engaged in any business. Under the second, tax rate is just 15 percent plus 10 percent surcharge and 4 percent education and health cess on the tax as increased by surcharge for a domestic company set-up and registered on or after the first day of October, 2019, and has commenced manufacturing or production of an article or thing on or before extended till March 31, 2024. India has long way to corporate tax reforms for development of industry.

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.

## FINISHING TOUCHES

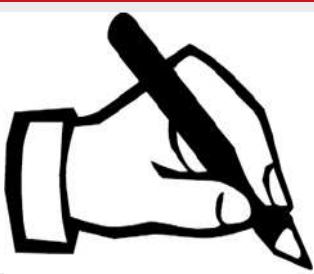


An artist gives finishing touches to a mural painted on a building at a slum clearance board residential community in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

## India's oldest cities offer modern lessons



KT RAVINDRAN



21st century urban designers need to rediscover centuries-old tradition in India. Dholavira, a 4,670 year old city with orthogonal streets, planned urban spaces and underground water and sewage management was recognised as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2021. Hundreds of such planned cities are dotted across the Indian subcontinent. Evolved over centuries, India's ancient urban heritage offers many lessons in this era of worsening climate change. The idea of 'vernacular urbanism' that is, cities and settlements that respond to local weather and climate patterns is recognised by both academics and the building industry. The old cities of India have much to offer 21st century urban development. Urban development in the 20th century was characterised by urban sprawl and high-rise city cores. Cities expanded up and out. Urban experts from Patrick Geddes to Louis Mumford to Jane Jacobs, have recognised suburbia and high-rise city centres as unsustainable. They involve a massive ecological footprint, water management problems and problematic transportation systems, along with the poor quality of life they offer to the majority of citizens.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, a 21st century invention, point to what was already realised in the pre-industrial city. The fundamental characteristics of the traditional city in India are its compact city form with non-motorised transit systems cutting down wasteful consumption of resources and

high pollution load that contribute to climate change. It's a built form perfected over hundreds of years. Indian cities such as Shahjahanabad (which became Delhi), a living city planned and built in the 17th century, as well as many other traditional cities of the Global South, exhibited exactly the features that the UN SDGs strive for. The old compact cities occupy less land than modern metropolises as many of them are built on geographical high-points, often resulting in a high-density, but not high-rise living, good public transport networks, and mixed-use areas that embrace work, home and play within the one area. Their hill-top locations reduce the extent of infrastructure, both physical and social, and in a modern context reduce demand for electrical and electronic systems. The resulting savings in fossil fuel consumption and overall capital investment contribute to climate change resistance.

Before the term was invented, old cities had already embraced mixed-use zoning. The compact city reduces commuting distances and provides for proximate recreation spaces. Transportation systems within old cities are usually well shaded pedestrian networks, which also ensure cooling airflow. The shaded streets double as open spaces where playing children are within the 'eyes on the street' of the family. The compact old city often located larger institutional buildings on higher ground while being connected by the movement lines in the valleys. These large institutional buildings spontaneously gen-

erate public open spaces in front of them, functioning as a distribution hub for natural airflow. In the hot-arid regions of India, the continuous air change improves the micro-climate and most recently provided necessary air change during the pandemic. The value of low-rise, high-density development is now well recognised by academics and eminent urban designers like Leon Krier, Charles Correa, Jan Gehl as more sustainable compared to urban sprawl or the energy guzzling high-rise density forms. The pandemic made matters worse where viral movement through lifts and vertical ducts found a free flow. Sealed glass windows and recycled air from the HVAC systems aggravated viral circulation even further.

Post-pandemic, low-rise, optimum-density development (optimum density varies from culture to culture, climate to climate) is likely to have a resurgence, not only to address the pandemic but also as a more energy efficient, human-scaled city form. Four to five storey walk-ups often characterise the old settlements. These contribute less to urban overheating as the heat-absorbing surface area of the building mass is considerably reduced. Modern construction materials from production to consumption to waste are undoubtedly unsustainable. Steel, glass, aluminium and plastics have huge impacts in their mining and are highly energy intensive in their production. They also involve long distance, fossil fuel-based transportation. But these are, at present, 'normal materials' of construction. The huge embodied energy in modern materials is compounded by the energy required for their upkeep, cooling, and heating. Traditional, organic building materials such as timber, clay, and straw use little energy to create and therefore have a considerably lower ecological footprint than materials such as steel and concrete. The local materials are sourced from short distances with minimal transportation costs, are built in compression-based construction systems with minimum steel and

without a globalised supply chain. The resulting aesthetic was also culturally mediated through centuries of building traditions.

The traditional city emerged way before we could have ever imagined the automobile or railroads. Most traditional cities were relatively unplanned - they naturally emerged simply by people colonizing and building close together, copying styles that they have seen elsewhere and liked. Because the pattern emerged before there were cars or even transit, the traditional city pattern is very compact and walkable by nature. It is very human-scale, and has an amazing sense of place. In an environment dependent on the automobile, you practically depend on one for your mobility. It is too inconvenient or unattractive to use any other form of transportation, so the car is seen as a necessary prosthetic just to go about your business. In a traditional city, a car is an unnecessary inconvenience in most cases. If the building industry's contribution to carbon emissions, currently pegged at 40 percent, is to be brought down, the only solution would be to humanise the scale of construction. At present, across the world, vernacular settlements of thousands of square metres are lying neglected. Meanwhile new developments are aggressively conquering more and more land for city expansion. Renewal and adaptation of the neglected housing stock in old cities could yield considerable amount of built form of high thermal comfort. It would mean near zero additional carbon footprint. It would be a tough call for a capital-hungry building industry to restrain itself to reinvention. But the climate crisis is now largely non-negotiable. Urban Design as a discipline thrives on three-dimensional studies and simulation of climate variables on city form. Rediscovering old cities is a possible direction for a climate friendly future.

(KT Ravindran is a visiting professor at NITTE University, Mangaluru, Karnataka.)

LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR

## Wither Congress

Ten candidates of Congress party in Uttar Pradesh got less votes than NOTA and this single example is enough to illustrate the ground reality of the party and needs no further comments and party has decimated which is now a demoralised, fragmented and spent force. In case of Punjab party excels in self-destruction and changed the Chief Minister in an unceremonious manner and the disconnect of high command with the ground realities ultimately landed it in historical drubbing. Congress needs a new leadership if it wants to avoid electoral and political oblivion. The Gandhi's, Rahul and Priyanka in front led the party's campaign in all five states that went to polls and the party was rejected by voters everywhere. It is expected that they should now accept the reality as the verdict is unambiguous and they should vacate their positions of leadership formal and informal if the party has to survive and reinvent itself to battle the BJP juggernaut. Unlike in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh in 2018 the Cong local leadership could not check the BJP's "double-engine" campaign led by PM Modi and backed by an energetic party machinery. The writing has been on the wall for some time and many in the Congress have read it. Some left what they felt was a sinking ship whereas others-for instance, the G-23-still hoped to make the leadership address the crisis. The fact is the family has outlived its political utility and is now a burden for the Congress. Its continuance at party's helm reflect a sense of entitlement that alienates a young and aspirational electorate, and gives the party a jaded look. The voters have moved on from the Nehru-Gandhi family, it's time the party did too. The AAP which has stormed to power in the state was in many ways a debutant and moreover now the party has become natural replacement of Congress as it was in Delhi and presently in Punjab and Congress is no longer a party of voters. Did the Mahatma Gandhi foresee such a turn of events when he suggested the disbandment of the Congress as a political entity? None of the parties in the opposition camp seem to be in a position to suggest an alternative to ruling party and it is evident that opposition suffered because of lack of leadership and the people are familiar with a narrative known as TINA (there is no alternative) but in the recent assembly elections a new narrative emerged that of SITA (someone is there always) and now combined opposition is to find that SITA.

Yash Pal Ralhan, Jalandhar



## WHAT THEY TWEET!



Mona@MonaPatelT

Climate change represents the most complex challenge of our time it requires a concerted, proactive & holistic response. Gender inequality may dramatically limit the resilience & adaptive capacity of women, families & communities.



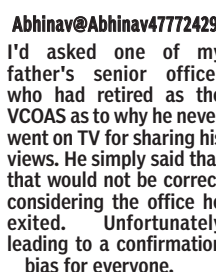
Rahul@RahuJMathur

Building a company in a "not cool" industry won't get you re-Tweets on Twitter & shares on LinkedIn - but, it will help you discover a small group of believers. They either join you, buy your product(s) or quietly promote your company - counts 100x towards company progress.



Rajkumar@VincentRK

Omicron is NOT mild. It's highly contagious and vaccine evasive. You see that when it enters a country where almost no one has had COVID before. You can see how it dwarfs the peak in cases that occurred in the US. A peak we considered so high and undwarfable.



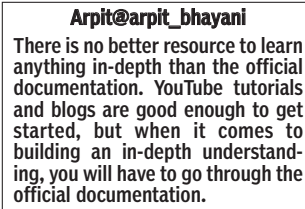
Abhinav@Abhinav4772429

I'd asked one of my father's senior officer who had retired as the VCOAS as to why he never went on TV for sharing his views. He simply said that that would not be correct considering the office he exited. Unfortunately leading to a confirmation bias for everyone.



Sailing Cloud@twinitisha

Life is like a punishment when you have to live with insecurities. Life screws you when you are extra cautious. The world will feel better when people give a piece of their heart and not a piece of their mind at every opportunity.



Arpit@arpit\_bhayani

There is no better resource to learn anything in-depth than the official documentation. YouTube tutorials and blogs are good enough to get started, but when it comes to building an in-depth understanding, you will have to go through the official documentation.





## BRIEF

## Ties-up



**New Delhi:** Hero Electric on Monday said it has joined hands with L&T Finance to offer consumers easy financing solutions for its entire product portfolio across its 750-plus dealership network. Hero Electric CEO Sohinder Gill said affordability is one of the factors.

## Dispatches

**New Delhi:** BHEL has dispatched its 42nd nuclear steam generator to NPCIL for installation at a 700 MWe unit in Rajasthan Atomic Power Project. The steam generator was flagged off from BHEL's Trichy plant in the presence of senior officials of BHEL and NPCIL.

## Plans



**New Delhi:** Mirchi.com, a unique marketplace for traditional sweets and snacks, on Monday said it is looking to raise about Rs 50 crore from strategic investors to fund its expansion. Founder Poornima Mital said it will use the funding to invest in many marketing activities.

## Develop

**New Delhi:** Illumina Singapore and Trivitron Healthcare have joined hands to develop and expand the use of next-generation sequencing (NGS)-based in-vitro diagnostic tests (IVD) in India. Over the next three years, Illumina Singapore (a subsidiary of Illumina Inc) and Trivitron intend to develop and distribute a suite of standardized, commercial IVD assays to deliver an effective and non-invasive way of diagnosing cancers, determining pathogens.

## Raises



**New Delhi:** Solar photovoltaic (PV) cell manufacturer Jupiter International on Monday said it has raised Rs 170 crore from Edelweiss Alternative Asset Advisors Ltd. Jupiter International MD Alok Garodia said he will commission Mono PERC cell manufacturing facility.

# Feb WPI inflation spikes to 13.11% on costlier crude

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

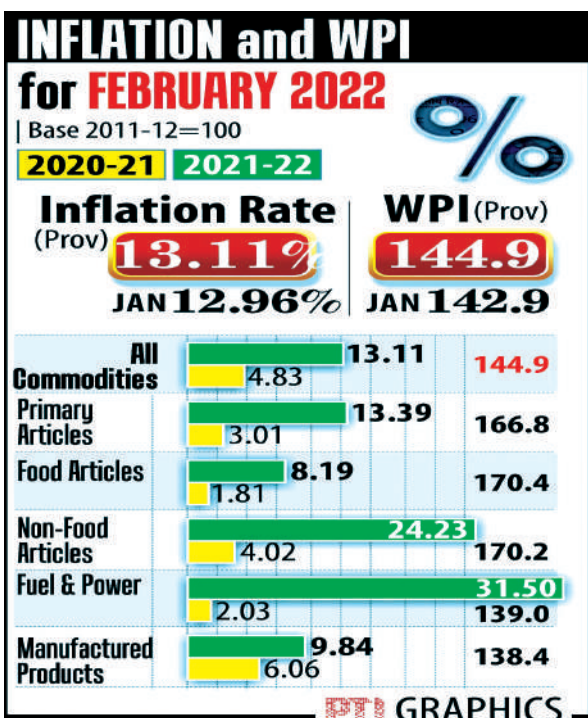
The wholesale price-based inflation in February rose to 13.11 per cent on hardening of prices of crude oil and non-food items, even though food articles softened.

After two months of mild easing, WPI inflation accelerated in February and remained in double digits for the 11th consecutive month, beginning April 2021.

WPI inflation last month was 12.96 per cent, while in February last year, it was 4.83 per cent.

The rise in crude oil and natural gas prices after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, beginning February 24, has put pressure on the wholesale price index, even though food articles saw softening across categories of vegetables to pulses to protein-rich items.

Inflation in crude petroleum spiked to 55.17 per cent during February, against 39.41 per cent in the previous month on rising prices of crude oil



globally. Inflation in food articles, however, eased to 8.19 per cent in February from 10.33 per cent. The rate of price rise in vegetables was lower at 26.93 per cent in February, against 38.45 per cent in the previous month. In egg, meat

and fish, inflation was 8.14 per cent, while in onion, it was (-) 26.37 per cent. Inflation in potatoes saw a sudden spike at 14.78 per cent in February, against (-) 14.45 per cent in January. "The high rate of inflation in February 2022, is

primarily due to rise in prices of mineral oils, basic metals, chemicals and chemical products, crude petroleum & natural gas, food articles and non-food articles etc as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement.

Inflation in manufactured items was 9.84 per cent in February against 9.42 per cent in January.

In the fuel and power basket, the rate of price rise was 31.50 per cent during the month. Icria Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said the global surge in commodity prices, including crude and edible oils, poses the main risk to the WPI inflation trajectory.

"We now expect the WPI inflation to print at a high 13-14 per cent in March 2022. The timeline with which the WPI inflation will recede into single digits will be driven by the duration of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and its impact on supplies and commodity prices," Nayar said.

## Rupee slips 11 paise at 76.55 against USD, bullion falls

Mumbai: The rupee declined by 11 paise to close at 76.55 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday amid moderating crude oil prices and foreign fund outflows. High inflation also affected market sentiment, forex dealers said. However, a rally in the equity markets restricted the rupee's fall, they added.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 76.63 against the American dollar. It regained some lost ground during the session but remained in the negative territory as investors turned towards safe-haven assets. During the day, it swung between a high of 76.52 and a low of 76.69.

The local unit finally settled at 76.55 against the dollar, down 11 paise from the previous close. Uncertainty over the war in Ukraine and persistently high inflation kept investors away from riskier assets, traders said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.39 per cent lower at 98.79. Bullion prices showed downward trend. Gold prices on Monday fell by Rs 256 to Rs 52,622 per 10 grams in futures trade as participants cut down their bets amid a weak global trend.

## Markets extend winning momentum to 5th day



Mumbai, Mar 14 (PTI):

Equity benchmark Sensex rallied 936 points on Monday, helped by heavy buying in banking and IT counters along with decline in oil prices amid hopes of headway in renewed diplomatic talks between Russia and Ukraine.

A fresh round of talks is expected on Monday between Ukrainian and Russian officials.

Rising for the fifth straight session, the BSE Sensex jumped 935.72 points or 1.68 per cent to settle at 56,486.02. During the day, it rallied 995.53 points or 1.79 per cent to 56,545.83.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 240.85 points or 1.45 per cent to settle at 16,871.30.

In the 30-share Sensex pack, Infosys, State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, Maruti Suzuki India, HDFC and Wipro were among the major gainers, jumping up to 3.76 per cent.

In contrast, Hindustan Unilever Limited, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Dr Reddy's Laboratories and Tata Steel were the laggards.

Bourses in Hong Kong and Shanghai settled sharply lower, while Tokyo was marginally higher.

Stock exchanges in the US settled lower on Friday. Germany's DAX advanced 2.8% to 14,003.93, while the CAC 40 in Paris picked up 1.7% to 6,367.58. Britain's FTSE 100 gained 0.3% to 7,178.48.

## Ministry of Labour unveils for Railway Good Shed Workers survey form of BRMGUSU

New Delhi, Mar 14:

Baratiya Railways Mail Godam Shramik Union (BRMGUSU) hosted a function to giving honor of the Ministry of Labor, Government of India at the Constitution Club of India in New Delhi on Saturday March 12, 2022. The ceremony started at 12 noon. The event was organized by BRMGUSU President, Parimal Kanti Mandal and General Secretary, Vidyadhar Mallick, where Labour and Employment Minister, Bhupendra Yadav was the chief guest and Chief Labour Commissioner (Centre) (CLC (C)), Ajay Kumar Samantray was present as the special

guest, as well as additional-Chief Labour Commissioner (Central), Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner (Central), Assistant Labour Commissioner (Central), Labour Enforcement Officer, Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) from New Delhi, Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) from Uttar Pradesh and Railways Deputy Director-Traffic, Railway Board, Joint Director (Health) from the Ministry, Railway Board, Under Secretary-Railway Board, and Section Officer of the Ministry and Additional-Private Secretary from the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office had a dignified presence.

## Broadcasters to pull GECs from Prasar Bharati owned DTH platform

New Delhi, Mar 14: The big 4 broadcasters are likely to pull out their general entertainment channels (GECs) from the Prasar Bharati-owned free direct to home (DTH) platform from 1st April 2022. The channels that will be pulled out from DD Free Dish are Star Utsav, Zee Anmol, ColorsRishtey, and Sony Pal. From now on these channels will only be available on cable and DTH platforms like Tata Play and Airtel.

Industry sources say that the broadcasters are worried about the flight of customers from pay distribution platforms to DD Free Dish once the New Tariff Order (NTO) 2.0 is implemented. As things

stand today, the broadcasters have pulled out their popular channels from bouquets in order to increase the average revenue per user (ARPU).

Sources also claim that the big broadcasters have taken a well-informed decision which will serve them well in the long-term. The choice is clear as the broadcasters want to protect their subscription revenue. "The cable and DTH platforms have been complaining to the broadcasters about the impact of re-run GECs on their subscriber base. The Pay TV platforms wanted parity as the broadcasters don't collect any subscription fee from DD Free Dish customers.

Mumbai, Mar 14:

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), along with the Ministry of Road Transport And Highways, has released a draft notification for revising the third-party premium rates for motor insurance policies for the financial year 2022-2023. This proposed revision was stalled for the last two years due to the Covid pandemic.

Nitin Kumar, Head-Motor New Business, Policybazaar.com said, "This was an expected move as third-party rates had not been changed for

## Third Party Motor insurance premium to go up

the past two terms. The increase is across the spectrum from cars and two-wheelers to commercial vehicles. While third-party premium rates are revised on an annual basis by IRDAI, these were put on hold in 2020, and then again in 2021, to give relief to policyholders during the pandemic."

As per the revised rates, private cars with 1,000 cubic capacity (cc) will attract rates of Rs 2,094. Similarly, private cars with 1,000 cc to 1,500 cc will attract rates of Rs 3,416 while those above 1,500 cc private cars will see a premium of Rs 7,897. Two-wheelers over 150 cc but

not exceeding 350 cc will attract a premium of Rs 1,366 and for two-wheelers over 350 cc the revised premium is Rs 2,804. For public goods carrying commercial vehicles, the premium will range from Rs 16,049 to Rs 44,242 depending on the gross vehicle weight. For the private ones, the premium will range from Rs 8,510 to Rs 25,038. However, with the rise in the number of third-party claims after the initial drop during Covid, reinsurer GIC had written to IRDAI, proposing the mandatory increase in third-party rates, which has now been accepted.

## Many states request GST compensation extension beyond 5 years

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

Many states have requested extension of the compensation mechanism under the GST beyond June 2022, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday.

Under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) law, states were guaranteed to be compensated bi-monthly for any loss of revenue in the first five years of GST implementation from July 1, 2017.

The shortfall is calculated assuming a 14 per cent annual growth in GST collections by states over the base year of 2015-16. The 5-year period ends in June 2022.

The compensation amount to be paid from the compensation fund



Nirmala Sitharaman

is arrived at by levying cess on top of the highest tax slab on luxury, demerit and sin goods.

In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Sitharaman said the central government is committed to giving GST compensation to states/UTs for 5 years as per the Constitutional provision. To a query

Experience not relevant criteria for bidder selection

**New Delhi:** Defending its decision to sell Central Electronics Ltd to Nandal Finance & Leasing, the government on Monday said technological and managerial experience are not among the relevant criteria for the selection of a bidder in strategic disinvestment.

whether the government has received proposals from state governments requesting extension of compensation mechanism for another five years in view of difficulties caused by the pandemic, she said "Yes Sir. Many states have requested for extension of the compensation period during the deliberations

in GST Council and in letters addressed to the central government".

GST compensation for financial years 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 has already been paid to states. Since collections in the compensation fund are falling short of requirement, for 2020-21 and 2021-22, the Centre has borrowed funds worth Rs 1.10 lakh crore and Rs 1.59 lakh crore, respectively and passed it on to states as back-to-back loans.

The compensation cess, levied on luxury and demerit goods, will continue to be collected till March 2026 to repay the borrowings that were done in 2020-21 and 2021-22 to compensate states for GST revenue loss.

## Govt plans to float EoI for its stake sale in IDBI Bank

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

The government plans to invite expression of interest to sell its stake in LIC-controlled IDBI Bank by the next month-end, a senior official has said.

As part of the divestment, the government plans to sell its entire 45.48 per cent stake eventually.

The government may look to sell around a 26 per cent stake in the bank, along with management control to attract investors, the official said.

IDBI Bank became a subsidiary of LIC with effect from January 21, 2019, following the acquisition of an additional 8,27,590,885 equity shares. On December 19, 2020,



IDBI Bank was reclassified as an associate company due to the reduction of LIC shareholding to 49.24 per cent following the issuance of additional equity shares by the bank under a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP).

"We have been working on the proposal for a while now and most of the details have been finalised. We expect to invite the ex-

pression of interest from investors by end of next month or May," the official said.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had given in-principle approval for strategic disinvestment and transfer of management control in IDBI Bank in May last year.

Necessary amendments to the IDBI Bank Act have already been made through the Finance Act 2021, and transaction advisors have been appointed.

IPO-bound Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) plans to retain some stake in IDBI Bank so that the insurer continues to reap the benefits of the bancassurance channel.

## Edible oil import up 23% to 9.84 LT in Feb

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

India's edible oil imports rose 23 per cent to 9,83,608 tonnes in February mainly due to a sharp rise in shipments of refined palm oil, industry body SEA said on Monday. Edible oil imports stood at 7,96,568 tonnes in the same month last year. Total import of vegetable oils (edible and non-edible) increased to 10,19,997 tonnes as compared to 8,38,607 tonnes in February 2021, Solvent Extractors' Association of India said in a statement. Out of the total vegetable oils imports, the edible oils import rose to 9,83,608 tonnes



from 7,96,568 tonnes in February 2021. Imports of refined palm oil increased to 3,02,928 tonnes from 6,000 tonnes. Non-edible oil imports last month fell to 36,389 tonnes from 42,039 tonnes in the year-ago period. The overall im-

port of vegetable oils during the first four months of 2021-22 oil year, which runs from November-October, went up 7 per cent to 46,91,158 tonnes as compared to 43,94,760 tonnes during the same period of the previous year.

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

French carmaker Renault on Monday said it has launched new version of its entry-level model Kwid with price starting at Rs 4.49 lakh (ex-show-room).

Available in both 0.8-litre and 1-litre petrol powertrains with manual and automatic transmission options, the updated Kwid features new interior and exterior colour harmony with white accents in the Climber range.

The KWID MY22 Climber range will also offer customers an array of new colour options along with new dual tone flex wheels.

The value proposition of model is further enhanced with the introduction of



new RXL(O) variant on both 0.8-litre and 1-litre manual transmission powertrains, the carmaker

said in a statement.

The model is compliant with all the current safety requirements for the

Indian market and even goes beyond to protect both passengers and pedestrians, it added.



## Sony SAB launches 'Dharm Yoddha Garud'



Indian mythology states that Garud's wings were mighty enough to flip the turn of the universe. Born to slavery and oblivious of his monarchical lineage, Garud showed extreme dedication and unwavering courage that's etched in Indian mythology. And it's time for the world to

witness it! Sony SAB brings to you a larger-than-life spectacle in Dharm Yoddha Garud, the untold chronicle of a doting and devoted son. Featuring Indian Television's much loved face Faisal Khan in the lead, Dharm Yoddha Garud reflects on selflessness, honesty, obedience, and bravery which lies at

the core of Garud, the devotee and charioteer of Lord Vishnu. Dharm Yoddha Garud premiered on Sony SAB on 14th March at 7:00 PM. Dharm Yoddha Garud begins on the premise of Garud's birth, who despite being born as a bird-human with incredible strength and powers to the great

sage Rishi Kashyap and Vinta is compelled to obey the orders of his cunning aunt Kadru and his step-brothers including Kaaliya and the 1000 snakes. The story showcases a unique aspect of a mother-son relationship and how it blossoms each passing day as they navigate the challenges thrown at them. Being born into enslavement, Garud seeks to uncover the reason for his mother's plight. Defying all odds, he shows exemplary courage to fight and try to free his mother from the shackles of slavery, but each time she stops him. What is the mysterious secret that Vinta wants to shield Garud from? Garud's complete devotion to his mother Vinta and abiding by his duty in this universe is what makes him Dharm Yoddha Garud!

**Tune in to Dharm Yoddha Garud, Monday to Saturday at 7:00 PM only on Sony SAB.**

## Sunny Leone finds it hard to balance work life and motherhood

Sunny Leone who is quite occupied with her upcoming projects and enjoying the success of her latest web series 'Anamika', says as her work pressure is increasing, finding a balance between professional commitment and parenthood is becoming tougher for her. While she believes that playing the title role in 'Anamika' has given her a chance to showcase her skill as an actress and she is planning for more such action-packed projects in the coming time, she mentioned how her three children have become so emotionally attached to her during the lockdown period that leaving them home for work gives her separation anxiety at times. "It is so hard for me to balance work life and motherhood especially because I am one of those moms who is involved in every daily activity of my children. Since the pandemic when they were growing up in last 2 years they have all their time with us, now every time when I and my husband go out for work, they would just feel so upset...sit on our lap and cuddle up saying, 'just play with us, don't go away'. When we heard those words coming from those cute voices, it breaks our heart really." Sunny has three children - a daughter Nisha adopted in 2017, twin boys - Asher and Noah via surrogacy in 2018. Currently, she is working on south Indian films - 'Rangeela', 'Shero', 'Oh My Ghost'. She is also working on Hindi film 'Koka Kola', 'Helen' and making a special appearance in the film 'The Battle of Bhima Koregaon'. Asked if she has any plan of going for acting class to have some formal training in acting and Sunny said, "With so much happening in my life, three children, two dogs, several projects - I really do not have time for that. Yes, it is true that formal training in any art form helps to develop your skill but I also believe that in acting, preparation and training depends on project by project. So I am quite comfortable to submit myself to the vision of my director." 'Anamika', a Vikram Bhatt directorial, also featuring - Rahul Dev, Samir Soni, Sonnalli Seygall, Shehzad Shaikh, Ayaz Khan - streams on MX Player.



## Vaishnavi talks about the second 'Sai Vachan'



not be derailed by any setbacks. The second Sai Vachan 'Jaisa roop hua jis jan ka, waisa roop hua mere man ka' brings out the story of Urvashi (Vaishnavi Prajapati) who is a young girl and a passionate dancer but due to unfortunate reasons, her choice of profession is looked down upon by her uncle.

In the show, Urvashi is a person who believes in following one's dreams with complete intention and passion. Following the same rule in life, Vaishnavi Prajapati says, "Dance has always been my passion and being a part of dance reality shows in the past, inspired me to turn my dreams into reality. Of course there were moments where I felt like giving up but I always believed that there is always light at the end of the tunnel."

She further adds, "Similarly, in the ongoing track, my character Urvashi who is a passionate dancer is someone who never gives up and Sai Baba further helps her pursue her dreams."

**Watch Sai Ke Anmol Vachno Ki Katha in Mere Sai - Shraddha aur Saburi, Monday to Friday at 7 P.M. only on Sony Entertainment Television.**

Actress Ritika Singh, who was a real-life boxer before turning an actress with Sudha Kongara's 'Irudhi Suttru' ('Saala Khadoos' in Hindi), says that "Shadow boxing is her most favourite thing in the world". Taking to Instagram on Sunday, the actress, who shot to lime-light for her role as a boxer in 'Irudhi Suttru', which also featured Madhavan in the lead, posted a video of her training. She then wrote, "Shadow boxing is my most favourite thing in the world! I don't even look at it as a workout, but it is an incredible one at that. "No matter how many times you practice a combination or a kick or even a basic punch, it's never enough! You only keep getting better and start finding new ways to improve your skill set. "Like the greatest Bruce Lee said, 'I fear not the man who has practiced 10,000 kicks once, but I fear the man who has practiced 1 kick 10,000 times'."

## Shadow boxing is my most favourite thing in the world: Ritika Singh



Actor Ravi Teja, who is known as 'Maa's Maharaja' in Tollywood, will be seen alongside megastar Chiranjeevi soon. Chiranjeevi, who is currently busy with a handful of offers, will be seen in his untitled, upcoming movie 'Chiru154'. Bobby is to wield the megaphone for the movie, which will apparently have Ravi Teja essaying an important role.

If everything goes well, actor Ravi Teja will appear as Chiranjeevi's brother in the movie. To recall, Ravi Teja and Chiranjeevi were seen together in the movie titled 'Annayya', which had Soundarya, Venkat, Kota Srinivasa Rao, and Uttej in the lead roles. Tentatively titled 'Chiru154' it has 'Gabbar Singh' actress Shruthi Haasan on board, as the female lead opposite Chiranjeevi. Billed to be an action entertainer, the movie is bankrolled by Mythri Movie Makers on a grand scale. Devi Sri Prasad, who currently got much hype for his 'Pushpa' album, is roped in to score the music.



**Ravi Teja joins hands with Chiranjeevi for 'Chiru154'**

## HOROSCOPE TUESDAY MARCH 15

### Aquarius: Jan 21 – Feb 18

Your mood will swing by the hour today! Naturally, you want to be your friends stumped. But unpredictability does not mean that you take unnecessary risk. Ganesha suggests you complete all pending projects, and bear in mind that it is only fools who rush in where angels fear to tread.

### Gemini: May 22 – June 21

Emotional and material security will hold equal importance today. You want to be in love, but you know that love can't buy you dough. In academics, you will be able to solve whatever problems you set your mind on. Your spare time will be spent on devising methods of making the best use of your knowledge. Today, you will make crucial choices concerning higher studies, predicts Ganesha.

### Libra: Sept 23 – Oct 23

No matter what you do, some days are just not happening. Considering the random mood swings that affect you today, it's in the best interest of others that you put up a 'Beware of me' sign. By being forewarned about it, you should be capable of handling your erratic behaviour.

### Pisces: Feb 19 – Mar 20

You probably jumped out of bed this morning itching to talk to someone. And why not, since all your latent power of expression will spring out like a jack-in-the-box today. The pearls of wisdom you shower on people who are down-in-the-dumps today will make them feel good about their blues, taciturn selves, says Ganesha.

### Cancer: June 22 – July 22

You are feeling lucky today. The problem is that your feelings have nothing to do with the ground reality. So, while you may get busy trying your luck at risky speculative markets, Ganesha may get increasingly worried about the losses you may incur because of your foolishness.

### Scorpio: Oct 24 – Nov 22

The day today is riddled with minor, nagging ailments. Adopt a two-pronged strategy, advises Ganesha. One 'a' change your lifestyle, and two 'a' visit your doctor for regular examinations. Ominous at his best, Ganesha counsels to take care of your health.

### Aries: Mar 21 – Apr 20

You've finally realised that diet and exercise are a must, and you especially need to take good care. Today, you may wish to eat something different. Tried Mongolian cuisine? Ganesha suggests that you go out with some friends who you've not been paying attention to.

### Leo: July 23 – Aug 23

Body and soul might seem out of balance today. A part of you may long to break from society and live a more spiritual life, but worldly responsibilities and an attachment to your current lifestyle could get in your way. These things don't happen overnight, Leo. You have to let them develop in their own way, in their own time. Right now, find balance between the spiritual and the material.

### Sagittarius: Nov 23 – Dec 21

Today, you will most certainly put your heart and soul into your work. But it is rather unlikely that you will get the returns in proportion to the efforts you put in. Yet, at the end of the day, you will be more than satisfied that you have got the chance to display your innate talents, says Ganesha.

### Taurus: Apr 21 – May 21

You will spend your day in the company of near and dear ones, says Ganesha. Family and friends might gather at your place and you will leave no stone unturned in welcoming them to your nest. In all probability, home makers will be able to shine in cooking as well as hosting, foresees Ganesha. Emotions will run wild and free with your sweetheart, predicts Ganesha.

### Virgo: Aug 24 – Sept 22

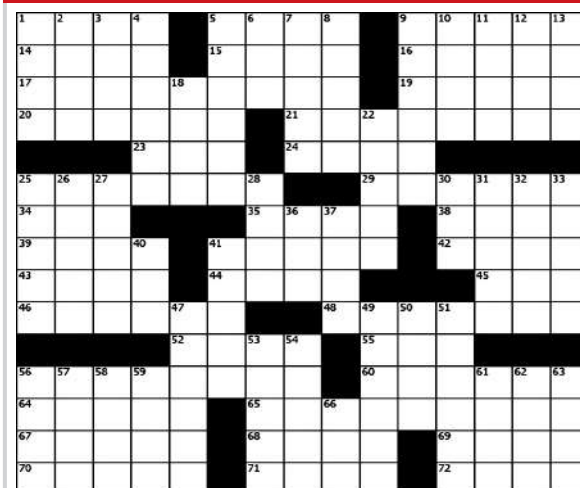
There is a strong indication that you will dabble in writing or performing arts, and emerge with excellent results. Since these are your passions, you may be praised vociferously for your ability to make the right decision at the right time. You may also bag rewards for the commendable efforts you'd put in the past.

### Capricorn: Dec 22 – Jan 20

New projects and partnership will keep you busy today, says Ganesha. If a meeting is scheduled, you may be praised vociferously for your ability to make the right decision at the right time. You may also bag rewards for the commendable efforts you'd put in the past.

## CROSSWORD

241



### ACROSS

- Huckleberry Finn's craft
- School gps.
- Revolutionary \_\_\_\_ Allen
- Farm measure
- Roof overhang
- Leamed
- Honed
- A la \_\_\_\_
- Gasoline, in England
- Kept

- Madrid cheer
- Stumble
- Point winners
- Tantalizes
- Crow's call
- Implement
- Humid
- Coffee pots
- High-strung
- Previously
- Hive dwellers
- October gem

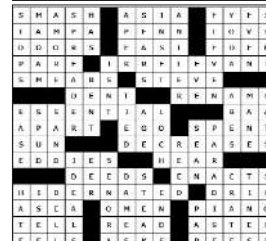
- Yet, poetically
- Apprehend
- Made a menu selection
- Lima's country
- Austria's cont.
- Scientist's sample
- Crossword direction
- Poe's middle name
- Flexible
- \_\_\_\_ dot
- Speechless
- Midday
- Strong metal
- Char
- Unpaid bill

### DOWN

- File
- Pang
- Campus gp.
- Fright
- Paring tool
- Summer shade
- Ward off
- Hebrew feast
- Flee
- Asian language
- Rhino feature
- Chip in
- Deficiency
- \_\_\_\_ vault
- Owner's proof
- Diving gear
- Concerned one
- Proprietor
- Stair part

- Excitement
- More rational
- Host
- Pay out
- "Snakes \_\_\_\_ Plane" (2 wds.)
- Norway's capital
- NNW's capital
- \_\_\_\_ pole
- Of the backbone
- The Grim \_\_\_\_
- Channel
- Trip to the store, e.g.
- Paper quantities
- Excessive
- Tree fluids
- Conspiracy
- She, in Marseille
- Birthday treat
- Double-reed instrument
- Messy fellow
- Dispatched
- \_\_\_\_ loss for words (2 wds.)

### SOLUTION 240





# India complete 2-0 series sweep against Sri Lanka

**Bengaluru, Mar 14 (PTI):**

India extinguished whatever little spark Sri Lanka showed and wrapped up the second Test inside three days for a comprehensive 238-run win, completing a 2-0 whitewash of the Islanders, here on Monday.

While two wins against Sri Lanka fetched India 24 points but Rohit Sharma's men remain in fifth position in World Championship table due to 'low percentage points' (54.16) despite 77 points in their kitty. A herculean task at hand, Sri Lanka took the field on the third day with a lot of determination but it was always going to be tough to negotiate the Indian attack on a track that has been offering turn and uneven bounce from day one.

Resuming at 28 for one in pursuit of an improbable 447-run target, the Sri Lanka batters, led by skipper Dimuth Karunaratne (107), resisted the Indian attack for some time before folding for 208 in the post-tea ses-



**Ravichandran Ashwin (L) with teammate Rishab Pant celebrate after taking the wicket of Sri Lanka's batter Dhananjaya De Silva during 2nd test cricket match at Chinnaswamy Stadium, in Bengaluru, Monday.**

Left-handed Karunaratne, one of the most consistent performers for Sri Lanka in recent times, raised his 14th Test century with a boundary off Jasprit Bumrah. He took some time to settle but worked the ball

around swiftly, consistently placing them in the gaps. Bumrah (3/23) eventually sent him back with slightly seaming ball that beat his bat to shatter the stumps. The lethal Indian fast bowler, who consistently made life tough for

the Lankans, returned with match figures of 8 for 47, having taken a fiver at home for the first time in the first innings.

Ravichandran Ashwin (4/55), Axar Patel (2/37) and Ravindra Jadeja (1/48) did their bit in wrapping up the Lankan innings.

India now have won all three pink-ball Tests at home, having beaten beating Bangladesh (in Kolkata, 2019) and England (in Ahmedabad, 2021) before.

Visitors' early positive intent, something which has not been witnessed much in this series, resulted in a rare productive batting session for the Lankans who collected 123 runs for loss of three wickets. Adopting a positive yet cautious approach, both Kusal Mendis (54 off 60 balls) and Karunaratne used their feet with confidence to counter the Indian spinners.

Mendis was impressive on both front and back foot as he pulled and cut the short-pitched stuff and used his feet to cut down the spin.

## Bangladesh beat Pakistan by 9 runs to register first-ever win

**Hamilton, Mar 14 (PTI):**

Opener Sidra Ameen's 104 went in vain as Pakistan committed harakiri to hand debutants Bangladesh a nine-run win, their first-ever victory in the ICC Women's ODI World Cup here on Monday.

Chasing 235 to win, Ameen gave Pakistan a flying start, forging a 91-run partnership with Nahida Khan (43) for the first wicket and then added another 64 runs with Bismah Maroof (31).

With Ameen going strong, Pakistan were well on course for a successful chase, reaching 183 for two but Fahima Khatun (3/38) turned the match on its head with three quick wickets as Pakistan inexplicably lost five of their batters for just five runs to slip to 188 for seven and were eventually restricted to 225 for nine.

Khatun picked up the wickets of Omaima Sohail (10), Aliya Riaz (0) and Fatima Sana (0), while Rumana Ahmed re-



**Bangladesh's Fahima Khatun (3/38) turned the match on its head with three quick wickets.**

### All-round South Africa beat England to register hat-trick of wins

Mount Maunganui: South Africa produced an allround display to continue their unbeaten run in the tournament, beating defending champions England by three wickets to register a hat-trick of wins in the ongoing ICC Women's ODI World Cup here on Monday. South Africa first rode on Marizanne Kapp's (5/45), her best bowling ODI figures, to restrict four-time champions England to 235 for nine and then Laura Wolvaardt (77 off 101 balls) held their innings together as they overcame a late scare to chase down the target with four balls to spare.

moved Nida Dar (0) before centurion Ameen fell for a run-out to end Pakistan's hope. Featuring in their first

women's World Cup, Bangladesh had lost their first two games against South Africa and New Zealand, while Pakistan

slumped to their fourth defeat in as many matches and 18th successive loss in the event. Earlier, invited to bat, Bangladesh scored 234 for seven, riding on Fargana Hoque's 71 and some useful contributions from Sharmin Akhter (44) and skipper Nigar Sultana (46). Hoque shared 96 runs for the third wicket with Sultana to lay the foundation as Bangladesh posted their highest total in ODIs. Openers Shamima Sultana and Sharmin Akhter gave Bangladesh a good start against the pacers but things changed the moment spinners were introduced with Nida Dar dismissing the former.

Left-arm spinner Nashra Sandhu and leg-spinner Ghulam Fatima then put further brakes even as Omaima Sohail picked up the other opener to leave Bangladesh at 79 for two in 20th over.

Sultana and Hoque then joined hands but the duo found it difficult to rotate strikes with the spinners bowling in tandem.

## 'Close-knit, family-oriented structure makes you feel safe in MI'

**Mumbai, Mar 14 (PTI):**

Star England pacer Jofra Archer, who was bought by Mumbai Indians for a whopping Rs 8 crore despite his unavailability for this year's IPL, said the team's "close-knit, family-oriented" structure makes him feel "safe" as a new entrant.

The 26-year-old, who has undergone two surgeries to treat his troubled right elbow, will sit out of the IPL this year as he continues his recovery from injury. But he's already excited by the prospect of joining the franchise in future. "MI looks very close-knit and family-oriented



and such teams always do well. That's why it is no surprise that we have won five titles," Archer told the team's official social media handles.

"Polly's (Kieron Pollard) been there 10 years, (Lasith) Malinga was there a long time, the same

with Rohit (Sharma) too. These things make you feel safe when you come into the team as a new player," Jofra said.

The perception of fast bowlers has always been that they are an angry bunch, who need to stoke that fire to generate fear-some pace.

However, the Englishman, who has played 42 games across formats besides winning his team a World Cup, said it's about staying calm.

"I think you need to be calm as a fast bowler because you have to know when to step it up and when to tone it down," he said.

## Need to finish games in regulation time: Women's hockey coach

**Bhubaneswar, Mar 14 (PTI):** Indian women's hockey team chief coach Janneke Schopman on Monday said the side should close down games in regulation time instead of allowing them to stretch till shoot-outs but she was quite pleased with the regular scoring chances created by her wards in the ongoing FIH Pro League ties.

Both the matches in India's recent Pro League tie against Germany went to shoot-out with the home team losing the first before bouncing back to win the second leg here on Sunday. India fought back with a remarkable 3-0 shootout win over Germany in the second leg after both the games ended in a 1-1 draw in regulation time here on Sunday, a huge improvement

in their performance from the first leg match which the hosts lost 1-2 in the shoot-out. "In Saturday's game, we didn't start well, but in the next game, we started well. I think we created enough opportunities. The only thing to say is that we should win in regulation time and not in shootouts," Schopman said after India's win in the second match. Fairly well-placed at second position in the standings, Schopman wants her players to improve with every game going forward in the FIH Pro League. The Indians are now placed second in the nine-team league with 12 points from six games. "Our focus is to improve and do better in every game, which I think we are doing," she said.

## Shreyas Iyer named ICC 'Player of the Month'

**Dubai, Mar 14 (PTI):**

Fast-rising India batter Shreyas Iyer was on Monday voted the ICC 'Men's Player of the Month' for February, while New Zealand all-rounder Amelia Kerr bagged the honour among women.

Iyer earned the award on the back of his brilliant white-ball exploits during the home series against the West Indies and Sri Lanka respectively last month. He pipped UAE's Vriitya Aravind and Nepal's Dipendra Singh Airee to claim the honour.

The right-hander struck a well-crafted, match-winning 80 in the third ODI against the West Indies in Ahmedabad and followed it up with a brisk 16-ball 25 in the closing game of the



subsequent three-match T20I series. He was even better in the T20I series against Sri Lanka, aggregating 204 runs without being dismissed across three innings at a highly impressive strike-rate of 174.36.

He registered scores of 57\*(28), 74\*(44) and 73\*(45) across three games, while striking 20 fours and seven

sixes collectively in a Player of the Series performance. "Throughout the month Shreyas showed tremendous consistency and control," remarked former Sri Lanka cricketer and voting panel member Russell Arnold.

"He totally dominated opposition bowlers and proved very hard to bowl at, scoring runs all-round the wicket and attacking the bowlers at the right moments. What really stood out for me was his composure as he battles for a regular place in the India lineup."

The 27-year-old has carried his form in the ongoing month too, having produced an outstanding 92 in the first innings of the ongoing second Test against Sri Lanka in Bangalore.

## After world championships, Lovlina and Nikhat secure Asian Games selection

**New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):**

Olympic bronze-medallist Lovlina Borgohain and former junior world champion Nikhat Zareen were on Monday selected in the Indian women's boxing team for this year's Asian Games in Hangzhou, China after emerging victorious in the trials held here. While Zareen secured her place in the 51kg division, Borgohain clinched the 69kg spot after trials held at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium. Last week, both of them also made the world championships squad with Zareen qualifying in the 52kg category and Borgohain making the cut in 70kg. In the Asian Games trial finals held this morning, Borgohain defeated

Railways' boxer Pooja, and Zareen got the better of Manju Rani, a silver-medallist from the 2019 World Championships. The Asian Games are due to be held from September 10 to 25. In the world championship trials held last week, selections were also confirmed for the Asian Games in three overlapping divisions — 57kg, 60kg and 75kg. The Asian Games feature five women categories. In 57kg, Manisha won her trial bouts to make the cut for both the showcase events, while the promising Jaismine (60kg) and the experienced Saweety Boora (75kg), who won a world silver medal in 2014, also ensured twin selections for themselves.

**New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):**

Manshi Joshi and Nithya Sre claimed a gold each, while Tokyo Paralympics champion Pramod Bhagat secured two silver and a bronze as India bagged as many as 21 medals at the Spanish Para Badminton International in Cartagena, Spain. World no 1 Joshi (SL3) and Sre (SH6) were among the six gold medallists, while India also secured seven silvers and eight bronze medals in the level I tournament, which concluded on Sunday. Raja / Krishna (men's doubles SH6), Raj/Parul (mixed doubles SL3-SU5), Chirag/Raj



(men's doubles SU5) and Nitesh/Tarun (men's doubles SL3-SL4) also bagged the yellow metal. World no 1 Bhagat (SL3) secured two

silver and a bronze, while world no 2 Sukant Kadam (SL 4) ended up with a bronze medal at the event. Tarun Dhillon (men's sin-

gles SL4), Krishna Nagar (men's singles SH6), Mandeep Kaur (women's singles SL3), Manasi/Ruthick (mixed doubles SL3-SU5), Hardik/Ruthik (men's doubles SU5) and Manoj/Bhagat (men's doubles SL3-SL4) also won silver medals. The bronze medal winners were Nitesh Kumar (men's singles SL3), Manoj (men's singles SL3), Nilesh Gaikwad (men's singles SL4), Parul Parmar (women's singles SL3), Bhagat/Kohli (mixed doubles SL3-SU5), Arwaz/Deep (men's doubles SL3-SL4), and Prem Ale/Abu Hubaida (men's doubles WH1-WH2).

## Hardik Pandya checks in at NCA to appear for fitness test before IPL

**New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):**

Hardik Pandya has reported at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru where he will undergo fitness tests for the next couple of days before he gets an all-clear to lead Gujarat Titans in the upcoming Indian Premier League.

The most interesting aspect to watch during the tests would be whether the 28-year-old gets clearance to bowl full tilt in the cash-rich league where Titans would start their campaign against Lucknow Super Giants on March 28. "Hardik will be at the NCA for next two days and appear in the various fitness tests. He is a centrally

contracted cricketer and has not played any cricket since T20 World Cup in UAE," a BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"He would need to pass the fitness test as it has been mandatory for some time now. Last year, even Shreyas Iyer appeared for a fitness test post shoulder surgery before playing IPL," he added.

The national team and the NCA medical staff always keeps a close tab on its centrally-contracted players and it has been learnt that during the Titans short five-day training camp in Baroda, Hardik had bowled during a couple of sessions.

## Barcelona regains scoring touch with 4-0 rout of Osasuna

**Madrid, Mar 14 (AP):**

It didn't take long for Barcelona's offense to regain its scoring touch. After being held to a disappointing scoreless draw with Galatasaray in the first leg of the round of 16 of the Europa League, Barcelona scored three goals in less than 30 minutes on Sunday en route to a comfortable 4-0 win over Osasuna in the Spanish league.

Ferrn Torres found the net twice and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Riqui Puig added a goal each to keep the Catalan club in third place. It has the same 51 points as Atletico Madrid but leads on the head-to-head tiebreaker. Barcelona also has a game in hand compared to



**FC Barcelona's Riqui Puig celebrates scoring their fourth goal with Gavi.**

the defending champions. Barcelona and Atletico trail second-place Sevilla by five points. League leader Real Madrid, which visits relegation-threat-

ened Mallorca on Monday, is 12 points ahead of Barcelona and Atletico.

Madrid hosts Barcelona next Sunday at the Santiago Bernabéu

Stadium.

Barcelona had scored 14 goals in its last four matches in all competitions before the 0-0 home draw against Galatasaray on Thursday. "We didn't do a good job the other day and we know it," Torres said.

"But today the team responded well. When you keep creating chances, the ball will keep going in."

Torres opened the scoring Sunday by converting a 14th-minute penalty kick and added to the lead seven minutes later from inside the area after a nice through ball by Ousmane Dembélé. Dembélé also set up the third goal by Aubameyang in the 27th, making a well-placed cross into the box from the right flank, and the fourth by Puig in the 75th.

## KKR gear up for IPL

**Navi Mumbai:** Two-time IPL champions Kolkata Knight Riders on Monday started their training for the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League, which will begin in Mumbai from March 26.

PTI has already reported that the IPL teams would begin training either from Monday or Tuesday at different practice venues, which have been identified by the organisers.

"We have started training today at DY Patil university ground."

Most Indian players have come in apart from Umesh (Yadav) and Shreyas (Iyer) who are with the Indian team and Venkatesh Iyer who is at NCA," a KKR official said.

It is also understood that a couple of players are still in quarantine and they will join the squad a day later.

## Lakshya Sen loses in German Open final

**Muelheim An Der Ruhr, Mar 14 (PTI):**

World Championships bronze medallist Lakshya Sen's giant-killing run ended with a straight-game loss to Thailand's rising star Kunlavut Vitidsarn in the summit clash of German Open Super 300 badminton tournament here on Sunday. The 20-year-old Sen, who had claimed his maiden Super 500 title at India Open in January, lost 18-21 15-21 in 57 minutes to the three-time world junior champion Vitidsarn in the final match. World number 12 Sen came into the match with a 3-3 head-to-head record against Vitidsarn, ranked 20th, having beaten the Thai in their last meeting at Hylo Open last year. In a battle of equals,



Sen and Vitidsarn matched each other in speed in the rallies to move 4-4 before the Thai rode on his variations and deception to grab a comfortable 11-6 lead at the break. Sen worked up his pace and took control of the net to make it 15-16 but an alert Vitidsarn managed to grab two game points with a overhead cross-court drop. Sen need-

ed medical attention for a blister on his foot even as the Thai came up with a cross court smash to pocket the opening game.

The gruelling semifinal against Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen seemed to have taken a toll on Sen as Vitidsarn jumped to a 7-3 lead in the second game before moving to a 11-5 advantage after the change of sides.



## HOLIKA PROCESSION



Devotees ride on horses as they participate in Holika procession as part of Holi celebrations, in Varanasi, Monday.

## ISRO to unveil latest sponsored research opportunities for academia

Bengaluru, Mar 14 (PTD):

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will unveil its latest sponsored research opportunities to the academia on Tuesday. 'RESPOND BASKET 2022', the Bengaluru-headquartered space agency's focused research topics for sponsored research, will be launched by ISRO Chairman and Secretary in the Department of Space Somanath.

"Every year, we publish ISRO-focused topics for research in the Respond Basket. Then, several universities and colleges apply to ISRO for joint collabora-

tion. We will enter into MoUs with finalised academia," an ISRO official told PTI. RESPOND's objective is to encourage academia to participate and contribute in various space-related research activities. Under RESPOND, projects are taken up by universities/academic institutions in the areas of relevance to space programme. ISRO said it has evolved the RESPOND programme through which necessary financial and technical support is provided to academia in India for conducting research and development activities related to space science, space technology and space

applications. This is the flagship programme of ISRO to promote the extramural research in emerging areas of space for academia. To enable the faculty of universities/institutes to prepare suitable proposals of relevance to the space programme, a detailed list of R&D areas/sub areas/topics are evolved as per major programmes of ISRO, by the various centres of ISRO and academia, wherein the rich talent of academia/ faculty is being harnessed to support the nation's space programme," it was stated.

## 2020 Delhi riots

## Bail to Ishrat Jahan in larger conspiracy case

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTD):

A Delhi court on Monday granted bail to former Congress Councillor Ishrat Jahan in the case concerning the larger conspiracy behind the Delhi riots of February 2020. The order was pronounced by Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat.

Jahan, along with several others, has been booked under the anti-terror law - Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) - in the case for being the "masterminds" of the February 2020 riots, which had left 53 people dead and over 700 injured. Earlier Jahan was granted inter-

im bail in June 2020 for 10 days to get married and was directed not to tamper with the evidence or influence the witnesses. The violence had erupted during the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019, and the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Besides Jahan, activist Khalid Saifi, Umar Khalid, JNU students Natasha Narwal and Devangana Kalita, Jamia Coordination Committee members Safoora Zargar, former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain and several others have also been booked under the stringent law in the case. PTI ADS

## ‘Over 65k Chakma, Hajong refugees in Arunachal, govt gave them basic amenities’

Itanagar, Mar 14 (PTD):

As many as 65,884 Chakma and Hajong refugees reside in Arunachal Pradesh, Chief Minister Pema Khandu told the Assembly on Monday, citing a survey conducted by the government in 2015-16 in three districts of the state where they have settled - Changlang, Namsai and Papum Pare.

Khandu, in a written reply to Congress MLA Wanglin Lowangdong, also said that the government allotted an area of 4,240.24 hectares to the Chakmas and Hajongs in Changlang district, besides 730.432



Pema Khandu

hectares in Namsai and an approximate 14 square kilometers in Papum Pare. In Changlang, the refugees are mostly settled in Miao, Kharsang and Diyun. Similarly in Namsai, they reside in three villages of Chongkham circle, while in

Papum Pare, they are concentrated in Changmara-Magoni and Chessa areas, the CM stated.

Additionally, the refugees have encroached upon 5,819.88 hectares in Changlang, and 289.57 hectares in Namsai districts. No such encroachment has been reported from Papum Pare, Khandu maintained.

"As per the judgement of Supreme Court in 1996, the state government has provided basic amenities like road, health care, schools, electricity and water supplies to the Chakmas and Hajongs living in the three districts," Khandu asserted while responding to another supplementary question.

## ‘Ready to make any sacrifice’

## CWC reposes full faith in her

New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTD):

Days after its drubbing in five states, the Congress' top decision-making body on Sunday unanimously decided that party president Sonia Gandhi should continue till organisational polls after she expressed readiness to "make any and every sacrifice" in the party's interest.

The Congress Working Committee (CWC), during its nearly five-hour meeting, reposed full faith in her leadership, urging her to effect immediate corrective changes to strengthen the party and meet the political challenges ahead of the next round of elections.

Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said every Congress worker and leader wants Rahul



Congress interim President Sonia Gandhi chairs the Congress Working Committee meeting, in New Delhi.

Gandhi to lead the party, but as the process of organisational polls is underway, the next president will be decided through it.

Amid calls for large-scale reforms to revive the party's dwindling electoral fortunes, AICC general secretary KC Venugopal, at a press conference after the CWC meeting, said the party president will immediately

take corrective measures to revamp and strengthen the organisation. The Congress will hold a 'Chintan Shivir' (brainstorming session) soon after the Budget Session of Parliament and the CWC will meet again before that, Venugopal said. The session is scheduled to end on April 8.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot

suggested that the 'Chintan Shivir' be held in his state. Later, leaders said this brainstorming session of three-four days would chalk out the future roadmap and strategy in order to address challenges.

Several leaders, after the meeting, said that Gandhi in her introductory remarks said she is ready "to make any and every sacrifice as Congress workers and the CWC wish in the interest of the party".

These comments were seen by many as her readiness to even quit if required and felt necessary by the party leadership. She listened to all leaders at the CWC meet and left the decision to the wisdom of members, including those of the G-23, who reposed full faith in her.

## HC seeks Maha reply

## ‘PIL challenges vaccine mandate for suburban train travel’

Mumbai, Mar 14 (PTD):

The Bombay High Court on Monday directed the Maharashtra government to file a reply to a PIL that challenged the state's decision to continue insisting that one must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to travel in suburban trains and use other modes of public transport in the metropolis.

The public interest litigation (PIL), filed by one Firoze Mithiborwala through advocate Nilesh Ojha, challenged a circular dated March 1, 2022, that was issued by the Maharashtra government to list out the standard op-

erating procedures and safety measures citizens must follow in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. The restriction on public transport, including local trains, for the unvaccinated was included in the circular.

This is a fresh PIL on the issue and the earlier one was disposed of by the HC in beginning of this month. Mithiborwala said in his PIL that such a restriction was arbitrary, unconstitutional and an "indirect attempt" on the Maharashtra government's part to make vaccination compulsory.

"The impugned order (circular) is against the state's own policy decision

and an indirect attempt to make vaccination compulsory. (Imposing) such indirect compulsion is prohibited by the Supreme Court," the plea reads.

The plea further claims that the state government's insistence on citizens wearing face masks to cover their mouth and nose while out of their homes, and in public places, was "unscientific." The PIL urged the HC to quash the circular.

It also urged the court to direct state and municipal authorities to return the money collected so far from citizens as fine for not wearing face masks in public places. Ojha mentioned the PIL on Monday

before a bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice MS Karnik, and sought an urgent hearing. The court then directed the state government to file its reply within a week.

Earlier this month, the HC had disposed of a PIL seeking similar reliefs after the state government submitted that despite the court's reservations against prohibiting the unvaccinated from travelling in local trains, it will continue to persist with the restriction.

At the time, the HC had said such a prohibition seemed to have been imposed without any application of mind.

## NO SUBSTITUTE FOR HARD WORK



Students and volunteers participate in a training session for joining sub-inspector and defense forces, in Jammu, Monday.

## Sister Joseph elected as superior general

## Of Missionaries of Charity

Kolkata, Mar 14 (PTD):

Sister Mary Joseph has been elected as the superior general of Missionaries of Charity, becoming the fourth occupant of the top post of the global organisation founded by Saint Teresa of Kolkata, a spokesperson of the order said on Monday.

She was elected to the post after Sister Mary Prema, who was the superior general of Missionaries of Charity for 13 years, recently sought to be relieved of her responsibilities, spokesperson Sunita Kumar told PTI.

Septuagenarian Sister



Joseph, who was the secretary of Saint Teresa of Kolkata for years, was earlier the regional superior of the organisation in Kerala before being elected to the top post on Saturday night, Kumar said. Nuns from the order across the world voted at

its headquarters in Kolkata in the election which was kept under wraps till the names were announced. "We will issue a formal notice with details about Sister Joseph on March 28," Kumar said.

She said that Sisters Christie has been elected as assistant general, Sister Cecile as the second councillor, Sister Marie Juan as the third councillor and Sister Patrick as the fourth councillor. Sister Nirmala had succeeded Saint Teresa of Kolkata as the head of the Missionaries of Charity after her death and had stepped down in 2009 for health reasons.

## AIRF demands restoration of old pension scheme

New Delhi, Mar 14

(PTI): The All India

Railwaymen's

Federation (AIRF) and

its affiliated unions or-

ganised protests across

the country during the

lunch hours on Monday

for the restoration of

old pension scheme for

employees, a statement

said. All employees who

have joined the Indian

Railways on or after

January 1, 2004, come

under the purview of

the new pension

scheme.

The Rajasthan govern-

ment last month an-

nounced that it will im-

plement the old pension

scheme from the next fi-

nancial year onwards.

The new pension

scheme is completely

against the government

employee because there

is "no guarantee of fam-

ily pension and of the

minimum amount",

AIRF General Secretary

Shiva Gopal Mishra

said in a statement.

He said there is a lot

of anger against the

new scheme among the

government employees

who joined post

January 1, 2004. The

AIRF statement said

demonstrations against

the new pension

scheme were organised

at their respective of-

fices across the country

during lunch hours on

Monday.

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# Sextortion accused arrested from Haryana

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 14:** With the arrest of a ruffian, police claimed to have busted a gang involved in sextortion. The accused was arrested from Mewat in Haryana. Under the able guidance of SSP Badri Narayan Meena, the joint team of Bori Police Station and Cyber cell succeeded in solving this case. The accused had extorted money from several people from across the country. Two other accused are at large. Police have sealed six bank accounts of the accused.

While addressing media persons here at Police Control Room on Monday, SSP Badri Narayan Meena informed that one Deepak Dewangan had committed suicide by hanging self.

While investigating the matter, the team of Bori Police Station came to know that Deepak was very disturbed for the last 02-03 days. Police conducted technical investigation of his mobile phone and discovered that an unknown girl was blackmailing him and demanding money. She had some obscene video of the deceased. An FIR was lodged under sections 306, 384, 34 of IPC and 67, 67 (a) of IT Act.

Taking the matter into serious cognizance, SSP Badri Narayan Meena directed his subordinates to trap the accused. Cyber Cell analysed the mobile numbers and social media accounts used by the accused and discovered that a Sextortion Gang of Mewat Haryana was in-

volved.

The Cyber Cell led by Inspector Gaurav Tiwari continued tracking the technical spheres while the second team led by Inspector Santosh Mishra (SHO, Bori) went to Mewat, Haryana and Rajasthan. The team collected information about the residence of the accused and found that most of the people at his village had criminal background. Police team tried to search the accused in villages Punhana, Lohingkhurd, Tigaon, Chandaka, Firozpur, Jhirka and Gokalpur but did not succeed. In the meanwhile, Wakil Ahmed, the prime accused in the



case, was located in village Lohingakhurd. A violent clash between two parties in village Lohingakhurd was going on at that time. The difficult geographical situation of the village and the criminal background of the locals could not demoralise the police team. Posing as agricul-

tural labourers, the police team camped outside the village for three days. On the third day, the accused came out of the village in a private vehicle. Police team chased him for about 30 kilometers and finally took him in custody.

During interrogation, the accused revealed that

he has been using fake IDs of girls on Facebook for the last two years. He used to send friend request to people on Facebook and encourage them to make a video call through Facebook Messenger. Posing as a girl, the accused seduced the targets and made them remove the clothes. Later he played porn videos on the facebook messenger and recorded the activities of the person on the other side. Later they threatened their targets of uploading the video on social media and extorted money from them. Accused Wakil Ahmed (30) son of Saheed Ahmed a resident of Lohingakhurd,

Police Station Punhana was arrested and brought to Durg on transit remand. The absconding accused are Zaheer Abbas son of Noor Mohammad a resident of Gokalpur (Mewat) and Azharuddin son of Aasu a resident of Lohingakhurd (Mewat).

SSP Badri Narayan Meena said that the trend of sextortion is increasing rapidly. He appealed the people for not hesitating from approaching police. Connecting with an unknown person via video call can be a risk your data is also transferred along with the video. In cases of sextortion, the accused record the video of your sexual activity, edit it and prepare an objectionable video for blackmailing.

SSP Meena suggested the people for not accept-

ing friend request of any unknown girl on Facebook; Do not make friends with strangers in Facebook or social media apps; If you become a victim of a crime like honey trap, contact the cyber cell immediately and Do not talk to any unknown person on video call.

Inspector Santosh Mishra, Head Constable Ramkrishna Tiwari, Constable Shahbaz Khan, Pankaj Chaturvedi, Rajkumar Chandra, Jagjit Singh from Bori Police Station and Inspector Gaurav Tiwari, ASI Shamit Mishra, Head Constable Chandrashekhar Banjeer, Constable Vikrant Yadu, Vijay Shukla and Javed Khan from Cyber Cell played vital role in arresting the accused.

## Universal Rail Mill records New Highs in Performance

### Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 14:** SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Universal Rail Mill (URM) that rolls out world's longest 130 metre rail in single piece and supplies 260 metre welded rail panels to Indian Railways has created several records in production of R 260 grade and 60E1 profile rails on March 13, 2022.

URM rolled highest number of 367 blooms on March 13 as against previous best of 360 blooms rolled on February 04, 2022. The modern mill rolled out the highest number of 253 numbers of 130 metre rails in a day on March 13 as against previous best of 239 numbers



on Feb 26, 2022.

URM recorded its highest tonnage of prime rails production at 2674 Tonnes on March 13 as against previous best of 2561 Tonnes on August 27, 2021.

Finished rail production at 2858 Tonnes on March 13 was the highest in any single day as against previous best of 2747 T on October 31, 2021. Highest number of 363 rails were

tested in the Mill's non-destructive testing facility on March 13 as against previous best of 354 on August 24, 2021. Highest number of 366 rails were visually inspected on March 13 as against previous best of 352 on October 31, 2021. As many as 151 numbers of 260 metre long rail welded panels (RWL) were inspected on March 13- the highest in any single day - as against previous best of 150 on March 02, 2022.

SAIL-BSP has been producing the exact specification based rails for the Indian Railways through-

out its association of more than six decades. The R260 grade of Rails is targeted to meet the requirements of Indian Railways for higher speed and higher axle load.

Specifications given by RDSO for this new grade of rails are even more stringent than the specifications of rails used in European countries.

As such the steel for this new grade of rails is cleaner and the rails have higher yield strength and better mechanical properties. SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant is producing this new grade and profile of rails from both its modern Universal Rail Mill and its older Rail & Structural Mill.

## Assistant Professors arrested for abetting I/c Principal's suicide

### Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 14:** Police have arrested three faculty members of Government Nagrik Kalyan Mahavidyalaya, Nandini Ahiwara for allegedly abetting the in-charge Principal to commit suicide. The accused used to mentally torture the i/c Principal and insult him publicly. They often threatened him to get him transferred to other place.

It needs to be mentioned here that Bhuvaneshwar Nayak (61) son of Late Bodlal Nayak a resident of Nandini Nagar had committed suicide by hanging self in the old college building of Government Nagrik Kalyan Mahavidyalaya, Nandini Nagar



on October 28, 2021. Police had recovered a suicide note from his pockets. Forensic investigation of the suicide note was conducted and it was discovered that the handwriting was of the deceased.

On the basis of the suicide note and statements of other people, police have arrested three faculty members of the college for abetting his suicide. The accused are Prashant

Kannauje (54) son of Meghnath Kannauje a resident of Vivekanand Nagar, Basantpur (Rajnandgaon); Dhalesh Kumar Patel (45) son of Bhojram Patel a resident of Nandini Nagar and Premendra Kumar Upadhyaya (51) son of Rameshwar Upadhyaya a resident of Samta Colony, Raipur. They have been booked under the provisions mentioned in section 306, 34 of IPC.

## WCD Minister honours women with Nari Shakti Samman

### Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 14:** On the occasion of International Women's Day, Unnati Mahila Sahakari Sahakar Samiti Limited Bhilai Durg and social service organization Lokparan Samiti organised a felicitation function at Vishali Nagar on Sunday. Empowered women from different fields were honoured on the occasion. Women SHGs had put up 21 stalls for display cum sale of their products.

The program began with lighting of lamps. Women and Child Development Minister Anila Bhendia said that today women are successfully working in every field. Even the women of the remote areas like Bastar are becoming self-reliant.

The demand for the forest produce and other products of Bastar is increasing across the world. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has introduced several programmes for welfare of women, which are bring-



ing significant change.

Bhilai City District Congress President Mukesh Chandrakar, Antyavasayi Corporation Vice President Neeta Lodhi, State Women's Commission member Tulsi Sahu, Durg Rural Congress Vice President Sarita Jitendra Sahu, Block Congress Committee Supela Kosanagar President Nandkumar Kashyap were the special guests. BMC Zone President Ramanand Maurya, State President of Lokarpan Samiti Ismail Khan, Zone Commissioner

Pooja Pillai, Women and Child Development Department Project Officer Pooja Aggarwal and others were present.

Padmashri Shamshad Begum, Inspector Prabha Rao, New Press Club of Bhilai Nagar President Bhavana Pandey, Usha Manikpuri in the field of Arts, Nidhi Chandrakar (self-employed woman), Zeenat Shakoor for Women and Child Development, Dr Anju Gupta, Durg Bar Association President Neeta Jain, Archana Mulay, Sefia Qureshi,

Simmi Sharma, Manju Sahu and Al Madad Welfare and Education Society Sector 10 were honoured.

Shaheen Siddiqui won the prize in bouquet making competition, Indu Vishwakarma in Rangoli, Meena Pal won the prize in Stall Decoration. Meenakshi Dubey, Ratna Chakraborty, Simmi Sharma, Rehana Khan, Sunita Tamrakar, Tara Vishwakarma, Mahrun Nisha, Priyanka Tamrakar, Sunita Kumar, Rajeshwari Samridhi Tamrakar, Rekha Das, Dr Sangya Pandey, Pratima Pardhi, Shamim Akhtar, Firoza Begum, Jyoti Sonone of Unnati Mahila Samiti and Awadh Vishwakarma, Dinesh Pathak, Keshav Choubey, Avinash Dubey, Dinesh Thakur, Ratna, Manju Sahu, Medha Sahu, Gudiya Yadav, Sangeeta Devangan, Dr Pikki Verma and other members of Lokarpan Samiti played vital role in organising the programme.

## Subhadra Singh hosts felicitation function on IWD

### Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 14:** Corporator and Congress leader Subhadra Singh is organising felicitation functions for women on the occasion of International Women's Day for the last 20 years. Hundreds of women attended and enjoyed the programme. Women who achieved success and distinct position in different fields were honoured with garlands, shawls and mementos.

The gathering raised the slogan given by Priyanka Gandhi, "Ladki Hoon Lad Sakti Hoon". Former MLA Pratima Chandrakar graced the function as chief guest. She appreciated Subhadra Singh for organising the event continu-



ously for the last 20 years. Dr Rashmi Bhure was the special guest. She thanked Subhadra Singh and said that it was a privilege to attend such a program. Third Gender Organisation President Guru Pooja Mausi said in

her remark that for the first time in Bhilai, their community is being honored. Special Guests were Bar Association President Neeta Jain, Sarita Sahu, Jha Madam, Doctor Manasi Gulati, Folk dancer Jageshwari

Meshram, Principal Rachna Jha, Urvashi Sahu and Rukhsana Begum. The newly elected women councilors including Malti Thakur, Meera Banjare, Anju Sinha, D Sujata were honoured.

Congress Block President Tulsi Patel, Dinsha Tumanee, Raksha Sahu and others were honoured. Chhattisgarhi folk dance was presented by well-known artist Urvashi Sahu and her team.

Subhadra Singh said that as per the intentions of the Chief Minister, they are trying to ensure food security for every family. On the occasion of IWD, ration cards are being distributed among 50 families. She had provided Ration Cards to about 1000 families till date.

प्रेरणारत्नोत् आदरणीय बड़े भईया

**मान. श्री विजय बघेल जी**

**को जन्मदिन की**

**हार्दिक बधाई एवं**

**अशेष शुभकामनाएं...**

**मान. विजय बघेल जी**

**सांसद, दुर्ग लोकसभा**

**राजा पाठक**

**सांसद प्रतिनिधि**



# Adasmeta encounter found fake in judicial probe

**'Security forces opened fire in panic, killing villagers'**

**Report tabled in Chhattisgarh Assembly**

**Central Chronicle News**

**Raipur, Mar 14:** The alleged encounter that had taken place in Adasmeta of Bijapur almost a decade ago was fake. Security forces had opened fire in panic, during celebration of Beej Pandum festival, leading to killing of eight villagers. This was the finding of the Adasmeta



Special Judicial Inquiry Commission.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel laid report of the Judicial Commission on the table of Chhattisgarh Legislative assembly on Monday. According to the report on the night of 17-18 May 2013, while passing near the village of Adasmeta, the security forces noticed a gathering of people near the fire.

Suspecting villagers as

Naxalites the security forces started firing on the crowd. According to the report this firing was not done in self-defense. No facts have been found, which shows that the security forces were fired or attacked by the villagers. According to the commission the firing had taken place due to mistake in identifying the villagers and panic on their side.

According to the commission this incident would have been averted if security forces had adequate security equipment, modern means of communication and better training. The commission noted in the report that the team that opened fire that

night at Adasmeta was briefed before being dispatched.

In order to prevent such incidents the Commission suggested making a training module to make the security forces familiar with the social conditions and religious festivals of Bastar and also about the mountainous and forested areas, improving communication system between the units involved in the operation, providing bulletproof jackets and night vision equipment to all security personnel to help them operate with greater accuracy and without panic, imparting adequate training to the security forces to deal with the

guerrilla fighting method of Naxalites and encouraging security forces to interact more with the local people.

Eight villagers including four children were killed in firing by security forces on the night of 17-18 May 2013. The security forces claimed that there were Naxalites who made the villagers as shield and they died in cross firing. The villagers claimed that that night the people of the village had gathered there to celebrate the Beej Pandum (local festival). There were no Naxalites there. The security forces who reached the place started firing on seeing them.

## 'SHOBHA YATRA'



Members of Sindhi Samaj took out 'Shobha Yatra' drenched in variety of colours prior to 'Chettri Chand' festival here on Monday.

## MLA Khujji raises issue of dilapidated school buildings

**Charges that it is putting lives of students at risk**

**Central Chronicle News**

**Raipur, Mar 14:** MLA Khujji, Channi Sahu, shot volley of queries against the School Education Minister over dilapidated condition of school buildings in her VS area.

The first question on the 6th day of Budget Session of the Assembly was by MLA Khujji Channi Sahu. She raised the issue of many school buildings turning into dilapidated condition. She

charged that many school buildings in her VS area either without building and those with building are already in dilapidated condition. She charged that this is playing with the life and death of children studying in these building. There are many schools running in small rooms made out of wooden boxes.

On this School Education Minister Preamsai Singh Tekam informed that there 3 High Schools without building in Khujji VS area and 30 are Primary and 6 are Middle Schools, which are dilapidated condition.

## Speaker orders probe into faulty tablets

**Cong MLA gheraoes School Education Minister**

**Tablets issued to teachers for attendance**

**Central Chronicle News**



**Raipur, Mar 14:** Congress MLAs gheraoed the School Education Minister Dr Preamsai Singh Tekam on charges of fault developing in the Tablets given for taking attendance of School teachers. On this question, Speaker Dr Charandas Mahant also raised quite a few questions and finally he hand-

ed over probe into the case to Vidhan Sabha Committee and names of members of Committee will be declared in a day or two.

During the question-hour session in the House on Monday, Congress MLA Lakheshwar Baghel in his question informed that form 2017-18 to 21-22, pay-



ment worth crore was made to a Company for supply of Tablets, but the total 637 tablets distributed were of no use, as it developed some fault.

He questioned the School Education Minister as to when these tablets became out of use and out of these how many of them were re-

paired? School Education Minister Tekam informed that this Scheme for the teachers was sanctioned in 2017-18 and by spending Rs 1.41 cr in Bastar district and the Company was supposed to supply the Tablets by 2021. Once the tablets is out of order, it cannot be repaired and it directly needs to be replaced.

On this MLA Baghel and Speaker VS Dr Charandas Mahant jointly raised a question as to what is the cost of on Tablet and in what period it gets out of order? Minister informed that period is that of 3 yrs and those which are out of use now cannot be repaired. On this Speaker said that

for such faulty supply complaint should be lodged against the firm and get it black-listed. MLA Baghel charged that this is case of around purchase worth Rs 200 crore and no tablets were supplied last year. On this Minister informed the House that this is two year's scheme and it has now lapsed.

Rules of purchase not followed:

Baghel charged that in this purchase the rules of 'Bhandar Kray' were not followed. As such tender should have been given to three firms and in this case two tenders were received and out of which one of the Company was

issued the order. Baghel questioned whether the Minister will get it investigated by the VS Samiti? The Education Minister Tekam accepted that the condition is such to get this matter investigated. 'I have also seen the sample of the tablet and it is beyond repair. On this BJP MLA Ajay Chandrakar said that since the Minister has accepted than declaration for inquiry should be made. Speaker Mahant said that if he hold interest for inquiry for 2.5-5%, then I make declaration for holding investigation by VS Samiti and members of the Samiti will be declared soon.

## ED conducts raid against Cong couple and relatives

**In Patan and other areas**

**Also reports of raid in house of Subhash Sharma in Balod**

**Central Chronicle News**

**Raipur, Mar 14:** Enforcement Directorate has conducted raid in the house of Congress couple from Patan and on a liquor trader from Balod. A 13-member team of ED reached Gram Gatapar of Patan on Monday morning and here raid was conducted in the house of former District Panchayat President Jayanti Sahu and Vimal Sahu. The officers of ED are checking all the documents. There are also reports of raid in the residence of their relative in Dalli-Rajhara and other places as well.

On the other hand, ED team had also raided house of Subhash Sharma

on charges of taking loan by forming fake companies. Though these days Sharma is on remand with ED and it is based upon the inputs after inquiry, the ED team raided his house and other places.

Sources also informed that a team of ED had also reached house of Subhash Sharma in Balod. It is notable here that cases were lodged against Subhash Sharma associated with liquor and hotel business in Golebazar Police Station in Raipur. It was in 2015, a person named Vikram Rana had filed case of cheating against Subhash Sharma in Golebazar thana. According to him, Subhash Sharma held Rana's land as security and on this he got loan of Rs 16.50 cr by mortgaging it with PNB. Failing to get installment, the Bank sent notice to Rana and after this he came to know about the fraud. In this case Golebazar police

arrested him in 2018 and later he got the bail and left the city. Subhash Sharma has taken loan to the tune of Rs 38.50 cr for Hotel Sapphire Inn, Goodluck Petroleum Company; and M/s Vidit Trading Company and this amount was taken from Axis Bank and Punjab National Bank Raipur. But failing to repay the amount, the Bank declared his account as fraud.

Sources of ED informed that Subhash Sharma has opened many fake companies on papers and there used to be no work in these companies and there are charges that he has opened these companies to take loan from the Banks. According to ED, Subhash Sharma has taken loan worth crore through fake documents and therefore a case has been filed against him in state police and CBI for scam worth Rs 54 crore.

## Oppn MLAs creates din over farmers' movement

**House adjourned for 5 minutes**

**Central Chronicle News**

**Raipur, Mar 14:** The members of Opposition in the House raised the issue of farmers protest, movement and death of a farmer during the protest. BJP MLA Brijmohan Agrawal, Shivratna Sharma, Dharamjeet Singh raised this issue. Apart from BJP, BSP and CJC (J) MLA also put for their views on this issue.

The Opposition members questioned as to who is responsible for death of farmer Siya Ram and why there is criminal type behaviour with the farmers? Farmers of 27 villages are on strike for last 70 days and they were not allowed to meet Rahul Gandhi and instead 'lathi-charge' was done and were brutally beaten by

the police.

On the other hand, the Opposition members highlighted that the farmers of Lakhimpur in UP were paid Rs 50 lakh and that of Chhattisgarh was paid just Rs 4 lakh as compensation. The Opposition gheraoing the CM said that CM Baghel is getting tents erected for farmer's movement in Punjab-Delhi ad sending rice from Chhattisgarh for them and family of deceased farmer of Chhattisgarh is being paid only Rs 4 lakh and questioned as to whether this is pro-farmer and farmer-sensitive government of Chhattisgarh?

An adjournment motion was submitted on farmers' movement and death of a farmer in the Vidhan Sabha on Monday. On this issue the Opposition MLAs created din in the House and after which the House was adjourned for five minutes.

## BJYM's Jan Akrosh Rally in protest against illegal traffic collection, increasing crime



**Central Chronicle News**

**Raipur, Mar 14:** Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) Raipur district today took out Jan Akrosh Rally from BJP of office in Ekatma Parisar here today in protest against illegal recovery by traffic police and growing crime. BJYM District President Govinda Gupta alleged that criminal incidents were on rise in the

capital of Chhattisgarh and traffic police was creating atmosphere of fear with illegal traffic collection.

He said that BJYM apprised the government several times about crime but the administration remained silent. Criminal incidents like knife-fighting, theft, murder have become common in Raipur, he said. Instead of controlling crime police were in-

involved in illegal traffic collection and harassing the public in the road intersections. Raipur, which was known as a peaceful city, seems to be turning into a centre of crime. The BJYM leader said that growing incidents of crime also made it difficult for women to come out of their houses and pass through the city roads.

The BJYM also handed over a memorandum to SP Prashant Agrawal demanding immediate action to check crime and stop harassing public in the name of traffic. The BJYM also warned of intense agitation. Among BJYM leaders who took part in Jan Akrosh Rally were Rajesh Pandey, Govind Gupta, Rahul Rao, Arpit Suryavanshi, Vishal Pandey, Ambar Agrawal, Hari Om Sahu, Pranay Sahu, Rahul Jain, Mukesh Patel, Deepak Tanna, Rahul Yadav, Shankar Sahu, Vikas Mittal, Akash Tiwari, Sonu Yadav, Vijay Laharwani, Samir Farikar and others.

## Budget of Raipur Municipal Corporation today

**Speaker Pramod Dubey holds meeting of corporators**

**Central Chronicle News**

**Raipur, Mar 14:** Raipur Municipal Corporation Speaker Pramod Dubey on Monday held a meeting of Congress, BJP and independent corporators to seek their support in corporation's budget to be presented on March 15 (Tuesday). Dubey asked all corporators to attend general body meeting to be held on the same day. He asked the corporators to rise above party politics and maintain dignity of the house besides giving meaningful suggestions and ideas for city development.

For the first time Governor Ms Anusuiya Uike will specially attend the General Body meeting. Dubey also discussed the preparations for the



meeting with the officials. Speaker Dubey asked to discuss openly in the public interest on the agenda related to urban development coming in the general meeting. Budget discussion would take place after the presentation of the budget speech on the financial year 2022-23 of the Municipal Corporation by Mayor Aijaz Dhebar. Prior to this the meeting called on March 15 at 11 am will start and the duration of

one hour is fixed for the question hour.

The meeting called by the Speaker was attended by Congress corporators Sameer Akhtar, Sunder Lal Jogi, Akash Tiwari, Jitendra Agrawal, Suresh Channawar, Sahdev Vyavhar, Droupadi Hemant Patel, Anjani Radheshyam Vibhar, Zone president Maniram Sahu, Ghanshyam Kshatri, Sheetal Kuldeep Boga, Neelam Neelkanth Jagat, Anwar Hussain, Prakash

Jagat, Amit Das, Alderman Afroj Anjum, Sunil Chhatwani.

BJP corporators including opposition leader Meenal Choubey, former opposition leader Suryakant Rathor, zone-3 president Dr Pramod Sahu, corporator Mrityunjay Dubey, Narad Koushal, Sarita Verma, Seema Santosh Sahu, Sushila Dhiwar, Deepak Jaiswal and independent corporator Amar Bansal were also present.

## More than 50 students fall ill, admitted in private hospital in Kharora

**Raipur, Mar 14:** Around 50 students of Amity University near Gram Math in Kharora have fallen ill after eating canteen's food. Students studying in Amity University have been admitted in Mahamaya Super Speciality Hospital and Krishna Hospital in Kharora with complaints of diarrhoea, stomach upset and vomiting. Caretaker Kamlesh Kumar Jaiswal is providing treatment to all. Though many of the students got well in the Hostel itself and only few were admitted in a private hospital in Kharora, where they recovered as well. Some of the students in the name of keeping their names anonymous informed that more than 50 students of Amity University had fallen ill after eating food from the canteen. Most of them were having symptoms of Diarrhoea. The students informed that they have lodged complaint in this regard with the University administration, but so far no action has been taken by them. Now they are all fearful of eating the canteen food and somehow managing by bringing fruits and snacks from outside.

## Would not stake conterdership in Khairagarh by-poll: Vibha Singh

**Raipur, Mar 14:** On declaration of by-polls for Khairagarh, the fight between two wives of deceased MLA Devbrath Singh has again come to fore. At one place where the first wife is preparing to contest the elections, on the other, the second wife charged her with serious charges of drawing political benefits.

The second wife of deceased MLA Devbrath Singh from Khairagarh VS Vibha Devbrath Singh has charged that she has not made any contender-ship for the Khairagarh by-poll, whereas first wife of her husband Padma Singh even after the divorce, is making preparations to stake claim in the property and avail political benefits through election.

Addressing a press conference in press club here on Monday, Vibha Singh



charged that Padma Singh is actually no longer 'Padma Singh' and is now Padma Pant, as after divorce from Devbrath Singh she got married to one Nitin Pant of Himachal Pradesh. It is because of such behaviour by Padma Singh that her husband Late Devbrath Singh divorced her.

Speaking further she informed that Padma Singh divorced her husband taking an hefty amount Rs 11 crore. Late Devbrath Singh paid this amount to her at the time

of divorce by selling his ancestral property and by which he was badly shaken. Further she is now remembering her sons for gaining political mileage. Vibha Singh informed that when Padma was divorced, the age of her sons was very less and they were in need of mother-figure. But at that time she divorced and got married to Nitin Pant.

On this Vibha Singh questioned that after getting married to Nitin Pant, in what capacity she can claim and live in Khairagarh and this is nothing but purely for political gains, she alleged. Vibha charged that Padma roaming in Khairagarh is trying to encash upon the situation claiming herself to be better-half of late Devbrath Singh, whereas she is no longer his wife and is the wife of Nitin Pant.



# Vaccines will also be given to children of 12 to 14 years

**To protect them from corona, will start from March 16**

**Vaccines will be given to children born in the year 2008, 2009 and 2010**

**Central Chronicle News**

**Raipur, Mar 14:** Vaccines will also be given to children of 12 to 14 years to protect against corona. It will be started in the state from March 16. The preparations for vaccination of 13 lakh 21 thousand 286 children of this age group have been completed across the state by the Health Department. For this, eligible beneficiaries can

register themselves on the Covin app. State Nodal Officer for Corona Vaccination and Director of National Health Mission Dr. Priyanka Shukla informed that children in the age group of 12 to 14 years will be given Corbevax vaccines manufactured by Biological-E, Hyderabad.

The second dose will be administered four weeks after the first dose. For this, the vaccination officers of all the districts have been oriented.

Dr. Shukla informed that the requirement of comorbidity has been abolished in the state for people above the age of 60 years for the preparation dosage. People in this age group who have completed nine months or 39

weeks for the second dose can take their third dose at the nearest COVID vaccination centre. Eligible citizens can get the third vaccine by registering in the Covin app. At present, more than one lakh 64 thousand vaccines are available for covid vaccination in the state. To prevent corona infection, one crore 73 lakh 26 thousand 449 people of the state have been given both the vaccines.

At the same time, almost all eligible people above 18 years of age have got the first vaccine of corona vaccine. One crore 97 lakh 95 thousand 312 citizens of this age group have been given the first dose of anti-coronavirus vaccine. At the same time, one crore 65 lakh 80 thou-

sand 649 people have been given both the vaccines. In the state, 11 lakh 16 thousand 786 adolescents in the age group of 15 to 18 years have also been vaccinated. 68 percent of children in this age group have received the first dose, while 45 percent of adolescents have received both.

Here seven lakh 45 thousand 800 children have got both the vaccines. Precaution doses have also been applied to four lakh five thousand 018 health workers, front-line workers and citizens above 60 years of age. A total of three crore 86 lakh 43 thousand 565 vaccines have been administered in the state so far (till March 13, 2022) to protect against corona.

## 'NAGADAS ON DEMAND'



The traditional drums 'Nagadas' are still on demand in the local market and one of the customers checking the beats here on Monday.

# Mainpat festival is now being recognized at the national level: Dr. Dahria

**In-charge Minister Dr. Shivkumar attended the closing ceremony of Mainpat Mahotsav**

**Central Chronicle News**



Addressing the function, Minister-in-Charge Dr. Shivkumar Dahria said that the fame of Mainpat Mahotsav is increasing year after year and this is the reason why this festival is now being recognized at the national level as well. In the festival, colorful cultural performances are given by artists from local to national level. He said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh

Baghel, our government is making continuous efforts to advance the art and culture of Chhattisgarh.

It is working towards giving Chhattisgarh a separate identity in the country. Publicity is being done on a wide scale by holding exhibitions of public welfare schemes run by various departments of the government at the festival site, which will benefit the general

public. He said that the concept of our government is that every person should get the benefit of the schemes of the government under Garhbo Nava Chhattisgarh. If the information about the schemes is made available to the public representatives and the implementation of the scheme will be done by the officials, then all the people will get its benefit.

Congratulating the successful organization of Mainpat Mahotsav, Culture Minister Amarjeet Bhagat said that along with preserving and promoting the art culture, development works are also being done at a rapid pace. Work is also being done to make Mainpat a center of attraction. He said that every year a new chapter is being added to the Mainpat festival. This

time a wrestling competition was organized for the first time in the festival, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the residents. Now every year wrestling competition will be organized in the festival. This time a wrestling competition was organized for the first time in the festival, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the residents. Now every year wrestling competition will be organized in the festival. On this occasion, Member of Chhattisgarh Cow Service Commission, Atal Bihari Yadav, Superintendent of Police, Amit Tukaram Kamble, Chief Conservator of Forest, Anurag Shrivastava, District Panchayat CEO, Vinay Kumar Langeh, along with other public representatives, officers-employees and a large number of spectators were present.

# IIIT Naya Raipur selected by Samsung PRISM

**For Network Security project**

**Central Chronicle News**



**Raipur, Mar 14:** International Institute of Information Technology, Naya Raipur has been selected by Samsung PRISM for a network security project to enhance the security of emergency calls.

Network Security project named 'MCPTT-Network Emulator for Key Management Server-KMS' was handed over to a team of three students of B.Tech III year namely Deepraj Chowdhury, Sayantan Roy, Sushant Singh led by Assistant Professor of IIIT-NR Dr. Ruhul Aminto make the platform more secured

which will enhance the security of emergency calls made by its customers like police officials, etc.

The team worked for five months on the project and they were felicitated with a certificate of excellence along with cash vouchers.

The selection of students was done based on an online coding exam in which students had to solve 3 coding-related questions in 75 minutes. Under this collaborative program, the selected students from IIIT-NR worked on live projects under

the mentorship of Samsung Research and Development experts, and each month, the Samsung mentor holds a review meeting to know the progress of the project.

Dr. Pradeep Kumar Sinha, Director-IIIT NR congratulated the team and wished them luck for their future. He also emphasized that despite the institute being only six years old, it has world-class research and innovation facilities and every student is doing some innovative research to change the world.

# Webinar on 'Role of Media in Empowerment of Women'

**In Central University Bilaspur from March 16**

**Bilaspur, Mar 14:** An online webinar will be organized by the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication of the Guru Ghasidas Central University on 16th March 2022 at 11:00 PM on the topic "Role of Media in Empowerment of Women". The event will be patronized and presided over by the Vice-Chancellor of Guru Ghasidas University, Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawal. The co-patron is Prof.

Shailendra Kumar, Registrar of the University.

Shatabdi Subodh Pandey, National Head, Mahila Sahakari Sahakar Bharati, Raipur will be the keynote speaker and senior TV journalist and film producer, Rajesh Badal, and eminent Professor, Govind Singh of Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi will be the special speakers.

The Convener of the webinar is Dr. Gopa Bagchi, Head of Department of Journalism and Mass Communication and the Co-convener is Assistant Professor, Dr. Anupama

Kumari. Organizing Secretary is research scholar, Avinash Tripathi. To join the webinar on Google Meet, you can connect through this link: <https://meet.google.com/gsr-totv-dtf> and you can register yourself by visiting (<https://forms.gle/1SUUgWfg8BSDC39A>).

This webinar will focus on the status of women in journalism and empowerment of women through journalism.

This webinar will prove to be useful and informative for professors, researchers, academia, organizational sector, people associated with the media world, women and others.

# Educational tour of Devbhog Dairy Plant organised

**For students of CU**

**Bilaspur, Mar 14:** A total of 37 students of the sixth semester of B.Sc. Rural Technology programme, run by the Department of Rural Technology and Social Development, of Guru Ghasidas University Bilaspur went for an educational tour of the Devbhog Dairy Plant at Koni today, on March 14.

In the above tour program, the Director of the dairy plant, NN Dwivedi, gave brief information about the activities going on in the plant. In-charge of milk production unit working in the plant, Namrata Dutta explained in detail the processing techniques



to be adopted after collection of milk. She explained the process of breaking down the fat particles in the

plant and mixing it in equal quantity in the milk so that the milk can be kept safe for maximum time. The work-

ing method of packaging machines for milk produced in the plant was also explained by her.

Satyam Pandey, working in the plant, also apprised the students about the process of how various products are made from milk like Ghee, Rabdi, Butter, Khova etc. The students asked a lot of questions about the adulteration of milk and ghee and the process of their investigation. On behalf of the dairy plant, packets of rabri manufactured by them were given to all the students as a gift. The Head of the department, Dr. Pushpraj Singh thanked the Director of the dairy plant for organizing the educational tour. The educational tour was conducted by the Assistant Professor of the department, Dr. Lokesh Kumar Tinde.

# JNIL, SEML, HDFC and SKY Automobiles emerge winner

**Raipur, Mar 14:** Today's Suresh Agrawal memorial Cricket tournament had 4 matches, the first match was in between SBI Jagdalpur and JNIL, SBI won the toss and selected bating first in which as core of 75 runs was made by losing 9 wickets, playing the next innings JNIL team players could score the target very easily in 6 overs with hardly losing a single wicket, in this match an experienced bowler Mr. Rajesh Verma was felicitated as the player of the match for making 39 runs in 4 overs.



after losing a 3wickets and made only 93 runs and that's how they handed over victory to Sarda Energy and Minerals Teams, Sandeep Verma was rewarded as the player of match for hitting 27runs in 2 overs.

While in the evening the third game happened in between S.A. Rubber



Industries and HDFC Bank, in which SARI team won the toss and selected batting first, they scored 61 runs in with the loss of 6 wickets, playing in the next innings HDFC after losing 2 wickets could easily achieve the target in 8 overs and won the match. For achieving 32 runs in 3 overs the man of the match award was offered to Yuvraj Dwivedi.

Last match of the 10th day was in between Sky

Automobiles and Axis Bank, Axis won the toss and decided to bat 1st. Playing the 1st innings the Axis players made 57 runs while losing 7 wickets, in the second innings Sky Automobiles made the game's victory very easily by losing mere 4 wickets in 8 overs. For achieving 3wickets in 3 overs Mr. Aakash Singh from Sky Team was felicitated with the player of the match trophy.

# Budget of Cong govt limited to papers: Purandehswari

**Ch'garh is being used as ATM by Cong govt, she alleged**

**Konta/Sukma, Mar 14:** BJP's state in-charge D. Purandeshwari reached Sukma today and she was accorded warm welcome by the BJP workers. Talking to the journalists of Sukma district, BJP state in-charge D. Purandeshwari fiercely targeted the Bhupesh government. She charged that the budget of the government is limited only on papers. It is said that Bhupesh Baghel talks about Chhattisgarhi and Chhattisgarh respect, but the reality is that he sees



Chhattisgarh only from the point of view of ATM and Chhattisgarh is being used as an ATM machine, she alleged.

Purandeshwari while commenting upon the statement made by Minister Kawasi Lakhma that the

roads in region are like Hema Malini's cheek, said that this is a wrong statement made by Minister Kawasi Lakhma. Purandeshwari charged that the roads in Jagdalpur and Bastar region are in bad shape and questioned

as to why the Minister who raised voice against road construction is keeping silent today? She charged that after Congress government coming to power, they have not even put a lump of soil on the road. After talking to our BJP workers, it has been said that whatever development has taken place here has happened during term of BJP.

Purandeshwari said that our workers will rise from factionalism and work jointly in the elections. The party has recently won in four out of five states with good majority and we are equally hopeful that with the hard work of the workers, the party will win the next elections in Chhattisgarh as well.



# BJP leaders, party workers take out victory rally

On party's historic win in UP, Goa, U'khand, Manipur

Central Chronicle News

**Nandini-Ahirwara, Mar 14:** On historic win of BJP in UP, Manipur, Goa and Uttarakhand VS pols, it was under leadership of BJP Youth Leader Harsh Jain a massive 'vijay julus' (victory rally) was taken out, starting from Ahirwara Bus Stand and passing through main thoroughfares of city. On this occasion all the BJP office bearers, party workers and residents and traders extended greetings on party's win.

With this rally, entire city was turned and illuminated saffron in colour, as all the party workers



were carrying party's saffron flag and raising slogans 'Jai Shri Ram'. On this occasion even many a senior citizens and youths

in large number were present. At the Ahirwara bus stand a massive fire-work was done. On this occasion ex-

Parliamentary Secretary Labhchand Bafna, Ahirwara Palika President Natwar Tamrakar, District Treasurer Chanchal Bafna, Mandal President Leeman Sahu, corporator Anuj Sahu, Shivnarayan Agrawal, BJYM State working committee member Dau Anand Tamrakar, Ishwar Sharma, gen. secy. Rahul Chandel, secy. Shekhar Baba, Nagar V-P Sahil Khan, Tushad Yadav, Sandeep Singh, District office bearers Budhram Sahu, Monu Sahu, Shekhar Sahu, Bunty Sahu and others were present in large number.

# Emission of dust from road posing health problems

- To residents in 200 Units of Nandini Mines area
- For road work from Nandini to Bhilai

Central Chronicle News

**Nandini-Ahirwara, Mar 14:** The road construction work from Nandini to Bhilai for 20 km distance is still underway and this is causing huge blow of dust and causing lots of problems to residents living in 200 units in Nandini Mines.

In order to stop the dust blowing from the site, the contractor should use water in the site, but no such thing is being done. On the other hand, no sign



board has been put for road diversion and due to which the passer-by are made to face dusty terrain all their way to home.

Complaint in this regard has been made by the residents, but still the road contractor is not spraying water on the top and if

this situation persist for long, then it could pose lot of health-hazard to the people living nearby. Residents charged that the contractor is carrying out work sidelining the health aspects of people nearby.

BJP district cum treasurer Chanchal Bafna said

that the contractor is not utilising water at the site of road construction and at many places digging of holes has been done and left open, posing problems of falling of children or animals and all this is posing lots of problems for people of the region.

# Oath ceremony of PSS held



Central Chronicle News

**Anwari, Mar 14:** The oath ceremony and felicitation programme of newly elected and nominated office bearers of 'Parikshetriya Sahu Samaj' (PSS) was held here on Sunday. The chief guest was Dayaram Sahu President District Sahu Sangh Dhantari and it was chaired by Dr Radheshyam Sahu President Tehsil Sahu Sangh Kurud.

The programme began with condolences to late Arjun Hirwani President Sahu Samaj Sangh Raipur. Further in the programme, Dayaram Sahu

administered oath to newly elected office bearers. In this for the post of President, Kamlesh Sahu of Darba, for V-P Tuled Sahu; Chitralekha Sahu as V-P (female) and other nominated members were administered oath.

The speakers held the need to keep all from Sahu Samaj united and march on path of progress. Radheshyam Sahu in his address informed about 'patta' and other works in Tehsil Bhavan and moving ahead in Darba circle.

Sharda Loknath Sahu President tehsil Sahu Sangh Kurud in his address said that if a society moved ahead remaining

united, then any of the problems can be easily overcome. He said that marriage of all the daughters from Sahu samaj is their responsibility and asked all to help each other.

In this programme Santram Santram Sahu, Suman Santosh Sahu, Sharda Loknath Sahu, Narayan Sahu, Vishwanath Sahu, Ghanshyam Sahu, Kamlesh Sahu, Alakh Ram Sahu, Teerath Ram Sahu, Ratni Bai Sahu, Bhuneswar Sahu, Kaushaliya Bai Sahu, KR Sahu, Leela Ram Sahu, Gopal Sahu, Kamta Sahu and others from Sahu Samaj were present in large number.

# CG Budget 2022-23 gets mixed response

Central Chronicle News

**Mungeli, Mar 14:** Chhattisgarh budget 2022-23, presented by CM Bhupesh Baghel, has got mixed response from across the region, with some hailing the budget while another criticizing the government and the budget as anti development.

Ruling Congress Party is continuously terming the budget developmental, while the opposition has termed it apartheid and divisional on the economic front.

According to MP Arun Sao, the budget is anti development as no employment grants and schemes are missing in the budget. The parliamentarian has also opined the budget as poor, as there has been no provisions kept for women and health sec-

tor.

Dhaneshwar Sahu, President Pichda Varg Aayog, has hailed the budget and termed it as one which has been made taking care of all the classes of the society particularly the youth, trade and commerce and farmers.

District Panchayat member Sheelu Sahu has condemned the budget and opined the budget to be poor in terms of providing benefits to all. For the farmers and the unemployed the budget brings nothing, she said.

BJP Yuva Morcha President Tarun Khandekar, has also condemned the budget and termed it adverse to the states economic condition. The youths have got no special provisions, nor has the unemployed been any provision, he said.

# Hansraj Sahu elected President, Sujata Sahu as V-P

Elections of Tehsil Sahu Sangh held peacefully



Central Chronicle News

**Dongargarh, Mar 14:** In the Tehsil Sahu Sangh election, former President Hansraj Sahu has once again being given responsibility as President and Nobel Sahu as V-P.

Observer Gajendra Sav andn Chumman Sahu Churiya and CEO Maheshwar Prasad Sahu and colleagues were present and the election for Dongargarh Tehsil Sahu

Sangh were held peacefully.

As per information from the senior party worker of Samaj Hemant Sahu, for the post of President TSS the elected Hansraj Sahu defeated Ishwar Lal Sahu with 77 votes. For post of V-P (Male), Nobel Sahu defeated in triangular fight to Netram Sahu and Mahendra Das Sahu.

For post of V-P (female), Sujata Sahu defeated Lata Sahu. Revaram Sahu or-

ganisation secy; Gangadhar Sahu secretary; Hemlata Sahu Secretary; Chavi Das Sahu Dy. Treasurer and Kawal Ram Sahu was elected as the accountant.

To help in this election work, on behalf of District Sahu Sangh, Hemant Sahu was present as Addl. Presiding officer, along with Bhuwal Sahu, Anjore Das, Asst. Presiding office was Nohar Sahu, Devendra Sahu.

# SP conducts surprise inspection of Traffic police

Central Chronicle News

**Balod, Mar 14:** The newly appointed SP Balo Govardhan Ram Thakur conducted surprise inspection of Traffic Police office in city and after holding talks with the police officers and employees he took to streets and in this action was taken against many without valid vehicle documents and violating traffic norms. SP informed that to check traffic is top priority of police and therefore the traffic police department has taken to street and this campaign will be launched all over the district.

**Need for modern resources:**

Speaking to media per-



sons, SP Govardhan Ram Thakur said that there are many shortcomings which came to fore during inspection in the Traffic department office and said that there is need for many modern resources and equipments, so that the traffic system can be streamlined. He said that

soon the department will be provided with all modern resources, so that traffic in the district headquarters and other parts of the district can be streamlined.

**News of Police checking spread like wildfire:**

DSP Balod District along with TI and other

police officers and employees took a small de-tour of the city and the beats of their march-past in the city can be very well heard by all and people started correcting their wrong moves.

The vehicles parked illegally and in an unorganised manner in different parts of city were made more organised and were directed to ensure that same is followed the next day and warned of action, if not done. Some of the vehicles were fined for disrupting traffic and during this DSP Rajesh Bagdi, DSP Prateek Chaturvedi, Inspector Manish Sharma, Inspector Padma and other police staff of Balod traffic police were present in large number.

# Quacks active in the villages of Devbhog Amalipadar region

- Public health being tampered with due to lack of action

Central Chronicle News

**Gariyaband, Mar 14:** Quacks and ineligible doctors are reportedly active in the villages of Devbhog Amalipadar area and are tampering with public health in the name of treatment without any medical degree. Here, no effort is being spared in cutting the pockets of the public, but it is surprising that no proper action is being taken even after the department is aware of this situation and in the

absence of departmental action; the number of quacks or called 'Jholachap' doctors (called so by local people) is increasing.

The quacks can be witnessed in the villages with medicines and drugs, administering them into the sick, without proper dosage counseling and safety practices. Devbhog, J h a n k a r p a r a , Ghumarguda, Sinapali Khokhsara, Doomar Bahal, Supebeda, Dhruvapara, Puranapani, Diwanmuda, Karlaguda, Madagaon Limpara, Sitlilor, Gadaghat, Karlaband, and villages A m a l i p a d a r ,



Moodghelmal, Dabriguda, Sarnabahal, Chikhli, Dhanora, Gudhiyari, Saraipani, Gohrapadar, Gurjibhanta, Kandekela, Urmal, Dhuravgudi,

Chanabhata, Kekajor, Birighat, Panigaon, Kharipathara, Khairmal, Mujbahal of Amalipadar area are the places where the quacks are reportedly active. In some places under the guise of BMS (Ayurved), the quacks are using a lot of allopathic medicines and also running medical stores.

What officer says: A few months ago, we took action at some places in Devbhog and sealed the illegal clinic. If there is such a situation again, then action will be taken against everyone soon. Dr.AK Humne- Nodal Officer, Gariyabandh.

# Health services in poor state as services not provided adequately

Central Chronicle News

**Dhamtari, Mar 14:** 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. According to patients visiting a camp organized in Gokulpur, adequate drugs and other resources are not available in the camps, and many had to wait long before getting registered and treated. According to information, the health offi-

cials are tampering with the funds available for taking the services of private experts in the camps, by allotting duty to government doctors in their place.

**What officer says** National Health Mission programs are running efficiently in the region and no complaints against misuse of funds or non availability of drugs has been received. Action will be taken on receiving of any further complaint. Dr.DK Turre-CMHO.

# Inflation set to affect festival of colours

Central Chronicle News

**Rajim, Mar 14:** As the festival of Holi is getting closer, people are preparing to get immersed in the colors of Holi, but inflation is all set to play spoilsport on the festival, as prices of goods related to the festival are seeing a steep increase in price. Prices of drums, locally called Nagadas, which was available for five to seven hundred, is now being sold for Rs.1000.

Other musical instruments used during the festival which also includes Nagadas, has taken the shape of loudspeakers, mobiles and other instruments, making the festival long lost in modernity and shortage of time for traditions.

Preparations for setting up a Colour shops are currently underway in Pandit Sunderlal Sharma Chowk, when there are numbered days left for the festival, but a large number of shops are decorated on Raipur Road, Mahasamund road and District Headquarters Gariaband Road in the city.

The prices of colours too is recording a steep rise, as gular available in Rs.40 kg is now available in Rs.70 per kg. Same way prices of edible oil used to make delicacies in the festival are also skyrocketing, with one



tin of oil currently available at Rs. 2,700, compared to the price of Rs.1, 700 last year.

Meanwhile the number of passengers in buses has increased due to the festival, with more than one and a half hundred buses run from the city to the capital Raipur, Mahasamund, Dhamtari, Chura, Gariaband, Mainpur, Devbhog etc.

The end of the pandemic and fall in Covid 19 cases though is expected to bring festivity after a long gap, with local traders expecting a boom in sales and purchase. Here it takes a mention that Holika Dahan will be played on 17th March and Rang Gular will be played on the second day on 18th March.



## BRIEF

## Kangaroo

■ **Alipurduar:** A kangaroo was rescued from a goods vehicle in West Bengal's Alipurduar district for first time and two persons from Hyderabad were arrested for allegedly being involved in trafficking of the animal. Acting on tip-off, police team intercepted a mini-truck on National Highway-31 in Barobisha area near Assam West Bengal border and rescued the animal. It is suspected that the two arrested persons were trying to smuggle.

## Rescued

■ **Mathura:** An 8-year-old boy, who was kidnapped for ransom two days ago from Govind Nagar area here, was rescued by the police, officials said. One person has been taken into custody in connection with the incident, the police officials said. The boy was kidnapped while he was playing outside his house in Govind Nagar. His family members found out only when the kidnappers called them to demand ransom, the police said.

## Threatening

■ **Aizawl:** A 37-year-old man was arrested for allegedly threatening to assassinate Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga if he did not resign within three months, police said. The accused had earlier been arrested in 2018 for writing a threatening letter to former chief minister Lal Thanhawla, a senior police officer said. The man, identified as Rodinliana alias Apuia Tocchhawng, a native of Khawzawl town and resident of Chanmari West locality.

## Injured

■ **Morigaon:** A man, accused of lifting motorcycles, was injured in police firing when he allegedly tried to escape from custody in Morigaon district of Assam. According to Morigaon Superintendent of Police Aparna N, the accused was arrested. While the man was being brought to Laharighat Police Station, he tried to flee the custody. He was asked to stop but did not listen to the policemen there.

## Setback

■ **Jammu:** National Panthers Party (NPP) suffered a setback when its entire Samba district unit resigned from the basic membership of the party. NPP district president, Samba, Rajeshwar Singh said the unit resigned due to reckless attitude of the party chairman and former minister Harsh Dev Singh. They were fed up with internal bickering, fight for supremacy among the party leaders, and above all the reckless attitude of the party chairman.

## Suspended

■ **Indore:** Three policemen, including an assistant sub-inspector, were suspended for allegedly thrashing and kicking a naked man in Madhya Pradesh's Indore. After a video of the incident which occurred became viral, the ASI and two constables were suspended.

# India unsure of Russian arms to meet China, Pak threats

## US unwillingness to provide technology transfers

New Delhi, Mar 14 (AP):

India is exploring ways to avoid a major disruption in its supply of Russian-made weaponry amid US sanctions following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tightrope walk could become more difficult due to a continuing border stand-off with China.

Experts say up to 60 per cent of Indian defense equipment comes from Russia, and New Delhi finds itself in a bind at a time when it is facing a two-year-old standoff with China in eastern Ladakh over a territorial dispute, with tens of thousands of



T-90 tanks with many imported Russian components assembled at Avadi, Tamil Nadu.

soldiers within shooting distance after Galwan clash.

"The nightmare scenario for India would be if the US comes to the conclusion that it confronts a greater threat from Russia and that this justifies a strategic accommodation with China. In blunt terms, con-

cede Chinese dominance in Asia while safeguarding its European flank," Shyam Saran, India's former foreign secretary, wrote in a recent blogpost.

Would China, drawing lessons from Ukraine, be an aggressor in disputed eastern Ladakh or in Taiwan? 'It is very possible

they might do it,' said Jitendra Nath Misra, a retired diplomat and distinguished fellow in the Jindal School of International Affairs.

President Joe Biden has spoken about unresolved differences with India after the country abstained from voting on United Nations resolutions against Russian aggression in Ukraine. Modi has so far avoided voting against Russia or criticizing Putin for invading Ukraine.

In the early 1990s, about 70 per cent of Indian army weapons, 80 per cent of its air force systems and 85 per cent of its navy platforms were of Soviet origin. India is now reducing its dependency on Russian arms and diversifying its defense procurements, buying more from countries like the United States, Israel, France and Italy.

# 'Recording of Fadnavis' statement routine exercise'

## ● In phone tapping case

Mumbai, Mar 14 (PTI):

Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil on Monday said the recording of statement of BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis by Mumbai police in a case of alleged illegal tapping of phones was a "routine" exercise.

But, former state chief minister Fadnavis claimed questions that the police asked him on Sunday were "meant for an accused".

A team of the BKC cyber police in Mumbai recorded Fadnavis' statement for almost two hours on Sunday at his residence. The police had earlier issued a notice to Fadnavis, who is leader of opposition in the state Assembly, in connection with the probe into the leak of confidential information on corruption in police transfers and al-



Dilip Walse Patil

leged illegal tapping of phones. Speaking in the state Assembly on Monday, Walse Patil said there was no immunity in criminal cases.

A notice sent to Fadnavis, not as an accused but to record his statement. "It was a routine exercise, nothing has been done deliberately," he said. An FIR has been filed in the illegal phone tapping case and statements of 24 people have been recorded, the minister informed. A notice under CrPC Section 160

means the statement can be recorded at home or at the police station, he told the House.

The police have also asked Union home secretary to share the pen drive (about the alleged corruption in police transfers) given by Fadnavis, he added.

The opposition BJP in the state said it was Fadnavis who unearthed the "scam" in police transfers.

Raising the issue through an adjournment notice in the House, BJP leader Sudhir Mungantiwar said members of the Legislature are protected by privilege and cannot share their sources. The Supreme Court has also upheld this, he added.

Fadnavis, who was present in the House, said when he got the questionnaire few days ago, he had said he would respond.

# Govt assures on future of students evacuated from Ukraine

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

The government on Monday assured the Lok Sabha it will look into measures that can be taken so Indian students brought back to the country from Ukraine under Operation Ganga can complete their education.

Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan also said that Operation Ganga, carried out under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to evacuate Indian students from Ukraine, is proof of the "collective wisdom of 130 crore Indians".

Pradhan was replying to a question by Congress member Gaurav Gogoi who wanted to know if the government was considering working out "any poli-



Education minister Dharmendra Pradhan answering to questions in Lok Sabha on Monday.

cy or holding talks" with universities in countries neighbouring Ukraine to enable Indian students to complete their studies.

"When we have brought them, you remain assured that government will ponder over making arrangements, whatsoever is required, to enable them to become doctors in fu-

ture," the minister said in response.

"At present, it is time for getting them out of the shock. We are all engaged in that," the minister added.

The Congress should congratulate the prime minister for the Operation Ganga, he added.

"I was expecting that from his party (Congress) and the House, prime minister will be congratulated for Operation Ganga...." the minister told Lok Sabha during Question Hour.

Parliamentarians on Monday demanded that the government formulate a policy to allow students evacuated from war-torn Ukraine to complete their medical education in universities in India.

Raising the issue during the Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha, Congress member Rajmohan Unnithan (Kasargod) claimed that thousands of students from Kerala were still stranded in Sumy in Ukraine and demanded that the government take urgent steps to bring them to safety.

## TRAFFIC JAM SITUATION



Heavy traffic jam on the Cyber City Road, near Shankar Chowk, in Gurugram, Haryana on Monday.

# TMC's ambitions take hit after misadventures in Goa, Tripura

Kolkata, Mar 14 (PTI):

The TMC's flop show in Goa polls, preceded by the civic election debacle in Tripura a few months ago, seems to have dealt a body blow to its national ambitions and the efforts to project the party as the glue of an opposition alliance against the BJP.

After its emphatic victory in the 2021 Bengal assembly polls, the TMC, set to spread its wings far and wide, had begun the groundwork in Goa, but despite its high-decibel campaign in the coastal state, alliance with a local outfit and induction of several leaders from rival camps, the party managed to garner just 5.21 per cent of the total votes polled, drawing a blank in the 40-member Assembly.

Having failed its litmus test, the Bengal's ruling



party is back to square one, trying to draw up a fresh strategy ahead of the polls in Meghalaya and Tripura.

"If you lose one or two elections, it doesn't mean you are done with. It takes just one win to change the mood. Everybody talks about the seats you win or lose; no one talks about the percentage of votes garnered. We had entered Goa only a few months ago and managed to get over five per cent votes. I think that was a good start," TMC national vice-president Yashwant Sinha said.

In Tripura civic polls last year, the party had

bagged 24 per cent votes but failed to clinch any civic body.

A senior TMC leader said the party's performance in Goa was not on the expected lines and that necessitated a review of its strategies.

"It is a blow to our national ambitions. We had invested a lot of time and energy in Goa, but that did not yield any result. We need to reassess our plans before we move forward in the coming days," the TMC leader, who did not wish to disclose his identity, said.

He also stated that it was unlikely that the party would venture out into other states for the "time being", barring the ones where it had already opened a unit. Speaking on the issue of opposition leadership, the TMC leader said, "There are

many leaders in the opposition camp, but Mamata Banerjee is the senior-most one." In an apparent bid to project Banerjee as the main opposition face against Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2024, the TMC had been inducting people from diverse geographies and political backgrounds, and cornering the Congress on every occasion, but the recent setbacks prompted the party to sing a slightly different tune. Neither Mamata Banerjee nor any leader of the TMC claimed that she will be the leader of the opposition. She has called upon everyone, who is opposed to the BJP, to come together and fight against the BJP. "Politics is a long-drawn battle. The AAP after camping in Goa for the last two to three years, bagged just two seats in Goa.

# 274 cases against 427 NDFB cadre withdrawn: Assam Guv

Guwahati, Mar 14 (PTI):

Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi on Monday said 274 cases registered against 427 erstwhile cadre of the militant group National Democratic Front of Boroland (NDFB) have been withdrawn.

Addressing the Assam assembly on the first day of the budget session, Mukhi also said that a total of 4,203 cadre of various groups have been rehabilitated under the Bodo Accord. "The State Level Committee for withdrawal of cases (non-heinous) under trial against NDFB cadre after thorough review has withdrawn 274 cases against 427 former NDFB cadre," he added.



Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi addresses Assam assembly in Guwahati on Monday.

A "proactive implementation of the Bodo Accord has led to the rehabilitation of 4,203 surrendered cadre with financial assistance of Rs 168.12 crore, the governor said.

In July last year, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa

Sarma had announced that non-heinous crime cases against the surrendered NDFB cadre would be disposed of soon and all the cases pending with National Investigation Agency (NIA) would be transferred to the police.

# Five TDP members suspended from AP Assembly

## ● Amid pandemonium

Amaravati, Mar 14 (PTI):

The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly on Monday witnessed unprecedented scenes as the House Marshals virtually manhandled the Telugu Desam Party legislators and pushed them away even as five members of the opposition were suspended from the House for the duration of the Budget session. The suspension was a culmination of acrimonious scenes the House witnessed since the start on Monday morning as the principal opposition sought an immediate discussion on the illicit ar-rack tragedy in West Godavari district in which about 18 people reportedly died over the past few



Five TDP MLAs meet after suspension in Amaravati on Monday.

days. The Speaker rejected the adjournment motion moved by the TDP and sought to take up regular business, which the opposition did not allow.

The House was adjourned twice as there was no order for conduct of business.

The TDP MLAs were suspended when the proceedings resumed after the second adjournment and they continued with their protest. Telugu Desam

Legislature Party deputy leaders K Atchannaidu, Nimmala Ramanaidu, senior members Gorantla Butchaiah Choudary, Payyavula Keshav and DB V Swamy were those suspended.

Though the Speaker announced that Deputy Chief Minister (Health) AKK Srinivas would make a statement on the episode, the TDP members insisted on a discussion to bring out the facts.

# RSS stresses 'Bharat-centric' job models to tackle unemployment

Ahmedabad, Mar 14 (PTI):

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has called for "Bharat-centric" models of employment generation to strengthen the economy and achieve sustainable and holistic development.

In the wake of several youth in the country facing unemployment, the Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha (ABPS), the top decision-making body of the RSS, passed a resolution to promote work opportunities to make the country self-reliant.

In the resolution, the ABPS said it wishes to emphasise that the entire so-



RSS leaders at meeting in Ahmedabad.

cety has to play a proactive role in harnessing work opportunities to mitigate the overall employment challenge.

"As we have experienced the impact of the recent COVID-19 pandemic on employment and livelihood, we have also witnessed opening up of new opportunities of which some sections of the socie-

ty have taken benefit," it said. The ABPS is of the opinion that thrust is to be given to "Bharatiya economic model" that is human-centric, labour intensive, eco-friendly and lays stress on decentralisation and equitable distribution of benefits and augments village economy, micro scale, small scale and agro-based industries,

the resolution said.

"The ABPS calls upon citizens to work on Bharat-centric models of employment generation to strengthen the economy and achieve sustainable and holistic development," it said. The three-day meeting of the ABPS concluded at Pirana on the outskirts of Ahmedabad. According to the resolution, the areas like rural employability, unorganised sector employment, jobs to women and their overall participation in the economy need to be boosted. Efforts are essential to adapt new technologies and soft skills appropriate to the societal conditions, it said.



## BRIEF

## Diversity

■ **Singapore:** Singapore's diversity is not static, and the country welcomes migrants from all over the world while keeping its broad ethnic balance stable, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said, celebrating the success of the Sindh community here. It is important for such new arrivals to make efforts to integrate into the local society, even as they preserve their distinct identities and cultures. Each group adds to Singapore's rich social tapestry.

## Talks

■ **Doha:** Chad's ruling military council and representatives of rebel forces met for the formal opening of peace talks in Qatar, part of a broader diplomatic effort to halt decades of fighting and instability in the vast, faction-ridden nation. The negotiations aim to pave the way for the head of the junta, Gen Mahamat Idriss Deby, to lead the strategic central African country toward new elections in 18 months. Delegations gathered with officials.

## Arrested

■ **Kathmandu:** Two Nepali men have been arrested for allegedly murdering an Indian national in Kailali district earlier in the week, officials said. Kuldeep Gupta, 42, who hailed from Sahejapur in Uttar Pradesh, was killed, they said.

# US alleges Russia seeking military aid from China

Washington, Mar 14 (AP):

A US official said Russia asked China for military equipment to use in its invasion of Ukraine, a request that heightened tensions about the ongoing war ahead of a Monday meeting in Rome between top aides for the US and Chinese governments. Meanwhile, Beijing has accused Washington of spreading "disinformation" over China's role in the Ukraine war.

The prospect of China offering Russia financial help is one of several concerns for President Joe Biden. A US official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters, said that in recent days, Russia had requested support from China, including military equipment, to press forward in its ongoing war with Ukraine. The official did not provide details on the scope of the request. The Biden administration is also accusing China of spreading Russian disinformation that could be a pretext for Russian President Vladimir Putin's forces to attack Ukraine with chemical or biological weapons. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has put China in a delicate spot with two of its biggest trading partners: the US and European Union. China needs access to those markets, yet it also has shown support for Moscow, joining with Russia in declaring a friendship with 'no limits.' The United Nations has said it has received no information backing up such accusations.



Russian military truck factory with alleged Chinese tyre supply.

Chinese tyre supply. The official did not provide details on the scope of the request. The Biden administration is also accusing China of spreading Russian disinformation that could be a pretext for Russian President Vladimir Putin's forces to attack Ukraine with chemical or biological weapons. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has put China in a delicate spot with two of its biggest trading partners: the US and European Union. China needs access to those markets, yet it also has shown support for Moscow, joining with Russia in declaring a friendship with 'no limits.' The United Nations has said it has received no information backing up such accusations.

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## Peru's worst ecological disaster slams small-scale fishing

Ciudad, Mar 14 (AP):

Walter de la Cruz scrambled down a large sand dune in the fog to reach a rock overlooking the Pacific Ocean, where he has fished for three decades. He cast a hook into the waters off Peru's coast several times, with no luck. One attempt yielded a piece of plastic stained with oil.

De la Cruz, 60, is one of more than 2,500 fishermen whose livelihoods have been cast into doubt as a result of a large crude-oil spill at the Spanish-owned Repsol oil refinery on Jan. 15. 'We are desperate,' he said, counting on his fingers the debts that overwhelm him, including a bank loan, bills for water, electricity, gas, and school supplies for his two grand-

children. Peru has characterized the spill of 11,900 barrels in front of a Repsol refinery as its 'worst ecological disaster.' A report by United Nations experts estimates it involved about 2,100 tons of crude, well above the 700 tons the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited considers the threshold for a large spill and an unprecedented amount for the type of crude that leaked. The oil was extracted from Buzios, the world's largest deep water oil field and the most productive in Brazil. The spill happened when the Mare Doricum, an Italian-flagged tanker, was unloading oil at the La Pampilla refinery, just off Peru's coast north of the capital. The ship's captain told the South American coun-

try's Congress that oil spilled into the ocean for at least eight minutes.

Peru which has a vast informal economy does not have exact data on the number of fishermen affected, or of the people on the docks and ports who depend on the fishing industry, including restaurants, food vendors, and those who rent sun umbrellas or boats. One thing is for sure: The affected artisanal fishermen are among the most economically vulnerable in Peru, harvesting small amounts of fish very close to the coast, sometimes from small boats and sometimes from the shore, said Juan Carlos Sueiro, an expert on the economics of fishing with the international conservation group Oceana.

## LINE-UP FOR WATER



People line-up to fill containers with water as people faced water shortages due to power outages in Yangon, Myanmar on Monday.

## Doubts over China's zero-COVID strategy amid lockdown

Shanghai, Mar 14 (AFP):

China, the country where the coronavirus was first detected in 2019, is among the last remaining devotees to a zero-Covid approach to the pandemic.

But after two years of virtually closed borders, mass testing, targeted lockdowns and quarantines, the strategy is being stress-tested like never before as cases surge across the country.

With millions currently under lockdown, can China's approach hold out against the march of the Omicron variant? China essentially closed itself off from the world in March 2020 to follow a formula it calls "dynamic zero" for



Police and workers next to some lockdown areas in Shanghai on Monday.

curbing outbreaks: strict lockdowns and immediate mass testing. Unlike during softer lockdowns elsewhere, people in China can be banned from leaving their building or forced to remain inside a hotel room if they are considered high-risk contacts. Mandatory track and trace apps mean close contacts are usually detected and quarantined quickly. Shops, schools, tourist sites, office blocks and malls have been summarily locked down with people inside after the detection of a single close contact. Officials are routinely dismissed or castigated in state media for outbreaks in their areas. That puts the onus on local authorities to move fast and hard on any clusters. Residents are forced to stay at home at a moment's notice, including the 17 million people of Shenzhen who were locked down. International flight volumes have also collapsed, with the limited arrivals undergoing strict weeks-long quarantine.

The government has said it will not renew expiring Chinese passports unless the holder has a good reason for travel — shredding outbound demand for travel.



सत्यमेव जयते

## Department of Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Government of India

# National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS)

**Scheme for Residential Education for Students, in High Classes In Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA)** provides for high quality education for meritorious SC students in CBSE-affiliated reputed residential schools **Approximately 3,000 seats would be provided in class 9th and 11th fully funded by the Central Government.**

**The National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS)** will be an online test conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for selecting students for admission in Class 9 and 11. There is no fee for the examination.

## NETS

- Date of exam: 7th May 2022
- Entrance examination will be conducted in all States/UTs
- Both in English/Hindi medium

## Eligibility

- Students belonging to Scheduled Castes; studying in class 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in the current academic year (2021-22)
- Parent's annual income is up to Rs. 2.5 lacs

## Application

- Willing and eligible SC students may register themselves through online portal <https://shreshta.nta.nic.in> free of cost
- Portal would be open from 11 am. on 14<sup>th</sup> March to 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022

## Result and admission

- Result of the exam would be declared by 20<sup>th</sup> May
- Web counselling for admission would be done 21<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> May

For any queries, contact **Shri Dipta Bhanu Das, Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Tel: 011-20863276** or **Shri Rajesh Kumar, Under Secretary to the Government of India, Tel: 011-20863299**

davp 38101/11/0024/2122

## GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES & GROUND WATER SURVEY CIRCLE SIHAVA BHAWAN CAMPUS, CIVIL LINES, RAIPUR (C.G.)

### e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

(1st Call)

System Tender No. 94925 / NIT No.: 11/SAC/2021-22

Raipur Dated: 11.03.2022

Online Tenders are Invited for The Following Works up to 04.04.2022 at 17.30 Hour (IST) :-

Name of Work: RENOVATION OF HEAD WORK, HEAD SLUICE, REMODELLING AND C.C. LINING FROM R.D. 0 TO 2550 M OF MAIN CANAL, CONSTRUCTION OF 06 NO. STRUCTURE (05 NO.V.R.B., 01NO. SUPER PASSAGE) AND 10 NO OUTLETS OF PALOUD STOP DAM OF ARANG BLOCK OF RAIPUR DISTRICT.

Probable Amount of Contract :- Rs.126.32 Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 21.03.2022, at 17.31 Hours. (IST) onwards.

NOTE :- All eligible/intrested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
Water Resources Division, Raipur  
For, Superintending Engineer, Water Resources & Ground Water Survey Circle, Raipur (C.G.)

G-68681/1

## कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड, दन्तेवाड़ा (ई - मेल - [eedan-phe-cg@nic.in](mailto:eedan-phe-cg@nic.in))

निविदा सू. क्र./184-191/ते.श.ल./का.ब./लो.स्वा.यां./2022 दन्तेवाड़ा, दिनांक: 10/03/2022

### //निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना//

एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से प्रपत्र "ए" प्रतिशत दर पर निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी है।

कार्य का नाम :- जल जीवन मिशन के अंतर्गत सिंगल विलेज का कार्य।

निविदा क्रमांक	सिस्टम टेण्डर क्रमांक	ग्राम/विकासखण्ड	अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)	रिमांक
184 / 10.03.2022	95017	मड़कामीरास / कुआकोण्डा	49.57	तृतीय निविदा आमंत्रण
185 / 10.03.2022	95045	मंडपाल / कुआकोण्डा	12.56	प्रथम निविदा आमंत्रण
186 / 10.03.2022	95046	नेलगोड़ा / गौदम	48.36	द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रण
187 / 10.03.2022	95047	पेरपा / कुआकोण्डा	48.94	तृतीय निविदा आमंत्रण
188 / 10.03.2022	95048	रेका / गौदम	51.00	द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रण
189 / 10.03.2022	95049	सालनार / गौदम	50.44	द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रण
190 / 10.03.2022	95150	कुहचेपाल / दन्तेवाड़ा	47.13	प्रथम निविदा आमंत्रण
191 / 10.03.2022	95151	मुस्कल / दन्तेवाड़ा	94.86	प्रथम निविदा आमंत्रण

निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें एवं अन्य जानकारी वेबसाईट पोर्टल <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर दर्शित है।  
टीप :- निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 23.03.2022 है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता  
लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खंड  
दन्तेवाड़ा

G-68678/2

## कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता

लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड कबीरधाम (छ.ग.)

### द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ऑनलाइन निविदाएं "प्रपत्र-ए" में प्रतिशत दर पर नीचे उल्लेखित कार्य के लिये DWSM, KABIRDHAM की ओर से कार्यपालन अभियंता एवं सदस्य सचिव DWSM द्वारा एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था ई-रजिस्ट्रेशन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

कार्य का विवरण :- कबीरधाम जिले के विकासखंड पण्डरिया में स्वीकृत ट्रेडोफिटिंग नल जल प्रदाय योजनांतर्गत पेयजल प्रदाय एवं इत्यादि कार्य।

निविदा क्रमांक/दिनांक	निविदा सिस्टम क्रमांक	योजना का नाम एवं विकासखंड	अनुमानित लागत (रुपए लाख में)
228/Dt. 10-03-2022	94957	विकासखंड पंडरिया के ग्राम झरियाखुर्द ट्रेडोफिटिंग नल जल प्रदाय योजना	73.93

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापित, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्राक्वोरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> में 10.03.2022 से देखी जा सकती है।

निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि :- 24.03.2022

कार्यपालन अभियंता  
लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड  
कबीरधाम (छ.ग.)

G-68670/2

## कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड अम्बिकापुर जिला सरगुजा (छ.ग.)

### // Notice Inviting Tender //

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन सरगुजा (जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत) ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

Sr	Tender No. (System No.) & Date	Last Date (Bid Due Date)	Name of Work	P.A.C (Rs. In Lakh)
1	162 (94825) Date 08.03.2022	22.03.2022	Constt of. O.H.T., Pipeline work, Instt. Of Submersible Pump, Providing of FHTC, etc. At Village- Amadarha & Kuberpur Block-Ambikapur, Under J.J.M.	168.10
2	163 (94829) Date 08.03.2022	22.03.2022	Constt of. O.H.T., Pipeline work, Instt. Of Submersible Pump, Providing of FHTC, etc. At Village-Jodhpur Block-Lakhanpur, Under J.J.M.	60.92
3	164 (94836) Date 08.03.2022	22.03.2022	Constt of. O.H.T., Pipeline work, Instt. Of Submersible Pump, Providing of FHTC, etc. At Village-Jaipur Block-Lakhanpur, Under J.J.M.	60.92
4	165 (94837) Date 08.03.2022	22.03.2022	Constt a O.H.T., Pipeline work, Instt. Of Submersible Pump, Providing of FHTC, etc. At Village Binkara Block-Lakhanpur, Under J.J.M.	96.84

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की (Online Tender) टेण्डर आमंत्रित की जाती है। धरोहर राशि एवं अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेब पोर्टल (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) पर देखी जा सकती है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता  
लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड  
अम्बिकापुर

G-68659/1



CENTRAL  
Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 9 No. 343

Alarming Russian  
dependence

Russia has turned to China for military equipment and aid in the weeks since it began its invasion of Ukraine, US officials familiar with the matter told media. The officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject, did not describe what kind of weaponry had been requested, or whether they know how China responded. This kind of development was already in knowledge of government of India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised on integrating latest technology in the security apparatus and reiterated that every effort must be made to make India self-reliant in 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 global tech usage in the defence sector and India's advances in it. India is alarmed at developments regarding Russian invasion of Ukraine and sanctions on Russian defence companies, which supply weapons to India. Subsequently, Russian dependence on China for hardware components has forced India to accelerate programmes for replacing Russian weapons from armed forces. In a landmark development, India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently took to Twitter to announce the proverbial 'metal cutting' for the first prototype of India's next-generation fighter jet, the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA). With AMCA, India looks set to become only the fourth country to launch an indigenously produced stealth fighter aircraft. However, Turkey is also aggressively pursuing its own fifth-generation aircraft, known as the TF-X, that shares almost the same timeline of launch as Indian AMCA. Then South Korea (KF-21) and the European nations (Tempest and FCAS) are also developing fifth-gen fighter jets. In line with the announcement in the Union budget 2022-23, the defence ministry last week said that it has identified 18 major platforms for industry-led design and development under various routes.

The platforms include Hypersonic glide vehicle Directed energy weapons (300 KW and more), Naval shipborne unmanned aerial system (NSUAS), Lightweight tank, Self-healing minefields, Unmanned autonomous AI-based land robot, 127 mm naval gun, 127 mm guided projectile, Electric propulsion (engines) for ships, Standoff airborne jammer, Li-ion cells and li-sulphur cells, Communication system (AFNET system switches, routers, encryptors and VOIP phones), Electro-optical (EO) pod (with subsequent upgrade to EO/IR) with high-resolution sensing and 'Plug and Play' housing/infrastructure for soldiers posted at extreme altitudes. Projects involving the design and development of equipment, systems, major platforms or upgrades thereof by the industry can be taken up under this category. Under SPV model, Long-range unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for high altitude long endurance and Indian multi-role helicopter (IMRH) projects approved. Under the iDEX category Low orbit pseudo satellites being considered. Self sufficiency in defence systems is paramount as according to reports, cheap Chinese tires have been blamed for a Russian convoy of armoured vehicles being unable to reach Kyiv. Russian trucks use Chinese military tires, specifically the Yellow Sea YS20. China is considering buying or increasing stakes in Russian energy and commodities companies, according to people familiar with the matter. It would be wrong to assume that the expanded trading relationship between Russia and China will only cover raw materials. Russia is working on sourcing spare parts for aircraft from China and other Asian countries and has not yet decided whether to buy foreign airplanes leased by Russian airlines. After collapse of Soviet Union, Russia has not been able to modernise its manufacturing industries and may be forced to depend on China for imports. This is double whammy situation for India. Performance of Russian supplied equipment has been questioned as recent cases of Brahmos missile misfire with Russian made engine and Russian made helicopter crash of late CDS Bipin Rawat show. India has to develop its military industrial complex urgently.

## Corporate taxation

Most companies and large businesses are familiar with the corporate tax rate, but not all of them are knowledgeable about the list of countries where corporate tax rates are high, which include the United States, Switzerland, Ireland, Singapore, and others. One of the most underappreciated advantages of a worldwide corporate tax strategy is the ability to optimise your global tax structure and reduce tax liabilities when a taxable event occurs. Certain nations in the developed market bloc, such as the United States and Canada, have corporation tax rates of around 35 percent. Despite the fact that India enacted a corporate tax overhaul in July 2019 that generated protests and resulted in a political deadlock in the Indian parliament, India is not in list of nations with lower corporation tax rates. Even after the decreased rate was imposed in July, India's corporation tax rate has remained at 19 percent since 2016. India's corporate income tax rate is still one of the highest in the world. The United Kingdom is in second place, with a new rate of 12 percent. Certain nations, such as Italy, Ireland, France, and Poland, are considering lowering their corporation tax rates in the future.

In India, basically, there are two optional schemes of section 115BAA and section 115BAB, neither of which can be disowned once embraced. The other common features of the two are they are in lieu of all the tax incentives and exemptions including the accelerated 100 percent depreciation prescribed for select industries from time to time. In addition, the right to carry forward unabsorbed depreciation and losses has to be foresworn. Under the first, tax rate is 22 percent plus 10 percent surcharge and 4 percent education and health cess on the tax as increased by surcharge for a domestic company engaged in any business. Under the second, tax rate is just 15 percent plus 10 percent surcharge and 4 percent education and health cess on the tax as increased by surcharge for a domestic company set-up and registered on or after the first day of October, 2019, and has commenced manufacturing or production of an article or thing on or before extended till March 31, 2024. India has long way to corporate tax reforms for development of industry.

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: [editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com](mailto:editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com)  
The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

## FINISHING TOUCHES

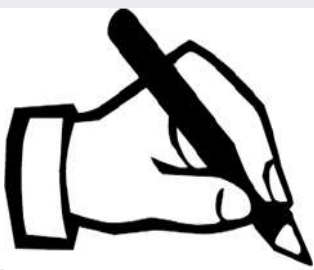


An artist gives finishing touches to a mural painted on a building at a slum clearance board residential community in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

## India's oldest cities offer modern lessons



KT RAVINDRAN



21st century urban designers need to rediscover centuries-old tradition in India. Dholavira, a 4,670 year old city with orthogonal streets, planned urban spaces and underground water and sewage management was recognised as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2021. Hundreds of such planned cities are dotted across the Indian subcontinent. Evolved over centuries, India's ancient urban heritage offers many lessons in this era of worsening climate change. The idea of 'vernacular urbanism' that is, cities and settlements that respond to local weather and climate patterns is recognised by both academics and the building industry. The old cities of India have much to offer 21st century urban development. Urban development in the 20th century was characterised by urban sprawl and high-rise city cores. Cities expanded up and out. Urban experts from Patrick Geddes to Louis Mumford to Jane Jacobs, have recognised suburbia and high-rise city centres as unsustainable. They involve a massive ecological footprint, water management problems and problematic transportation systems, along with the poor quality of life they offer to the majority of citizens.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, a 21st century invention, point to what was already realised in the pre-industrial city. The fundamental characteristics of the traditional city in India are its compact city form with non-motorised transit systems cutting down wasteful consumption of resources and

high pollution load that contribute to climate change. It's a built form perfected over hundreds of years. Indian cities such as Shahjahanabad (which became Delhi), a living city planned and built in the 17th century, as well as many other traditional cities of the Global South, exhibited exactly the features that the UN SDGs strive for. The old compact cities occupy less land than modern metropolises as many of them are built on geographical high-points, often resulting in a high-density, but not high-rise living, good public transport networks, and mixed-use areas that embrace work, home and play within the one area. Their hill-top locations reduce the extent of infrastructure, both physical and social, and in a modern context reduce demand for electrical and electronic systems. The resulting savings in fossil fuel consumption and overall capital investment contribute to climate change resistance.

Before the term was invented, old cities had already embraced mixed-use zoning. The compact city reduces commuting distances and provides for proximate recreation spaces. Transportation systems within old cities are usually well shaded pedestrian networks, which also ensure cooling airflow. The shaded streets double as open spaces where playing children are within the 'eyes on the street' of the family. The compact old city often located larger institutional buildings on higher ground while being connected by the movement lines in the valleys. These large institutional buildings spontaneously gen-

erate public open spaces in front of them, functioning as a distribution hub for natural airflow. In the hot-arid regions of India, the continuous air change improves the micro-climate and most recently provided necessary air change during the pandemic. The value of low-rise, high-density development is now well recognised by academics and eminent urban designers like Leon Krier, Charles Correa, Jan Gehl as more sustainable compared to urban sprawl or the energy guzzling high-rise density forms. The pandemic made matters worse where viral movement through lifts and vertical ducts found a free flow. Sealed glass windows and recycled air from the HVAC systems aggravated viral circulation even further.

Post-pandemic, low-rise, optimum-density development (optimum density varies from culture to culture, climate to climate) is likely to have a resurgence, not only to address the pandemic but also as a more energy efficient, human-scaled city form. Four to five storey walk-ups often characterise the old settlements. These contribute less to urban overheating as the heat-absorbing surface area of the building mass is considerably reduced. Modern construction materials from production to consumption to waste are undoubtedly unsustainable. Steel, glass, aluminium and plastics have huge impacts in their mining and are highly energy intensive in their production. They also involve long distance, fossil fuel-based transportation. But these are, at present, 'normal materials' of construction. The huge embodied energy in modern materials is compounded by the energy required for their upkeep, cooling, and heating. Traditional, organic building materials such as timber, clay, and straw use little energy to create and therefore have a considerably lower ecological footprint than materials such as steel and concrete. The local materials are sourced from short distances with minimal transportation costs, are built in compression-based construction systems with minimum steel and

without a globalised supply chain. The resulting aesthetic was also culturally mediated through centuries of building traditions.

The traditional city emerged way before we could have ever imagined the automobile or railroads. Most traditional cities were relatively unplanned - they naturally emerged simply by people colonizing and building close together, copying styles that they have seen elsewhere and liked. Because the pattern emerged before there were cars or even transit, the traditional city pattern is very compact and walkable by nature. It is very human-scale, and has an amazing sense of place. In an environment dependent on the automobile, you practically depend on one for your mobility. It is too inconvenient or unattractive to use any other form of transportation, so the car is seen as a necessary prosthetic just to go about your business. In a traditional city, a car is an unnecessary inconvenience in most cases. If the building industry's contribution to carbon emissions, currently pegged at 40 percent, is to be brought down, the only solution would be to humanise the scale of construction. At present, across the world, vernacular settlements of thousands of square metres are lying neglected. Meanwhile new developments are aggressively conquering more and more land for city expansion. Renewal and adaptation of the neglected housing stock in old cities could yield considerable amount of built form of high thermal comfort. It would mean near zero additional carbon footprint. It would be a tough call for a capital-hungry building industry to restrain itself to reinvention. But the climate crisis is now largely non-negotiable. Urban Design as a discipline thrives on three-dimensional studies and simulation of climate variables on city form. Rediscovering old cities is a possible direction for a climate friendly future.

(KT Ravindran is a visiting professor at NITTE University, Mangaluru, Karnataka.)

LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR

## Wither Congress

Ten candidates of Congress party in Uttar Pradesh got less votes than NOTA and this single example is enough to illustrate the ground reality of the party and needs no further comments and party has decimated which is now a demoralised, fragmented and spent force. In case of Punjab party excels in self-destruction and changed the Chief Minister in an unceremonious manner and the disconnect of high command with the ground realities ultimately landed it in historical drubbing. Congress needs a new leadership if it wants to avoid electoral and political oblivion. The Gandhi's, Rahul and Priyanka in front led the party's campaign in all five states that went to polls and the party was rejected by voters everywhere. It is expected that they should now accept the reality as the verdict is unambiguous and they should vacate their positions of leadership formal and informal if the party has to survive and reinvent itself to battle the BJP juggernaut. Unlike in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh in 2018 the Cong local leadership could not check the BJP's "double-engine" campaign led by PM Modi and backed by an energetic party machinery. The writing has been on the wall for some time and many in the Congress have read it. Some left what they felt was a sinking ship whereas others-for instance, the G-23-still hoped to make the leadership address the crisis. The fact is the family has outlived its political utility and is now a burden for the Congress. Its continuance at party's helm reflect a sense of entitlement that alienates a young and aspirational electorate, and gives the party a jaded look. The voters have moved on from the Nehru-Gandhi family, it's time the party did too. The AAP which has stormed to power in the state was in many ways a debutant and moreover now the party has become natural replacement of Congress as it was in Delhi and presently in Punjab and Congress is no longer a party of voters. Did the Mahatma Gandhi foresee such a turn of events when he suggested the disbandment of the Congress as a political entity? None of the parties in the opposition camp seem to be in a position to suggest an alternative to ruling party and it is evident that opposition suffered because of lack of leadership and the people are familiar with a narrative known as TINA (there is no alternative) but in the recent assembly elections a new narrative emerged that of SITA (someone is there always) and now combined opposition is to find that SITA.

Yash Pal Ralhan, Jalandhar



## WHAT THEY TWEET!



Mona@MonaPatilT

Climate change represents the most complex challenge of our time it requires a concerted, proactive & holistic response. Gender inequality may dramatically limit the resilience & adaptive capacity of women, families & communities.

Rahul@RahuUMathur  
Building a company in a "not cool" industry won't get you re-Tweets on Twitter & shares on LinkedIn - but, it will help you discover a small group of believers. They either join you, buy your product(s) or quietly promote your company - counts 100x towards company progress.



Rajkumar@VincentRK

Omicron is NOT mild. It's highly contagious and vaccine evasive. You see that when it enters a country where almost no one has had COVID before. You can see how it dwarfs the peak in cases that occurred in the US. A peak we considered so high and undwarfable.

Abhinav@Abhinav4772429

I'd asked one of my father's senior officer who had retired as the VCOAS as to why he never went on TV for sharing his views. He simply said that that would not be correct considering the office he exited. Unfortunately leading to a confirmation bias for everyone.



Vayu Aerospace@ReviewVayu

Mirage 2000s have been transformed into a deadlier version of themselves!!



Sailing Cloud@twinitisha

Life is like a punishment when you have to live with insecurities. Life screws you when you are extra cautious. The world will feel better when people give a piece of their heart and not a piece of their mind at every opportunity.

Arpit@arpit\_bhayani

There is no better resource to learn anything in-depth than the official documentation. YouTube tutorials and blogs are good enough to get started, but when it comes to building an in-depth understanding, you will have to go through the official documentation.



## BRIEF

## Ties-up



**New Delhi:** Hero Electric on Monday said it has joined hands with L&T Finance to offer consumers easy financing solutions for its entire product portfolio across its 750-plus dealership network. Hero Electric CEO Sohinder Gill said affordability is one of the factors.

## Dispatches

**New Delhi:** BHEL has dispatched its 42nd nuclear steam generator to NPCIL for installation at a 700 MWe unit in Rajasthan Atomic Power Project. The steam generator was flagged off from BHEL's Trichy plant in the presence of senior officials of BHEL and NPCIL.

## Plans



**New Delhi:** Mirchi.com, a unique marketplace for traditional sweets and snacks, on Monday said it is looking to raise about Rs 50 crore from strategic investors to fund its expansion. Founder Poornima Mital said it will use the funding to invest in many marketing activities.

## Develop

**New Delhi:** Illumina Singapore and Trivitron Healthcare have joined hands to develop and expand the use of next-generation sequencing (NGS)-based in-vitro diagnostic tests (IVD) in India. Over the next three years, Illumina Singapore (a subsidiary of Illumina Inc) and Trivitron intend to develop and distribute a suite of standardized, commercial IVD assays to deliver an effective and non-invasive way of diagnosing cancers, determining pathogens.

## Raises



**New Delhi:** Solar photovoltaic (PV) cell manufacturer Jupiter International on Monday said it has raised Rs 170 crore from Edelweiss Alternative Asset Advisors Ltd. Jupiter International MD Alok Garodia said he will commission Mono PERC cell manufacturing facility.

# Feb WPI inflation spikes to 13.11% on costlier crude

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

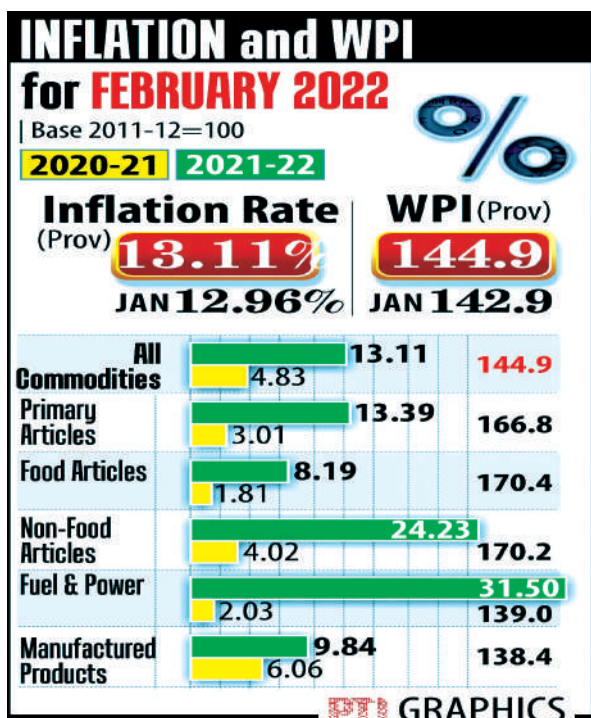
The wholesale price-based inflation in February rose to 13.11 per cent on hardening of prices of crude oil and non-food items, even though food articles softened.

After two months of mild easing, WPI inflation accelerated in February and remained in double digits for the 11th consecutive month, beginning April 2021.

WPI inflation last month was 12.96 per cent, while in February last year, it was 4.83 per cent.

The rise in crude oil and natural gas prices after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, beginning February 24, has put pressure on the wholesale price index, even though food articles saw softening across categories of vegetables to pulses to protein-rich items.

Inflation in crude petroleum spiked to 55.17 per cent during February, against 39.41 per cent in the previous month on rising prices of crude oil



globally. Inflation in food articles, however, eased to 8.19 per cent in February from 10.33 per cent. The rate of price rise in vegetables was lower at 26.93 per cent in February, against 38.45 per cent in the previous month. In egg, meat

and fish, inflation was 8.14 per cent, while in onion, it was (-) 26.37 per cent. Inflation in potatoes saw a sudden spike at 14.78 per cent in February, against (-) 14.45 per cent in January. "The high rate of inflation in February 2022, is

primarily due to rise in prices of mineral oils, basic metals, chemicals and chemical products, crude petroleum & natural gas, food articles and non-food articles etc as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement.

Inflation in manufactured items was 9.84 per cent in February against 9.42 per cent in January.

In the fuel and power basket, the rate of price rise was 31.50 per cent during the month. Icria Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said the global surge in commodity prices, including crude and edible oils, poses the main risk to the WPI inflation trajectory.

"We now expect the WPI inflation to print at a high 13-14 per cent in March 2022. The timeline with which the WPI inflation will recede into single digits will be driven by the duration of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and its impact on supplies and commodity prices," Nayar said.

## Rupee slips 11 paise at 76.55 against USD, bullion falls

Mumbai: The rupee declined by 11 paise to close at 76.55 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday amid moderating crude oil prices and foreign fund outflows. High inflation also affected market sentiment, forex dealers said. However, a rally in the equity markets restricted the rupee's fall, they added.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 76.63 against the American dollar. It regained some lost ground during the session but remained in the negative territory as investors turned towards safe-haven assets. During the day, it swung between a high of 76.52 and a low of 76.69.

The local unit finally settled at 76.55 against the dollar, down 11 paise from the previous close. Uncertainty over the war in Ukraine and persistently high inflation kept investors away from riskier assets, traders said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.39 per cent lower at 98.79. Bullion prices showed downward trend. Gold prices on Monday fell by Rs 256 to Rs 52,622 per 10 grams in futures trade as participants cut down their bets amid a weak global trend.

## Markets extend winning momentum to 5th day



Mumbai, Mar 14 (PTI):

Equity benchmark Sensex rallied 936 points on Monday, helped by heavy buying in banking and IT counters along with decline in oil prices amid hopes of headway in renewed diplomatic talks between Russia and Ukraine.

A fresh round of talks is expected on Monday between Ukrainian and Russian officials.

Rising for the fifth straight session, the BSE Sensex jumped 935.72 points or 1.68 per cent to settle at 56,486.02. During the day, it rallied 995.53 points or 1.79 per cent to 56,545.83.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 240.85 points or 1.45 per cent to settle at 16,871.30.

In the 30-share Sensex pack, Infosys, State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, Maruti Suzuki India, HDFC and Wipro were among the major gainers, jumping up to 3.76 per cent.

In contrast, Hindustan Unilever Limited, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Dr Reddy's Laboratories and Tata Steel were the laggards.

Bourses in Hong Kong and Shanghai settled sharply lower, while Tokyo was marginally higher.

Stock exchanges in the US settled lower on Friday. Germany's DAX advanced 2.8% to 14,003.93, while the CAC 40 in Paris picked up 1.7% to 6,367.58. Britain's FTSE 100 gained 0.3% to 7,178.48.

## Ministry of Labour unveils for Railway Good Shed Workers survey form of BRMGUSU

New Delhi, Mar 14:

Bharatiya Railways Mail Godam Shramik Union (BRMGUSU) hosted a function to giving honor of the Ministry of Labor, Government of India at the Constitution Club of India in New Delhi on Saturday March 12, 2022. The ceremony started at 12 noon. The event was organized by BRMGUSU President, Parimal Kanti Mandal and General Secretary, Vidyadhar Mallick, where Labour and Employment Minister, Bhupendra Yadav was the chief guest and Chief Labour Commissioner (Centre) (CLC (C)), Ajay Kumar Samantray was present as the special

guest, as well as additional-Chief Labour Commissioner (Central), Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner (Central), Assistant Labour Commissioner (Central), Labour Enforcement Officer, Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) from New Delhi, Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) from Uttar Pradesh and Railways Deputy Director-Traffic, Railway Board, Joint Director (Health) from the Ministry, Railway Board, Under Secretary-Railway Board, and Section Officer of the Ministry and Additional-Private Secretary from the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office had a dignified presence.

## Broadcasters to pull GECs from Prasar Bharati owned DTH platform

New Delhi, Mar 14: The big 4 broadcasters are likely to pull out their general entertainment channels (GECs) from the Prasar Bharati-owned free direct to home (DTH) platform from 1st April 2022. The channels that will be pulled out from DD Free Dish are Star Utsav, Zee Anmol, ColorsRishtey, and Sony Pal. From now on these channels will only be available on cable and DTH platforms like Tata Play and Airtel.

Industry sources say that the broadcasters are worried about the flight of customers from pay distribution platforms to DD Free Dish once the New Tariff Order (NTO) 2.0 is implemented. As things

stand today, the broadcasters have pulled out their popular channels from bouquets in order to increase the average revenue per user (ARPU).

Sources also claim that the big broadcasters have taken a well-informed decision which will serve them well in the long-term. The choice is clear as the broadcasters want to protect their subscription revenue. "The cable and DTH platforms have been complaining to the broadcasters about the impact of re-run GECs on their subscriber base. The Pay TV platforms wanted parity as the broadcasters don't collect any subscription fee from DD Free Dish customers.

Mumbai, Mar 14:

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), along with the Ministry of Road Transport And Highways, has released a draft notification for revising the third-party premium rates for motor insurance policies for the financial year 2022-2023. This proposed revision was stalled for the last two years due to the Covid pandemic.

Nitin Kumar, Head-Motor New Business, Policybazaar.com said, "This was an expected move as third-party rates had not been changed for

## Third Party Motor insurance premium to go up

the past two terms. The increase is across the spectrum from cars and two-wheelers to commercial vehicles. While third-party premium rates are revised on an annual basis by IRDAI, these were put on hold in 2020, and then again in 2021, to give relief to policyholders during the pandemic."

As per the revised rates, private cars with 1,000 cubic capacity (cc) will attract rates of Rs 2,094. Similarly, private cars with 1,000 cc to 1,500 cc will attract rates of Rs 3,416 while those above 1,500 cc private cars will see a premium of Rs 7,897. Two-wheelers over 150 cc but

not exceeding 350 cc will attract a premium of Rs 1,366 and for two-wheelers over 350 cc the revised premium is Rs 2,804. For public goods carrying commercial vehicles, the premium will range from Rs 16,049 to Rs 44,242 depending on the gross vehicle weight. For the private ones, the premium will range from Rs 8,510 to Rs 25,038. However, with the rise in the number of third-party claims after the initial drop during Covid, reinsurer GIC had written to IRDAI, proposing the mandatory increase in third-party rates, which has now been accepted.

## Many states request GST compensation extension beyond 5 years

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

Many states have requested extension of the compensation mechanism under the GST beyond June 2022, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday.

Under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) law, states were guaranteed to be compensated bi-monthly for any loss of revenue in the first five years of GST implementation from July 1, 2017.

The shortfall is calculated assuming a 14 per cent annual growth in GST collections by states over the base year of 2015-16. The 5-year period ends in June 2022.

The compensation amount to be paid from the compensation fund



Nirmala Sitharaman

is arrived at by levying cess on top of the highest tax slab on luxury, demerit and sin goods.

In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Sitharaman said the central government is committed to giving GST compensation to states/UTs for 5 years as per the Constitutional provision. To a query

Experience not relevant criteria for bidder selection

**New Delhi:** Defending its decision to sell Central Electronics Ltd to Nandal Finance & Leasing, the government on Monday said technological and managerial experience are not among the relevant criteria for the selection of a bidder in strategic disinvestment.

whether the government has received proposals from state governments requesting extension of compensation mechanism for another five years in view of difficulties caused by the pandemic, she said "Yes Sir. Many states have requested for extension of the compensation period during the deliberations

in GST Council and in letters addressed to the central government".

GST compensation for financial years 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 has already been paid to states. Since collections in the compensation fund are falling short of requirement, for 2020-21 and 2021-22, the Centre has borrowed funds worth Rs 1.10 lakh crore and Rs 1.59 lakh crore, respectively and passed it on to states as back-to-back loans.

The compensation cess, levied on luxury and demerit goods, will continue to be collected till March 2026 to repay the borrowings that were done in 2020-21 and 2021-22 to compensate states for GST revenue loss.

## Govt plans to float EoI for its stake sale in IDBI Bank

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

The government plans to invite expression of interest to sell its stake in LIC-controlled IDBI Bank by the next month-end, a senior official has said.

As part of the divestment, the government plans to sell its entire 45.48 per cent stake eventually.

The government may look to sell around a 26 per cent stake in the bank, along with management control to attract investors, the official said.

IDBI Bank became a subsidiary of LIC with effect from January 21, 2019, following the acquisition of an additional 8,27,590,885 equity shares. On December 19, 2020,



IDBI Bank was reclassified as an associate company due to the reduction of LIC shareholding to 49.24 per cent following the issuance of additional equity shares by the bank under a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP).

"We have been working on the proposal for a while now and most of the details have been finalised. We expect to invite the ex-

pression of interest from investors by end of next month or May," the official said.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had given in-principle approval for strategic disinvestment and transfer of management control in IDBI Bank in May last year.

Necessary amendments to the IDBI Bank Act have already been made through the Finance Act 2021, and transaction advisors have been appointed.

IPO-bound Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) plans to retain some stake in IDBI Bank so that the insurer continues to reap the benefits of the bancassurance channel.

## Edible oil import up 23% to 9.84 LT in Feb

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

India's edible oil imports rose 23 per cent to 9,83,608 tonnes in February mainly due to a sharp rise in shipments of refined palm oil, industry body SEA said on Monday. Edible oil imports stood at 7,96,568 tonnes in the same month last year. Total import of vegetable oils (edible and non-edible) increased to 10,19,997 tonnes as compared to 8,38,607 tonnes in February 2021, Solvent Extractors' Association of India said in a statement. Out of the total vegetable oils imports, the edible oils import rose to 9,83,608 tonnes



from 7,96,568 tonnes in February 2021. Imports of refined palm oil increased to 3,02,928 tonnes from 6,000 tonnes. Non-edible oil imports last month fell to 36,389 tonnes from 42,039 tonnes in the year-ago period. The overall im-

port of vegetable oils during the first four months of 2021-22 oil year, which runs from November-October, went up 7 per cent to 46,91,158 tonnes as compared to 43,94,760 tonnes during the same period of the previous year.

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

French carmaker Renault on Monday said it has launched new version of its entry-level model Kwid with price starting at Rs 4.49 lakh (ex-show-room).

Available in both 0.8-litre and 1-litre petrol powertrains with manual and automatic transmission options, the updated Kwid features new interior and exterior colour harmony with white accents in the Climber range.

The KWID MY22 Climber range will also offer customers an array of new colour options along with new dual tone flex wheels.

The value proposition of model is further enhanced with the introduction of



new RXL(O) variant on both 0.8-litre and 1-litre manual transmission powertrains, the carmaker

said in a statement.

The model is compliant with all the current safety requirements for the

Indian market and even goes beyond to protect both passengers and pedestrians, it added.



## Sony SAB launches 'Dharm Yoddha Garud'



Indian mythology states that Garud's wings were mighty enough to flip the turn of the universe. Born to slavery and oblivious of his monarchical lineage, Garud showed extreme dedication and unwavering courage that's etched in Indian mythology. And it's time for the world to

witness it! Sony SAB brings to you a larger-than-life spectacle in Dharm Yoddha Garud, the untold chronicle of a doting and devoted son. Featuring Indian Television's much loved face Faisal Khan in the lead, Dharm Yoddha Garud reflects on selflessness, honesty, obedience, and bravery which lies at

the core of Garud, the devotee and charioteer of Lord Vishnu. Dharm Yoddha Garud premiered on Sony SAB on 14th March at 7:00 PM. Dharm Yoddha Garud begins on the premise of Garud's birth, who despite being born as a bird-human with incredible strength and powers to the great

sage Rishi Kashyap and Vinta is compelled to obey the orders of his cunning aunt Kadru and his step-brothers including Kaaliya and the 1000 snakes. The story showcases a unique aspect of a mother-son relationship and how it blossoms each passing day as they navigate the challenges thrown at them. Being born into enslavement, Garud seeks to uncover the reason for his mother's plight. Defying all odds, he shows exemplary courage to fight and try to free his mother from the shackles of slavery, but each time she stops him. What is the mysterious secret that Vinta wants to shield Garud from? Garud's complete devotion to his mother Vinta and abiding by his duty in this universe is what makes him Dharm Yoddha Garud!

**Tune in to Dharm Yoddha Garud, Monday to Saturday at 7:00 PM only on Sony SAB.**

## Sunny Leone finds it hard to balance work life and motherhood

Sunny Leone who is quite occupied with her upcoming projects and enjoying the success of her latest web series 'Anamika', says as her work pressure is increasing, finding a balance between professional commitment and parenthood is becoming tougher for her. While she believes that playing the title role in 'Anamika' has given her a chance to showcase her skill as an actress and she is planning for more such action-packed projects in the coming time, she mentioned how her three children have become so emotionally attached to her during the lockdown period that leaving them home for work gives her separation anxiety at times. "It is so hard for me to balance work life and motherhood especially because I am one of those moms who is involved in every daily activity of my children. Since the pandemic when they were growing up in last 2 years they have all their time with us, now every time when I and my husband go out for work, they would just feel so upset...sit on our lap and cuddle up saying, 'just play with us, don't go away'. When we heard those words coming from those cute voices, it breaks our heart really." Sunny has three children - a daughter Nisha adopted in 2017, twin boys - Asher and Noah via surrogacy in 2018. Currently, she is working on south Indian films - 'Rangeela', 'Shero', 'Oh My Ghost'. She is also working on Hindi film 'Koka Kola', 'Helen' and making a special appearance in the film 'The Battle of Bhima Koregaon'. Asked if she has any plan of going for acting class to have some formal training in acting and Sunny said, "With so much happening in my life, three children, two dogs, several projects - I really do not have time for that. Yes, it is true that formal training in any art form helps to develop your skill but I also believe that in acting, preparation and training depends on project by project. So I am quite comfortable to submit myself to the vision of my director." 'Anamika', a Vikram Bhatt directorial, also featuring - Rahul Dev, Samir Soni, Sonnalli Seygall, Shehzad Shaikh, Ayaz Khan - streams on MX Player.



## Vaishnavi talks about the second 'Sai Vachan'



not be derailed by any setbacks. The second Sai Vachan 'Jaisa roop hua jis jan ka, waisa roop hua mere man ka' brings out the story of Urvashi (Vaishnavi Prajapati) who is a young girl and a passionate dancer but due to unfortunate reasons, her choice of profession is looked down upon by her uncle.

In the show, Urvashi is a person who believes in following one's dreams with complete intention and passion. Following the same rule in life, Vaishnavi Prajapati says, "Dance has always been my passion and being a part of dance reality shows in the past, inspired me to turn my dreams into reality. Of course there were moments where I felt like giving up but I always believed that there is always light at the end of the tunnel."

She further adds, "Similarly, in the ongoing track, my character Urvashi who is a passionate dancer is someone who never gives up and Sai Baba further helps her pursue her dreams."

**Watch Sai Ke Anmol Vachno Ki Katha in Mere Sai - Shraddha aur Saburi, Monday to Friday at 7 P.M. only on Sony Entertainment Television.**

Actress Ritika Singh, who was a real-life boxer before turning an actress with Sudha Kongara's 'Irudhi Suttru' ('Saala Khadoos' in Hindi), says that "Shadow boxing is her most favourite thing in the world". Taking to Instagram on Sunday, the actress, who shot to lime-light for her role as a boxer in 'Irudhi Suttru', which also featured Madhavan in the lead, posted a video of her training. She then wrote, "Shadow boxing is my most favourite thing in the world! I don't even look at it as a workout, but it is an incredible one at that. "No matter how many times you practice a combination or a kick or even a basic punch, it's never enough! You only keep getting better and start finding new ways to improve your skill set. "Like the greatest Bruce Lee said, 'I fear not the man who has practiced 10,000 kicks once, but I fear the man who has practiced 1 kick 10,000 times'."

## Shadow boxing is my most favourite thing in the world: Ritika Singh



Actor Ravi Teja, who is known as 'Maa's Maharaja' in Tollywood, will be seen alongside megastar Chiranjeevi soon. Chiranjeevi, who is currently busy with a handful of offers, will be seen in his untitled, upcoming movie 'Chiru154'. Bobby is to wield the megaphone for the movie, which will apparently have Ravi Teja essaying an important role.

If everything goes well, actor Ravi Teja will appear as Chiranjeevi's brother in the movie. To recall, Ravi Teja and Chiranjeevi were seen together in the movie titled 'Annayya', which had Soundarya, Venkat, Kota Srinivasa Rao, and Uttej in the lead roles. Tentatively titled 'Chiru154' it has 'Gabbar Singh' actress Shruthi Haasan on board, as the female lead opposite Chiranjeevi. Billed to be an action entertainer, the movie is bankrolled by Mythri Movie Makers on a grand scale. Devi Sri Prasad, who currently got much hype for his 'Pushpa' album, is roped in to score the music.



**Ravi Teja joins hands with Chiranjeevi for 'Chiru154'**

## HOROSCOPE TUESDAY MARCH 15

### Aquarius: Jan 21 – Feb 18

Your mood will swing by the hour today! Naturally, you want to be your friends stumped. But unpredictability does not mean that you take unnecessary risk. Ganesha suggests you complete all pending projects, and bear in mind that it is only fools who rush in where angels fear to tread.

### Gemini: May 22 – June 21

Emotional and material security will hold equal importance today. You want to be in love, but you know that love can't buy you dough. In academics, you will be able to solve whatever problems you set your mind on. Your spare time will be spent on devising methods of making the best use of your knowledge. Today, you will make crucial choices concerning higher studies, predicts Ganesha.

### Libra: Sept 23 – Oct 23

No matter what you do, some days are just not happening. Considering the random mood swings that affect you today, it's in the best interest of others that you put up a 'Beware of me' sign. By being forewarned about it, you should be capable of handling your erratic behaviour.

### Pisces: Feb 19 – Mar 20

You probably jumped out of bed this morning itching to talk to someone. And why not, since all your latent power of expression will spring out like a jack-in-the-box today. The pearls of wisdom you shower on people who are down-in-the-dumps today will make them feel good about their blues, taciturn selves, says Ganesha.

### Cancer: June 22 – July 22

You are feeling lucky today. The problem is that your feelings have nothing to do with the ground reality. So, while you may get busy trying your luck at risky speculative markets, Ganesha may get increasingly worried about the losses you may incur because of your foolishness.

### Scorpio: Oct 24 – Nov 22

The day today is riddled with minor, nagging ailments. Adopt a two-pronged strategy, advises Ganesha. One 'do' change your lifestyle, and two 'do' visit your doctor for regular examinations. Ominous at his best, Ganesha counsels to take care of your health.

### Aries: Mar 21 – Apr 20

You've finally realised that diet and exercise are a must, and you especially need to take good care. Today, you may wish to eat something different. Tried Mongolian cuisine? Ganesha suggests that you go out with some friends who you've not been paying attention to.

### Leo: July 23 – Aug 23

Body and soul might seem out of balance today. A part of you may long to break from society and live a more spiritual life, but worldly responsibilities and an attachment to your current lifestyle could get in your way. These things don't happen overnight, Leo. You have to let them develop in their own way, in their own time. Right now, find balance between the spiritual and the material.

### Sagittarius: Nov 23 – Dec 21

Today, you will most certainly put your heart and soul into your work. But it is rather unlikely that you will get the returns in proportion to the efforts you put in. Yet, at the end of the day, you will be more than satisfied that you have got the chance to display your innate talents, says Ganesha.

### Taurus: Apr 21 – May 21

You will spend your day in the company of near and dear ones, says Ganesha. Family and friends might gather at your place and you will leave no stone unturned in welcoming them to your nest. In all probability, home makers will be able to shine in cooking as well as hosting, foresees Ganesha. Emotions will run wild and free with your sweetheart, predicts Ganesha.

### Virgo: Aug 24 – Sept 22

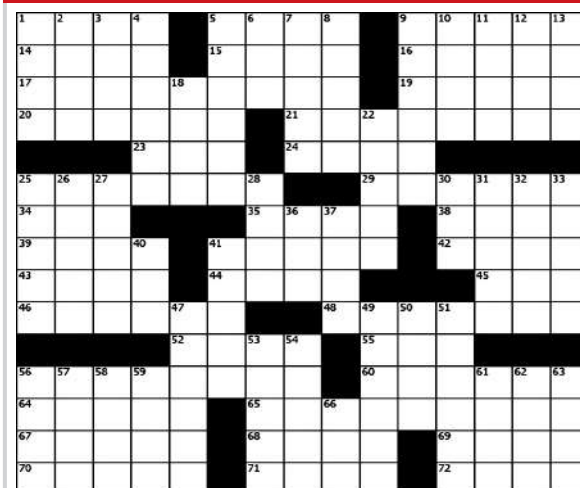
There is a strong indication that you will dabble in writing or performing arts, and emerge with excellent results. Since these are your passions, you may be praised vociferously for your ability to make the right decision at the right time. You may also bag rewards for the commendable efforts you'd put in the past.

### Capricorn: Dec 22 – Jan 20

New projects and partnership will keep you busy today, says Ganesha. If a meeting is scheduled, you may be praised vociferously for your ability to make the right decision at the right time. You may also bag rewards for the commendable efforts you'd put in the past.

## CROSSWORD

241



### ACROSS

- Huckleberry Finn's craft
- School gps.
- Revolutionary \_\_\_\_ Allen
- Farm measure
- Roof overhang
- Gleamed
- Honed
- A la \_\_\_\_
- Gasoline, in England
- Kept

- Madrid cheer
- Stumble
- Point winners
- Tantalizes
- Crow's call
- Implement
- Humid
- Coffeepots
- High-strung
- Previously
- Hive dwellers
- October gem

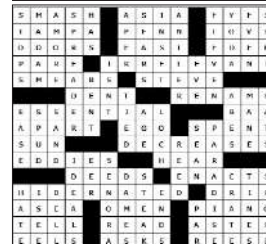
- Yet, poetically
- Apprehend
- Made a menu selection
- Lima's country
- Austria's cont.
- Scientist's sample
- Crossword direction
- Poe's middle name
- Flexible
- \_\_\_\_ dot
- Speechless
- Midday
- Strong metal
- Char
- Unpaid bill

### DOWN

- File
- Pang
- Campus gp.
- Fright
- Paring tool
- Summer shade
- Ward off
- Hebrew feast
- Flee
- Asian language
- Rhino feature
- Chip in
- Deficiency
- \_\_\_\_ vault
- Owner's proof
- Diving gear
- Concerned one
- Proprietor
- Stair part

- Excitement
- More rational
- Host
- Pay out
- "Snakes \_\_\_\_ Plane" (2 wds.)
- Norway's capital
- NNW's capital
- \_\_\_\_ pole
- Of the backbone
- The Grim \_\_\_\_
- Channel
- Trip to the store, e.g.
- Paper quantities
- Excessive
- Tree fluids
- Conspiracy
- She, in Marseille
- Birthday treat
- Double-reed instrument
- Messy fellow
- Dispatched
- \_\_\_\_ loss for words (2 wds.)

### SOLUTION 240





# India complete 2-0 series sweep against Sri Lanka

**Bengaluru, Mar 14 (PTI):**

India extinguished whatever little spark Sri Lanka showed and wrapped up the second Test inside three days for a comprehensive 238-run win, completing a 2-0 whitewash of the Islanders, here on Monday.

While two wins against Sri Lanka fetched India 24 points but Rohit Sharma's men remain in fifth position in World Championship table due to 'low percentage points' (54.16) despite 77 points in their kitty. A herculean task at hand, Sri Lanka took the field on the third day with a lot of determination but it was always going to be tough to negotiate the Indian attack on a track that has been offering turn and uneven bounce from day one.

Resuming at 28 for one in pursuit of an improbable 447-run target, the Sri Lanka batters, led by skipper Dimuth Karunaratne (107), resisted the Indian attack for some time before folding for 208 in the post-tea ses-



**Ravichandran Ashwin (L) with teammate Rishab Pant celebrate after taking the wicket of Sri Lanka's Dhananjaya De Silva during 2nd test cricket match at Chinnaswamy Stadium, in Bengaluru, Monday.**

Left-handed Karunaratne, one of the most consistent performers for Sri Lanka in recent times, raised his 14th Test century with a boundary off Jasprit Bumrah. He took some time to settle but worked the ball

around swiftly, consistently placing them in the gaps. Bumrah (3/23) eventually sent him back with slightly seaming ball that beat his bat to shatter the stumps. The lethal Indian fast bowler, who consistently made life tough for

the Lankans, returned with match figures of 8 for 47, having taken a fiver at home for the first time in the first innings.

Ravichandran Ashwin (4/55), Axar Patel (2/37) and Ravindra Jadeja (1/48) did their bit in wrapping up the Lankan innings.

India now have won all three pink-ball Tests at home, having beaten beating Bangladesh (in Kolkata, 2019) and England (in Ahmedabad, 2021) before.

Visitors' early positive intent, something which has not been witnessed much in this series, resulted in a rare productive batting session for the Lankans who collected 123 runs for loss of three wickets. Adopting a positive yet cautious approach, both Kusal Mendis (54 off 60 balls) and Karunaratne used their feet with confidence to counter the Indian spinners.

Mendis was impressive on both front and back foot as he pulled and cut the short-pitched stuff and used his feet to cut down the spin.

## Bangladesh beat Pakistan by 9 runs to register first-ever win

**Hamilton, Mar 14 (PTI):**

Opener Sidra Ameen's 104 went in vain as Pakistan committed harakiri to hand debutants Bangladesh a nine-run win, their first-ever victory in the ICC Women's ODI World Cup here on Monday.

Chasing 235 to win, Ameen gave Pakistan a flying start, forging a 91-run partnership with Nahida Khan (43) for the first wicket and then added another 64 runs with Bismah Maroof (31).

With Ameen going strong, Pakistan were well on course for a successful chase, reaching 183 for two but Fahima Khatun (3/38) turned the match on its head with three quick wickets as Pakistan inexplicably lost five of their batters for just five runs to slip to 188 for seven and were eventually restricted to 225 for nine.

Khatun picked up the wickets of Omaima Sohail (10), Aliya Riaz (0) and Fatima Sana (0), while Rumana Ahmed re-



**Bangladesh's Fahima Khatun (3/38) turned the match on its head with three quick wickets.**

### All-round South Africa beat England to register hat-trick of wins

Mount Maunganui: South Africa produced an allround display to continue their unbeaten run in the tournament, beating defending champions England by three wickets to register a hat-trick of wins in the ongoing ICC Women's ODI World Cup here on Monday. South Africa first rode on Marizanne Kapp's (5/45), her best bowling ODI figures, to restrict four-time champions England to 235 for nine and then Laura Wolvaardt (77 off 101 balls) held their innings together as they overcame a late scare to chase down the target with four balls to spare.

moved Nida Dar (0) before centurion Ameen fell for a run-out to end Pakistan's hope. Featuring in their first

women's World Cup, Bangladesh had lost their first two games against South Africa and New Zealand, while Pakistan

slumped to their fourth defeat in as many matches and 18th successive loss in the event. Earlier, invited to bat, Bangladesh scored 234 for seven, riding on Fargana Hoque's 71 and some useful contributions from Sharmin Akhter (44) and skipper Nigar Sultana (46). Hoque shared 96 runs for the third wicket with Sultana to lay the foundation as Bangladesh posted their highest total in ODIs. Openers Shamima Sultana and Sharmin Akhter gave Bangladesh a good start against the pacers but things changed the moment spinners were introduced with Nida Dar dismissing the former.

Left-arm spinner Nashra Sandhu and leg-spinner Ghulam Fatima then put further brakes even as Omaima Sohail picked up the other opener to leave Bangladesh at 79 for two in 20th over.

Sultana and Hoque then joined hands but the duo found it difficult to rotate strikes with the spinners bowling in tandem.

## 'Close-knit, family-oriented structure makes you feel safe in MI'

**Mumbai, Mar 14 (PTI):**

Star England pacer Jofra Archer, who was bought by Mumbai Indians for a whopping Rs 8 crore despite his unavailability for this year's IPL, said the team's "close-knit, family-oriented" structure makes him feel "safe" as a new entrant.

The 26-year-old, who has undergone two surgeries to treat his troubled right elbow, will sit out of the IPL this year as he continues his recovery from injury. But he's already excited by the prospect of joining the franchise in future. "MI looks very close-knit and family-oriented



and such teams always do well. That's why it is no surprise that we have won five titles," Archer told the team's official social media handles.

"Polly's (Kieron Pollard) been there 10 years, (Lasith) Malinga was there a long time, the same

with Rohit (Sharma) too. These things make you feel safe when you come into the team as a new player," Jofra said.

The perception of fast bowlers has always been that they are an angry bunch, who need to stoke that fire to generate fear-some pace.

However, the Englishman, who has played 42 games across formats besides winning his team a World Cup, said it's about staying calm.

"I think you need to be calm as a fast bowler because you have to know when to step it up and when to tone it down," he said.

## Need to finish games in regulation time: Women's hockey coach

**Bhubaneswar, Mar 14 (PTI):** Indian women's hockey team chief coach Janneke Schopman on Monday said the side should close down games in regulation time instead of allowing them to stretch till shoot-outs but she was quite pleased with the regular scoring chances created by her wards in the ongoing FIH Pro League ties.

Both the matches in India's recent Pro League tie against Germany went to shoot-out with the home team losing the first before bouncing back to win the second leg here on Sunday. India fought back with a remarkable 3-0 shootout win over Germany in the second leg after both the games ended in a 1-1 draw in regulation time here on Sunday, a huge improvement

in their performance from the first leg match which the hosts lost 1-2 in the shoot-out. "In Saturday's game, we didn't start well, but in the next game, we started well. I think we created enough opportunities. The only thing to say is that we should win in regulation time and not in shootouts," Schopman said after India's win in the second match. Fairly well-placed at second position in the standings, Schopman wants her players to improve with every game going forward in the FIH Pro League. The Indians are now placed second in the nine-team league with 12 points from six games. "Our focus is to improve and do better in every game, which I think we are doing," she said.

## Shreyas Iyer named ICC 'Player of the Month'

**Dubai, Mar 14 (PTI):**

Fast-rising India batter Shreyas Iyer was on Monday voted the ICC 'Men's Player of the Month' for February, while New Zealand all-rounder Amelia Kerr bagged the honour among women.

Iyer earned the award on the back of his brilliant white-ball exploits during the home series against the West Indies and Sri Lanka respectively last month. He pipped UAE's Vriitya Aravind and Nepal's Dipendra Singh Airee to claim the honour.

The right-hander struck a well-crafted, match-winning 80 in the third ODI against the West Indies in Ahmedabad and followed it up with a brisk 16-ball 25 in the closing game of the



subsequent three-match T20I series. He was even better in the T20I series against Sri Lanka, aggregating 204 runs without being dismissed across three innings at a highly impressive strike-rate of 174.36.

He registered scores of 57\*(28), 74\*(44) and 73\*(45) across three games, while striking 20 fours and seven

sixes collectively in a Player of the Series performance. "Throughout the month Shreyas showed tremendous consistency and control," remarked former Sri Lanka cricketer and voting panel member Russell Arnold.

"He totally dominated opposition bowlers and proved very hard to bowl at, scoring runs all-round the wicket and attacking the bowlers at the right moments. What really stood out for me was his composure as he battles for a regular place in the India lineup."

The 27-year-old has carried his form in the ongoing month too, having produced an outstanding 92 in the first innings of the ongoing second Test against Sri Lanka in Bangalore.

## After world championships, Lovlina and Nikhat secure Asian Games selection

**New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):** Olympic bronze-medallist Lovlina Borgohain and former junior world champion Nikhat Zareen were on Monday selected in the Indian women's boxing team for this year's Asian Games in Hangzhou, China after emerging victorious in the trials held here. While Zareen secured her place in the 51kg division, Borgohain clinched the 69kg spot after trials held at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium. Last week, both of them also made the world championships squad with Zareen qualifying in the 52kg category and Borgohain making the cut in 70kg. In the Asian Games trial finals held this morning, Borgohain defeated

Railways' boxer Pooja, and Zareen got the better of Manju Rani, a silver-medallist from the 2019 World Championships. The Asian Games are due to be held from September 10 to 25. In the world championship trials held last week, selections were also confirmed for the Asian Games in three overlapping divisions — 57kg, 60kg and 75kg. The Asian Games feature five women categories. In 57kg, Manisha won her trial bouts to make the cut for both the showcase events, while the promising Jaismine (60kg) and the experienced Saweety Boora (75kg), who won a world silver medal in 2014, also ensured twin selections for themselves.

**New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):**

Manshi Joshi and Nithya Sre claimed a gold each, while Tokyo Paralympics champion Pramod Bhagat secured two silver and a bronze as India bagged as many as 21 medals at the Spanish Para Badminton International in Cartagena, Spain. World no 1 Joshi (SL3) and Sre (SH6) were among the six gold medallists, while India also secured seven silvers and eight bronze medals in the level I tournament, which concluded on Sunday. Raja / Krishna (men's doubles SH6), Raj/Parul (mixed doubles SL3-SU5), Chirag/Raj



(men's doubles SU5) and Nitesh/Tarun (men's doubles SL3-SL4) also bagged the yellow metal. World no 1 Bhagat (SL3) secured two

silver and a bronze, while world no 2 Sukant Kadam (SL 4) ended up with a bronze medal at the event. Tarun Dhillon (men's sin-

gles SL4), Krishna Nagar (men's singles SH6), Mandeep Kaur (women's singles SL3), Manasi/Ruthick (mixed doubles SL3-SU5), Hardik/Ruthik (men's doubles SU5) and Manoj/Bhagat (men's doubles SL3-SL4) also won silver medals. The bronze medal winners were Nitesh Kumar (men's singles SL3), Manoj (men's singles SL3), Nilesh Gaikwad (men's singles SL4), Parul Parmar (women's singles SL3), Bhagat/Kohli (mixed doubles SL3-SU5), Arwaz/Deep (men's doubles SL3-SL4), and Prem Ale/Abu Hubaida (men's doubles WH1-WH2).

## Hardik Pandya checks in at NCA to appear for fitness test before IPL

**New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):** Hardik Pandya has reported at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru where he will undergo fitness tests for the next couple of days before he gets an all-clear to lead Gujarat Titans in the upcoming Indian Premier League.

The most interesting aspect to watch during the tests would be whether the 28-year-old gets clearance to bowl full tilt in the cash-rich league where Titans would start their campaign against Lucknow Super Giants on March 28. "Hardik will be at the NCA for next two days and appear in the various fitness tests. He is a centrally

contracted cricketer and has not played any cricket since T20 World Cup in UAE," a BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"He would need to pass the fitness test as it has been mandatory for some time now. Last year, even Shreyas Iyer appeared for a fitness test post shoulder surgery before playing IPL," he added.

The national team and the NCA medical staff always keeps a close tab on its centrally-contracted players and it has been learnt that during the Titans short five-day training camp in Baroda, Hardik had bowled during a couple of sessions.

## Barcelona regains scoring touch with 4-0 rout of Osasuna

**Madrid, Mar 14 (AP):**

It didn't take long for Barcelona's offense to regain its scoring touch. After being held to a disappointing scoreless draw with Galatasaray in the first leg of the round of 16 of the Europa League, Barcelona scored three goals in less than 30 minutes on Sunday en route to a comfortable 4-0 win over Osasuna in the Spanish league.

Ferrn Torres found the net twice and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Riqui Puig added a goal each to keep the Catalan club in third place. It has the same 51 points as Atletico Madrid but leads on the head-to-head tiebreaker. Barcelona also has a game in hand compared to



**FC Barcelona's Riqui Puig celebrates scoring their fourth goal with Gavi.**

the defending champions. Barcelona and Atletico trail second-place Sevilla by five points. League leader Real Madrid, which visits relegation-threat-

ened Mallorca on Monday, is 12 points ahead of Barcelona and Atletico.

Madrid hosts Barcelona next Sunday at the Santiago Bernabéu

Stadium.

Barcelona had scored 14 goals in its last four matches in all competitions before the 0-0 home draw against Galatasaray on Thursday. "We didn't do a good job the other day and we know it," Torres said.

"But today the team responded well. When you keep creating chances, the ball will keep going in."

Torres opened the scoring Sunday by converting a 14th-minute penalty kick and added to the lead seven minutes later from inside the area after a nice through ball by Ousmane Dembélé. Dembélé also set up the third goal by Aubameyang in the 27th, making a well-placed cross into the box from the right flank, and the fourth by Puig in the 75th.

## KKR gear up for IPL

**Navi Mumbai:** Two-time IPL champions Kolkata Knight Riders on Monday started their training for the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League, which will begin in Mumbai from March 26.

PTI has already reported that the IPL teams would begin training either from Monday or Tuesday at different practice venues, which have been identified by the organisers.

"We have started training today at DY Patil university ground."

Most Indian players have come in apart from Umesh (Yadav) and Shreyas (Iyer) who are with the Indian team and Venkatesh Iyer who is at NCA," a KKR official said.

It is also understood that a couple of players are still in quarantine and they will join the squad a day later.

## Lakshya Sen loses in German Open final

**Muelheim An Der Ruhr, Mar 14 (PTI):** World Championships bronze medallist Lakshya Sen's giant-killing run ended with a straight-game loss to Thailand's rising star Kunlavut Vitidsarn in the summit clash of German Open Super 300 badminton tournament here on Sunday. The 20-year-old Sen, who had claimed his maiden Super 500 title at India Open in January, lost 18-21 15-21 in 57 minutes to the three-time world junior champion Vitidsarn in the final match. World number 12 Sen came into the match with a 3-3 head-to-head record against Vitidsarn, ranked 20th, having beaten the Thai in their last meeting at Hylo Open last year. In a battle of equals,



Sen and Vitidsarn matched each other in speed in the rallies to move 4-4 before the Thai rode on his variations and deception to grab a comfortable 11-6 lead at the break. Sen worked up his pace and took control of the net to make it 15-16 but an alert Vitidsarn managed to grab two game points with a overhead cross-court drop. Sen need-

ed medical attention for a blister on his foot even as the Thai came up with a cross court smash to pocket the opening game.

The gruelling semifinal against Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen seemed to have taken a toll on Sen as Vitidsarn jumped to a 7-3 lead in the second game before moving to a 11-5 advantage after the change of sides.



## HOLIKA PROCESSION



Devotees ride on horses as they participate in Holika procession as part of Holi celebrations, in Varanasi, Monday.

## 'Ready to make any sacrifice'

## CWC reposes full faith in her

New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTD):

Days after its drubbing in five states, the Congress' top decision-making body on Sunday unanimously decided that party president Sonia Gandhi should continue till organisational polls after she expressed readiness to "make any and every sacrifice" in the party's interest.

The Congress Working Committee (CWC), during its nearly five-hour meeting, reposed full faith in her leadership, urging her to effect immediate corrective changes to strengthen the party and meet the political challenges ahead of the next round of elections.

Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said every Congress worker and leader wants Rahul



Congress interim President Sonia Gandhi chairs the Congress Working Committee meeting, in New Delhi.

Gandhi to lead the party, but as the process of organisational polls is underway, the next president will be decided through it.

Amid calls for large-scale reforms to revive the party's dwindling electoral fortunes, AICC general secretary KC Venugopal, at a press conference after the CWC meeting, said the party president will immediately

take corrective measures to revamp and strengthen the organisation. The Congress will hold a 'Chintan Shivir' (brainstorming session) soon after the Budget Session of Parliament and the CWC will meet again before that, Venugopal said. The session is scheduled to end on April 8.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot

suggested that the 'Chintan Shivir' be held in his state. Later, leaders said this brainstorming session of three-four days would chalk out the future roadmap and strategy in order to address challenges.

Several leaders, after the meeting, said that Gandhi in her introductory remarks said she is ready "to make any and every sacrifice as Congress workers and the CWC wish in the interest of the party".

These comments were seen by many as her readiness to even quit if required and felt necessary by the party leadership. She listened to all leaders at the CWC meet and left the decision to the wisdom of members, including those of the G-23, who reposed full faith in her.

## HC seeks Maha reply

## 'PIL challenges vaccine mandate for suburban train travel'

Mumbai, Mar 14 (PTD):

The Bombay High Court on Monday directed the Maharashtra government to file a reply to a PIL that challenged the state's decision to continue insisting that one must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to travel in suburban trains and use other modes of public transport in the metropolis.

The public interest litigation (PIL), filed by one Firoze Mithiborwala through advocate Nilesh Ojha, challenged a circular dated March 1, 2022, that was issued by the Maharashtra government to list out the standard op-

erating procedures and safety measures citizens must follow in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. The restriction on public transport, including local trains, for the unvaccinated was included in the circular.

This is a fresh PIL on the issue and the earlier one was disposed of by the HC in beginning of this month. Mithiborwala said in his PIL that such a restriction was arbitrary, unconstitutional and an "indirect attempt" on the Maharashtra government's part to make vaccination compulsory.

"The impugned order (circular) is against the state's own policy decision

and an indirect attempt to make vaccination compulsory. (Imposing) such indirect compulsion is prohibited by the Supreme Court," the plea reads.

The plea further claims that the state government's insistence on citizens wearing face masks to cover their mouth and nose while out of their homes, and in public places, was "unscientific." The PIL urged the HC to quash the circular.

It also urged the court to direct state and municipal authorities to return the money collected so far from citizens as fine for not wearing face masks in public places. Ojha mentioned the PIL on Monday

before a bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice MS Karnik, and sought an urgent hearing. The court then directed the state government to file its reply within a week.

Earlier this month, the HC had disposed of a PIL seeking similar reliefs after the state government submitted that despite the court's reservations against prohibiting the unvaccinated from travelling in local trains, it will continue to persist with the restriction.

At the time, the HC had said such a prohibition seemed to have been imposed without any application of mind.

## AIRF demands restoration of old pension scheme

New Delhi, Mar 14

(PTI): The All India

Railwaymen's

Federation (AIRF) and

its affiliated unions or-

ganised protests across

the country during the

lunch hours on Monday

for the restoration of

old pension scheme for

employees, a statement

said. All employees who

have joined the Indian

Railways on or after

January 1, 2004, come

under the purview of

the new pension

scheme.

The Rajasthan govern-

ment last month an-

nounced that it will im-

plement the old pension

scheme from the next fi-

nancial year onwards.

The new pension

scheme is completely

against the government

employee because there

is "no guarantee of fam-

ily pension and of the

minimum amount",

AIRF General Secretary

Shiva Gopal Mishra

said in a statement.

He said there is a lot

of anger against the

new scheme among the

government employees

who joined post

January 1, 2004. The

AIRF statement said

demonstrations against

the new pension

scheme were organised

at their respective of-

fices across the country

during lunch hours on

Monday.

## ISRO to unveil latest sponsored research opportunities for academia

Bengaluru, Mar 14 (PTD):

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will unveil its latest sponsored research opportunities to the academia on Tuesday. 'RESPOND BASKET 2022', the Bengaluru-headquartered space agency's focused research topics for sponsored research, will be launched by ISRO Chairman and Secretary in the Department of Space S Somanath.

"Every year, we publish ISRO-focused topics for research in the Respond Basket. Then, several universities and colleges apply to ISRO for joint collabora-

tion. We will enter into MoUs with finalised academia," an ISRO official told PTI. RESPOND's objective is to encourage academia to participate and contribute in various space-related research activities. Under RESPOND, projects are taken up by universities/academic institutions in the areas of relevance to space programme. ISRO said it has evolved the RESPOND programme through which necessary financial and technical support is provided to academia in India for conducting research and development activities related to space science, space technology and space

applications. This is the flagship programme of ISRO to promote the extramural research in emerging areas of space for academia. To enable the faculty of universities/institutes to prepare suitable proposals of relevance to the space programme, a detailed list of R&D areas/sub areas/topics are evolved as per major programmes of ISRO, by the various centres of ISRO and academia, wherein the rich talent of academia/ faculty is being harnessed to support the nation's space programme," it was stated.

## 2020 Delhi riots

## Over 9,600 schools get funds from Atal Innovation Mission

## For promoting innovation

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTD): Government think tank Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has so far funded 9,606 schools in 720-plus districts of the country for the establishment of Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATLs), Parliament was informed on Monday.

In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Planning Rao Inderjit Singh said the Centre is encouraging schools to provide exposure of science and technology to students so that they can be exposed with futuristic technology platforms.

Singh said to create an ever-evolving ecosystem of start-ups and entrepreneurs, AIM has been establishing world-class incubators called Atal Incubation Centres (AICs) at universities, institutions and corporates among others.

Till date AIM has successfully operationalised 68 Atal Incubation Centres with universities / institutions / private players across India, he added.

According to Singh, in schools, AIM facilitates to set up network of Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATLs) with a vision to cultivate one million children in India as Neoteric Innovators.

The objective of this scheme is to foster curiosity, creativity and imagination in youngminds and inculcate skills such as design mind-set, computational thinking, adaptive learning, physical computing, rapid calculations, measurements etc, he noted.

## Bail to Ishrat Jahan in larger conspiracy case

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTD):

A Delhi court on Monday granted bail to former Congress Councillor Ishrat Jahan in the case concerning the larger conspiracy behind the Delhi riots of February 2020. The order was pronounced by Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat.

Jahan, along with several others, has been booked under the anti-terror law - Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) - in the case for being the "masterminds" of the February 2020 riots, which had left 53 people dead and over 700 injured. Earlier Jahan was granted inter-

im bail in June 2020 for 10 days to get married and was directed not to tamper with the evidence or influence the witnesses. The violence had erupted during the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019, and the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Besides Jahan, activist Khalid Saifi, Umar Khalid, JNU students Natasha Narwal and Devangana Kalita, Jamia Coordination Committee members Safoora Zargar, former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain and several others have also been booked under the stringent law in the case. PTI ADS

## 'Over 65k Chakma, Hajong refugees in Arunachal, govt gave them basic amenities'

Itanagar, Mar 14 (PTD):

As many as 65,884 Chakma and Hajong refugees reside in Arunachal Pradesh, Chief Minister Pema Khandu told the Assembly on Monday, citing a survey conducted by the government in 2015-16 in three districts of the state where they have settled - Changlang, Namsai and Papum Pare.

Khandu, in a written reply to Congress MLA Wanglin Lowangdong, also said that the government allotted an area of 4,240.24 hectares to the Chakmas and Hajongs in Changlang district, besides 730.432



Pema Khandu

hectares in Namsai and an approximate 14 square kilometers in Papum Pare. In Changlang, the refugees are mostly settled in Miao, Kharsang and Diyun. Similarly in Namsai, they reside in three villages of Chongkham circle, while in

Papum Pare, they are concentrated in Changmara-Magoni and Chessa areas, the CM stated.

Additionally, the refugees have encroached upon 5,819.88 hectares in Changlang, and 289.57 hectares in Namsai districts. No such encroachment has been reported from Papum Pare, Khandu maintained.

"As per the judgement of Supreme Court in 1996, the state government has provided basic amenities like road, health care, schools, electricity and water supplies to the Chakmas and Hajongs living in the three districts," Khandu asserted while responding to another supplementary question.

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## Sister Joseph elected as superior general

## Of Missionaries of Charity

Kolkata, Mar 14 (PTD):

Sister Mary Joseph has been elected as the superior general of Missionaries of Charity, becoming the fourth occupant of the top post of the global organisation founded by Saint Teresa of Kolkata, a spokesperson of the order said on Monday.

She was elected to the post after Sister Mary Prema, who was the superior general of Missionaries of Charity for 13 years, recently sought to be relieved of her responsibilities, spokesperson Sunita Kumar told PTI.

Septuagenarian Sister



Joseph, who was the secretary of Saint Teresa of Kolkata for years, was earlier the regional superior of the organisation in Kerala before being elected to the top post on Saturday night, Kumar said. Nuns from the order across the world voted at

its headquarters in Kolkata in the election which was kept under wraps till the names were announced. "We will issue a formal notice with details about Sister Joseph on March 28," Kumar said.

She said that Sisters Christie has been elected as assistant general, Sister Cecile as the second councillor, Sister Marie Juan as the third councillor and Sister Patrick as the fourth councillor. Sister Nirmala had succeeded Saint Teresa of Kolkata as the head of the Missionaries of Charity after her death and had stepped down in 2009 for health reasons.

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