

### BRIEF



Passengers walk on the second day of Bharat Bandh called by a joint forum of Central trade unions, in Gurugram, Tuesday.

### Booked

**Jaipur:** A woman doctor, who was booked for allegedly causing the death of a pregnant woman at a private facility in Rajasthan's Dausa district, committed suicide on Tuesday, police said. According to police, the pregnant woman died at the hospital run by Dr Archana Sharma and her husband on Tuesday.

### Defused

**Kannur:** The police on Tuesday recovered steel bombs during a search carried out under a bridge in a village under Panur police station limit in Kerala's Kannur district. Acting on a tip-off, the police carried out searches under the Ovu bridge at Natammal village and recovered two steel bombs, officials said.

### Withdrawn

**Patna:** The suspension of Bihar Legislative Council member Sunil Kumar Singh, who has been found guilty of improper behaviour inside the House by the Chair, was on Tuesday withdrawn after members of the opposition jointly expressed regret for his conduct.

**Weather**  
High 40 Low 23

**MARKET**  
NIFTY 17,325.30  
SENSEX 57,943.65

**BULLION**  
GOLD 50,784  
SILVER 66,562

## 'No new engineering colleges in next 2 years'



Anil Sahasrabudhe

New Delhi, Mar 29 (PTI):

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has extended the moratorium on setting up new engineering institutes for two more years with certain exceptions, according to its chairman Anil Sahasrabudhe.

The move comes after a government-constituted panel had recommended continuation of the ongoing moratorium. The AICTE had imposed a moratorium of two years on granting approvals for new colleges in 2020. "The AICTE has extended its moratorium on establishing new engineering institutes up to two years with certain exceptions," Sahasrabudhe said.

The exceptions include state government proposal to start new polytechnic in con-

New Delhi, Mar 29:

The two-day nationwide strike by central trade unions to protest against the government policies entered its second day on Tuesday, impacting normal life in some parts of the country.

According to reports, public transport and banking services remain partly disrupted for the second day in some states.

"Workers in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh have joined the strike on the second day in addition to the workforce of state on the agitation on Monday. Workers in almost all sectors have joined the strike. We got a good response from the rural band. Over



20 crore participated in the strike on Monday and the number would be more on the second day," Amarjeet Kaur, General Secretary of All India Trade Union Congress, told PTI.

A joint forum of central trade unions is protesting against the government

policies affecting workers, farmers, and people.

Their demands include scrapping of Labour Codes, no privatisation in any form, scrapping of National Monetisation Pipeline, increased allocation of wages under MN-REGA (Mahatma Gandhi

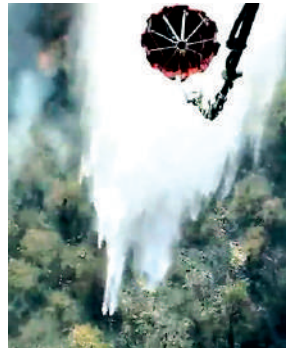
## Huge fire at Sariska tiger reserve

IAF choppers deployed to put out blaze

Jaipur, Mar 29 (PTI):

Over 200 people and two Indian Air Force helicopters were pressed into service to control a wildfire spread over 10 sq km of the Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan's Alwar, officials said on Tuesday.

The fire had started on Sunday evening and was brought under control on Monday. A few hours later in the evening, the forest fire flared again and was continuing till Tuesday



IAF helicopters are used to spray water over a forest fire in the Sariska Tiger Reserve, in Alwar district.

evening. The Forest Department asked people of

nearby villages not to enter the forest area. The officials said no tiger is stuck in the affected area and their movement is being monitored. The Sariska reserve has 27 tigers, they added.

Earlier looking at the situation, the district administration sought air assistance from the IAF, which deployed two Mi-17 V5 helicopters to control the fire.

Sariska Field Director R N Meena said the forest staff, nature guides and local people are engaged in efforts to control the fire but they are facing difficulties due to hilly terrain, he said.

### PREZ TO PEOPLE

## 'Join govt's water conservation movement'

New Delhi, Mar 29 (PTI):

President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday appealed to the people to join the government's movement for water conservation and asked district administration and sarpanches to play a special role in inspiring them to become its part.

The President presented the National Water Awards to states, districts, local bodies and schools among others. He also launched the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign 2022' during the event. The Catch the Rain campaign



President Ram Nath Kovind addresses at the presentation of the 3rd National Water Awards, in New Delhi.

will continue to be implemented this year till November 30. Some new features such as spring shed development, protection of water catchment areas, gender mainstreaming in water sector have

been added to the campaign. National Water Mission's (NWM) campaign 'Catch The Rain' with the tagline "Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls" is to nudge the states and stakeholders to create appropriate Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS) suitable to the climatic conditions. Speaking at the event, he appealed to the people to join the government's movement of water conservation and asked district administration and sarpanches to play a special role in inspiring people to become part of the movement.

## 'BJP only recognised contributions of all PMs'

New Delhi, Mar 29 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Tuesday it is only the BJP which in power has recognised contributions of every prime minister by building a museum to honour them, and also asked party MPs to undertake various programmes as part of "samaajik nyay pakhwada" (fortnight dedicated to social justice) from its foundation day on April 6. With the birth anniversary of B R Ambedkar, architect of the Constitution, falling on April 14, Modi at the BJP's parliamentary party meeting asked party MPs to reach out to people, especially the disadvantaged sections of society like Scheduled Castes, to highlight various government programmes for their welfare.

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### BHARAT BANDH- DAY 2

## Normal life hit in parts of country

### About 35,000 SAIL, RINL, NMDC workers boycott work

About 35,000 workers of state-owned SAIL, RINL and NMDC continued to boycott work on Tuesday as part of the nationwide strike, affecting production at steel plants and mines. Rajesh Sandhu, Secretary of NMDC Sanyukt Khadaan Mazdoor Sangh said all non-executive workers have boycotted work to join the nationwide strike which entered its second day on Tuesday. "Intensifying their protest against government policies, NMDC workers stopped state transport buses in Chhattisgarh for about 6 hours from 5 a.m.," Sandhu said adding NMDC would incur a loss of about Rs 200 crore due to the protest. Over 10,000 non-executive employees of the company are observing the protest at NMDC mines and offices in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana.

Rural Employment Guarantee Act) and regularisation of contract workers. In a statement, the joint platform has said central trade unions and independent sectoral federations and associations will stage a

'dharna' at Jantar Mantar from 11.30 am onwards on the second day of the strike on March 29 for their 12-point charter of demands.

The unions of bank employees are participating in the strike.

## Two DRG constables injured in IED blasts

Narayanpur, Mar 29:

### About the incident

The incident took place around 9.15 am on Tuesday in Kurusnar police station area when a joint team of the DRG and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) was out on an area domination operation. When the patrolling team was cordoning off a forest patch, located over 300 km from the state capital Raipur, Naxals detonated serial blasts in which two DRG constables received injuries. The injured personnel, identified as Sanau Vadde and Ramji Potai, were shifted to a local hospital and their condition was stated to be out of danger.

Two constables of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) were injured on Tuesday after Naxals triggered serial improvised explosive device (IED) blasts in Narayanpur district, a senior police official said.

The incident took place around 9.15 am in Kurusnar police station area when a joint team of the DRG and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) was out on an area domination operation, Narayanpur Superintendent of Police Sadanand Kumar said.

When the patrolling team was cordoning off a forest patch, located over 300 km from the state capital Raipur, Naxals detonated serial blasts in which

two DRG constables received injuries, he said.

### HISTORIC AGREEMENT

## Assam-Meghalaya pact resolves 6 out of 12 boundary disputes

Guwahati, Mar 29:

Assam and Meghalaya on Tuesday signed an agreement to resolve their five-decade-old border dispute in six of the 12 locations, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah calling it a "historic day" for the Northeast.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Shah and the chief ministers of Assam and Meghalaya, Himanta Biswa Sarma and Conrad Sangma respectively.



"It is a historic day for the Northeast," Shah said at the function held at the ministry of home affairs in New Delhi.

The home minister said with the signing of the agreement, 70 per cent of the border dispute between the two states has

been resolved. There are 36 villages in the six places, covering an area of 36.79 sq km, with regard to which the agreement has been reached.

The two states had formed three committees each in August last year to go into the vexed boundary question. The constitution of the panels had followed two rounds of talks between Sarma and Sangma where the neighbouring states resolved to settle the dispute in a phased manner.

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# Mission Clean City gets top priority in budget of Risali

Mayor Shashi presents Rs 110 crore budget; no new taxes

**Bhilai, Mar 29:**

Risali Municipal Corporation Mayor Shashi Sinha on Tuesday presented the first budget of this newly constituted civic body for the year 2022-23. She too carried the documents in a briefcase made of cow dung. With the Speaker's permission, she presented a budget of Rs 110.51 crores in the house. Congress councillors passed the budget with a voice vote for the formation of a model civic body. Thereafter, the Speaker Keshav Banchhor invited the Corporators for discussion. The first budget of Risali Municipal Corporation was passed in a peaceful atmosphere. Deepak Chandrakar was present in the house as representative of MP Vijay Baghel while State Congress Committee General Secretary Jitendra Sahu was present as representative of Durg Rural MLA and State Home Minister and Public Works Department Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu. The proceedings of the General Body Meeting began with Raaj Geet. The house paid homage to Late Manbodhi Ram Sinha, father-in-law of the Mayor, who left for heavenly abode a few days ago. MIC



members Chandrabhan Singh Thakur, Govind Chaturvedi, Vilas Rao Borkar, Anoop Dey, Sanir Sahu, Parmeshwar Kumar, Sonia Devangan, Ishwari Sahu, Commissioner Ashish Dewangan, Corporation Secretary Ramakant Sahu and all the Corporators and department heads of Risali Municipal Corporation were present. In her address, Mayor expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu for the formation of Risali Municipal Corporation. Mayor Shashi Sinha said that she got the privilege of presenting the first budget of Risali Corporation. Many possibilities of urban de-

velopment have been included in this budget. Chief Minister has given the slogan of Gadhbo Nava Chhattisgarh. In the same manner, Risali Municipal Corporation has taken the resolution of Garhbo Nava Risali. She reiterated her commitment to ensure all round development in view of the basic needs of each and every ward. "It is our endeavour to resolve the problems of common citizens quickly. We consider it our important responsibility to benefit the common citizens by bringing the ambitious schemes of the popular government on the ground", she said. Shashi assured that every- one would get simple and accessible administration in the local civic govern-

ment. The denizens will not have to wander here and there for basic amenities. Ward wise action plans will be prepared and worked out effectively. She urged the citizens to cooperate in making the city beautiful. No new tax has been imposed in this fiscal budget. The Mayor said that Risali Municipal Corporation has got the status of 3 star city and now the efforts are being made to get the status of 5 star city. Under the guidance of Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, sustained efforts will be made to establish Risali as a model civic body with the motto of "Garhat Risali, Badhat Risali, Nava Risali, Hamar Risali". She presented an estimated budget of Rs 110.51

Crore which includes Revenue Income of Rs 42.01 crore and Capital Income of Rs 68.50 Crore. The important provisions made in the budget are - Repair/maintenance of infrastructure roads, drains, culverts and corporation properties with expenditure of Rs 1600 lakhs; Manglik complex construction - Rs 175 lakhs; Amrut Mission Scheme 2.0 (Pipe Line and Garden Construction) -Rs 400 lakhs; State converted scheme (beautification of ponds) - Rs 150 lakhs; Development of trenching ground and land for additional trenching ground (development and leveling of trenching ground) - Rs 100 lakhs; Under Mission Clean City (cleaning equipment) composting and purchase of dustbin / tricycle / mini tripper - Rs 50 lakhs; Purchase of e-rickshaws for implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission (Solid Waste) - Rs 85.80 lakhs; Purchase of composting machine under 15th Finance Commission provisions - Rs 55 lakhs; Road Side Plantation - Rs 70 lakhs; Purchase of Hydraulic Trolley with Tractor - Rs 43.75 Lakh; Construction of Football Ground in Maroda Sector I-Pocket - Rs 348.64 Lakh, etc.

## Civil Defence Training 'Hum Bhi Hai Taiyar' organised for housewives

**Bhilai, Mar 29:**

Civil Defence Organization - Chhattisgarh (Government of India - Affiliated to the Ministry of Home Affairs), Human Resource Development Department, Bhilai Steel Plant organised a one-day basic civil defence workshop "Hum Bhi Hai Taiyar" for the wives/housewives of steel workers on March 26, 2022 at the Mini Assembly Hall of Human Resource Development Centre. The purpose of this workshop was to inform the housewives about how to work with patience, courage and how to deal with and face the crisis, how to do rescue work, first aid in any disaster, adverse situation and crisis. Women often take care of the house alone, and if there is any disaster or adverse emergency situation then how to protect themselves and the family, save them and call for help by taking quick decisions and maintaining their morale. How to keep self and family aware and safe in case of emergency was told. This dignified program was inaugurated by Shikha Dubey, Chief Education Officer / General Manager (Education). In her remarks, she said that "Hum Bhi Hai Taiyar" is a special program made by the Civil Defence Organization,



Chhattisgarh for the housewives of Bhilai Steel Plant because women take care of all the responsibility of the house and any disaster, accident and unexpected happening in the house. The first reaction in the incident is the housewife. Therefore, the responsibility of preparing the housewives for this has been taken by the Civil Defence Organization and training is being done through "Hum Bhi Hai Taiyar". Explaining the importance of civil security, the first safety is the necessary precautions at home or outside, she called upon all the participants to work with caution around them. In this workshop, among the trained trainers from National Civil Defence College, Nagpur; Swatantra Kumar, Master Instructor and Staff Officer, Human Resource Development Centre gave their presentation on the history, purpose and role of civil defence, disaster

management, household appliances and electrical security and communication service. Delivered impressive lectures. Surendra Nandeshwar, Senior Technician, Merchant Mill delivered his lecture on Rescue Service and Demonstration. Chandra Shekhar Soni, Master Technician of Forge and Steel Structural Department presented his impressive lecture on the topic of First Aid. This program was organized under the guidance of Mukul Sahariya, Deputy General Manager (HR) / Senior Staff Officer and vote of thanks was done. The course coordinator of this workshop was Swatantra Kumar, Master Instructor/Staff Officer Civil Defense Organization Chhattisgarh (Government of India - affiliated to the Ministry of Home Affairs), Human Resource Development Department.

## Plate Mill celebrates foundation day, new records made



**Bhilai, Mar 29:** Director In-charge Bhilai Steel Plant, Anirban Dasgupta visited Plate Mill on Tuesday to greet the Plate Mill Collective on the Mill's foundation day and also to congratulate the team of Plate Mill and associated departments for having achieved several highs in the current fiscal year. A ceremonial cake was cut by Director In-charge, Anirban Dasgupta, CGM I/c Services SN Abidi in presence of MM Gadre, CGM I/c Mills, CGM Plate Mill, RK Bisare and other members of the Plate Mill collective. Plate Mill that rolls out mild,

high tensile, boiler quality plates besides several special grade plates for a variety of applications has recorded one million tonnes of total finished plates production even before the end of current fiscal year. This was achieved by the Mill after a gap of three years. The Mill dispatched more than one million tonnes of plates in the current fiscal year. New record has been already set by Plate Mill in total annual production of boiler quality plates at around 1,26,000 tonnes, surpassing the previous best of 1,10,739 tonnes achieved in the year 2017-

18. Several monthly records have also been set by Plate Mill in the area of production and despatch of BQ plates, direct despatches of plates, specific power consumption etc. Plate Mill rolled out MIDHANI slabs into thin plates used for satellite launch vehicles thrice during the current fiscal year. The Mill set a new monthly record of rolling out 1968 Tonnes of the DMR 249 naval grade plates in Sept 21 as against previous best of 970 T in March 2020. MK Goyal, SK Verma, J Sudhakar, HK Bahurupi, Anjali Pillay, Hemant Adil, SN Meher, R Dinesh made significant contribution in making this event a success. The program was conducted by Bhaskar Rai, General Manager (Plate Mill). On this occasion, along with union representatives, a large number of plate mill personnel and officers were present.

## Dheeraj presents development oriented surplus budget for Durg

**Bhilai, Mar 29:**

Durg Municipal Corporation Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal presented a development oriented surplus budget for the year 2022-23. The general body meeting for the budget was held at BIT College's Mechanical Conference Hall. Dheeraj carried the budget documents in a briefcase made of cow dung. Speaker Rajesh Yadav chaired the meeting which began with Raaj Geet. Municipal Commissioner Haresh Mandavi, all the Corporators, Aldermen, officers and employees were present.

Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal said that they have taken care of all the sections and priority has been given to public interest and development works. For the year 2022-23, he estimated an income of Rs 37720. 35 lakh and the expenditure of Rs 37713.20 lakh. The budget



has been prepared keeping in mind the demands of all the sections, bringing transparency in the civic amenities through the Municipal Corporation and also taking very subtle issues seriously. For the implementation of Ghar Ghar Green, a tree will be planted in the memory of ancestors under Purkha Surta Yojana. The implementation of this scheme will be done at Smriti Van, which will be developed on Shivnath river road. Buildings will be reserved

for the marriages of Divyangs and their families. Kiosks of a fixed design and size will be established in the areas reserved for vending in the corporation area. Direct housing scheme for tenants, protection and beautification of ponds, Muktidham development scheme, free wifi zone in open library and bus stand, hostel facility for women, public facility in ration shop, construction of shed in major squares and railway crossings, Stadium



Construction, Potter's Market, etc have been included in the budget. Apart from this, Beautification and developing a Picnic Spot at Thagda Bandh, works on Shankar Nala, Pulgaon Nala Diversion, Muktidham Road Construction, Gaurav Path Construction, Swami Atmanand English Medium School, City Diagnostic Center and other projects were prominently included in the budget. The budget presented by the Mayor was

passed unanimously. During the budget assembly, the opposition tried to corner the ruling Congress over the issues of development. During the question hour, the opposition raised the issue of illegal occupancy of the quarters constructed under PM Awas Yojna. The BJP corporators emphasised on strict action against the guilty. The leader of opposition Ajay Verma termed it to be a baseless and imaginary budget. He tried to attract the attention of the house towards some errors in the budget. He demanded to rectify the errors and conduct department wise discussion. Independent Corporator Neeta Jain, BJP Corporator Narendra Banjare counted the failures of Congress rule in Durg Municipal Corporation. After certain corrections and stretched discussions, the Speaker passed the budget for the year 2022-23.

## Blast Furnace celebrates 'Swachhta Pakhwada'



**Bhilai, Mar 29:**

In the Blast Furnace Department of Bhilai Steel Plant, various programs were organized in the direction of spreading the message of cleanliness during "Swachhta Pakhwada" under the guidance of Tapasdas Gupta, Chief General Manager-in-Charge (Blast Furnace) with the co-operation of Biju George, Senior Manager (Personnel). At the beginning of the event, oath was administered by Soumya Tokdar, Chief General Manager (Blast

Furnace) in the presence of senior officers and personnel of Blast Furnace and SGP regarding cleanliness. On this occasion, Soumya Tokdar while explaining the importance of cleanliness to all the employees said that cleanliness and safety are two sides of the same coin. Many chances of accidents can be avoided by having a clean workplace. On this occasion, outlines of various programs to be organized during "Swachhta Pakhwada" were also mentioned.

## Students to get opportunity of interacting with PM during 'Pariksha Pe Charcha'

**Bhilai, Mar 29:**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will give Guru Mantra to the students of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Borai and Kendriya Vidyalaya to remain stress free during the examination during the programme "Pariksha Pe Charcha" on April 01. Through this program, the Prime Minister will interact with students, teachers and parents from different states of the country. On this occasion, students of Kendriya Vidyalaya and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Borai Durg of the district will also get an opportunity to interact with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Through the online platform, students will ask their questions to the Prime Minister on the matters related to the examination and get guidance from him. Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (Borai Durg) Principal Srinivas Rao said that it is the fifth edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha. Prime Minister will give tips to the students on how to stay away from stress during examination. Examination itself invites

stress and in such a situation, students will have this golden opportunity, where they will take advice from the Prime Minister through conversation and overcome their stress and nervousness. He further said that the experience of the Prime Minister will undoubtedly help the students a lot during the examination. The students are also very excited for this programme. It is natural for human beings to get stressed in the works associated with the result. Be it board examination or any other type of examination, it is necessary for the student to be stress free. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will give tips to the students to remain stress free during the examination. The Prime Minister will have an in-depth discussion with the students on how to overcome any examination with time management and positive steps. Principal Srinivas Rao has urged the students, parents and teachers to put forth their valuable thoughts and questions on the portal <https://navodaya.gov.in/nvs/school/DURG/en/home>.

## World TB Day observed at JLN Hospital & Research Centre



**Bhilai, Mar 29:**

World TB Day is observed on March 24 every year to create public awareness and understanding about one of the world's deadliest infectious killers TB and its devastating health, social and economic consequences and efforts to end the global TB epidemic. World TB Day is one of the 11 official global public health campaigns marked by the World Health

Organization (WHO). World TB Day addresses a different theme every year. This year, the theme is "Invest to end TB, Save lives." World TB Day at JLNHR&C was observed by the Department of Respiratory Medicine. Dr SK Issar, ED (M&HS) inaugurated the proceedings with lighting of lamp. He was accompanied by CMOs Dr Ravindranath and Dr Pramod Binayake and Dr AD Banerjee, ACMO. Posters illustrating

various aspects of TB were prepared by Nursing College students of PG College of Nursing, Shri Shankara College of Nursing and Apollo Nursing College. Short skit / play by nursing students depicting various symptoms, treatment and prevention from the disease were presented. A question-answer session on Tuberculosis was organized through interaction with general public who visited the hospital.

Dr AD Banerjee anchored the session. Prizes were given away to the persons giving correct answers. Dr Binayake in his address emphasized about the importance of early diagnosis of TB disease, its prevention and also told about the NTEP National Programme, its unit working in the hospital and in Chest OPD area. Dr AD Banerjee and team also visited Plant area to spread awareness among the employees in plant area.



## Trade unions felicitate workers, employees for making 2-day general strike successful

**Raipur, Mar 29:** The joint forum of trade unions has felicitated the workers and employees of the state for making the two-day nationwide general strike of March 28 and 29 an unprecedented success. In a release issued on Tuesday, the leaders of the joint forum have said that the strike had a wide impact in the state's government departments like Bank, Insurance, Coal, Steel, Postal, BSNL, Income Tax as well as many unorganized sectors. The striking employees across the state raised their voice against the anti-people policies of the Modi government through processions, demonstrations and meetings.

Dharamraj Mohapatra, convener of the Joint Forum of Trade Unions in Chhattisgarh, Sanjay Singh, President of INTUC, HS Mishra, working president of HMS, Harinath Singh, general secretary of AITUC, MK Nandi, general secretary of Center of Indian Trade Unions, Brijendra Tiwari, general secretary of ACTU, third



category, govt employees association, president, Chandrashekhar Tiwari, Dinesh Patel of Central Employees Coordination Committee, Prashant Pandey, Rajendra Singh, Ashutosh Singh, AIBEA General Secretary Shirish Nalgundwar, Bepi's General Secretary DK Sarkar, RDIEU General Secretary, Surendra Sharma, BSNLEU General Secretary RS Bhatt and STUC General Secretary, SC Bhattacharya called for wide participation in the strike of the struggling employees of the state and congratulated them.

Today on March 29, the second day of the strike, the shutters of various offices and

industries were down. In the afternoon, a joint meeting of all trade unions was held at LIC's Pandri office. Addressing the gathering, Bank Employees Association leader, CK Mandal said that the joint movements of workers, farmers, students, youth in every country of the world have changed the history and due to this strike the history of India is also going to take a new turn.

Speaking on behalf of the Bank Employees Union, Anil Sakarkar said that the policies of privatization are ruining the future of the children of the country, so there should be a massive protest. General Secretary of Employees Union

of Punjab and Sind Bank, Ratnes Chaudhary said that the real attack of privatization of government industries is being done on the general public. Today, the ongoing increase in railway tickets, telephone tariffs, petrol and gas prices, electricity bills is the result of privatization of these institutions.

Shirish Nalgundwar, general secretary of All India Bank Employees Association said that circumstances are being created in our favour due to continuous struggle. The cancellation of the National Pension Scheme in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh and the restoration of the old pension scheme is an important victory of our movement. B Sanyal, Vice President, All India Insurance Employees Association said that the history of our country stands at a crossroads today. The majority of the people of the country is suffering from the economic liberalization policies and hence is on the path of agita-

tion. This movement of the working people will build a new, modern, secular and democratic India.

Dharamraj Mohapatra, General Secretary, Central Zone Insurance Employees Association, said that a massive, united and unprecedented mass mobilization has emerged from this strike, which will establish an alternative public pro-value politics in the country. The meeting was addressed by Alexander Tirkey, Rajesh Parate, Jyoti Patil, Gajendra Patel, BK Thakur, Maheshwari, Phoebe Bhagat, MK Nandi, SC Bhattacharya, VK Lad, Sandhya Bhagat, RK Gohil, Geeta Dalal and Rajesh Awasthi. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks presented by Surendra Sharma, General Secretary, RDIEU. At the end of the meeting, the insurers announced that the day on which LIC's IPO would be issued for subscription, again a one-day strike would be observed in LIC offices across the country.

## VACCINATION DRIVE



Girl students of a Girl's School are being vaccination against corona virus here on Tuesday.

## Pt. RSU admn cancels the exam time-table

**Raipur, Mar 29:** Pt Ravishanker Shukla University (Pt. RSU) Administration on Tuesday cancelled the Time Table declared earlier for the various Graduate, Post Graduate, Diploma and other courses following the fresh directives of state government to conduct the college examinations online once again.

It is notable that the PRSU Administration had started the preparations to conduct the examination off-line and had also declared



the time table for various examinations. However, the various Students 'Union were against the conducting off-line exam citing the delay in completion of syllabus as well as improper learning through online

classes. With the Department of Higher Education issuing orders to conduct the college exams on online mode for third year in a row, the Administration had no options but to restart the preparations for conducting online exam. After cancelling the time table issued for off-line exams, the PRSU administration would now reschedule the time table for various exams. University administration would announce the new Time Table for online exams soon.

## Expedite pending cases of local tribals arrested in Naxal crime: CM



CM Baghel chairs review meeting of Home Department

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 29:** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel today reviewed the works of Home (Police) Department at his residence office here today.

Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain, Additional Chief Secretary Home Subrat Sahoo, Director General of Police Mr. Ashok Juneja, Director General Municipal Army Arun Dev Gautam, Inspector General of Police Anand Chhabra were present in the review meeting.

In the meeting, withdrawal of the cases registered against the people of

Scheduled Tribes and the expedited disposal of the Naxalite cases were also reviewed. It is noteworthy that on recommendation of Justice A.K. Patnaik Committee, the cases registered against 752 tribal accused in 632 cases have been withdrawn.

Similarly, decision has been taken to ensure speedy redressal of the naxal cases dated before year 2019, under which local tribal people were arrested. Likewise, in 811 cases, a total of 1244 local tribals were benefited with the prompt redressal and case withdrawal in the courts. Chief Minister has directed to expedite the remaining pending cases of the local tribals arrested in Naxal crime and ensure redressal of the same.

## Minorities fed up with vote bank politics of Congress: Hukins



BJP Minorities Morcha in-charge holds meeting with office-bearers

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 29:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Minorities Morcha National Executive Member and in-charge of party affairs in Chhattisgarh Joseph John

Hukins on Tuesday said that the Minorities section of society have fed up with the vote bank politics of Congress which has prompted them to get associated with BJP.

Hukins made the above statement while attending the meetings at Raipur and Mahasamund during his two-day visit to Chhattisgarh here. He said that the Minorities Morcha office-bearers would be visiting every booth to

strengthen the Organization in coming days. He further added that Modi-led government at Centre is working for every section of society by taking them into confidence.

Chhattisgarh Morcha in-charge Dr Salim Raj, former Chairperson of Madrasa Board Mirja Ejaj Beig, BJP District Secretary Akbar Ali and several other office-bearers were also present during the meeting here.

## One dies, three other seriously injured

When a girl trying to learn driving dashes against a tree in RSU ground



**Raipur, Mar 29:** Due to carelessness on part of a girl while learning how to drive a car in Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla University ground area a youth died and three others were seriously injured and all three were admitted to AIIMS

As per information in this regard, a girl had come to RSU ground in order to learn driving a car. But while learning, she all of sudden lost control on the steering and hit a tree directly head-on. In this incident, a youth inside the car died and three others were reported to be critical. In

this case, the Saraswati Police station has filed a case and taken the matter under investigation.

It is notable here that generally people go to vast RSU ground in order to learn how to drive a car or a bike. Set aside this there are daily many persons playing cricket, volleyball and other games in the open ground. It was here that a major accident took place when the girl lost control on the steering and accelerator and due to which one person died and three others got badly injured.

## Residential survey of affected villages of Nava Raipur continues

Preliminary publication for claim objection of 8 out of 11 villages

Allegation of keeping most of the villagers in the ineligible list baseless

**Raipur, Mar 29:** Nava Raipur Atal City Development Authority is conducting residential survey of the affected villages of Nava Raipur. The survey work was started from 15 February 2022 as per the instructions of the Cabinet Committee. For this 7 teams

were formed. Survey has been completed in 11 villages of Layer 1 by the teams. According to the information received from Nava Raipur Atal Nagar Development Authority, the survey list of 8 out of 11 villages of the affected villages of Atal Nagar Nava Raipur area has been published for claim-objection so far. Pattas have been allotted to those 1648 cases of residential pattas in 8 villages, that have been established on residential land or government land. About 413 cases found ineligible on the basis of new wire cordon, open land, commercial land like shop or hotel or non availability of any resident

while 64 houses are those which are on private land. Atal City Development Authority has described as baseless the allegation being made by the Nava Raipur Affected Farmers Welfare Committee that most of the villagers have been kept in the ineligible list. At present, preliminary publication of survey list has been done in 8 villages. Time period of 15 days has been given in these cases for claim objection. Therefore, if there is any kind of objection in the list, then the authority can raise an objection in the office and after resolving such claim objection, further action will be taken.

## Minister Dahria attends Maa Karma Jayanti prog

**Raipur, Mar 29:** Urban Administration Minister Dr. Shivkumar Dahria attended the program of Mata Karma Jayanti in village Chorbhatti and Akolikala of Arang development block today. Mass marriage ceremony was organized by Sahu Samaj Korasi Circle in the program, where Minister Dr. Dahria congratulated the newlyweds for the new chapter of their life. Dr. Dahria announced to sanction Rs ten lakh for construction of a community building in village Chorbhatti. Dr. Dahria has also announced construction of CC-road at a cost of Rs.5 lakh and a community hall at a cost of Rs.6.5 lakh at Akolikala. Dr. Dahria ex-



tended greetings to people on the occasion of Mata Karma Jayanti. Dr. Dahria said that it is necessary to have a well-furnished building for conducting social programs. This is why community buildings are being built in different villages of Arang Block for

all the communities. It is worth mentioning that an initiative has been taken to build nearly 152 social buildings in Arang area. MLA Mr. Dhanendra Sahu was specially present in the program.

While addressing the program, Minister Dr.

Dahria said that with the blessings of Bhaktin Shiromani Maa Karma Jayanti, we are working dedicatedly to with everyone's cooperation to bring prosperity in all the sectors of the state. Dr. Dahria said that every year the birth anniversary of Bhaktin Mata Karma is celebrated on Pampochini Ekadashi of Krishna Paksha of Chaitra month. Dr. Dahria said that Mata Karma had deep faith in Lord Krishna. She had received divine powers through yoga practice, which she would use for welfare of the poor. He told that Ma Karma was known for her unmatched devotion and her courage to raise her voice against

injustice. She gave the message of brotherhood and harmony to the human society.

Addressing the program, MLA Mr. Dhanendra Sahu greeted everyone on the birth anniversary of Bhaktin Shiromani Mata Karma. On this occasion, Mr. Panchram Sahu, Mr. Devnath Sahu, Mr. Bhikhilal Sahu, Mrs. Umeshwari Sahu, Mrs. Yogeshwari Sahu, Mr. Komal Sahu, Janpad Panchayat Arang President Mr. Khilesh Devangan, along with a large number of Sahu Samaj officials and heads of the communities, people from different districts were present.

## PM Modi's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' on April 1

District Coordinator and Principal of Kendriya Vidyalaya-2 Raipur, Minj appeals to students, teachers and parents to participate in discussion on examination



Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 29:** Amid hue and cry over offline examinations in several states of the country, the order for online examination has been issued in Chhattisgarh.

State government has issued an order to conduct online college examinations in

Chhattisgarh. At the same time, preparations are being made for the celebration of Pariksha Utsav for CBSE board examinations.

To this end children in all central schools are being motivated and counseling is also being done for them. A letter has also been sent to all the schools from the Government of India re-

garding this. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has called for making 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' (PPC) a mass movement to ensure a stress-free examination.

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, will be interacting with students, teachers and parents during the 5th edition of PPC which is scheduled to be held on April 1, 2022. The PPC will be conducted in a town-hall interactive format at 11 am.

PPC is the much awaited annual event in which the Prime Minister in his unique engaging style at a lively program answers questions asked by students

related to exam stress and related fields, said Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

According to District Coordinator and Principal of Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 2 Raipur, Prabha Minj PPC is being organized since 2019.

Student of Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 2 Raipur, Master Ayush Singhania had participated in the discussion on the examination in 2019 whereas Shriya Singh had an opportunity of anchoring on the platform of Pariksha Pe Charcha 2020. Minj said that PPC will be shown to all the students and parents in virtual mode

in the school. Dharmendra Pradhan has emphasized the importance of this year's PPC in view of the country's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and examinations going on offline mode.

According to Pradhan PPC is becoming a formal institution through which the prime minister interacts directly with students.

It is a movement that is driven by the prime minister's efforts to bring together students, parents, teachers and society to foster an environment where the unique individuality of each child is celebrated, encouraged and allowed to express itself fully.

## Saubhagya Foundation felicitates Women achievers on Foundation Day

**Raipur, Mar 29:** Saubhagya Foundation celebrated its 10th Foundation Day with the Felicitation of Women, Self Help Groups and Voluntary Organizations with Chhattisgarh Gaurav Samman at a function held at Civil Lines-based Vrindavan Hall.

Providing the above information, the Foundation Chairperson Pallavi Pandey informed that nearly 101 Women members were felicitated for the contribution in social work. Prominent among those felicitated include 15 Neutral Gender working in Chhattisgarh Police, Mandir Hasaud Primary Health Centre in-charge Dr Vijay Laxmi Ajant who had successfully



handled safe delivery of 11 Women in a single day as well as the first Women Dhuma Musical Group.

Raipur MLA Brijmohan Agrawal was the chief guest whereas social worker Pallavi Manudev Gauda, Papy Sharma from Central Bank of India, JK Jena, and Regional General Manager from Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India were present as special

guests. Foundation Chairperson Pallavi Pandey informed that they have been continuously working in the field of imparting training to women for self employment, free computer training to girl children as well as school fee for the students from weaker section of society and sports coaching for the talented children.



## High School and Secondary Education will use innovative technology

**To make education more interesting and interactive**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 29:** To make the study of subjects like English, Maths, and Science in Chhattisgarh's schools more interesting and interactive, teachers were trained by Mumbai's Tata Institute of Social Science through a 9-month hybrid course. This training will prove to be beneficial in making learning a fun process through the use of innovative technology. This hybrid process of teaching will also help overcome the deficiency in the learning ability of children

caused since the Corona period. Trained teachers will make reading and writing interesting by using Information Communication Technology (ICT) during classroom learning. Along with this, children will also be given information about ICT technology. Discussions were held with subject experts at the closing ceremony of the Hybrid Course today. A total of 300 teachers involved in the hybrid training were informed about the use of ICT techniques and the use of learning apps in classroom teaching.

It is worth mentioning that under the Samagra Shiksha program in the state, a Professional

Learning Community has been formed to provide opportunities and platforms to the teachers of primary and secondary schools to learn from each other. This community has been successful to a large extent at the initial level and is bringing a lot of change to school education at the grassroots level.

This will help in making the study of English, Maths and Science subjects interesting to the children studying in High School and Higher Secondary. Trained teachers will use information communication technology and apps targeted at the better engagement of children in education with the help of interac-

tive and fun-filled learning sessions.

The methodology of subject teaching, continuous development of teachers, methods of implementing experience-based teaching methods in the classroom will be discussed by the PLC. Ideas for supporting learning materials, teaching using ICT, various online materials and courses, improvement in the assessment process, question banks, remedial teaching methods and other issues will be worked out. State subject wise PLCs will also try to learn from each other by networking with teachers from other states and other countries. These PLC teachers will also

prepare and share books and self-learning material for their peers. They will also prepare teachers and students for various competitions related to English, Maths and Science.

Dr. M. Sudhish, Assistant Director of State Project Office, Samagra Shiksha, Assistant Project Officer Ashish Gautam, Rajesh Sonkar, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai Professor Anusha Ramanathan, Program Manager Dr. Garima Singh, Chhattisgarh State Head Saurabh Mohanty, Tuba Khan, Shan Mohammad, Sanjeev Singh, Shweta Pal were also present in the closing ceremony.

## FELICITATION



CM Bhupesh Baghel was honoured by different organisations of employees in a programme held jointly under the aegis of Chhattisgarh Shiksha Samvarg and Panchayat Sachiv Sangh at Balbir Singh Juneja stadium on restoration of the Old Pension Scheme for the government officers and employees in the state. On this occasion Parliamentary Secretary Chandradev Rai and office bearers of different Sanghs were present.

## Chhindiya Gram Panchayat bags national award



**For better water management**

**Surajpur, Mar 29:** Chhindiya Gram Panchayat of Surajpur district has bagged national award for better water conservation and management. Chhindiya has received second prize in the 'Best Gram Panchayat' category under the 3rd National Water Awards given by Union Ministry of Jal Shakti. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has congratulated officials concerned and villagers of Chhindiya Gram Panchayat on receiving

the National Water Award. The award is presented annually by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti. Chhindiya has been awarded as the Best Gram Panchayat for its excellent work in the field of water conservation and management. The main objective of the award is to encourage the conservation and promotion of water resources along with making the general public aware about minimal and efficient water usage. This aim is to motivate all the concerned to take steps towards water management and adopt better technologies in water use.

## Preparations in final stage for Navratri

**At Shree Shree Mahakali Temple**

Konta/Sukma, Mar 29:

The preparations for Chaitra Navratri this year are in the final stage in the Shri Shri Mahakali Temple Shakti Kanan located at Busstand of Sukma district. In a free environment, Shri Shri Kali Mata can be seen and worshiped on Chaitra Navratri. Preparations are in the final stage at Shri Kali Mata Temple for Chaitra Navratri starting from April 2. In many cases, this year's Chaitra



Navratri is considered special because the threat of epidemic has reduced considerably. Therefore, not only can the Mother

Goddess be seen, but worship will also be allowed.

Let us inform that for the Tail Jyoti Kalash, a fee of Rs 1101 will be payable like last

year and will be installed. This year Ghat Kanya Bhoj will be held on April 10 at 11.36 am. On April 2, it will last till 12.24 hrs.

Keeping in mind the date of Havan and Poornahuti Ashtami, in view of the decline in Covid-19 cases, the administration has started the withdrawal of restrictions and will be established on April 2. For this, almost all the preparations for Navratri have been completed. After Kanya Pujan in Navratri, which runs from April 2 to April 10, it will be concluded with immersion of Jyoti Kalash in the Kali temple.

## RPIL camp receive good response of villagers

**Pithora, Mar 29:** RPLI Mega Camp was organised in Janpad auditorium in Pithora under Mahasamund sub-division here on Saturday. It was with combined efforts of all GDS colleagues that the insurance business of Rs 4.66 cr was obtained. With total proposals of 215, a total premium of Rs 3.48 lakh was received. Along with POSB account - 145 were SB; 92 were



RD; 251-SSI; PPF-40 and TD-40 were opened. In this camp, Sub-divisional

Inspector Surendra Kumar Sahu and SPM Pithora Praveen Banjara addressed the delegates

and in this both motivated the GDS colleagues to take up the insurance business to rural-level. The programme was conducted by Lakhan Dadsena with simplicity and on this occasion the employees with highest number of insurance were felicitated. In this insurance with less of premium and more of benefit that villagers in large number are getting attracted.

## IIT Bhilai assists Govt School Sejbahar

**To adopt smart teaching practices**

**Raipur, Mar 29:** Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhilai in association with Punjab National Bank, Dumartarai, Raipur Branch created a digital classroom facility at Government Middle School, Sejbahar, Raipur, Chhattisgarh. Along with this, exterior walls of the schools were painted with posters to spread awareness regarding cyber safety, cyber security and national education policy. As per the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP-2020), school education should include play-based, activity-based and discovery-based learning processes. Digitally connected schools can access the various resource materials from the internet and explain the theory

by demonstrating its applications. Higher education institutes (HEI) will also connect more frequently with schools located in remote areas. This will enable HEI like IIT Bhilai to play a vital role to motivate and educate teachers working at schools, helping them impart quality education to students from the villages. It is also crucial to spread awareness across society regarding the modern banking system, cyber safety, cyber hygiene, cyber security, etc. Practical knowledge of these will create a long term impact on our society and is therefore essential. IIT Bhilai is dedicated to creating smart teaching technologies to develop interest among students and reconnect them to their curricula, particularly now with the diminishing interest in education caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Cash of Rs 50000, fridge of 'Dhabha' gutted in fire

**Shoes and slippers in godown of nearby shop also gutted in fire**

Central Chronicle News

**Nandini-Ahirwara, Mar 29:** Fire broke out in a 'dhabha' in Gram Patharia under Nandini Thana when a LPG cylinder got burst. The fire was so intense that the fridge, cash and other items inside the 'Dhabha' were gutted in fire. This fire also spread to nearby shoe-slipper godown and in this shoes and slipper worth lakhs were gutted in fire.

It was after lots of efforts that the fire-brigade team could gain control on the fire.

As per information in this regard, fire in the 'dhabha' in Gram Patharia broke out at around 8:00 in the night and immediately the fire-brigade was informed. By the time fire-brigade could reach the site, it has already assumed proportions and due to which the cylinder inside the 'Dhabha' was also caught in fire and busted with huge explosion. This created sensation in the village and it was after lots of fire-fighting vehicle that the firemen could gain control on

fire.

Dhabha owner Revati Nishad informed that with fire breaking out in the 'dhabha', cash of Rs 50000 in his shop and fridge was gutted in fire and in nearby shop, the shoes and slippers worth Rs 1.50 were burnt to ashes. Since there is shop of shoe & slipper nearby, its godown was also in the 'dhabha' itself.

What officer says: Primarily it was as per complaint from the owner of 'Dhabha', fire incident has been reported and it is after thorough inspection and inquiry that further legal action will be taken. TI Nandini Thana - SN Singh.

## Smart Cinema Award presentation today



**Raipur, Mar 29:** Smart Cinema Award 2022 of Chhattisgarhi films will be presented on March 30 at Raipur Trade Expo presently underway at BTI Ground Shankar Nagar here. In the programme Chhattisgarhi films screened in 2021 will be awarded in 36 different categories. Organiser P L N Lucky said, entire programme is dedicated to father figure of Chhattisgarhi cinema Late Vijay Kumar Pandey.

## Party workers accord warm welcome to Santram Netam

**Kondagaon, Mar 29:** The public representatives of Keshkal VS area along with all office bearers of different cells of Congress accorded warm welcome to MLA Keshkal and V-P BDA Santram Netam at the welcome gate 'Panchvati' of Keshkal, on being declared and felicitated as the Outstanding MLA by Speaker State Assembly Dr Charandas Mahant during the last budget session.

After this all the party workers along with MLA took out massive bike-rally and he was accorded welcome by YC, NSUI and office bearers of other cells of Congress at Bus Stand area and welcomed MLA



Santram Netam. Addressing the gathering MLA Santram Netam said that out of total 90 MLAs in State assembly he has been chosen as the outstanding MLA from the ruling party and for which he expressed gratitude towards Speaker State Assembly Dr Charandas Mahant, CM Bhupesh

Baghel, Leader of Opposition in VS Dharamlal Kaushik and Parliamentary affairs Minister Ravindra Choubey. The credit of this honour goes to people of this VS as well, who elected him to power as MLA giving their valuable vote in last VS polls. The people of Keshal VS are like

equivalent to God for him and therefore he expressed gratitude towards all the people of Keshkal VS area.

On this occasion CG Planning Commission member Dhannuram Markam, PCC Secretary Sagir Ahmed Qureshi, Janpad Panchayat President Shishkumari Chanap, BCC President Rajesh Netam, Heeralal Markam, Narendra Jain, Vijay Langade, Kapilkant Nag, Sripal Kataria, Vishal Sharma, Tarun Bhaumick, Pankaj Nag, Anil Usendi, Yasin Memon, Arun Agnihotri, Sajid Adwani, and other office bearers of Congress from different cells were present in large number.

## OBITUARY

Neera Bai Dewangan



**Raipur:** Neera Bai Dewangan, R/o Tikrapara, Nandi Hardev Lala Mandir, breathed her last here on Tuesday. She was 56. The final rites were performed at Marwari crematorium. She was W/o Late Shri Narayan Dewangan and mother of Mukesh, Vishnu, Gopal and Yugal Dewangan.

## GPII-Ecopel 1st qualifiers of SAMCT finals

**Raipur, Mar 29:** The 1st Semifinals of the Suresh Agrawal Memorial corporate cricket tournament (SAMCT) was played today. The game took place in between teams from Jaiswal Neco and GPII Ecopel. After winning the toss Ecopel Captain Abhishek Agrawal wisely opted bating first and the team losing 9 wickets could score 120 runs.

While playing the next innings the batsman's of Neco lost their game in the last over on the score of 94 runs and that's what made Ecopel the qualifiers for the final match of SAMCT. The Game changer of this match was the bowler from GPII Mr. Mrityunjay Prasad and he

was declared as the player of the Match trophy.

Tomorrow the last semifinals shall be played between Axis Bank and Infinity services, and simultaneously after that at 7 pm in the evening the Grand finale of the tournament is scheduled. The grand final shall be celebrated with a small function too. While inviting the sports loving fraternity of Raipur, President of Hira sports and culture association Vinod Pillai said that the 12th season of the SAMCT is going to become a great success and each and every cricket adoring person is most welcome to enjoy and cheer up the finale match.

## Haryana, Karnataka win boys and girls titles

**National Sub-Junior Fencing Competition**

**Ch'garh Minority Commission Chairman Chhabra rewards winners**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 29:** Haryana won the overall title in the boys section and Karnataka won girls' title in the 23rd Sub-Junior National Fencing Competition held at Jainam Manas Bhawan, located in the capital Raipur. Chairman of Chhattisgarh Minority Commission, Mahendra

Singh Chhabra attended closing ceremony of the competition, as the chief guest. He encouraged the players by distributing prizes and medals to the winners. The program was presided over by Gurcharan Singh Hora, General Secretary, Chhattisgarh Olympic Association. Member of Chhattisgarh Housing Board Vinod Tiwari was present as a special guest. In the girls category of the final event of the competition, the winner was Manipur while Maharashtra stood runner up and Tamil Nadu and Haryana secured third position. Similarly, in boys category, Haryana emerged as winner



whereas Manipur stood runner-up and Punjab and Maharashtra stood third. In the boys section of the event the winner was Tamil Nadu, while Delhi stood runner up and third place went to Punjab and Haryana. Similarly, in the girls category, Delhi emerged as winner, Haryana runner-up and third place went to Punjab

and Manipur. In the girls category of AP event of sub-junior fencing competition, Karnataka emerged winner Maharashtra runner up and third place went to Tamil Nadu and Haryana. Similarly, in the boys category, the Haryana emerged winner, Manipur runner-up and Maharashtra and Jammu

and Kashmir got the third position. Overall top five in the boys category of this championship, Haryana stood first, Manipur second, Tamil Nadu third, Punjab fourth and Delhi fifth. The prize distribution and closing ceremony was attended by Indian Fencing Federation Treasurer Bashir Ahmed Khan, Vice President Ajit Patel, Sanam Deep Kour Chadda, Odisha Fencing Association General Secretary Devendra Yadav, Chhattisgarh Throwball Association General Secretary Raman Sahni, Chhattisgarh Judo Association General Secretary Arun Dwiwedi and others.



## Bhoramdev Mahotsav to be decorated with Bollywood and Ch'garh songs

**Kawardha, Mar 29:**

The preparations are being finalized for Bhoramdev Festival to be organized from 30th March, in the region famous as the center of historical, archaeological, religious, tourism and public faith of Chhattisgarh. Bhoramdev Mahotsav will be organized for two days on 30th and 31st March.

In the stage of this two-day festival, the art and culture of Chhattisgarh

will be seen, as well as the budding singers of Bollywood will also give a splendid performance of their art. On the first day of Bhoramdev Mahotsav, on 30th March, Bollywood singer, Saregama fame Aishwarya Pandit, and famous singer of Chhattisgarh Mr. Dilip Shandgi will be the center of main attraction.

On the second day on March 31, in the closing ceremony, Indian Idol Celebrity Bollywood

Singer Fame Anushka Banerjee, Nachiket Lele, Nihal Taar and his entire team will decorate the stage of the festival. Apart from these artists, a glimpse of different genres of Chhattisgarh and Indian culture will also be seen and as per the new tradition is the festival will be inaugurated in the special presence of the priests of major temples of Kabirdham district.

The invitation and proposal of Bhoramdev

Mahotsav Committee have been accepted by the priests of major temples of the district, and proposals and invitations were sent by the committee to the priests of the temple to attend the two-day festival as special guests for the first and second days. District Collector Shri Ramesh Kumar Sharma and his team of administrative officers are on vigil for the preparations for the event.

The officials have been given the responsibility for the preparations for special worship in the temple to be held for two days of Bhormade and Mahotsav. In these two days, special makeup of Shiva, Bhasma Aarti and Rudrabhishek will be done in the temple. There will also be lamp donations in the ancient lake.

## Logs of wood being consumed in brick-kilns

**In Gram Shivpuri with illegal felling of trees from Forest**

**Dongargarh, Mar 29:**

There is lot of tree felling going on in thick forest of the region in rural areas under due protection of officials of the Forest department in the region and many a green trees are being consumed in brick-kilns. The logs of wood is transported openly and it seems as if the departmental officers of forest and revenue are providing due security to the contractors and wood mafia active in the region and this is causing huge loss worth lakhs in terms of revenue to the state government.

About a dozen brick-kilns in Shivpuri area: In Gram Shivpuri on



Dongargarh- Khairagarh road, there are about a dozen brick-kilns operating illegally and here the bricks are being hardened and made 'pucca' using forest wood. On the other hand, there are dozen vehicles being used in illegal excavation work and this is also causing loss of revenue worth lakhs to the state government.

With no departmental action, such forest and tree-mafia are openly misusing forest reserve and causing loss worth lakhs in terms of revenue to the government exchequer. Apart from Gram Shivpuri, there are illegal brick-kilns being operated in Gram Karwari, Lojhari, Latmara, Kahargaon, Shivpuri, Sandi, where

apart from illegal excavation of sand, 'murrum' and others, there is illegal transportation of forest wood as well.

**What officer says:** "The department takes action against such illegal transportation of wood from the forest area from time-to-time and this will continue in coming days."

**CP Sharma-Dy. Ranger:**

## Exciting offer in shop of Agrawalji Collection

**Nandini-Ahирwara, Mar 29:**

There is good opportunity for customers to try their luck at Agrawalji Collection, near Ahirwara Bus Stand on purchase of any cloth worth Rs 500 from his shop. Agrawalji Collection is offering a cash award of Rs 1000 per day on purchase of any cloth worth Rs 500 and after which a coupon is issued and its results are announced in the evening through a draw. This draw will be taken out daily in the evening and everyday

one person will get cash prize of Rs 1000, totalling the entire amount to Rs 30000 in a month.

Under this on the first day, the lottery of 28 coupons was taken out by convener of 'Bhavya Chunar Yatra'- Dau Anand Tamrakar in the shop of Agrawalji Collection and on the first day bearer of Coupon No. 4 viz. Gharu Sahu won the cash prize of Rs 1000. This lottery will be taken out daily and name of the winning customer will be announced same day in the evening.

## Rules of the society should also be like the Constitution: Kanti

**Anwari, Mar 29:**

Two-day convention of members of Satnami Samaj was held in Gram Kodebod of Dhamtari district. District Panchayat President Dhamtari and District President Mahila cell of Satnami Samaj Kanti Sonwani said that the rules of Samaj should also be in line with the Constitution of India. It is good thing that there is no such system as that of dowry in Satnami Samaj and not even in Samaj of Indian society. But it is unfortunate that the society has been kept under dowry law and due to which many families have faced lots of problems.

Speaking further Kanti Sonwani said that there is no difference between boy and girl in Satnami Samaj and even a widow has the right to marry for the second time and take part in all auspicious occasions. Even inter-caste marriages are allowed in

**Two-day convention of Satnami Samaj held**

Satnami Samaj and it is constitutional.

A two-day Satnami Samaj sammelan in Gram Kodebod was held at Satnam Bhavan by offering prayers to Baba Guru Ghasidas and with recital of preface of the Indian constitution. As guests of the programme, SDM (Revenue) Kurud DC Banjare, Rajkumar Ratre, Devaki Asha Ratre, Nand Kumar Tandon, Harishankar Sonwani were present. They said

that without education everything else is incomplete and there cannot be any development either. There is need to think in the direction of Higher Education for children from Satnami Samaj and the poor and talented students should be extended full support.

Sammelan was also addressed by V-P Meena Kurre, Manoj Tandon, Dineshwar Banjare, Vijay Sonwani, Dhanand Sonwani, Punaram

Ratre, Dr. Rohit Kurre. In this sammelan, the members of Samaj from Kurud, Magarlot, Dhamtari urban and rural areas; Bhakhara and Nagri Block Presidents viz. Bhavsingh Dahare, Toran Aneshwari, Rajendra Bharti, Itwari Gavaskar, Tejeshwar Kurre and Vishnu Tandon presented the annual report of the Samaj. President Satnami Samaj Dhamtari RP Sambhakar and Head of Board of Directors Shankar Ratre chaired the programme as key-note speaker and informed all the office bearers about their works, responsibilities and rights.

SDM DC Banjare handed over books to two students on their selection in NEET exam viz. Enjl Kurre and Humeswari Dehar. The sammelan was conducted by Dy. Head of BoD Chand Kumar Banjare and Asst. Raja Banjare.

## Girl students protest, stage chakka-jam

**Kondagaon, Mar 29:**

In protest against establishing the Government Girl's HS School in Kondagaon District as Swamy Atmanand Government Hindi Medium School, the girls raised slogans and staged chakka-jam on NH-30 here on Saturday. Due to this the movement of traffic came to standstill and the denizens had to face lots of inconvenience. When the Police got the information about chakka-jam, they came to the site and explained it to the girl students and then the normalcy in traffic was restored. The girl students' staging protest said that in Swamy Atmanand

Hindi Medium School, only 40 students from the district will be taken and questioned what about other students and where they would go for studies. This School was opened for girls way back in 1962 and here girls from far-flung areas come to take education and study by staying in hostel or private houses on rental basis and now where they will go? With demand to open Swamy Atmanand Hindi Medium School somewhere else, the girl students warned that if the local administration does not take into account their just demand, then they would all be forced to launch massive movement against it.

## Tarmrakar attends BJYM working committee meeting



**Nandini-Ahирwara, Mar 29:** The meeting of second working committee of BJYM under leadership of State President BJYM was held at party's Kushabhau Thakre premises in Raipur and in this state working committee member BJYM Dau Anand Tamrakar from BJP Ahirwara Mandal of Durg District also took part. Tamrakar informed that in this they received guidance from the senior party leaders and office bearers of BJP and information was also given about the programmes and new strategies to be prepared and detailed information was given about social media, cyber expansion as well.

## 'Yuwa Utkarsh Samman' programme organized

**By Youth Cell Divine Group of ABGPM**

**Gourela, Pendra, Mar 29:** The member of 'Akhil Bhartiya Gyatri Pariwar Mission' (ABGPM) Youth Cell-Divine Group, organised felicitation programme in Pendra-Gourela from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and under this variety of cultural programmes were organised. On this occasion the chief guest was Dilip Panigrahi and special guest was Addl. SP Archana Jha, Dy. Collector Indira Mishra, DCC



District President Monoj Gupta along with Chhattisgarh 'Prantiya' Sanyojak' Dr PL Sav, regional co-patron- Dr Yogendra, Mahila Umesh Wing Diya, State President Anita Sahu cum in-charge Preeti Sahu, social worker Pendra Sultaniya, Nagar Panchayat president Rakesh Jalan and other senior workers of Gyatri

Pariwar were present. The objective of this programme was to create nation-awareness through youth awareness.

The programme was conducted by state promoter Diya, Chhattisgarh Saurav Kant Sahu and District convener Divine Group Omprakash Balbhadra. In the 'Yuwa Utkarsh Samman

Samaroh', more than 500 social workers were felicitated and this included Hopsital Blood Medicine Group's Alok Tiwari, Harsh Chabria, Snake Rescue team- Linessh Club GPM and other social organisations. In this programme, among the people was extended whole-hearted support included District co-ordinator

Hari Prasad Patel, Naveen Chaturvedi Pendra, Dalman Rathore, Ms. Vasundhara Verma, Sarita Rathore, Preeti Trivedi, Sanjeev Rajak, Pramod Kashyap, Avinash Singh, Rahul Yog, Ram Rathore, Nem Singh Koushlesh, Bhagchand Chakradhari, Mathura Prasad Soni, Anita Kevat, Kiran Jaiswal and others were present.

## 50% beneficiaries of land acquisition deny compensation

**Dhamtari, Mar 29:** A total of 222 beneficiaries whose land has been acquired by the Railways for laying Dhamtari Badhi railway line, of which according to reports only 107 farmers have turned up to receive compensation and a total of remaining 115 are yet to withdraw the compensation. According to information the aggrieved farmers are demanding more compensation for the acquired land, and have submitted memorandum to higher offi-

cial including the District Collector. It is noteworthy that the Ministry of Railways has approved 570 crores worth for the extension of railway line from Dhamtari to Kendra. A railway goods terminal will also be built at a cost of 70 cr. South Eastern Central Railways Bilaspur has released 27 crores to the district and in accordance to the work administration is giving compensation in lieu to the land acquisitions. A total of 13.8326 hectare

land has been acquired of which 42 farmers from Betna, 04 from Sambalpur, 09 from Sarsopuri etc. A total of 06 crore 37 lakh 94 thousand 891 will be distributed as compensation amount.

**What officer says:** "The project is an ambitious plan of the Railways and compensation is being distributed to the farmers and construction will also start for goods terminal."

**Dr. Vibhor Agarwal,SDM**

**Public Notice**

This is to inform to the public that the original Sale Deed dated 27/06/2014 is registered in the office of Sub-registrar Raipur Vide Book No. A/1, Volume No. 69337, Serial No. 2944, Page No. 01 to 09 executed by Sneh Dubey D/O Shri Shyam Narayan Dubey R/O Kashi Ram Nagar, Raipur (C.G.) in favour of Shri Satpal Singh Hora S/O Late Shri Sardar Jogendar Singh Hora R/O Shyam Nagar, Raipur, Tahsil & Distt: Raipur (C.G.) has sold the property to Shri Satbir Singh Khurana & Shri Manjeet Singh Khurana both S/O Shri Mahendra Singh Khurana R/O Shyam Nagar, Raipur (C.G.).

Now Shri Satpal Singh Hora S/O Late Shri Sardar Jogendar Singh Hora R/O Shyam Nagar, Raipur, Tahsil & Distt: Raipur (C.G.) has placed for lot of the above said Sale deed by the owner.

Now Shri Satpal Singh Hora S/O Late Shri Sardar Jogendar Singh Hora R/O Shyam Nagar, Raipur, Tahsil & Distt: Raipur (C.G.) in respect of property owner has been lost/Misplaced by Owner Shri Satpal Singh Hora S/O Late Shri Sardar Jogendar Singh Hora R/O Shyam Nagar, Raipur, Tahsil & Distt: Raipur (C.G.) has applied for loan from Raha Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd. Raipur hereby invites claims & objections, if any for the mortgage the above said property within the 07 days from the date of publication of this notice along with relevant proofs and documents supporting the claim in my office. If no objections are received within above mentioned time, without any reference to such claims and the claims if any shall be deemed to have been given up or waived.

Raipur Dated 29/03/2022

Vijay Shankar Tiwari Advocate  
779, 'Gauri - Kesar Kunj',  
Sundar Nagar, Raipur (C.G.)  
Phone 0771-2242945,  
Mobile 94252-08945, Mobile 90390-08945

**CHANGE OF NAME**

It is to inform you that I Mohan Chander Arora S/o Late Tilak Raj Arora Resident of B - 14, Shailendra Nagar, Raipur Tehsil and Distt. Raipur C.G. I take oath that I have Changed my name Mohan Chander Arora S/o Late Shri Tilak Raj Arora to new name Chander Arora S/o Late Shri Tilak Raj Arora so from to day and in future I should be recognized in all Govt./Semi Govt. And any other record as Chander Arora S/o Late Shri Tilak Raj Arora.

Chander Arora  
S/o Late Tilak Raj Arora  
Add. B-14, Shailendra Nagar, Raipur Tehsil and Distt. Raipur C.G.  
Mo. 7999070240, 9329101122

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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

**DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002**

You, the under mentioned Borrower / Mortgagor is hereby informed that the company has initiated proceedings against you under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and that the Notice under 13 (2) of the Act sent to you by Registered Post Ack. Due for Borrowers/ has been returned undelivered. Hence, you are hereby called upon to take notice and pay the outstanding loan amount mentioned against the said account with interest accruing there from within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the company will proceed against you by exercising its right under Sub-Sec (4) of Section 13 of the Act by enforcing the below mentioned security to realize its dues with interests and costs. It is needles to mention that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the company.

Name and Address of the Borrower/s	Loan Amount	Date of Demand Notice & Amount Outstanding	Description of the property/ Secured Asset
Loan Account Nos. XOHERRH00001740495, XOHERRH00002234328 & HE02RRH00000002032. Borrower & Co-Borrowers:- 1. Karnail Singh, Residing At-Bhalotiya Colony Subhash Chowk, Ward No 26, Akoli-1 Bargaon Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001, 2. Jasvir Kaur; 3. Keval Singh, Both Residing At Near Hasim Bakery, Azad Chowk Subhash Nagar, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001. 4. Gurukripa Tent House, Residing At-Azad Chowk, Bargaon, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001.	Rs.2400000/- Rs.571000/- Rs.510000/- Rs.3481000/-	21-03-2022 & Rs. 1942313.36/- Rs. 491578.90/- & Rs. 497313/- Rs. 2931205.26/- as on 21-03-2022 with further interest thereon	Residential House Bearing part of Khasra No. 286/2, comprising area 16x60=960.00 Sq.ft. situated at Village-Birgaon, Shahid chandrashekhar Azad Ward, Ward No.27, P.H.No. 101/29, R.I.C. Raipur, Tahsil & District Raipur (C.G.) Boundaries:- As per Sale Deed NORTH:-Road, SOUTH:- Road EAST:- Seller's Land, WEST :- Seller's Land

Date: 21.03.2022, Place: Raipur  
Authorised Officer- Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited



## BRIEF

### Trials

**Pune:** In order to save lives on roads in Pune, Tactical Urbanism Trials (TUL) were launched at the Undri Chowk and Khadi Machine Chowk on the city's outskirts. These trials are being conducted by the Save LIFE Foundation in association with the Pune Municipal Corporation and Pune traffic police branch. Black spots Undri Chowk and Khadi Machine Chowk had collectively witnessed over 90 road crashes between 2017 and 2019.

### Registers

**New Delhi:** The Delhi Police has registered over 50 cases of fake and malicious PCR calls this year so far. According to Special Commissioner of Police (licensing and legal division) Sanjay Singh, a total of 51 such cases have been registered this year. "So far this year 51 cases have been registered for making #Fake and #MaliciousCalls," he tweeted.

### Seizes

**Bhubaneswar:** Sleuths of the Odisha vigilance department have seized unaccounted cash of over Rs 1.36 crore and 1.2 kg of gold from a government engineer's residence and office. The searches have been conducted for four days in his government quarters and office in Malkangiri. "We have seized over Rs 1.36 crore in cash and 1.2 kg of gold in the four-day search," the official said.

### Help

**Amaravati:** The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), founded by Nobel Laureate Esther Duflo, an economist, will extend its collaboration with the Andhra Pradesh government to help achieve the target set under the UN sustainable developmental goals. Duflo and her team interacted with Chief Minister of the State YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and explored ways on working with the government, looking forward to collaboration.

### Apply

**Mumbai:** Three Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) in Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) have received ten applications from six companies, including Ola and Uber, for the aggregator license as per the provisions of the new cab aggregator policy. However, most of the applicants lacked requisite facilities including a driver training facility, simulator, and specific vehicle tracking and monitoring system with a panic button for public service.

### Bribery

**Rewa:** The Madhya Pradesh Lokayukta police nabbed a revenue official for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 15,000 for a land title change in Singrauli district, an official said. Anubhav Tripathi, a patwari in the revenue department, was held while accepting Rs 15,000 at Sarai village, Rewa Lokayukta Superintendent of Police (SP) Gopal Singh Dhakad said.

# Priyanka writes to DefMin, flags delays in armed forces recruitment

New Delhi, Mar 29 (PTI):



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday wrote to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh over "delays" in the armed forces recruitment and urged him to take necessary steps to ensure that the hard work of aspirants is respected.

In her letter, the Congress general secretary said it is the dream of the youth to serve the country by joining the armed forces for which lakhs of them prepare with hard work.

"Youth from all over the country have tried to draw your and the government's attention towards some important points related to the recruitment results, delay in recruitment and recruitment rallies for the armed forces," she said.

Flagging the problems being faced by the youth in armed forces recruitment, Gandhi said the examination for the recruitment of soldiers in the Air Force was held in November 2020 with its result out in the same month but despite the completion of all the tests and the provisional selection list being out, the enrollment list has not

been released yet.

The youth associated with this recruitment say that the date of issuance of the enrollment list is being extended again and again, she said, urging the defence minister to ensure that the final list is put out immediately.

Besides this, another examination of the recruitment of soldiers in the Air Force was held in July 2021 in which lakhs of youth took part, its results were to be out in August 2021, but it has not been released till now, she said.

The results of July 2021 recruitment should be out and further process of recruitment must be started soon, she said in her letter to Singh.

Gandhi pointed out that lakhs of youth are preparing for armed forces recruitment through regular

exercise and other means, but the recruitment has not happened for many years.

"The youth preparing for armed forces recruitment are worried. To fill lakhs of vacant posts in the armed forces, recruitment should be done without delay and recruitment rallies should be organised at all recruitment centres," the Congress leader said. Due to armed forces recruitment not happening for a long time and the delay in appointments, many eligible youth are losing years and therefore, candidates should be given an age relaxation of two years in the age limit for armed forces recruitment.

In a reply in Lok Sabha in December 2021, the government had talked about 1.25 lakh vacancies in the armed forces, she said.

## TRAFFIC JAM



Traffic jam on a road as commuters walk to their workplace at Kapashera border, in Gurugram, Tuesday.

## J&K BJP chief demands apology from Delhi CM

● For rubbing salt into wounds' of terror victims

Jammu, Mar 29 (PTI):



Ravinder Raina

Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Tuesday demanded an apology from Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for "rubbing salt into the wounds" of terror victims including Kashmiri Pandits.

The demand comes amid a war of words between the AAP national convenor and BJP over "The Kashmir Files" film which is based on the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the valley in the 1990s.

In a sharp attack on BJP for promoting the

film, Kejriwal, while speaking in the Delhi assembly last Thursday, had accused the saffron party of doing politics over the issue. He had also demanded that the film be uploaded on YouTube so that the country can understand the plight of Kashmiri Pandits and the money earned from it be spent on the welfare of the displaced community.

"It is unfortunate that an elected chief minister and his legislators mocked the victims of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism (in Jammu and Kashmir). Kejriwal and other AAP MLAs rubbed salt into the wounds of Kashmiri Pandits by laughing at their plight and committed a grave sin, Raina told reporters at the party headquarters here. Referring to Kejriwal and other AAP MLAs laughing during his speech in the Assembly, he said, "The nation and the community will never forgive him. He should immediately seek an apology with folded hands from the nation and the community for his remarks and the body language."

## Fixed trade margins of over 40 costly cancer drugs, price reduced

New Delhi, Mar 29 (PTI):



Mansukh Mandaviya

The government has fixed trade margins of over 40 costly cancer drugs following which prices have come down significantly, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya informed the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

Replying to supplementaries during the Question Hour, the minister also said India now has the capability to manufacture cancer treatment drugs, which are otherwise imported.

"We had to import cancer medicines but now India is capable of manufacturing it. We have intro-

duced PLI scheme under which the manufacturing of APIs (active pharmaceutical ingredients) required for making cancer medicines have also started in India," Mandaviya said.

"Apart from that, as per requirement such medicines are imported but we have fixed the trade margins of 44 cancer medicines which are very costly," he said.

The minister informed the House that the MRPs of these cancer medicines have been capped in such a manner that it cannot be more than 60 per cent of the first price that a manufacturer sells to a distributor in India.

He was responding to a

question by DMK MP M Shannmugam on what steps have been taken by the government to reduce the prices of imported cancer drugs and medical devices like stents which poor people are unable to afford.

When asked by Trinamool Congress MP Derek O' Brien what steps the government have taken on reports of about 175 healthcare organisations refusing to honour and clear bills of ex-servicemen under the Central Government Health Scheme, Mandaviya said the government will look into the matter.

## Man held in Kerala ponzi-linked crypto currency fraud case

New Delhi, Mar 29 (PTI):



Morris coin was a ponzi scheme.

The ED on Tuesday said it has arrested an accused in connection with its money laundering probe against a Kerala-based businessman, who is alleged to have cheated more than 900 investors to the tune of Rs 1,200 crore in lieu of providing crypto currency to them.

Abdul Gafoor, one of the main stockist of the 'Morris Coin' crypto currency, was taken into custody on March 24, it said. He was produced before a court the next day and sent to Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody till March 31. The federal investigation agency alleged Gafoor was not co-

operating with the investigation and was "very evasive" in his replies.

"Considering the fact that Abdul Gafoor is one of the directors of Stoxglobal Brokers Pvt. Ltd. and has played an active role in facilitating the placement and layering of proceeds of crime, he has been placed under arrest on March 24," the agency

said. The ED case of money laundering stems from a Kerala Police (Malappuram crime branch unit) FIR filed against prime accused in the case, businessman Nishad K.

The agency alleged Nishad K "cheated several investors by accepting investments, under a ponzi scheme, through his three Bengaluru based firms—Long Reach Global, Long Reach Technologies and Morris Trading by offering high returns of dividend such as 3-5 per cent per day."

According to the police complaint, "more than 900 investors were cheated to the tune of Rs 1,200 crore."

Probe found that "Nishad, the main accused person, had appointed those persons as pin stockist who had invested a minimum of Rs 10 lakh in Nishad's scheme and Nishad promised them that he would give five per cent as commission on the investment."

"They made aggressive enrolment of new members into an illegal money circulation scheme under the garb of multi-level marketing, resorted to the fraudulent practice of investing the money received from the investors in the Morris Coin crypto currency plan run by Nishad and others," the ED said.

## Amid protest, 'Par Tapi Narmada' river link project scrapped

● Western Ghats water was to be supplied to Saurashtra

Ahmedabad, Mar 29 (PTI):



Map of river linking project being cancelled in Gujarat.

The Centre has decided not to give a go-ahead to the Par-Tapi-Narmada river link project, following strong protests against it by tribals, Gujarat BJP president CR Paatil said on Tuesday.

However, the opposition Congress in Gujarat dubbed the decision, which comes ahead of the state Assembly polls due in December this year, as a "lollipop" for tribals, and said the protest will continue until the government issues a white paper on scrapping of the project.

Tribals from south Gujarat districts have

been protesting against the project ever since Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed in her Union Budget speech last month that the Draft Project Report (DPR) of this and four other river link projects have been finalised. A massive rally

led by Congress MLA Anant Patel and Shiv Sena functionary Abhinav Delkar was held in Valsad district last month. Thereafter, tribals organised more rallies, and a few days back they also gathered in the state capital Gandhinagar to protest against the project.

They have demanded scrapping of the project, saying it will adversely affect them by displacing them from their ancestral land.

On the status of the projects, Sitharaman had in her budget speech on February 1, 2022 said the DPRs of the five river link projects have been finalised and a consensus among beneficiary states is awaited. The Centre will provide support only after a consensus is made among the states associated with the projects, she had said.

## Parallel system required to support food industry for night economy

● Safety and security is major concern

New Delhi, Mar 29 (PTI):



A roadside eatery in Delhi.

Asserting that opening eateries and food hubs is "not enough" to stimulate the night-time economy of Delhi, restaurant owners have said a parallel system must be devised like allowing offices and cinema halls to remain open till late to ensure customer availability.

Moreover, they have suggested that the city government must lay out a plan to ensure safety and security at night.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia announced a raft of meas-

ures in the budget for the financial year 2022-23 on Saturday like providing land for cloud kitchens, redeveloping major food hubs and introducing a food-truck policy in the national capital.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government also has plans to boost the hospitality sector, including

allowing bars in hotels, clubs and restaurants to remain open till late at night under the new excise policy.

Karan Srivastava, a worker at a popular food outlet at Connaught Place, said eateries will only remain open till late if there is a scope for business.

## Improving health, educational facilities top priorities: U'Khand Guv

Dehradun, Mar 29 (PTI):

Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen Gurmit Singh on Tuesday said improving health and educational facilities is the topmost priority for the state government, which is working constantly to promote the Ayush system of medicine besides making treatment easily available to people.

Addressing the first session of the newly elected state Assembly on Tuesday, he said the state government proposes to set up two Adarsh Sanskrit boarding schools, one each in Kumaon and Garhwal regions.

A innovative and experimental approach to education had led to the creation of 189 Atal Utkrisht Vidyalayas, which have been conceived as model government schools, mak-

ing quality education accessible to all sections, he said.

Setting up of online real-time forum in accordance with the National Education Policy, 2020 is also proposed apart from making digital reading material available to students and a students learning dashboard, he said.

New syllabi is proposed to be introduced by the technological education department to develop the state into a knowledge hub, he said.

Describing the improvement of health facilities as the state government's top priority, Singh spoke of steps being taken to strengthen hospitals and increase the availability of doctors.

As many as 403 doctors have been selected under the Provincial Medical

Health Service cadre, X-ray technicians have been deployed in remote areas and the process of filling vacancies for 40 dental hygienists is under way, he said.

In-principle approval has been given to the upgrade of community health centres into hospitals with 100 beds in Someshwar of Almora district and Raipur in Dehradun district.

Maternal and child health services are also improving in the state as a result of the state government's efforts, he said.

Under the Mukhya Mantri Anchal Amrit Yojana, 2.56 lakh children aged 3-6 years coming to anganwadis are being provided milk for four days in a week, Singh said. He also made a special mention of the Mukhya Mantri

Vatsalya Yojana under which children who lost their parents or guardians to the Covid-19 pandemic are to be paid a monthly allowance of Rs 3,000 up to the age of 21. Talking about new dam projects, the Governor said a 136.60 metre concrete gravity dam is proposed to be constructed over the Gaula river, 10 km upstream of Haldwani as part of the Jamrani dam multipurpose Project. A drinking water dam project over the Song river is also proposed to be constructed, which will ensure uninterrupted water supply to residents of Dehradun and its suburban areas. Villages with over 50 per cent of Scheduled Castes population have been selected for re-development under the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana, he said.



**BRIEF****Celebrated**

**Washington:** Members of the Bihar diaspora community observed the Bihar Diwas in the Silicon Valley with participants vowing to help in the development of the state back home. Bihar Diwas or Bihar Day is celebrated across the state every year on March 22 to mark the formation of the state. Bihar was carved out of Bengal on March 22, 1912. Bihar's Deputy CM Sushil K Modi had sent a video message on the occasion.

**Rent**

**Mexico City:** Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said he has now essentially given up on his quixotic bid to sell off the presidential jet, and will rent it out for weddings or parties. Lopez Obrador admitted the government has not been able to sell the Boeing 787 jet, which he calls too luxurious and refuses to use. Instead, the president said he will simply give the jet to a military-led company that will operate the Mexican airport.

**Deploys**

**Washington:** The US Pentagon says it is deploying six Navy aircraft that specialise in electronic warfare and about 240 Navy personnel to bolster NATO defenses in Eastern Europe. Pentagon spokesman John Kirby says the EA-18G Growler aircraft based at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island in Washington state were scheduled at Spangdahlem air base in Germany, where they will be stationed. They are not intended in Ukraine.

**Picks**

**Toronto:** The Canadian government has selected Lockheed Martin Corp and the F-35 as the preferred bidder in its competition to buy a new fighter jet, government officials said. Canada is planning to buy 88 new fighter jets to replace its CF-18s. The government has budgeted about 19 billion Canadian (15 billion) for the purchase. Procurement Minister Filomena Tassi said Lockheed Martin was deemed to be the top ranked bidder.

## After Russian forces pull back, shattered town breathes

**Trostanets, Mar 29 (AP):**

The bodies of two Russian soldiers lie abandoned in the woods. Ukrainian forces piled atop a tank flash victory signs. Dazed people line up amid charred buildings to reach for aid. These are the sights in a Ukrainian town that has seized back control from Russian forces, at least for now.

Arriving in Trostanets shortly after Ukrainian forces announced the northeastern town near the Russian border had been retaken following weeks of Russian occupation, The Associated Press saw a civilian landscape that has seen some of the worst of war.

The hospital was damaged, its windows jagged with broken glass. The train station had been shot up.

**Ukrainian soldier standing before a destroyed Russian self-propelled artillery gun in Trostanets.**

Residents stepped carefully, wary of mines. They rode their bicycles past craters in the road and past the ruins of homes. It is not yet clear how many civilians have been killed.

Russian tanks lay burned, twisted, left behind like the soldiers in the woods. One of the soldiers had a red band

around his leg. The other had an arm flung over his head as if napping on the leaves in the late afternoon light. A Ukrainian soldier nudged him with his toe.

A red Z marked a Russian truck, its windshield fractured, near stacked boxes of ammunition. Hundreds of the boxes, including ones with

artillery shells, had been stacked around the town. Curious residents peered into an open box of shells. It is not clear where the Russian forces went, under what circumstances they fled or whether the town will remain free of them in the days ahead.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in his overnight address emphasised that the situation remains tense in Ukraine's northeast around Kharkiv, the nearest large city, and other areas. But the returned presence of Ukrainian forces in Trostanets is a relief to a country that hopes some Russian forces, under fierce resistance, are pulling back.

A senior US defense official said Washington believes the Ukrainians have retaken Trostanets.

## Brazil's Bolsonaro shakes up administration, eyeing election

**Sao Paulo, Mar 29 (AP):**

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro made two major personnel changes, seeking to cap off a series of developments perceived as damaging to his administration before October's presidential election.

The first move brought the exit of Brazil's embattled education minister, who resigned amid a scandal involving allegations of evangelical pastors demanding bribes. Politicians of different parties, including some supporting Bolsonaro, had wanted Milton Ribeiro to leave the job.

The second shift came at the country's state-run oil giant Petrobras, with Bolsonaro changing its

**Jair Bolsonaro**

president after the company boosted fuel prices to pass some of the global oil increases to consumers. Bolsonaro's pick for a new Petrobras president must be approved by the company's board.

Brazil's official gazette said Bolsonaro accepted Ribeiro's resignation, making him the fourth education minister to exit since the start of the ad-

ministration in 2019.

Bolsonaro had been facing public pressure to remove Ribeiro given the allegations could further dent the far-right leader's reelection chances in October. Conservative evangelicals have been a key constituency of Bolsonaro, who is trailing former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in opinion polls.

Brazilian media published several stories and leaked audio recordings since last week, alleging that two pastors served as unofficial advisers to the education ministry. They were reportedly favoring municipalities run by their allies, and demanding bribes including a kilogram of gold.

Newspaper Folha de S

## Sudan could face economic and security collapse

**United Nations, Mar 29 (AP):**

The UN envoy for Sudan warned the east African nation is heading for an economic and security collapse unless it addresses the political paralysis following October's military coup and moves toward resuming a civilian-led transition. Volker Perthes told the UN Security Council that the military's violent repression of protests against the coup is continuing and the absence of a political agreement on returning to a transitional path has already led to a deteriorating economic, humanitarian and security situation in

the country. The coup upended Sudan's democratic transition after a popular uprising forced the military to remove autocratic President Omar al-Bashir in April 2019. Near-daily street protests demanding a return to civilian rule have been met by a crackdown on protesters that has killed 80 people, mostly young men, and injured over 2,600 others, according to a Sudanese medical group. Western governments and world financial institutions suspended their assistance to Sudan in order to pressure the generals to return to civilian-led government.

## Singapore suspends doctor for injecting saline instead of vaccine

**Dr Jipson Quah****Singapore, Mar 29 (PTI):**

A 33-year-old Singapore doctor, linked to an anti-vaccination group, has been suspended after being accused of injecting patients with saline solution instead of a COVID-19 vaccine, and uploading

false vaccination statuses to the Ministry of Health's National Immunisation Registry, local media reported. Dr Jipson Quah's registration as a medical practitioner was suspended by the Singapore Medical Council (SMC) from March 23 for 18 months, or until the disciplinary proceedings are concluded, whichever is sooner, the council said. Quah, a member of the anti-coronavirus vaccination Healing the Divide, has been charged in court with conspiring to defraud Ministry of Health (MOH) by submitting false vaccination data.

**OFFICIAL POSTERS****Pedestrians walk by official campaign posters of the 12 presidential candidates outside a school which will be used as polling station in Paris, France on Tuesday.**

## 'BIMSTEC must collectively combat terrorism, extremism'

**Jaishankar offers India's help for hospital**

**Colombo:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday asked the Indian High Commissioner here to help a Sri Lankan hospital that has suspended surgeries due to lack of medical facilities, amidst an unprecedented financial crisis in the island nation.

**Foreign Ministers of BIMSTEC pose for a photograph during their meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Tuesday.****Colombo, Mar 29 (PTI):**

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday that the BIMSTEC member states must collectively combat terrorism and violent extremism as he emphasised

India's commitment to intensify, expand areas of co-operation, especially connectivity, energy and maritime.

Speaking at the 18th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting in Colombo, Jaishankar also said that cooperation on port facilities, ferry services, coastal shipping, grid connectivity and motor vehicles movement are key.

"Must also collectively combat terrorism, violent extremism, transnational crime, cyber-attacks and narco-trafficking," he tweeted.

## Seven Indian-origin persons charged in insider trading scheme

**New York, Mar 29 (PTI):**

Seven Indian-origin persons have been charged by federal authorities with insider trading in a scheme through which they made over a million dollars in illegal profits.

Hari Prasad Sure, 34, Lokesh Lagudu, 31 and Chotu Prabhu Tej Pulagam, 29, are friends and worked as software engineers at Twilio, a San Francisco-based cloud computing communications company,

the Securities and Exchange Commission said.

The complaint said Sure tipped his close friend Dileep Kumar Reddy Kamujula, 35, who successfully traded in Twilio's options. Lagudu similarly tipped his girlfriend Sai Nekkallapudi, 30 with whom he lived, and he also tipped his former roommate and close friend Abhishek Dharmapurikar, 33. Pulagam tipped his brother Chetan Prabhu Pulagam,

31. All the seven defendants live in California.

The SEC announced insider trading charges against the seven individuals for allegedly generating more than USD 1 million in collective profits by insider trading ahead of Twilio's positive first quarter 2020 earnings announcement on May 6, 2020. According to the SEC's complaint, Sure, Lagudu and Chotu Pulagam had access to various databases relevant to Twilio's reporting of revenue.

## Taliban hard-liners turning back clock in Afghanistan

**Islamabad, Mar 29 (AP):**

Taliban hard-liners are turning back the clock in Afghanistan with a flurry of repressive edicts over the past days that hark to their harsh rule from the

late 1990s. Girls have been banned from going to school beyond the sixth grade, women are barred from boarding planes if they travel unaccompanied by a male relative. Men and women can only

visit public parks on separate days and the use of mobile telephones in universities is prohibited. It doesn't stop there.

International media broadcasts including the Pashto and Persian BBC services, which broadcast in the two languages of

Afghanistan are off the air as of the weekend.

**SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
Proforma 10-01

**PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**

Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated in the completed section of the under noted section of South East Central Railway that the 25,000 Volts, 50 HZ A.C., overhead Traction wires will be energized on or after the date specified against the section. On or from the same date the overhead traction line shall be treated as live at all times and no unauthorized person shall approach or works in the proximity of the Over Head line.

Section	Division	Date of Energisation
Energization by 25KV AC single phase 50HZ for new PND-APR 3rd line by Conventional type overhead traction wires for supply of 25KV AC single phase 50HZ., taking off from Nigaura West at loc. 845/33A, CH. 845/938.60 to Annapur East at loc. 868/17A-1, CH. 868/588.00 (TKM-29.493 KM) along with NIGAURA (NIQ)/SP between location K848/30-2, CH:848/911.00 & Loc. K848/34, CH:848/971.75 along of Bilaspur division in South East Central Railway.	S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur	28.03.2022

Sr. Divl. Electrical Engineer (TRD)  
S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur  
CPR/10/390

South East Central Railway @secrail

**कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता**  
**लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड, दन्तेवाड़ा**  
(ई - मेल - eedan-phe-cg@nic.in)

निविदा सू.क्र./206-208/ले.शा./का.श./ले.स्वा.या./2022 दन्तेवाड़ा, दिनांक: 25/03/2022

**//निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना//**

एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से प्रपत्र 'ए' प्रतियोगिता पर निर्माणाधीन 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)	रिमाई
206/23.03.2022	95921	बिंजाम/गीदम	151.33	
207/23.03.2022	95923	डुमाम/दन्तेवाड़ा	76.16	
208/23.03.2022	95924	कुपर/दन्तेवाड़ा	90.76	

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 07.04.2022 है।

**कार्यपालन अभियंता**  
**लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड**  
**दन्तेवाड़ा**  
G-69020/3

**SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**ENGAGEMENT OF PART-TIME CONTRACTUAL TEACHERS**

Employment Notice No.:E/PB/R/CT/2022/E-837, Date: 22.03.2022.

Walk-In-Interview will be conducted for Engagement of Part time Teachers on Contract basis for the academic session 2022-23 for providing service in South East Central Railway's Mixed Higher Secondary School, Railway Colony, Charoda, District Durg. The Details are as under:

Name of Subject & Vacancy	PGT - 05 (Physics,Chemistry,Geography, Commerce,English)	TGT - 05 (SST, Sanskrit, Hindi, Computer Science, Physical Education)	PST - 02
Monthly Remuneration	PGT - 05 - ₹27,500/- TGT - 05 - ₹26,250/- PST - 02 - ₹21,250/-		
Venue & Time	Mixed Higher Secondary School, Charoda, South East Central Railway. Between: 09.00 A.M & 10.00 A.M.		
Date of Interview for PGT	21.04.2022		
Date of Interview for TGT & PST	22.04.2022		

Candidates is hereby advised to bring all original documents. For further details, please log on to this Railway's website at <https://secr.indianrailways.gov.in> → News/Press Release/ Recruitment → Recruitment → Raipur

PR/R/Sr.DPO/IP/178 For Divl. Railway Manager(P)/Raipur  
South East Central Railway @secrail

**SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
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Section	Division	Date of Energisation
Energization for private siding of M/s NTPC at LARA	S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur	06.04.2022

by Conventional type overhead Traction wires for supply of 25KV AC single phase 50HZ., taking off from Kotaria station at Crossing Station yard (Cabin-5) line No.-1 from Loc. No. 7/6 (CH: 7130.97) to 8/24 (CH: 8476.47), L/N-3 from Loc. No. 7/1001 (CH: 7319.97) to 8/1026 (CH: 8399.97) & L/N-4 from Loc. No. 7/1004 (CH: 7495.47) to 7/1010 (CH: 7630.47), Cabin No. 6 (R&D yard) Line No.-6 from Loc. No. 18/L-8/14 (CH: 18023.02) to 19/1 (CH: 19027.17), L/N-7 from Loc. No. 18/L-8/16 (CH: 18077.02) to 19/7 (CH: 19117.17) & L/N-8 from Loc. No. 17/L-8/1 (CH: 17577.52) to 19/13 (19225.17), Cabin No. 7 (In-plant Yard) Line No.-2 from Loc. No. 19/4 (CH: 19067.67) to 20/L-12/3 (H: 20237.67), L/N-3 from Loc. No. 19/15 (CH: 19234.17) to 20/L-3/18 (CH: 20413.17), L/N-12 from Loc. No. 20/L-3/18 (CH: 20048.67) to 21/L-12/24 (21187.17) and new NTPC LARA SSP between Loc. No. 17/L-8/2 (CH: 17618.02) to 17/L-8/4 (CH: 17676.52) SSP at CH 17/639.00 Km (TKM: 11.074) of Bilaspur division in South East Central Railway.

Sr. Divl. Electrical Engineer (TRD)  
S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur  
CPR/10/392





## CENTRAL Chronicle

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### Restructure GST

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has written a letter to his counterparts in 17 other states seeking their support in a bid to convince the Centre to extend the period of compensation mechanism under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) for five years beyond June 2022. Earlier this month, Chief Minister of Karnataka, Basavaraj Bommai had said the estimated revenue deficit of Rs 14,699 crore in 2022-23 can be minimised if the Centre agrees to the request of the State to extend the GST compensation for the next three years in view of losses incurred due to the impact of COVID-19. Last week, Tamil Nadu government had urged the Centre to extend GST compensation by a couple of years as the state could face a revenue loss of approximately Rs 20,000 crore during the next financial year. Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said in the Rajya Sabha two weeks ago that over Rs 53,600 crore of GST compensation for the current fiscal is yet to be released to the states. So far this fiscal, Rs 96,576 crore has been released to the states on account of GST compensation, and an additional Rs 1.59 lakh crore has been given as a back-to-back loan to make good the revenue shortfall on account of Goods and Services Tax (GST) implementation. The shortfall is calculated assuming a 14 percent annual growth in GST collections by states over the base year of 2015-16. Nirmala Sitharaman had said the GST compensation cess period has already been extended till March 2026 to enable the Centre to repay loans taken to compensate all states for the year 2020. It is imperative that central government takes decision regarding compensation along with restructuring of GST slab rates and exemptions. The compensation amount to be paid from the compensation fund is arrived at by levying cess on top of the highest tax slab on luxury, demerit and sin goods. In order to mobilise resources for compensation, a cess is being levied on such goods, as recommended by the Goods and Services Tax Council, over and above the GST on that item. As on date, compensation cess is levied on products such as pan masala, tobacco, aerated waters and motor cars apart from coal. The consumer is required to pay for compensation. It is collected by the Centre which releases it to States. The proceeds of the compensation cess will be credited to a non-lapsable fund known as the Goods and Services Tax Compensation Fund in the public account. All amounts payable to the States as compensation will be released bi-monthly, provisionally, from said fund against figures given by the Central accounting authorities. Final adjustments will be done after receiving audited accounts of the year from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. The economic impact of the pandemic led to higher compensation requirement due to lower GST collection and, at the same time, lower collection of GST compensation cess. The issue of GST Compensation to States was deliberated in GST Council meetings. Given the need to collect the cess has already spilled over to several years beyond 2022 when the current legal obligation of the Central government to make good states' GST revenue shortfall ends, arriving at a deal to further extend GST compensation to states beyond next June would be a long shot. While a final call is to be taken on whether to extend the goods and services tax (GST) compensation period for the states beyond June this year, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Chairman Vivek Johri had said if revenues are to reach the levels where compensation would perhaps no longer be an issue, then not only the GST rate structure but exemptions too need to be reviewed.

### Irrelevancy of OIC

Uyghur campaigners had slammed the Chinese foreign minister's attendance at a meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) and criticised the body for not speaking up about their plight. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi was invited as a special guest at the OIC annual gathering in the Pakistani capital Islamabad. Wang Yi mentioned about Kashmir and later visited India with negotiations considered to be failure. The OIC statement had mentioned the plight of those in Afghanistan, Jammu and Kashmir, Yemen, Syria, Somalia, Palestine and the Rohingya community, among others but not Chinese repression of Uyghurs. While the Pakistani government has sought to be a leading voice against global Islamophobia, it has long been criticised for its unwillingness to publicly denounce Chinese human rights abuses against Uyghur communities. Beijing and Islamabad have strengthened political and economic ties in recent years, with the flagship corridor of China's strategic Belt and Road Initiative passing through Pakistan. Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu did mention the plight of Uyghurs during his address at the conference, while listing the struggles of different Muslim communities around the world. By receiving billions of dollars from China, these countries are not only forced to remain quiet on the genocidal atrocities against Uyghur Muslims in East Turkistan but also commanded from Beijing to do whatever the PRC wants. The latest OIC meeting proves about irrelevancy of its existence. After the UN, the OIC is the largest inter-governmental organization globally. The OIC was formed on September 25, 1969 in response to arson attack on Al Masjid Al-Aqsa. India had hit out at OIC's references to Kashmir in statements, saying these demonstrate both the irrelevance of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation as a body and role of Pakistan as its manipulator. Twenty five percent of OIC population does not have access to medical facilities or safe drinking water. Half of the population lives below the poverty line classified as the poorest. No Muslim country is in top list of Human Development Index or in any other global economic indicators. This depressing picture of Islamic countries is not limited to the economic and social spheres, in the realm of education and technology the facts are equally disappointing. OIC is not taken seriously by even its members except Pakistan.

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.

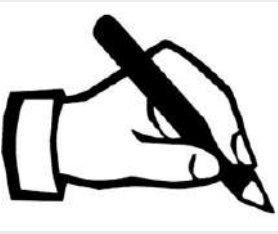
## RHINOCEROS CENSUS



Enumerators ride on an elephant while carrying out a census for the one-horned rhinoceros at Agratoli range in the Kaziranga National Park, Assam.

## Case for food subsidies in India

HS SHERGILL & VARINDER SHARMA



Commercial food production anywhere in the world requires significant government subsidies. India is no exception. Demand for foodgrains in India will outstrip supply in coming decades. And yet some of India's high-level policy economists still believe self-sufficiency is a natural and spontaneous feature of Indian agriculture. They say strategies that have facilitated India's transformation from a chronic-food-deficit country into a food self-sufficient country could now be drastically modified even scrapped and trading and marketing of foodgrains could be completely privatised. These recommendations overlook better options for streamlining India's food-production system, such as improving storage arrangements and targeting subsidy programs to states where they will do the most good.

They also completely ignore two basic facts: the likely food demand-and-supply balance in coming decades, and the non-sustainability of large-scale commercial food production without government support and subsidies. The latter applies anywhere in the world, in both developed and developing countries.

Virtually all long-range projections show that by 2050 India will be food deficit or precariously food self-sufficient. Demand for food will rise continuously: the Indian population will surpass 1.5 billion by 2050, more than 60 percent of the population will be urban, and per-capita

income is expected to more than double. Food production will barely be able to keep pace with increasing demand because the yield rates of wheat and rice are already stagnating and the area under these two crops is shrinking due to increasing urbanisation and shifts to other crops.

Many economists agree that large-scale production of foodgrains requires government support. After 25 years of the World Trade Organization (WTO), developed countries still provide huge subsidies to their farmers that amount to 50 percent or more of the farmers' income.

The farm policy debate in the West is about which would be the cheapest, most concealed and least trade-distorting method of providing this support. This is the stark fact behind the WTO's blue and green boxes (denoting types of government support according to their effect on trade and other factors) and continued farm subsidies to keep Europe green.

In India, scrapping such government policies as the minimum support price (MSP) and the public procurement system is a sure recipe for endangering food self-sufficiency. It would result in a drastic reduction of the area under wheat and rice in the main surplus-producing states. Consequently, India's food self-sufficiency would collapse much earlier than 2050.

Even after 50 years of the green revolution, substantial regular surpluses of foodgrains occur only in some states; most are foodgrain deficit or barely self-sufficient. As such, a single price and procurement policy regime cannot be implemented in these latter two types of state. However, no one denies the urgent need to reform the present system of procurement, storage and distribution of foodgrains: it is a large burden on government resources and suffers from gross inefficiency and huge waste. The agro-food chain in India has a num-

ber of stages including production of foodgrains by farmers, procurement of foodgrains by public agencies, transportation of foodgrains to stores, storage of foodgrains, release of foodgrains in the open market for processing and to stabilise seasonal price fluctuations, release of foodgrains for distribution to poorer citizens at cheap rates and release of foodgrains for export.

Some of these stages, such as transportation, storage, processing and export, could be privatised without risking long-term food self-sufficiency. Release of foodgrains to the open market and distribution of grain to poorer citizens could also be privatised.

There are 2220 warehouses in India, of which 141 are private and 2079 are run by state governments and the central government. A High Level Committee report on restructuring the Food Corporation of India lists the cost of maintaining stock in these warehouses at 182.3 billion rupees (USD 2.4 billion), and freight makes up 36 percent of this total.

However, procurement of wheat and paddy from the regular/surplus-producing states should be kept with public agencies. Privatisation of the procurement of wheat and paddy from these states will result in political unrest, and may also result in a substantial reduction in the area under these two crops in the regular surplus-producing states.

The system of fixing the MSP for wheat and paddy must be changed. The MSP for these crops should be based on world market prices, with the average over the last three years used as a basis. This change will ensure that surplus stocks of wheat and rice are easily exported without any major loss to the government.

The present system of MSP and public procurement should be continued in the regular surplus-producing states, where it has been successfully functioning for more than 50 years. However, it should not be mechanically extended to

food-deficit or barely self-sufficient states, where it would be too costly to operate. In these states farmers should receive a cash subsidy per acre of wheat and paddy sown, paid directly into their bank accounts.

The system of distributing free foodgrains to a large proportion of the population has been in operation for two years and should not be stopped abruptly but instead tapered off over the next few years. There is a political cost to withdrawing benefits, as recent farmer agitation shows. (Rome introduced free distribution of wheat and oil to its citizens as a temporary measure, but it had to be continued for more than 200 years.) Similarly, it will not be easy to dismantle the MSP and public-procurement system of wheat and paddy in the main surplus-producing states.

The neoliberal policy paradigm introduced in India in July 1991 was instrumental in boosting food export businesses. It also contributed to accelerating the diversification of large corporate houses into procuring, transporting, storing, processing and distributing food. The three farm laws introduced by the government in June 2020 represented the interests of the global agribusiness corporations aligned with Indian corporations that had diversified into agribusiness.

The cost/benefit analysis of the central government's food-subsidy bill cannot be undertaken along the same lines as other items of government expenditure. It has to be assessed more like defence expenditure. It is imperative to safeguard the integrity of India's borders, so the armed forces must be adequately equipped irrespective of the cost involved. In the same way, India's food self-sufficiency cannot be compromised, whatever the cost.

(HS Shergill is Professor at Panjab University and Varinder Sharma is Associate Professor at Institute for Development and Communication, Chandigarh.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Uncertainties

Truly it's a game of Cricket, and it's a last-ball heart break for India! When a no-ball cost India dear in a gut-wrenching loss to South Africa in the women's world cup. A nail-biter in Hagley Oval, Christchurch saw Team India crashing out of the ongoing ICC Women's World Cup, when in the final over, South Africa needed seven runs and Mignon du Preez and Shabnim Ismail were at the crease. Eventually, the equation came down to three off two balls. On the penultimate delivery, Du Preez was dismissed by Deepti as the batter handed a simple catch to Harmanpreet Kaur at long-on, which raised hopes of a memorable win for India. The Proteas now needed three runs off the final ball. But this is the game of cricket, which is famed as the game of glorious uncertainties, and this match also under the virus of the same. Moments later the umpires ruled that Deepti had overstepped, by the barest of margins, which meant that Du Preez came back to the middle with South Africa needing 2 runs to win off the final 2 balls and turning India's ecstasy into agony in a matter of seconds. By this way an inconsistent India crashed out of the after suffering a heart-breaking three wicket defeat in a must-win league stage game that went down to the wire. Before blaming others, India can blame misfortune for their ousster; but they also contributed to their own downfall. Though India posted 274/7 in the allotted 50 overs after Shafali Verma, Smriti Mandhana and Mithali Raj all registered half-centuries, even that Indian Team didn't make enough runs in the last 10 overs was the difference between the two sides. Moreover, dropped catches, poor ground fielding, and some clueless bowling towards the end meant last edition's losing finalists ended their campaign. Above all one of the world's top experienced pacer Jhulan Goswami didn't play due to a side strain which may have made a bit of difference to the outcome. Whatsoever, even in the defeats though, India showed they are from being the most professional unit. The close matches and India's ability to give the best teams a run for their money highlighted what the team is capable of doing but the inconsistency in seizing the big moments and getting past the finish line also showed how far they have to go.

Bidyut K Chatterjee, Faridabad



### WHAT THEY TWEET!

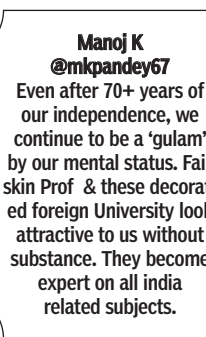


**Naomi@nowme\_datta**  
If you are conflicted & feel Chris Rock should not have cracked a joke on a medical condition, but that could suggest you vaguely endorse the assault by Will Smith - you are between a rock and a hard place. Shame on the Oscars. This would have never happened in India.

**Ahmed@ahmedalfayaz**  
When 23 KPs were massacred at Wandhama on 26 Jan 1998, PM Gujral flew to Kashmir for national winter games at Gulmarg. He inaugurated sports carnival on 28 Jan when smoke & ashes of funeral pyres were still in air. Who to blame for lack of empathy and collective consciousness?



**Pratyasha@pratyasharath**  
A good time to rethink positions on organic farming, with a dreadful test case playing out in front of us. More land use, cost intensive, low yield, limited markets with a potential for future environmental degradation. As usual, developing countries will pay for lofty ideas.



**Manoj K @mkpandey67**  
Even after 70+ years of our independence, we continue to be a 'gulam' by our mental status. Fair skin Prof & these decorated foreign University look attractive to us without substance. They become expert on all india related subjects.



**Richa Pinto@richapintoi**  
Visit to the #Byculla gardens & zoo I came across this big woody climber.



**YashMor@YashMor5**  
What a sheer waste of time and money. You won an election and it's time to get to work now. So many CMs traveling from one state to another for a simple ten minutes ceremony on government aircrafts!

**Hamid Mir@HamidMir**  
There is no evidence of foreign governments having played any role in planning the removal of Imran Khan through a vote of no-confidence. The PM has made a huge charge, he owes it to the nation to lift the veil from this allegation for his own credibility.



**BRIEF**

**Expects**



**Mumbai:** Okinawa Autotech is expecting to close the outgoing fiscal with record revenue of around Rs 800 crore. MD Jeetender Sharma told PTI that it has set a target of selling 50,000 units of the new model, or a fourth of his full-year target of 2 lakh units.

**Funding**

**New Delhi:** Pep Technologies Pvt Ltd, which owns caffeine-infused D2C personal care brand mCaffeine, on Tuesday announced raising Rs 240 crore in Series C round of funding. The Series C round was led by Paragon Partners valuing the start-up at Rs 1,000 crore. Besides, Singularity Growth Opportunities Fund, Sharrp Ventures and existing investors Amicus Capital Partners and RPSG Capital Ventures also participated.

**Bullish**



**New Delhi:** Truecaller CEO Alan Mamedi said on Tuesday said it is bullish about the business prospects in India, its biggest market, and does not expect the upcoming data protection law to impact or pose challenges to growth and business model here.

**Land**

**New Delhi:** Pardos Real Estate arm Pardos Logistics has purchased a 41-acre land parcel on Ballabgarh-Sohna highway in Haryana to develop a warehousing project - comprising a 10 lakh square feet area - with an investment of around Rs 200 crore, according to property consultant Anarock. The land is ideally located, benefiting from proximity to road infrastructures like Delhi-Vadodara Expressway, Eastern Peripheral Expressway.

**Raises**



**New Delhi:** Classplus has bagged USD 70 million, about Rs 531 crore, in a funding round led by Alpha Wave Global and Tiger Global. CEO Mukul Rustagi said we will also be investing to enable us to continue delivering best in class experience to educators.

**Fund**

**Mumbai:** Private equity firm GEF Capital Partners - focused on climate investing - has raised nearly USD 200 million from British CDC Group, IFC and Dutch investment firm FMO, among others, to close its South Asia Growth Fund II.

# Govt to come out with global market intelligence network

**To boost MSME exports**

**New Delhi, Mar 29 (PTD):**

The government is setting up a global market intelligence network to boost India's exports from the micro, small and medium enterprises sector, Union minister Narayan Rane said on Tuesday.

The Global Market Intelligence Network will act as a knowledge repository of export-related data on foreign markets and facilitate easier market access for MSME exporters.

According to estimates, India's MSME sector accounts for 45 per cent of its exports. There is a huge untapped potential to boost outward shipments from the segment. However, lack of credible trade-related data on over-



Union Minister for MSME Narayan Rane at inauguration of Mega International Summit 2022 on MSME's Competitiveness and Growth, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

seas markets has been one of the key bottlenecks impeding the MSME sector from realising its true export potential by tapping new market opportunities.

Addressing a summit organised by the

Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Rane said the government is keen to strengthen the MSME sector. "Our focus is on providing easy credit, better technology support and access to the export mar-

kets. We want our MSME sector to become competitive and grow," the MSME minister said.

He shared that the MSME ministry "is coming out with a global market intelligence network that will help MSME ex-

## Go for USD 100 bn export target: Goyal to gem, jewellery exporters

**Mumbai, Mar 29:**

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday called upon gem and jewellery exporters to target USD 100 billion of exports annually in the coming years as the sector holds huge potential to boost outward shipments.

He urged the industry to suggest ways to take the exports to that level by creating incisive marketing tools and irresistible designs.

"Let's go for USD 100 billion target," Goyal said while addressing export members of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJPEC) here. He informed that the sector has accounted for about 10 per cent of the country's USD 400 billion exports, which India has crossed during the current fiscal. He said that the



government would act as a facilitator and enabler to promote the growth of the sector in the UAE and other world destinations. A Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was signed by India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in February, which would come into force on May 1. Exporters hailed the agreement stating that it would help in posting India's exports from sectors like textiles, pharmaceuticals, gem and jewellery and chemicals.

GJPEC Chairman Colin Shah said that the agreement would help in boosting the exports to the UAE and to regions including Africa and Middle East nations. "Our exports to the UAE are increasing and we would work to double or triple it in the years to come," Shah said.

Shah said that with nil import duty on jewellery under the pact, "we are expecting jewellery exports to the UAE will move to new heights (USD 10 billion annually)". Goyal also inaugurated The India Jewellery Exposition (IJEX) Centre in Dubai, a project of the council. IJEX is a one-stop destination for the world to source Indian jewellery in Dubai. The platform will enable GJPEC members to display goods and book orders throughout the year.

## Wavin India app brings plumber to digital mainstream

**Mumbai, Mar 29:**

Wavin, a global solutions leader for the Building and Infrastructure industry and an Orbia business, reiterates its commitment to driving the plumber community towards more organized structure and bringing them to the digital forefront through Wavin Rewardsapp. Available in English, Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, Marathi, Malayalam and Bengali; the app has registered around 10000 plumbers across India. The app not only helps the brand to stay connected with the plumber community but offers a range of privileges and benefits around discovering new plumbing solutions, pipes, fittings, hardware accessories, new tools and techniques.

## Sharp recovery in FY22 to help sustain growth: FM

**New Delhi, Mar 29:**

India's sharp economic recovery post COVID-19 and Budget initiatives will help in sustaining growth momentum in the years to come, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday. The government's road map for imparting momentum to the economy focusses on growth at the macro level and complementing it with all-inclusive welfare at the micro level, promoting digital economy and fintech, technology-enabled development, energy transition and climate action and relying on a virtuous cycle of investment and growth, she said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha. The government's road map was put into effect in 2014, she said,



adding that major reforms, including Goods and Services Tax (GST), Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and significant reduction in corporate tax rate, were implemented. The reforms contributed to the real GDP growing at an annual average rate of 6.8 per cent during 2014-20, she said. At the end of this period, she said, the government announced National Infrastructure Pipeline of projects to take economic growth to the

higher level. "India's sharp economic recovery in 2021-22 and Budget measures have prompted international rating agencies to forecast a real GDP growth above 8 per cent in 2022-23. This will sustain the growth momentum in the economy," she said. "The Union Budget 2022-23 is the latest road map of the government for taking India's economy to a higher growth trajectory, she said, adding, the PM GatiShakti Scheme in the Budget is a huge investment in physical infrastructure drawing from the National Infrastructure Pipeline. The government's direct participation in building infrastructure is reflected in the capital budget increasing once again by 35 per cent over the previous year, she said.

## Public sector banks sufficiently capitalised

**New Delhi, Mar 29 (PTD):**

The government has infused capital amounting to Rs 2,86,043 crore in public sector banks (PSBs) during the last five years and they are sufficiently capitalised, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

The government infused about Rs 3 lakh crore between 2017-18 and 2021-22.

As per inputs received from Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of PSBs has improved substantially over the past three years, increasing from 12.20 per cent at the end of 2018-19 to 14.34 per cent as on



December 31, 2021, Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat K Karad said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

"As reflected in their capital position as on December 31, 2021, PSBs are currently sufficiently capitalised," he said.

With regard to General Insurance Corporation of

India (GIC), Karad said, no proposal to privatise GIC is under consideration of the government at present. "Further, as per inputs received, total assets outstanding as on 31.3.2021 were Rs 38.04 lakh crore and Rs 1.35 lakh crore for LIC and GIC, respectively," he said.

With a view to providing a greater measure of protection to depositors in banks, Karad said DICGC raised the limit of insurance cover for depositors in insured banks from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh per depositor with effect from February 4, 2020.

The deposit insurance cover is applicable uni-

formly on all insured banks and their depositors, he said.

"Further, the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2021 received the assent of the President on 13.08.2021 and has been brought into force with effect from 01.09.2021," he said.

The amendments enable depositors to get easy and time-bound access to their deposits to the extent of deposit insurance cover through interim payments by DICGC, in cases of imposition of restrictions on banks under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, he said.

## Financial institutions should be board-driven

**Mumbai, Mar 29 (PTD):**

Financial institutions should be board-driven and not end up being dominated by individuals as it could lead to undesirable consequences, Reserve Bank Deputy Governor MK Jain has said.

In his keynote address at CAFRAL, a Centre promoted by RBI, he stressed that an efficient and vibrant financial system is crucial for economic development and social wellbeing of the country.

"The governance framework surrounding the individual players in the financial system assumes a central role not only in terms of value creation for



MK Jain

various stakeholders but also in ensuring the oversight of the board on risk appetite and risk culture of individual institution," he said while speaking on 'Importance of Governance and Assurance Functions in Financial Institutions'.

He also emphasised that financial institutions should be board-driven and not dominated by individuals.

"It is important to ensure that financial institutions are board-driven and do not end up being dominated by individuals. Experience has shown that this leads to undesirable consequences," Jain said. The board members, he said, should focus on strategic and important matters and work in a cohesive manner.

Many times, he added, a large number of agenda items are included, including table items, which do not allow for proper evaluation of the proposals.

## Red Gold Tomatoes from Europe now available in India

**New Delhi Mar 29:**

"Red Gold Tomatoes from Europe" is a promotion campaign co-financed by the European Commission with the aim of increasing awareness among professionals, opinion leaders and consumers in India about the superior quality and uniqueness of canned preserved whole, peeled and cherry tomatoes from Europe and Italy as well as their versatile applications in classic European and local recipes.

The premium quality Red Gold Tomatoes from Europe promise to add an extra punch to your cooking, giving an edge to your culinary creativity. And there is a whole variety of Red Gold Tomatoes from Europe tomatoes to choose from - be it whole peeled,

chopped or cherry tomatoes. Available at all the leading stores and e-commerce sites, you can simply order in or pick them up at will. With these fleshy, juicy tomatoes, all that is then needed is to choose your meal option and voila! Finger-licking and super hearty, healthy dishes full of goodness.

If there is one versatile fruit that complements not only our breakfast, lunch and dinner but even snacks and tithbits in between - it is tomatoes. Tomatoes can easily be called the emperor of fruits in allegiance with other categories of produce and meals. All kinds of recipes - whether vegetarian, non-vegetarian, vegan or fruitarian - use tomatoes and they really can be enjoyed guilt-free!

## Sensex jumps over 350 points, Nifty above 17,300

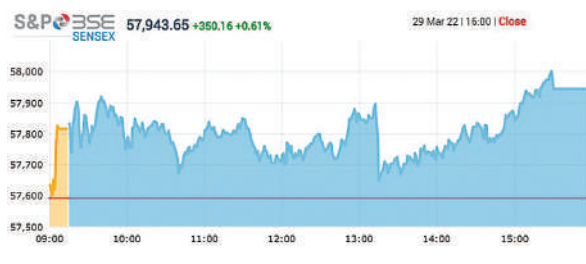
**Mumbai, Mar 29 (PTD):**

Benchmark BSE Sensex rallied over 350 points on Tuesday following gains in index majors HDFC twins, Bharti Airtel and Infosys amid a largely positive trend in global equity markets.

The 30-share BSE barometer jumped 350.16 points or 0.61 per cent to settle at 57,943.65. During the day, it rallied 408.04 points or 0.70 per cent to 58,001.53.

The broader NSE Nifty gained 103.30 points or 0.60 per cent to settle at 17,325.30.

From the 30-share pack, HDFC, Bharti Airtel, UltraTech Cement, HDFC Bank, Dr Reddy's, Sun Pharma, Infosys and ICICI Bank were among the lead gainers. On the other hand,



ITC, Tata Steel, State Bank of India, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finserv and NTPC were among the laggards.

In the previous trade, the BSE barometer climbed 231.29 points or 0.40 per cent to settle at 57,593.49. The NSE Nifty recovered 69 points or 0.40 per cent to 17,222. Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Tokyo, Seoul and Hong Kong ended with gains, while Shanghai settled marginally lower. European markets were trading with gains ahead of

peace talks between warring Ukraine and Russia in Turkey. Germany's DAX jumped 1.3 per cent to 14,599.17 and the CAC40 in Paris surged 1.7 per cent to 6,700.18. Britain's FTSE 100 gained 0.8 per cent to 7,531.55.

Russia's MOEX index climbed 3.7 per cent in the second day of full trading after it was closed for about a month following the Feb 24 invasion of Ukraine. Limits have been imposed to curb volatility.

## Flipkart Wholesale introduces an exclusive Save Eazy loyalty program

**Mumbai, Mar 29:**

As part of its efforts to offer value with convenience for its members, Flipkart Wholesale, the digital B2B marketplace of India's homegrown Flipkart Group, has introduced an exclusive/invite-only loyalty program called SaveEazy for its members. The first-of-its-kind (or the first such program from FKW) SaveEazy, is an invitation-based loyalty program offering a wide range of value-based coupons redeemable offline and online (eSaveEazy). Through this initiative, SaveEazy members can now enjoy significant benefits over and above the Everyday Low Price offers.

Speaking on the introduction of the loyalty program, Adarsh Menon,

Senior Vice President and Head, Flipkart Wholesale, said, "Our research shows that, for Indians, shopping is an emotional decision. Rewarding shopping invokes a positive emotional bond with the brand. The SaveEazy loyalty program is a reward offer for our loyal members, and its unique benefits provide great value and a superior shopping experience. These programs are introduced with a vision to nurture our customer relationships and make shopping on Flipkart Wholesale rewarding." Save Eazy Club offers membership in two categories: Classic and Premium. Under the Classic loyalty club membership category available at Rs 999, members will get 12 coupons worth Rs 250, with each coupon having one-month validity.



## Ranbir, Alia-starrer 'Brahmastra' wrapped up

The shooting for the upcoming fantasy adventure film 'Brahmastra' starring Bollywood couple Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt has wrapped up.

The makers wrapped its final shooting schedule in Kashi, and is all set to hit the theatres on September 9.

Alia took to Instagram where she shared a video clip. The clip seems to be from a song. She also shared a picture featuring the director Ayan Mukerji and Ranbir after a temple visit.

For the caption, Alia wrote: "We started shooting in 2018. And now a finally .. The filming of Brahmastra (Part One) comes to an end !! I've been wanting to say this for such a long time...IT'S A WRAP!"

The film apparently is set in two timeframes. The main story is set in present times where Shiva, a young man with superpowers travels 3000 years back in time to learn about weapons like



Brahmastra in order to fulfill a mission.

Directed by Ayan Mukerji, produced by Fox Star Studios,

Dharma Productions, Prime Focus and Starlight Pictures, the magnum opus will release theatrically on

September 9 in five Indian languages - Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada. It has a stellar ensemble

cast of Amitabh Bachchan, Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Mouni Roy and Nagarjuna Akkineni.

Pop singer Miley Cyrus, who was married to actor Liam Hemsworth, during her performance at Lollapalooza festival in Brazil briefly mentioned the matter while helping a couple get engaged at her concert.

According to Daily Mail, the 'Malibu' singer brought a gay couple on stage for their proposal, reports aceshowbiz.com. "Honey, I hope your marriage goes better than mine," the daughter of Billy Ray Cyrus congratulated the pair, before adding, "Mine was a f\*\*king disaster."

Cyrus and 'The Hunger Games' star were first linked in 2008 after they both starred in the film 'The Last Song'. The then-couple later got engaged in 2012, only to break up the following year. They, however, managed to rekindle their romance in 2015 and eventually get married in December 2018.

Unfortunately, their marriage didn't last for more than a year as she was photographed kissing Brody Jenner's ex Kaitlynn Carter. "Ever-evolving, changing as partners and individuals, they have decided this is what's best while they both focus on themselves and careers," a representative for Cyrus revealed to PEOPLE at the time.

Miley's whirlwind romance with Kaitlynn only lasted for a month. She later was romantically linked to Australian singer Cody Simpson for ten months. Of their brief relationship, Cody said that it was "just one of those phases... everything ended fairly amicably."

He added, "I'd known her for a long time at that point. We went from kind of being good friends to just having a lot of the same friends, to being together for a while." Meanwhile, Liam dated 'Dynasty' star Maddison Brown before moving onto model Gabriella Brooks. The couple apparently got more serious with their relationship as Gabriella joined Liam and his entire family on a European ski trip last Christmas.



**Miley Cyrus calls marriage with Liam Hemsworth a 'disaster'**

**Varun Dhawan recalls his impromptu gig with Salman at IIFA**

As Bollywood gears up for the upcoming edition of the International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA), actor Varun Dhawan, speaking at a media event here on Monday evening, recollected his favourite moments from the past editions of the award show.

The 'Main Tera Hero' actor said: "My best memory from IIFA happens to be one with Salman sir when we performed together on stage. And to tell you the truth, it wasn't a planned gig."

Salman Khan will host IIFA, which will be organised at Yas Island in Abu Dhabi on May 20-21, along with Riteish Deshmukh and comedian-TV presenter Manish Paul.

Dhawan continued: "It so happened that Salman sir came up to me backstage and said we must do something together. So, we quickly improvised and performed in front of the audience."

"Though it was an impromptu gig, the energy between the two of us at that moment was just crackling. And of course, he then helped us with the promotions of 'Judwaa 2'. We all know how big a heart Salman sir has."

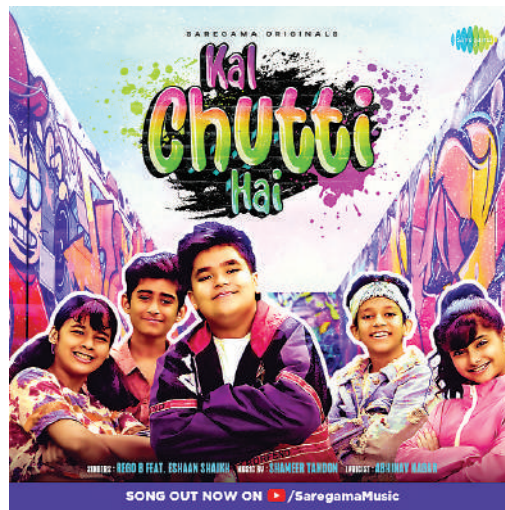
## Bappi Lahiri's grandson continues musical family lineage

After the success of his first single- Bachcha Party, Bappi Lahiri's star grandson- Rego B, is out with another musical marvel- Kal Chutti Hai. Continuing his family's decadent musical lineage, Rego is poised to become a superstar with this second released song.

With summer vacations just around the corner, this latest song is perfect to drive your kids with energy and enthusiasm. Depicting immense passion and zeal, the song brings Eshaan Shaikh and RegoB, together, with a zealous and passionate fervor.

Grooving to the quirky lyrics crooned by acclaimed lyricist- Abhinav Nagar, the music for this kids' vacation anthem has been given by famed composer- Shameer Tandon. Steering kids to groove, this song has been staged and architected by none other than the ABCD 2, and Street Dancer 3D choreographer Rahul Shetty.

Depicting sheer zing and spirit, this latest number is sure to be on every kid's playlist this



summer.

Collaborating with Saregama for the second time, Rego B said, "I had an absolutely lovely time shooting this song. The song is a hip-hop and new age pop song. The beats and the rhythm of the song will immediately get you hooked once you hear the song. It's not a children song according to me, it's for everyone because at the end who doesn't love vacations."

Creating the music for this song, Shameer Tandon said, "In this juggernaut of love & heartbreak songs being released on daily basis,

I am happy to present innocent songs by children. Thanks to the vision of Saregama India to experiment and to create songs for this category that form a large part of populace, and which are not catered to specific music. I am excited to bring on board Lt Bappi's grandson RegoB again with Kal Chutti Hai. Do watch the song for his power pack performance which will definitely not let you down."

The song is out now on Saregama's official YouTube channel and all leading music streaming platforms.

## Naman helps Ismeet overcome challenge of reading Hindi

Sony Entertainment Television's slice of life drama 'Jagannath Aur Purvi Ki Dosti Anokhi' has been receiving immense love from the audience for its heart-warming narrative revolving around a unique and innocent friendship cemented between two individuals - a millennial, Purvi and an elderly gentleman, Jagannath Mishra. In the on-going track, viewers have witnessed how in the test of relationship 'an outsider' proves to be better than one's own. From Purvi selling her jewellery for Jagannath's surgery to helping him recover, her thoughtful gesture has deeply moved and made a special place in Jagannath and Kusum Mishra's heart so much so that they have



address Purvi as the daughter of the house. The character of Purvi portrayed by Ismeet Kohli is dil se Banarasi and to bring alive this vibrant character to life, Ismeet has been religiously taking lessons from her co-actors

to get the shudh Hindi dictionary right. Talking about her experience, Ismeet Kohli said, "Playing the character of Purvi in Dosti Anokhi has given me a chance to learn a lot over the course of time. When it comes to reading the script and comprehending the lines before getting in front of the camera, initially I used to find it slightly difficult because of the use of shudh Hindi, but with the support of my co-actor Naman Arora and a little pre-production research and reading, I am have got the dialect right. My crew is quite helpful, since they are always willing to help me with any word or phrase in the script. I can easily approach anyone and ask for assistance, which has simplified the procedure."

### HOROSCOPE WEDNESDAY MARCH 30

**Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18**  
You will remember this day for the rest of life as today you will make some important decisions and give a new direction to your life. You are in for a windfall and cherry on the cake will be all the recognition and rewards you get for your sincerity and hard work, predicts Ganesha. These positive vibes will help you make sure that you are on the right track.

**Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20**  
A financial goal you've been hoping to reach very soon might seem right around the corner, Pisces, but there still seem to be a thousand things you have to do before it's actually realized. This could get you down temporarily, but don't get stuck there. Make a list of whatever needs to be done and then tackle each task one at a time until the goal is reached.

**Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20**  
Today you will feel like going green, and Ganesha approves. You could plant a sapling, or organise some dustbins to keep the neighbourhood clean. If you wish to make the world a better place to live in, do it but take it step by step.

**Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21**  
Today, passionate and possessive are the two words that will define your relationship with the people you love, predicts Ganesha. You may choose to take pains for the sake of others, which seems to be highly fulfilling. Your good spirit will sky-rocket by evening. Make sure to change your disadvantage into your advantage, says Ganesha.

**Gemini: May 22 - June 21**  
You will be busy organising some religious function today or in visiting a place of religious significance. You will encounter expenses in religious and charitable work. However, you should guard against ignoring your daily work in pursuit of all these matters, says Ganesha.

**Cancer: June 22 - July 22**  
Are you expecting a close friend or love partner to visit you at home, Cancer? Don't panic if your friend doesn't show up at the allotted time. It doesn't mean that no one is coming! There probably has been a traffic jam, last-minute phone call, long line at the supermarket, or some other mundane delay. Be patient and your friend will show up eventually.

**Leo: July 23 - Aug 23**  
You will be able to meet all challenges and obstacles successfully. Your ultimate goal is to come out victorious from any situations. There is a possibility that you will have to face severe competition in business or trade. Personal life will proceed without any hiccups though, says Ganesha.

**Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22**  
Your renewed enthusiasm for life will bring about a radical change in you. Ganesha says today is a good time to let others see how important and how brilliant you can be. Your intelligence will become very evident as you demonstrate how things should be done.

**Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23**  
Love matters could have you feeling uptight and somewhat fearful today, Libra. Perhaps this involves a relationship that hasn't really manifested yet, or maybe you and your beloved have had a dispute of some kind. Don't worry too much. You should hear some reassuring words before too long.

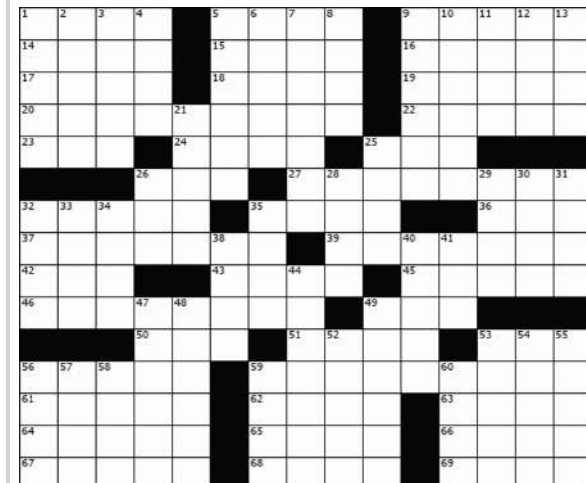
**Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22**  
The ground beneath you seems a bit shaky; watch your steps. A time would come when your confidence would be shattered, however, don't let set-backs and failures affect you. Adapt the attitude of 'this too shall pass' and the rest would fall in place, says Ganesha.

**Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21**  
Benevolence will be your middle name today. Being frank and open-minded will give its own advantages. You might just give your life partner a patient ear. This will make them feel treated well, says Ganesha.

**Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20**  
You are a die-hard romantic and with every plan to please your sweetheart, you are taking him/her closer to the cloud nine. But, don't live in fantasy world, warns Ganesha, as problems are going to follow you everywhere. If you are a businessman, your rivals may give you a hard time. Take proper care of your health, advises Ganesha.

### CROSSWORD

254



#### ACROSS

- Wild party
- Among
- Speedy
- Palo
- Casino city
- Dodge
- Knitter's purchase
- Rewrite
- Smooth
- Begin

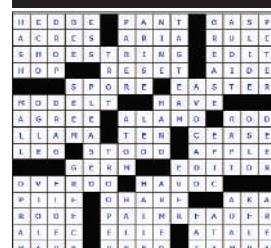
- Basketball's Shaquille
- Ref's kin
- Surrealism's Salvador
- Slump
- Raised railroads
- Scholastic
- Stear
- Smile
- Refreshing drink
- Artist Pablo
- Matured
- Had a snack

- Relieve
- Witherspoon of "Pleasantville"
- Military warning (2 wds.)
- Moral wrong
- Mr. Franklin
- Crude minerals
- Actress Sarandon
- Most like milk fat
- Horses' gaits
- Damage
- Track event
- See eye to eye
- Mexican water
- Declare openly
- Marsh plants
- Actor Sean
- Clears as profit

#### DOWN

- Louisiana marsh
- Siren
- Undress
- Kong
- Stadiums
- Military award
- Beginning
- Love foolishly
- Fill again
- Get even for
- Do roadwork
- Mental image
- Valley
- Loiters
- Mumbai dress

#### SOLUTION 253





## New Zealand beats Netherlands by 7 wickets in 1st ODI



**Mount Maunganui:** A century by Will Young helped guide New Zealand to a seven-wicket win over the Netherlands in the first of three one-day internationals on Tuesday. Young made 103 and combined with Henry Nicholls in a 162-run partnership for the second wicket which saw New Zealand surpass the Netherlands total of 202 in the 39th over. Nicholls made 57. Fast bowler Blair Tuckner took 4-50 in his ODI debut to help New Zealand limit the Netherlands, which batted first after winning the toss. The Netherlands slipped to 45-5 before Michael Rippon and captain Pieter Seelaar put on 80 for the sixth wicket. Rippon made 67 and Seelaar 43. South Africa-born Rippon, who plays for Otago province in the New Zealand domestic competition, also took 2-32 from eight overs.

## Mithali, Jhulan rise in ODI rankings

**Dubai:** India skipper Mithali Raj climbed two places to sixth while veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami also rose a couple of spots to fifth in the latest ICC Women's ODI rankings released on Tuesday, taking into account the on-going World Cup in New Zealand. Raj, who struck a half-century in India's final league match against South Africa on Sunday, surpassed Australia's Rachael Haynes and Tammy Beaumont of England. However, the match ended in heartbreak for the Indian skipper as her team crashed out of the World Cup in a last-ball thriller. Star opener Smriti Mandhana, who played a 71-run knock against South Africa, remained static on 10th. In the bowlers' chart, Goswami, who missed the match against the Proteas, went past the South African duo of Marizanne Kapp and Ayabonga Khaka to be fifth.



## Women cricketers, footballers of Assam gear up for big league

**Guwahati:** From Monalisa Barua Mehta to Hima Das to Lovlina Borgohain, individual sportswomen have brought accolades to Assam for decades, but when it comes to two of the most popular team sports in the country, the girls have not been able to attain similar heights. Assam's women players are now honing their skills in cricket and football. Among others, Assam Cricket Association (ACA) has been working on promoting women's cricket at the grassroots level and ensuring exposure for the players. Conducting training camps is not enough. Our players must be exposed to competition and while the COVID-19 pandemic has been a deterrent in the last two years, the ACA is trying its best to give maximum exposure to them, secretary of the association Devajit Saikia told PTL. The ACA, he said, has started the first-ever inter-district women's tournament from this year and named it after freedom fighter Kanaklata Barua.

## Prannoy gains three spots to be world number 23 in latest BWF ranking



**New Delhi:** Riding on his runner-up finish at the Swiss Open, India's HS Prannoy jumped three places to number 23 in the latest BWF rankings, released on Tuesday. Prannoy, who was competing in a title-clash after five years, now has 52875 points in his kitty. He could not play his best on the circuit in the last three years as he was battling health issues. Double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu, who secured her second women's singles title of the season at Swiss Open Super 300, remained static at the number seven. Among other Indians, young Lakshya Sen is also inside the top 10 along with the men's team of Chirag Shetty and Satwinderaj Rankireddy. While 20-year-old Sen, who had reached the finals of German Open and All England earlier this month, is at the ninth spot, Chirag and Satwik are also placed at number seven.

## India beat Nepal by six wickets in Bangabandhu 4 Nation Physically Challenged tournament

**New Delhi:** Sachin Shiva and Tikka Singh played key roles as the Indian Divyang cricket team defeated Nepal by six wickets in the first match of the Bangabandhu 4 Nation Physically Challenged tournament in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Nepal scored 120 runs for 4 wickets in 20 overs after captain Ramprasad won the toss and decided to bat first at the Sheikh Kamal International Cricket Stadium. Inder Singh was the top scorer with 36, while Abash Dholakoti hit 29 before being retired hurt. Pradeep Rizal also chipped in with 10 runs in 19 balls.

# KKR look to consolidate position as RCB eye first win

**Navi Mumbai, Mar 29 (PTI):**

Seeking to consolidate their position after a winning start, Kolkata Knight Riders will have their task cut out as they take on a determined Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Indian Premier League here on Wednesday. The two outfits head into the game on the back of contrasting results.

While the Shreyas Iyer-led KKR humbled defending champions Chennai Super Kings by six wickets, Royal Challengers Bangalore suffered a five-wicket loss to Punjab Kings, despite posting a 200-plus score.

For RCB, skipper Faf Du Plessis is in prime form after he made a scintillating 57-ball 88 and would like to continue in the same vein. Opener Anuj Rawat was unable to capitalise on a good start and would be aiming for consistency.

Unburdened by the captaincy pressure, Virat Kohli made a statement and played with more intent against Punjab. He will definitely look to rediscover his glorious touch and continue to torment the opposition bowlers like he did during his prime.

Wicketkeeper Dinesh Karthik also played a sig-



nificant cameo and his role would be crucial once again, if RCB have to set or chase a big total.

If these four go all guns blazing, then it would be a daunting task for the varied KKR attack.

While the KKR bowling unit will have to be particularly cautious of the six-hitting prowess of Du Plessis, which was on dis-

play on Sunday, RCB bowlers would have to quickly forget the hammering they received at the hands of the Punjab batters.

A profligate Mohammed Siraj, who leaked 59 runs, will have to pull up his socks. Another key bowler is death overs specialist and last edition's Purple Cap holder Harshal Patel.

## Osaka makes Miami quarterfinals, says she's more grateful

**Miami Gardens, Mar 29 (AP):**

Making the quarterfinals at a tournament used to be no big deal for Naomi Osaka. It was only a shock if it didn't happen. Things are a bit different now. The former world No. 1 has made it through to the quarterfinals at the Miami Open just the second time she has managed to advance that deep in any tournament over the last year. Osaka beat Alison Riske of the U.S. 6-3, 6-4 on Monday, moving into a round-of-eight matchup with Danielle Collins.

Osaka's only other quarterfinal appearance in the last year was at an Australian Open warmup tournament in Melbourne in January. Before that, her most recent quarterfinals trip was at Miami a year ago. It's really funny for me, because last year



here I made it to the quarters, too, Osaka said.

It was after I won Australia and I wasn't that grateful. I kind of expected to win. Wins these days just mean more, after ongoing struggles and time away from the game to deal with her mental health. Her ranking has dipped to No. 77 it could get somewhere around No. 30 if she wins the Miami

title and she hasn't won a tournament since that Australian Open last year.

But her stay in Miami so far has been nothing but happiness, with three easy wins all in straight sets and the added benefit of a walkover victory in there as well.

This is really one of the funnest times of my life, Osaka said. I'm really grateful.

## Would be very emotional thinking about de Villiers if we win IPL: Kohli

**Mumbai, Mar 29 (PTI):**

Virat Kohli feels if Royal Challengers Bangalore were crowned champions for the first time in the coming seasons it would mean a lot to AB de Villiers, who would be the first person on the former captain's mind after the triumph.

One of contemporary cricket's greatest batters, de Villiers retired from all forms of the game in November last year. Since starting his association with RCB in 2011, the South African batting legend enjoyed 11 fruitful seasons with the franchise.

"The other day, it got me thinking, if we manage to win the title in the coming seasons, I would be very emotional thinking about him first," Kohli, who had stepped down as captain after the 2021 season, said on RCB Bold Diaries.

"Rather than what I would experience after such hard work of so many years, I would actually think of him.

"It would still mean a lot to him even if he is watching the game from home.



He is a special human being as he has touched everyone, and we all can vouch for that," he added.

Kohli revealed that he had an inkling during the last IPL that de Villiers was going to hang his boots.

"It's very strange I mean, I clearly remember when he decided to finally call it a day. He sent me a voice note, we were coming back from Dubai after the World Cup. I got a voice note from AB de Villiers while we were driving back home.

"I kind of had the impression and was guessing it in the last IPL. Our

rooms were next to each other, and we would walk the same way and disperse, every time we walked to our room and he would see me outside, he would be like I want to see you for coffee, one of these days'.

"I kept getting nervous and was like I am not sitting with you because I think there is something coming' to which he always said 'No man there is nothing, I just want to have a chat with you, it's been a while and he never speaks like that because we interact all the time."

Even the role of Sri Lankan spinner Wanindu Hasaranga, who is capable of spinning a web around the batters, could decide the fate of the match.

For KKR, they ticked all the boxes in their lung-opener against CSK and they would be hoping that they can repeat their performance. The biggest positive for KKR was Ajinkya Rahane finding his mojo and scoring runs.

Although all-rounder Venkatesh Iyer managed only 16 runs in the first game, he is capable of pummeling any attack into submission.

Skipper Shreyas Iyer along with Sam Billings and Sheldon Jackson would need to shoulder responsibility in the middle-order.

On the bowling front, Umesh Yadav was sensational at the Wankhede. But others including Shivam Mavi, spinners Varun Chakravarthy and Sunil Narine would need to put up an improved show. All-rounder Andre Russell's role with the bat and ball could eventually be the difference between the two sides.

KKR are unlikely to tinker with their winning combination.

Being an evening game, dew would certainly be a factor and one can expect a high-scoring affair.

## Ayush Badoni - a product despite the system

**Mumbai, Mar 29 (PTI):**

Ignored and overlooked, Delhi youngster Ayush Badoni finally found his moment of glory when he made a stunning IPL debut for Lucknow Super Giants with a maiden fifty here.

The 22-year-old, who slammed a 41-ball 54 against Gujarat Titans on Monday, is a product despite the system.

One of the last products of the late iconic cricket coach Tarak Sinha, Badoni had impressed at India Under-19 level, smashing an unbeaten 185 in a youth Test against Sri Lanka in 2018. He also had a good outing at the Asia Cup as he hit 52 off just 28 balls in the final.

But all that didn't translate into him getting a place in the Delhi team as Badoni was repeatedly ignored by the Delhi selectors for the Ranji Trophy and the Vijay Hazare Trophy. He was overlooked in the previous IPL auctions too before being handpicked by former India opener Gautam Gambhir this year.

"I didn't have any idea, because my name had been coming up (in the auctions) for three years and I was unsold," Badoni said at the post-match press conference.

"So this time when my name cropped up, my heartbeat was fast. I didn't know, I had given trials of two, three teams, it had



been happening since two-three years, I was not getting picked. "I am grateful as Lucknow picked me, and now I need to perform and make my team win, I will try my best."

Badoni played only five T20s in last year's Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy in Mumbai, where he got a chance to bat only once, scoring 8 runs. He is yet to play the coveted Ranji Trophy. "Yes, there has been little struggle for three years, I did not get a chance from Delhi, because of which I enhanced my game, have tried new shots, learnt new shots and that has helped me in T20s," he said.

## Manohar is someone you are going to hear about in future: Hardik Pandya

**Mumbai, Mar 29 (PTI):**

"You would hear a lot more about Abhinav Manohar in the future," said Gujarat Titans captain Hardik Pandya after the IPL debutant displayed remarkable hitting in the final over to ensure a five-wicket win over Lucknow Super Giants here on Monday.

With Titans needing 11 off the final over, Manohar smashed back-to-back fours off Avesh Khan to make the task much easier for his team. With the confidence he showed under extreme pressure, it did not look like he was playing his first game on a big stage like the IPL. "Manohar is someone to look at with the talent he has. He is someone who you are going to hear about in the future. Rahul Tewatia was sensational as well," said Hardik at the post-



match presentation. Hardik, who played his first game since November last year, bowled four overs and scored 33 batting at number four.

"Mostly I'll bat at number four, because I want to take pressure with my experience so that the others can play freely. We want to win as a team and nobody can take the contribution away from anyway," he said.

He was all praise for pacer Mohammad Shami who bowled a sensational spell with the new ball.

"This was the right game for us to be on either side and learn, but have learnt a lot by winning. Shami is known for his seam positions and he got us to a great start. We would have any day taken 160 on this wicket," he said referring to Super Giants 158 for six.

## Mirabai Chanu wins 'BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year' award



**New Delhi, Mar 29 (PTI):**

Olympic silver medallist weightlifter Mirabai Chanu on Monday won the BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year award.

Chanu created history last year when she became the first Indian weightlifter to clinch a silver medal at the Summer Olympics.

I am currently training in the United States of America. I will give my best to win gold at this year's Asian and Commonwealth Games. Thanks again to BBC India for honouring me with the BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year award," Chanu said in a media release. Young India opener Shafali Verma was awarded the The BBC

Emerging Player' award. Verma is the youngest female cricketer to have played for India.

The first Indian woman to have won a medal at the Olympics in 2000, former weightlifter Karnam Malleswari was presented the BBC Lifetime Achievement' award.

Olympians and the Paralympians from the Tokyo Games were also honoured in this edition of BBC ISWOTY. Tim Davie, BBC's Director General said, It's wonderful to be here in Delhi in the BBC's centenary year, and to honour the talented Indian sportswomen who've achieved so much, often in the face of challenging circumstances.



## 'CUET not to make board exams irrelevant'

Will not give push to coaching culture



Jagadesh Kumar

New Delhi, Mar 29 (PTI):

The Common University Entrance Test (CUET) will neither make the board exams irrelevant nor give a push to "coaching culture", University Grants Commission Chairman Jagadesh Kumar said on Tuesday.

He asserted that students from state boards will not be at a disadvantage in the undergraduate

admissions process. The National Testing Agency (NTA), which is responsible for conducting the CUET twice a year from the next session, he said.

In an interview with PTI, Kumar said CUET will not just be limited to admissions in Central Universities as several prominent private universities have indicated that they would like to come on board for using the scores from the common entrance exam for undergraduate admissions.

"To begin with, CUET will be conducted once this year but NTA will consider conducting the exam at least twice a year from the next session. The entrance exam will not just be limited to Central Universities but also private ones. Several prominent private universities have indicated that they

would like to come on board and admit students through CUET," he said.

"Eight deemed-to-be universities including the Tata Institute of Social Sciences and Jamia Hamdard have also expressed a desire to use CUET scores to admit students to undergraduate courses. I held a meeting yesterday with vice-chancellors and directors of these eight deemed universities which receive maintenance grants from UGC," Kumar said.

He, however, did not name the private universities that have expressed interest in adopting CUET.

Kumar had last week announced that CUET scores, and not Class 12 marks, will be mandatory for admission to 45 central universities that can fix their minimum eligibility criteria. On whether the exam will lead to a "coaching culture" for under-

graduate admissions, Kumar said, "The exam will simply not require any coaching so there is no question of it giving a push to coaching culture."

The exam will be completely based on the class 12 syllabus. A lot of students are getting concerned about whether the exam will also have questions from the class 11 syllabus. The answer is a clear no, the UGC chairman said.

"There will be no disadvantage to state board students. The exam will also provide a level playing field for students from all boards.

"Students from rural backgrounds appearing for the exam in regional languages, coming from different economic backgrounds and are geographically distributed across the country, all will be treated on a par," Kumar said.

## PROTECTION FROM HEAT



Women cover their faces to protect themselves from the hot weather, in Jammu, Tuesday.

Rudresh murder

## HC rejects plea by accused to shift case out of NIA court

Bengaluru, Mar 29 (PTI):

A full bench of the Karnataka High Court headed by Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi on Tuesday dismissed a criminal appeal filed by the accused in the murder of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) functionary R Rudresh seeking transfer of the case from the Special NIA Court to a regular Sessions Court. Irfan Pasha and the other accused in the murder had earlier challenged the decision of the Ministry of Home Affairs on December 7, 2016 to hand over the investigation to the National Investigation Agency

(NIA). The trial court had earlier rejected their discharge application seeking discharge in offences under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). The High Court and Supreme Court have upheld this order. The accused then approached the trial court under Section 20 of the NIA Act seeking transfer of the case from the Special NIA Court to a regular Sessions court. In effect, they sought to be discharged from offences under UAPA as a regular Sessions court would try them for offences only under the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The trial court rejected the application and

an appeal was filed before the High Court. Since there were divergent opinion in two earlier cases on the same issue the matter was referred to a full bench. Dismissing their appeal as non-maintainable, the full bench comprising Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, Justice B Veerappa and Justice P Krishna Bhat said the trial court order passed on the application under Section 20 of the NIA Act is purely an interlocutory order. An interlocutory order is one which is passed anywhere in-between the commencement of trial and conclusion of trial but one that does not conclude the proceedings.

## Mid-day meals resume in schools after two-year gap

Ahmedabad, Mar 29 (PTI):

The Gujarat government on Tuesday resumed the mid-day meal scheme in government and aided schools across nine urban centres, two years after it was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, an official said.

Students in 29,464 primary schools will get mid-day meals from March 31 under the scheme, which was suspended on March 16, 2020 due to the pandemic, he said. State Education Minister Jitu Vaghani re-launched the scheme from a government school in Gandhinagar, a government statement said.

The scheme will cover 7 lakh students in over 2,800 schools. Students of 29,464 schools in Gujarat will

start getting mid-day meals from March 31, Vaghani said. The state government has sanctioned Rs 1,071 crore for the PM POSHAN Scheme for 2022-23, he said.

When schools were shut amid the pandemic, the state government had paid money to beneficiary families for the purchase food grains and towards cooking costs, he said.

The government had paid for more than 2.61 lakh tonnes of food grains and Rs 1,350 crore towards cooking costs under the food security allowance, the minister said.

Vaghani appealed to people to provide food to school students on special occasions such as birthdays and weddings.

## 'Decline in vulture, Great Indian Bustard numbers in Guj'

Gandhinagar, Mar 29 (PTI):

The Gujarat government on Tuesday informed the legislative Assembly that the population of vultures and Great Indian Bustards, both endangered birds, has declined in the state, while the count of lions, leopards and bears has increased. Responding to a query by Congress MLA Kanti Sodha Parmar during Question Hour, Forest Minister Kiritsinh Rana said the last wildlife census conducted in 2016 suggested a decline in the number of vultures by 44 and a drop in the count of Great Indian Bustards (GIBs) by 23 in the state. Rana, however, in his reply did not mention the cur-

rent population of both the endangered birds in Gujarat. According to the minister, the population of lions saw an increase of 151 in the census of 2020. Similarly, 235 more leopards were found in the census of 2016, while the bear count rose by 50. While the blackbuck population saw an increase of 2,847 in the census of 2015, the Indian wild ass number registered a rise of 1,631 in the census of 2020, he said. Responding to a sub-question regarding the steps taken for conservation of endangered birds whose number has declined, Rana said the state government has already banned veterinary use of diclofenac, a drug consid-

ered as one of the major contributing factors in declining population of vultures. To ensure regular supply of food to the scavengers, the state government has built "Vulture Cafeteria" in different parts of the state, said Rana, adding villagers are continuously made aware about the importance of these birds. The minister said efforts are also being made to protect the nests built by vultures on top of coconut trees. While a breeding programme for captive vultures has been initiated in the Junagadh zoo, ten vultures of five different species were tagged with transmitters to study their habitat and behaviour, he said.

## INT'L TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY



People belonging to transgender community during a special registration camp for voter ID cards, ahead of International Transgender Day of Visibility, in Thane, Tuesday.

## Octogenarian spends night inside Hyd bank

After being locked inside, rescued by cops

Hyderabad, Mar 29 (PTI):

A 84-year old man had to spend a night in a bank's locker room here after the bank staff accidentally locked him inside the premises and left, police said on Tuesday.

It was only on Tuesday morning that the octogenarian, who spent almost 18 hours (from 4.40 PM on Monday till 10.30 AM today) inside the bank's locker room was traced and rescued by police, who found him lying on the floor of the locker room in a semi-unconscious state and immediately got him shifted to a hospital. The elderly man, had visited the bank to

open his locker on Monday evening but the bank staff apparently did not notice him and locked the premises and left but leaving him inside the bank, police said.

After the elderly man, a diabetic, did not return home, his family members filed a complaint with the police after which a missing case was registered, Jubilee Hills Police Station Inspector S Rajasekhara Reddy said.

Police during course of investigation and after verifying the CCTV footage noticed the elderly man passing through Jubilee Hills check post area on Monday evening and entering into the

bank premises, he told PTI. Police further found that after locking up the bank premises, all staff left but did not find the elderly man coming out and concluded that he was inside the bank itself.

Accordingly, a police team visited the bank on Tuesday and asked the bank officials to open the locker room and traced the elderly man and got him shifted to a nearby hospital, the police official said adding his condition is now stable.

The man was not carrying his mobile phone as he forgot it at his house on Monday, police said.

The official further said they were in the process

of registering a case against the bank staff for their alleged negligent act in connection with the incident. The police official tweeted: "We have successfully traced him at Union Bank of India, Jubilee Hills check post. Yesterday evening he was confined accidentally in Lockers room of Union Bank. After verifying the CCTV cameras the Jubilee Hills Police successfully rescued him and shifted to near by Hospital."

Some netizens termed it as irresponsible behaviour of bank employees and said the matter needs investigation and necessary action.

## Dancer denied temple performance

New Delhi, Mar 29 (PTI):

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Tuesday expressed disappointment over an atheist dancer being denied permission to perform at the famed Koodalmanikyam temple in Kerala, saying art has no religion or caste but it has been overruled by religion in this matter.

Mansiya V P, a Bharatanatyam dancer and a PhD research scholar in classical dance, on Monday took to Facebook claiming the temple officials denied her permission to perform despite her name being printed in the programme notice.

The temple officials claimed that she was denied permission as the temple tradition does not

allow a non-Hindu to enter the premises. Asked about the issue, Tharoor said as a Hindu and a citizen of India, he is disappointed with this decision.

"Art has no religion or caste, but here, art has been overruled by religion," Tharoor told PTI.

Other faiths go out of their way to attract others to respect their religion, throwing open the doors of mosques, churches, gurdwaras and synagogues to all, he said. "As a public representative in Thiruvananthapuram, I have attended Christmas Eve Mass at St Joseph's Cathedral, celebrated Eid at Palayam's Juma Masjid and been received with honour at the sacred sites of every Christian sect," the Lok Sabha MP said.

● **Tharoor says art overruled by religion**

"I have walked on the hallowed ground of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, offered prayers alongside Jewish friends at the Wailing Wall there and bowed my head at the Church of the Nativity. While some Hindu temples are equally welcoming, some are not, and I deplore their attitude," he said. Tharoor noted that temple board chairman Pradeep Menon explained that the decision is in keeping with "the existing tradition at the temple".

"Traditions, of course, change with the times: it was also the existing tradition at every temple to deny Dalits entry a centu-

ry ago, but that is an unthinkable thought today. I can understand reluctance to permit access to outsiders to the sanctum sanctorum, where an idol has been installed with a 'prathishtha'," he said.

"But a dance on the temple premises? Surely Mansiya, who dances with reverence and talent, is no threat to the sanctity of the place," Tharoor asserted. He said this is not the religion of 'vasudaiva kutumbakam (the world is one family) and 'sarva dharma sambahava (all religions are the same). These are rules made by "small-minded" men that reflect their prejudices and not the inclusive spirit of a great faith, Tharoor said. Earlier, responding to a tweet which claimed that

he was being selective in his criticism as a judge had also stopped the Mohiniattam dance in Palakkad halfway through, Tharoor said on Twitter, "I deplore that as well, all the more so since the judge was acting in his own interest (he claimed the music was disturbing him since he lived next door). Neena Prasad is one of the most famous Mohiniattam exponents and deserved better than to be so rudely interrupted by police." Mansiya, born a Muslim, was to perform at the 10-day National Festival of Dance and Music organised by the Koodalmanikyam temple to be held from April 15 to 25. Around 800 artists are expected to perform at the temple during the fest.

● **After casteist slur allegation**

Chennai, Mar 29 (PTI):

Tamil Nadu Minister R S Rajakannappan was on Tuesday divested of his transport portfolio after an official alleged that the minister used a casteist slur against him.

On the recommendations of Chief Minister M K Stalin, the portfolios of transport, nationalised transport and Motor Vehicles Act held by Rajakannappan would now be handled by Minister S S Sivasankar, a Raj Bhavan release said. Welfare of Backward Classes, the Most



R S Rajakannappan

Backward Classes and Denotified Communities

department held by Sivasankar has been allocated to Rajakannappan and he is re-designated as Minister for Backward Classes Welfare.

The divestment of the portfolio, the first after the DMK assumed power in May 2021 assumes significance since the ruling party (unlike the previous AIADMK regimes) does not generally resort to it barring exceptions.

The move is a sequence to an allegation made by a Block Development Officer belonging to Ramanaapuram District. He had alleged that Rajakannappan had on March 27 rebuked him using caste name.



### BRIEF



Passengers walk on the second day of Bharat Bandh called by a joint forum of Central trade unions, in Gurugram, Tuesday.

### Booked

**Jaipur:** A woman doctor, who was booked for allegedly causing the death of a pregnant woman at a private facility in Rajasthan's Dausa district, committed suicide on Tuesday, police said. According to police, the pregnant woman died at the hospital run by Dr Archana Sharma and her husband on Tuesday.

### Defused

**Kannur:** The police on Tuesday recovered steel bombs during a search carried out under a bridge in a village under Panur police station limit in Kerala's Kannur district. Acting on a tip-off, the police carried out searches under the Ovu bridge at Natammal village and recovered two steel bombs, officials said.

### Withdrawn

**Patna:** The suspension of Bihar Legislative Council member Sunil Kumar Singh, who has been found guilty of improper behaviour inside the House by the Chair, was on Tuesday withdrawn after members of the opposition jointly expressed regret for his conduct.

**Weather**  
High 40 Low 23

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SENSEX 57,943.65

**BULLION**  
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SILVER 66,562

## 'No new engineering colleges in next 2 years'



Anil Sahasrabudhe

New Delhi, Mar 29 (PTI):

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has extended the moratorium on setting up new engineering institutes for two more years with certain exceptions, according to its chairman Anil Sahasrabudhe.

The move comes after a government-constituted panel had recommended continuation of the ongoing moratorium. The AICTE had imposed a moratorium of two years on granting approvals for new colleges in 2020. "The AICTE has extended its moratorium on establishing new engineering institutes up to two years with certain exceptions," Sahasrabudhe said.

The exceptions include state government proposal to start new polytechnic in con-

New Delhi, Mar 29:

The two-day nationwide strike by central trade unions to protest against the government policies entered its second day on Tuesday, impacting normal life in some parts of the country.

According to reports, public transport and banking services remain partly disrupted for the second day in some states.

"Workers in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh have joined the strike on the second day in addition to the workforce of state on the agitation on Monday. Workers in almost all sectors have joined the strike. We got a good response from the rural band. Over



20 crore participated in the strike on Monday and the number would be more on the second day," Amarjeet Kaur, General Secretary of All India Trade Union Congress, told PTI.

A joint forum of central trade unions is protesting against the government

policies affecting workers, farmers, and people.

Their demands include scrapping of Labour Codes, no privatisation in any form, scrapping of National Monetisation Pipeline, increased allocation of wages under MN-REGA (Mahatma Gandhi

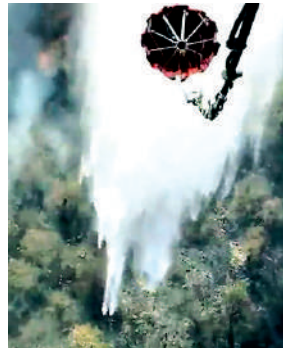
## Huge fire at Sariska tiger reserve

IAF choppers deployed to put out blaze

Jaipur, Mar 29 (PTI):

Over 200 people and two Indian Air Force helicopters were pressed into service to control a wildfire spread over 10 sq km of the Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan's Alwar, officials said on Tuesday.

The fire had started on Sunday evening and was brought under control on Monday. A few hours later in the evening, the forest fire flared again and was continuing till Tuesday



IAF helicopters are used to spray water over a forest fire in the Sariska Tiger Reserve, in Alwar district.

evening. The Forest Department asked people of

nearby villages not to enter the forest area. The officials said no tiger is stuck in the affected area and their movement is being monitored. The Sariska reserve has 27 tigers, they added.

Earlier looking at the situation, the district administration sought air assistance from the IAF, which deployed two Mi-17 V5 helicopters to control the fire.

Sariska Field Director R N Meena said the forest staff, nature guides and local people are engaged in efforts to control the fire but they are facing difficulties due to hilly terrain, he said.

### PREZ TO PEOPLE

## 'Join govt's water conservation movement'

New Delhi, Mar 29 (PTI):

President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday appealed to the people to join the government's movement for water conservation and asked district administration and sarpanches to play a special role in inspiring them to become its part.

The President presented the National Water Awards to states, districts, local bodies and schools among others. He also launched the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign 2022' during the event. The Catch the Rain campaign



President Ram Nath Kovind addresses at the presentation of the 3rd National Water Awards, in New Delhi.

will continue to be implemented this year till November 30. Some new features such as spring shed development, protection of water catchment areas, gender mainstreaming in water sector have

been added to the campaign. National Water Mission's (NWM) campaign 'Catch The Rain' with the tagline "Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls" is to nudge the states and stakeholders to create appropriate Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS) suitable to the climatic conditions. Speaking at the event, he appealed to the people to join the government's movement of water conservation and asked district administration and sarpanches to play a special role in inspiring people to become part of the movement.

## 'BJP only recognised contributions of all PMs'

New Delhi, Mar 29 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Tuesday it is only the BJP which in power has recognised contributions of every prime minister by building a museum to honour them, and also asked party MPs to undertake various programmes as part of "samaajik nyay pakhwada" (fortnight dedicated to social justice) from its foundation day on April 6. With the birth anniversary of B R Ambedkar, architect of the Constitution, falling on April 14, Modi at the BJP's parliamentary party meeting asked party MPs to reach out to people, especially the disadvantaged sections of society like Scheduled Castes, to highlight various government programmes for their welfare.

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### BHARAT BANDH- DAY 2

## Normal life hit in parts of country

### About 35,000 SAIL, RINL, NMDC workers boycott work

About 35,000 workers of state-owned SAIL, RINL and NMDC continued to boycott work on Tuesday as part of the nationwide strike, affecting production at steel plants and mines. Rajesh Sandhu, Secretary of NMDC Sanyukt Khadaan Mazdoor Sangh said all non-executive workers have boycotted work to join the nationwide strike which entered its second day on Tuesday. "Intensifying their protest against government policies, NMDC workers stopped state transport buses in Chhattisgarh for about 6 hours from 5 a.m.," Sandhu said adding NMDC would incur a loss of about Rs 200 crore due to the protest. Over 10,000 non-executive employees of the company are observing the protest at NMDC mines and offices in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana.

Rural Employment Guarantee Act) and regularisation of contract workers. In a statement, the joint platform has said central trade unions and independent sectoral federations and associations will stage a

'dharna' at Jantar Mantar from 11.30 am onwards on the second day of the strike on March 29 for their 12-point charter of demands.

The unions of bank employees are participating in the strike.

## Two DRG constables injured in IED blasts

Narayanpur, Mar 29:

### About the incident

The incident took place around 9.15 am on Tuesday in Kurusnar police station area when a joint team of the DRG and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) was out on an area domination operation. When the patrolling team was cordoning off a forest patch, located over 300 km from the state capital Raipur, Naxals detonated serial blasts in which two DRG constables received injuries. The injured personnel, identified as Sanau Vadde and Ramji Potai, were shifted to a local hospital and their condition was stated to be out of danger.

Two constables of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) were injured on Tuesday after Naxals triggered serial improvised explosive device (IED) blasts in Narayanpur district, a senior police official said.

The incident took place around 9.15 am in Kurusnar police station area when a joint team of the DRG and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) was out on an area domination operation, Narayanpur Superintendent of Police Sadanand Kumar said.

When the patrolling team was cordoning off a forest patch, located over 300 km from the state capital Raipur, Naxals detonated serial blasts in which

two DRG constables received injuries, he said.

### HISTORIC AGREEMENT

## Assam-Meghalaya pact resolves 6 out of 12 boundary disputes

Guwahati, Mar 29:

Assam and Meghalaya on Tuesday signed an agreement to resolve their five-decade-old border dispute in six of the 12 locations, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah calling it a "historic day" for the Northeast.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Shah and the chief ministers of Assam and Meghalaya, Himanta Biswa Sarma and Conrad Sangma respectively.



"It is a historic day for the Northeast," Shah said at the function held at the ministry of home affairs in New Delhi.

The home minister said with the signing of the agreement, 70 per cent of the border dispute between the two states has

been resolved. There are 36 villages in the six places, covering an area of 36.79 sq km, with regard to which the agreement has been reached.

The two states had formed three committees each in August last year to go into the vexed boundary question. The constitution of the panels had followed two rounds of talks between Sarma and Sangma where the neighbouring states resolved to settle the dispute in a phased manner.

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# Mission Clean City gets top priority in budget of Risali

Mayor Shashi presents Rs 110 crore budget; no new taxes

**Bhilai, Mar 29:**

Risali Municipal Corporation Mayor Shashi Sinha on Tuesday presented the first budget of this newly constituted civic body for the year 2022-23. She too carried the documents in a briefcase made of cow dung. With the Speaker's permission, she presented a budget of Rs 110.51 crores in the house. Congress councillors passed the budget with a voice vote for the formation of a model civic body. Thereafter, the Speaker Keshav Banchhor invited the Corporators for discussion. The first budget of Risali Municipal Corporation was passed in a peaceful atmosphere. Deepak Chandrakar was present in the house as representative of MP Vijay Baghel while State Congress Committee General Secretary Jitendra Sahu was present as representative of Durg Rural MLA and State Home Minister and Public Works Department Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu. The proceedings of the General Body Meeting began with Raaj Geet. The house paid homage to Late Manbodhi Ram Sinha, father-in-law of the Mayor, who left for heavenly abode a few days ago. MIC



members Chandrabhan Singh Thakur, Govind Chaturvedi, Vilas Rao Borkar, Anoop Dey, Sanir Sahu, Parmeshwar Kumar, Sonia Devangan, Ishwari Sahu, Commissioner Ashish Dewangan, Corporation Secretary Ramakant Sahu and all the Corporators and department heads of Risali Municipal Corporation were present.

In her address, Mayor expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu for the formation of Risali Municipal Corporation. Mayor Shashi Sinha said that she got the privilege of presenting the first budget of Risali Corporation. Many possibilities of urban de-

velopment have been included in this budget. Chief Minister has given the slogan of Gadhbo Nava Chhattisgarh. In the same manner, Risali Municipal Corporation has taken the resolution of Garhbo Nava Risali. She reiterated her commitment to ensure all round development in view of the basic needs of each and every ward. "It is our endeavour to resolve the problems of common citizens quickly. We consider it our important responsibility to benefit the common citizens by bringing the ambitious schemes of the popular government on the ground", she said. Shashi assured that every- one would get simple and accessible administration in the local civic govern-

ment. The denizens will not have to wander here and there for basic amenities. Ward wise action plans will be prepared and worked out effectively. She urged the citizens to cooperate in making the city beautiful. No new tax has been imposed in this fiscal budget. The Mayor said that Risali Municipal Corporation has got the status of 3 star city and now the efforts are being made to get the status of 5 star city. Under the guidance of Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, sustained efforts will be made to establish Risali as a model civic body with the motto of "Garhat Risali, Badhat Risali, Nava Risali, Hamar Risali". She presented an estimated budget of Rs 110.51

Crore which includes Revenue Income of Rs 42.01 crore and Capital Income of Rs 68.50 Crore. The important provisions made in the budget are - Repair/maintenance of infrastructure roads, drains, culverts and corporation properties with expenditure of Rs 1600 lakhs; Manglik complex construction - Rs 175 lakhs; Amrut Mission Scheme 2.0 (Pipe Line and Garden Construction) -Rs 400 lakhs; State converted scheme (beautification of ponds) - Rs 150 lakhs; Development of trenching ground and land for additional trenching ground (development and leveling of trenching ground) - Rs 100 lakhs; Under Mission Clean City (cleaning equipment) composting and purchase of dustbin / tricycle / mini tripper - Rs 50 lakhs; Purchase of e-rickshaws for implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission (Solid Waste) - Rs 85.80 lakhs; Purchase of composting machine under 15th Finance Commission provisions - Rs 55 lakhs; Road Side Plantation - Rs 70 lakhs; Purchase of Hydraulic Trolley with Tractor - Rs 43.75 Lakh; Construction of Football Ground in Maroda Sector I-Pocket - Rs 348.64 Lakh, etc.

# Plate Mill celebrates foundation day, new records made



**Bhilai, Mar 29:** Director In-charge Bhilai Steel Plant, Anirban Dasgupta visited Plate Mill on Tuesday to greet the Plate Mill Collective on the Mill's foundation day and also to congratulate the team of Plate Mill and associated departments for having achieved several highs in the current fiscal year. A ceremonial cake was cut by Director In-charge, Anirban Dasgupta, CGM I/c Services SN Abidi in presence of MM Gadre, CGM I/c Mills, CGM Plate Mill, RK Bisare and other members of the Plate Mill collective. Plate Mill that rolls out mild,

high tensile, boiler quality plates besides several special grade plates for a variety of applications has recorded one million tonnes of total finished plates production even before the end of current fiscal year. This was achieved by the Mill after a gap of three years. The Mill dispatched more than one million tonnes of plates in the current fiscal year. New record has been already set by Plate Mill in total annual production of boiler quality plates at around 1,26,000 tonnes, surpassing the previous best of 1,10,739 tonnes achieved in the year 2017-

18. Several monthly records have also been set by Plate Mill in the area of production and despatch of BQ plates, direct despatches of plates, specific power consumption etc. Plate Mill rolled out MIDHANI slabs into thin plates used for satellite launch vehicles thrice during the current fiscal year. The Mill set a new monthly record of rolling out 1968 Tonnes of the DMR 249 naval grade plates in Sept 21 as against previous best of 970 T in March 2020. MK Goyal, SK Verma, J Sudhakar, HK Bahurupi, Anjali Pillay, Hemant Adil, SN Meher, R Dinesh made significant contribution in making this event a success. The program was conducted by Bhaskar Rai, General Manager (Plate Mill). On this occasion, along with union representatives, a large number of plate mill personnel and officers were present.

# Dheeraj presents development oriented surplus budget for Durg

**Bhilai, Mar 29:**

Durg Municipal Corporation Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal presented a development oriented surplus budget for the year 2022-23. The general body meeting for the budget was held at BIT College's Mechanical Conference Hall. Dheeraj carried the budget documents in a briefcase made of cow dung. Speaker Rajesh Yadav chaired the meeting which began with Raaj Geet. Municipal Commissioner Haresh Mandavi, all the Corporators, Aldermen, officers and employees were present.

Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal said that they have taken care of all the sections and priority has been given to public interest and development works. For the year 2022-23, he estimated an income of Rs 37720. 35 lakh and the expenditure of Rs 37713.20 lakh. The budget



has been prepared keeping in mind the demands of all the sections, bringing transparency in the civic amenities through the Municipal Corporation and also taking very subtle issues seriously. For the implementation of Ghar Ghar Green, a tree will be planted in the memory of ancestors under Purkha Surta Yojana. The implementation of this scheme will be done at Smriti Van, which will be developed on Shivnath river road. Buildings will be reserved

for the marriages of Divyangs and their families. Kiosks of a fixed design and size will be established in the areas reserved for vending in the corporation area. Direct housing scheme for tenants, protection and beautification of ponds, Muktidham development scheme, free wifi zone in open library and bus stand, hostel facility for women, public facility in ration shop, construction of shed in major squares and railway crossings, Stadium



Construction, Potter's Market, etc have been included in the budget. Apart from this, Beautification and developing a Picnic Spot at Thagda Bandh, works on Shankar Nala, Pulgaon Nala Diversion, Muktidham Road Construction, Gaurav Path Construction, Swami Atmanand English Medium School, City Diagnostic Center and other projects were prominently included in the budget. The budget presented by the Mayor was

passed unanimously. During the budget assembly, the opposition tried to corner the ruling Congress over the issues of development. During the question hour, the opposition raised the issue of illegal occupancy of the quarters constructed under PM Awas Yojna. The BJP corporators emphasised on strict action against the guilty. The leader of opposition Ajay Verma termed it to be a baseless and imaginary budget. He tried to attract the attention of the house towards some errors in the budget. He demanded to rectify the errors and conduct department wise discussion. Independent Corporator Neeta Jain, BJP Corporator Narendra Banjare counted the failures of Congress rule in Durg Municipal Corporation. After certain corrections and stretched discussions, the Speaker passed the budget for the year 2022-23.

# Blast Furnace celebrates 'Swachhta Pakhwada'



**Bhilai, Mar 29:**

In the Blast Furnace Department of Bhilai Steel Plant, various programs were organized in the direction of spreading the message of cleanliness during "Swachhta Pakhwada" under the guidance of Tapasdas Gupta, Chief General Manager-in-Charge (Blast Furnace) with the co-operation of Biju George, Senior Manager (Personnel).

At the beginning of the event, oath was administered by Soumya Tokdar, Chief General Manager (Blast

Furnace) in the presence of senior officers and personnel of Blast Furnace and SGP regarding cleanliness. On this occasion, Soumya Tokdar while explaining the importance of cleanliness to all the employees said that cleanliness and safety are two sides of the same coin. Many chances of accidents can be avoided by having a clean workplace. On this occasion, outlines of various programs to be organized during "Swachhta Pakhwada" were also mentioned.

# Students to get opportunity of interacting with PM during 'Pariksha Pe Charcha'

**Bhilai, Mar 29:**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will give Guru Mantra to the students of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Borai and Kendriya Vidyalaya to remain stress free during the examination during the programme "Pariksha Pe Charcha" on April 01. Through this program, the Prime Minister will interact with students, teachers and parents from different states of the country. On this occasion, students of Kendriya Vidyalaya and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Borai Durg of the district will also get an opportunity to interact with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Through the online platform, students will ask their questions to the Prime Minister on the matters related to the examination and get guidance from him. Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (Borai Durg) Principal Srinivas Rao said that it is the fifth edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha. Prime Minister will give tips to the students on how to stay away from stress during examination. Examination itself invites

stress and in such a situation, students will have this golden opportunity, where they will take advice from the Prime Minister through conversation and overcome their stress and nervousness. He further said that the experience of the Prime Minister will undoubtedly help the students a lot during the examination. The students are also very excited for this programme. It is natural for human beings to get stressed in the works associated with the result. Be it board examination or any other type of examination, it is necessary for the student to be stress free. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will give tips to the students to remain stress free during the examination. The Prime Minister will have an in-depth discussion with the students on how to overcome any examination with time management and positive steps. Principal Srinivas Rao has urged the students, parents and teachers to put forth their valuable thoughts and questions on the portal <https://navodaya.gov.in/nvs/school/DURG/en/home>.

# World TB Day observed at JLN Hospital & Research Centre



**Bhilai, Mar 29:**

World TB Day is observed on March 24 every year to create public awareness and understanding about one of the world's deadliest infectious killers TB and its devastating health, social and economic consequences and efforts to end the global TB epidemic. World TB Day is one of the 11 official global public health campaigns marked by the World Health

Organization (WHO). World TB Day addresses a different theme every year. This year, the theme is "Invest to end TB, Save lives." World TB Day at JLNHR&C was observed by the Department of Respiratory Medicine. Dr SK Issar, ED (M&HS) inaugurated the proceedings with lighting of lamp. He was accompanied by CMOs Dr Ravindranath and Dr Pramod Binayake and Dr AD Banerjee, ACMO. Posters illustrating

various aspects of TB were prepared by Nursing College students of PG College of Nursing, Shri Shankara College of Nursing and Apollo Nursing College. Short skit / play by nursing students depicting various symptoms, treatment and prevention from the disease were presented. A question-answer session on Tuberculosis was organized through interaction with general public who visited the hospital.

Dr AD Banerjee anchored the session. Prizes were given away to the persons giving correct answers. Dr Binayake in his address emphasized about the importance of early diagnosis of TB disease, its prevention and also told about the NTEP National Programme, its unit working in the hospital and in Chest OPD area. Dr AD Banerjee and team also visited Plant area to spread awareness among the employees in plant area.

# Civil Defence Training 'Hum Bhi Hai Taiyar' organised for housewives

**Bhilai, Mar 29:**

Civil Defence Organization - Chhattisgarh (Government of India - Affiliated to the Ministry of Home Affairs), Human Resource Development Department, Bhilai Steel Plant organised a one-day basic civil defence workshop "Hum Bhi Hai Taiyar" for the wives/housewives of steel workers on March 26, 2022 at the Mini Assembly Hall of Human Resource Development Centre.

The purpose of this workshop was to inform the housewives about how to work with patience, courage and how to deal with and face the crisis, how to do rescue work, first aid in any disaster, adverse situation and crisis. Women often take care of the house alone, and if there is any disaster or adverse emergency situation then how to protect themselves and the family, save them and call for help by taking quick decisions and maintaining their morale. How to keep self and family aware and safe in case of emergency was told.

This dignified program was inaugurated by Shikha Dubey, Chief Education Officer / General Manager (Education). In her remarks, she said that "Hum Bhi Hai Taiyar" is a special program made by the Civil Defence Organization,



Chhattisgarh for the housewives of Bhilai Steel Plant because women take care of all the responsibility of the house and any disaster, accident and unexpected happening in the house. The first reaction in the incident is the housewife. Therefore, the responsibility of preparing the housewives for this has been taken by the Civil Defence Organization and training is being done through "Hum Bhi Hai Taiyar". Explaining the importance of civil security, the first safety is the necessary precautions at home or outside, she called upon all the participants to work with caution around them.

In this workshop, among the trained trainers from National Civil Defence College, Nagpur; Swatantra Kumar, Master Instructor and Staff Officer, Human Resource Development Centre gave their presentation on the history, purpose and role of civil defence, disaster

management, household appliances and electrical security and communication service. Delivered impressive lectures. Surendra Nandeshwar, Senior Technician, Merchant Mill delivered his lecture on Rescue Service and Demonstration. Chandra Shekhar Soni, Master Technician of Forge and Steel Structural Department presented his impressive lecture on the topic of First Aid.

This program was organized under the guidance of Mukul Sahariya, Deputy General Manager (HR) / Senior Staff Officer and vote of thanks was done. The course coordinator of this workshop was Swatantra Kumar, Master Instructor/Staff Officer Civil Defense Organization Chhattisgarh (Government of India - affiliated to the Ministry of Home Affairs), Human Resource Development Department.



## Trade unions felicitate workers, employees for making 2-day general strike successful

**Raipur, Mar 29:** The joint forum of trade unions has felicitated the workers and employees of the state for making the two-day nationwide general strike of March 28 and 29 an unprecedented success. In a release issued on Tuesday, the leaders of the joint forum have said that the strike had a wide impact in the state's government departments like Bank, Insurance, Coal, Steel, Postal, BSNL, Income Tax as well as many unorganized sectors. The striking employees across the state raised their voice against the anti-people policies of the Modi government through processions, demonstrations and meetings.



Dharamraj Mohapatra, convener of the Joint Forum of Trade Unions in Chhattisgarh, Sanjay Singh, President of INTUC, HS Mishra, working president of HMS, Harinath Singh, general secretary of AITUC, MK Nandi, general secretary of Center of Indian Trade Unions, Brijendra Tiwari, general secretary of ACTU, third category, govt employees association, president, Chandrashekhar Tiwari, Dinesh Patel of Central Employees Coordination Committee, Prashant Pandey, Rajendra Singh, Ashutosh Singh, AIBEA General Secretary Shirish Nalgundwar, Bepi's General Secretary DK Sarkar, RDIEU General Secretary, Surendra Sharma, BSNLEU General Secretary RS Bhatt and STUC General Secretary, SC Bhattacharya called for wide participation in the strike of the struggling employees of the state and congratulated them.

Today on March 29, the second day of the strike, the shutters of various offices and

industries were down. In the afternoon, a joint meeting of all trade unions was held at LIC's Pandri office. Addressing the gathering, Bank Employees Association leader, CK Mandal said that the joint movements of workers, farmers, students, youth in every country of the world have changed the history and due to this strike the history of India is also going to take a new turn.

Speaking on behalf of the Bank Employees Union, Anil Sakarkar said that the policies of privatization are ruining the future of the children of the country, so there should be a massive protest. General Secretary of Employees Union

of Punjab and Sind Bank, Ratnes Chaudhary said that the real attack of privatization of government industries is being done on the general public. Today, the ongoing increase in railway tickets, telephone tariffs, petrol and gas prices, electricity bills is the result of privatization of these institutions.

Shirish Nalgundwar, general secretary of All India Bank Employees Association said that circumstances are being created in our favour due to continuous struggle. The cancellation of the National Pension Scheme in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh and the restoration of the old pension scheme is an important victory of our movement. B Sanyal, Vice President, All India Insurance Employees Association said that the history of our country stands at a crossroads today. The majority of the people of the country is suffering from the economic liberalization policies and hence is on the path of agita-

tion. This movement of the working people will build a new, modern, secular and democratic India.

Dharamraj Mohapatra, General Secretary, Central Zone Insurance Employees Association, said that a massive, united and unprecedented mass mobilization has emerged from this strike, which will establish an alternative public pro-value politics in the country. The meeting was addressed by Alexander Tirkey, Rajesh Parate, Jyoti Patil, Gajendra Patel, BK Thakur, Maheshwari, Phoebe Bhagat, MK Nandi, SC Bhattacharya, VK Lad, Sandhya Bhagat, RK Gohil, Geeta Dalal and Rajesh Awasthi. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks presented by Surendra Sharma, General Secretary, RDIEU. At the end of the meeting, the insurers announced that the day on which LIC's IPO would be issued for subscription, again a one-day strike would be observed in LIC offices across the country.

## VACCINATION DRIVE



Girl students of a Girl's School are being vaccination against corona virus here on Tuesday.

## Pt. RSU admn cancels the exam time-table

**Raipur, Mar 29:** Pt Ravishanker Shukla University (Pt. RSU) Administration on Tuesday cancelled the Time Table declared earlier for the various Graduate, Post Graduate, Diploma and other courses following the fresh directives of state government to conduct the college examinations online once again.

It is notable that the PRSU Administration had started the preparations to conduct the examination off-line and had also declared



the time table for various examinations. However, the various Students 'Union were against the conducting off-line exam citing the delay in completion of syllabus as well as improper learning through online

classes. With the Department of Higher Education issuing orders to conduct the college exams on online mode for third year in a row, the Administration had no options but to restart the preparations for conducting online exam. After cancelling the time table issued for off-line exams, the PRSU administration would now reschedule the time table for various exams. University administration would announce the new Time Table for online exams soon.

## Expedite pending cases of local tribals arrested in Naxal crime: CM



CM Baghel chairs review meeting of Home Department

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 29:** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel today reviewed the works of Home (Police) Department at his residence office here today.

Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain, Additional Chief Secretary Home Subrat Sahoo, Director General of Police Mr. Ashok Juneja, Director General Municipal Army Arun Dev Gautam, Inspector General of Police Anand Chhabra were present in the review meeting.

In the meeting, withdrawal of the cases registered against the people of

Scheduled Tribes and the expedited disposal of the Naxalite cases were also reviewed. It is noteworthy that on recommendation of Justice A.K. Patnaik Committee, the cases registered against 752 tribal accused in 632 cases have been withdrawn.

Similarly, decision has been taken to ensure speedy redressal of the naxal cases dated before year 2019, under which local tribal people were arrested. Likewise, in 811 cases, a total of 1244 local tribals were benefited with the prompt redressal and case withdrawal in the courts. Chief Minister has directed to expedite the remaining pending cases of the local tribals arrested in Naxal crime and ensure redressal of the same.

## Minorities fed up with vote bank politics of Congress: Hukins



BJP Minorities Morcha in-charge holds meeting with office-bearers

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 29:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Minorities Morcha National Executive Member and in-charge of party affairs in Chhattisgarh Joseph John

Hukins on Tuesday said that the Minorities section of society have fed up with the vote bank politics of Congress which has prompted them to get associated with BJP.

Hukins made the above statement while attending the meetings at Raipur and Mahasamund during his two-day visit to Chhattisgarh here. He said that the Minorities Morcha office-bearers would be visiting every booth to

strengthen the Organization in coming days. He further added that Modi-led government at Centre is working for every section of society by taking them into confidence.

Chhattisgarh Morcha in-charge Dr Salim Raj, former Chairperson of Madrasa Board Mirja Ejaj Beig, BJP District Secretary Akbar Ali and several other office-bearers were also present during the meeting here.

## One dies, three other seriously injured

When a girl trying to learn driving dashes against a tree in RSU ground



**Raipur, Mar 29:** Due to carelessness on part of a girl while learning how to drive a car in Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla University ground area a youth died and three others were seriously injured and all three were admitted to AIIMS

As per information in this regard, a girl had come to RSU ground in order to learn driving a car. But while learning, she all of sudden lost control on the steering and hit a tree directly head-on. In this incident, a youth inside the car died on the spot and three others are reported to be critical. In

this case, the Saraswati Police station has filed a case and taken the matter under investigation.

It is notable here that generally people go to vast RSU ground in order to learn how to drive a car or a bike. Set aside this there are daily many persons playing cricket, volleyball and other games in the open ground. It was here that a major accident took place when the girl lost control on the steering and accelerator and due to which one person died and three others got badly injured.

## Residential survey of affected villages of Nava Raipur continues

Preliminary publication for claim objection of 8 out of 11 villages

Allegation of keeping most of the villagers in the ineligible list baseless

**Raipur, Mar 29:** Nava Raipur Atal City Development Authority is conducting residential survey of the affected villages of Nava Raipur. The survey work was started from 15 February 2022 as per the instructions of the Cabinet Committee. For this 7 teams

were formed. Survey has been completed in 11 villages of Layer 1 by the teams. According to the information received from Nava Raipur Atal Nagar Development Authority, the survey list of 8 out of 11 villages of the affected villages of Atal Nagar Nava Raipur area has been published for claim-objection so far. Pattas have been allotted to those 1648 cases of residential pattas in 8 villages, that have been established on residential land or government land. About 413 cases found ineligible on the basis of new wire cordon, open land, commercial land like shop or hotel or non availability of any resident

while 64 houses are those which are on private land. Atal City Development Authority has described as baseless the allegation being made by the Nava Raipur Affected Farmers Welfare Committee that most of the villagers have been kept in the ineligible list. At present, preliminary publication of survey list has been done in 8 villages. Time period of 15 days has been given in these cases for claim objection. Therefore, if there is any kind of objection in the list, then the authority can raise an objection in the office and after resolving such claim objection, further action will be taken.

## Minister Dahria attends Maa Karma Jayanti prog

**Raipur, Mar 29:** Urban Administration Minister Dr. Shivkumar Dahria attended the program of Mata Karma Jayanti in village Chorbhatti and Akolikala of Arang development block today. Mass marriage ceremony was organized by Sahu Samaj Korasi Circle in the program, where Minister Dr. Dahria congratulated the newlyweds for the new chapter of their life. Dr. Dahria announced to sanction Rs ten lakh for construction of a community building in village Chorbhatti. Dr. Dahria has also announced construction of CC-road at a cost of Rs.5 lakh and a community hall at a cost of Rs.6.5 lakh at Akolikala. Dr. Dahria ex-



tended greetings to people on the occasion of Mata Karma Jayanti. Dr. Dahria said that it is necessary to have a well-furnished building for conducting social programs. This is why community buildings are being built in different villages of Arang Block for

all the communities. It is worth mentioning that an initiative has been taken to build nearly 152 social buildings in Arang area. MLA Mr. Dhanendra Sahu was specially present in the program.

While addressing the program, Minister Dr.

Dahria said that with the blessings of Bhakti Shiromani Maa Karma Jayanti, we are working dedicatedly to with everyone's cooperation to bring prosperity in all the sectors of the state. Dr. Dahria said that every year the birth anniversary of Bhakti Shiromani Mata Karma is celebrated on Pampochini Ekadashi of Krishna Paksha of Chaitra month. Dr. Dahria said that Mata Karma had deep faith in Lord Krishna. She had received divine powers through yoga practice, which she would use for welfare of the poor. He told that Ma Karma was known for her unmatched devotion and her courage to raise her voice against

injustice. She gave the message of brotherhood and harmony to the human society.

Addressing the program, MLA Mr. Dhanendra Sahu greeted everyone on the birth anniversary of Bhakti Shiromani Mata Karma. On this occasion, Mr. Panchram Sahu, Mr. Devnath Sahu, Mr. Bhikhilal Sahu, Mrs. Umeshwari Sahu, Mrs. Yogeshwari Sahu, Mr. Komal Sahu, Janpad Panchayat Arang President Mr. Khilesh Devangan, along with a large number of Sahu Samaj officials and heads of the communities, people from different districts were present.

## PM Modi's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' on April 1

District Coordinator and Principal of Kendriya Vidyalaya-2 Raipur, Minj appeals to students, teachers and parents to participate in discussion on examination



Chhattisgarh. At the same time, preparations are being made for the celebration of Pariksha Utsav for CBSE board examinations.

To this end children in all central schools are being motivated and counseling is also being done for them. A letter has also been sent to all the schools from the Government of India re-

garding this. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has called for making 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' (PPC) a mass movement to ensure a stress-free examination.

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, will be interacting with students, teachers and parents during the 5th edition of PPC which is scheduled to be held on April 1, 2022. The PPC will be conducted in a town-hall interactive format at 11 am.

PPC is the much awaited annual event in which the Prime Minister in his unique engaging style at a lively program answers questions asked by students

related to exam stress and related fields, said Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

According to District Coordinator and Principal of Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 2 Raipur, Prabha Minj PPC is being organized since 2019.

Student of Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 2 Raipur, Master Ayush Singhania had participated in the discussion on the examination in 2019 whereas Shriya Singh had an opportunity of anchoring on the platform of Pariksha Pe Charcha 2020. Minj said that PPC will be shown to all the students and parents in virtual mode

in the school. Dharmendra Pradhan has emphasized the importance of this year's PPC in view of the country's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and examinations going on offline mode.

According to Pradhan PPC is becoming a formal institution through which the prime minister interacts directly with students.

It is a movement that is driven by the prime minister's efforts to bring together students, parents, teachers and society to foster an environment where the unique individuality of each child is celebrated, encouraged and allowed to express itself fully.

## Saubhagya Foundation felicitates Women achievers on Foundation Day

**Raipur, Mar 29:** Saubhagya Foundation celebrated its 10th Foundation Day with the Felicitation of Women, Self Help Groups and Voluntary Organizations with Chhattisgarh Gaurav Samman at a function held at Civil Lines-based Vrindavan Hall.

Providing the above information, the Foundation Chairperson Pallavi Pandey informed that nearly 101 Women members were felicitated for the contribution in social work. Prominent among those felicitated include 15 Neutral Gender working in Chhattisgarh Police, Mandir Hasaud Primary Health Centre in-charge Dr Vijay Laxmi Ajant who had successfully



handled safe delivery of 11 Women in a single day as well as the first Women Dhuma Musical Group.

Raipur MLA Brijmohan Agrawal was the chief guest whereas social worker Pallavi Manudev Gauda, Papy Sharma from Central Bank of India, JK Jena, and Regional General Manager from Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India were present as special

guests. Foundation Chairperson Pallavi Pandey informed that they have been continuously working in the field of imparting training to women for self employment, free computer training to girl children as well as school fee for the students from weaker section of society and sports coaching for the talented children.



## High School and Secondary Education will use innovative technology

**To make education more interesting and interactive**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 29:** To make the study of subjects like English, Maths, and Science in Chhattisgarh's schools more interesting and interactive, teachers were trained by Mumbai's Tata Institute of Social Science through a 9-month hybrid course. This training will prove to be beneficial in making learning a fun process through the use of innovative technology. This hybrid process of teaching will also help overcome the deficiency in the learning ability of children

caused since the Corona period. Trained teachers will make reading and writing interesting by using Information Communication Technology (ICT) during classroom learning. Along with this, children will also be given information about ICT technology. Discussions were held with subject experts at the closing ceremony of the Hybrid Course today. A total of 300 teachers involved in the hybrid training were informed about the use of ICT techniques and the use of learning apps in classroom teaching.

It is worth mentioning that under the Samagra Shiksha program in the state, a Professional

Learning Community has been formed to provide opportunities and platforms to the teachers of primary and secondary schools to learn from each other. This community has been successful to a large extent at the initial level and is bringing a lot of change to school education at the grassroots level.

This will help in making the study of English, Maths and Science subjects interesting to the children studying in High School and Higher Secondary. Trained teachers will use information communication technology and apps targeted at the better engagement of children in education with the help of interac-

tive and fun-filled learning sessions.

The methodology of subject teaching, continuous development of teachers, methods of implementing experience-based teaching methods in the classroom will be discussed by the PLC. Ideas for supporting learning materials, teaching using ICT, various online materials and courses, improvement in the assessment process, question banks, remedial teaching methods and other issues will be worked out. State subject wise PLCs will also try to learn from each other by networking with teachers from other states and other countries. These PLC teachers will also

prepare and share books and self-learning material for their peers. They will also prepare teachers and students for various competitions related to English, Maths and Science.

Dr. M. Sudhish, Assistant Director of State Project Office, Samagra Shiksha, Assistant Project Officer Ashish Gautam, Rajesh Sonkar, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai Professor Anusha Ramanathan, Program Manager Dr. Garima Singh, Chhattisgarh State Head Saurabh Mohanty, Tuba Khan, Shan Mohammad, Sanjeev Singh, Shweta Pal were also present in the closing ceremony.

### FELICITATION



CM Bhupesh Baghel was honoured by different organisations of employees in a programme held jointly under the aegis of Chhattisgarh Shiksha Samvarg and Panchayat Sachiv Sangh at Balbir Singh Juneja stadium on restoration of the Old Pension Scheme for the government officers and employees in the state. On this occasion Parliamentary Secretary Chandradev Rai and office bearers of different Sanghs were present.

## Chhindiya Gram Panchayat bags national award



**For better water management**

**Surajpur, Mar 29:** Chhindiya Gram Panchayat of Surajpur district has bagged national award for better water conservation and management. Chhindiya has received second prize in the 'Best Gram Panchayat' category under the 3rd National Water Awards given by Union Ministry of Jal Shakti. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has congratulated officials concerned and villagers of Chhindiya Gram Panchayat on receiving

the National Water Award. The award is presented annually by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti. Chhindiya has been awarded as the Best Gram Panchayat for its excellent work in the field of water conservation and management. The main objective of the award is to encourage the conservation and promotion of water resources along with making the general public aware about minimal and efficient water usage. This aim is to motivate all the concerned to take steps towards water management and adopt better technologies in water use.

## Preparations in final stage for Navratri

**At Shree Shree Mahakali Temple**

Konta/Sukma, Mar 29:

The preparations for Chaitra Navratri this year are in the final stage in the Shri Shri Mahakali Temple Shakti Kanan located at Busstand of Sukma district. In a free environment, Shri Shri Kali Mata can be seen and worshiped on Chaitra Navratri. Preparations are in the final stage at Shri Kali Mata Temple for Chaitra Navratri starting from April 2. In many cases, this year's Chaitra



Navratri is considered special because the threat of epidemic has reduced considerably. Therefore, not only can the Mother

Goddess be seen, but worship will also be allowed. Let us inform that for the Tail Jyoti Kalash, a fee of Rs 1101 will be payable like last

## RPIL camp receive good response of villagers

**Pithora, Mar 29:** RPIL Mega Camp was organised in Janpad auditorium in Pithora under Mahasamund sub-division here on Saturday. It was with combined efforts of all GDS colleagues that the insurance business of Rs 4.66 cr was obtained. With total proposals of 215, a total premium of Rs 3.48 lakh was received. Along with POSB account - 145 were SB; 92 were



RD; 251-SSI; PPF-40 and TD-40 were opened. In this camp, Sub-divisional

Inspector Surendra Kumar Sahu and SPM Pithora Praveen Banjara addressed the delegates

## Cash of Rs 50000, fridge of 'Dhabha' gutted in fire

**Shoes and slippers in godown of nearby shop also gutted in fire**

Central Chronicle News

**Nandini-Ahirwara, Mar 29:** Fire broke out in a 'dhabha' in Gram Patharia under Nandini Thana when a LPG cylinder got burst. The fire was so intense that the fridge, cash and other items inside the 'Dhabha' were gutted in fire. This fire also spread to nearby shoe-slipper godown and in this shoes and slipper worth lakhs were gutted in fire.

It was after lots of efforts that the fire-brigade team could gain control on the fire.

As per information in this regard, fire in the 'dhabha' in Gram Patharia broke out at around 8:00 in the night and immediately the fire-brigade was informed. By the time fire-brigade could reach the site, it has already assumed proportions and due to which the cylinder inside the 'Dhabha' was also caught in fire and busted with huge explosion. This created sensation in the village and it was after lots of fire-fighting vehicle that the firemen could gain control on

fire.

Dhabha owner Revati Nishad informed that with fire breaking out in the 'dhabha', cash of Rs 50000 in his shop and fridge was gutted in fire and in nearby shop, the shoes and slippers worth Rs 1.50 were burnt to ashes. Since there is shop of shoe & slipper nearby, its godown was also in the 'dhabha' itself.

What officer says: Primarily it was as per complaint from the owner of 'Dhabha', fire incident has been reported and it is after thorough inspection and inquiry that further legal action will be taken. TI Nandini Thana - SN Singh.

## Smart Cinema Award presentation today



**Raipur, Mar 29:** Smart Cinema Award 2022 of Chhattisgarhi films will be presented on March 30 at Raipur Trade Expo presently underway at BTI Ground Shankar Nagar here. In the programme Chhattisgarhi films screened in 2021 will be awarded in 36 different categories. Organiser P L N Lucky said, entire programme is dedicated to father figure of Chhattisgarhi cinema Late Vijay Kumar Pandey.

## Party workers accord warm welcome to Santram Netam

**Kondagaon, Mar 29:** The public representatives of Keshkal VS area along with all office bearers of different cells of Congress accorded warm welcome to MLA Keshkal and V-P BDA Santram Netam at the welcome gate 'Panchvati' of Keshkal, on being declared and felicitated as the Outstanding MLA by Speaker State Assembly Dr Charandas Mahant during the last budget session.

After this all the party workers along with MLA took out massive bike-rally and he was accorded welcome by YC, NSUI and office bearers of other cells of Congress at Bus Stand area and welcomed MLA



Santram Netam. Addressing the gathering MLA Santram Netam said that out of total 90 MLAs in State assembly he has been chosen as the outstanding MLA from the ruling party and for which he expressed gratitude towards Speaker State Assembly Dr Charandas Mahant, CM Bhupesh

Baghel, Leader of Opposition in VS Dharamlal Kaushik and Parliamentary affairs Minister Ravindra Choubey. The credit of this honour goes to people of this VS as well, who elected him to power as MLA giving their valuable vote in last VS polls. The people of Keshal VS are like

equivalent to God for him and therefore he expressed gratitude towards all the people of Keshkal VS area.

On this occasion CG Planning Commission member Dhannuram Markam, PCC Secretary Sagir Ahmed Qureshi, Janpad Panchayat President Shishkumari Chanap, BCC President Rajesh Netam, Heeralal Markam, Narendra Jain, Vijay Langade, Kapilkant Nag, Sripal Kataria, Vishal Sharma, Tarun Bhaumick, Pankaj Nag, Anil Usendi, Yasin Memon, Arun Agnihotri, Sajid Adwani, and other office bearers of Congress from different cells were present in large number.

## OBITUARY

Neera Bai Dewangan



**Raipur:** Neera Bai Dewangan, R/o Tikrapara, Nandi Hardev Lala Mandir, breathed her last here on Tuesday. She was 56. The final rites were performed at Marwari crematorium. She was W/o Late Shri Narayan Dewangan and mother of Mukesh, Vishnu, Gopal and Yugal Dewangan.

## GPII-Ecopel 1st qualifiers of SAMCT finals

**Raipur, Mar 29:** The 1st Semifinals of the Suresh Agrawal Memorial corporate cricket tournament (SAMCT) was played today. The game took place in between teams from Jaiswal Neco and GPII Ecopel. After winning the toss Ecopel Captain Abhishek Agrawal wisely opted bating first and the team losing 9 wickets could score 120 runs.

While playing the next innings the batsman's of Neco lost their game in the last over on the score of 94 runs and that's what made Ecopel the qualifiers for the final match of SAMCT. The Game changer of this match was the bowler from GPII Mr. Mrityunjay Prasad and he

was declared as the player of the Match trophy.

Tomorrow the last semifinals shall be played between Axis Bank and Infinity services, and simultaneously after that at 7 pm in the evening the Grand finale of the tournament is scheduled. The grand final shall be celebrated with a small function too. While inviting the sports loving fraternity of Raipur, President of Hira sports and culture association Vinod Pillai said that the 12th season of the SAMCT is going to become a great success and each and every cricket adoring person is most welcome to enjoy and cheer up the finale match.

## Haryana, Karnataka win boys and girls titles

**National Sub-Junior Fencing Competition**

**Ch'garh Minority Commission Chairman Chhabra rewards winners**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 29:** Haryana won the overall title in the boys section and Karnataka won girls' title in the 23rd Sub-Junior National Fencing Competition held at Jainam Manas Bhawan, located in the capital Raipur. Chairman of Chhattisgarh Minority Commission, Mahendra

Singh Chhabra attended closing ceremony of the competition, as the chief guest. He encouraged the players by distributing prizes and medals to the winners. The program was presided over by Gurcharan Singh Hora, General Secretary, Chhattisgarh Olympic Association. Member of Chhattisgarh Housing Board Vinod Tiwari was present as a special guest. In the girls category of the final event of the competition, the winner was Manipur while Maharashtra stood runner up and Tamil Nadu and Haryana secured third position. Similarly, in boys category, Haryana emerged as winner



whereas Manipur stood runner-up and Punjab and Maharashtra stood third. In the boys section of the event the winner was Tamil Nadu, while Delhi stood runner up and third place went to Punjab and Haryana. Similarly, in the girls category, Delhi emerged as winner, Haryana runner-up and third place went to Punjab

and Manipur. In the girls category of AP event of sub-junior fencing competition, Karnataka emerged winner Maharashtra runner up and third place went to Tamil Nadu and Haryana. Similarly, in the boys category, the Haryana emerged winner, Manipur runner-up and Maharashtra and Jammu

and Kashmir got the third position. Overall top five in the boys category of this championship, Haryana stood first, Manipur second, Tamil Nadu third, Punjab fourth and Delhi fifth. The prize distribution and closing ceremony was attended by Indian Fencing Federation Treasurer Bashir Ahmed Khan, Vice President Ajit Patel, Sanam Deep Kour Chadda, Odisha Fencing Association General Secretary Devendra Yadav, Chhattisgarh Throwball Association General Secretary Raman Sahni, Chhattisgarh Judo Association General Secretary Arun Dwiwedi and others.



## Bhoramdev Mahotsav to be decorated with Bollywood and Ch'garh songs

**Kawardha, Mar 29:**

The preparations are being finalized for Bhoramdev Festival to be organized from 30th March, in the region famous as the center of historical, archaeological, religious, tourism and public faith of Chhattisgarh. Bhoramdev Mahotsav will be organized for two days on 30th and 31st March.

In the stage of this two-day festival, the art and culture of Chhattisgarh

will be seen, as well as the budding singers of Bollywood will also give a splendid performance of their art. On the first day of Bhoramdev Mahotsav, on 30th March, Bollywood singer, Saregama fame Aishwarya Pandit, and famous singer of Chhattisgarh Mr. Dilip Shandgi will be the center of main attraction.

On the second day on March 31, in the closing ceremony, Indian Idol Celebrity Bollywood

Singer Fame Anushka Banerjee, Nachiket Lele, Nihal Taar and his entire team will decorate the stage of the festival. Apart from these artists, a glimpse of different genres of Chhattisgarh and Indian culture will also be seen and as per the new tradition is the festival will be inaugurated in the special presence of the priests of major temples of Kabirdham district.

The invitation and proposal of Bhoramdev

Mahotsav Committee have been accepted by the priests of major temples of the district, and proposals and invitations were sent by the committee to the priests of the temple to attend the two-day festival as special guests for the first and second days. District Collector Shri Ramesh Kumar Sharma and his team of administrative officers are on vigil for the preparations for the event.

The officials have been given the responsibility for the preparations for special worship in the temple to be held for two days of Bhormade and Mahotsav. In these two days, special makeup of Shiva, Bhasma Aarti and Rudrabhishek will be done in the temple. There will also be lamp donations in the ancient lake.

## Logs of wood being consumed in brick-kilns

**In Gram Shivpuri with illegal felling of trees from Forest**

**Dongargarh, Mar 29:**

There is lot of tree felling going on in thick forest of the region in rural areas under due protection of officials of the Forest department in the region and many a green trees are being consumed in brick-kilns. The logs of wood is be transported openly and it seems as if the departmental officers of forest and revenue are providing due security to the contractors and wood mafia active in the region and this is causing huge loss worth lakhs in terms of revenue to the state government.

About a dozen brick-kilns in Shivpuri area: In Gram Shivpuri on



Dongargarh- Khairagarh road, there are about a dozen brick-kilns operating illegally and here the bricks are being hardened and made 'pucca' using forest wood. On the other hand, there are dozen vehicles being used in illegal excavation work and this is also causing loss of revenue worth lakhs to the state government.

With no departmental action, such forest and tree-mafia are openly misusing forest reserve and causing loss worth lakhs in terms of revenue to the government exchequer. Apart from Gram Shivpuri, there are illegal brick-kilns being operated in Gram Karwari, Lojhari, Latmara, Kahargaon, Shivpuri, Sandi, where

apart from illegal excavation of sand, 'murrum' and others, there is illegal transportation of forest wood as well.

**What officer says:** "The department takes action against such illegal transportation of wood from the forest area from time-to-time and this will continue in coming days."

**CP Sharma-Dy. Ranger:**

## Exciting offer in shop of Agrawalji Collection

**Nandini-Ahirwara, Mar 29:**

There is good opportunity for customers to try their luck at Agrawalji Collection, near Ahirwara Bus Stand on purchase of any cloth worth Rs 500 from his shop. Agrawalji Collection is offering a cash award of Rs 1000 per day on purchase of any cloth worth Rs 500 and after which a coupon is issued and its results are announced in the evening through a draw. This draw will be taken out daily in the evening and everyday

one person will get cash prize of Rs 1000, totalling the entire amount to Rs 30000 in a month.

Under this on the first day, the lottery of 28 coupons was taken out by convener of 'Bhavya Chunar Yatra'- Dau Anand Tamrakar in the shop of Agrawalji Collection and on the first day bearer of Coupon No. 4 viz. Gharu Sahu won the cash prize of Rs 1000. This lottery will be taken out daily and name of the winning customer will be announced same day in the evening.

## Rules of the society should also be like the Constitution: Kanti

**Anwari, Mar 29:**

Two-day convention of members of Satnami Samaj was held in Gram Kodebod of Dhamtari district. District Panchayat President Dhamtari and District President Mahila cell of Satnami Samaj Kanti Sonwani said that the rules of Samaj should also be in line with the Constitution of India. It is good thing that there is no such system as that of dowry in Satnami Samaj and not even in Samaj of Indian society. But it is unfortunate that the society has been kept under dowry law and due to which many families have faced lots of problems.

Speaking further Kanti Sonwani said that there is no difference between boy and girl in Satnami Samaj and even a widow has the right to marry for the second time and take part in all auspicious occasions. Even inter-caste marriages are allowed in



Satnami Samaj and it is constitutional.

A two-day Satnami Samaj sammelan in Gram Kodebod was held at Satnam Bhavan by offering prayers to Baba Guru Ghasidas and with recital of preface of the Indian constitution. As guests of the programme, SDM (Revenue) Kurud DC Banjare, Rajkumar Ratre, Devaki Asha Ratre, Nand Kumar Tandon, Harishankar Sonwani were present. They said

that without education everything else is incomplete and there cannot be any development either. There is need to think in the direction of Higher Education for children from Satnami Samaj and the poor and talented students should be extended full support.

Sammelan was also addressed by V-P Meena Kurre, Manoj Tandon, Dineshwar Banjare, Vijay Sonwani, Dhanand Sonwani, Punaram

Ratre, Dr. Rohit Kurre. In this sammelan, the members of Samaj from Kurud, Magarlod, Dhamtari urban and rural areas; Bhakhara and Nagri Block Presidents viz. Bhavsingh Dahare, Toran Aneshwari, Rajendra Bharti, Itwari Gavaskar, Tejeshwar Kurre and Vishnu Tandon presented the annual report of the Samaj. President Satnami Samaj Dhamtari RP Sambhakar and Head of Board of Directors Shankar Ratre chaired the programme as key-note speaker and informed all the office bearers about their works, responsibilities and rights.

SDM DC Banjare handed over books to two students on their selection in NEET exam viz. Enjl Kurre and Humeswari Dehar. The sammelan was conducted by Dy. Head of BoD Chand Kumar Banjare and Asst. Raja Banjare.

## Girl students protest, stage chakka-jam

**Kondagaon, Mar 29:**

In protest against establishing the Government Girl's HS School in Kondagaon District as Swamy Atmanand Government Hindi Medium School, the girls raised slogans and staged chakka-jam on NH-30 here on Saturday. Due to this the movement of traffic came to standstill and the denizens had to face lots of inconvenience. When the Police got the information about chakka-jam, they came to the site and explained it to the girl students and then the normalcy in traffic was restored. The girl students' staging protest said that in Swamy Atmanand

Hindi Medium School, only 40 students from the district will be taken and questioned what about other students and where they would go for studies. This School was opened for girls way back in 1962 and here girls from far-flung areas come to take education and study by staying in hostel or private houses on rental basis and now where they will go? With demand to open Swamy Atmanand Hindi Medium School somewhere else, the girl students warned that if the local administration does not take into account their just demand, then they would all be forced to launch massive movement against it.

## Tamrakar attends BJYM working committee meeting

**Nandini-Ahirwara, Mar 29:**

The meeting of second working committee of BJYM under leadership of State President BJYM was held at party's Kushabhau Thakre premises in Raipur and in this state working committee member BJYM Dau Anand Tamrakar from BJP Ahirwara Mandal of Durg



District also took part. Tamrakar informed that in this they received guidance from the senior party leaders and office bearers of BJP and information was also given about the programmes and new strategies to be prepared and detailed information was given about social media, cyber expansion as well.

**CIRCLE SASTRA NEW DELHI**  
2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR, VIKRANT TOWER, RAJENDRA PLACE,  
NEW DELHI - 110 008 Email: cs4168@pnb.co.in

**E-AUCTION ON 10/05/2022**

**Sale of Immovable Property/ies Mortgaged to Bank Under SARFAESI Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002)**

**APPENDIX-IV-A[See proviso to rule 8(6)]**

E-Auction sale notice for sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower (s) and guarantor (s) that the described moveable/immovable mortgaged /charged to the secured creditor the constructive physical/symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized officer of the Bank/ secured creditor will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is & Whatever there is" on the date as is mentioned in the table, for recovery of the dues due to the bank/secured creditor from the respective borrower(s) and guarantor (s). Securities can be visited on 06.05.2022 between 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm with prior notice of min 24 hrs to the Authorised Officer in case of Physical Possession. For Symbolic possession the bidder to arrange visit at their own.

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS					
Sl. No.	Name of the Branch Name of the Account Name & address of the Borrower/Guarantor Account Name of the Account Branch Name	Description of immovable properties mortgaged/owner's Name (Mortgagors of Property(ies))	Date Of 13(2) Demand Notice Outstanding Amount as on Nature of Possession /Date	Reserve Price (Rs. in Lakhs) EMD (Last Date of Deposit Of EMD 06.05.2022) Bid Increase Amount Rs 5000/- for every property	Date/ Time of E-Auction
1.	CIRCLE Sastra New Delhi RST Mining & Logistics Pvt. Ltd.	1. Plot at Khasra No.116/3, Village Punjipathra, PC No. 06/34, RIC- Ghargoda, Tehsil Tamnar, District- Raigarh of area 1.805 hectare 2. Plot at Khasra No. 115/2, Village Punjipathra, P. H. No. 06/34, RIC- Ghargoda, Tehsil Tamnar, District- Raigarh of area 2.036 hectare 3. Plot at Khasra No. 116/2, Village Punjipathra, PC. No. 34, RIC-Ghargoda, Tehsil Tamnar, District- Raigarh of area 3.939 hectare "all Three IPs in the name of Sh. Harbinder Singh Rai and Smt. Shabnam Rai"	25.09.2018 Amt.- Rs.3,29,10,187.36+ further interest & charges till the date of full and final payment 07.12.2018 Symbolic	1. Rs. 128.45 lacs Rs. 12.85 lacs 2. Rs. 182.58 lacs Rs. 18.26 lacs 3. Rs. 288.41 lacs Rs. 28.84 lacs	10.05.2022 Time :- 11.00 AM to 2.00 PM

**TERMS & CONDITIONS** The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions.

1. The auction sale will be "online through e-auction" portal <http://www.mstcecommerce.com/> 2. The intending Bidders/ Purchasers are requested to register on portal (<https://www.mstcauction.com/>) using their mobile number and email-id. Further, they are requested to upload requisite KYC documents. Once the KYC documents are verified by e-auction service provider (may take 2 working days), the intending Bidders/ Purchasers has to transfer the EMD amount using online mode in his Global EMD Wallet by 06.05.2022 before the e-Auction Date and time in the portal. The registration, verification of KYC documents and transfer of EMD in wallet must be completed well in advance, before auction. 3. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) amount as mentioned above shall be paid online through 3 mode i.e. NEFT/ Cash/ Transfer (After generation of Challan from (<https://www.mstcecommerce.com/>) in bidders Global EMD Wallet. NEFT transfer can be done from any Scheduled Commercial Bank, however for Cash/ Transfer the bidder has to visit Punjab National Bank Branch. Payment of EMD by any other mode such as Cheques will not be accepted. Bidders, not depositing the required EMD online, will not be allowed to participate in the e-auction. The Earnest Money Deposited shall not bear any interest. 4. Platform (<https://www.mstcecommerce.com/>) for e-auction will be provided by e Auction service provider M/S MSTC Limited having its Registered office at 225-C, A.J.C. Bose Road, Kolkata-700020 (contact Phone & Toll free Numbers 079- 41072412/ 411/ 413 or 1800-103-5342). The intending Bidders/ Purchasers are required to participate in the e-Auction process at e-Auction Service Provider's website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com>. This Service Provider will also provide online demonstration/ training on e-Auction on the portal. 5. The Sale Notice containing the General Terms and Conditions of Sale is available / published in the following websites/ webpage portal. a) <https://www.ibapi.in> b) <https://eprocure.gov.in> c) <http://www.mstcecommerce.com> d) [www.pnbindia.in](http://www.pnbindia.in) 6. The intending participants of e-auction may download free of cost, copies of the Sale Notice, Terms & Conditions of e-auction, Help Manual on operational part of e-Auction related to this e-Auction from e-BIDDING-IBAPI portal (<https://www.ibapi.in>). 7. The intending Bidders / Purchasers are requested to register on portal (<https://www.mstcauction.com/>) using their mobile number and email-id. Further, they will upload the requisite KYC documents. Once the KYC documents are verified by e-auction service provider (may take 2 working days), the intending Bidders/ Purchasers has to transfer the EMD amount using online mode in his Global EMD Wallet. Only after having sufficient EMD in his Wallet, the interest bidder will be able to bid on the date of e-auction. 8. Bidder's Global Wallet should have sufficient balance (>EMD amount) at the time of bidding. 9. During the e-auction bidders will be allowed to offer higher bid in inter-se bidding over and above the last bid quoted and the minimum increase in the bid amount must be of Rs.50,000 to the last higher bid of the bidders. Ten minutes time will be allowed to bidders to quote successive higher bid and if no higher bid is offered by any bidder after the expiry of ten minutes to the last highest bid, the e-auction shall be closed. 10. It is the responsibility of intending Bidder(s) to properly read the Sale Notice, Terms & conditions of e-auction, Help Manual on operational part of e-Auction and follow them strictly. 11. In case of any difficulty or need of assistance before or during e-Auction process may contact authorized representative of our e-Auction Service Provider (<https://www.mstcecommerce.com/>). Details of which are available on the e-Auction portal. 11. After finalization of e-Auction by the Authorized Officer, only successful bidder will be informed by our above referred service provider through SMS/ email. (On mobile no/ email address given by them/ registered with the service provider). 12. The secured asset will not be sold below the reserve price. 13. Payment of sale consideration by the successful bidder to the bank will be subject to TDS under Section 194- 1A of Income Tax Act 1961 and TDS is to be made by the successful bidder only at the time of deposit of remaining 75 % of the bid amount/full deposit of BID amount. 14. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, if not found acceptable or to postpone/ cancel/adjourn/discontinue or vary the terms of the auction at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final. 15. The sale certificate shall be issued in the favour of successful bidder on deposit of full bid amount as per the provisions of the act. 16. The properties are being sold on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS' and 'AS IS WHAT IS BASIS' and 'WHATSOEVER THERE IS BASIS' 17. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. 18. It shall be the responsibility of the bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the asset and specification before submitting the bid. The bidder inspect the property in consultation with the dealing official as per the details provide. 19. All statutory dues/attendant charges/other dues including registration charges, stamp duty, taxes etc. shall have to be borne by the purchaser. 20. The Authorised Officer or the Bank shall not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrances, or any other dues to the Government or anyone else in respect of properties (E-Auctioned) not known to the bank. The Intending Bidder is advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances on the property including statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, electricity dues etc. 21. The bidder should ensure proper internet connectivity, power back-up etc. The Bank shall not be liable for any disruption due to internet failure, power failure or technical reasons or reasons/contingencies affecting the e-auctions. 22. It is open to the Bank to appoint a representative and make self bid and participate in the auction.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer <https://www.ibapi.in>, <https://eprocure.gov.in>, <http://www.mstcecommerce.com/>, [www.pnbindia.in](http://www.pnbindia.in)

**Name & Contact No. Of Authorized Officer:-Pawan Kumar 9873344532**

Date: 29/03/2022, Place: Raigarh Authorized Officer, Punjab National Bank,

**केनरा बैंक Canara Bank**  
A Government of India Undertaking  
Vehicle Auction - 30.04.2022

Notice is hereby given to effect that the vehicle described below will be sold by the undersigned on behalf of Canara Bank.

Sl. No.	Borrower Name	REGD. NO.	DESCRIPTION OF VEHICLE	RESERVE PRICE	EMD
01	SANTOSH KUMAR CHANDRA	CG-12BA-7919	MARUTI ECCO 5 SEATER	290000.00	29000.00
02	SHIVNANDAN SHAW	CG-12X-0347	ASHOK LEYLAND DOST EXPRESS	200000.00	20000.00
03	MIRJA TASLIM BEG	CG-12AV-0684	PACE STAR CARGO	30000.00	3000.00
Korba 1 (2490) 65, Indra Vihar, Dist- Korba Cg -495677, Chief Manager Mob: 9425502490					
04	UTTAR KUMAR	CG-22AB-2353	BAJAJ AUTO	4000.00	400.00
05	DESH RAM SAHU	CG-22AB-6539	PIAGGIO PORTER 600	50000.00	5000.00
06	AJIT CHELAK	CG-22AB-9237	BAJAJ AUTO	4000.00	400.00
Baloda Bazar (5147) Padam Plaza, Near Shukla Petrol Pump, Baloda Bazar, Raipur Road, -493332, Branch Incharge Mob: 9516009437					
07	BAJRANG DAS BAIRAGI	CG-10V-7932	PIAGGIO APE	3000.00	300.00
Bilaspur Mangla Chowk (5152), Opposite 36 Mall Mungeli Road, Near Mangla Chowk Bilaspur Cg 495001, Branch Incharge Mob: 9516009438					
08	JAWAHAR LAL AAHIRE	CG-28-6693	PIAGGIO AUTO	12000.00	1200.00
09	JAGDISH KUMAR BHASKAR	CG-28B-8763	TATA ACE MAGIC	30000.00	3000.00
Mungeli Branch (5205), Ghosley Residence, Enduze Ward, Bilaspur Road, Near IDBI Bank, Dist- Mungeli- 495334, Branch Incharge Mob: 9425501205					
10	MADHU GOND	CG-10W-0225	MAHINDRA ALFA PLUS	30000.00	3000.00
11	PRAKASH DAHIRE	CG-10U-9884	PIAGGIO AUTO	3000.00	300.00
12	UMESH SINGH THAKUR	CG-10V-8716	ATUL GEM	35000.00	3500.00
13	SHIV KUMAR KAUSHALE	CG-10W-5215	PIAGGIO APE	35000.00	3500.00
Raj Kishore Nagar (5648), Canara Bank Near Ganesh Sweet, Raj Kishore Nagar Seepat Road, Bilaspur Cg 495006, Branch Incharge Mob: 9516009455					
14	BIHARI PATEL	CG-10V-5750	MAHINDRA ALFA PASSENGER	20000.00	2000.00
15	SHIV KUMAR	CG-10W-1226	MAHINDRA ALFA PASSENGER	20000.00	2000.00
16	KALICHARAN DHURI	CG-10X-2544	MAHINDRA ALFA PLUS	35000.00	3500.00
17	PALESHWAR CHANDEL	CG-10AE-5341	TATA ACE HD	135000.00	13500.00
Vyapar Vihar Bilaspur (5979), Opp Gumber Petrol Pump, Vyapar Vihar Road, Maharana Pratap Chowk, Bilaspur Cg 495001, Branch Incharge Mob: 9516009439					

**Terms & Conditions:** 1. Vehicles will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS" & No Complaint basis. 2. Vehicle Will be Sold in open auction at Canara Bank, Above Branch. From 12.00 AM onwards on 30.04.2022 (Saturday). Intending purchasers are required to take token between 11.00 AM to 12.00 PM to participate in auction process. 3. Intending Purchaser needs to deposit EMD amount of fixed reserve price in Cash/NEFT/DD to participate in auction before auction. 4. Authorized officer is empowered to take decision on modification of time norms at any moment. 5. Successful purchaser has to deposit rest amount of bid amount within three days of auction and to take delivery of the Vehicles. 6. Defaulting purchaser's deposit amount will be forfeited on failure of deposit of balance amount within stipulated/ provided time period. 7. Bank reserves the right of acceptance & rejection of any purchase offer without assigning any reasons what so ever and bank may differ auction date for any reasons without giving any notice and the sale may be stopped at any stage by the bank.

Date : 29.03.2022, Place: Bilaspur (C.G.) Authorised Officer, Canara Bank



## BRIEF

### Trials

**Pune:** In order to save lives on roads in Pune, Tactical Urbanism Trials (TUL) were launched at the Undri Chowk and Khadi Machine Chowk on the city's outskirts. These trials are being conducted by the Save LIFE Foundation in association with the Pune Municipal Corporation and Pune traffic police branch. Black spots Undri Chowk and Khadi Machine Chowk had collectively witnessed over 90 road crashes between 2017 and 2019.

### Registers

**New Delhi:** The Delhi Police has registered over 50 cases of fake and malicious PCR calls this year so far. According to Special Commissioner of Police (licensing and legal division) Sanjay Singh, a total of 51 such cases have been registered this year. "So far this year 51 cases have been registered for making #Fake and #MaliciousCalls," he tweeted.

### Seizes

**Bhubaneswar:** Sleuths of the Odisha vigilance department have seized unaccounted cash of over Rs 1.36 crore and 1.2 kg of gold from a government engineer's residence and office. The searches have been conducted for four days in his government quarters and office in Malkangiri. "We have seized over Rs 1.36 crore in cash and 1.2 kg of gold in the four-day search," the official said.

### Help

**Amaravati:** The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), founded by Nobel Laureate Esther Duflo, an economist, will extend its collaboration with the Andhra Pradesh government to help achieve the target set under the UN sustainable developmental goals. Duflo and her team interacted with Chief Minister of the State YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and explored ways on working with the government, looking forward to collaboration.

### Apply

**Mumbai:** Three Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) in Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) have received ten applications from six companies, including Ola and Uber, for the aggregator license as per the provisions of the new cab aggregator policy. However, most of the applicants lacked requisite facilities including a driver training facility, simulator, and specific vehicle tracking and monitoring system with a panic button for public service.

### Bribery

**Rewa:** The Madhya Pradesh Lokayukta police nabbed a revenue official for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 15,000 for a land title change in Singrauli district, an official said. Anubhav Tripathi, a patwari in the revenue department, was held while accepting Rs 15,000 at Sarai village, Rewa Lokayukta Superintendent of Police (SP) Gopal Singh Dhakad said.

# Priyanka writes to DefMin, flags delays in armed forces recruitment

New Delhi, Mar 29 (PTI):

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday wrote to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh over "delays" in the armed forces recruitment and urged him to take necessary steps to ensure that the hard work of aspirants is respected.

In her letter, the Congress general secretary said it is the dream of the youth to serve the country by joining the armed forces for which lakhs of them prepare with hard work.

"Youth from all over the country have tried to draw your and the government's attention towards some important points related to the recruitment results, delay in recruitment and recruitment rallies for the armed forces," she said.



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

Flagging the problems being faced by the youth in armed forces recruitment, Gandhi said the examination for the recruitment of soldiers in the Air Force was held in November 2020 with its result out in the same month but despite the completion of all the tests and the provisional selection list being out, the enrollment list has not

been released yet.

The youth associated with this recruitment say that the date of issuance of the enrollment list is being extended again and again, she said, urging the defence minister to ensure that the final list is put out immediately.

Besides this, another examination of the recruitment of soldiers in the Air Force was held in July 2021 in which lakhs of youth took part, its results were to be out in August 2021, but it has not been released till now, she said.

The results of July 2021 recruitment should be out and further process of recruitment must be started soon, she said in her letter to Singh.

Gandhi pointed out that lakhs of youth are preparing for armed forces recruitment through regular

exercise and other means, but the recruitment has not happened for many years.

"The youth preparing for armed forces recruitment are worried. To fill lakhs of vacant posts in the armed forces, recruitment should be done without delay and recruitment rallies should be organised at all recruitment centres," the Congress leader said. Due to armed forces recruitment not happening for a long time and the delay in appointments, many eligible youth are losing years and therefore, candidates should be given an age relaxation of two years in the age limit for armed forces recruitment.

In a reply in Lok Sabha in December 2021, the government had talked about 1.25 lakh vacancies in the armed forces, she said.

## J&K BJP chief demands apology from Delhi CM

For rubbing salt into wounds' of terror victims

Jammu, Mar 29 (PTI):

Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Tuesday demanded an apology from Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for "rubbing salt into the wounds" of terror victims including Kashmiri Pandits.

The demand comes amid a war of words between the AAP national convenor and BJP over "The Kashmir Files" film which is based on the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the valley in the 1990s.

In a sharp attack on BJP for promoting the



Ravinder Raina

film, Kejriwal, while speaking in the Delhi assembly last Thursday, had accused the saffron party of doing politics over the issue. He had also demanded that the film be uploaded on YouTube so that the country can understand the plight of Kashmiri Pandits and the money earned from it be spent on the welfare of the displaced community.

"It is unfortunate that an elected chief minister and his legislators mocked the victims of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism (in Jammu and Kashmir). Kejriwal and other AAP MLAs rubbed salt into the wounds of Kashmiri Pandits by laughing at their plight and committed a grave sin, Raina told reporters at the party headquarters here. Referring to Kejriwal and other AAP MLAs laughing during his speech in the Assembly, he said, "The nation and the community will never forgive him. He should immediately seek an apology with folded hands from the nation and the community for his remarks and the body language."

# Man held in Kerala ponzi-linked crypto currency fraud case

New Delhi, Mar 29 (PTI):

The ED on Tuesday said it has arrested an accused in connection with its money laundering probe against a Kerala-based businessman, who is alleged to have cheated more than 900 investors to the tune of Rs 1,200 crore in lieu of providing crypto-currency to them.

Abdul Gafoor, one of the main stockists of the 'Morris Coin' crypto currency, was taken into custody on March 24, it said. He was produced before a court the next day and sent to Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody till March 31. The federal investigation agency alleged Gafoor was not co-



Morris coin was a ponzi scheme.

operating with the investigation and was "very evasive" in his replies.

"Considering the fact that Abdul Gafoor is one of the directors of Stoxglobal Brokers Pvt. Ltd. and has played an active role in facilitating the placement and layering of proceeds of crime, he has been placed under arrest on March 24," the agency

said. The ED case of money laundering stems from a Kerala Police (Malappuram crime branch unit) FIR filed against prime accused in the case, businessman Nishad K.

The agency alleged Nishad K "cheated several investors by accepting investments, under a ponzi scheme, through his three Bengaluru based firms—Long Reach Global, Long Reach Technologies and Morris Trading by offering high returns of dividend such as 3-5 per cent per day."

According to the police complaint, "more than 900 investors were cheated to the tune of Rs 1,200 crore."

# Fixed trade margins of over 40 costly cancer drugs, price reduced

New Delhi, Mar 29 (PTI):

The government has fixed trade margins of over 40 costly cancer drugs following which prices have come down significantly, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya informed the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

Replying to supplementaries during the Question Hour, the minister also said India now has the capability to manufacture cancer treatment drugs, which are otherwise imported.

"We had to import cancer medicines but now India is capable of manufacturing it. We have intro-



Mansukh Mandaviya

duced PLI scheme under which the manufacturing of APIs (active pharmaceutical ingredients) required for making cancer medicines have also started in India," Mandaviya said.

"Apart from that, as per

requirement such medicines are imported but we have fixed the trade margins of 44 cancer medicines which are very costly," he said.

The minister informed the House that the MRPs of these cancer medicines have been capped in such a manner that it cannot be more than 60 per cent of the first price that a manufacturer sells to a distributor in India.

"After fixing the trade margins, the price of cancer treatment medicines have come down significantly, which is benefiting cancer patients," Mandaviya asserted.

He was responding to a

question by DMK MP M Shannmugam on what steps have been taken by the government to reduce the prices of imported cancer drugs and medical devices like stents which poor people are unable to afford.

When asked by Trinamool Congress MP Derek O' Brien what steps the government have taken on reports of about 175 healthcare organisations refusing to honour and clear bills of ex-servicemen under the Central Government Health Scheme, Mandaviya said the government will look into the matter.

## Amid protest, 'Par Tapi Narmada' river link project scrapped

Western Ghats water was to be supplied to Saurashtra

Ahmedabad, Mar 29 (PTI):

The Centre has decided not to give a go-ahead to the Par-Tapi-Narmada river link project, following strong protests against it by tribals, Gujarat BJP president CR Paatil said on Tuesday.

However, the opposition Congress in Gujarat dubbed the decision, which comes ahead of the state Assembly polls due in December this year, as a "lollipop" for tribals, and said the protest will continue until the government issues a white paper on scrapping of the project.

Tribals from south Gujarat districts have



Map of river linking project being cancelled in Gujarat.

been protesting against the project ever since Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed in her Union Budget speech last month that the Draft Project Report (DPR) of this and four other river link projects have been finalised. A massive rally

led by Congress MLA Anant Patel and Shiv Sena functionary Abhinav Delkar was held in Valsad district last month. Thereafter, tribals organised more rallies, and a few days back they also gathered in the state capital Gandhinagar to protest against the project.

They have demanded scrapping of the project, saying it will adversely affect them by displacing them from their ancestral land.

On the status of the projects, Sitharaman had in her budget speech on February 1, 2022 said the DPRs of the five river link projects have been finalised and a consensus among beneficiary states is awaited. The Centre will provide support only after a consensus is made among the states associated with the projects, she had said.

## Parallel system required to support food industry for night economy

Safety and security is major concern

New Delhi, Mar 29 (PTI):

Asserting that opening eateries and food hubs is "not enough" to stimulate the night-time economy of Delhi, restaurant owners have said a parallel system must be devised like allowing offices and cinema halls to remain open till late to ensure customer availability.

Moreover, they have suggested that the city government must lay out a plan to ensure safety and security at night.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia announced a raft of meas-



A roadside eatery in Delhi.

ures in the budget for the financial year 2022-23 on Saturday like providing land for cloud kitchens, redeveloping major food hubs and introducing a food-truck policy in the national capital.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government also has plans to boost the hospitality sector, including

allowing bars in hotels, clubs and restaurants to remain open till late at night under the new excise policy.

Karan Srivastava, a worker at a popular food outlet at Connaught Place, said eateries will only remain open till late if there is a scope for business.

## Improving health, educational facilities top priorities: U'Khand Guv

Dehradun, Mar 29 (PTI):

Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen Gurmit Singh on Tuesday said improving health and educational facilities is the topmost priority for the state government, which is working constantly to promote the Ayush system of medicine besides making treatment easily available to people.

Addressing the first session of the newly elected state Assembly on Tuesday, he said the state government proposes to set up two Adarsh Sanskrit boarding schools, one each in Kumaon and Garhwal regions.

A innovative and experimental approach to education had led to the creation of 189 Atal Utkrisht Vidyalayas, which have been conceived as model government schools, mak-

ing quality education accessible to all sections, he said.

Setting up of online real-time forum in accordance with the National Education Policy, 2020 is also proposed apart from making digital reading material available to students and a students learning dashboard, he said.

New syllabi is proposed to be introduced by the technological education department to develop the state into a knowledge hub, he said.

Describing the improvement of health facilities as the state government's top priority, Singh spoke of steps being taken to strengthen hospitals and increase the availability of doctors.

As many as 403 doctors have been selected under the Provincial Medical

Health Service cadre, X-ray technicians have been deployed in remote areas and the process of filling vacancies for 40 dental hygienists is under way, he said.

In-principle approval has been given to the upgrade of community health centres into hospitals with 100 beds in Someshwar of Almora district and Raipur in Dehradun district.

Maternal and child health services are also improving in the state as a result of the state government's efforts, he said.

Under the Mukhya Mantri Anchal Amrit Yojana, 2.56 lakh children aged 3-6 years coming to anganwadis are being provided milk for four days in a week, Singh said. He also made a special mention of the Mukhya Mantri

Vatsalya Yojana under which children who lost their parents or guardians to the Covid-19 pandemic are to be paid a monthly allowance of Rs 3,000 up to the age of 21. Talking about new dam projects, the Governor said a 136.60 metre concrete gravity dam is proposed to be constructed over the Gaula river, 10 km upstream of Haldwani as part of the Jamrani dam multipurpose Project. A drinking water dam project over the Song river is also proposed to be constructed, which will ensure uninterrupted water supply to residents of Dehradun and its suburban areas. Villages with over 50 per cent of Scheduled Castes population have been selected for re-development under the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana, he said.



## BRIEF

### Celebrated

**Washington:** Members of the Bihar diaspora community observed the Bihar Diwas in the Silicon Valley with participants vowing to help in the development of the state back home. Bihar Diwas or Bihar Day is celebrated across the state every year on March 22 to mark the formation of the state. Bihar was carved out of Bengal on March 22, 1912. Bihar's Deputy CM Sushil K Modi had sent a video message on the occasion.

### Rent

**Mexico City:** Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said he has now essentially given up on his quixotic bid to sell off the presidential jet, and will rent it out for weddings or parties. Lopez Obrador admitted the government has not been able to sell the Boeing 787 jet, which he calls too luxurious and refuses to use. Instead, the president said he will simply give the jet to a military-led company that will operate the Mexican airport.

### Deploys

**Washington:** The US Pentagon says it is deploying six Navy aircraft that specialise in electronic warfare and about 240 Navy personnel to bolster NATO defenses in Eastern Europe. Pentagon spokesman John Kirby says the EA-18G Growler aircraft based at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island in Washington state were scheduled at Spangdahlem air base in Germany, where they will be stationed. They are not intended in Ukraine.

### Picks

**Toronto:** The Canadian government has selected Lockheed Martin Corp and the F-35 as the preferred bidder in its competition to buy a new fighter jet, government officials said. Canada is planning to buy 88 new fighter jets to replace its CF-18s. The government has budgeted about 19 billion Canadian (15 billion) for the purchase. Procurement Minister Filomena Tassi said Lockheed Martin was deemed to be the top ranked bidder.

# After Russian forces pull back, shattered town breathes

Trostanets, Mar 29 (AP):

The bodies of two Russian soldiers lie abandoned in the woods. Ukrainian forces piled atop a tank flash victory signs. Dazed people line up amid charred buildings to reach for aid. These are the sights in a Ukrainian town that has seized back control from Russian forces, at least for now.

Arriving in Trostanets shortly after Ukrainian forces announced the northeastern town near the Russian border had been retaken following weeks of Russian occupation, The Associated Press saw a civilian landscape that has seen some of the worst of war.

The hospital was damaged, its windows jagged with broken glass. The train station had been shot up.



Ukrainian soldier standing before a destroyed Russian self-propelled artillery gun in Trostanets.

Residents stepped carefully, wary of mines. They rode their bicycles past craters in the road and past the ruins of homes. It is not yet clear how many civilians have been killed.

Russian tanks lay burned, twisted, left behind like the soldiers in the woods. One of the soldiers had a red band

around his leg. The other had an arm flung over his head as if napping on the leaves in the late afternoon light. A Ukrainian soldier nudged him with his toe.

A red Z marked a Russian truck, its windshield fractured, near stacked boxes of ammunition. Hundreds of the boxes, including ones with

artillery shells, had been stacked around the town. Curious residents peered into an open box of shells. It is not clear where the Russian forces went, under what circumstances they fled or whether the town will remain free of them in the days ahead.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in his overnight address emphasised that the situation remains tense in Ukraine's northeast around Kharkiv, the nearest large city, and other areas. But the returned presence of Ukrainian forces in Trostanets is a relief to a country that hopes some Russian forces, under fierce resistance, are pulling back.

A senior US defense official said Washington believes the Ukrainians have retaken Trostanets.

# Brazil's Bolsonaro shakes up administration, eyeing election

Sao Paulo, Mar 29 (AP):

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro made two major personnel changes, seeking to cap off a series of developments perceived as damaging to his administration before October's presidential election.

The first move brought the exit of Brazil's embattled education minister, who resigned amid a scandal involving allegations of evangelical pastors demanding bribes. Politicians of different parties, including some supporting Bolsonaro, had wanted Milton Ribeiro to leave the job.

The second shift came at the country's state-run oil giant Petrobras, with Bolsonaro changing its



Jair Bolsonaro

president after the company boosted fuel prices to pass some of the global oil increases to consumers. Bolsonaro's pick for a new Petrobras president must be approved by the company's board.

Brazil's official gazette said Bolsonaro accepted Ribeiro's resignation, making him the fourth education minister to exit since the start of the ad-

ministration in 2019.

Bolsonaro had been facing public pressure to remove Ribeiro given the allegations could further dent the far-right leader's reelection chances in October. Conservative evangelicals have been a key constituency of Bolsonaro, who is trailing former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in opinion polls.

Brazilian media published several stories and leaked audio recordings since last week, alleging that two pastors served as unofficial advisers to the education ministry. They were reportedly favoring municipalities run by their allies, and demanding bribes including a kilogram of gold.

Newspaper Folha de S

Paulo reported that the outgoing minister said Bolsonaro had authorized him to attend to the two pastors. The newspaper posted a recording of Ribeiro telling several mayors that the government prioritized municipalities whose requests were backed by the duo.

The Supreme Court has authorized prosecutors to investigate. The Federal Police are also investigating the accusations.

Bolsonaro won office in 2018 partly based on his promises to root out corruption. The allegations regarding the pastors posed a threat to that image, which he has struggled to maintain amid several investigations involving his administration.

# Sudan could face economic and security collapse

United Nations, Mar 29 (AP):

The UN envoy for Sudan warned the east African nation is heading for an economic and security collapse unless it addresses the political paralysis following October's military coup and moves toward resuming a civilian-led transition. Volker Perthes told the UN Security Council that the military's violent repression of protests against the coup is continuing and the absence of a political agreement on returning to a transitional path has already led to a deteriorating economic, humanitarian and security situation in

the country. The coup upended Sudan's democratic transition after a popular uprising forced the military to remove autocratic President Omar al-Bashir in April 2019. Near-daily street protests demanding a return to civilian rule have been met by a crackdown on protesters that has killed 80 people, mostly young men, and injured over 2,600 others, according to a Sudanese medical group. Western governments and world financial institutions suspended their assistance to Sudan in order to pressure the generals to return to civilian-led government.

# Singapore suspends doctor for injecting saline instead of vaccine



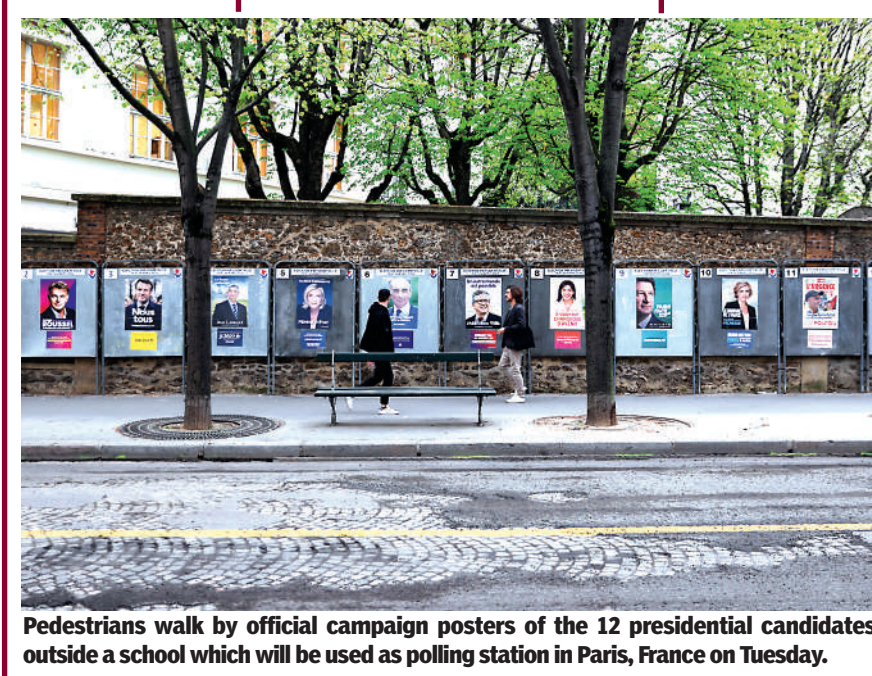
Dr Jipson Quah

Singapore, Mar 29 (PTI):

A 33-year-old Singapore doctor, linked to an anti-vaccination group, has been suspended after being accused of injecting patients with saline solution instead of a COVID-19 vaccine, and uploading

false vaccination statuses to the Ministry of Health's National Immunisation Registry, local media reported. Dr Jipson Quah's registration as a medical practitioner was suspended by the Singapore Medical Council (SMC) from March 23 for 18 months, or until the disciplinary proceedings are concluded, whichever is sooner, the council said. Quah, a member of the anti-coronavirus vaccination Healing the Divide, has been charged in court with conspiring to defraud Ministry of Health (MOH) by submitting false vaccination data.

## OFFICIAL POSTERS



Pedestrians walk by official campaign posters of the 12 presidential candidates outside a school which will be used as polling station in Paris, France on Tuesday.

# 'BIMSTEC must collectively combat terrorism, extremism'

Jaishankar offers India's help for hospital

**Colombo:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday asked the Indian High Commissioner here to help a Sri Lankan hospital that has suspended surgeries due to lack of medical facilities, amidst an unprecedented financial crisis in the island nation.



Foreign Ministers of BIMSTEC pose for a photograph during their meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Tuesday.

Colombo, Mar 29 (PTI):

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday that the BIMSTEC member states must collectively combat terrorism and violent extremism as he emphasised

India's commitment to intensify, expand areas of co-operation, especially connectivity, energy and maritime.

Speaking at the 18th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting in Colombo, Jaishankar also said that cooperation on port facilities, ferry services, coastal shipping, grid connectivity and motor vehicles movement are key.

"Must also collectively combat terrorism, violent extremism, transnational crime, cyber-attacks and narco-trafficking," he tweeted.

# Seven Indian-origin persons charged in insider trading scheme

New York, Mar 29 (PTI):

Seven Indian-origin persons have been charged by federal authorities with insider trading in a scheme through which they made over a million dollars in illegal profits.

Hari Prasad Sure, 34, Lokesh Lagudu, 31 and Chotu Prabhu Tej Pulagam, 29, are friends and worked as software engineers at Twilio, a San Francisco-based cloud computing communications company,

the Securities and Exchange Commission said.

The complaint said Sure tipped his close friend Dileep Kumar Reddy Kamujula, 35, who successfully traded in Twilio's options. Lagudu similarly tipped his girlfriend Sai Nekkallapudi, 30 with whom he lived, and he also tipped his former roommate and close friend Abhishek Dharmapurikar, 33. Pulagam tipped his brother Chetan Prabhu Pulagam,

31. All the seven defendants live in California.

The SEC announced insider trading charges against the seven individuals for allegedly generating more than USD 1 million in collective profits by insider trading ahead of Twilio's positive first quarter 2020 earnings announcement on May 6, 2020. According to the SEC's complaint, Sure, Lagudu and Chotu Pulagam had access to various databases relevant to Twilio's reporting of revenue.

# Taliban hard-liners turning back clock in Afghanistan

Islamabad, Mar 29 (AP):

Taliban hard-liners are turning back the clock in Afghanistan with a flurry of repressive edicts over the past days that hark to their harsh rule from the

late 1990s. Girls have been banned from going to school beyond the sixth grade, women are barred from boarding planes if they travel unaccompanied by a male relative. Men and women can only

visit public parks on separate days and the use of mobile telephones in universities is prohibited. It doesn't stop there.

International media broadcasts including the Pashto and Persian BBC services, which broadcast in the two languages of

Afghanistan are off the air as of the weekend.

**SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
Proforma 10-01

**PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**

Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated in the completed section of the under noted section of South East Central Railway that the 25,000 Volts, 50 HZ A.C., overhead Traction wires will be energized on or after the date specified against the section. On or from the same date the overhead traction line shall be treated as live at all times and no unauthorized person shall approach or works in the proximity of the Over Head line.

Section	Division	Date of Energisation
Energization by 25KV AC single phase 50HZ for new PND-APR 3rd line by Conventional type overhead traction wires for supply of 25KV AC single phase 50HZ., taking off from Nigaura West at loc. 845/33A, CH. 845/938.60 to Annapur East at loc. 868/17A-1, CH. 868/588.00 (TKM-29.493 KM) along with NIGAUURA (NIQ)/SP between location K848/30-2, CH:848/911.00 & Loc. K848/34, CH:848/971.75 along of Bilaspur division in South East Central Railway.	S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur	28.03.2022

Sr. Divl. Electrical Engineer (TRD)  
S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur  
CPR/10/390

South East Central Railway @secrail

**कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता**  
**लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड, दन्तेवाड़ा**  
(ई - मेल - eedan-phe-cg@nic.in)

निविदा सू.क्र./206-208/ले.शा./का.श./ले.स्वा.या./2022 दन्तेवाड़ा, दिनांक: 25/03/2022

**निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना**

एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से प्रथम '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)	रिमाईट
206/23.03.2022	95921	बिंजाम/गीदम	151.33	
207/23.03.2022	95923	डुमाम/दन्तेवाड़ा	76.16	
208/23.03.2022	95924	कुपर/दन्तेवाड़ा	90.76	

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 07.04.2022 है।

**कार्यपालन अभियंता**  
**लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड**  
**दन्तेवाड़ा**  
G-69020/3

**SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**ENGAGEMENT OF PART-TIME CONTRACTUAL TEACHERS**

Employment Notice No.:E/PB/R/CT/2022/E-837, Date: 22.03.2022.

Walk-In-Interview will be conducted for Engagement of Part time Teachers on Contract basis for the academic session 2022-23 for providing service in South East Central Railway's Mixed Higher Secondary School, Railway Colony, Charoda, District Durg. The Details are as under:

Name of Subject & Vacancy	PGT - 05 (Physics, Chemistry, Geography, Commerce, English)	TGT - 05 (SST, Sanskrit, Hindi, Computer Science, Physical Education)	PST - 02
Monthly Remuneration	PGT - 05 - ₹27,500/- TGT - 05 - ₹26,250/- PST - 02 - ₹21,250/-		
Venue & Time	Mixed Higher Secondary School, Charoda, South East Central Railway. Between: 09.00 A.M & 10.00 A.M.		
Date of Interview for PGT	21.04.2022		
Date of Interview for TGT & PST	22.04.2022		

Candidates is hereby advised to bring all original documents. For further details, please log on to this Railway's website at <https://secr.indianrailways.gov.in> → News/Press Release/ Recruitment → Recruitment → Raipur

PR/R/Sr.DPO/IP/178 For Divl. Railway Manager(P)/Raipur  
South East Central Railway @secrail

**SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
Proforma 10-01

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Section	Division	Date of Energisation
Energization for private siding of M/s NTPC at LARA	S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur	06.04.2022

by Conventional type overhead Traction wires for supply of 25KV AC single phase 50HZ., taking off from Kotaria station at Crossing Station yard (Cabin-5) line No.-1 from Loc. No. 7/6 (CH: 7130.97) to 8/24 (CH: 8476.47), L/N-3 from Loc. No. 7/1001 (CH: 7319.97) to 8/1026 (CH: 8399.97) & L/N-4 from Loc. No. 7/1004 (CH: 7495.47) to 7/1010 (CH: 7630.47), Cabin No. 6 (R&D yard) Line No.-6 from Loc. No. 18/L-8/14 (CH: 18023.02) to 19/1 (CH: 19027.17), L/N-7 from Loc. No. 18/L-8/16 (CH: 18077.02) to 19/7 (CH: 19117.17) & L/N-8 from Loc. No. 17/L-8/1 (CH: 17577.52) to 19/13 (19225.17), Cabin No. 7 (In-plant Yard) Line No.-2 from Loc. No. 19/4 (CH: 19067.67) to 20/L-12/3 (H: 20237.67), L/N-3 from Loc. No. 19/15 (CH: 19234.17) to 20/L-3/18 (CH: 20413.17), L/N-12 from Loc. No. 20/L-3/18 (CH: 20048.67) to 21/L-12/24 (21187.17) and new NTPC LARA SSP between Loc. No. 17/L-8/2 (CH: 17618.02) to 17/L-8/4 (CH: 17676.52) SSP at CH 17/639.00 Km (TKM: 11.074) of Bilaspur division in South East Central Railway.

Sr. Divl. Electrical Engineer (TRD)  
S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur  
CPR/10/392





# CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 9 No. 356

## Restructure GST

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has written a letter to his counterparts in 17 other states seeking their support in a bid to convince the Centre to extend the period of compensation mechanism under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) for five years beyond June 2022. Earlier this month, Chief Minister of Karnataka, Basavaraj Bommai had said the estimated revenue deficit of Rs 14,699 crore in 2022-23 can be minimised if the Centre agrees to the request of the State to extend the GST compensation for the next three years in view of losses incurred due to the impact of COVID-19. Last week, Tamil Nadu government had urged the Centre to extend GST compensation by a couple of years as the state could face a revenue loss of approximately Rs 20,000 crore during the next financial year. Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said in the Rajya Sabha two weeks ago that over Rs 53,600 crore of GST compensation for the current fiscal is yet to be released to the states. So far this fiscal, Rs 96,576 crore has been released to the states on account of GST compensation, and an additional Rs 1.59 lakh crore has been given as a back-to-back loan to make good the revenue shortfall on account of Goods and Services Tax (GST) implementation. The shortfall is calculated assuming a 14 percent annual growth in GST collections by states over the base year of 2015-16. Nirmala Sitharaman had said the GST compensation cess period has already been extended till March 2026 to enable the Centre to repay loans taken to compensate all states for the year 2020. It is imperative that central government takes decision regarding compensation along with restructuring of GST slab rates and exemptions. The compensation amount to be paid from the compensation fund is arrived at by levying cess on top of the highest tax slab on luxury, demerit and sin goods. In order to mobilise resources for compensation, a cess is being levied on such goods, as recommended by the Goods and Services Tax Council, over and above the GST on that item. As on date, compensation cess is levied on products such as pan masala, tobacco, aerated waters and motor cars apart from coal. The consumer is required to pay for compensation. It is collected by the Centre which releases it to States. The proceeds of the compensation cess will be credited to a non-lapsable fund known as the Goods and Services Tax Compensation Fund in the public account. All amounts payable to the States as compensation will be released bi-monthly, provisionally, from said fund against figures given by the Central accounting authorities. Final adjustments will be done after receiving audited accounts of the year from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. The economic impact of the pandemic led to higher compensation requirement due to lower GST collection and, at the same time, lower collection of GST compensation cess. The issue of GST Compensation to States was deliberated in GST Council meetings. Given the need to collect the cess has already spilled over to several years beyond 2022 when the current legal obligation of the Central government to make good states' GST revenue shortfall ends, arriving at a deal to further extend GST compensation to states beyond next June would be a long shot. While a final call is to be taken on whether to extend the goods and services tax (GST) compensation period for the states beyond June this year, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Chairman Vivek Johri had said if revenues are to reach the levels where compensation would perhaps no longer be an issue, then not only the GST rate structure but exemptions too need to be reviewed.

## Irrelevancy of OIC

Uyghur campaigners had slammed the Chinese foreign minister's attendance at a meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) and criticised the body for not speaking up about their plight. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi was invited as a special guest at the OIC annual gathering in the Pakistani capital Islamabad. Wang Yi mentioned about Kashmir and later visited India with negotiations considered to be failure. The OIC statement had mentioned the plight of those in Afghanistan, Jammu and Kashmir, Yemen, Syria, Somalia, Palestine and the Rohingya community, among others but not Chinese repression of Uyghurs. While the Pakistani government has sought to be a leading voice against global Islamophobia, it has long been criticised for its unwillingness to publicly denounce Chinese human rights abuses against Uyghur communities. Beijing and Islamabad have strengthened political and economic ties in recent years, with the flagship corridor of China's strategic Belt and Road Initiative passing through Pakistan. Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu did mention the plight of Uyghurs during his address at the conference, while listing the struggles of different Muslim communities around the world. By receiving billions of dollars from China, these countries are not only forced to remain quiet on the genocidal atrocities against Uyghur Muslims in East Turkistan but also commanded from Beijing to do whatever the PRC wants. The latest OIC meeting proves about irrelevancy of its existence. After the UN, the OIC is the largest inter-governmental organization globally. The OIC was formed on September 25, 1969 in response to arson attack on Al Masjid Al-Aqsa. India had hit out at OIC's references to Kashmir in statements, saying these demonstrate both the irrelevance of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation as a body and role of Pakistan as its manipulator. Twenty five percent of OIC population does not have access to medical facilities or safe drinking water. Half of the population lives below the poverty line classified as the poorest. No Muslim country is in top list of Human Development Index or in any other global economic indicators. This depressing picture of Islamic countries is not limited to the economic and social spheres, in the realm of education and technology the facts are equally disappointing. OIC is not taken seriously by even its members except Pakistan.

## RHINOCEROS CENSUS



Enumerators ride on an elephant while carrying out a census for the one-horned rhinoceros at Agratoli range in the Kaziranga National Park, Assam.

## Case for food subsidies in India

HS SHERGILL & VARINDER SHARMA



Commercial food production anywhere in the world requires significant government subsidies. India is no exception. Demand for foodgrains in India will outstrip supply in coming decades. And yet some of India's high-level policy economists still believe self-sufficiency is a natural and spontaneous feature of Indian agriculture. They say strategies that have facilitated India's transformation from a chronic-food-deficit country into a food self-sufficient country could now be drastically modified even scrapped and trading and marketing of foodgrains could be completely privatised. These recommendations overlook better options for streamlining India's food-production system, such as improving storage arrangements and targeting subsidy programs to states where they will do the most good.

They also completely ignore two basic facts: the likely food demand-and-supply balance in coming decades, and the non-sustainability of large-scale commercial food production without government support and subsidies. The latter applies anywhere in the world, in both developed and developing countries.

Virtually all long-range projections show that by 2050 India will be food deficit or precariously food self-sufficient. Demand for food will rise continuously: the Indian population will surpass 1.5 billion by 2050, more than 60 percent of the population will be urban, and per-capita

income is expected to more than double. Food production will barely be able to keep pace with increasing demand because the yield rates of wheat and rice are already stagnating and the area under these two crops is shrinking due to increasing urbanisation and shifts to other crops.

Many economists agree that large-scale production of foodgrains requires government support. After 25 years of the World Trade Organization (WTO), developed countries still provide huge subsidies to their farmers that amount to 50 percent or more of the farmers' income.

The farm policy debate in the West is about which would be the cheapest, most concealed and least trade-distorting method of providing this support. This is the stark fact behind the WTO's blue and green boxes (denoting types of government support according to their effect on trade and other factors) and continued farm subsidies to keep Europe green.

In India, scrapping such government policies as the minimum support price (MSP) and the public procurement system is a sure recipe for endangering food self-sufficiency. It would result in a drastic reduction of the area under wheat and rice in the main surplus-producing states. Consequently, India's food self-sufficiency would collapse much earlier than 2050.

Even after 50 years of the green revolution, substantial regular surpluses of foodgrains occur only in some states; most are foodgrain deficit or barely self-sufficient. As such, a single price and procurement policy regime cannot be implemented in these latter two types of state. However, no one denies the urgent need to reform the present system of procurement, storage and distribution of foodgrains: it is a large burden on government resources and suffers from gross inefficiency and huge waste. The agro-food chain in India has a num-

ber of stages including production of foodgrains by farmers, procurement of foodgrains by public agencies, transportation of foodgrains to stores, storage of foodgrains, release of foodgrains in the open market for processing and to stabilise seasonal price fluctuations, release of foodgrains for distribution to poorer citizens at cheap rates and release of foodgrains for export.

Some of these stages, such as transportation, storage, processing and export, could be privatised without risking long-term food self-sufficiency. Release of foodgrains to the open market and distribution of grain to poorer citizens could also be privatised.

There are 2220 warehouses in India, of which 141 are private and 2079 are run by state governments and the central government. A High Level Committee report on restructuring the Food Corporation of India lists the cost of maintaining stock in these warehouses at 182.3 billion rupees (USD 2.4 billion), and freight makes up 36 percent of this total.

However, procurement of wheat and paddy from the regular/surplus-producing states should be kept with public agencies. Privatisation of the procurement of wheat and paddy from these states will result in political unrest, and may also result in a substantial reduction in the area under these two crops in the regular surplus-producing states.

The system of fixing the MSP for wheat and paddy must be changed. The MSP for these crops should be based on world market prices, with the average over the last three years used as a basis. This change will ensure that surplus stocks of wheat and rice are easily exported without any major loss to the government.

The present system of MSP and public procurement should be continued in the regular surplus-producing states, where it has been successfully functioning for more than 50 years. However, it should not be mechanically extended to

food-deficit or barely self-sufficient states, where it would be too costly to operate. In these states farmers should receive a cash subsidy per acre of wheat and paddy sown, paid directly into their bank accounts.

The system of distributing free foodgrains to a large proportion of the population has been in operation for two years and should not be stopped abruptly but instead tapered off over the next few years. There is a political cost to withdrawing benefits, as recent farmer agitation shows. (Rome introduced free distribution of wheat and oil to its citizens as a temporary measure, but it had to be continued for more than 200 years.) Similarly, it will not be easy to dismantle the MSP and public-procurement system of wheat and paddy in the main surplus-producing states.

The neoliberal policy paradigm introduced in India in July 1991 was instrumental in boosting food export businesses. It also contributed to accelerating the diversification of large corporate houses into procuring, transporting, storing, processing and distributing food. The three farm laws introduced by the government in June 2020 represented the interests of the global agribusiness corporations aligned with Indian corporations that had diversified into agribusiness.

The cost/benefit analysis of the central government's food-subsidy bill cannot be undertaken along the same lines as other items of government expenditure. It has to be assessed more like defence expenditure. It is imperative to safeguard the integrity of India's borders, so the armed forces must be adequately equipped irrespective of the cost involved. In the same way, India's food self-sufficiency cannot be compromised, whatever the cost.

(HS Shergill is Professor at Panjab University and Varinder Sharma is Associate Professor at Institute for Development and Communication, Chandigarh.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Uncertainties

Truly it's a game of Cricket, and it's a last-ball heart break for India! When a no-ball cost India dear in a gut-wrenching loss to South Africa in the women's world cup. A nail-biter in Hagley Oval, Christchurch saw Team India crashing out of the ongoing ICC Women's World Cup, when in the final over, South Africa needed seven runs and Mignon du Preez and Shabnim Ismail were at the crease. Eventually, the equation came down to three off two balls. On the penultimate delivery, Du Preez was dismissed by Deepthi as the batter handed a simple catch to Harmanpreet Kaur at long-on, which raised hopes of a memorable win for India. The Proteas now needed three runs off the final ball. But this is the game of cricket, which is famed as the game of glorious uncertainties, and this match also under the virus of the same. Moments later the umpires ruled that Deepthi had overstepped, by the barest of margins, which meant that Du Preez came back to the middle with South Africa needing 2 runs to win off the final 2 balls and turning India's ecstasy into agony in a matter of seconds. By this way an inconsistent India crashed out of the after suffering a heart-breaking three wicket defeat in a must-win league stage game that went down to the wire. Before blaming others, India can blame misfortune for their ousster; but they also contributed to their own downfall. Though India posted 274/7 in the allotted 50 overs after Shafali Verma, Smriti Mandhana and Mithali Raj all registered half-centuries, even that Indian Team didn't make enough runs in the last 10 overs was the difference between the two sides. Moreover, dropped catches, poor ground fielding, and some clueless bowling towards the end meant last edition's losing finalists ended their campaign. Above all one of the world's top experienced pacer Jhulan Goswami didn't play due to a side strain which may have made a bit of difference to the outcome. Whatsoever, even in the defeats though, India showed they are from being the most professional unit. The close matches and India's ability to give the best teams a run for their money highlighted what the team is capable of doing but the inconsistency in seizing the big moments and getting past the finish line also showed how far they have to go.

Bidyut K Chatterjee, Faridabad



## WHAT THEY TWEET!



**Naomi@nowme\_datta**  
If you are conflicted & feel Chris Rock should not have cracked a joke on a medical condition, but that could suggest you vaguely endorse the assault by Will Smith - you are between a rock and a hard place. Shame on the Oscars. This would have never happened in India.

**Ahmed@ahmedalifayaz**  
When 23 KPs were massacred at Wandhama on 26 Jan 1998, PM Gujral flew to Kashmir for national winter games at Gulmarg. He inaugurated sports carnival on 28 Jan when smoke & ashes of funeral pyres were still in air. Who to blame for lack of empathy and collective consciousness?



**Pratyasha@pratyasharath**  
A good time to rethink positions on organic farming, with a dreadful test case playing out in front of us. More land use, cost intensive, low yield, limited markets with a potential for future environmental degradation. As usual, developing countries will pay for lofty ideas.



**Manoj K @mkpandey67**  
Even after 70+ years of our independence, we continue to be a 'gulam' by our mental status. Fair skin Prof & these decorated foreign University look attractive to us without substance. They become expert on all india related subjects.



**Richa Pinto@richapintoi**  
Visit to the #Byculla gardens & zoo I came across this big woody climber.



**YashMor@YashMor5**  
What a sheer waste of time and money. You won an election and it's time to get to work now. So many CMs traveling from one state to another for a simple ten minutes ceremony on government aircrafts!

**Hamid Mir@HamidMir**  
There is no evidence of foreign governments having played any role in planning the removal of Imran Khan through a vote of no-confidence. The PM has made a huge charge, he owes it to the nation to lift the veil from this allegation for his own credibility.



**BRIEF**

**Expects**



**Mumbai:** Okinawa Autotech is expecting to close the outgoing fiscal with record revenue of around Rs 800 crore. MD Jeetender Sharma told PTI that it has set a target of selling 50,000 units of the new model, or a fourth of his full-year target of 2 lakh units.

**Funding**

**New Delhi:** Pep Technologies Pvt Ltd, which owns caffeine-infused D2C personal care brand mCaffeine, on Tuesday announced raising Rs 240 crore in Series C round of funding. The Series C round was led by Paragon Partners valuing the start-up at Rs 1,000 crore. Besides, Singularity Growth Opportunities Fund, Sharrp Ventures and existing investors Amicus Capital Partners and RPSG Capital Ventures also participated.

**Bullish**



**New Delhi:** Truecaller CEO Alan Mamedji said on Tuesday said it is bullish about the business prospects in India, its biggest market, and does not expect the upcoming data protection law to impact or pose challenges to growth and business model here.

**Land**

**New Delhi:** Pardos Real Estate arm Pardos Logistics has purchased a 41-acre land parcel on Ballabgarh-Sohna highway in Haryana to develop a warehousing project - comprising a 10 lakh square feet area - with an investment of around Rs 200 crore, according to property consultant Anarock. The land is ideally located, benefiting from proximity to road infrastructures like Delhi-Vadodara Expressway, Eastern Peripheral Expressway.

**Raises**



**New Delhi:** Classplus has bagged USD 70 million, about Rs 531 crore, in a funding round led by Alpha Wave Global and Tiger Global. CEO Mukul Rustagi said we will also be investing to enable us to continue delivering best in class experience to educators.

**Fund**

**Mumbai:** Private equity firm GEF Capital Partners - focused on climate investing - has raised nearly USD 200 million from British CDC Group, IFC and Dutch investment firm FMO, among others, to close its South Asia Growth Fund II.

# Govt to come out with global market intelligence network

**To boost MSME exports**

**New Delhi, Mar 29 (PTD):**

The government is setting up a global market intelligence network to boost India's exports from the micro, small and medium enterprises sector, Union minister Narayan Rane said on Tuesday.

The Global Market Intelligence Network will act as a knowledge repository of export-related data on foreign markets and facilitate easier market access for MSME exporters.

According to estimates, India's MSME sector accounts for 45 per cent of its exports. There is a huge untapped potential to boost outward shipments from the segment. However, lack of credible trade-related data on over-



Union Minister for MSME Narayan Rane at inauguration of Mega International Summit 2022 on MSME's Competitiveness and Growth, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

seas markets has been one of the key bottlenecks impeding the MSME sector from realising its true export potential by tapping new market opportunities.

Addressing a summit organised by the

Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Rane said the government is keen to strengthen the MSME sector. "Our focus is on providing easy credit, better technology support and access to the export mar-

kets. We want our MSME sector to become competitive and grow," the MSME minister said.

He shared that the MSME ministry "is coming out with a global market intelligence network that will help MSME ex-

## Go for USD 100 bn export target: Goyal to gem, jewellery exporters

**Mumbai, Mar 29:**

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday called upon gem and jewellery exporters to target USD 100 billion of exports annually in the coming years as the sector holds huge potential to boost outward shipments.

He urged the industry to suggest ways to take the exports to that level by creating incisive marketing tools and irresistible designs.

"Let's go for USD 100 billion target," Goyal said while addressing export members of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJPEC) here. He informed that the sector has accounted for about 10 per cent of the country's USD 400 billion exports, which India has crossed during the current fiscal. He said that the



government would act as a facilitator and enabler to promote the growth of the sector in the UAE and other world destinations. A Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was signed by India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in February, which would come into force on May 1. Exporters hailed the agreement stating that it would help in posting India's exports from sectors like textiles, pharmaceuticals, gem and jewellery and chemicals.

GJPEC Chairman Colin Shah said that the agreement would help in boosting the exports to the UAE and to regions including Africa and Middle East nations. "Our exports to the UAE are increasing and we would work to double or triple it in the years to come," Shah said.

Shah said that with nil import duty on jewellery under the pact, "we are expecting jewellery exports to the UAE will move to new heights (USD 10 billion annually)". Goyal also inaugurated The India Jewellery Exposition (IJEX) Centre in Dubai, a project of the council. IJEX is a one-stop destination for the world to source Indian jewellery in Dubai. The platform will enable GJPEC members to display goods and book orders throughout the year.

## Wavin India app brings plumber to digital mainstream

**Mumbai, Mar 29:**

Wavin, a global solutions leader for the Building and Infrastructure industry and an Orbia business, reiterates its commitment to driving the plumber community towards more organized structure and bringing them to the digital forefront through Wavin Rewardsapp. Available in English, Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, Marathi, Malayalam and Bengali; the app has registered around 10000 plumbers across India. The app not only helps the brand to stay connected with the plumber community but offers a range of privileges and benefits around discovering new plumbing solutions, pipes, fittings, hardware accessories, new tools and techniques.

## Sharp recovery in FY22 to help sustain growth: FM

**New Delhi, Mar 29:**

India's sharp economic recovery post COVID-19 and Budget initiatives will help in sustaining growth momentum in the years to come, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday. The government's road map for imparting momentum to the economy focuses on growth at the macro level and complementing it with all-inclusive welfare at the micro level, promoting digital economy and fintech, technology-enabled development, energy transition and climate action and relying on a virtuous cycle of investment and growth, she said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha. The government's road map was put into effect in 2014, she said,



adding that major reforms, including Goods and Services Tax (GST), Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and significant reduction in corporate tax rate, were implemented. The reforms contributed to the real GDP growing at an annual average rate of 6.8 per cent during 2014-20, she said. At the end of this period, she said, the government announced National Infrastructure Pipeline of projects to take economic growth to the

higher level. "India's sharp economic recovery in 2021-22 and Budget measures have prompted international rating agencies to forecast a real GDP growth above 8 per cent in 2022-23. This will sustain the growth momentum in the economy," she said. "The Union Budget 2022-23 is the latest road map of the government for taking India's economy to a higher growth trajectory, she said, adding, the PM GatiShakti Scheme in the Budget is a huge investment in physical infrastructure drawing from the National Infrastructure Pipeline. The government's direct participation in building infrastructure is reflected in the capital budget increasing once again by 35 per cent over the previous year, she said.

## Public sector banks sufficiently capitalised

**New Delhi, Mar 29 (PTD):**

The government has infused capital amounting to Rs 2,86,043 crore in public sector banks (PSBs) during the last five years and they are sufficiently capitalised, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

The government infused about Rs 3 lakh crore between 2017-18 and 2021-22.

As per inputs received from Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of PSBs has improved substantially over the past three years, increasing from 12.20 per cent at the end of 2018-19 to 14.34 per cent as on



December 31, 2021, Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat K Karad said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

"As reflected in their capital position as on December 31, 2021, PSBs are currently sufficiently capitalised," he said.

With regard to General Insurance Corporation of

India (GIC), Karad said, no proposal to privatise GIC is under consideration of the government at present. "Further, as per inputs received, total assets outstanding as on 31.3.2021 were Rs 38.04 lakh crore and Rs 1.35 lakh crore for LIC and GIC, respectively," he said.

With a view to providing a greater measure of protection to depositors in banks, Karad said DICGC raised the limit of insurance cover for depositors in insured banks from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh per depositor with effect from February 4, 2020.

The deposit insurance cover is applicable uni-

formly on all insured banks and their depositors, he said.

"Further, the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2021 received the assent of the President on 13.08.2021 and has been brought into force with effect from 01.09.2021," he said.

The amendments enable depositors to get easy and time-bound access to their deposits to the extent of deposit insurance cover through interim payments by DICGC, in cases of imposition of restrictions on banks under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, he said.

## Financial institutions should be board-driven

**Mumbai, Mar 29 (PTD):**

Financial institutions should be board-driven and not end up being dominated by individuals as it could lead to undesirable consequences, Reserve Bank Deputy Governor MK Jain has said.

In his keynote address at CAFRAL, a Centre promoted by RBI, he stressed that an efficient and vibrant financial system is crucial for economic development and social wellbeing of the country.

"The governance framework surrounding the individual players in the financial system assumes a central role not only in terms of value creation for



MK Jain

various stakeholders but also in ensuring the oversight of the board on risk appetite and risk culture of individual institution," he said while speaking on 'Importance of Governance and Assurance Functions in Financial Institutions'.

He also emphasised that financial institutions should be board-driven and not dominated by individuals.

"It is important to ensure that financial institutions are board-driven and do not end up being dominated by individuals. Experience has shown that this leads to undesirable consequences," Jain said. The board members, he said, should focus on strategic and important matters and work in a cohesive manner.

Many times, he added, a large number of agenda items are included, including table items, which do not allow for proper evaluation of the proposals.

## Red Gold Tomatoes from Europe now available in India

**New Delhi Mar 29:**

"Red Gold Tomatoes from Europe" is a promotion campaign co-financed by the European Commission with the aim of increasing awareness among professionals, opinion leaders and consumers in India about the superior quality and uniqueness of canned preserved whole, peeled and cherry tomatoes from Europe and Italy as well as their versatile applications in classic European and local recipes.

The premium quality Red Gold Tomatoes from Europe promise to add an extra punch to your cooking, giving an edge to your culinary creativity. And there is a whole variety of Red Gold Tomatoes from Europe tomatoes to choose from - be it whole peeled,

chopped or cherry tomatoes. Available at all the leading stores and e-commerce sites, you can simply order in or pick them up at will. With these fleshy, juicy tomatoes, all that is then needed is to choose your meal option and voila! Finger-licking and super hearty, healthy dishes full of goodness.

If there is one versatile fruit that complements not only our breakfast, lunch and dinner but even snacks and tithbits in between - it is tomatoes. Tomatoes can easily be called the emperor of fruits in allegiance with other categories of produce and meals. All kinds of recipes - whether vegetarian, non-vegetarian, vegan or fruitarian - use tomatoes and they really can be enjoyed guilt-free!

## Sensex jumps over 350 points, Nifty above 17,300

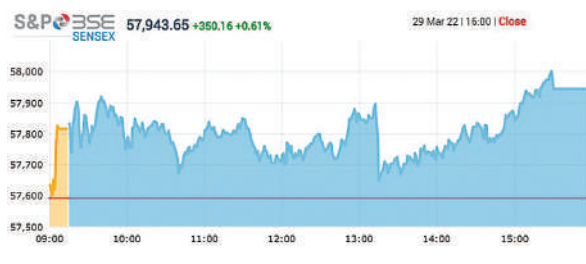
**Mumbai, Mar 29 (PTD):**

Benchmark BSE Sensex rallied over 350 points on Tuesday following gains in index majors HDFC twins, Bharti Airtel and Infosys amid a largely positive trend in global equity markets.

The 30-share BSE barometer jumped 350.16 points or 0.61 per cent to settle at 57,943.65. During the day, it rallied 408.04 points or 0.70 per cent to 58,001.53.

The broader NSE Nifty gained 103.30 points or 0.60 per cent to settle at 17,325.30.

From the 30-share pack, HDFC, Bharti Airtel, UltraTech Cement, HDFC Bank, Dr Reddy's, Sun Pharma, Infosys and ICICI Bank were among the lead gainers. On the other hand,



ITC, Tata Steel, State Bank of India, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finserv and NTPC were among the laggards.

In the previous trade, the BSE barometer climbed 231.29 points or 0.40 per cent to settle at 57,593.49. The NSE Nifty recovered 69 points or 0.40 per cent to 17,222. Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Tokyo, Seoul and Hong Kong ended with gains, while Shanghai settled marginally lower. European markets were trading with gains ahead of

peace talks between warring Ukraine and Russia in Turkey. Germany's DAX jumped 1.3 per cent to 14,599.17 and the CAC40 in Paris surged 1.7 per cent to 6,700.18. Britain's FTSE 100 gained 0.8 per cent to 7,531.55.

Russia's MOEX index climbed 3.7 per cent in the second day of full trading after it was closed for about a month following the Feb 24 invasion of Ukraine. Limits have been imposed to curb volatility.

## Flipkart Wholesale introduces an exclusive Save Eazy loyalty program

**Mumbai, Mar 29:**

As part of its efforts to offer value with convenience for its members, Flipkart Wholesale, the digital B2B marketplace of India's homegrown Flipkart Group, has introduced an exclusive/invite-only loyalty program called SaveEazy for its members. The first-of-its-kind (or the first such program from FKW) SaveEazy, is an invitation-based loyalty program offering a wide range of value-based coupons redeemable offline and online (eSaveEazy). Through this initiative, SaveEazy members can now enjoy significant benefits over and above the Everyday Low Price offers.

Speaking on the introduction of the loyalty program, Adarsh Menon,

Senior Vice President and Head, Flipkart Wholesale, said, "Our research shows that, for Indians, shopping is an emotional decision. Rewarding shopping invokes a positive emotional bond with the brand. The SaveEazy loyalty program is a reward offer for our loyal members, and its unique benefits provide great value and a superior shopping experience. These programs are introduced with a vision to nurture our customer relationships and make shopping on Flipkart Wholesale rewarding." Save Eazy Club offers membership in two categories: Classic and Premium. Under the Classic loyalty club membership category available at Rs 999, members will get 12 coupons worth Rs 250, with each coupon having one-month validity.



## Ranbir, Alia-starrer 'Brahmastra' wrapped up

The shooting for the upcoming fantasy adventure film 'Brahmastra' starring Bollywood couple Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt has wrapped up.

The makers wrapped its final shooting schedule in Kashi, and is all set to hit the theatres on September 9.

Alia took to Instagram where she shared a video clip. The clip seems to be from a song. She also shared a picture featuring the director Ayan Mukerji and Ranbir after a temple visit.

For the caption, Alia wrote: "We started shooting in 2018. And now a finally .. The filming of Brahmastra (Part One) comes to an end !! I've been wanting to say this for such a long time...IT'S A WRAP!"

The film apparently is set in two timeframes. The main story is set in present times where Shiva, a young man with superpowers travels 3000 years back in time to learn about weapons like



Brahmastra in order to fulfill a mission.

Directed by Ayan Mukerji, produced by Fox Star Studios,

Dharma Productions, Prime Focus and Starlight Pictures, the magnum opus will release theatrically on

September 9 in five Indian languages - Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada. It has a stellar ensemble

cast of Amitabh Bachchan, Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Mouni Roy and Nagarjuna Akkineni.

Pop singer Miley Cyrus, who was married to actor Liam Hemsworth, during her performance at Lollapalooza festival in Brazil briefly mentioned the matter while helping a couple get engaged at her concert.

According to Daily Mail, the 'Malibu' singer brought a gay couple on stage for their proposal, reports aceshowbiz.com. "Honey, I hope your marriage goes better than mine," the daughter of Billy Ray Cyrus congratulated the pair, before adding, "Mine was a f\*\*king disaster."

Cyrus and 'The Hunger Games' star were first linked in 2008 after they both starred in the film 'The Last Song'. The then-couple later got engaged in 2012, only to break up the following year. They, however, managed to rekindle their romance in 2015 and eventually get married in December 2018.

Unfortunately, their marriage didn't last for more than a year as she was photographed kissing Brody Jenner's ex Kaitlynn Carter. "Ever-evolving, changing as partners and individuals, they have decided this is what's best while they both focus on themselves and careers," a representative for Cyrus revealed to PEOPLE at the time.

Miley's whirlwind romance with Kaitlynn only lasted for a month. She later was romantically linked to Australian singer Cody Simpson for ten months. Of their brief relationship, Cody said that it was "just one of those phases... everything ended fairly amicably."

He added, "I'd known her for a long time at that point. We went from kind of being good friends to just having a lot of the same friends, to being together for a while." Meanwhile, Liam dated 'Dynasty' star Maddison Brown before moving onto model Gabriella Brooks. The couple apparently got more serious with their relationship as Gabriella joined Liam and his entire family on a European ski trip last Christmas.



**Miley Cyrus calls marriage with Liam Hemsworth a 'disaster'**



As Bollywood gears up for the upcoming edition of the International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA), actor Varun Dhawan, speaking at a media event here on Monday evening, recollected his favourite moments from the past editions of the award show.

The 'Main Tera Hero' actor said: "My best memory from IIFA happens to be one with Salman sir when we performed together on stage. And to tell you the truth, it wasn't a planned gig."

Salman Khan will host IIFA, which will be organised at Yas Island in Abu Dhabi on May 20-21, along with Riteish Deshmukh and comedian-TV presenter Manish Paul.

Dhawan continued: "It so happened that Salman sir came up to me backstage and said we must do something together. So, we quickly improvised and performed in front of the audience."

"Though it was an impromptu gig, the energy between the two of us at that moment was just crackling. And of course, he then helped us with the promotions of 'Judwaa 2'. We all know how big a heart Salman sir has."

**Varun Dhawan recalls his impromptu gig with Salman at IIFA**

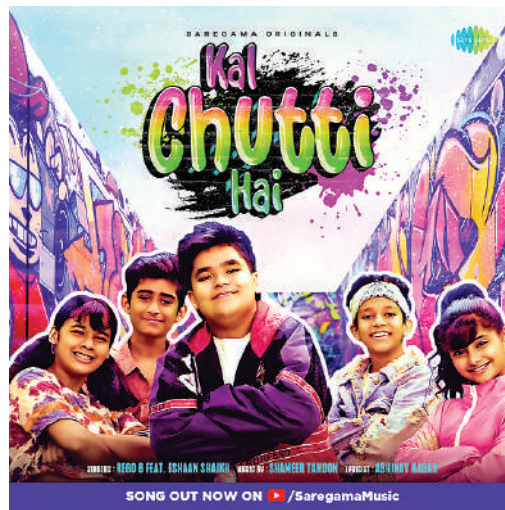
## Bappi Lahiri's grandson continues musical family lineage

After the success of his first single- Bachcha Party, Bappi Lahiri's star grandson- Rego B, is out with another musical marvel- Kal Chutti Hai. Continuing his family's decadent musical lineage, Rego is poised to become a superstar with this second released song.

With summer vacations just around the corner, this latest song is perfect to drive your kids with energy and enthusiasm. Depicting immense passion and zeal, the song brings Eshaan Shaikh and RegoB, together, with a zealous and passionate fervor.

Grooving to the quirky lyrics crooned by acclaimed lyricist- Abhinav Nagar, the music for this kids' vacation anthem has been given by famed composer- Shameer Tandon. Steering kids to groove, this song has been staged and architected by none other than the ABCD 2, and Street Dancer 3D choreographer Rahul Shetty.

Depicting sheer zing and spirit, this latest number is sure to be on every kid's playlist this



summer.

Collaborating with Saregama for the second time, Rego B said, "I had an absolutely lovely time shooting this song. The song is a hip-hop and new age pop song. The beats and the rhythm of the song will immediately get you hooked once you hear the song. It's not a children song according to me, it's for everyone because at the end who doesn't love vacations."

Creating the music for this song, Shameer Tandon said, "In this juggernaut of love & heartbreak songs being released on daily basis,

I am happy to present innocent songs by children. Thanks to the vision of Saregama India to experiment and to create songs for this category that form a large part of populace, and which are not catered to specific music. I am excited to bring on board Lt Bappida's grandson RegoB again with Kal Chutti Hai. Do watch the song for his power pack performance which will definitely not let you down."

The song is out now on Saregama's official YouTube channel and all leading music streaming platforms.

## Naman helps Ismeet overcome challenge of reading Hindi

Sony Entertainment Television's slice of life drama 'Jagannath Aur Purvi Ki Dosti Anokhi' has been receiving immense love from the audience for its heart-warming narrative revolving around a unique and innocent friendship cemented between two individuals - a millennial, Purvi and an elderly gentleman, Jagannath Mishra. In the on-going track, viewers have witnessed how in the test of relationship 'an outsider' proves to be better than one's own. From Purvi selling her jewellery for Jagannath's surgery to helping him recover, her thoughtful gesture has deeply moved and made a special place in Jagannath and Kusum Mishra's heart so much so that they have



address Purvi as the daughter of the house. The character of Purvi portrayed by Ismeet Kohli is dil se Banarasi and to bring alive this vibrant character to life, Ismeet has been religiously taking lessons from her co-actors

to get the shudh Hindi dictionary right. Talking about her experience, Ismeet Kohli said, "Playing the character of Purvi in Dosti Anokhi has given me a chance to learn a lot over the course of time. When it comes to reading the script and comprehending the lines before getting in front of the camera, initially I used to find it slightly difficult because of the use of shudh Hindi, but with the support of my co-actor Naman Arora and a little pre-production research and reading, I am have got the dialect right. My crew is quite helpful, since they are always willing to help me with any word or phrase in the script. I can easily approach anyone and ask for assistance, which has simplified the procedure."

### HOROSCOPE WEDNESDAY MARCH 30

#### Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

You will remember this day for the rest of life as today you will make some important decisions and give a new direction to your life. You are in for a windfall and cherry on the cake will be all the recognition and rewards you get for your sincerity and hard work, predicts Ganesha. These positive vibes will help you make sure that you are on the right track.

#### Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

A financial goal you've been hoping to reach very soon might seem right around the corner, Pisces, but there still seem to be a thousand things you have to do before it's actually realized. This could get you down temporarily, but don't get stuck there. Make a list of whatever needs to be done and then tackle each task one at a time until the goal is reached.

#### Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today you will feel like going green, and Ganesha approves. You could plant a sapling, or organise some dustbins to keep the neighbourhood clean. If you wish to make the world a better place to live in, do it but take it step by step.

#### Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

Today, passionate and possessive are the two words that will define your relationship with the people you love, predicts Ganesha. You may choose to take pains for the sake of others, which seems to be highly fulfilling. Your good spirit will sky-rocket by evening. Make sure to change your disadvantage into your advantage, says Ganesha.

#### Gemini: May 22 - June 21

You will be busy organising some religious function today or in visiting a place of religious significance. You will encounter expenses in religious and charitable work. However, you should guard against ignoring your daily work in pursuit of all these matters, says Ganesha.

#### Cancer: June 22 - July 22

Are you expecting a close friend or love partner to visit you at home, Cancer? Don't panic if your friend doesn't show up at the allotted time. It doesn't mean that no one is coming! There probably has been a traffic jam, last-minute phone call, long line at the supermarket, or some other mundane delay. Be patient and your friend will show up eventually.

#### Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

You will be able to meet all challenges and obstacles successfully. Your ultimate goal is to come out victorious from any situations. There is a possibility that you will have to face severe competition in business or trade. Personal life will proceed without any hiccups though, says Ganesha.

#### Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

Your renewed enthusiasm for life will bring about a radical change in you. Ganesha says today is a good time to let others see how important and how brilliant you can be. Your intelligence will become very evident as you demonstrate how things should be done.

#### Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

Love matters could have you feeling uptight and somewhat fearful today, Libra. Perhaps this involves a relationship that hasn't really manifested yet, or maybe you and your beloved have had a dispute of some kind. Don't worry too much. You should hear some reassuring words before too long.

#### Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

The ground beneath you seems a bit shaky; watch your steps. A time would come when your confidence would be shattered, however, don't let set-backs and failures affect you. Adapt the attitude of 'this too shall pass' and the rest would fall in place, says Ganesha.

#### Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21

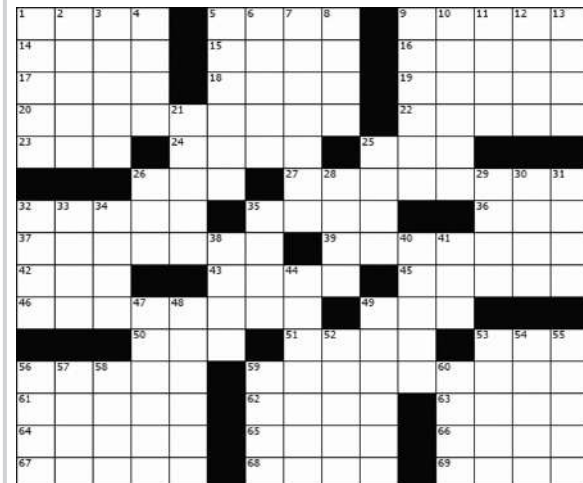
Benevolence will be your middle name today. Being frank and open-minded will have its own advantages. You might just give your life partner a patient ear. This will make them feel treated well, says Ganesha.

#### Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

You are a die-hard romantic and with every plan to please your sweetheart, you are taking him/her closer to the cloud nine. But, don't live in fantasy world, warns Ganesha, as problems are going to follow you everywhere. If you are a businessman, your rivals may give you a hard time. Take proper care of your health, advises Ganesha.

### CROSSWORD

254



#### ACROSS

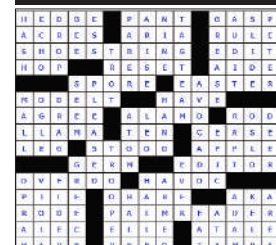
- Wild party
- Among
- Speedy
- Palo
- Casino city
- Dodge
- Knitter's purchase
- Rewrite
- Smooth
- Begin

#### DOWN

- Louisiana marsh
- Siren
- Undress
- Kong
- Stadiums
- Military award
- Beginning
- Love foolishly
- Fill again
- Get even for
- Do roadwork
- Mental image
- Valley
- Loiters
- Mumbai dress

- Relieve
- Witherspoon of "Pleasantville"
- Military warning (2 wds.)
- Moral wrong
- Mr. Franklin
- Crude minerals
- Vegas
- Actress Sarandon
- Most like milk fat
- Horses' gaits
- Damage
- Track event
- See eye to eye
- Mexican water
- Declare openly
- Marsh plants
- Actor Sean
- Clears as profit
- Baseball stat
- Heal
- Horse's hair
- The of March
- Give over
- Ship's pole
- Quote
- Passed effortlessly
- Wild pig
- Perceived
- Light bender
- Yet, poetically
- What attics are used for
- Eased up
- Telescope parts
- Sailor
- Show again
- Take off
- Dandy's neckwear
- Hearty soups
- Celebrity
- Impel
- Ticked off
- Bloke
- Mideast nation

#### SOLUTION 253





## New Zealand beats Netherlands by 7 wickets in 1st ODI



**Mount Maunganui:** A century by Will Young helped guide New Zealand to a seven-wicket win over the Netherlands in the first of three one-day internationals on Tuesday. Young made 103 and combined with Henry Nicholls in a 162-run partnership for the second wicket which saw New Zealand surpass the Netherlands total of 202 in the 39th over. Nicholls made 57. Fast bowler Blair Tuckner took 4-50 in his ODI debut to help New Zealand limit the Netherlands, which batted first after winning the toss. The Netherlands slipped to 45-5 before Michael Rippon and captain Pieter Seelaar put on 80 for the sixth wicket. Rippon made 67 and Seelaar 43. South African-born Rippon, who plays for Otago province in the New Zealand domestic competition, also took 2-32 from eight overs.

## Mithali, Jhulan rise in ODI rankings

**Dubai:** India skipper Mithali Raj climbed two places to sixth while veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami also rose a couple of spots to fifth in the latest ICC Women's ODI rankings released on Tuesday, taking into account the on-going World Cup in New Zealand. Raj, who struck a half-century in India's final league match against South Africa on Sunday, surpassed Australia's Rachael Haynes and Tammy Beaumont of England. However, the match ended in heartbreak for the Indian skipper as her team crashed out of the World Cup in a last-ball thriller. Star opener Smriti Mandhana, who played a 71-run knock against South Africa, remained static on 10th. In the bowlers' chart, Goswami, who missed the match against the Proteas, went past the South African duo of Marizanne Kapp and Ayabonga Khaka to be fifth.



## Women cricketers, footballers of Assam gear up for big league

**Guwahati:** From Monalisa Barua Mehta to Hima Das to Lovlina Borgohain, individual sportswomen have brought accolades to Assam for decades, but when it comes to two of the most popular team sports in the country, the girls have not been able to attain similar heights. Assam's women players are now honing their skills in cricket and football. Among others, Assam Cricket Association (ACA) has been working on promoting women's cricket at the grassroots level and ensuring exposure for the players. Conducting training camps is not enough. Our players must be exposed to competition and while the COVID-19 pandemic has been a deterrent in the last two years, the ACA is trying its best to give maximum exposure to them, secretary of the association Devajit Saikia told PTL. The ACA, he said, has started the first-ever inter-district women's tournament from this year and named it after freedom fighter Kanaklata Barua.

## Prannoy gains three spots to be world number 23 in latest BWF ranking



**New Delhi:** Riding on his runner-up finish at the Swiss Open, India's HS Prannoy jumped three places to number 23 in the latest BWF rankings, released on Tuesday. Prannoy, who was competing in a title-clash after five years, now has 52875 points in his kitty. He could not play his best on the circuit in the last three years as he was battling health issues. Double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu, who secured her second women's singles title of the season at Swiss Open Super 300, remained static at the number seven. Among other Indians, young Lakshya Sen is also inside the top 10 along with the men's team of Chirag Shetty and Satwinderaj Rankireddy. While 20-year-old Sen, who had reached the finals of German Open and All England earlier this month, is at the ninth spot, Chirag and Satwik are also placed at number seven.

## India beat Nepal by six wickets in Bangabandhu 4 Nation Physically Challenged tournament

**New Delhi:** Sachin Shiva and Tikka Singh played key roles as the Indian Divyang cricket team defeated Nepal by six wickets in the first match of the Bangabandhu 4 Nation Physically Challenged tournament in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Nepal scored 120 runs for 4 wickets in 20 overs after captain Ramprasad won the toss and decided to bat first at the Sheikh Kamal International Cricket Stadium. Inder Singh was the top scorer with 36, while Abash Dholakoti hit 29 before being retired hurt. Pradeep Rizal also chipped in with 10 runs in 19 balls.

# KKR look to consolidate position as RCB eye first win

**Navi Mumbai, Mar 29 (PTI):**

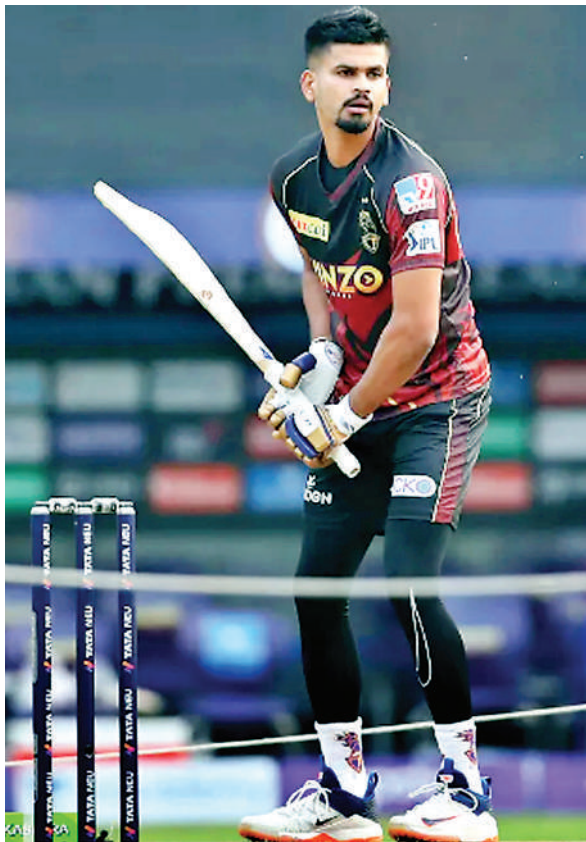
Seeking to consolidate their position after a winning start, Kolkata Knight Riders will have their task cut out as they take on a determined Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Indian Premier League here on Wednesday. The two outfits head into the game on the back of contrasting results.

While the Shreyas Iyer-led KKR humbled defending champions Chennai Super Kings by six wickets, Royal Challengers Bangalore suffered a five-wicket loss to Punjab Kings, despite posting a 200-plus score.

For RCB, skipper Faf Du Plessis is in prime form after he made a scintillating 57-ball 88 and would like to continue in the same vein. Opener Anuj Rawat was unable to capitalise on a good start and would be aiming for consistency.

Unburdened by the captaincy pressure, Virat Kohli made a statement and played with more intent against Punjab. He will definitely look to rediscover his glorious touch and continue to torment the opposition bowlers like he did during his prime.

Wicketkeeper Dinesh Karthik also played a sig-



nificant cameo and his role would be crucial once again, if RCB have to set or chase a big total.

If these four go all guns blazing, then it would be a daunting task for the varied KKR attack.

While the KKR bowling unit will have to be particularly cautious of the six-hitting prowess of Du Plessis, which was on dis-

play on Sunday, RCB bowlers would have to quickly forget the hammering they received at the hands of the Punjab batters.

A profligate Mohammed Siraj, who leaked 59 runs, will have to pull up his socks. Another key bowler is death overs specialist and last edition's Purple Cap holder Harshal Patel.

## Osaka makes Miami quarterfinals, says she's more grateful

**Miami Gardens, Mar 29 (AP):**

Making the quarterfinals at a tournament used to be no big deal for Naomi Osaka. It was only a shock if it didn't happen. Things are a bit different now. The former world No. 1 has made it through to the quarterfinals at the Miami Open just the second time she has managed to advance that deep in any tournament over the last year. Osaka beat Alison Riske of the U.S. 6-3, 6-4 on Monday, moving into a round-of-eight matchup with Danielle Collins.

Osaka's only other quarterfinal appearance in the last year was at an Australian Open warmup tournament in Melbourne in January. Before that, her most recent quarterfinals trip was at Miami a year ago. It's really funny for me, because last year



here I made it to the quarters, too, Osaka said.

It was after I won Australia and I wasn't that grateful. I kind of expected to win. Wins these days just mean more, after ongoing struggles and time away from the game to deal with her mental health. Her ranking has dipped to No. 77 it could get somewhere around No. 30 if she wins the Miami

title and she hasn't won a tournament since that Australian Open last year.

But her stay in Miami so far has been nothing but happiness, with three easy wins all in straight sets and the added benefit of a walkover victory in there as well.

This is really one of the funnest times of my life, Osaka said. I'm really grateful.

## Would be very emotional thinking about de Villiers if we win IPL: Kohli

**Mumbai, Mar 29 (PTI):**

Virat Kohli feels if Royal Challengers Bangalore were crowned champions for the first time in the coming seasons it would mean a lot to AB de Villiers, who would be the first person on the former captain's mind after the triumph.

One of contemporary cricket's greatest batters, de Villiers retired from all forms of the game in November last year. Since starting his association with RCB in 2011, the South African batting legend enjoyed 11 fruitful seasons with the franchise.

"The other day, it got me thinking, if we manage to win the title in the coming seasons, I would be very emotional thinking about him first," Kohli, who had stepped down as captain after the 2021 season, said on RCB Bold Diaries.

"Rather than what I would experience after such hard work of so many years, I would actually think of him.

"It would still mean a lot to him even if he is watching the game from home.



He is a special human being as he has touched everyone, and we all can vouch for that," he added.

Kohli revealed that he had an inkling during the last IPL that de Villiers was going to hang his boots.

"It's very strange I mean, I clearly remember when he decided to finally call it a day. He sent me a voice note, we were coming back from Dubai after the World Cup. I got a voice note from AB de Villiers while we were driving back home.

"I kind of had the impression and was guessing it in the last IPL. Our

rooms were next to each other, and we would walk the same way and disperse, every time we walked to our room and he would see me outside, he would be like I want to see you for coffee, one of these days'.

"I kept getting nervous and was like I am not sitting with you because I think there is something coming' to which he always said 'No man there is nothing, I just want to have a chat with you, it's been a while and he never speaks like that because we interact all the time."

Even the role of Sri Lankan spinner Wanindu Hasaranga, who is capable of spinning a web around the batters, could decide the fate of the match.

For KKR, they ticked all the boxes in their lung-opener against CSK and they would be hoping that they can repeat their performance. The biggest positive for KKR was Ajinkya Rahane finding his mojo and scoring runs.

Although all-rounder Venkatesh Iyer managed only 16 runs in the first game, he is capable of pummeling any attack into submission.

Skipper Shreyas Iyer along with Sam Billings and Sheldon Jackson would need to shoulder responsibility in the middle-order.

On the bowling front, Umesh Yadav was sensational at the Wankhede. But others including Shivam Mavi, spinners Varun Chakravarthy and Sunil Narine would need to put up an improved show. All-rounder Andre Russell's role with the bat and ball could eventually be the difference between the two sides.

KKR are unlikely to tinker with their winning combination.

Being an evening game, dew would certainly be a factor and one can expect a high-scoring affair.

## Ayush Badoni - a product despite the system

**Mumbai, Mar 29 (PTI):**

Ignored and overlooked, Delhi youngster Ayush Badoni finally found his moment of glory when he made a stunning IPL debut for Lucknow Super Giants with a maiden fifty here.

The 22-year-old, who slammed a 41-ball 54 against Gujarat Titans on Monday, is a product despite the system.

One of the last products of the late iconic cricket coach Tarak Sinha, Badoni had impressed at India Under-19 level, smashing an unbeaten 185 in a youth Test against Sri Lanka in 2018. He also had a good outing at the Asia Cup as he hit 52 off just 28 balls in the final.

But all that didn't translate into him getting a place in the Delhi team as Badoni was repeatedly ignored by the Delhi selectors for the Ranji Trophy and the Vijay Hazare Trophy. He was overlooked in the previous IPL auctions too before being handpicked by former India opener Gautam Gambhir this year.

"I didn't have any idea, because my name had been coming up (in the auctions) for three years and I was unsold," Badoni said at the post-match press conference.

"So this time when my name cropped up, my heartbeat was fast. I didn't know, I had given trials of two, three teams, it had



been happening since two-three years, I was not getting picked. "I am grateful as Lucknow picked me, and now I need to perform and make my team win, I will try my best."

Badoni played only five T20s in last year's Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy in Mumbai, where he got a chance to bat only once, scoring 8 runs. He is yet to play the coveted Ranji Trophy. "Yes, there has been little struggle for three years, I did not get a chance from Delhi, because of which I enhanced my game, have tried new shots, learnt new shots and that has helped me in T20s," he said.

## Manohar is someone you are going to hear about in future: Hardik Pandya

**Mumbai, Mar 29 (PTI):**

"You would hear a lot more about Abhinav Manohar in the future," said Gujarat Titans captain Hardik Pandya after the IPL debutant displayed remarkable hitting in the final over to ensure a five-wicket win over Lucknow Super Giants here on Monday.

With Titans needing 11 off the final over, Manohar smashed back-to-back fours off Avesh Khan to make the task much easier for his team. With the confidence he showed under extreme pressure, it did not look like he was playing his first game on a big stage like the IPL. "Manohar is someone to look at with the talent he has. He is someone who you are going to hear about in the future. Rahul Tewatia was sensational as well," said Hardik at the post-



match presentation. Hardik, who played his first game since November last year, bowled four overs and scored 33 batting at number four.

"Mostly I'll bat at number four, because I want to take pressure with my experience so that the others can play freely. We want to win as a team and nobody can take the contribution away from anyway," he said.

He was all praise for pacer Mohammad Shami who bowled a sensational spell with the new ball.

"This was the right game for us to be on either side and learn, but have learnt a lot by winning. Shami is known for his seam positions and he got us to a great start. We would have any day taken 160 on this wicket," he said referring to Super Giants 158 for six.

## Mirabai Chanu wins 'BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year' award



**New Delhi, Mar 29 (PTI):**

Olympic silver medallist weightlifter Mirabai Chanu on Monday won the BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year award.

Chanu created history last year when she became the first Indian weightlifter to clinch a silver medal at the Summer Olympics.

I am currently training in the United States of America. I will give my best to win gold at this year's Asian and Commonwealth Games. Thanks again to BBC India for honouring me with the BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year award," Chanu said in a media release. Young India opener Shafali Verma was awarded the The BBC

Emerging Player' award. Verma is the youngest female cricketer to have played for India.

The first Indian woman to have won a medal at the Olympics in 2000, former weightlifter Karnam Malleswari was presented the BBC Lifetime Achievement' award.

Olympians and the Paralympians from the Tokyo Games were also honoured in this edition of BBC ISWOTY. Tim Davie, BBC's Director General said, It's wonderful to be here in Delhi in the BBC's centenary year, and to honour the talented Indian sportswomen who've achieved so much, often in the face of challenging circumstances.



## 'CUET not to make board exams irrelevant'

Will not give push to coaching culture



Jagadesh Kumar

New Delhi, Mar 29 (PTI):

The Common University Entrance Test (CUET) will neither make the board exams irrelevant nor give a push to "coaching culture", University Grants Commission Chairman Jagadesh Kumar said on Tuesday.

He asserted that students from state boards will not be at a disadvantage in the undergraduate

admissions process. The National Testing Agency (NTA), which is responsible for conducting the CUET twice a year from the next session, he said.

In an interview with PTI, Kumar said CUET will not just be limited to admissions in Central Universities as several prominent private universities have indicated that they would like to come on board for using the scores from the common entrance exam for undergraduate admissions.

"To begin with, CUET will be conducted once this year but NTA will consider conducting the exam at least twice a year from the next session. The entrance exam will not just be limited to Central Universities but also private ones. Several prominent private universities have indicated that they

would like to come on board and admit students through CUET," he said.

"Eight deemed-to-be universities including the Tata Institute of Social Sciences and Jamia Hamdard have also expressed a desire to use CUET scores to admit students to undergraduate courses. I held a meeting yesterday with vice-chancellors and directors of these eight deemed universities which receive maintenance grants from UGC," Kumar said.

He, however, did not name the private universities that have expressed interest in adopting CUET.

Kumar had last week announced that CUET scores, and not Class 12 marks, will be mandatory for admission to 45 central universities that can fix their minimum eligibility criteria. On whether the exam will lead to a "coaching culture" for under-

graduate admissions, Kumar said, "The exam will simply not require any coaching so there is no question of it giving a push to coaching culture."

The exam will be completely based on the class 12 syllabus. A lot of students are getting concerned about whether the exam will also have questions from the class 11 syllabus. The answer is a clear no, the UGC chairman said.

"There will be no disadvantage to state board students. The exam will also provide a level playing field for students from all boards.

"Students from rural backgrounds appearing for the exam in regional languages, coming from different economic backgrounds and are geographically distributed across the country, all will be treated on a par," Kumar said.

## PROTECTION FROM HEAT



Women cover their faces to protect themselves from the hot weather, in Jammu, Tuesday.

Rudresh murder

## HC rejects plea by accused to shift case out of NIA court

Bengaluru, Mar 29 (PTI):

A full bench of the Karnataka High Court headed by Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi on Tuesday dismissed a criminal appeal filed by the accused in the murder of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) functionary R Rudresh seeking transfer of the case from the Special NIA Court to a regular Sessions Court. Irfan Pasha and the other accused in the murder had earlier challenged the decision of the Ministry of Home Affairs on December 7, 2016 to hand over the investigation to the National Investigation Agency

(NIA). The trial court had earlier rejected their discharge application seeking discharge in offences under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). The High Court and Supreme Court have upheld this order. The accused then approached the trial court under Section 20 of the NIA Act seeking transfer of the case from the Special NIA Court to a regular Sessions court. In effect, they sought to be discharged from offences under UAPA as a regular Sessions court would try them for offences only under the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The trial court rejected the application and

an appeal was filed before the High Court. Since there were divergent opinion in two earlier cases on the same issue the matter was referred to a full bench. Dismissing their appeal as non-maintainable, the full bench comprising Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, Justice B Veerappa and Justice P Krishna Bhat said the trial court order passed on the application under Section 20 of the NIA Act is purely an interlocutory order. An interlocutory order is one which is passed anywhere in-between the commencement of trial and conclusion of trial but one that does not conclude the proceedings.

## Mid-day meals resume in schools after two-year gap

Ahmedabad, Mar 29 (PTI):

The Gujarat government on Tuesday resumed the mid-day meal scheme in government and aided schools across nine urban centres, two years after it was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, an official said.

Students in 29,464 primary schools will get mid-day meals from March 31 under the scheme, which was suspended on March 16, 2020 due to the pandemic, he said. State Education Minister Jitu Vaghani re-launched the scheme from a government school in Gandhinagar, a government statement said.

The scheme will cover 7 lakh students in over 2,800 schools. Students of 29,464 schools in Gujarat will

start getting mid-day meals from March 31, Vaghani said. The state government has sanctioned Rs 1,071 crore for the PM POSHAN Scheme for 2022-23, he said.

When schools were shut amid the pandemic, the state government had paid money to beneficiary families for the purchase food grains and towards cooking costs, he said.

The government had paid for more than 2.61 lakh tonnes of food grains and Rs 1,350 crore towards cooking costs under the food security allowance, the minister said.

Vaghani appealed to people to provide food to school students on special occasions such as birthdays and weddings.

## 'Decline in vulture, Great Indian Bustard numbers in Guj'

Gandhinagar, Mar 29 (PTI):

The Gujarat government on Tuesday informed the legislative Assembly that the population of vultures and Great Indian Bustards, both endangered birds, has declined in the state, while the count of lions, leopards and bears has increased. Responding to a query by Congress MLA Kanti Sodha Parmar during Question Hour, Forest Minister Kiritsinh Rana said the last wildlife census conducted in 2016 suggested a decline in the number of vultures by 44 and a drop in the count of Great Indian Bustards (GIBs) by 23 in the state. Rana, however, in his reply did not mention the cur-

rent population of both the endangered birds in Gujarat. According to the minister, the population of lions saw an increase of 151 in the census of 2020. Similarly, 235 more leopards were found in the census of 2016, while the bear count rose by 50. While the blackbuck population saw an increase of 2,847 in the census of 2015, the Indian wild ass number registered a rise of 1,631 in the census of 2020, he said. Responding to a sub-question regarding the steps taken for conservation of endangered birds whose number has declined, Rana said the state government has already banned veterinary use of diclofenac, a drug consid-

ered as one of the major contributing factors in declining population of vultures. To ensure regular supply of food to the scavengers, the state government has built "Vulture Cafeteria" in different parts of the state, said Rana, adding villagers are continuously made aware about the importance of these birds. The minister said efforts are also being made to protect the nests built by vultures on top of coconut trees. While a breeding programme for captive vultures has been initiated in the Junagadh zoo, ten vultures of five different species were tagged with transmitters to study their habitat and behaviour, he said.

## INT'L TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY



People belonging to transgender community during a special registration camp for voter ID cards, ahead of International Transgender Day of Visibility, in Thane, Tuesday.

## Octogenarian spends night inside Hyd bank

After being locked inside, rescued by cops

Hyderabad, Mar 29 (PTI):

A 84-year old man had to spend a night in a bank's locker room here after the bank staff accidentally locked him inside the premises and left, police said on Tuesday.

It was only on Tuesday morning that the octogenarian, who spent almost 18 hours (from 4.40 PM on Monday till 10.30 AM today) inside the bank's locker room was traced and rescued by police, who found him lying on the floor of the locker room in a semi-unconscious state and immediately got him shifted to a hospital. The elderly man, had visited the bank to

open his locker on Monday evening but the bank staff apparently did not notice him and locked the premises and left but leaving him inside the bank, police said.

After the elderly man, a diabetic, did not return home, his family members filed a complaint with the police after which a missing case was registered, Jubilee Hills Police Station Inspector S Rajasekhhar Reddy said.

Police during course of investigation and after verifying the CCTV footage noticed the elderly man passing through Jubilee Hills check post area on Monday evening and entering into the

bank premises, he told PTI. Police further found that after locking up the bank premises, all staff left but did not find the elderly man coming out and concluded that he was inside the bank itself.

Accordingly, a police team visited the bank on Tuesday and asked the bank officials to open the locker room and traced the elderly man and got him shifted to a nearby hospital, the police official said adding his condition is now stable.

The man was not carrying his mobile phone as he forgot it at his house on Monday, police said.

The official further said they were in the process

of registering a case against the bank staff for their alleged negligent act in connection with the incident. The police official tweeted: "We have successfully traced him at Union Bank of India, Jubilee Hills check post. Yesterday evening he was confined accidentally in Lockers room of Union Bank. After verifying the CCTV cameras the Jubilee Hills Police successfully rescued him and shifted to near by Hospital."

Some netizens termed it as irresponsible behaviour of bank employees and said the matter needs investigation and necessary action.

## Dancer denied temple performance

New Delhi, Mar 29 (PTI):

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Tuesday expressed disappointment over an atheist dancer being denied permission to perform at the famed Koodalmanikyam temple in Kerala, saying art has no religion or caste but it has been overruled by religion in this matter.

Mansiya V P, a Bharatanatyam dancer and a PhD research scholar in classical dance, on Monday took to Facebook claiming the temple officials denied her permission to perform despite her name being printed in the programme notice.

The temple officials claimed that she was denied permission as the temple tradition does not

allow a non-Hindu to enter the premises. Asked about the issue, Tharoor said as a Hindu and a citizen of India, he is disappointed with this decision.

"Art has no religion or caste, but here, art has been overruled by religion," Tharoor told PTI.

Other faiths go out of their way to attract others to respect their religion, throwing open the doors of mosques, churches, gurdwaras and synagogues to all, he said. "As a public representative in Thiruvananthapuram, I have attended Christmas Eve Mass at St Joseph's Cathedral, celebrated Eid at Palayam's Juma Masjid and been received with honour at the sacred sites of every Christian sect," the Lok Sabha MP said.

● **Tharoor says art overruled by religion**

"I have walked on the hallowed ground of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, offered prayers alongside Jewish friends at the Wailing Wall there and bowed my head at the Church of the Nativity. While some Hindu temples are equally welcoming, some are not, and I deplore their attitude," he said. Tharoor noted that temple board chairman Pradeep Menon explained that the decision is in keeping with "the existing tradition at the temple".

"Traditions, of course, change with the times: it was also the existing tradition at every temple to deny Dalits entry a centu-

ry ago, but that is an unthinkable thought today. I can understand reluctance to permit access to outsiders to the sanctum sanctorum, where an idol has been installed with a 'prathishtha'," he said.

"But a dance on the temple premises? Surely Mansiya, who dances with reverence and talent, is no threat to the sanctity of the place," Tharoor asserted. He said this is not the religion of 'vasudaiva kutumbakam (the world is one family) and 'sarva dharma sambahava (all religions are the same). These are rules made by "small-minded" men that reflect their prejudices and not the inclusive spirit of a great faith, Tharoor said. Earlier, responding to a tweet which claimed that

he was being selective in his criticism as a judge had also stopped the Mohiniattam dance in Palakkad halfway through, Tharoor said on Twitter, "I deplore that as well, all the more so since the judge was acting in his own interest (he claimed the music was disturbing him since he lived next door). Neena Prasad is one of the most famous Mohiniattam exponents and deserved better than to be so rudely interrupted by police." Mansiya, born a Muslim, was to perform at the 10-day National Festival of Dance and Music organised by the Koodalmanikyam temple to be held from April 15 to 25. Around 800 artists are expected to perform at the temple during the fest.

● **After casteist slur allegation**

Chennai, Mar 29 (PTI):

Tamil Nadu Minister R S Rajakannappan was on Tuesday divested of his transport portfolio after an official alleged that the minister used a casteist slur against him.

On the recommendations of Chief Minister M K Stalin, the portfolios of transport, nationalised transport and Motor Vehicles Act held by Rajakannappan would now be handled by Minister S S Sivasankar, a Raj Bhavan release said. Welfare of Backward Classes, the Most



R S Rajakannappan

Backward Classes and Denotified Communities

department held by Sivasankar has been allocated to Rajakannappan and he is re-designated as Minister for Backward Classes Welfare.

The divestment of the portfolio, the first after the DMK assumed power in May 2021 assumes significance since the ruling party (unlike the previous AIADMK regimes) does not generally resort to it barring exceptions.

The move is a sequence to an allegation made by a Block Development Officer belonging to Ramana Thapuram District. He had alleged that Rajakannappan had on March 27 rebuked him using caste name.