



### BRIEF



An IAF personnel shows his skills during celebrations of Diamond Jubilee of IAFs Chetak helicopter.

### Kiosks

**New Delhi:** Indian Railways intends to provide stalls/kiosks at identified stations for the sale and promotion of items sourced from local manufacturers to improve their skills and livelihood, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav told Parliament on Wednesday. In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Vaishnav said that this is being done under the "One Station, One Product" concept that aims to encourage indigenous and specialised products and crafts of India through providing display and sale outlets on railway stations across the country.

### Suspended

**Guwahati:** Congress MLA Nurul Huda was on Wednesday suspended from the Assam Assembly for some time after he shouted against Speaker Biswajit Daimary who, during the Question Hour, had directed him to ask his query stopping a lengthy prelude to it. As he did not leave the House even after being suspended, marshals dragged him out.

### Farewell

**New Delhi:** Rajya Sabha will bid farewell to 72 members who are retiring and Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will speak in the house on Thursday. Leader of the House Piyush Goyal and Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge will also speak and bid farewell to these 72 members, including seven nominated members.

### Tyre burst

**Pune:** A Sukhoi Su-30MKI aircraft suffered a tyre burst after landing at the Pune airport on Wednesday afternoon, which led to a blockage of the runway for some time, defence authorities said. The Pune international airport is a civil enclave operating from the Indian Air Force (IAF) station of Lohegaon, which is used to train IAF pilots. It is a base for the IAF's frontline Sukhoi aircraft.

### Cancelled

**Lucknow:** The Class 12 English exam of the Uttar Pradesh school board was cancelled in 24 districts on Wednesday after the question paper was leaked, prompting CM Yogi Adityanath to order invoking the stringent National Security Act in the case.

**Weather**  
High 41 Low 22

**MARKET**  
NIFTY 17,498.25  
SENSEX 58,683.99

**BULLION**  
GOLD 51,165  
SILVER 67,560

## DA hiked by 3% for central govt employees, pensioners

Effective From January 1, 2022

New Delhi, Mar 30:

The cabinet has approved the proposal to increase the dearness allowance for central government employees and pensioners by 3 per cent to 34 per cent of the basic pay from 31 per cent previously, effective January 1, 2022.

That increase in DA is per the accepted formula, which is based on the recommendations of the 7th central pay commission.

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has given its approval to release an additional instalment of dearness allowance (DA) to central gov-



ernment employees and dearness relief (DR) to pensioners effective January 1 this year.

That represents an increase of 3 per cent over the existing rate of 31 per cent of the basic pay/pension to compensate for the rise in prices. Indeed, retail inflation, or the consumer price inflation, has remained above the upper-end of the Reserve Bank of India's target range of 2-6 per cent for two straight months this year. That inflation data does not yet include the jump in crude prices from

### Impact on state exchequer

The combined impact on the exchequer on account of both the dearness allowance and the dearness relief would be Rs.9,544.50 crore per annum.

### Benefit to employees

This will benefit about 47.68 lakh central government employees and 68.62 lakh pensioners. It will be applicable for civilian employees and those employed in defence services.

the Russia-Ukraine war, which economists say would push up prices pressures even further.

The cabinet notification said the term "basic pay" means the pay drawn as per the 7th pay commission matrix and does not include any other type of pay like special pay.

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lowance and the dearness relief would be Rs.9,544.50 crore per annum.

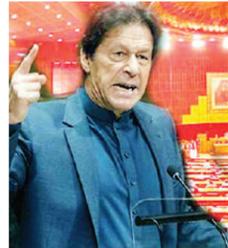
This will benefit about 47.68 lakh central government employees and 68.62 lakh pensioners. It will be applicable for civilian employees and those employed in defence services.

The dearness allowance was hiked by a similar 3 per cent to 31 per cent last year, effective July 1, 2021.

## Pak PM Imran Khan loses majority

After key ally sides with Oppn ahead of no-trust vote

Islamabad, Mar 30 (PTI):



Pakistan's embattled Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday effectively lost majority in Parliament after a key partner of the ruling coalition joined the ranks of the Opposition, which has tabled a no-confidence motion against his government in the National Assembly.

The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), a key ally of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-led coalition government, with its seven members announced that it has parted ways with the government during a joint press conference of the opposition parties here.

Prime Minister Khan needs 172 votes in the

lower house of 342 to foil the Opposition's bid to topple him. However, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islama Fazl (JUI-F), said that the Opposition has the support of 175 lawmakers and the prime minister should resign.

It was also announced that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president and Leader of the Opposition Shehbaz Sharif would be next prime minister of the country after removal of 69-year-old Khan.

"We want to make a new beginning for politics of tolerance and true democracy," MQM-P chief Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui told reporters. "I announce to support the opposition in the parliament."

Sharif said that it was an important day as all opposition parties have joined together to address the problems faced by Pakistan. "The premier, even if he is a selected one, should resign to set a new tradition," he said.

Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), said the support by MQM was a big development and with this the prime minister has lost the majority. "The prime minister has no option and he will have to resign," he said.

Bilawal also said that Sharif will soon be elected as the next prime minister.

## 'India eyes global satellite launch market'

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTI):

India is eyeing a share in the global satellite launch market and has secured four dedicated launch service contracts with foreign customers, the government told Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

"With the emergence of global broadband communication needs, NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) envisages launches of several of these foreign satellites onboard ISRO's SSLV, PSLV and GSLV-MkIII," Minister of State in PMO Jitendra Singh said in a written reply.

The Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) is India's newest launch vehicle to put smaller satellites in low earth orbit. Its first developmental flight

is expected in May.

Earlier this month, ISRO had successfully carried out the ground testing of the newly developed solid booster stage (SS1) for SSLV.

Singh said NSIL, a central public sector enterprise under Department of Space, has earned a foreign exchange revenue of 35 million dollars and 10 million euros during the last three years - 2019-21, through launching satellites of various private and international agencies. He said NSIL has already launched 45 international customer satellites on-board ISRO's PSLV during the last three years and has secured four dedicated launch service contracts for foreign satellite customers.

## SC orders status quo on mop-up round counselling

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTI):

The Supreme Court Wednesday directed the Centre to maintain status quo till Thursday in the mop-up round of NEET-PG 2021-22 counselling and asked the Director General of Health Services (DGHS) to reconsider the issues, including the decision of adding 146 new seats.

The apex court observed that these 146 seats were not available to the candidates in the previous rounds of counselling and they had no opportunity to participate in these seats.

A bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud said these seats have been allocated to students who are lower in merits than those who were allotted

asks DGHS to clarify on 146 seats

seats in the rounds one and two of the counselling.

The bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Bela M Trivedi, said this is one of the aspects which needs to be revisited by the DGHS.

The top court is hearing petitions filed by a group of doctors seeking to participate in mop-up round of NEET-PG 2021-22 counselling.

During the hearing, the bench observed that the second aspect was regarding non-uniform application of the March 16 notice.

In one of the petitions, the petitioners have chal-

lenged the Medical Counselling Committee notice dated March 16 which restrains the participation in the mop-up round counselling if the candidate has already picked up seats in state quota.

The bench observed that as a consequence of the March 16 notice, candidates who are allotted seats in rounds one and two in the state quota are prevented from participating in the mop-up counselling for the All India quota.

It observed that prima facie, the notice has not been followed uniformly and this might cast a doubt as to whether allocation of seats in the All India quota in mop-up round is fair.

## NTA to hold CUET twice a year

New Delhi, Mar 30:

The National Testing Agency (NTA), which is responsible for conducting the Common University Entrance Test, is likely to hold the CUET twice a year from the next session.

"To begin with CUET will be conducted once this year but NTA will consider conducting the exam at least twice a year from next session," University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Jagadeesh Kumar told the PTI news agency.

Kumar also said that 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. He also asserted that students from state boards will not be at a disadvantage in the undergraduate admission process.

Asked whether the exam will lead to a 'coaching culture' for undergraduate admissions, Kumar said, "The exam will simply not require any coaching so there is no question of it giving a push to a 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."

## NAVAL INVESTITURE CEREMONY



Vice Admiral M.A. Hampiholi inspects the Guard of Honor during the Naval Investiture Ceremony, at Southern Naval Command, in Kochi, Wednesday.

## CCS approves procurement of 15 light combat helicopters

At a cost of Rs 3,887 crore

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTI):

In a significant move, the prime minister-led Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) on Wednesday approved the procurement of 15 indigenously developed Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) at a cost of Rs 3,887 crore.

The defence ministry said 10 helicopters will be for the Indian Air Force and five will be for the Indian



Army. "The CCS has approved procurement of 15 Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Limited Series Production at the cost of Rs 3,887 crore along with infrastructure sanctions worth Rs 377 crore," it said.

Light Combat Helicopter Limited Series Production (LSP) is an indigenously de-

veloped combat helicopter containing around 45 per cent indigenous content by value which will progressively increase to more than 55 per cent. The state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) produces the helicopter. The decision to procure the helicopters came in the midst of the three services focusing extensively on enhancing their overall combat capabilities in view of India facing myriad security challenges including along the borders with China. The LCH is equipped with requisite

agility, manoeuvrability, extended range, high altitude performance and all-weather combat capability to perform a range of roles including combat search and rescue (CSAR), destruction of enemy air defence (DEAD) and counter-insurgency (CI) operations, according to the ministry.

It said the helicopter can also be deployed in high altitude bunker-busting operations, counter-insurgency operations in the jungle and urban environments and for supporting ground forces.

## Kerjriwal an urban naxal: Tejasvi Surya

Trying to whitewash Hindu genocide in Kashmir

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTI):

Lashing out at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for his remarks over the movie 'The Kashmir Files', BJP youth wing president Tejasvi Surya on Wednesday dubbed him an "urban naxal" and said he is trying to "whitewash the Hindu genocide in Kashmir".

The Surya-led BJP Yuva Morcha also held a protest outside Kejriwal's residence here over his remarks that the movie was a 'jhoothi film' (a movie not based on facts). Addressing a press conference at the BJP head office here, Surya demanded an apology from Kejriwal and



said that the AAP leader has insulted Hindus with his remarks about the movie. Kejriwal's remarks is an attempt to "whitewash the genocide", he said. "This attempt to whitewash the genocide is injustice on a civilisation. It is a time-tested tactic of urban naxals. Our protest is not against any party and this is not merely regarding 'The Kashmir Files'. This protest is against the inhuman mindset of Kejriwal who denies the Hindu genocide in Kashmir," Surya said.

## 'New norms to ensure safety of vehicle users'

Effective from Oct 01

New Delhi, Mar 30:

As many as 13,022 lives could have been saved in the country in 2020 if there were functional airbags in cars, Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari told the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, while asserting that new norms are being introduced to ensure the safety of vehicle users.

He said the transport ministry has notified the new norms and from October 1, it is proposed that all vehicles shall be fitted with six airbags, including side airbags.

Replying to supplementaries during the Question Hour, Gadkari said in 2020, a total of 8,598 lives could have been saved with the use of airbags after head-on collisions of vehicles.



Nitin Gadkari

"Every year, we face five lakh accidents and 1.5 lakh deaths. For that reason, we are now taking a number of measures. Six airbags are now mandatory. We have taken a decision to make it mandatory for the economy models also," he said. "As many as 25,289 people were killed in head-on collisions in 2020 and 30 per cent of lives in frontal collisions can be saved by airbags. "In 2020 alone, 8,598 lives could have been saved in head-on collisions with the use of airbags.

### New norms of safety

The transport ministry has notified the new norms and from October 1, it is proposed that all vehicles shall be fitted with six airbags, including side airbags.

Similarly, side collisions cost 14,271 lives and 31 per cent of those or 4,424 lives could have been saved with the use of side airbags," the minister added.

"We want to protect the lives of people and that is why we are going to start this rating system, which is going to qualitatively improve the automobile sector and at the same time, there will be more exports that will lead to more employment potential and growth for the country," he said.

### NEW AIIMS DIRECTOR

## Names of three docs get top body's nod

To be sent to ACC for final approval

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTI):

Names of three doctors, shortlisted by a search-cum-selection panel for the post of AIIMS director, have been approved by a key body of the institute and will now be sent to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) for final approval.

The three AIIMS doctors recommended for the top job in the premier institute are Dr Nikhil Tandon, head of the department of endocrinology; Dr Rajesh Malhotra, chief of AIIMS Trauma Centre and the head of the department of orthopaedics; and Dr Pramod Garg, professor in the gastroenterology department at the institute.

### Names recommended

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orthopaedics; and Dr Pramod Garg, professor in the gastroenterology department at the institute, sources said. These three names shortlisted by the search-cum-selection committee were placed before the Institute Body, the top decision-making body of the AIIMS, on Tuesday and were approved.



# CHHATTISGARH MODEL

## SCRIPTING A NEW CHAPTER OF NYAY

**Disbursement**



### Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana

**FY 2021-22** - last installment  
₹1029.31 cr to 20.58 lakh farmers

Payment of ₹11,180.97 cr in last 2 years

**Increase in acreage, production & crop diversification**

**Disbursement**



### Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Bhoomihin Krishi Majdoor Nyay Yojana

**Second Installment**  
₹71.08 cr to 3.55 lakh registered landless farmers

**Launching**

### Mukhyamantri Shahri Slum Swasthya Yojana

60 new mobile medical units for municipal corporations & nagar panchayats

**More than 17 lakh people benefitted**

**Launching**

### Decentralisation for Effective Administration

4 new sub-divisions & 23 new tehsil

**Launching**

Online portal for review of settlement of time bound revenue related cases

On 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022



**Disbursement**

### Godhan Nyay Yojana

Transfer of ₹13.62 cr towards institutional purchase of cow dung

Payment of ₹226.18 cr towards institutional purchase of cow dung till now

**Repurposing cow dung  
Promoting organic farming  
New avenues of employment**

**Disbursement**



### Shahid Mahendra Karma Tendupatta Sangraha Samajik Suraksha Yojana

₹10.91 cr insurance coverage to 728 tendupatta collectors' families



**Shri Bhupesh Baghel**  
Honourable Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

Pro Active - Pro People



# Khadi is not just a piece of cloth, it's a school of thought: CM

Weavers and craftsmen honored by the CM at the State Level Khadi and Village Industries Exhibition

Raipur Mar 30:

Khadi has always been a symbol of Traditional Indian Craftsmanship unique to our country. Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel, while addressing the Weavers and Craftsmen of Chhattisgarh present in Chhattisgarh Haat, said that Khadi is not just a piece of cloth but it's a school of thought. The Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi used Khadi as a symbol of Self Reliance and a weapon of freedom struggle. Mahatma Gandhi envisioned Gram Swaraj to promote and conserve locally made hand-made products that could be sold everywhere, he wanted our villages to be strong and sustainable in every way. Walking on the same path of Self Reliance, We are also improving the skills of our artisans, weavers, craftsmen and providing them proper



training and product selling platforms like C-Mart to support rural craftsmanship. Let every village be a producer and cities as consumers of such traditionally made high-quality products. He further said that it is our endeavour to make our villages economically viable and self-reliant. The Chief Minister addressed his views in a gathering of Weavers, Craftsmen and visitors present in the 10-day state-level Khadi and Village Industries Exhibition organised at Chhattisgarh Haat Bazar, Pandri. The Chief Minister honoured

Chhattisgarh's weavers and craftsmen who have done excellent work in their respective craft. The Chief Minister said that as per the vision of Mahatma Gandhi, the Suraji Gaon Yojana was implemented in Chhattisgarh to realise the vision of 'Gram Swaraj'. Under this scheme, village to village Gauthans are being constructed and developed as Rural Industrial Parks. He said that weavers, craftsmen and artisans are being given better employment opportunities by setting up such small enterprises in rural industrial parks.

Their work is being refined and they are being trained to produce quality goods as per market demand. For this, a provision of Rs 600 crore has been made in the budget from which water and electricity will be arranged here first. He said that traders should provide raw materials to the artisans here. Those working here will be given training by the government. The artisans will prepare goods according to the design of the trader with the Raw materials provided. This will help conserve our traditional

occupational practices and provide employment to the people of the state to make them financially secure. The Chief Minister said that Mukhyamantri Silk Project has been started in the state this year. Under this scheme, one thousand women will be identified and trained in cocoon rearing. Women working here will earn 6 to 7 thousand rupees per month from this work. He said that Rally Cocoon Bank would be set up to take forward the silk project in the coming financial year. Initially, 200 self-help groups will be assigned the task by giving training in rearing. Mr. Baghel further said that approval has been given for the construction of more than 10 thousand 500 Gauthans in the state which will also act as Rural Industrial Parks, out of which construction of more than 8 thousand 500 has been completed.

## TRAFFIC-JAM



With too many protests at dharna venue in Budhatalab area, the vehicle riders passing through it faced lots of problems and it often causes traffic-jam in that area.

## No online exams for Class 9th, 11th of CGBSE

Raipur, Mar 30:

According to the information received from the School Education Department, the examinations of the students of class 9th and 11th are yet to be taken. There is no need to conduct examinations online as examinations of both the aforementioned classes are con-

ducted locally by the schools. No examination is held for students from class 1st to 8th under the School Education Department in the state and no child has to repeat any class. The examinations of class 10th and 12th are taken by Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education. Meanwhile, examinations for

Class 9th and 11th are conducted locally by the schools only and there is no need for online examinations. Many children do not have access to smart phones and internet connectivity for appearing in online examinations. The schools concerned will make their own arrangements for the examinations, nothing is centralized.

## Amandeep scores unbeaten 158 runs against Assam

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 30: Amandeep Khare scored unbeaten 158 runs to help the visiting Chhattisgarh score massive 386 runs for 6 wickets in first innings against Assam in the CK Nayadu Trophy Cricket tournament held at Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Rajkot. It is notable that Assam had scored just 260 runs in first innings. While Amandeep Khare remained unbeaten on 158 runs with the help of 21 fours, Prateek Yadav (77 runs) and Ayush Pandey (68 runs) also made solid contributions for the team. Gagandeep Singh was at crease at 38 runs with the help of 5 fours and a six at close of play on day two. Marinmoya Dutta claimed was the most successful bowler for Assam as he claimed five wickets.

## Ch'garh records 27 COVID-19 cases, no deaths

Raipur, Mar 30: Chhattisgarh on Tuesday reported 27 new coronavirus cases but no pandemic-related deaths. The state's caseload rose to 11,52,111, while the death toll remained unchanged at 14,034, health officials said. The positivity rate, or cases detected per 100 tests, stood at 0.30 per cent. The recovery count rose to 11,37,927 after three persons were discharged from hospitals and 21 people completed their home isolation during the day, leaving the state with 150 active cases. Raigarh district recorded

11 new cases. It was followed by three cases in Balrampur, two in Korba and one in Raipur, among other districts. No new coronavirus cases were reported in 17 districts on Tuesday. With 9,043 samples examined during the day, the tally of tests carried out so far in Chhattisgarh went up to 1,74,86,936. Chhattisgarh's coronavirus figures are as follows: Positive cases 11,52,111, new cases 27, death toll 14,034, recovered 11,37,927, active cases 150, today tests 9,043, total tests 1,74,86,936.

## CM condoles Shri Gopalchandra Goswami

Raipur, Mar 30: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has expressed grief over the sad demise of Shri Gopalchandra Goswami, father of Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court Mr. Arup Kumar Goswami. Mr. Baghel spoke to Chief Justice Goswami over phone and expressed his condolences. Mr. Baghel prayed for the departed soul to rest in peace and wished strength to the bereaved family in this difficult time. Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court Mr. Goswami's father Shri Gopalchandra Goswami was a former Indian Administrative Service officer. He was unwell since past few days. He passed away in Guwahati today.

## Mock drill done to prevent LPG gas leak

Raipur, Mar 30:

A meeting was organized by District Administration Raipur on March 29 at Red Cross Hall at 3 pm to chalk out plan for disaster management in the district. The meeting was attended by District Commandant Raipur, Chief Medical and Health Officer members of NDRF, Industrial Health and Safety Department, State Disaster Response, HPCL LPG Bottling Plant Mandir Hasaud District Raipur (Chhattisgarh). A comprehensive discussion was held and framework was prepared at the meeting for rescue in the adverse situation. To this end Mock Hydro Carbon Drill was done at HPCL LPG Bottling Plant Mandir Hasaud at 11 am today (March 30, 2022).



Ways to stop gas leakage in the initial stage so as to

prevent loss of life and property were demonstrated. A detailed mock drill

was done regarding how to extinguish the fire caused by gas.

## CSPC announces 30-member Hockey team



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 30: Chhattisgarh State Power Company on Wednesday declared a 30-member team for the All India Inter State Electricity Board Hockey championship to be held next

month. Managing Director of Power Generation company NK Bijaura declared the team.

Avedan Kujur, Mangal Tirkey, Albert Kujur, Hasmat Karim, Birju Ghosh, Shah Nawaj Sultan, Prem Dauriya

and Vijay Lakra from Raipur Central Office, Anil Minj, Amit Ekka, Lov Kaushik, Aman Kishore Kerketta, Christopher Kujur, Balram Yadav, Pravesh bakhla, Deepak Kshetravani from Korba West, Sanjay Ekka, Sanjay Beck and Akhil Minj from Ambikapur, Ajay Tirkey and Sushant Katakwar from Korba East, Alexander Minj, Dilip Tigga from Madwa Project, Sameer Sahu, MR Murty and Purushottam Dubey from Durg Circle and Abhishek Naidu and Sachin Khobragade from Rajnandgaon are in the team.

## Last chance to deposit property tax today

6% surcharge to be added to amount of property tax after 31st March

Raipur, Mar 30: For residents of Raipur Municipal Corporation area, March 31 is the last chance to deposit property tax. After this, a surcharge of 6% will also be added to the total amount of property tax after 31st March. Arvind Sharma, Additional Commissioner of Revenue Department of the Corporation said that till March 29 this year, revenue of Rs 155 crore had been received. In the next two days, revenue of Rs 10 to 20 crore is expected. Those who

have not yet deposited the property tax, should go to their nearest zones till 31 March and deposit the property tax. Revenue staff will be present in their zone offices from morning till the arrival of the last tax payer in the night on the instructions of Municipal Commissioner Prabhat Malik, so that citizens do not face any kind of inconvenience while paying the property tax. Additional Commissioner Sharma said that after March 31, a surcharge of 6% would be levied. He also said that till now the sealing of commercial buildings was done for non-payment of tax. Now the action of sealing of private buildings will also be taken.

## City girl Abhinaya excels in dance fest

Raipur, Mar 30:

Krishna Lalit Kala Mahavidyalaya hosted the All India Music and Dance fest 'Kaushal Mahotsav' in the school premises on April 27. There were a total of around 250 participants and prominent dancers were conferred the title of Nritya Shiromani, Nritya Kalashree and Nritya Manjari. The performances were exceptional and technically flawless. The audience were enthralled by the nimble footwork and classical emotive mudras of the senior performers. The lighting



arrangements were very apt and added to the rasping performance. Abhinaya Shankaran daughter of R. Shankaran and S. Srividya and a disciple of Mrs Shweta Nayak Nair: founder and director of the dance school 'Sai Nritya Nilayam' put up a fabulous presentation on Kuchipudi as well as bharatanatyam dance. She has been honoured with Nritya Shiromani and Nritya Kalashree in Bharatanatyam. She credits her success to her guru and her supportive parents for their constant encouragement.

## 33 Deputy Collectors promoted as Joint Collectors

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 30: Thirty three Deputy Collectors have been given promotions as Joint Collector in Chhattisgarh. General Administration Department (GAD) on Wednesday evening issued orders in this regard. Most of the senior officers who have been given promotions are presently posted in Bilaspur, Mahasamund and Balod apart from Raipur. Prominent among those who have been promoted include Upper Secretary Virendra Lakra from Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh Information Commission Raipur's Staff Officer Sewaram Diwan, Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi Deputy Collector Puspendra Sharma, Under Secretary at

State Election Commission Alok Kumar Shrivastva, State Skill Development Authority Additional CEO Jyoti Gulal, Raipur Deputy Collector Atul Vishwakarma, Kailash Prasad Verma from Jail Department, Deputy Collector Balod Silly Thomas, Assistant Director Sports Hemant Kumar from Raipur and Assistant Chief Election Officer Rupesh Kumar Verma, OSD Chief Secretary Office Poonam Soni, Deputy Collector Bemetara Dhileram, Harvansh Singh Miri posted at Rajbhawan as Controller, Deputy Collector Janjgir-Champa Ramprasad Anchala and Bilaspur Deputy Collector Manoj Kumar.

## CM discusses state govt's plan to procure cow urine

Issues instructions to constitute a technical committee to consider various aspects of it

Raipur, Mar 30: After the purchase of cow dung, Chhattisgarh Government is now chalking out plan to procure cow urine. Detailed discussions were held in this regard in a meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel at his residence office here today. The Chief Minister directed to constitute a technical committee to study various aspects of purchase of cow urine. Experts from Indira Gandhi Agricultural University and Kamdhenu University will also be included in this committee. Directions have been given by

the Chief Minister to submit the report in 15 days after the formation of this committee. This technical committee will give its recommendations regarding the collection of cow urine, its quality testing, and products prepared from cow urine. In the meeting, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel asked to complete the work of potential mapping for locally available raw materials in different districts and products made from them within 15 days. This is being done for the establishment of Mahatma Gandhi Rural Industrial Park to be developed in the state-run Gauthan. It is worth mentioning that processing units will be established in Rural Industrial Park for value addition of local food products and Minor Forest Produce. For this, a provision of Rs 600 crore has



been made in the state budget for the year 2022-23. With this amount, necessary infrastructure, facilities for electricity, water and processing units will be developed in the Rural Industrial Park. The Chief Minister further said that an action plan should be prepared to develop at least four rural industrial parks in each development block, keeping in view availability of raw materials at the local level. He said that cultivation of Mahua, Tamarind, and Tikhur is done in Bijapur, Dantewada and

Kondagaon districts and the districts also have availability of variety of Minor Forest Produce, processing units of the same should be established accordingly. Similarly, processing units for herbal medicines should be established in Gauthans from Korba to Surguja while units for manufacturing Kosa garments should be established in Korba, Janjgir-Champa, and Bastar. He also directed to make arrangements for electricity, water, working space and training rooms in rural indus-

trial parks. He asked the officials concerned to make arrangements for effective marketing of the products manufactured in Rural Industrial Park besides ensuring that it is of high-quality. Manufacturing of products should be done as per demand for its easy consumption. While reviewing the various activities conducted in the Gauthans, Chief Minister Mr. Baghel said that the officers should visit the Gauthans and inspect the activities conducted there and ensure their smooth operation. The Chief Minister also directed to make use of wall writing and distribute handbills in villages to inform locals about the benefits of vermicompost. He directed to make available the vermicompost being prepared in Gauthans in the cities for sale. The meeting

was informed that bio-fertilizers and bio-insecticides are prepared from cow urine. Cow urine also contains many minerals and enzymes including urea. Cow urine when used as a fertilizer increases absorption of micronutrients nitrogen, phosphorus and potash. It helps in boosting plant growth and control crop diseases. It was also informed in the meeting that the number of cattle and buffalo in the state is more than 111 lakhs. On an average, 7 liters of cow urine is excreted per animal per day. Farmer representatives present in the meeting including Mr. Rohit Sahu of Village Achanakpur in Patan block, Mr. Govardhan Sahu, Mr. Ram Gausihala Aandu of Bemetara and Mr. Tilak Sao of Mahasamund shared their experiences regarding the use of cow urine.

## Women have made a strong presence in the form of entrepreneurs: Uikey

Governor participates in BDSF Capacity Building programme of Amity University

Raipur, Mar 30:

Governor, Ms. Anusuiya Uikey, participated in BDSF Capacity Building programme organised by Amity University at Tilda, Raipur district. On this occasion, Governor Ms. Uikey duly started the program by lighting the lamp.

It is noteworthy that Amity University has been appointed as a Business Development Assistance Provider, under which 230 women of Self Help Groups from different districts of the state are getting skill development training in the campus. In her address, Governor Ms. Uikey asked the women members undergoing training to be empowered and set an example for others. In the last few years, the participation of women in the field of technology and innovation has increased and has also made a strong presence in the form of entrepreneurs. There was a time when it



was believed that women could only light work. But now women are taking the lead in all fields. Do not limit yourself to the training that all of you have received, but encourage other women by giving them information. Tell them about government schemes so that they can take advantage of them and move forward. Governor Ms. Uikey said that with this type of training program, the women of this tribal-dominated state with limitless

possibilities will be skill-upgraded and they will be financially capable. There is a lot of demand in the global market for many products like Bell metal, herbal medicines, bamboo and wood items in the state and due to direct association with tribal society, they are getting good income along with livelihood. National Rural Livelihood Mission 'BIHAN' is a good initiative to empower women financially in the state, under the aegis of which

women are getting training. With the training, 230 women of Bastar, Surguja, Rajnandgaon and Raipur will be proficient in their skill and professional field and will become equal partners in the development of the state and their families. In this wealthy state, there is a need to continuously provide such opportunities to women so that they can move towards self-reliance. Governor Ms. Uikey encouraged the trainees by giving exam-

ples of many struggling women of the country and the state while holding various positions. At the end of the address, she told the women that you have to lead, only then you will be able to give something to the society and the country. On this occasion, Dr. Williams Selvamurthy, Chancellor of the University also gave information about women's training and university activities. She said that the enthusiasm of women is the indicator of change. The training you have received will definitely make your dreams come true. On this occasion, Governor Ms. Uikey was felicitated by the university administration by presenting a memento. The Vice Chancellor of the University, Dr. Rajendra Pandey, B.D.S.P. Program coordinator Mr. Satyendra Patnaik along with professors, students and trainee women of self-help groups were present.

## People in all the urban bodies of the state will now have health facilities near their homes

Raipur, Mar 30:

Considering the success of 'Chief Minister's Urban Slum Health Scheme' in the municipal areas of the state, State Government has decided to expand the implementation of this scheme in the areas under municipal councils and nagar panchayats as well. Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel will launch the expanded version of this scheme on March 31, 2022. This expanded version of Chief Minister Urban Slum Health Scheme will be implemented in 43 municipal councils and 111 Nagar Panchayats of the state, providing people here with the easy access to health-care facilities near their homes.

Urban Administration Department has completed all the necessary preparations for implementation of the expanded version of the scheme. Municipalities and nagar panchayats will be divided into clusters and health facilities will be provided through 60 mobile medical units. It is noteworthy that Chief Minister Urban Slum

**Chief Minister to launch the expanded launch of Urban Slum Health Scheme on March 31**  
**Health facilities to be made available in 43 Municipalities and 111 Nagar Panchayats of the state through Mobile Medical Units and Dai-Didi Clinics**

Health Scheme was launched on 01 November 2020 on the occasion of State Foundation Day to provide health services to people near their homes in urban areas of the state. In the first phase, health facilities are being provided through 60 mobile medical unit ambulances in all 14 municipal corporations. Urban Administration Minister Dr. Shivkumar Dahria informed that under this updated version of the scheme, facilities such as consultation, treatment, medicines and pathology tests will be provided free of cost to the common people through

Mobile Medical Units. So far, a total of 23884 medical camps have been organized for people living in about 900 slum areas of 14 municipal corporations through Mobile Medical Unit, wherein 1703306 patients have been treated. 1406821 patients have been provided medicines and lab test of 326619 patients has been done. Under Chief Minister Urban Slum Health Scheme, Dai-Didi clinics have been started to provide better health services to women at the doorstep. The Dai-Didi Clinic was launched on 19 November 2020, the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Mr. Indira Gandhi. In Dai-Didi clinics, women are being provided treatment facilities by female doctors and female paramedical staff. This scheme is very popular among women and adolescent girls. A total of 1182 camps have been organized under Dai Didi Clinic scheme so far, under which 89796 female patients have been treated. Medicines have been distributed to 86129 women. Lab test of 16114 patients has been done.

## AIDS testing and treatment facilities in medical college hospitals

**And also in district hospitals and CHCs**  
**For any kind of information regarding AIDS can be called on toll-free number 1097**

Raipur, Mar 30:

AIDS is a serious disease caused by a type of life-threatening infection, which is medically known as Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). In common parlance it is known as AIDS i.e. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. HIV reduces the immunity of our body. Due to this, different types of diseases surround people very soon. This condition is

called AIDS. This disease caused by HIV infection can happen to a person of any age. Raising awareness is the only way to prevent it. AIDS is one of the biggest health problems of the present era. State Nodal Officer for AIDS Control Program, Dr. S.K. Binjharwar informed that AIDS testing and treatment facilities are available in all government medical colleges, district hospitals and community health centers of the state.

Any kind of information about AIDS can be obtained by calling the toll-free number 1097 of Chhattisgarh State AIDS Control Committee. All types of information is

also available on the mobile app NACO AIDS App prepared by NACO. This app can be downloaded from Google Play Store. Dr. Binjharwar told that if a person is found infected with HIV during the test, then he is counseled and regular free treatment is started. The identity of the infected person is kept secret. Various programs are also organized from time to time by the Health Department to make people aware about AIDS and HIV and to give information about its treatment. Dr. Binjharwar told that unprotected sex, transfusion of infected blood, from HIV positive woman to her child, sec-

ond use of infected needle used once are the major causes of HIV-AIDS. Symptoms include persistent fever, sudden weight loss, persistent diarrhea, etc. Condoms should be used during sex to avoid HIV infection. The HIV virus can also be spread through infected blood transfusion transmitted blood or reused injection syringes, so always use a licensed blood bank, new syringe needle when transfusion of blood.

The HIV virus does not spread from shaking hands, eating together and living together, so there should be no discrimination against HIV sufferers.

## Seminar organized under PMEGP scheme

Raipur, Mar 30:

A seminar was organized for successful entrepreneurs and unemployed youths and youths funded under PMEGP scheme in Chhattisgarh Haat Campus, Pandri Raipur. The seminar was presided over by Mrs. Rekha Shukla, Managing Director, Chhattisgarh Khadi and Village Industries Board. Managing Director Mrs. Rekha Shukla told all the entrepreneurs to prepare quality products and to make marketing easier.

On the demand of the entrepreneurs, assurance was given to link all the entrepreneurs with the schemes. He said that the products which are prepared from outside come



to be sold in the local market. If it is prepared at the local level, employment will be available to more and more people. During the program, Premchand Sahu, while giving detailed information about the PMEGP scheme, said that if the unemployed are helped in setting up their own employment

through this, they will be able to be self-supporting as well as provide employment to other unemployed. In the seminar, Mr. Vishesh Kashyap, Mr. Parag Singhai, Mr. Saurabh Singh, Mr. Asif Siddaki, Mr. Jugal Kishore Sinha, Mr. Deepak Sonkar, Mr. Rameshwar Rathor suc-

cessful entrepreneurs gave detailed information about their units through presentation. On this occasion, officials of Chhattisgarh Khadi and Village Industries Board, representatives of Shankaracharya College and representatives of self-help groups were present.

## Traders demands to extend the date of submission of property tax

Raipur, Mar 29:

Heavy rush is there at the collection centers to collect the outstanding tax of the Municipal Corporation. Traders made this demand. Along with this common people, traders are facing severe problem. In such a situation, Avanti Vihar Traders Association has demanded from the Mayor of Municipal Corporation Raipur to extend the date of depositing property tax from March 31 to June 30.

Patron of Avanti Vihar Traders Association,



Rajkumar Rathi, Ashok Gupta, General Secretary Kishorechand Nayak, Vice President Indrapal Singh Tomar and Dr. Vivek Srivastava have demanded from Mayor of Municipal Corporation Raipur to extend the date

of depositing property tax from March 31 to June 30. Rajkumar Rathi has said in the memorandum submitted to RMC Mayor and said that the business was badly affected throughout the year due to the imposition of lockdown thrice by the state government from April 9, 2021 due to corona virus infection. Along with this, the revenue staff of Raipur Municipal Corporation is collecting Rs 3660 from small shops in the name of user charge. Due to this, small traders are facing severe financial crisis.

## Locals lend support to open Parsa coal block

Surguja, Mar 30:

Locals in Chhattisgarh have lent their support to the start of coal mining in the Parsa block that will help generate electricity for Rajasthan, sources said.

A few hundred locals of six project-affected villages on Tuesday made a request to the government of Chhattisgarh to start Parsa Block at the earliest, they said.

Power generation units in Rajasthan have an allocation of coal from mines in Chhattisgarh but delays in state-level clearances have stalled most of them. Rajasthan's state utility is producing 15

million tonnes of coal from PEKB Block in the district and waiting for the Chhattisgarh government's nod for an additional 5 million tonnes of coal from Parsa Block.

The Centre had allocated three Chhattisgarh-based coal blocks to Rajasthan to fire its 4,300 MW of power generation capacity.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has also requested Chhattisgarh Chief Minister and his party colleague Bhupesh Baghel to facilitate a public hearing for the third Kente Extension Block with an annual production capacity of 9 million tonnes at the earliest. Chhattisgarh is the

country's largest coal-producing state. The Rajasthan government is keen on making most of its captive blocks at a time when coal prices and electricity tariffs in the spot market are hovering at an all-time high. Rajasthan will go for assembly elections next year and the power shortage may adversely affect the image of the ruling Congress party which is witnessing turbulence in the state.

Sources said the delegation of the villagers appraised the district collector of Surguja that they had given away their land in 2019 for coal mining with the hope that they will get employment opportunities once

Parsa is developed. However, they are forced to spend the compensation money and betting their future on account of delayed mining projects.

In the past few months, Gehlot made multiple attempts to operationalise Rajasthan's coal blocks in Chhattisgarh. He reached out to the BJP led Central government and also sought intervention from Congress Chief Sonia Gandhi.

"I would like to draw your kind attention towards the shortage of coal for state-owned power generation companies in Rajasthan. Ministry of Coal, Government of India allotted PEKB Coal Block

in Surguja, Chhattisgarh for supply of coal to Rajasthan Vidut Utpadan Nigam for power generation. Presently, 4340 MW power plants of RVUN are linked with this coal block only," Gehlot wrote to Gandhi in a letter dated February 10.

Currently, Rajasthan is largely dependent on state-owned Coal India Ltd (CIL) for imported fuel to generate electricity. Disruption in coal supplies from CIL coupled with a spike in imported coal prices had prompted RVUN to secure fuel from its captive blocks.

Rajasthan has about 28,400 MW of installed electricity generation capacity.

## Two pet dogs fight valiantly to save owner from leopard

**Dhamtari, Mar 30:** Dogs are often called a man's best friend and this phrase was proved right once again when two pet dogs came to the rescue of their 65-year-old owner when a leopard attacked him in a forest in Dhamtari district.

According to the man, Shivprasad Netam, after the leopard attacked him, his pet dogs, named Bhuru and Kabru, started barking ferociously and engaged in a face-off with the big cat, prompting it to back off.

The incident took place on Monday when Netam, a resident of Sirkatta village under Magarlod block, accompanied by his two pet dogs, had gone to

collect mahua flowers at his field in a nearby forest, officials said. Netam suffered injuries on his head and legs in the leopard attack and is undergoing treatment in the district hospital here, they said.

Talking to reporters in the hospital, the elderly man said he was picking up mahua flowers which had fallen on ground when the wild animal attacked him from behind.

When I was struggling to free myself from the claws of the leopard, my pet dogs suddenly jumped in to rescue me. The two dogs attacked the leopard together and continued barking ferociously, prompting the wild animal to loosen its grip and

escape in the forest," he said. An injured Netam managed to reach his house following which his family members and local residents admitted him to a community health centre from where he was referred to the district hospital in Dhamtari town for further treatment.

For the first time in my life, I saw a leopard in my village. We don't know from where it came. I will never forget this incident. I almost died but my pets fought with bravery and proved the saying right that dogs are a man's best friend, he said.

According to Netam, a farmer, the dogs are with him since the last three years.

## CU's IX convocation on April 20

**Bilaspur, Mar 30:** The ninth convocation of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (Central University) will be held on APRIL 20, 2022 at 10 am.

The preparations for the ninth convocation are in full swing under the active, capable and coordinated leadership of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal. Necessary guidelines have been provided by the Vice-Chancellor by visiting the university campus from time to time and meeting with the convener, co-convenors and coordinators of various committees and by inspecting the ongoing construction works.

According to the notification issued by the Academic Section, the ninth convocation will in-

clude students who have secured first place in the merit list in various examinations (undergraduate, postgraduate, diploma etc.) of the academic session 2019-20 and 2020-21 conducted by the university and for researchers who have Ph.D. Degree after 31/12/2019 and declared eligible till 31/12/2021.

Eighteen committees have been constituted for the smooth conduct of the ninth convocation. Gold medals and degrees will be awarded to 223 students of the academic sessions 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. In the convocation ceremony, Chancellor Medal will be given to Mr. Pranjal Singh while Lal Bahadur Sahu and Shreya Mishra, who got the highest marks, will be honored with Guru Ghasidas Medal.

## Three-day national workshop at CU begins

Bilaspur, Mar 30:

Department of Pharmacy, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur has organized a three days national workshop on topic "Development of Nanocarrier Systems for Drug delivery" will be held from March 28 to 30. Vice chancellor, GGV, Prof. Alok K. Chakrawal inaugurated the programme and blessed with his motivational speech.

He emphasized that research should be for the benefit to the society. Prof. S.S. Singh, Dean, School of Natural resources, also encouraged the participants for the need or Research by sharing his own experience.

The keynote speakers of this workshop are Dr.



Gautam Singhvi, Department of Pharmacy, Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani, Rajasthan, India, Dr. Amit Alexander, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER-GUWAHATI), and Dr. Sanjay Tiwari, NIPER-Raebareilly, UP.

Total 30 participants from other Universities and from different departments of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya,

Bilaspur such as Pharmacy, Botany, and Biotechnology were registered for the workshop. Dr. Gautam Singhvi delivered a lecture on Lipid Nanocarriers for topical drug delivery: basics and practical aspects.

Dr. Akhlesh Jain, delivered a lecture on "Liposome: Past, Present and future perspective". Lab training on liposomes and micelles was given by Dr. K. Kesavan, coordinator of the workshop.

Many questions are raised by participants and all were answered by the experts. Dr. Bharti Ahirwar, Head and convener of this workshop welcomed the guests. Finally Dr. Alpana Ram, Co-Convener of this workshop proposed Vote of thanks.

## Training imparted to teachers of primary level

Under 'Angana-ma-Shiksha' prog. at Sankul Kendra Birkoni

Central Chronicle News

**Birkoni, Mar 29:** Under the 'Angna ma Shiksha' programme at Sankul Kendra Boy's School Birkoni for upgradation of mothers, the master trainer Achla Sahu imparted training to teachers of Primary level.

She informed that for education of children in the age-group of 5-8 yrs, the government has prepared a programme on 'Angana ma Shiksha' for upgradation of mothers. Under this the mothers in Anganbadi centres will be provided basic training to teach young children to those studying in Class 3rd.

Under this there is objective is that the mothers could be taught as to how they can teach their children through items of day-



to-day use and works in their life and provide education to their children. With this the mothers will get trained and would be able to teach children in their houses. Sankul co-ordinator Nirvandas Manikpuri said that amidst corona pandemic and schools remaining closed, the state government is making novel efforts to provide alternative means of

education to children. In this series, a programme has been prepared to impart training to mothers under 'Angana ma Shiksha', so as to teach children in the age-group of 5-8 yrs and which can prove to be highly effective with due assistance of mothers. Badgaon in-charge Head Master Ishwar Sahu said that all teachers of Primary level by obtaining

training will go and teach to mothers of school children in their schools and light a new dimension in the field of education. In this training, Ishwar Sahu, Rajesh Soni, Narendra Soni, Aamika Sahu, Lekhani Sahu, Poornima Dhruv, Devika Chandrakar, Nirmala Nishad, Menka Yadav, and other parents and their children were present in large number.

## Sadbhav Patrakar Sangh celebrates Holi get-together

Central Chronicle News

**Bilaspur, Mar 30:** Sadbhav Patrakar Sangh state convention and Holi get-together was organized at DP Choubey Memorial Press Club Bhavan, Bilaspur here.

In the first phase of the programme scribes from different parts of the state attending the programme expressed their views and kept many suggestions and problems faced by them before the senior office bearers of the sangh.

The scribes from Sarguja division also took part in large number which include state vice president and Sarguja in-charge D C Baghel, Ajim Ansari, Gajendra Nayak, Vinay Vishwakarma and



others. In the second part of the programme, local MLA Shailesh Pandey was present as chief guest along with former BDA president Anil Tah, Zilla Panchayat member and

Congress leader Ankit Gauraha. Former president of Sadbhav Patrakar Sangh R D Gupta requested for a building and office of the association before local MLA to which he

gave his assurance. The office bearers handed over a memorandum to Shailesh Pandey and later all of them exchanged Holi greeting by applying colour on each other.

## 15.7 lakh students register to listen 'Pariksha Pe Charcha'



Central Chronicle News

**Raigarh, Mar 30:** As per the orders of central government, 5th edition of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' is scheduled on April 01 and to inform about it Principal of Central School and Navodaya Vidyalaya called a press meet to discuss about the

schemes of central government.

It was informed that 5th edition of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' will clarify the doubts in the minds of students appearing in board examinations and they would be able to appear examination in a stress free atmosphere. It was informed that selected stu-

dents will visit Raj Bhavan to witness this programme.

**'Chosen through My Gaon Platform'**

The students who will get chance to ask questions from the Prime Minister have been short listed through different competitions organized between December 28, 2021 and February 03, 2022.

## Sand mining mafia active in Sukma

Central Chronicle News

**Konta, mar 30:** Sand mafia is seen defaming the image of Sukma district of Chhattisgarh state in the name of sand. State Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's warning is also not proving effective in this district. In a way, the sand mafia is being ripped off by the sand mafia, the life-giving river of the district.

At the same time, the spirits of the sand mafia are so high that the rules are being flouted. Sukma district is in a lot of discussion these days, sometimes due to Naxal incidents and sometimes due to the gherao of the collectorate by the tribals and now once again Sukma district is moving towards infamy due to sand mafia.

Illegal sand mining is also causing huge loss of revenue to the government. Recently, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has instructed the high officers



of every district to take strict action against the illegal mining mafia operating in all the districts of the state. But the action on illegal mining of this sand is nil. One of them is Sukma district, which ranks among the top 10 districts in terms of illegal mining. Every other day the news of illegal mining going on unaccounted for in Sukma district keeps getting published in the newspapers as well. But even after

this, the district administration is bowing down to the sand mafia. In the rural areas like Sukma district- Sukma, Kerlapal, Dornapal, Kurti, Konta, Tongpal, in violation of the rules in the middle of the Shabri river, in violation of the rules, highway, tractor, trucks illegal transportation and storage is being done by filling in. It is not that the Sukma district administration is not aware of this, illegal transportation and

**Illegal mining game in the name of Left Wing Extremism, mafia contractors are encouraged**

The fact that Naxalite activities are relatively high in Sukma cannot be denied. The administration has given relaxation in rules and regulations to develop infrastructure like roads, schools, hospitals for betterment of the dimensions of development for Naxal affected vulnerable areas identified for development in Sukma, which is in line with the present situation of the area. Especially in the Naxalite belt, complete exemption has been given in road construction. But the contractors and mafia are implementing this concession of the administration in a wrong way. Mafia contractors are encouraged by the eyes of the department. Some have political patronage, some are gracious to the authorities.

storage of sand continues under the protection of the departmental officers under the nose of the district administration. Despite the cases of illegal storage and transportation of sand in Sukma district, illegal transportation of sand continues unabated in the district headquarters. Only 15 to 20 pit passes are issued daily by the contractor. Sand is transported 4 to 5 times on a single pass. The sand is being sold daily by the

contractor to the buyers through the same transit pass. According to the drivers, they take sand to Odisha 4 to 5 times a day with a transit pass and each time they come by paying Rs 600 to the contractor. But the pass is available only once. It is not that the responsibilities of the Mineral Department are not aware of this, but illegal mining and transportation is being carried out under the protection of the officials.

## 'Yuwa Utkarsh Samman' programme organized

By Youth Cell Divine Group of ABGPM

Central Chronicle News

**Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi, Mar 30:** 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 Sultanika, 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 Chhabaria, Snake Rescue team- Linesh 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.

## 9 accused nabbed with 45 cattle

Being smuggled to neighbouring states

Central Chronicle News

**Balod, Mar 30:** The workers of Hindi organisation with help of Dalli-Rajhara police nabbed 9 accused illegally transporting 45 cattle in three vehicles at Manpur chowk. The accused were taking cattle in their truck and Bolero pick-up

vehicle from Patan of Durg district to Hyderabad. The cows being transported were taken to nearby 'Goushala' in Doundi.

The three vehicles seized include 2 Bolero pick-up viz. MP 50 G 1324 and MP 50 G 2451 with 7 cattle and on truck bearing No. AP 24 TS 9399 with 32 cattle in it. The truck carrying cattle was going from Patan of Durg to Hyderabad.

The accused carrying cattle in their vehicles were chased by few workers of Hindu organisation at Manpur chowk and they had beaten them there itself. Later the party workers of VHP Dalli-Rajhara and Bajrang Dal reached the site along with Police and seized all the vehicles and cattle being illegally smuggled to other places and states.

A case under PETA Act

was booked against all 9 accused and also under section 4, 6, 10 of CG Krishi Pashu Parirakshan Adhiniyam and section 11 of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. It is for long time that cattle are being smuggled from Dalli-Rajhara Manpur chowk as it gets directly linked with Maharashtra and most of the time the smugglers used this route.



**Regional Off.: Netaji Marg, Nr. Mithakhali Six Roads, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-6.**  
**Fax: +91-79-26560649, Toll Free No.: 18002335300**  
**Website: www.bandhanbank.com**

### SALE NOTICE CUM INVITATION TO TENDER

Sale notice cum invitation to tender is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s) that the below described immovable property which is mortgaged to erstwhile GRUH (Now "the Bandhan Bank") is put for sale. The specific details of the properties, which are intended to be sold, are enumerated hereunder in the SCHEDULE:

Name of borrower(s), Loan Account No., Date of Possession & Tender Reference No.	Description of the property to be sold (Secured Asset)	Secured Debt as on date of demand notice and as on 28.02.2022 which includes amount paid by the borrowers from the date of demand notice till date, if any, with further interest, costs, charges etc.	Reserve price and EMD payable
Mr. Basant Singh S/o Mr. R. D. Singh Mrs. Manju Singh W/o Mr. Basant Singh 851/109 18.01.2019 851-845	All that part and parcel of the immovable property situated at Kharsa No. 276/23, 277/11, P.H. No. 113, Plot No. 6, Happy Homes, Rani Durgawati Ward, Purna, RNM Raipur 2, Tahsil & Dist Raipur	Rs. 16,03,190.82 as on 23.09.2016 Rs. 32,47,504/- as on 28.02.2022	Rs. 32,40,000/- EMD 10% of the offer price.

**The date of the tender opening and other details for the above mentioned property is as mentioned below.**

Tender form fee	Rs. 100/- per tender for the above property, payable by Banker's Cheque/Demand draft favoring "Bandhan Bank Limited" (non-refundable)
Date of inspection of property	12.04.2022 between 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M.
Last date and time for receiving tender	20.04.2022 up to 05:00 P.M. at the Regional Office of Bandhan Bank Limited, Netaji Marg, Near Mithakhali Six Roads, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380 006
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) payable	10% of the offer price is to be paid along with tender by way of Bankers Cheque/Demand Draft favoring at "Bandhan Bank Limited"
Date and place of opening tenders	The tenders shall be opened on 22.04.2022 at Bandhan Bank's Regional Office as stated above
Tender forms available at	Bandhan Bank Limited-Raipur Branch, 2nd Floor, Bhatia Complex, Above Union Bank of India Pandari Branch, Pandari, Raipur-492001, Chhattisgarh Name of contact person(s): Mr. Dipesh Gurjar: 7389715000/7044420158, Mr. Karthikeyan Shulka: 7838606683

The sale of the property will be on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS", "NO RECOURSE BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS". The property may not be sold below the Reserve Price. The Bank submits that we have not received any intimation about litigations, disputes filed or pending against the aforesaid property mortgaged in favor of the Bank. The borrower/mortgagor can redeem the mortgage till the date of sale confirmation as provided under section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale notice cum invitation to tender, please refer to our website www.gruh.com/tender.

**Date: 31/03/2022**  
**Place: Raipur**

**Bandhan Bank Limited**  
**Authorised Officer**

### NAME CHANGE NOTIFICATION

I, "BUDDHADEO RUPA VISHRAM", W/o Shri DAMODAR PAREK, D/o VISHRAM BHAI BUDDHADEO, do hereby change my old name from "BUDDHADEO RUPA VISHRAM" to new name "RHOOPAL PAREK".

So, from now onwards I should be known/recognized as my new name "RHOOPAL PAREK" W/o Shri DAMODAR PAREK, in all government, non-government and others records/Documents, where it's needed.

Raipur  
Dt. ....

**SMT. RHOOPAL PAREK**  
**PARK RESIDENCY**  
**TELIBANDHA, RAIPUR (C.G.)**

### नाम परिवर्तन

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मैं ASHISH KUMAR AGRAWAL S/O. SATYA NARAYAN AGRAWAL निवासी E-19, ANANDAM WORLD CITY, KACHNA, GAD COLONY, MAIN ROAD, RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH, 492014 यह शपथ करता हूँ कि मैंने अपना यह पुराना नाम को त्याग कर नया नाम ASHISH AGRAWAL S/O. SATYA NARAYAN AGRAWAL रख लिया हूँ. अतः आज से मुझे समस्त शासकीय, अर्धशासकीय व अन्य दस्तावेजों में मेरे नये नाम ASHISH AGRAWAL S/O. SATYA NARAYAN AGRAWAL से ही जाना पहचाना जावे।

ASHISH AGRAWAL  
ADDRESS- E-19, ANANDAM WORLD CITY, KACHNA, GAD COLONY, MAIN ROAD, RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH, 492014

### NAME CHANGE NOTIFICATION

I, "NAMAN PAREKH", S/o. Shri DAMODAR PAREK, do hereby change my old name from "NAMAN PAREKH" to new name "NAMANN PAREK".

So, from now onwards I should be known/recognized as my new name "NAMANN PAREK" S/o. Shri DAMODAR PAREK, in all government, non-government and others records/Documents, where it's needed.

Raipur  
Dt. ....

**NAMANN PAREK**  
**PARK RESIDENCY**  
**TELIBANDHA, RAIPUR (C.G.)**

### // General Information //

That I am authorized Advocate Jaiaram Bhagwanu (District Durg) L.I.C. Housing Finance Limited Branch- Chauhan Estate Bhillai District Durg (C.G.) I publish this information as per the authority and instructions, that my party Mausam sharma S/o Late. Sharsd kumar sharma R/o Santrabadi Durg tah & District Durg (C.G.) after the authority given by Seller - Pawan Ray S/o Shri Benjamin Ray R/o M.J.C. - 117, Padmanabpur Durg Tah & Distt. Durg (C.G.) Buyer Harish Kumar Khare S/o Late. Mahendra Lal Khare R/o Gali No. 02, Shyam nagar Palsay Para Durg Tah, & District Durg (C.G.) Land Mauja Polyakal P.H. No. 55, R.N.M. Durg - 1, Tah & District Durg Kharsa No. 17/08 Area 0.018 Hect. 2000 sqft., Registry dated 11/03/2022 Vol. number 17878, Pages 37-45, document No. 7537 whose original registry paper as shown above has been lost somewhere, so that no one misuses the said original registry paper, its information has been lodged in the concerned police station, and the general public who has any kind of ownership in relation to the said plot / land if you are the owner, the submit your objection by being present in my office within Seven days of publication of this information, otherwise any claim, objection will be void and ineffective after the period.

Published for information and perusal  
Date-28/03/2022

(Advocate)  
**JAIRAM BHAGWANU**  
Plot no. 20, Beside Petrol Pump, New Adarsh Nagar, Durg, Mo. No. 93028-38684

## BRIEF

### Seized

**Balasore:** A suspected drug peddler was arrested after 300 grams of brown sugar was seized from him in Odisha's Balasore district. Acting on a tip-off, police raided a spot in Jaleswar town, 50 km northeast of the district headquarters and found inferior quality heroin from the person, they said. The market value of the narcotics will be around Rs 30 lakh, police said. An investigation is on to nab the other members of the racket.

### Portal

**Jammu:** The Jammu and Kashmir Police's Criminal Investigation Department has launched a portal for people to report instances and information about criminal, unlawful or suspicious activities. The portal 'cid.jk.gov.in', managed end-to-end by the CID, is a key initiative towards prevention of crime and strengthening the peace and security in Jammu and Kashmir. Through this portal, citizens can now report information.

### Meal

**Dindori:** Fifty-seven students fell ill after having their mid-day meal in a government school in Dindori in Madhya Pradesh, an official said. A girl student spotted a lizard in the lentils in her plate, said LS Paraste, a teacher at the Government Middle School in Keolari under Samnapur block here. As many as 57 students fell ill after having their mid-day meal. They complained of vomiting and abdominal pain, and were rushed to a hospital.

### Injured

**Jammu:** Four police personnel, including a sub-inspector, were injured in an attack by bovine smugglers in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, officials said. Based on specific inputs, a police party intercepted bovine smugglers on the highway at Ghagwal, but they attacked the team, they said. In the attack, four police personnel, including Sub-Inspector Balbir Singh, were injured while the smugglers escaped from the spot.

### Promotion

**Mumbai:** The police personnel who caught Pakistani terrorist Mohammed Ajmal Kasab alive during the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack have been granted promotion with effect from 2008. These brave policemen had received medals, awards and cash prizes galore, but no reward by way of promotions.

### Attack

**Pune:** A mob attacked personnel of the Pune Municipal Corporation during an anti-encroachment drive in Dhanori area of the city. Two people were arrested and a case was registered against 20 others under IPC section 353 (Assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty). Local people including shopkeepers assaulted PMC staff and damaged official vehicles.

# RS passes bill to remove Bhogta caste from SC list



New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTI):

The Rajya Sabha on Wednesday approved a bill that seeks to remove the Bhogta caste from the list of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and include certain communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes (STs) for Jharkhand.

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was introduced in the Upper House of Parliament on February 7. It was passed by a voice

vote on Wednesday. Replying to the debate of the bill, Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda said, "We will bring such amendments related to more states in the House. We have done (such amendments for) Arunachal Pradesh and Karnataka. Now, it is being done in case of Uttar Pradesh, Tripura and Jharkhand. We are doing research on Odisha. We have completed the work in Chhattisgarh, but we are working on some observa-

tions given on that by the law ministry." He said the Centre is concerned about the development of tribal people and the aspirational district programme is a step in that direction as the main objective is to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor. "Be it Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra or Gujarat, for all the states, the Centre is earnestly and seriously working to address the issues, while also assuring that the government will share the status on the demand for the inclusion of different communities from West Bengal, Goa and Tamil Nadu," the minister said.

The bill also aims at helping people get more benefits from the provisions of reservation in education and government jobs.

# Maha CM writes to Centre proposing to shift refinery project

Mumbai, Mar 30 (PTI):

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, proposing to move the multi-billion dollar refinery project planned in Ratnagiri to another site in the coastal district, a senior official in the CM's office said on Wednesday.

The project was earlier proposed to be built at Nanar in Ratnagiri district, but has got stalled due to opposition from local organisations and the ruling Shiv Sena in the state.



"The CM wrote a letter to the prime minister in January regarding shifting of the refinery project to another site," the official said. The nearly

USD 60 billion project is to be jointly constructed by Saudi Aramco and the UAE's Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC). A nuclear

power plant of over 9,000 MW is also scheduled to come up at Jaitapur in Ratnagiri. During his visit to Ratnagiri, state Environment Minister

# STUDENT VACCINATED



A healthcare worker administers a dose of Covid-19 preventive vaccine to a student in age group of 12-14 years, at a school in Vasundhara, in Ghaziabad, UP on Wednesday.

# 'Injustice led to ban on Muslim vendors around temples'

VHP and Bajrang Dal have intensified their drive

Udupi, Mar 30 (PTI):

With Muslims being prohibited from doing business on temple premises during Hindu religious festivals and fairs in parts of Karnataka, Vishwesha Teertha Swamiji of the renowned Pejawar Math on Wednesday said certain incidents of injustice with Hindus have led to this "explosive situation". He also said the solution should emerge from within the society and religious leaders voicing their opposition to the move is unlikely to help matters. "The Hindu society has suffered a lot in the past. People are extremely hurt due to some unpleasant events. The problem will not solve if a few religious leaders speak against it. It should come from within the society," the seer of



Vishwesha Teertha Swamiji

the Pejawar Math, belonging to the sect founded by Madhwacharya in the 13th century AD, told reporters in the temple town of Udupi in coastal Karnataka. Udupi recently witnessed the hijab row first flaring up with a few Muslim students of the Government Girls Pre-University College alleging that

they were denied entry to the college with the headscarf. The Muslim students later approached the Karnataka High Court against the ban on Islamic headscarves inside classrooms. The court dismissed their petition saying that they have to abide by the school uniform rule.

"Injustice leads to anger and if it goes to the extreme level then it explodes. This is what we are witnessing in our society today, the seer said. Stating that the pain has reached a flashpoint and it has exploded, the Swami said people should understand how much Hindus have suffered. That pain has to be addressed first. If people say that such incidents will not take place in the society then no intervention or pressure is required.

# Kerala CM writes to PM to look into deportation of anthropologist

**Thiruvananthapuram, Mar 30 (PTI):** Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting him to look into the "distressful" deportation of Filippo Osella, an anthropologist and academician from the UK, when he arrived in the southern state for a seminar.



Filippo Osella

Vijayan, in his letter, has requested the Prime Minister to "kindly look into this matter with the seriousness it deserves and issue instructions to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future".

Osella, Professor of Anthropology and South Asian Studies at the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom (UK),

had arrived in Kerala on March 24 to attend a seminar at the Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT).

However, he was deported on arrival at the Thiruvananthapuram airport. "It is distressful that a reputed scholar like Prof.

Osella had to face deportation at the Thiruvananthapuram airport when he arrived for participating in a seminar in Kochi," the CM said in his letter.

He further said the professor has conducted extensive research work in many places including in Kerala, where he is researching traditional fishing activities.

Vijayan said, in his letter, that India "has a rich tradition of welcoming foreign scholars and social scientists" for research purposes here and they have produced "valuable" publications. "We need to continue this tradition of being friendly and welcoming to scholars," he said.

# HC dismisses challenge to CIC order denying details

■ Of 2018 SC collegium

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday dismissed a challenge to the Central Information Commission's order dismissing an RTI appeal seeking the agenda of the Supreme Court collegium's meeting on December 12, 2018, when certain decisions were purportedly taken on elevation of judges to the apex court.

The order was passed by Justice Yashwant Varma on the petition by activist Anjali Bhardwaj.

In her petition filed in the high court through advocate Prashant Bhushan, the petitioner challenged the CIC's December 16,



2021 order by which her second appeal was dismissed and had sought a direction to the authorities to disclose the available information sought for under the February 26, 2019 RTI application.

The petition had said that on January 23, 2019, Justice Madan B Lokur, who was a part of the December 12, 2018 collegium meeting and retired on December 30, 2018, in an interview expressed his disappointment that

the December 12, 2018 collegium resolution was not uploaded on the Supreme Court website.

He is quoted as having said, 'Once we take certain decisions, they have to be uploaded. I am disappointed that they were not.' In such circumstances, in the interest of transparency in the process of appointments in the judiciary, on February 26, 2019 the petitioner through an RTI application to the CPIO of the Supreme Court sought

copy of the agenda, decisions, and resolution of the collegium meeting held on December 12, 2018, the plea had said.

According to former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi's autobiography 'Justice for the Judge', the names of Justice Pradeep Nandrajog, the then Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court, and Justice Rajendra Menon, the then Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, had received nod for the elevation to the Supreme Court in the collegium meeting on December 12, 2018.

The matter allegedly got leaked after which the issue was kept in abeyance by Justice Gogoi till January, 2019 because of winter break which started on December 15, 2018, the book said.

# Photos capture Ukraine month before bombings

■ Special chamber set up for lenticular photography

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTI):

A charming old building in a public square in Kyiv basks in glorious sunshine with blue skies above while a Cossack monument depicting a warrior spearing a twin-headed dragon stands in silhouette in the foreground. This was an ordinary scene in the Ukrainian capital in early January 2022. But, barely a month later, the skies turned smoky grey, several iconic buildings and historic landmarks, from Kyiv to Kharkiv shelled, and battle-scarred public squares and a large number of its scared citizens huddled beneath crowded bunkers belie the scenes of merri-



Photographs displayed at 'Untold Ukraine (Glimpses)' exhibition in New Delhi.

ments witnessed last Christmas and New Year in the country. Delhi-based photographer Avantika Meattle and her husband were a regular tourist couple in Ukraine from late December to early January, but she had not imagined that the photographs taken by her, would un-

knownst become "frozen in time". About 90 photographs of capital Kyiv and the city of Lviv taken by her are displayed in multiple media as part of a three-day exhibition titled "Untold Ukraine (Glimpses)" which opened at India Habitat Centre. After inaugurating the ex-

hibition, Lok Sabha MP Shashi Tharoor said these images in a way "humanise Ukraine" for those who haven't been there, and the photographs are fascinating, but there is "degree of poignancy" to it as well as to the fate of these beautiful buildings in the wake of "reckless bombings" since the conflict began.

Following weeks of escalating tensions between Ukraine and Russia, the latter had announced a military offensive against the eastern European country on February 24.

And, as tanks rolled into its territory, Kyiv had termed it as "full-scale invasion" which Ukraine led by its defiant President Volodymyr Zelensky has been resisting with all its might, garnering praise and solidarity from world over.

# Jharkhand encouraging lac cultivation among rural women

Ranchi, Mar 30 (PTI):

The Jharkhand government is encouraging scientific cultivation of lac to empower women in villages as well as reviving the process in several regions through welfare projects, officials said.

Around 73,000 farmers are engaged in lac production in the state, they said. Scientific lac cultivation is transforming the lives of people living in remote rural areas of the state. It has also been revived in many areas through the Women Empowerment Project and Johar Project, while better market and price of lac is being ensured for farmers," an official statement said. Nearly 2,000 tonne of peel lac has been



Women producing lac based bangles at Siladon, Jharkhand.

produced by farmers in 2021-22, it said.

A total of 460 collection units and 25 centres are operational across the state to facilitate sale of lac products.

"Efforts are underway to increase income of rural women of

Jharkhand by connecting them with forest produce-based livelihood," the statement said, citing the example of Ranjeeta Devi of Rumkoot village in West Singhbhum district, who fetches an annual income of "up to Rs 3 lakh" from lac cultivation.

BRIEF

Granted

Washington: The US government said that China has granted visas for federal investigators to travel there and aid in the investigation of the deadly China Eastern Airlines crash.

Emerged

Barcelona: Amid the mayhem provoked in the world energy market by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Spain and Portugal have emerged in a strategically advantageous position as an energy island in Europe.

Poland to end all Russian oil imports, Germany warns on gas

Warsaw, Mar 30 (AP):

Poland will take steps to end all Russian oil imports by the end of 2022, the prime minister said Wednesday, as Germany triggered an early warning level for natural gas supplies and called on consumers to save energy amid Russia's war in Ukraine.



Russian oil supply into Poland.

Poland argues that money from oil and gas exports are fueling Russia's war machine and that that should stop. Morawiecki called on the European Commission to impose tax on all hydrocarbons imported from Russia to make trade just.

Saudi offered, rebel rejected ceasefire starts in Yemen

Dubai, Mar 30 (AP): A Saudi-led coalition battling rebels who hold Yemen's capital Sanaa began on Wednesday a unilateral cease-fire in the years-long war, even as insurgents said they rejected the proposal.

hostilities paused between Saudi-led forces and Yemen's Houthi rebels. The cease-fire announcement had raised immediate doubts because the Iran-backed rebels had skipped an ongoing summit over the war in Saudi Arabia, called by the Saudi-led coalition.

If the blockade is not lifted, the declaration of the coalition of aggression to stop its military operations will be meaningless because the suffering of Yemenis is a result of the blockade is more severe than the war itself, he tweeted early Wednesday.

Trump asks Putin to help dish dirt on Hunter Biden

Washington, Mar 30 (AFP):

Donald Trump has called on Russian President Vladimir Putin, who launched an invasion of Ukraine last month, to reveal any compromising information he might have on US President Joe Biden's son, Hunter.

China tries to limit economic blow of Shanghai shutdown

Riverfront Bund was quiet and empty

Beijing, Mar 30 (AP):

As millions of Shanghai residents line up for coronavirus tests in the closed-down metropolis, authorities are promising tax cuts for shopkeepers and to keep its busy port functioning to limit disruptions to industry and trade.



A resident behind barriers in lockdown receives water from a delivery man, in Shanghai on Wednesday

economic slowdown. The ruling Communist Party is trying to fine-tune its zero tolerance pandemic strategy to rein in job losses and other costs to the world's second-largest economy.

South Korea has key rocket launch, days after North's ICBM test

Seoul, Mar 30 (AP):



South Korea's conducts rocket launch.

South Korea said it made its first successful launch of a solid-fuel rocket Wednesday in what it called a major development toward acquiring a space surveillance capability amid rising animosities with rival North Korea.

Korea's domestically built solid-propellant rocket was launched from a state-run testing facility with the presence of Defense Minister Suh Wook and other senior officials, the Defense Ministry said in a statement.

National Highways Authority of India

(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways) Office of the Project Director, Project Implementation Unit, Bilaspur

Table with 4 columns: Category of Vehicles, Fee for Single Journey (In Rs.), Fee for Return Journey within a day (In Rs.), Fee for Monthly Single Journeys in month (In Rs.), Fee for Single Journey for the Commercial vehicle registered within the district of fee plaza (In Rs.)

Table with 4 columns: Category of Vehicles, Fee for Single Journey (In Rs.), Fee for Return Journey within a day (In Rs.), Fee for Monthly Single Journeys in month (In Rs.), Fee for Single Journey for the Commercial vehicle registered within the district of fee plaza (In Rs.)

The public is hereby informed that pursuant to approval of user fee rates by Regional Office, Raipur (Chhattisgarh) of NHA, following user fee rates shall be made applicable w.e.f. 01/04/2022 to 31/03/2023 for use of section from Km.48+580 to Km.105+980 of NH-200 (New NH 130) at Km 97+516 (Bhojpur Toll Plaza) in the State of Chhattisgarh.

National Highways Authority of India

(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Govt. of India) PUBLIC NOTICE ON USER FEE (TOLL) RATES AT CHOTIYA TOLL PLAZA APPLICABLE FROM 01.04.2022

The public are hereby informed that pursuant to Fee Notification published in the Gazette vide S.O. No. 4645 (E) dated 27.12.2019 by MoRTH and approval of user fee rates vide e-office dt. 30.03.2022 of NHA, the user fee for the use of section from km.82.500 to 163.400 (excluding bridge from Chainage km.99.378 to km.99.482) of Katghora to Shivnagar Section of NH-130 is going to be started w.e.f. 01.04.2022 at Chotiya Toll Plaza (Km.117.150, near Chotiya village Korba District) in the State of Chhattisgarh at the following rates:

Table with 4 columns: Category of Vehicle, Fee for Single Journey, Fee for Return Journey within a day, Fee for Monthly Pass valid for 50 Journeys, Fee for Commercial vehicles registered in district

The rates for monthly pass applicable for local non-commercial vehicle residing within a distance of 20Km from the toll plaza shall be Rs. 315/-

Table with 4 columns: Type of Section, Length (Km.), Equivalent Length (Km.) for which use fee is to be levied, Lane Configuration

- 3. The following concessions are available at above Toll Plaza. (i) Return Journey within 24 hours from time of payment for all categories of vehicles having FASTag (discount 25%) (ii) 50 single journeys in a month from date of payment for all categories of vehicles having FASTag (discount 33%) (iii) Pass at Rs 315/- per calendar month for non-commercial vehicle having FASTag residing within 20 km from Toll Plaza. (iv) Commercial Vehicle having FASTag (excluding those plying under national permit) registered in the District of Toll Plaza (discount 50%)

National Highways Authority of India

(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways) Office of the Project Director, Project Implementation Unit, Bilaspur

The public is hereby informed that pursuant to approval of user fee rates by Regional Office, Raipur (Chhattisgarh) of NHA, following user fee rates shall be made applicable w.e.f. 01/04/2022 to 31/03/2023 for use of section from Km.105+980 to Km.126+525 (Bilaspur Bypass section of Sargaon-Bilaspur) of NH-200 (New NH 49) at Km 110+300 (Mudipuri Toll Plaza) in the State of Chhattisgarh.

Table with 4 columns: Category of Vehicles, Fee for Single Journey (In Rs.), Fee for Return Journey within a day (In Rs.), Fee for Monthly Single Journeys in month (In Rs.), Fee for Single Journey for the Commercial vehicle registered within the district of fee plaza (In Rs.)

The rate of monthly pass for local non-commercial vehicles registered within a distance of 20 Km. from the toll plaza for the FY 2022-23 shall be Rs.315.00 Kind Attention:- From 15th February 2021 onwards, User Fee payments is mandatory via "FASTag ONLY" and All the lanes have been declared as "FASTag ONLY". Users intending to pay user fee in Cash mode in FASTag lane will have to pay Two times of the applicable User fee rates. In addition to above, Return journey discount & Local journey discount are applicable for payments made via FASTag Only.

National Highways Authority of India

(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Govt. of India) PUBLIC NOTICE ON REVISED USER FEE (TOLL) RATES AT KM. 94.995 JAGTARA TOLL PLAZA APPLICABLE FROM 01.04.2022 (00:00:01 Hrs.)

The public are hereby informed that pursuant to approval of revised user fee rates vide letter dated 30.03.2022 of NHA, the user fee rates for the use of section from Km.81.500 to 130.000 (Dhamtari to Kanker Section) of NH-30 is going to be revised as under w.e.f. 01.04.2022 (00:00:01 Hrs) at Jagtara Toll Plaza (94.995 km, near Jagtara village Balod District) in the State of Chhattisgarh at the following rates:

Table with 4 columns: Category of Vehicle, Fee for Single Journey, Fee for Return Journey within a day, Fee for Monthly Pass valid for 50 Journeys [Ref Para 5 (ii)], Fee for Commercial vehicles registered in district

The rates for monthly pass applicable for local non-commercial vehicle residing within a distance of 20Km from the toll plaza for the year 2022-23 shall be Rs. 315/-

Table with 4 columns: Type of Section, Length (Km.), Equivalent Length (Km.) for which use fee is to be levied, Lane Configuration

- 3. The following concessions are available at above Toll Plazas. (i) Return Journey within 24 hours from time of payment for users paying toll fee through FASTag for all categories of vehicles (discount 25%). (ii) 50 single journeys in a month from date of payment for users paying toll fee through FASTag for all categories of vehicles (discount 33%). (iii) Pass at Rs. 315/- per calendar month for non-commercial vehicle having FASTag residing within 20 km from Toll Plaza. (iv) Commercial Vehicle (excluding those plying under national permit) registered in the District of Toll Plaza paying toll fee through FASTag (discount 50%)

For climate migrants in Bangladesh, town offers new life

New rail line being constructed to connect with India



An aerial view shows Mongla town, Bangladesh's second-largest seaport.

Mongla, Mar 30 (AP):

The 29-year-old Monira Khatun was devastated after her husband abandoned her suddenly. She returned to her father only to face another blow: He died soon after, leaving her to shoulder three other family members' care. Without any work, she was worried about how she would feed them.

refugees like Khatun in the southwestern town of Mongla, where Bangladesh's second-largest seaport is located. These refugees from climate-impacted areas within Bangladesh lost their homes, land and livelihood, but found a new life in the riverside coastal town about 50 kilometers (30 miles) inland from the Bay of Bengal. Some 150,000 people now live in Mongla many of whom moved from villages near the Sundarbans forest, the world's largest mangrove forest which straddles the border of Bangladesh and India and harbors endangered Bengal tigers.

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) जॉन क्र. 01 सकरी अल्पकालीन मैनुअल निविदा सूचना निविदा क्र./1287/जॉन क्र. 01 सकरी/जल.कार्य वि./2022 सकरी, दिनांक 30/03/2022 एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सखम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु अल्पकालीन मैनुअल निविदा दिनांक 11/04/2022 को सायं 03.00 बजे तक स्वीड पोस्ट से आमंत्रित की जाती है:-



# CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 47 No. 175

## Saving soil health

The Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) content in India has come down to 0.3 percent from 1 percent in the past 70 years which is a cause of concern for the agriculture sector. Soil Organic Carbon is the main component of the soil organic matter and gives soil its water-retention capacity, structure, and fertility. Intensive cultivation of crops without providing proper compost to the soil is the reason behind the fall in SOC content. Biofertilizers and compost can increase the SOC level of the soil. As the Indian population grows, ramping up food production is crucial but so is preserving the sustainability of the ecosystem so that food production can persist into the future. Since the 1960s, the Indian government has subsidized chemical-intensive fertilizers to enhance crop growth. Recently, spiritual guru Sadhguru embarked on a 30,000 km trip through Europe and the Middle East in an effort to 'save soil', meeting celebrities, environmentalists and influencers in dozens of countries along the way. The journey is part of his 'SaveSoil' campaign, which is calling on policymakers to make soil regeneration a priority. The UN has said a third of soil globally is degraded and more than 90 percent could become degraded by 2050. It can take 1,000 years to produce a few centimetres of soil, according to the UN's campaign against desertification. Now, new research from Gujarat has shown that in a head-to-head test of soil properties, organic fertilizer based on traditional ecological knowledge encouraged better soil structure and fertility, even during drought periods. Only about 10-15 percent of farms in the region studied use the traditional fertilizer, but studies like this one could incentivize more sustainable agricultural practices. Soil health broadly comes down to key physical, chemical, and biological characteristics. In a 2020 study, research compared the biological characteristics of soils fertilized with chemicals and soils fertilized with a combination of farmyard compost and 'jeevamrutha', a fermented liquid of cow dung, cow urine, a form of cane sugar called jaggery, gram flour, and soil.

Traditionally fertilized soils showed greater microbial diversity, a sign of nutrient availability, soil health, and resilience than chemically fertilized soils did. It was found that the water-holding capacity of the traditionally fertilized soil was higher than in soils using chemical fertilizers, even throughout two seasons of drought. The more water the soil can retain, the less it leaches nutrients, making it more sustainable in the long term. Soils using traditional fertilizer also had lower soil density, which is crucial for plant rooting, and more stable pH levels throughout the drought periods, even though dry conditions tend to increase salinity. Soils treated with chemical fertilizers tended to have higher pH over time, which can decrease the solubility of nutrients. Overall, 'jeevamrutha' worked better than chemical fertilizers for improving the soil structure and fertility. Changing from chemical to organic fertilizers can result in yield losses for several years, so farmers must know that the transition will be worth it. The best way to improve organic carbon content in soil is through zero budget natural farming methods. Government is implementing Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP) introduced during 2020-21 as a sub scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) for the promotion of traditional indigenous practices including Natural Farming to bring down the input costs. Though the plan is to cover 6,672 blocks in the country in phases over a period of time with at least one cluster each, initially the focus will be on those areas which have been practising natural farming and there is potential to achieve the target at the earliest.

## Noisy controversy

Controversy started after the United Nations report on noise pollution came out. Moradabad city in UP has been described in the report as the second most noise-polluted city in the world, but the Moradabad administration has objections to it. Officials say that the report released by the United Nations regarding noise pollution is wrong. Moradabad Pollution Control Board officer Vikas Mishra says that this report is wrong. There are no sensors installed in the city by the United Nations to check how much noise pollution there is. Not only this, we have got any information related to its monitoring. Noise dosimeter is used to check the noise pollution of any city. It has a microphone which records noise. Data about level of noise pollution is recorded. It is installed in different areas of the city which keep track of the noise. Local administration in Indian cities should install such sensors for accurate data about noise pollution. Moradabad administration cannot discredit the report as accurate data is not available. The UN report titled 'Frontiers 2022: Noise, Blazes and Mismatches', released last month, measured noise levels in 61 cities of the world. Bangladesh's capital Dhaka topped the list with a noise level of 119 decibels (dB). Pakistan's capital city Islamabad was placed on the third spot, where noise pollution level has been recorded at 105 dB.

Notably, all the top three cities are from South Asia. Other Indian cities which recorded a higher decibel than the permissible levels were Delhi (83 dB), Kolkata and Asansol (both 89 dB) in West Bengal and Jaipur (84 dB). According to 1999 WHO guidelines, the report said, the permissible noise level limits are 55 dB (decibels) LAeq (equivalent continuous sound level is the sound level in decibels) for outdoor residential areas and 70 dB LAeq for commercial areas and where there is traffic. Experts said that noise above 70 dB over a prolonged period of time can increase the risk of hearing loss. High levels of noise impair human health and well-being by disrupting sleep or drowning out the beneficial and positive acoustic communications of many animal species that live in these areas, according to Inger Andersen, UNEP executive director, said in the report. She also listed solutions to combat noise pollution, saying electrified transport and green spaces must all be included in city planning to reduce noise levels. Local administration in India has long way to reduce noise pollution.

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

## PADDY TRANSPORT



A worker drives a tractor as he transports bags of paddy grain in Amritsar, Punjab.

## New India's new record with USD 400 billion of merchandise exports



PIYUSH GOYAL



India's achievement of record USD 400 billion of goods exports is a shining example of the way this country is being governed, reformed and transformed since 2014 with a mission to decisively improve the lives of citizens. The surge in exports is helping farmers, artisans, weavers and factory workers, and helping businesses, small and large to create jobs, scale up operations, become more competitive and make a mark in the global business arena. The export target of USD 400 billion seemed impossible to many in the Covid-ravaged world, where demand was weak, scarce containers were priced exorbitantly and the world was facing job losses and conflicts. But this did not deter Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government from acting decisively and swiftly with a bottom-up approach in assessing the situation, identifying products and regions where exports could be increased, and adopting a partnership approach with exporters and industry bodies to deliver results. The exports mission was revamped when the prime minister gave a clarion call to industry to focus on exports and inspired them to aspire for a quantum jump in India's international trade in goods and services. The PM himself held consultations with ministries, states, Indian missions abroad, commodity boards, industry associations and experts to motivate and inspire all. He continuously monitored the progress of exports.

It was indeed an ambitious mission because the best India had achieved in merchandise exports in the past was USD 330 billion in the pre-Covid days of 2018-19, after which the pandemic battered global trade. But India bounced back rapidly as policy measures, reforms, export-promotion schemes, major initiatives like the Production Linked Incentive Scheme, and bold decisions in the face of adversity propelled India to become the fastest growing major economy in the world. Exports have boomed, setting a series of monthly records that have added up to historic achievement in 2021-22. Exports are contributing to economic growth, creating jobs and helping small businesses and workers. The world is now looking up to India as a trustworthy and reliable partner that can provide quality goods and services on time even at the peak of the pandemic.

The results are spectacular. India achieved the target nine days ahead of schedule. We adopted the 'whole-of-government' approach and worked as partners with exporters. The government proactively helped them overcome any hurdle and encouraged them to grab every opportunity for every product in every country to help achieve the stiff target. Targets were fixed for 200 countries/territories and special emphasis was laid on new and existing markets, lost market share, and the role of small enterprises and startups as a vehicle for exports. But it's not just a story of

numbers. There are exciting new developments such as the export of new products, penetration of new markets, rising exports of manufactured products, an impressive 50 percent growth in engineering exports, and laudable contribution of small businesses and farmers, whose hard work has strengthened global food security. Agricultural exports have risen nearly 25 percent to a record of nearly USD 50 billion. India's hardworking farmers provide almost half of the globally traded rice. Farmers have helped wheat exports jump to a record 70 lakh tonnes, which is softening the impact of the disruption in global wheat trade caused by the crisis in Ukraine, a major supplier.

Similarly, coffee exports have risen to a record of nearly USD 1 billion, an impressive achievement for the sector where 95 percent of the output is from small growers. Marine exports are also booming, helping many small businesses and fishermen. India now needs to maintain the momentum. Our manufacturers, exporters and policy makers cannot afford to be complacent in the fiercely competitive world. Indian industry needs to step up investment in Research and Development and focus sharply on quality. There was a time when there was a big gap between products sold to Indian citizens and the 'export quality' goods that were shipped out. There should be no such gap. The government will scale up efforts to help exporters. Many recent policies will bear fruits for years to come and give the country new global champions in manufacturing and exports.

There will be many success stories like the mobile phone sector, which was once heavily import dependent but now exports have multiplied and imports are drying up. Exporters will also gain from PM Gati Shakti, the National Master Plan for Multimodal Connectivity which the PM launched last October. We now have to make a bigger impact in international trade. This will be challenging

but exciting and achievable. Our government has a track record of achieving very ambitious targets, be it electrification of every village in the country, the dramatic rise in renewable energy capacity along with the equally dramatic fall in its cost, the LED revolution that drastically reduced the cost of energy-efficient bulbs, as well as game-changing welfare schemes to provide ordinary citizens the convenience of toilets, cooking gas, bank accounts, health insurance, water supply, homes, rural roads, internet connectivity and the world's biggest vaccination programme against Covid-19 with the help of India-made vaccines.

India was the 'Plus One' alternative that was on the top of the list for a lot of companies. India's updated Foreign Trade Policy launched on 1 April 2015 rationalized previous export promotion schemes and introduced new ones. The government opened a dedicated division for unified development of the logistics sector, launched an interest equalization scheme to facilitate cheaper credit to exporters, unveiled an agriculture export policy, classified districts as export hubs by identifying products with export potential and addressing bottlenecks, and reached out to potential exporters, especially from the MSME sector, and mentored them. Most engineering goods were exported to US, petroleum products to the UAE, gems and jewellery to China, organic and inorganic chemicals to Bangladesh and drugs and pharmaceuticals to the Netherlands. India is on track to reclaim its status as major trading power it once was. That is an ambitious mission, but the story of Indian exports, like many game-changing initiatives in New India can be summed up with what Nelson Mandela famously said: 'It always seems impossible until it's done.'

(Piyush Goyal is Union Minister of Commerce and Industry in Government of India.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Portrayed

Indians have always been portrayed very inappropriately in American television shows and films. The first Indian character on American TV was Apu from The Simpsons who for three decades have not only mocked the Indian accent but also the culture. Its voice Hank Azaria received a severe backlash following which he has decided to not lend his voice to Apu anymore. Another character Raj from The Big Bang Theory talks in an accent which its white directors thought would be appropriate for an Indian character. The actor who plays Raj, Kunal Nayyar does not talk in such an accent in real life. The actor is also seen appreciating Howard, another character in the show who mocks the Indian accent. There are also many standup comedians like Gabriel Iglesias who also mocks the Indian accent despite him being a Latino, another accent which is also mocked in American shows and films. Its like the mocked is mocking. I think the makers of any show or film before introducing an Indian character should do a proper research. We Indians do not sound the way you think we sound.

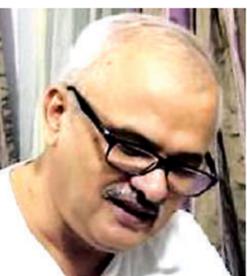
Noopur Baruah, Tezpur

### Epic story

Of the five great epics in Tamil literature, Silappadhikaram, which is known as 'Epic of the Anklet', was written in the 5th-6th century AD by prince Ilango Adigal. Silappadhikaram is a story of the young merchant Kovalan's marriage to the righteous Kannagi, his love for the concubine Madhavi, and his consequent ruin and exile in Madurai, where he is unjustly beheaded after trying to sell his wife's anklet to a wicked goldsmith who had stolen the queen's anklet and charged Kovalan with the theft. Unlike the epics of those times which mostly involve stories about kings and royals, Silappadhikaram illustrates the life of this mundane couple. More significantly, it is written in a dance-drama format and has references to the musical and dance traditions of yesteryears. Silappadhikaram reflects the deeply rooted Vedic culture of the Tamil land, right from the Sangam age and beyond. Interestingly, Silappadhikaram has its root to Jainism, as Ilango Adigal is said to have written the epic from Kodungallur region in Kerala, sitting in his abode Gunavayirkottam, which is known as a Jain institution. And the book Jain Art and Architecture Vol 1, authored by Amalanda Ghosh, corroborates this, saying "A Jain institution of considerable importance is mentioned in Silappadhikaram, and this institution was known as Gunavayirkottam, said to have been situated in Chera country."

Ranganathan, via email

## WHAT THEY TWEET!



Uday@MulaMutha

To set one stat right. Europeans were defeated by the Marathas in 1737-1739 at Vasal & the El Co was defeated at Wadgaon in 1779. Battle of Pollur came later & was not the first defeat of a European army by Indians. As for Tipu, see GB Mehendale's 'Tipu As He Really Was'.

Venugopal@vgmenon99

Global arms industry controls development of weapon systems. Every weapon system has a counter to it. There's never a comfort feeling wrt threat perceptions. At the end of day it is superior tactics, effective cd & control & high morale of troops which is decisive in battles.



Vandana@dr vandanashiva

Farmers who give up chemicals & adopt regenerative organic practises based on #Biodiversity & the #LawOfReturn & #Recycling have more fertile soils, grow more food, increase their incomes by not wasting money on toxic chemicals & non renewable seeds. Higher benefit cost ratio.

Alpha Defense@alpha\_defense  
ALH Dhruv is talk of the town again.

Shail Jha@shell-jaws1334

When class, caste, creed, money and lying/muscle power become criteria for selection of lawmakers rather than education and administrative acumen the quality of governance is bound to be dismal. Parochialism and tribalism always kills Professionalism in any field.



Devilal@devilalsharma

Because they are bots and the maker forget to put emotional angle. And just remember that it is a bot so can get limitless information and have limitless engagement. Most cases automation and AI is an improvement and not a replacement.

Shivam@ShivamShankars

You can support any political party all you want, but the denial of problems and spins is getting out of hand! The population is losing capacity for rational thought, media's become cheerleaders so no accountability required, and all investigation and audit bodies are done...

**BRIEF**

**Embarks**



**Chennai:** Sundram Fasteners has set aside Rs 350 crore of the total Rs 2,000 crore capital expenditure planned for next five years. MD Arathi Krishna said, it is for the manufacture of advanced automotive technology components for next five years.

**Order**

**New Delhi:** Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has won an order for compressor package from Iraq. The order for the package for Baiji Refinery in Iraq has been placed by Northern Refineries Company (NRC), a National Oil refinery company owned by the Ministry of Oil, Iraq. The order envisages the design, engineering, manufacturing and supply of an electric motor driven recycle gas centrifugal compressor. It will be executed.

**Inaugurates**



**New Delhi:** ABB on Wednesday inaugurated a new R&D and engineering facility ABB Innovation Center (AIC) in Bengaluru. ABB India's Sanjeev Sharma said it is instrumental in developing products and solutions, which deploy new-age technologies such as AI.

**Expand**

**Thiruvananthapuram:** Automotive solutions company Acsia Technologies is all set to expand its facility with 85,000 square feet space at the Embassy Taurus TechZone in Technopark Phase-III here. The new office is being set up as part of meeting the demands of the customers which require talent in the advanced automotive software.

**Raises**

**New Delhi:** Pine Labs has raised USD 50 million (about Rs 380 crore) from London-headquartered international investment firm Vitruvian Partners. Pine Labs CEO B Amrith Rau said the company aims to further strengthen its foray into online payments.

**App**

**New Delhi:** Wedding portal Matrimony.com launched the 'Jodi' mobile application to tap 400 million customers who access apps on their smartphones in vernacular languages. The 'Jodi' app will be available in 10 languages, the company said. Matrimony.com chief marketing officer Arjun Bhatia said that the company has started operations with 200 people, and will expand the team as the business grows on smartphones.

## LS approves bill to amend laws governing CAs, CSs

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTI):

Lok Sabha on Wednesday cleared a bill to amend the laws governing chartered accountants, cost accountants and company secretaries providing for revamping the disciplinary committees of the respective professional institutes.

Once the amendments come into force, the presiding officer of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) will be a non-Chartered Accountant (CA). Similarly, disciplinary committees of the institutes of cost accountants and company secretaries would also be presided over by individuals who are not cost accountants and company secretaries, respectively. Piloting the Chartered Accountants, Cost and



Nirmala Sitharaman

Works Accountants and Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the amendments will not in-

fringe upon the autonomy of the three institutes.

The changes will make the institutes more responsible and accountable and align them with global best practices, she said while

replying to a discussion on the bill. The bill was passed by a voice vote after various amendments moved by opposition members were rejected.

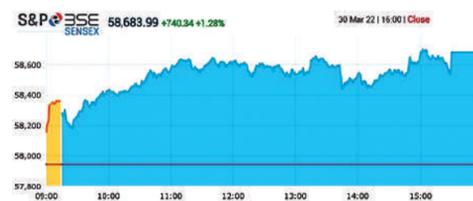
The Institute of Cost Accountants of India is the apex body for cost accountants while the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) is the key body for company secretaries.

Among other amendments, the government has proposed that the disciplinary committee of each of the three apex institutes should have three nominated members who are not a part of the particular institute concerned.

The bill also provide for setting up of a coordination committee of the three bodies headed the Union Corporate Affairs Secretary.

## Sensex rallies over 740 points, Nifty above 17,498 level

Mumbai, Mar 30 (PTI):



Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty rallied for a third day in a row on Wednesday on buying in Reliance Industries, Infosys, HDFC twins and ICICI Bank following gains in global equities amid hopes of a breakthrough in Russia-Ukraine peace talks.

The 30-share BSE barometer index surged 740.34 points or 1.28 per cent to settle at 58,683.99. During the day, it jumped 784.13 points or 1.35 per cent to 58,727.78.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 172.95 points or 1 per cent to settle at 17,498.25. Among the 30-share pack, Bajaj Finserv, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, Power Grid, HDFC, ICICI Bank, Nestle, Maruti, Reliance Industries Limited were among the lead gainers. On the other hand, TITC, Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, Bharti Airtel and Titan

were among the laggards.

In the previous trade, the BSE benchmark had jumped 350.16 points or 0.61 per cent to settle at 57,943.65. The NSE Nifty gained 103.30 points or 0.60 per cent to settle at 17,325.30. Elsewhere in Asia, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled with gains, while Tokyo ended lower. Stock exchanges in the US ended with gains on Tuesday. In early trading, London's FTSE 100 lost 0.1% to 7,529.06 and the DAX in Frankfurt sank 1.3% to 14,631.35. The CAC 40 in Paris shed 1% to 6,720.90. On Wall Street, futures for the benchmark

S&P 500 index and the Dow Jones Industrial Average were down 0.4%. In Asia, the Shanghai Composite Index rose 2% to 3,266.60.

The Nikkei 225 in Tokyo fell 0.8% to 28,027.25 after the government reported February retail sales declined by a bigger-than-forecast 0.8%. That left retail spending down 2% from its November peak.

The Hang Seng in Hong Kong gained 1.4% to 22,232.03 and the Kospi in Seoul added 0.2% to 2,746.74. Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 advanced 0.7% to 7,514.50. New Zealand and Southeast Asian markets also rose.

## Rupee skids 21 paise to 75.94 against USD, bullion surges

Mumbai, Mar 30 (PTI):

The rupee declined by 21 paise to 75.94 against the US dollar on Wednesday as surging crude oil prices and fuel rate hikes by the oil marketing companies fanned fears of inflation and interest rate hikes.

However, a strong rally in the domestic equities capped the rupee's loss, forex traders said.

Development in the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the movement of crude oil prices remain the main focus for forex markets, they added.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened strong at 75.65 against the American dollar but soon entered the negative territory as investors dumped

riskier assets. During the session, it swung between a high of 75.62 and a low of 75.97. The local unit finally settled at 75.94 against the dollar, down 21 paise from the previous close.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, slipped 0.42 per cent to 98.02. Bullion prices surged. Gold prices on Wednesday rose by Rs 284 to Rs 51,097 per 10 grams in futures trade as speculators created fresh positions on a firm spot demand. On the Multi Commodity Exchange, gold contracts for April delivery traded higher by Rs 284 or 0.56 per cent at Rs 51,097 per 10 grams in a business turnover of 1,702 lots.

## Gold jewellery retailers' revenue may rise 12-15%

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTI):

The revenue of gold jewellery retailers is likely to increase by 12-15 per cent in 2022-23 on steady demand and sustained high prices of gold, rating agency Crisil said on Wednesday.

During 2021-22, revenue of gold jewellery retailers is expected to rise 20-22 per cent albeit on a lower base of the pandemic-impacted last fiscal year, it said in a statement.

According to Crisil, operating margins should improve 50-70 basis points (bps) year-on-year to 7.3-7.5 per cent in fiscal 2023, because of elevated gold prices and improved operating leverage. Consequently, operating profits will rise 12-15 per cent next fiscal



year, resulting in better debt metrics.

"That will keep the credit outlook for organised jewellers stable" next fiscal year, despite higher capital spending and inventory," it said.

This is as per an analysis of 82 of them rated by Crisil Ratings, which accounts for 40 per cent of the sector's revenue. Crisil said jew-

ellery demand is seen steady next fiscal year, with volume growing 8-10 per cent to pre-pandemic levels of 600-650 tonne, owing to normalising operations, store additions and gold prices sustaining above Rs 50,000 per 10 gram.

Crisil Ratings Senior Director Anuj Sethi said, Revenue growth would have been even higher next fiscal but for the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which have cranked up gold prices to Rs 55,000 per 10 gram."

While prices have corrected a touch, continuing volatility will constrain volume growth in the first quarter of next fiscal year, ahead of the wedding and festive seasons, due to partial deferral of purchases, he said.

## Too early to predict impact of Russia-Ukraine war on Indian economy

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTI):

The global macroeconomic uncertainties have increased due to the Russia-Ukraine war, but it is too early to predict its impact on the Indian economy, eminent economist Pinaki Chakraborty said on Wednesday.

In an interview with PTI, Chakraborty said high-frequency data show that in many countries, inflation is higher than expected, there are supply chain disruptions and much higher volatility in financial markets.

"As we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the global macroeconomic uncertainties have increased due to the war between Russia and Ukraine.

"However, it is too early to even predict its impact on the Indian economy," he



Pinaki Chakraborty

said. Chakraborty, the director of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), said India's current macroeconomic situation is definitely better than what it was earlier but due to global uncertainties, the country will have to be watchful.

Russia started its military offensive against Ukraine on February 24. Western nations, including the US, have imposed

major economic and other sanctions on Russia following the aggression.

While noting that the global economy will get impacted due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the eminent economist said quantification of that impact at this stage will be difficult.

"What is the most important is to manage and navigate disruptions created by war, so that we have minimum impact on fisc, minimum impact on our deficit levels and we are able to execute the budgetary priorities accorded into 2022-23 budget," he emphasised.

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

## Gas price to more than double this week

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTI):

In a bonanza for gas producers, Reliance Industries is set to get a record price of around USD 10 per MMBtu for the KG gas, while state-owned ONGC is likely to fetch more than double the rate for its Mumbai High and other fields, sources said. The government-dictated price for natural gas produced in the country is to be revised on April 1 and factoring in the spike in energy prices witnessed last year, the rate paid for gas produced from fields given to state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) on nomination basis is likely to rise to USD 5.93 per million British thermal units from current USD 2.9.

Simultaneously, difficult fields like the ones in Reliance and its partner bp plc operated D6 block in KG basin, are likely to get USD 9.9-10.1 price compared to the current rate of USD 6.13, two sources aware of the matter said.

## Consumers expect to feel bite of rising energy prices

**Want to shift from fossil fuels**

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTI):

A majority of consumers worldwide expect their overall spending power to be significantly impacted by rising energy prices, while India tops the list where climate change policies have been cited as the main cause of the recent price rises, a global survey showed on Wednesday.

The World Economic Forum-Ipsos survey also showed that an average of eight in ten want their country to shift away from fossil fuels in the next five years, while the ratio was above-average at almost 90 per cent in the case of Indian respondents.



The 30-country survey was conducted between February 18 and March 4 this year among 22,534 adults. "A majority of consumers worldwide expect their overall spending power to be significantly impacted by further energy price increases, yet

only 13 per cent of those surveyed globally blamed climate policies for rising prices, while 84 per cent of respondents stressed the importance of their own country's shift to sustainable energy sources," the WEF said.

Survey respondents were asked to consider the energy they use for daily expenses - such as transportation, heating or cooling homes, cooking, powering appliances, etc - and assess how much energy price increases would affect their overall spending power.

On average, more than half of consumers (55 per cent) across the 30 countries surveyed expect their overall spending power to be significantly impacted by energy price increases.

## Par panel expresses concern on high spectrum price

**Delay in 5G rollout**

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTI):

Expressing concern over high spectrum price, a Parliamentary Panel on Wednesday asked the government to pay due attention to the issues raised by the telecom operators and take steps for early rollout of the 5G services.

The Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology, chaired by Lok Sabha MP Shashi Tharoor, in its report expressed concern about the 5G rollout delay that will deprive the country of taking advantage of various benefits of 5G when other countries of the world have made no-

ticeable progress in the deployment of the technology. "It is high time that 5G should be rolled out in India in some specific Use Cases, however, the Committee do not see any progress in that direction. The Committee, therefore, reiterates that the Department need to review all their policies relating to 5G so that the country is not left behind in the race for 5G," the panel said in the report.

The panel said that it desires that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) may be impressed to expedite their recommendations on the 5G spectrum so that the 5G auction can be held at the earliest.

## Sebi revises norms for collective investment schemes

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTI):

Seeking to put in place a stricter regulatory framework for collective investment schemes, markets watchdog Sebi has decided to enhance the net worth criteria and track record requirements for entities managing such schemes.

The regulator has also approved changes to listing obligations and disclosure requirement regulations for simplification of procedure for transmission of securities.

It also gave the nod to amend regulations to enable Sebi-registered custodians to provide custodial services in respect of silver or silver-related instru-



ments held by silver ETFs of mutual funds. These decisions were taken at a board meeting of Sebi held.

Amid instances of investors getting defrauded by fraudulent money pooling schemes, the regulator would also restrict a Collective Investment Management Company (CIMC) and its group/associates/shareholders' shareholding in a scheme at 10 per cent or representation on the board of another

CIMC to avoid conflict of interest. Besides, the mandatory investment of CIMC and its designated employees in the Collective Investment Schemes (CIS) have to align their interests with that of the CIS.

Sebi said the net worth criteria would be enhanced and a requirement of having a track record in a relevant field as an eligibility requirement for registration as a CIMC would be put in place.

Among others, there would be a "mandatory requirement of a minimum number of investors, maximum holding of a single investor and minimum subscription amount at CIS level," Sebi said.

## CommMin studying work of MMTC, STC, PEC

Dubai, Mar 30 (PTI):

The commerce ministry is studying the work of its three undertakings - MMTC, STC and PEC, and it will take appropriate steps to protect the national interest, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said.

On a question about whether the commerce ministry is planning to close these units, he said: "We are examining all options and will do what is in the national interest".

"We are studying the work that these three companies are doing and we will take appropriate steps to protect the national interest and protect the country's needs. We should not be wasting

the scarce resources, which taxpayers pay," the minister told PTI.

State Trading Corporation (STC) was set up in 1956 as a trading arm of the government to undertake trade with East European countries.

Project & Equipment Corporation (PEC) was incorporated as a subsidiary of STC in 1971 to handle the canalised business of export of railway and engineering equipment. It became an independent firm in 1997.

Metals & Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC) was created in 1963 as an independent entity on separation from STC, primarily to deal in exports of minerals and ores and imports of non-ferrous metals.

## John Abraham in an action-packed triple role



Sony MAX is all set to raise the temperature this summer with the World Television Premiere of the hottest film of the season, Satyamev Jayate 2. Synonymous to power packed action entertainers John Abraham returns as the famed Satya in the hit action-drama helmed by Milap Zaveri and Divya Khosla Kumar in a pivotal role who returns in front of the camera after 17 years.

It is John VS John in this film as the season actor returns to his favourite action genre in a high octane triple role a rarity especially in the past decade of cinema. Sequel to the 2018 Satyamev Jayate, Satyamev Jayate 2 is a John Abraham show through and through with the action hero rocking an enticing triple role of a vigilante, a police officer and a father, as he sets out on a mission to see a corruption free India. However, the vision of a corruption free India is filled with roadblocks as enemies and wrong doers are spread across verticals in society from police, to politicians, industrialists and even common men. Will Satya prove successful in his fight against corruption and abuse of power?

Initially hesitant to play the third role of the father, John Abraham

does justice and teleports us to a different era as he dons the hat of a herculean farmer much different from the real life people he is known to portray on screen. With comparisons made to the Hulk, sprained wrists and back injuries due to the high octane action sequences, John's macho heroism reflects in the most lavish yet subtle ways owing to his expertise in the action genre. Paying homage to the 80s films, Milap Zaveri captures the commercial grandeur of Satyamev Jayate 2 with adrenaline filled fight sequences, powerful dialogues, and pacy music.

## Urvashi Rautela collaborates with Talk dirty to me' hitmaker Jason Derulo

Actress Urvashi Rautela has announced collaboration with popular singer Jason Derulo, known for belting out hits such as 'Talk dirty to me', 'Wiggle wiggle', 'Swalla' and 'Trumpets' among many others, for their upcoming music single.

Urvashi had shared a glimpse of it on her social media and has made it official on her collaboration for the song.

Jason Derulo, on working with Urvashi, said: "It was a pleasure working with Urvashi Rautela in 'Jaanu'. She's a shining example of raw Indian beauty, and more importantly, Urvashi Rautela is not just the first, but also the second most beautiful woman in the world. "She is an excellent and outstanding actor and performer. She is the ultimate global icon. The only Bollywood film person I know of after Shah Rukh Khan is Urvashi Rautela. She is very famous. I cannot comment on the industry, but I like the emotions and dance that Indian movies involve."

On the work front, Urvashi will also be seen in the Jio studios web series 'Inspector Avinash' opposite Randeep Hooda in a lead role.

The actress is going to play the lead role in a bilingual thriller 'Black Rose' along with the Hindi remake of 'Thiruttu Payale 2'. Apart from that, the actress will be making her Tamil debut with the Rs 200 crore big-budget film 'The Legend' opposite Saravana.

## Kiara Advani looks stylish and confident in her all-white tracksuit as she gets papped



Kiara Advani is one of the most good-looking actresses in Bollywood. She never misses a chance to make everyone's heads turn with her fashion game. With the Summer season at its peak already, it is very essential to wear comfortable clothes. But along with that, it is also necessary to look stylish and well, Kiara is doing exactly that. Today, she looked fabulous in an all-white tracksuit as she was papped outside the Dharma office. In the pictures, we can see Kiara Advani wearing a full sleeves top that she paired with loose and comfy white pants. She left her hair open and wore black sunglasses. Kiara completed her look with white and gold sports shoes.

The actress made sure to wave at the paps before she sat in her car and even smiled at the paps. We have to admit that she looked extremely stylish in this outfit. Meanwhile, Kiara Advani will next be seen in Jug Jugg Jeeyo opposite Varun Dhawan. This film will also star Neetu Kapoor, Anil Kapoor, Prajakta Koli, and Manish Paul in pivotal roles. She also has Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 opposite Kartik Aaryan and Govinda Naam Mera alongside Vicky Kaushal and Bhumi Pednekar.

On the personal front, Kiara Advani is rumoured to be dating her Shershaah co-star Sidharth Malhotra. Both of them are spotted together on several occasions.

## Lock Upp is live on OTT platform



Lock Upp, a unique captive reality format co-created for the first time by two of the biggest Indian streaming platforms featuring a fiery host, Kangana Ranaut bringing together 16 controversial celebrities in a jail for 72 days has hit bullseye as the show has already crossed 100MN+ unique viewers on the show in the first 19 days of its launch. This is the first-ever reality show that has been created with its parallel universe of first-of-its-kind metaverse-based game and the game is live now.

With this game, players can join the celebrity contestants on the show, explore the captive world of the Lock Upp metaverse and take an active role in the real ecosystem and win weekly prizes. Speaking about metaverse, Zulfiqar Khan, COO - Group ALTBalaji, said, "We focused on giving viewers a different experience, so we took the first-ever reality show on an OTT platform to the next level by introducing the first-ever game in the metaverse relating to the show. We opened a new dimension in content development and engagement with advanced technology. The Lock Upp metaverse will give gamers and audiences a chance to be a part of a unique world where they can play along as the show progresses. Gaming enthusiasts worldwide can explore this amazing world of Lock Upp that we have created."

## IIFA awards in Abu Dhabi on May 20 and 21

The grandest celebration of Indian Cinema, the International Indian Film Academy and Awards (IIFA) is set to thrill fans with its 22nd edition in Yas Island, Abu Dhabi on May 20th and 21st, 2022. At a press conference held in Mumbai today, in the presence of this year's host - Salman Khan and actor Varun Dhawan and Ananya Panday, His Excellency Saeed Al Fazari, Strategic Affairs Executive Director of the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi, Miral's CEO Mohamed Abdalla Al Zaabi, Shashank Srivastava, Senior Executive Director, Marketing and Sales, Maruti Suzuki India, among other dignitaries, an official announcement was made about stunning performances at IIFA Rocks by Devi Sri Prasad, Shreya Ghoshal and Tanishk Bagchi amongst others at the highly anticipated event that promises to be a mélange of glitz and glamour.

With excitement increasing all over the world, people can now buy tickets to the biggest celebration of Indian Cinema on <https://www.etihadarena.ae/en/box-office> or you can head to [www.yasidland.ae](http://www.yasidland.ae) where fans can add all that they need for their visit to Yas Island as a travel package which began on



Tuesday, 8th March, 2022, 10.30am IST. The price denominations range from AED prices 110, 220, 330, 440, 550, 1000 and 1350. (Please note additional charges, terms & conditions may apply).

The event will take place at the

Middle East's largest state-of-the-art indoor entertainment venue, Etihad Arena, part of Yas Bay Waterfront on Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, in collaboration with the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi), and Miral, Abu Dhabi's leading creator of immersive destinations and experiences.

Salman Khan said, "I have always enjoyed being a part of the IIFA Family and travelling to some great destinations but this year we are headed to one of my personal favorites - Yas Island, Abu Dhabi. Over the last 21 years, IIFA has not only given Indian Cinema an international platform, but it has created a wonderful opportunity to take us to our fans and connect millions of people globally. I am proud and excited to host the 2022 IIFA Weekend & Awards at Yas Island, Abu Dhabi as we unite the world through cinema & celebration." Varun Dhawan said, "IIFA Awards has given me some very precious moments of my life. Holding the IIFA trophy, performing in the festivities is special about IIFA. In this edition, we are travelling to Abu Dhabi which is one of my favorite cities and I am really looking forward to connecting with fans and have a fun time overall."

## HOROSCOPE THURSDAY MARCH 31

### Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

Eat, drink, and make merry. But watch out! Don't empty your pockets in one go. Also, guard your reputation. A lot depends on your behaviour, and the big daddies may be watching you. You have a lot at stake, and there should be no regrets later. Let success be your priority for now, says Ganesha. All else will follow.

### Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

You are likely to be grinding yourself under at the workplace today. A turning point will arise in romantic liaisons, though if the evening awaiting you is anything to go by, it is something you should welcome wholeheartedly, says Ganesha.

### Gemini: May 22 - June 21

Today, you are likely to rack your brains to get things done. But your modesty will not do you any good. You will have to show that you are the boss, even if you are not. Your extraordinary brilliance will translate into exceptional performance and will save the day. Never forget that your family is the foundation of your success, says Ganesha.

### Cancer: June 22 - July 22

Today, you are likely to be brimming with love and compassion. However, certain negative thoughts will spoil all your good work. But don't fret! Your efforts won't go wasted and you will get the desired results sooner or later, says Ganesha.

### Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

Today, you will be in a mishmash of emotions and feelings. Also, there are chances of accumulated feelings finding an outlet. Your capacity for emotional display may take people by surprise. However, you will also enjoy the higher responsibilities reposed on you, predicts Ganesha.

### Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

Ganesha predicts today will be a day full of focus and a clear thought process. The clarity of thought you have has been acquired over a period of time, says Ganesha, and that could make all the difference. A crisp application of thoughts to ideas and actions will bring much appreciation from bosses and peers.

### Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

The yogis have finally succeeded in impressing you. Was it a stint in an Art of Living course? Ganesha gives you the thumbs-up and suggests you join that music or dance class you have been wanting to. Generally a nice day, and success is on the cards.

### Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

Working hard, or hardly working - there is a vast difference between the two. You would be wiser to be working hard today, especially if it is success that you desire, says Ganesha. Remember that there is no substitute for hard work, and the sooner you realise this, the better. So sweat it out today.

### Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21

Settling for a new, better employment will help you fast-track your career growth. A telephonic interview might ring in a new offer. A lucrative deal with an MNC would serve well. Your dedication and devotion to work will also peak today, says Ganesha.

### Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

Today is a day of closure. You may find yourself on the winning side of things, says Ganesha. Pending projects will reach completion and you will achieve satisfaction and success in education. With a little extra effort, you can build a castle from stone. Ganesha wishes you a cheerful and colourful day.

### Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

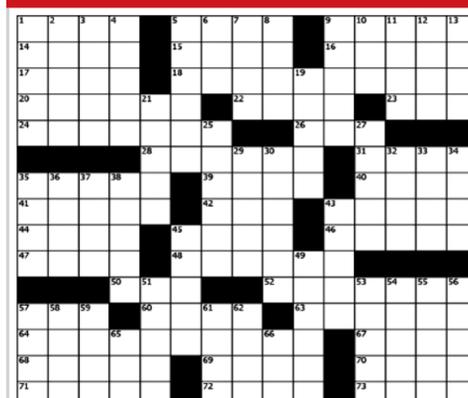
Business might be going very well for you, Virgo, but intense changes on the job could have you feeling stressed. Delays in starting new projects could prove frustrating. Don't fall into the trap of thinking that this is going to be a trend. All should be brought back into focus tomorrow. Go to the gym tonight and work off some frustration.

### Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

It's going to be a day of pleasant surprises. You will try your level best to help people around you, and will find it exceedingly frustrating when the results won't be as expected, says Ganesha. In fact, this may even dampen your spirit and shake your self-confidence.

## CROSSWORD

255



### ACROSS

- Common skin problem
- Talk wildly
- Love, Italian-style
- Buddy
- Consumer
- Designated
- Thyme or sage
- On a \_\_\_\_\_ (with little money)
- Artists' stands
- Butterfly catchers

- Nursery item
- Muscle-building drug
- Sailor's ascent
- Julius \_\_\_\_\_
- Produced
- Musical drama
- Prod
- Egg-shaped
- Make merry
- City railways
- Calm
- India's locale

- Englishman, for short
- Newspapers and TV, e.g.
- Lounge about
- Clothing
- Dad's mate
- Most orderly
- To and \_\_\_\_\_
- Spur on
- Invent
- Valid
- Eons
- Our planet
- Like summertime tea
- Wood strip
- Lady's garment
- Quality of sound
- Lampreys

### DOWN

- Longs (for)
- Swindle
- Hospital worker
- Fire's remnant
- Moscow's country
- Fire remains
- Lighting gas
- Wood source
- Fidgety
- Deface
- Fail to mention
- Nevada city
- Jumpy
- Drummer Ringo \_\_\_\_\_
- Regional
- Sahara, e.g.
- Ham it up

### SOLUTION 254



29. Divided  
30. Capital of Texas  
32. Ardent  
33. Artist Salvador \_\_\_\_\_  
34. "\_\_\_\_\_ Enchanted" (movie)  
35. Vocal  
36. Mexican money  
37. Malicious  
38. Kingdome  
43. Smudge  
45. Animated deer  
49. Ebb  
51. Curses  
53. Pester  
54. National bird  
55. Burglarize  
56. Quizzes  
57. Ran away  
58. Bring up  
59. Mythical giant  
61. Send forth  
62. Mexican dish  
65. \_\_\_\_\_ a boy!  
66. Knockout count

## Australia says farewell to cricketing legend Warne



Summer Warne reads her eulogy alongside brother Jackson Warne and sister Brooke Warne during the state memorial service for former Australian cricketer Shane Warne at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in Melbourne on Wednesday.

**Melbourne:** Crowds gathered at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Tuesday as Australians said their final goodbyes to Shane Warne. The former leg-spinner, considered one of the greatest cricketers of all-time, died aged 52 earlier this month from a suspected heart attack while on holiday in Koh Samui, Thailand. A private funeral has already been held, attended by dozens of celebrities including ex-England captain Michael Vaughan. A state memorial service was held on Wednesday.

## Bopanna-Shapovalov, Mirza-Flipkens ousted



**Miami:** India's Rohan Bopanna and Sania Mirza were knocked out of the Miami Open from their respective doubles events after contrasting quarterfinal defeats here. Frequent partners since 2019, the Indo-Canadian pair of Bopanna and Denis Shapovalov went down 2-6 1-6 to sixth seeds Wesley Koolhof of Netherlands and Great Britain's Neal Skupski on Tuesday. The unseeded pair of Bopanna and Shapovalov had stunned the top seeded Croatian duo of Nikola Pietrangeli and Mate Pavic in straight sets in the previous round.

## Rohit, Kohli slip; Ashwin rises in Test rankings



**Dubai:** India skipper Rohit Sharma and veteran batter Virat Kohli moved down a rung each to be placed 8th and 10th, respectively, in the latest ICC Test rankings released on Wednesday. Rohit, who continued to remain in the top-ranked Indian in the batters' chart, moved down a place to 8th. He has 754 points, while Kohli, who has 742 rating points moved to the 10th position. Ravindra Jadeja retained the top position among all-rounders, while Ravichandran Ashwin displaced West Indies' Jason Holder to be second. Ashwin and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah continued to hold on to their second and fourth positions, respectively, in the bowlers' chart.

# ICC Women's WC: Australia romp past WI to enter final

Wellington, Mar 30 (PTI):

Australia booked their place in the ICC Women's World Cup final with a dominant 157-run victory over West Indies after Alyssa Healy's belligerent century was complemented by the bowlers here on Wednesday.

Meg Lanning's side were at their destructive best with the bat, with Healy making 129 and adding 216 for the first wicket with Rachael Haynes (85), to post a mammoth 305 for three from 45 overs in a rain-curtailed semifinal.

The West Indies never looked like getting close in their chase. Captain Stafanie Taylor was her side's top-scorer with 48 in a total of 148, indicating the gulf in the class between the two semifinalists.

Play got underway one hour and 45 minutes late after thick mist and drizzle gave way to sunshine with the match shorn of 10 overs.

Put in to bat, Australia were undeterred by the West Indies' fast bowlers running in on a green wicket in gloomy Basin Reverse, making 37 runs in the powerplay.

Healy took her time to get going, making just 10 from 25 balls through the first 10 overs but then picked up pace to bring up her fifty from 63 balls.

Her second fifty would come off just 28 balls as she



Alyssa Healy and Rachael Haynes put on a massive opening stand.

recorded a maiden World Cup hundred.

Healy eventually departed for 129 from 107 balls, including 17 fours and one six, as the West Indies held on to their first catch of the day with substitute Shakera Selman, on for the injured Anisa Mohammed, diving in.

A mini fightback ensued as Chinelle Henry took two wickets in an over, with Haynes going first for 85 from 100 balls before Ashleigh Gardner's promotion from seventh to third ended after 12 runs as the West Indies dragged Australia back to 235 for

three. Lanning and Beth Mooney were there to steady the ship however; the two batters with the highest averages in the tournament, taking Australia past 300, the largest-ever score in a World Cup knockout game.

In reply, the West Indies made a steady start once again, led by Deandra Dottin but soon lost their first wicket as Rashada Williams went for a 10-ball duck, Mooney holding on to a stunning grab off the bowling of Megan Schutt. Annabel Sutherland did what the Windies could not,

safely holding on to a looping catch at long-on to dismiss Dottin for 34.

Hayley Matthews fell for the same score as Jess Jonassen took the first wicket from spin for the day with her fourth ball, Alana King holding on to a poorly-timed shot at mid-off.

Matthews's wicket did not spark the West Indies into life as they slipped to 91 for three in 22.4 overs. Taylor was joined by Shemaine Campbelle as the required run-rate climbed above 10 an over.

Sutherland chipped in with a wicket as Campbelle sent a delivery straight to Jonassen to depart for eight.

Chedeane Nation came out with intent cracking a six from her first ball but could add only more before being run out by Healy.

Kycia Knight followed for a two-ball duck as Jonassen moved to 10 wickets for the tournament and reduced the West Indies to 126 for six.

Gardner then looked to catch Jonassen up getting her ninth of the World Cup to dismiss Ramharack LBW a ball after she was dropped by Sutherland.

Taylor eventually departed for 48 from 74, with four fours, and with it the West Indies innings and run in the tournament came to an end as the injured Mohammed and ill Henry did not take to the field.

## Medvedev closes in on No. 1 ranking

Miami Gardens, Mar 30 (AP):



Daniil Medvedev is one win away from returning to No. 1. And Naomi Osaka is two wins away from being a tournament champion again. Shaking off a slow start, the top-seeded Medvedev reached the quarterfinals of the Miami Open on Tuesday by defeating Jensen Brooksby of the U.S. 7-5, 6-1.

Medvedev has yet to drop a set in his three Miami matches. He'll face No. 8 seed and defending Miami champion Hubert Hurkacz in the quarters and if Medvedev prevails there, he'll be assured of supplanting Novak Djokovic and returning to No. 1 in the world.

I'm not the kind of guy who's going to say, Yeah, I'm the best,' Medvedev said. The computer might say it for him soon enough. The Russian held the No. 1 ranking briefly, lost it to Djokovic

again about a week ago and is now closing in on capturing it again.

Brooksby jumped out to an immediate lead, breaking Medvedev's first service game and wound up serving for the first set two points away at 5-4, 30-15. It was all Medvedev from there.

## Osaka to Miami semis



In women's quarterfinal play, the unseeded Osaka who hasn't won a tournament since the 2021 Australian Open made quick work of No. 9 Danielle Collins of the U.S. The former world No. 1 needed only an hour to overpower Collins 6-2, 6-1 and make the Miami semifinals for the first time. This is my childhood tournament and I would love to win here, said Osaka, who spent part of her youth living in South Florida. I've got to take it one round at a time. Collins who has been dealing with neck pain needed

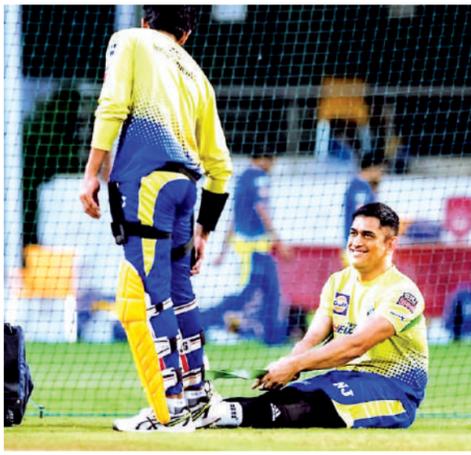
a medical timeout during the match. She's a fighter," Osaka said. She fought through the match." Next up for Osaka: No. 22 Belinda Bencic, who, like Osaka, continued her roll through the tournament. Bencic hasn't faced a seeded player yet and hasn't come close to dropping a set, making the semifinals with a 6-1, 6-2 win over Daria Kasatkina. Bencic has won 48 of the 65 games she's played in the tournament. I'm really happy I reached a great result here," Bencic said. Everything else is a bonus.

## CSK, LSG seek improvement in top-order batting

Mumbai, Mar 30 (PTI):

Chennai Super Kings will welcome the return of star all-rounder Moeen Ali as they eye a much improved batting performance in the IPL clash against Lucknow Super Giants here on Thursday.

Both the teams come into the game after a loss in their respective opening matches. A common factor in their defeats were the failure of the top-order and they would be looking to correct that at the Brabourne Stadium. It is still very early days in the two-month long IPL but the toss is already playing a significant role in



the game's outcome. With the second innings dew in mind, teams are preferring to put the opposition in.

The losses for CSK and LSG came after batting first at the Wankhede. Conditions are not expected to be very different at the nearby CCI ground with heavy dew likely to set in the second half of the game.

Lucknow skipper KL Rahul and star opener Quinton De Kock had a forgettable outing on Monday and they would be keen to get some runs under their belt. Rahul needs to lead from the front with the IPL presenting a big test for his captaincy skills.

# FIFA, Qatar prepare for unprecedented World Cup finals draw



Doha, Mar 30 (AP):

A World Cup like no other in its 92-year history will take shape this week at an unprecedented tournament draw.

When FIFA and host nation Qatar stage the draw ceremony show Friday, three of the 32 entries will be placeholders because the three-year qualifying program was delayed and is still ongoing. A once-in-a-century global health crisis and the war in Ukraine made sure of that. It means 37 nations will be involved on Friday, including five which will ultimately not play in November when the first winter World Cup kicks off. The full lineup will not be known until at least June 14, when the intercontinental playoff round ends in Qatar. That is 74 days after the draw and the same date the 2018 tournament started in Russia, which was thrown out of the

final stages of qualifying this time over the invasion of Ukraine. Maybe FIFA got lucky seven years ago by moving the 2022 tournament to November and December to avoid the searing desert heat of Qatar's summer. The later start created wiggle room to clear the match backlog after the COVID-19 pandemic wiped out almost every national-team game outside Europe in 2020.

It has also put uncertainty on stage at the Doha Exhibition & Convention Center, where the show Friday starts at 7 p.m. (1600 GMT) and lasts one hour. One of the balls being drawn from pot 4 of low-ranked teams will represent Peru or Australia or the United Arab Emirates. Another is Ukraine or Wales or Scotland. So it goes at this major World Cup milestone, in perhaps its most unlikely host nation, on April 1. Here's a look at this unusual World Cup draw.

### FIRST-TIMER QATAR

One sure thing is Qatar will be the top-seeded team in Group A, taking position A1 in the schedule of 64 matches in just 28 days. The privilege is given to all host nations even when ranked No. 65 in the world, as Russia was. Qatar is currently No. 52. Still, the 2019 Asian Cup winner is the exception among modern World Cup hosts, having never before qualified for the finals. Qatar's debut opens the tournament on Monday, Nov. 21 at Al Bayt Stadium. It means in the group stage Qatar avoids the world's top-ranked teams, from Nos. 1 to 7 Brazil, Belgium, France, Argentina, England, Spain and Portugal. Those countries will be the next seven drawn out of top-seeded pot 1 and allocated in turn to Groups B through H.

### GOOD DRAW, BAD DRAW?

Is there a good or bad section of the draw to land in? Maybe yes at this congested tournament, which will be four days shorter than the 2018 edition in Russia. Landing in Group B means starting on Nov. 21 instead of Nov. 24 in Group G or H. That means three extra rest days. The Group G winner would have to play seven games in just 25 days to win the title. That team also gets just two full days off before a round of 16 game on Dec. 5. Why is the schedule so tight? This World Cup is jammed into an enforced break in domestic league seasons in Europe.

### GEOGRAPHY LESSON

Geography also limits potential matchups. Teams from the same continent generally can't go in the same group, except for some Europeans. Europe has 13 of the 31 qualifying slots and they cannot all avoid each other. Five groups get two European teams, and the other three groups each get one. It means 2014 winner Germany from pot 2 can land with defending champion France.

### KNOCKOUT STAGE

The 32-team lineup is the perfect number for a knockout bracket. The top two teams in each group where goal difference is the first tiebreaker advance to the round of 16. A team's path through to the quarterfinals, semifinals and final is set in the bracket. If Qatar advances as the Group A winner, it must then play the Group B runner-up. Teams which advance from the same group cannot meet again until the final.

### HOW THE SEEDING WORKS

Seeding pots are filled according to FIFA rankings which weigh results over several years and are officially updated Thursday. The next eight highest-ranked qualifiers go into pot 2, which is the second to be drawn. It includes Germany and likely the United States and Mexico after Wednesday's qualifying games. Next is pot 3 with teams ranked in the 20s by FIFA and finally pot 4 including Canada, back in the World Cup after a 36-year gap. Canada is in pot 4 despite leading the North American qualifying group. The simple format is now complicated by the three playoff entries delayed to June: The European bracket containing Ukraine, which cannot currently prepare a team, and the two intercontinental playoffs. FIFA weighted those entries downward into pot 4 according to the lowest-ranked potential qualifiers, such as Scotland, New Zealand and the UAE. Higher-ranked playoff teams Peru and Wales face being seeded below their true level.

### FIXTURE SCHEDULE

Each four-team group is a round-robin of six games in total. The order each team plays the other is decided by another draw with-in the ceremony. After each team is drawn, a subsequent ball numbered 1, 2, 3 or 4 is picked to place that country in the fixture grid. This unpredictability means the two highest-ranked teams in a group could meet in any of the three rounds.



## Victim-nun, State file appeals in HC

Against bishop's acquittal in rape case

Kochi, Mar 30 (PTI):

The nun, who claims to have been raped by Roman Catholic Bishop Franco Mulakkal, and the State government have moved the Kerala High Court against his acquittal in the case by a trial court.

While the victim-nun moved the appeal earlier this week, the prosecution moved the High Court on Wednesday challenging the bishop's acquittal after getting sanction for the same from the government during the day.

In its appeal, filed through Additional

Public Prosecutor P Narayanan, against the trial court's January 14, 2022 decision, the prosecution contended that the sessions judge, without appreciating the evidence in the correct perspective, "misconstrued facts and law and gave unwarranted acquittal to the accused" and set him free.

Seeking setting aside of the sessions court's decision, the prosecution has also claimed that the lower court's judgement was "patently wrong, manifestly erroneous and totally perverse".

On January 14, the Additional District and

Sessions Court I, Kottayam, acquitted the Bishop by saying the prosecution failed to produce evidence against the accused.

Mulakkal, 57, was accused of raping the nun multiple times during his visit to a convent in this district between 2014 and 2016 when he was the bishop of the Jalandhar diocese of the Roman Catholic church. The survivor is a member of the Missionaries of Jesus, a diocesan congregation under the Jalandhar Diocese.

In her complaint to the police in June 2018, the nun alleged that

she was subjected to sexual abuse by Franco Mulakkal between 2014 and 2016.

The Special Investigation Team, which probed into the case, arrested the bishop in September 2018 and charged him with wrongful confinement, rape, unnatural sex and criminal intimidation.

Trial in the case, which started in November 2019, concluded on January 10. The court had restrained the print and electronic media from publishing any matter relating to the trial in the case without its permission.

## BOARD EXAMS BEGIN



Class XIth students appear for the Hindi exam of the Haryana Board of School Education (HBSE), at a government school, in Gurugram, Wednesday.

## Gujarat govt yet to recover Rs 49 crore from doctors

Who skipped rural service

Gandhinagar, Mar 30 (PTI):

The Gujarat government on Wednesday informed the Legislative Assembly that over 1,600 MBBS graduates who passed out from state-run medical colleges during the last three years did not serve in rural areas as per the bond they have to sign at the time of admission.

Medical students in government colleges have to sign a bond promising to serve in rural areas for a year after completing studies. Doctors can break the bond by paying Rs 40 lakh to the government.

Between 2019 and 2021, as many as 1,630 medical graduates did not turn up for rural duties after finishing their course, said Health Minister Rushikesh Patel in his replies during Question Hour to a set of questions raised by Congress MLAs. Of these 1,630 doctors, the state government is yet to recover Rs 49.35 crore from 1,155 doctors who had broken the bond and refused to serve in rural areas, said Patel. He added that the process to recover this amount was currently on through relevant authorities. Notably, the data tabled by Patel in

the House revealed that the maximum number of doctors have refused to serve in tribal-dominated Dahod and Chhotaudepur districts. While 377 doctors refused to serve in Dahod during the last three years, 242 did not turn up for their rural duties in Chhotaudepur district, the data showed.

Former Gujarat Health Minister Nitin Patel had once said in the Assembly that even doctors from scheduled tribe communities were not ready to serve in government hospitals in tribal regions after finishing their studies.

To avert man-jumbo conflict

Agartala, Mar 30 (PTI):

The forest department in Tripura has moved a proposal before the state government for erecting solar-powered electric fences around some villages in Khowai district's Teliamura subdivision, where several instances of elephant attacks in the recent past left at least one man dead and many others injured, a senior official said.

Atharamura hill, spanning parts of Khowai and

Dhalai districts, is home to at least 18 elephants, according to the census carried out by the department in 2020-21.

"The ONGC is engaged in laying a gas pipeline in Atharamura hill, which has been identified as a natural elephant corridor. The project will disturb elephants living in the corridor, and they may stray into nearby villages more often. "We have submitted a proposal to the state government for erecting solar fences covering an area of 20 km to keep the elephants away from human habitats," the forest department official said.

If approved by the state government, the matter will then be taken up with ONGC and funds for sanctioning the fencing project will be sought from the oil and gas major.

The solar-powered barrier, once set up, will give a non-lethal shock to the elephants if they come in contact with it, the official said, adding that the cost of erecting fences across 1 km stood around Rs 20 lakh.

In Assam, the solar powered fence has turned out to be a beneficial tool to prevent man-animal conflict in Rani Forest Reserve, near Guwahati,

he stated. Noting that elephants consume salt water in large volumes during summers, the senior official said that measures are being taken to ensure that the pachyderms do not venture out of their habitat in search of it.

"Six salt lakes have already been created in core areas. Twelve more will be coming up soon in the hill. Elephants often raid villages in search of salt," he explained.

In some areas, the department plans to dig trenches because pachyderms can't bypass such obstacles to reach human habitation, he said.

## Women carry kin's body on charpoy for five km

Rewa (MP), Mar 30 (PTI): Four women were forced to carry the body of their woman relative on a charpoy for nearly five km in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district as no hearse was available. In fact, no government hospital or health centre in the district has a hearse though they have ambulances, said a senior medical officer. A video of the incident, which took place on Tuesday, went viral on social media. The daughter of the dead woman was among the four who carried the body on their shoulders. The other three were her relatives. District Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO) Dr B L Mishra said on Wednesday that the woman, aged about 60 years, was unwell. She died at the Raipur Karchuliya community health centre during treatment on Tuesday, he said.

## 'Sacking govt employees move to disempower locals'



Mehbooba Mufti

Srinagar, Mar 30 (PTI):

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday flayed the Jammu and Kashmir administration for dismissing five employees and alleged that it was a move to disempower the locals.

The Union Territory administration on Wednesday sacked police

constable Tawseef Ahmed Mir, who has been accused of actively working for Hizbul Mujahideen and trying to kill two of his colleagues, and four more employees for alleged links with terror groups.

It terminated the services of the employees following a recommendation of a designated committee constituted under Article 311 (2) (c) of the Constitution that allows dismissal without an inquiry in the interest of the security of the State.

"On one hand GOI is recruiting retired security personnel from all over India for civilian posts in J&K. But at the same time they are deliberately firing Kashmiri govt employees to offset the balance in the administration & disempowering locals," Mehbooba tweeted.

## PRERARATION FOR RAMZAN



A worker prepares vermicelli, used in traditional sweet dish sheer khurma, popularly consumed ahead of the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan, at a factory, in Prayagraj, Wednesday.

## TN CM presents cash awards to best sericulture farmers

Chennai, Mar 30 (PTI):

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Wednesday presented cash awards to the tune of Rs 6.75 lakh to nine people, including three farmers, in recognition of their contribution to sericulture in the State. The awards were given away on behalf of the Sericulture Department at the Secretariat here. The first prize for the best sericulture farmer carries a purse of Rs one lakh, Rs 75,000 and Rs 50,000 to the second and third farmers. Accordingly, P Chinna of Theni district, K Bhobalakrishnan of Tirupur and C Kamalam of Namakkal district received the awards.

Similarly, the best automatic silk reeler awards were given to R Perumal (Rs one lakh) of Tirupur; C Sekhar (Rs 75,000) of Krishnagiri district, and J

Ramashankar (Rs 50,000) of Tirupur district.

Three best multi-end silk reeler awards were presented to M Jayavel (Rs one lakh) and J Vedavalli (Rs 75,000) of Dharmapuri district, and A Venkatchalpathy (Rs 50,000) of Krishnagiri district. Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises T M Anbarasan, Chief Secretary V Irai Anbu, Handlooms, Handicrafts, Textiles & Khadi Department Principal Secretary Dharmendra Pratap Yadav and Director of Sericulture K Santhi were among those present on the occasion. Tamil Nadu produced 1,834 metric tonnes of raw silk during 2020-2021 and stands third in the country in the production of bivoltine raw silk by producing 1,754 metric tonnes among mulberry silk-producing States.

## Chirag Paswan begins process of vacating bungalow

Allotted to Ram Vilas Paswan

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTI):

Lok Sabha MP Chirag Paswan on Wednesday started the process of vacating the bungalow allotted to his late father Ram Vilas Paswan after a government team was sent to execute an eviction order issued to him last year.

The process of moving furniture and household goods from the bungalow in Janpath in Lutyens' Delhi started shortly after a team from the Directorate of Estates, which comes under the



A truck leaves from 12, Janpath, the bungalow allotted to former union minister Ram Vilas Paswan, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, reached the property, official sources said.

Two loaded trucks drove out of the 12 Janpath bungalow, which was the official address of the Lok

Janshakti Party (LJP), while three more were parked in front.

The bungalow is earmarked for Union ministers and the occupants of the government accommodation have been asked to vacate it, officials said.

The LJP split into two following differences between Chirag Paswan and his uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras after the death of former Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan. Both are locked in a power tussle for the LJP's leadership. The house was used for holding the party's organisational meetings and other related events.

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTI):

The Opposition on Wednesday dubbed the Rs 1,000 crore package announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech last year for the welfare of the tea garden workers in Assam and West Bengal as "jumla", saying not "a penny" has reached the beneficiaries so far.

Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel, however, dismissed the charge and defended the Centre, saying steps are

being taken to implement the package to ensure that the benefits reach the targeted beneficiaries "in a systematic manner".

"There is no need to doubt the government policy and intent... Definitely, it has taken time," she told the Lok Sabha during the Question Hour and gave details of the steps being taken to implement the proposal.

Patel was replying to a question from Congress member Gaurav Gogoi, who sought to know about the status of the Rs 1,000 crore package announced by Sitharaman in her budget speech last year for

the welfare of the tea garden workers, saying not a penny has reached Assam and Darjeeling in West Bengal.

Gogoi said in the Centre's reply, there is no mention of the Rs 1,000 crore package announced by the finance minister.

Patel said the Tea Board, after the announcement of the package, drafted the Prime Minister Chai Shramik Protsahan scheme and "took it forward".

"Then, one opinion came that all welfare provisions - related to education, health or other facilities -- are already being made available through

various schemes of the ministries and there is already an institutional mechanism available for those," she said.

It was then decided that the Tea Board will identify the beneficiaries and the Centre can take all the welfare schemes to the women workers and their children at the tea gardens of the two states by providing funds to the related ministries over and above their budget.

"One more opinion came that we can set up capital infrastructure like anganwadi centres, hospitals, ayush and wellness centres and schools," the minister said.



BRIEF



An IAF personnel shows his skills during celebrations of Diamond Jubilee of IAFs Chetak helicopter.

Kiosks

New Delhi: Indian Railways intends to provide stalls/kiosks at identified stations for the sale and promotion of items sourced from local manufacturers to improve their skills and livelihood, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav told Parliament on Wednesday.

Suspended

Guwahati: Congress MLA Nurul Huda was on Wednesday suspended from the Assam Assembly for some time after he shouted against Speaker Biswajit Daimary who, during the Question Hour, had directed him to ask his query stopping a lengthy prelude to it.

Farewell

New Delhi: Rajya Sabha will bid farewell to 72 members who are retiring and Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will speak in the house on Thursday.

Tyre burst

Pune: A Sukhoi Su-30MKI aircraft suffered a tyre burst after landing at the Pune airport on Wednesday afternoon, which led to a blockage of the runway for some time, defence authorities said.

Cancelled

Lucknow: The Class 12 English exam of the Uttar Pradesh school board was cancelled in 24 districts on Wednesday after the question paper was leaked, prompting CM Yogi Adityanath to order invoking the stringent National Security Act in the case.

Weather: High 41 Low 22. MARKET: NIFTY 17,498.25 SENSEX 58,683.99. BULLION: GOLD 51,165 SILVER 67,560

DA hiked by 3% for central govt employees, pensioners

Effective From January 1, 2022

New Delhi, Mar 30:

The cabinet has approved the proposal to increase the dearness allowance for central government employees and pensioners by 3 per cent to 34 per cent of the basic pay from 31 per cent previously, effective January 1, 2022.

That increase in DA is per the accepted formula, which is based on the recommendations of the 7th central pay commission.

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has given its approval to release an additional instalment of dearness allowance (DA) to central gov-



Filephoto

ernment employees and dearness relief (DR) to pensioners effective January 1 this year.

That represents an increase of 3 per cent over the existing rate of 31 per cent of the basic pay/pension to compensate for the rise in prices. Indeed, retail inflation, or the consumer price inflation, has remained above the upper-end of the Reserve Bank of India's target range of 2-6 per cent for two straight months this year.

Impact on state exchequer

The combined impact on the exchequer on account of both the dearness allowance and the dearness relief would be Rs.9,544.50 crore per annum.

Benefit to employees

This will benefit about 47.68 lakh central government employees and 68.62 lakh pensioners. It will be applicable for civilian employees and those employed in defence services.

the Russia-Ukraine war, which economists say would push up prices pressures even further.

The cabinet notification said the term "basic pay" means the pay drawn as per the 7th pay commission matrix and does not include any other type of pay like special pay.

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lowance and the dearness relief would be Rs.9,544.50 crore per annum.

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The dearness allowance was hiked by a similar 3 per cent to 31 per cent last year, effective July 1, 2021.

Pak PM Imran Khan loses majority

After key ally sides with Oppn ahead of no-trust vote

Islamabad, Mar 30 (PTI):



Pakistan's embattled Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday effectively lost majority in Parliament after a key partner of the ruling coalition joined the ranks of the Opposition, which has tabled a no-confidence motion against his government in the National Assembly.

The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), a key ally of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-led coalition government, with its seven members announced that it has parted ways with the government during a joint press conference of the opposition parties here.

"We want to make a new beginning for politics of tolerance and true democracy," MQM-P chief Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui told reporters. "I announce to support the opposition in the parliament."

Sharif said that it was an important day as all opposition parties have joined together to address the problems faced by Pakistan. "The premier, even if he is a selected one, should resign to set a new tradition," he said.

Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), said the support by MQM was a big development and with this the prime minister has lost the majority. "The prime minister has no option and he will have to resign," he said.

Bilawal also said that Sharif will soon be elected as the next prime minister.

'India eyes global satellite launch market'

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTI):

India is eyeing a share in the global satellite launch market and has secured four dedicated launch service contracts with foreign customers, the government told Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

"With the emergence of global broadband communication needs, NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) envisages launches of several of these foreign satellites onboard ISRO's SSLV, PSLV and GSLV-MkIII," Minister of State in PMO Jitendra Singh said in a written reply.

The Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) is India's newest launch vehicle to put smaller satellites in low earth orbit. Its first developmental flight

is expected in May.

Earlier this month, ISRO had successfully carried out the ground testing of the newly developed solid booster stage (SS1) for SSLV.

Singh said NSIL, a central public sector enterprise under Department of Space, has earned a foreign exchange revenue of 35 million dollars and 10 million euros during the last three years - 2019-21, through launching satellites of various private and international agencies. He said NSIL has already launched 45 international customer satellites on-board ISRO's PSLV during the last three years and has secured four dedicated launch service contracts for foreign satellite customers.

SC orders status quo on mop-up round counselling

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTI):

The Supreme Court Wednesday directed the Centre to maintain status quo till Thursday in the mop-up round of NEET-PG 2021-22 counselling and asked the Director General of Health Services (DGHS) to reconsider the issues, including the decision of adding 146 new seats.

The apex court observed that these 146 seats were not available to the candidates in the previous rounds of counselling and they had no opportunity to participate in these seats.

A bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud said these seats have been allocated to students who are lower in merits than those who were allotted

Asks DGHS to clarify on 146 seats

lenged the Medical Counselling Committee notice dated March 16 which restrains the participation in the mop-up round counselling if the candidate has already picked up seats in state quota.

The bench observed that as a consequence of the March 16 notice, candidates who are allotted seats in rounds one and two in the state quota are prevented from participating in the mop-up round counselling for the All India quota.

It observed that prima facie, the notice has not been followed uniformly and this might cast a doubt as to whether allocation of seats in the All India quota in mop-up round is fair.

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NTA to hold CUET twice a year

From next session

New Delhi, Mar 30:

The National Testing Agency (NTA), which is responsible for conducting the Common University Entrance Test, is likely to hold the CUET twice a year from the next session.

"To begin with CUET will be conducted once this year but NTA will consider conducting the exam at least twice a year from next session," University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Jagadeesh Kumar told the PTI news agency.

Kumar also said that 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. He also asserted that students from state boards will not be at a disadvantage in the undergraduate admission process.

Asked whether the exam will lead to a 'coaching culture' for undergraduate admissions, Kumar said, "The exam will simply not require any coaching so there is no question of it giving a push to a 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."

NAVAL INVESTITURE CEREMONY



Vice Admiral M.A. Hampiholi inspects the Guard of Honor during the Naval Investiture Ceremony, at Southern Naval Command, in Kochi, Wednesday.

CCS approves procurement of 15 light combat helicopters

At a cost of Rs 3,887 crore

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTI):

In a significant move, the prime minister-led Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) on Wednesday approved the procurement of 15 indigenously developed Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) at a cost of Rs 3,887 crore.

The defence ministry said 10 helicopters will be for the Indian Air Force and five will be for the Indian



Filephoto

Army. "The CCS has approved procurement of 15 Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Limited Series Production at the cost of Rs 3,887 crore along with infrastructure sanctions worth Rs 377 crore," it said.

Light Combat Helicopter Limited Series Production (LSP) is an indigenously de-

SIGNIFICANT DECISION

veloped combat helicopter containing around 45 per cent indigenous content by value which will progressively increase to more than 55 per cent. The state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) produces the helicopter. The decision to procure the helicopters came in the midst of the three services focusing extensively on enhancing their overall combat capabilities in view of India facing myriad security challenges including along the borders with China. The LCH is equipped with requisite

agility, manoeuvrability, extended range, high altitude performance and all-weather combat capability to perform a range of roles including combat search and rescue (CSAR), destruction of enemy air defence (DEAD) and counter-insurgency (CI) operations, according to the ministry.

It said the helicopter can also be deployed in high altitude bunker-busting operations, counter-insurgency operations in the jungle and urban environments and for supporting ground forces.

Kerjriwal an urban naxal: Tejasvi Surya

Trying to whitewash Hindu genocide in Kashmir

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTI):

Lashing out at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for his remarks over the movie 'The Kashmir Files', BJP youth wing president Tejasvi Surya on Wednesday dubbed him an "urban naxal" and said he is trying to "whitewash the Hindu genocide in Kashmir".

The Surya-led BJP Yuva Morcha also held a protest outside Kejriwal's residence here over his remarks that the movie was a 'jhoothi film' (a movie not based on facts). Addressing a press conference at the BJP head office here, Surya demanded an apology from Kejriwal and



said that the AAP leader has insulted Hindus with his remarks about the movie. Kejriwal's remarks is an attempt to "whitewash the genocide", he said. "This attempt to whitewash the genocide is injustice on a civilisation. It is a time-tested tactic of urban naxals. Our protest is not against any party and this is not merely regarding 'The Kashmir Files'. This protest is against the inhuman mindset of Kejriwal who denies the Hindu genocide in Kashmir," Surya said.

'New norms to ensure safety of vehicle users'

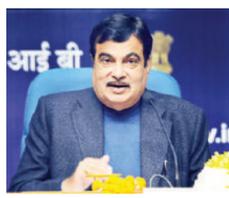
Effective from Oct 01

New Delhi, Mar 30:

As many as 13,022 lives could have been saved in the country in 2020 if there were functional airbags in cars, Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari told the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, while asserting that new norms are being introduced to ensure the safety of vehicle users.

He said the transport ministry has notified the new norms and from October 1, it is proposed that all vehicles shall be fitted with six airbags, including side airbags.

Replying to supplementaries during the Question Hour, Gadkari said in 2020, a total of 8,598 lives could have been saved with the use of airbags after head-on collisions of vehicles.



Nitin Gadkari

"Every year, we face five lakh accidents and 1.5 lakh deaths. For that reason, we are now taking a number of measures. Six airbags are now mandatory. We have taken a decision to make it mandatory for the economy models also," he said. "As many as 25,289 people were killed in head-on collisions in 2020 and 30 per cent of lives in frontal collisions can be saved by airbags. "In 2020 alone, 8,598 lives could have been saved in head-on collisions with the use of airbags.

New norms of safety

The transport ministry has notified the new norms and from October 1, it is proposed that all vehicles shall be fitted with six airbags, including side airbags.

Similarly, side collisions cost 14,271 lives and 31 per cent of those or 4,424 lives could have been saved with the use of side airbags," the minister added.

"We want to protect the lives of people and that is why we are going to start this rating system, which is going to qualitatively improve the automobile sector and at the same time, there will be more exports that will lead to more employment potential and growth for the country," he said.

NEW AIIMS DIRECTOR

Names of three docs get top body's nod

To be sent to ACC for final approval

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTI):

Names of three doctors, shortlisted by a search-cum-selection panel for the post of AIIMS director, have been approved by a key body of the institute and will now be sent to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) for final approval.

The three AIIMS doctors recommended for the top job in the premier institute are Dr Nikhil Tandon, head of the department of endocrinology; Dr Rajesh Malhotra, chief of AIIMS Trauma Centre and the head of the department of orthopaedics; and Dr Pramod Garg, professor in the gastroenterology department at the institute.

Names recommended

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orthopaedics; and Dr Pramod Garg, professor in the gastroenterology department at the institute, sources said. These three names shortlisted by the search-cum-selection committee were placed before the Institute Body, the top decision-making body of the AIIMS, on Tuesday and were approved.



# CHHATTISGARH MODEL

## SCRIPTING A NEW CHAPTER OF NYAY

**Disbursement**



### Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana

**FY 2021-22** - last installment  
₹1029.31 cr to 20.58 lakh farmers

Payment of ₹11,180.97 cr in last 2 years

**Increase in acreage, production & crop diversification**

**Disbursement**



### Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Bhoomihin Krishi Majdoor Nyay Yojana

**Second Installment**  
₹71.08 cr to 3.55 lakh registered landless farmers

**Launching**

### Mukhyamantri Shahri Slum Swasthya Yojana

60 new mobile medical units for municipal corporations & nagar panchayats

**More than 17 lakh people benefitted**

**Launching**

### Decentralisation for Effective Administration

4 new sub-divisions & 23 new tehsil

**Launching**

Online portal for review of settlement of time bound revenue related cases

On 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022



**Disbursement**

### Godhan Nyay Yojana

Transfer of ₹13.62 cr towards institutional purchase of cow dung

Payment of ₹226.18 cr towards institutional purchase of cow dung till now

**Repurposing cow dung  
Promoting organic farming  
New avenues of employment**

**Disbursement**



### Shahid Mahendra Karma Tendupatta Sangraha Samajik Suraksha Yojana

₹10.91 cr insurance coverage to 728 tendupatta collectors' families



**Shri Bhupesh Baghel**  
Honourable Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

**Pro Active - Pro People**

# Khadi is not just a piece of cloth, it's a school of thought: CM

Weavers and craftsmen honored by the CM at the State Level Khadi and Village Industries Exhibition

Raipur Mar 30:

Khadi has always been a symbol of Traditional Indian Craftsmanship unique to our country. Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel, while addressing the Weavers and Craftsmen of Chhattisgarh present in Chhattisgarh Haat, said that Khadi is not just a piece of cloth but it's a school of thought. The Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi used Khadi as a symbol of Self Reliance and a weapon of freedom struggle. Mahatma Gandhi envisioned Gram Swaraj to promote and conserve locally made hand-made products that could be sold everywhere, he wanted our villages to be strong and sustainable in every way. Walking on the same path of Self Reliance, We are also improving the skills of our artisans, weavers, craftsmen and providing them proper



training and product selling platforms like C-Mart to support rural craftsmanship. Let every village be a producer and cities as consumers of such traditionally made high-quality products. He further said that it is our endeavour to make our villages economically viable and self-reliant. The Chief Minister addressed his views in a gathering of Weavers, Craftsmen and visitors present in the 10-day state-level Khadi and Village Industries Exhibition organised at Chhattisgarh Haat Bazar, Pandri. The Chief Minister honoured

Chhattisgarh's weavers and craftsmen who have done excellent work in their respective craft. The Chief Minister said that as per the vision of Mahatma Gandhi, the Suraji Gaon Yojana was implemented in Chhattisgarh to realise the vision of 'Gram Swaraj'. Under this scheme, village to village Gauthans are being constructed and developed as Rural Industrial Parks. He said that weavers, craftsmen and artisans are being given better employment opportunities by setting up such small enterprises in rural industrial parks.

Their work is being refined and they are being trained to produce quality goods as per market demand. For this, a provision of Rs 600 crore has been made in the budget from which water and electricity will be arranged here first. He said that traders should provide raw materials to the artisans here. Those working here will be given training by the government. The artisans will prepare goods according to the design of the trader with the Raw materials provided. This will help conserve our traditional

occupational practices and provide employment to the people of the state to make them financially secure. The Chief Minister said that Mukhyamantri Silk Project has been started in the state this year. Under this scheme, one thousand women will be identified and trained in cocoon threading. Women working here will earn 6 to 7 thousand rupees per month from this work. He said that Rally Cocoon Bank would be set up to take forward the silk project in the coming financial year. Initially, 200 self-help groups will be assigned the task by giving training in threading. Mr. Baghel further said that approval has been given for the construction of more than 10 thousand 500 Gauthans in the state which will also act as Rural Industrial Parks, out of which construction of more than 8 thousand 500 has been completed.

## TRAFFIC-JAM



With too many protests at dharna venue in Budhatalab area, the vehicle riders passing through it faced lots of problems and it often causes traffic-jam in that area.

## No online exams for Class 9th, 11th of CGBSE

Raipur, Mar 30:

According to the information received from the School Education Department, the examinations of the students of class 9th and 11th are yet to be taken. There is no need to conduct examinations online as examinations of both the aforementioned classes are con-

ducted locally by the schools. No examination is held for students from class 1st to 8th under the School Education Department in the state and no child has to repeat any class. The examinations of class 10th and 12th are taken by Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education. Meanwhile, examinations for

Class 9th and 11th are conducted locally by the schools only and there is no need for online examinations. Many children do not have access to smart phones and internet connectivity for appearing in online examinations. The schools concerned will make their own arrangements for the examinations, nothing is centralized.

## Amandeep scores unbeaten 158 runs against Assam

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 30: Amandeep Khare scored unbeaten 158 runs to help the visiting Chhattisgarh score massive 386 runs for 6 wickets in first innings against Assam in the CK Nayudu Trophy Cricket tournament held at Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Rajkot. It is notable that Assam had scored just 260 runs in first innings. While Amandeep Khare remained unbeaten on 158 runs with the help of 21 fours, Prateek Yadav (77 runs) and Ayush Pandey (68 runs) also made solid contributions for the team. Gagandeep Singh was at crease at 38 runs with the help of 5 fours and a six at close of play on day two. Marinmoya Dutta claimed was the most successful bowler for Assam as he claimed five wickets.

## Ch'garh records 27 COVID-19 cases, no deaths

Raipur, Mar 30:

Chhattisgarh on Tuesday reported 27 new coronavirus cases but no pandemic-related deaths. The state's caseload rose to 11,52,111, while the death toll remained unchanged at 14,034, health officials said. The positivity rate, or cases detected per 100 tests, stood at 0.30 per cent. The recovery count rose to 11,37,927 after three persons were discharged from hospitals and 21 people completed their home isolation during the day, leaving the state with 150 active cases. Raigarh district recorded

11 new cases. It was followed by three cases in Balrampur, two in Korba and one in Raipur, among other districts. No new coronavirus cases were reported in 17 districts on Tuesday. With 9,043 samples examined during the day, the tally of tests carried out so far in Chhattisgarh went up to 1,74,86,936. Chhattisgarh's coronavirus figures are as follows: Positive cases 11,52,111, new cases 27, death toll 14,034, recovered 11,37,927, active cases 150, today tests 9,043, total tests 1,74,86,936.

## CM condoles Shri Gopalchandra Goswami

Raipur, Mar 30: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has expressed grief over the sad demise of Shri Gopalchandra Goswami, father of Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court Mr. Arup Kumar Goswami. Mr. Baghel spoke to Chief Justice Goswami over phone and expressed his condolences. Mr. Baghel prayed for the departed soul to rest in peace and wished strength to the bereaved family in this difficult time. Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court Mr. Goswami's father Shri Gopalchandra Goswami was a former Indian Administrative Service officer. He was unwell since past few days. He passed away in Guwahati today.

## Mock drill done to prevent LPG gas leak

Raipur, Mar 30:

A meeting was organized by District Administration Raipur on March 29 at Red Cross Hall at 3 pm to chalk out plan for disaster management in the district. The meeting was attended by District Commandant Raipur, Chief Medical and Health Officer members of NDRF, Industrial Health and Safety Department, State Disaster Response, HPCL LPG Bottling Plant Mandir Hasaud District Raipur (Chhattisgarh). A comprehensive discussion was held and framework was prepared at the meeting for rescue in the adverse situation. To this end Mock Hydro Carbon Drill was done at HPCL LPG Bottling Plant Mandir Hasaud at 11 am today (March 30, 2022).



Ways to stop gas leakage in the initial stage so as to

prevent loss of life and property were demonstrated. A detailed mock drill

was done regarding how to extinguish the fire caused by gas.

## CSPC announces 30-member Hockey team



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 30: Chhattisgarh State Power Company on Wednesday declared a 30-member team for the All India Inter State Electricity Board Hockey championship to be held next

month. Managing Director of Power Generation company NK Bijaura declared the team.

Avedan Kujur, Mangal Tirkey, Albert Kujur, Hasmat Karim, Birju Ghosh, Shah Nawaj Sultan, Prem Dauriya

and Vijay Lakra from Raipur Central Office, Anil Minj, Amit Ekka, Lov Kaushik, Aman Kishore Kerketta, Christopher Kujur, Balram Yadav, Pravesh bakhla, Deepak Kshetravani from Korba West, Sanjay Ekka, Sanjay Beck and Akhil Minj from Ambikapur, Ajay Tirkey and Sushant Katakwar from Korba East, Alexander Minj, Dilip Tigga from Madwa Project, Sameer Sahu, MR Murty and Purushottam Dubey from Durg Circle and Abhishek Naidu and Sachin Khobragade from Rajnandgaon are in the team.

## Last chance to deposit property tax today

6% surcharge to be added to amount of property tax after 31st March

Raipur, Mar 30: For residents of Raipur Municipal Corporation area, March 31 is the last chance to deposit property tax. After this, a surcharge of 6% will also be added to the total amount of property tax after 31st March. Arvind Sharma, Additional Commissioner of Revenue Department of the Corporation said that till March 29 this year, revenue of Rs 155 crore had been received. In the next two days, revenue of Rs 10 to 20 crore is expected. Those who

have not yet deposited the property tax, should go to their nearest zones till 31 March and deposit the property tax. Revenue staff will be present in their zone offices from morning till the arrival of the last tax payer in the night on the instructions of Municipal Commissioner Prabhat Malik, so that citizens do not face any kind of inconvenience while paying the property tax. Additional Commissioner Sharma said that after March 31, a surcharge of 6% would be levied. He also said that till now the sealing of commercial buildings was done for non-payment of tax. Now the action of sealing of private buildings will also be taken.

## City girl Abhinaya excels in dance fest

Raipur, Mar 30:

Krishna Lalit Kala Mahavidyalaya hosted the All India Music and Dance fest 'Kaushal Mahotsav' in the school premises on April 27. There were a total of around 250 participants and prominent dancers were conferred the title of Nritya Shiromani, Nritya Kalashree and Nritya Manjari. The performances were exceptional and technically flawless. The audience were enthralled by the nimble footwork and classical emotive mudras of the senior performers. The lighting



arrangements were very apt and added to the rasping performance. Abhinaya Shankaran daughter of R. Shankaran and S. Srividya and a disciple of Mrs Shweta Nayak Nair: founder and director of the dance school 'Sai Nritya Nilayam' put up a fabulous presentation on Kuchipudi as well as bharatanatyam dance. She has been honoured with Nritya Shiromani in Kuchipudi and Nritya Kalashree in Bharatanatyam. She credits her success to her guru and her supportive parents for their constant encouragement.

## 33 Deputy Collectors promoted as Joint Collectors

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 30: Thirty three Deputy Collectors have been given promotions as Joint Collector in Chhattisgarh. General Administration Department (GAD) on Wednesday evening issued orders in this regard. Most of the senior officers who have been given promotions are presently posted in Bilaspur, Mahasamund and Balod apart from Raipur. Prominent among those who have been promoted include Upper Secretary Virendra Lakra from Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh Information Commission Raipur's Staff Officer Sewaram Diwan, Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi Deputy Collector Puspendra Sharma, Under Secretary at

State Election Commission Alok Kumar Shrivastva, State Skill Development Authority Additional CEO Jyoti Gulal, Raipur Deputy Collector Atul Vishwakarma, Kailash Prasad Verma from Jail Department, Deputy Collector Balod Silly Thomas, Assistant Director Sports Hemant Kumar from Raipur and Assistant Chief Election Officer Rupesh Kumar Verma, OSD Chief Secretary Office Poonam Soni, Deputy Collector Bemetara Dhileram, Harvansh Singh Miri posted at Rajbhawan as Controller, Deputy Collector Janjgir-Champa Ramprasad Anchala and Bilaspur Deputy Collector Manoj Kumar.

## CM discusses state govt's plan to procure cow urine

Issues instructions to constitute a technical committee to consider various aspects of it

Raipur, Mar 30: After the purchase of cow dung, Chhattisgarh Government is now chalking out plan to procure cow urine. Detailed discussions were held in this regard in a meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel at his residence office here today. The Chief Minister directed to constitute a technical committee to study various aspects of purchase of cow urine. Experts from Indira Gandhi Agricultural University and Kamdhenu University will also be included in this committee. Directions have been given by

the Chief Minister to submit the report in 15 days after the formation of this committee. This technical committee will give its recommendations regarding the collection of cow urine, its quality testing, and products prepared from cow urine. In the meeting, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel asked to complete the work of potential mapping for locally available raw materials in different districts and products made from them within 15 days. This is being done for the establishment of Mahatma Gandhi Rural Industrial Park to be developed in the state-run Gauthan. It is worth mentioning that processing units will be established in Rural Industrial Park for value addition of local food products and Minor Forest Produce. For this, a provision of Rs 600 crore has



been made in the state budget for the year 2022-23. With this amount, necessary infrastructure, facilities for electricity, water and processing units will be developed in the Rural Industrial Park. The Chief Minister further said that an action plan should be prepared to develop at least four rural industrial parks in each development block, keeping in view availability of raw materials at the local level. He said that cultivation of Mahua, Tamarind, and Tikhur is done in Bijapur, Dantewada and

Kondagaon districts and the districts also have availability of variety of Minor Forest Produce, processing units of the same should be established accordingly. Similarly, processing units for herbal medicines should be established in Gauthans from Korba to Surguja while units for manufacturing Kosa garments should be established in Korba, Janjgir-Champa, and Bastar. He also directed to make arrangements for electricity, water, working space and training rooms in rural indus-

trial parks. He asked the officials concerned to make arrangements for effective marketing of the products manufactured in Rural Industrial Park besides ensuring that it is of high-quality. Manufacturing of products should be done as per demand for its easy consumption. While reviewing the various activities conducted in the Gauthans, Chief Minister Mr. Baghel said that the officers should visit the Gauthans and inspect the activities conducted there and ensure their smooth operation. The Chief Minister also directed to make use of wall writing and distribute handbills in villages to inform locals about the benefits of vermicompost. He directed to make available the vermicompost being prepared in Gauthans in the cities for sale. The meeting

was informed that bio-fertilizers and bio-insecticides are prepared from cow urine. Cow urine also contains many minerals and enzymes including urea. Cow urine when used as a fertilizer increases absorption of micronutrients nitrogen, phosphorus and potash. It helps in boosting plant growth and control crop diseases. It was also informed in the meeting that the number of cattle and buffalo in the state is more than 111 lakhs. On an average, 7 liters of cow urine is excreted per animal per day. Farmer representatives present in the meeting including Mr. Rohit Sahu of Village Achanakpur in Patan block, Mr. Govardhan Sahu, Mr. Ram Gausahala Aandu of Bemetara and Mr. Tilak Sao of Mahasamund shared their experiences regarding the use of cow urine.

## Women have made a strong presence in the form of entrepreneurs: Uikey

Governor participates in BDSB Capacity Building programme of Amity University

Raipur, Mar 30:

Governor, Ms. Anusuiya Uikey, participated in BDSB Capacity Building programme organised by Amity University at Tilda, Raipur district. On this occasion, Governor Ms. Uikey duly started the program by lighting the lamp. It is noteworthy that Amity University has been appointed as a Business Development Assistance Provider, under which 230 women of Self Help Groups from different districts of the state are getting skill development training in the campus. In her address, Governor Ms. Uikey asked the women members undergoing training to be empowered and set an example for others. In the last few years, the participation of women in the field of technology and innovation has increased and has also made a strong presence in the form of entrepreneurs. There was a time when it



was believed that women could only light work. But now women are taking the lead in all fields. Do not limit yourself to the training that all of you have received, but encourage other women by giving them information. Tell them about government schemes so that they can take advantage of them and move forward. Governor Ms. Uikey said that with this type of training program, the women of this tribal-dominated state with limitless

possibilities will be skill-upgraded and they will be financially capable. There is a lot of demand in the global market for many products like Bell metal, herbal medicines, bamboo and wood items in the state and due to direct association with tribal society, they are getting good income along with livelihood. National Rural Livelihood Mission 'BIHAN' is a good initiative to empower women financially in the state, under the aegis of which

women are getting training. With the training, 230 women of Bastar, Surguja, Rajnandgaon and Raipur will be proficient in their skill and professional field and will become equal partners in the development of the state and their families. In this wealthy state, there is a need to continuously provide such opportunities to women so that they can move towards self-reliance. Governor Ms. Uikey encouraged the trainees by giving exam-

ples of many struggling women of the country and the state while holding various positions. At the end of the address, she told the women that you have to lead, only then you will be able to give something to the society and the country. On this occasion, Dr. Williams Selvamurthy, Chancellor of the University also gave information about women's training and university activities. She said that the enthusiasm of women is the indicator of change. The training you have received will definitely make your dreams come true. On this occasion, Governor Ms. Uikey was felicitated by the university administration by presenting a memento. The Vice Chancellor of the University, Dr. Rajendra Pandey, B.D.S.P. Program coordinator Mr. Satyendra Patnaik along with professors, students and trainee women of self-help groups were present.

## People in all the urban bodies of the state will now have health facilities near their homes

Raipur, Mar 30:

Considering the success of 'Chief Minister's Urban Slum Health Scheme' in the municipal areas of the state, State Government has decided to expand the implementation of this scheme in the areas under municipal councils and nagar panchayats as well. Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel will launch the expanded version of this scheme on March 31, 2022. This expanded version of Chief Minister Urban Slum Health Scheme will be implemented in 43 municipal councils and 111 Nagar Panchayats of the state, providing people here with the easy access to health-care facilities near their homes. Urban Administration Department has completed all the necessary preparations for implementation of the expanded version of the scheme. Municipalities and nagar panchayats will be divided into clusters and health facilities will be provided through 60 mobile medical units. It is noteworthy that Chief Minister Urban Slum

- Chief Minister to launch the expanded launch of Urban Slum Health Scheme on March 31
- Health facilities to be made available in 43 Municipalities and 111 Nagar Panchayats of the state through Mobile Medical Units and Dai-Didi Clinics

Health Scheme was launched on 01 November 2020 on the occasion of State Foundation Day to provide health services to people near their homes in urban areas of the state. In the first phase, health facilities are being provided through 60 mobile medical unit ambulances in all 14 municipal corporations. Urban Administration Minister Dr. Shivkumar Dahria informed that under this updated version of the scheme, facilities such as consultation, treatment, medicines and pathology tests will be provided free of cost to the common people through

Mobile Medical Units. So far, a total of 23884 medical camps have been organized for people living in about 900 slum areas of 14 municipal corporations through Mobile Medical Unit, wherein 1703306 patients have been treated. 1406821 patients have been provided medicines and lab test of 326619 patients has been done. Under Chief Minister Urban Slum Health Scheme, Dai-Didi clinics have been started to provide better health services to women at the doorstep. The Dai-Didi Clinic was launched on 19 November 2020, the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Mr. Indira Gandhi. In Dai-Didi clinics, women are being provided treatment facilities by female doctors and female paramedical staff. This scheme is very popular among women and adolescent girls. A total of 1182 camps have been organized under Dai Didi Clinic scheme so far, under which 89796 female patients have been treated. Medicines have been distributed to 86129 women. Lab test of 16114 patients has been done.

## AIDS testing and treatment facilities in medical college hospitals

- And also in district hospitals and CHCs
- For any kind of information regarding AIDS can be called on toll-free number 1097

Raipur, Mar 30:

AIDS is a serious disease caused by a type of life-threatening infection, which is medically known as Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). In common parlance it is known as AIDS i.e. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. HIV reduces the immunity of our body. Due to this, different types of diseases surround people very soon. This condition is

called AIDS. This disease caused by HIV infection can happen to a person of any age. Raising awareness is the only way to prevent it. AIDS is one of the biggest health problems of the present era. State Nodal Officer for AIDS Control Program, Dr. S.K. Binjwar informed that AIDS testing and treatment facilities are available in all government medical colleges, district hospitals and community health centers of the state. Any kind of information about AIDS can be obtained by calling the toll-free number 1097 of Chhattisgarh State AIDS Control Committee. All types of information is

also available on the mobile app NACO AIDS App prepared by NACO. This app can be downloaded from Google Play Store. Dr. Binjwar told that if a person is found infected with HIV during the test, then he is counseled and regular free treatment is started. The identity of the infected person is kept secret. Various programs are also organized from time to time by the Health Department to make people aware about AIDS and HIV and to give information about its treatment. Dr. Binjwar told that unprotected sex, transfusion of infected blood, from HIV positive woman to her child, sec-

ond use of infected needle used once are the major causes of HIV-AIDS. Symptoms include persistent fever, sudden weight loss, persistent diarrhea, etc. Condoms should be used during sex to avoid HIV infection. The HIV virus can also be spread through infected blood transfusion transmitted blood or reused injection syringes, so always use a licensed blood bank, new syringe needle when transfusion of blood. The HIV virus does not spread from shaking hands, eating together and living together, so there should be no discrimination against HIV sufferers.

## Seminar organized under PMEGP scheme

Raipur, Mar 30:

A seminar was organized for successful entrepreneurs and unemployed youths and youths funded under PMEGP scheme in Chhattisgarh Haat Campus, Pandri Raipur. The seminar was presided over by Mrs. Rekha Shukla, Managing Director, Chhattisgarh Khadi and Village Industries Board. Managing Director Mrs. Rekha Shukla told all the entrepreneurs to prepare quality products and to make marketing easier. On the demand of the entrepreneurs, assurance was given to link all the entrepreneurs with the schemes. He said that the products which are prepared from outside come



to be sold in the local market. If it is prepared at the local level, employment will be available to more and more people. During the program, Premchand Sahu, while giving detailed information about the PMEGP scheme, said that if the unemployed are helped in setting up their own employment

through this, they will be able to be self-supporting as well as provide employment to other unemployed. In the seminar, Mr. Vishesh Kashyap, Mr. Parag Singhai, Mr. Saurabh Singh, Mr. Asif Siddaki, Mr. Jugal Kishore Sinha, Mr. Deepak Sonkar, Mr. Rameshwar Rathor suc-

cessful entrepreneurs gave detailed information about their units through presentation. On this occasion, officials of Chhattisgarh Khadi and Village Industries Board, representatives of Shankaracharya College and representatives of self-help groups were present.

## Traders demands to extend the date of submission of property tax

Raipur, Mar 29:

Heavy rush is there at the collection centers to collect the outstanding tax of the Municipal Corporation. Traders made this demand. Along with this common people, traders are facing severe problem. In such a situation, Avanti Vihar Traders Association has demanded from the Mayor of Municipal Corporation Raipur to extend the date of depositing property tax from March 31 to June 30. Patron of Avanti Vihar Traders Association,



Rajkumar Rathi, Ashok Gupta, General Secretary Kishorechand Nayak, Vice President Indermal Singh Tomar and Dr. Vivek Srivastava have demanded from Mayor of Municipal Corporation Raipur to extend the date

of depositing property tax from March 31 to June 30. Rajkumar Rathi has said in the memorandum submitted to RMC Mayor and said that the business was badly affected throughout the year due to the imposition of lockdown thrice by the state government from April 9, 2021 due to corona virus infection. Along with this, the revenue staff of Raipur Municipal Corporation is collecting Rs 3660 from small shops in the name of user charge. Due to this, small traders are facing severe financial crisis.

## Locals lend support to open Parsa coal block

Surguja, Mar 30:

Locals in Chhattisgarh have lent their support to the start of coal mining in the Parsa block that will help generate electricity for Rajasthan, sources said. A few hundred locals of six project-affected villages on Tuesday made a request to the government of Chhattisgarh to start Parsa Block at the earliest, they said. Power generation units in Rajasthan have an allocation of coal from mines in Chhattisgarh but delays in state-level clearances have stalled most of them. Rajasthan's state utility is producing 15

million tonnes of coal from PEKB Block in the district and waiting for the Chhattisgarh government's nod for an additional 5 million tonnes of coal from Parsa Block. The Centre had allocated three Chhattisgarh-based coal blocks to Rajasthan to fire its 4,300 MW of power generation capacity. Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has also requested Chhattisgarh Chief Minister and his party colleague Bhupesh Baghel to facilitate a public hearing for the third Kente Extension Block with an annual production capacity of 9 million tonnes at the earliest. Chhattisgarh is the

country's largest coal-producing state. The Rajasthan government is keen on making most of its captive blocks at a time when coal prices and electricity tariffs in the spot market are hovering at an all-time high. Rajasthan will go for assembly elections next year and the power shortage may adversely affect the image of the ruling Congress party which is witnessing turbulence in the state. Sources said the delegation of the villagers appraised the district collector of Surguja that they had given away their land in 2019 for coal mining with the hope that they will get employment opportunities once

Parsa is developed. However, they are forced to spend the compensation money and betting their future on account of delayed mining projects. In the past few months, Gehlot made multiple attempts to operationalise Rajasthan's coal blocks in Chhattisgarh. He reached out to the BJP led Central government and also sought intervention from Congress Chief Sonia Gandhi. "I would like to draw your kind attention towards the shortage of coal for state-owned power generation companies in Rajasthan. Ministry of Coal, Government of India allotted PEKB Coal Block

in Surguja, Chhattisgarh for supply of coal to Rajasthan Vidyut Utpadan Nigam for power generation. Presently, 4340 MW power plants of RVUN are linked with this coal block only," Gehlot wrote to Gandhi in a letter dated February 10. Currently, Rajasthan is largely dependent on state-owned Coal India Ltd (CIL) for imported fuel to generate electricity. Disruption in coal supplies from CIL coupled with a spike in imported coal prices had prompted RVUN to secure fuel from its captive blocks. Rajasthan has about 28,400 MW of installed electricity generation capacity.

## Two pet dogs fight valiantly to save owner from leopard

Dhamtari, Mar 30: Dogs are often called a man's best friend and this phrase was proved right once again when two pet dogs came to the rescue of their 65-year-old owner when a leopard attacked him in a forest in Dhamtari district. According to the man, Shivprasad Netam, after the leopard attacked him, his pet dogs, named Bhuru and Kabru, started barking ferociously and engaged in a face-off with the big cat, prompting it to back off. The incident took place on Monday when Netam, a resident of Sirkatta village under Magarlod block, accompanied by his two pet dogs, had gone to

collect mahua flowers at his field in a nearby forest, officials said. Netam suffered injuries on his head and legs in the leopard attack and is undergoing treatment in the district hospital here, they said. Talking to reporters in the hospital, the elderly man said he was picking up mahua flowers which had fallen on ground when the wild animal attacked him from behind. When I was struggling to free myself from the claws of the leopard, my pet dogs suddenly jumped in to rescue me. The two dogs attacked the leopard together and continued barking ferociously, prompting the wild animal to loosen its grip and

escape in the forest," he said. An injured Netam managed to reach his house following which his family members and local residents admitted him to a community health centre from where he was referred to the district hospital in Dhamtari town for further treatment. For the first time in my life, I saw a leopard in my village. We don't know from where it came. I will never forget this incident. I almost died but my pets fought with bravery and proved the saying right that dogs are a man's best friend, he said. According to Netam, a farmer, the dogs are with him since the last three years.

## CU's IX convocation on April 20

Bilaspur, Mar 30: The ninth convocation of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (Central University) will be held on APRIL 20, 2022 at 10 am. The preparations for the ninth convocation are in full swing under the active, capable and coordinated leadership of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal. Necessary guidelines have been provided by the Vice-Chancellor by visiting the university campus from time to time and meeting with the convener, co-convenors and coordinators of various committees and by inspecting the ongoing construction works. According to the notification issued by the Academic Section, the ninth convocation will in-

clude students who have secured first place in the merit list in various examinations (undergraduate, postgraduate, diploma etc.) of the academic session 2019-20 and 2020-21 conducted by the university and for researchers who have Ph.D. Degree after 31/12/2019 and declared eligible till 31/12/2021. Eighteen committees have been constituted for the smooth conduct of the ninth convocation. Gold medals and degrees will be awarded to 223 students of the academic sessions 2019-2020 and 2020-21. In the convocation ceremony, Chancellor Medal will be given to Mr. Pranjal Singh while Lal Bahadur Sahu and Shreya Mishra, who got the highest marks, will be honored with Guru Ghasidas Medal.

## Three-day national workshop at CU begins

Bilaspur, Mar 30:

Department of Pharmacy, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur has organized a three days national workshop on topic "Development of Nanocarrier Systems for Drug delivery" will be held from March 28 to 30. Vice chancellor, GGV, Prof. Alok K. Chakrawal inaugurated the programme and blessed with his motivational speech. He emphasized that research should be for the benefit to the society. Prof. S.S. Singh, Dean, School of Natural resources, also encouraged the participants for the need or Research by sharing his own experience. The keynote speakers of this workshop are Dr.



Gautam Singhvi, Department of Pharmacy, Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani, Rajasthan, India, Dr. Amit Alexander, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER-GUWAHATI), and Dr. Sanjay Tiwari, NIPER-Raebareilly, UP. Total 30 participants from other Universities and from different departments of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya,

Bilaspur such as Pharmacy, Botany, and Biotechnology were registered for the workshop. Dr. Gautam Singhvi delivered a lecture on Lipid Nanocarriers for topical drug delivery: basics and practical aspects. Dr. Akhlesh Jain, delivered a lecture on "Liposomes: Past, Present and future perspective". Lab training on liposomes and micelles was given by Dr. K. Kesavan, coordinator of the workshop. Many questions are raised by participants and all were answered by the experts. Dr. Bharti Ahirwar, Head and convener of this workshop welcomed the guests. Finally Dr. Alpana Ram, Co-Convener of this workshop proposed Vote of thanks.

## Training imparted to teachers of primary level

Under 'Angana-ma-Shiksha' prog. at Sankul Kendra Birkoni

Central Chronicle News

**Birkoni, Mar 29:** Under the 'Angana ma Shiksha' programme at Sankul Kendra Boy's School Birkoni for upgradation of mothers, the master trainer Achla Sahu imparted training to teachers of Primary level.



She informed that for education of children in the age-group of 5-8 yrs, the government has prepared a programme on 'Angana ma Shiksha' for upgradation of mothers. Under this the mothers in Anganbadi centres will be provided basic training to teach young children to those studying in Class 3rd.

Under this there is objective is that the mothers could be taught as to how they can teach their children through items of day-to-day use and works in their life and provide education to their children. With this the mothers will get trained and would be able to teach children in their houses. Sankul co-ordinator Nirvandas Manikpuri said that amidst corona pandemic and schools remaining closed, the state government is making novel efforts to provide alternative means of

education to children. In this series, a programme has been prepared to impart training to mothers under 'Angana ma Shiksha', so as to teach children in the age-group of 5-8 yrs and which can prove to be highly effective with due assistance of mothers. Badgaon in-charge Head Master Ishwar Sahu said that all teachers of Primary level by obtaining training will go and teach to mothers of school children in their schools and light a new dimension in the field of education. In this training, Ishwar Sahu, Rajesh Soni, Narendra Soni, Aamika Sahu, Lekhani Sahu, Poornima Dhruv, Devika Chandrakar, Nirmala Nishad, Menka Yadav, and other parents and their children were present in large number.

## Sadbhav Patrakar Sangh celebrates Holi get-together

Central Chronicle News

**Bilaspur, Mar 30:** Sadbhav Patrakar Sangh state convention and Holi get-together was organized at DP Choubey Memorial Press Club Bhavan, Bilaspur here.

In the first phase of the programme scribes from different parts of the state attending the programme expressed their views and kept many suggestions and problems faced by them before the senior office bearers of the sangh.

The scribes from Sarguja division also took part in large number which include state vice president and Sarguja in-charge D C Baghel, Ajim Ansari, Gajendra Nayak, Vinay Vishwakarma and



others. In the second part of the programme, local MLA Shailesh Pandey was present as chief guest along with former BDA president Anil Tah, Zilla Panchayat member and

Congress leader Ankit Gauraha. Former president of Sadbhav Patrakar Sangh R D Gupta requested for a building and office of the association before local MLA to which he

gave his assurance. The office bearers handed over a memorandum to Shailesh Pandey and later all of them exchanged Holi greeting by applying colour on each other.

## 15.7 lakh students register to listen 'Pariksha Pe Charcha'



Central Chronicle News

**Raigarh, Mar 30:** As per the orders of central government, 5th edition of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' is scheduled on April 01 and to inform about it Principal of Central School and Navodaya Vidyalaya called a press meet to discuss about the

schemes of central government.

It was informed that 5th edition of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' will clarify the doubts in the minds of students appearing in board examinations and they would be able to appear examination in a stress free atmosphere. It was informed that selected stu-

dents will visit Raj Bhavan to witness this programme.

**'Chosen through 'My Gaon Platform'**

The students who will get chance to ask questions from the Prime Minister have been short listed through different competitions organized between December 28, 2021 and February 03, 2022.

## Sand mining mafia active in Sukma

Central Chronicle News

**Konta, mar 30:** Sand mafia is seen defaming the image of Sukma district of Chhattisgarh state in the name of sand. State Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's warning is also not proving effective in this district. In a way, the sand mafia is being ripped off by the sand mafia, the life-giving river of the district.

At the same time, the spirits of the sand mafia are so high that the rules are being flouted. Sukma district is in a lot of discussion these days, sometimes due to Naxal incidents and sometimes due to the gherao of the collectorate by the tribals and now once again Sukma district is moving towards infamy due to sand mafia.

Illegal sand mining is also causing huge loss of revenue to the government. Recently, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has instructed the high officers



of every district to take strict action against the illegal mining mafia operating in all the districts of the state. But the action on illegal mining of this sand is nil. One of them is Sukma district, which ranks among the top 10 districts in terms of illegal mining. Every other day the news of illegal mining going on unaccounted for in Sukma district keeps getting published in the newspapers as well. But even after

this, the district administration is bowing down to the sand mafia. In the rural areas like Sukma district- Sukma, Kerlapal, Dornapal, Kurti, Konta, Tongpal, in violation of the rules in the middle of the Shabri river, in violation of the rules, highway, tractor, trucks illegal transportation and storage is being done by filling in. It is not that the Sukma district administration is not aware of this, illegal transportation and

**Illegal mining game in the name of Left Wing Extremism, mafia contractors are encouraged**

The fact that Naxalite activities are relatively high in Sukma cannot be denied. The administration has given relaxation in rules and regulations to develop infrastructure like roads, schools, hospitals for betterment of the dimensions of development for Naxal affected vulnerable areas identified for development in Sukma, which is in line with the present situation of the area. Especially in the Naxalite belt, complete exemption has been given in road construction. But the contractors and mafia are implementing this concession of the administration in a wrong way. Mafia contractors are encouraged by the eyes of the department. Some have political patronage, some are gracious to the authorities.

storage of sand continues under the protection of the departmental officers under the nose of the district administration. Despite the cases of illegal storage and transportation of sand in Sukma district, illegal transportation of sand continues unabated in the district headquarters. Only 15 to 20 pit passes are issued daily by the contractor. Sand is transported 4 to 5 times on a single pass. The sand is being sold daily by the

contractor to the buyers through the same transit pass. According to the drivers, they take sand to Odisha 4 to 5 times a day with a transit pass and each time they come by paying Rs 600 to the contractor. But the pass is available only once. It is not that the responsibilities of the Mineral Department are not aware of this, but illegal mining and transportation is being carried out under the protection of the officials.

## Illegal felling of trees continue

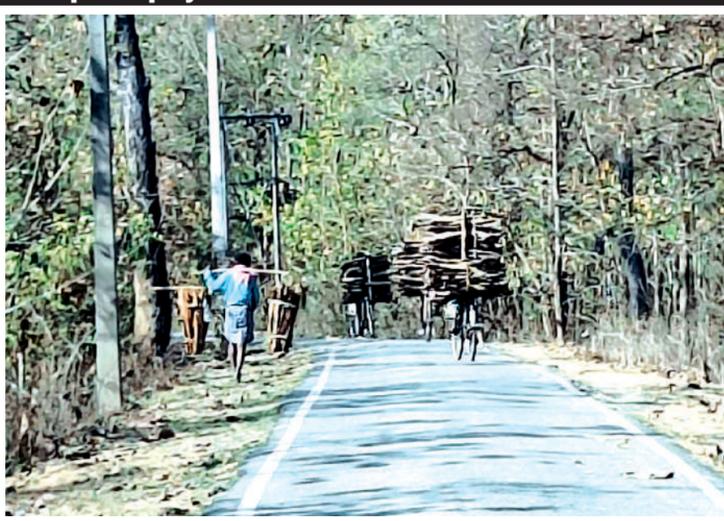
As the Forest dept employees are on strike for last one week

Central Chronicle News

**Pandaria, Mar 30:** With employees of the Forest department on strike for last one week and due to which the thieves are taking advantage of stealing wood from the Forest area.

It is daily from 5:00 am to 9:00 am in the forest area from Rehman Kapa to Badoura Road that illegal felling of trees is being carried out openly and the many wood thieves can be found illegally transporting logs of wood.

This fuel wood is being sold to hotels and other persons in the city. The Forest department should take firm action against such persons, or else the days are not far-off that



the thick forest in the region would become barren land with no trees.

## 'Yuwa Utkarsh Samman' programme organized

By Youth Cell Divine Group of ABGPM

Central Chronicle News

**Gourela, Pendra, Marwah, Mar 30:** 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 Indra 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 Hospital Blood Medicine Group's Alok Tiwari, Harsh Chabaria, Snake Rescue team- Liness 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.

## Governor felicitates Sheelu Sahu



Central Chronicle News

**Mungeli, Mar 30:** Under the 'Nari Ratna Samman-2022' the Governor Anusuiya Uikey felicitated District Panchayat member Sheelu Sahu with 'Nari Ratna Samman' award. In this programme such women were felicitated who through their self-confidence and self-sufficiency act as source of inspiration for others through their works and thoughts.

Governor felicitating Sheelu Sahu also boosted

her morale. Sheelu Sahu felicitated at the hands of Governor has made public service as the only objective of her life and she is doing remarkable works as female persons for public services from Mungeli district. It is with her working efficiency and is always ready to help the needy and general public, in whatever way it is possible for her. District Panchayat member Sheelu Sahu is a dedicated person for public service and she is involved in it with lot of perseverance.

## 9 accused nabbed with 45 cattle

Being smuggled to neighbouring states

Central Chronicle News

**Balod, Mar 30:** The workers of Hindi organisation with help of Dalli-Rajhara police nabbed 9 accused illegally transporting 45 cattle in three vehicles at Manpur chowk. The accused were taking cattle in their truck and Bolero pick-up vehicle from Patan of Durg district to Hyderabad. The cows being transported were taken to nearby 'Goushala' in Doundi.

The three vehicles seized include 2 Bolero pick-up viz. MP 50 G 1324 and MP 50 G 2451 with 7 cattle and on truck bearing No. AP 24 TS 9399 with 32 cattle in it. The truck carrying cattle was going from Patan of Durg to

Hyderabad. The accused carrying cattle in their vehicles were chased by few workers of Hindu organisation at Manpur chowk and they had beaten them there itself. Later the party workers of VHP Dalli-Rajhara and Bajrang Dal reached the site along with Police and seized all the vehicles and cattle being illegally smuggled to other places and states.

A case under PETA Act was booked against all 9 accused and also under section 4, 6, 10 of CG Krishi Pashu Parirakshan Adhiniyam and section 11 of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. It is for long time that cattle are being smuggled from Dalli-Rajhara Manpur chowk as it gets directly linked with Maharashtra and most of the time the smugglers used this route.

## Mahima Soni selected in Leelavati Hospital



**Mungeli, Mar 30:** Daughter of the city, Mahima Soni has been selected for higher studies for Medical Sciences, in Pediatric branch of Leelavati Hospital, Mumbai. Daughter of Anil and Savitri Soni. Mahima did her schooling from Bilaspur, and Bhilai and further did her MBBS from Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Raipur.

During the pandemic of COVID 19, she gave her services in District Hospital, Mungeli, also her birthplace and was felicitated on 26th January as corona warrior by the administration. She has given the credit of her success to her parent's teachers and elders. People from various walks of life have wished her further success in her future endeavours.

**Union Bank of India**  
Dhimrapur Chowk Branch, Raigarh (C.G.)

**DEMAND NOTICE**  
NOTICE U/S 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

Borrower's & Guarantor's Name & Address	Type	Details of Mortgaged Property
	Limit	
Smt. Shakila Khatoun, Add- HIG Deluxe Duplex-05, Near Circuit House Raigarh, CG-496001 (Borrower).	Home Loan	ALL THAT, piece and parcel of Land and immovable property of Chandmani Phase-I, near circuit house, Housing board colony, Raigarh State Chhattisgarh House HIG Deluxe Duplex-05, Area 216 Sq. Mt. Or 2324 Sq. Ft. in the name of Smt. Shakila Khatoun W/o. Saeed Azhar Iqbal and the same is bounded as under:- To the East: Road, To the West: House no HIG Standard 05, To the North: House no HIG Deluxe Duplex 04, To the South: House no HIG Deluxe Duplex 06.
	Loan Outstanding	
Shri. Saeed Azhar Iqbal, Add- HIG Deluxe Duplex-05, Near Circuit House Raigarh, CG-496001 (Co-Borrower)	Total Dues as on	The Borrower mentioned above has availed total credit facilities as mentioned above from Union Bank of India, Dhimrapur Chowk Branch, Raigarh and the mentioned Guarantors provided guarantee and secured by way of mortgage of above mentioned property. The borrower failed to adhere to terms and conditions of sanction. The account became irregular and classified as NPA as mentioned above as per RBI guidelines. The Bank intends to enforce the said property mortgaged by you and issued Demand Notice as mentioned above for recovery of outstanding amount as mentioned above with interest and expenses thereon under registered post with acknowledgment due which were not served to the borrowers and guarantors. Hence this publication issued. Hereby Borrower/Guarantor are called upon to pay the amount mentioned above with rate of interest (Contractual Rate), costs, charges etc., thereon within 60 Days from the date of publication failing which the undersigned will be constrained to initiate action against mortgaged property under section 13(4) and the provision of said Act to realize our Bank's dues. Your attention is invited to provisions of the Section 13 (6) of the act in respect of time available to you to redeem the secured assets.
	amount of	
	₹ 14,60,000.00	
	₹ 8,66,595.00	
	NPA Dt. 01.07.2021	

Date: 30.03.2022 Place: Bilaspur (CG) Authorised officer / UNION BANK OF INDIA

## BRIEF

### Seized

**Balasore:** A suspected drug peddler was arrested after 300 grams of brown sugar was seized from him in Odisha's Balasore district. Acting on a tip-off, police raided a spot in Jaleswar town, 50 km northeast of the district headquarters and found inferior quality heroin from the person, they said. The market value of the narcotics will be around Rs 30 lakh, police said. An investigation is on to nab the other members of the racket.

### Portal

**Jammu:** The Jammu and Kashmir Police's Criminal Investigation Department has launched a portal for people to report instances and information about criminal, unlawful or suspicious activities. The portal 'cid.jk.gov.in', managed end-to-end by the CID, is a key initiative towards prevention of crime and strengthening the peace and security in Jammu and Kashmir. Through this portal, citizens can now report information.

### Meal

**Dindori:** Fifty-seven students fell ill after having their mid-day meal in a government school in Dindori in Madhya Pradesh, an official said. A girl student spotted a lizard in the lentils in her plate, said LS Paraste, a teacher at the Government Middle School in Keolari under Samnapur block here. As many as 57 students fell ill after having their mid-day meal. They complained of vomiting and abdominal pain, and were rushed to a hospital.

### Injured

**Jammu:** Four police personnel, including a sub-inspector, were injured in an attack by bovine smugglers in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, officials said. Based on specific inputs, a police party intercepted bovine smugglers on the highway at Ghagwal, but they attacked the team, they said. In the attack, four police personnel, including Sub-Inspector Balbir Singh, were injured while the smugglers escaped from the spot.

### Promotion

**Mumbai:** The police personnel who caught Pakistani terrorist Mohammed Ajmal Kasab alive during the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack have been granted promotion with effect from 2008. These brave policemen had received medals, awards and cash prizes galore, but no reward by way of promotions.

### Attack

**Pune:** A mob attacked personnel of the Pune Municipal Corporation during an anti-encroachment drive in Dhanori area of the city. Two people were arrested and a case was registered against 20 others under IPC section 353 (Assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty). Local people including shopkeepers assaulted PMC staff and damaged official vehicles.

# RS passes bill to remove Bhogta caste from SC list



New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTI):

The Rajya Sabha on Wednesday approved a bill that seeks to remove the Bhogta caste from the list of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and include certain communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes (STs) for Jharkhand. The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was introduced in the Upper House of Parliament on February 7. It was passed by a voice

vote on Wednesday. Replying to the debate of the bill, Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda said, "We will bring such amendments related to more states in the House. We have done (such amendments for) Arunachal Pradesh and Karnataka. Now, it is being done in case of Uttar Pradesh, Tripura and Jharkhand. We are doing research on Odisha. We have completed the work in Chhattisgarh, but we are working on some observa-

tions given on that by the law ministry." He said the Centre is concerned about the development of tribal people and the aspirational district programme is a step in that direction as the main objective is to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor. "Be it Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra or Gujarat, for all the states, the Centre is earnestly and seriously working to address the issues, while also assuring that the government will share the status on the demand for the inclusion of different communities from West Bengal, Goa and Tamil Nadu," the minister said. The bill also aims at helping people get more benefits from the provisions of reservation in education and government jobs.

# Maha CM writes to Centre proposing to shift refinery project

Mumbai, Mar 30 (PTI):

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, proposing to move the multi-billion dollar refinery project planned in Ratnagiri to another site in the coastal district, a senior official in the CM's office said on Wednesday. The project was earlier proposed to be built at Nanar in Ratnagiri district, but has got stalled due to opposition from local organisations and the ruling Shiv Sena in the state.

"The CM wrote a letter to the prime minister in January regarding shifting of the refinery project to another site," the official said. The nearly



USD 60 billion project is to be jointly constructed by Saudi Aramco and the UAE's Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC). A nuclear power plant of over 9,000 MW is also scheduled to come up at Jaitapur in Ratnagiri. During his visit to Ratnagiri, state Environment Minister

# STUDENT VACCINATED



A healthcare worker administers a dose of Covid-19 preventive vaccine to a student in age group of 12-14 years, at a school in Vasundhara, in Ghaziabad, UP on Wednesday.

# 'Injustice led to ban on Muslim vendors around temples'

VHP and Bajrang Dal have intensified their drive

Udupi, Mar 30 (PTI):

With Muslims being prohibited from doing business on temple premises during Hindu religious festivals and fairs in parts of Karnataka, Vishwesha Teertha Swamiji of the renowned Pejawar Math on Wednesday said certain incidents of injustice with Hindus have led to this "explosive situation". He also said the solution should emerge from within the society and religious leaders voicing their opposition to the move is unlikely to help matters. "The Hindu society has suffered a lot in the past. People are extremely hurt due to some unpleasant events. The problem will not solve if a few religious leaders speak against it. It should come from within the society," the seer of



Vishwesha Teertha Swamiji

the Pejawar Math, belonging to the sect founded by Madhwacharya in the 13th century AD, told reporters in the temple town of Udupi in coastal Karnataka. Udupi recently witnessed the hijab row first flaring up with a few Muslim students of the Government Girls Pre-University College alleging that

they were denied entry to the college with the headscarf. The Muslim students later approached the Karnataka High Court against the ban on Islamic headscarves inside classrooms. The court dismissed their petition saying that they have to abide by the school uniform rule.

"Injustice leads to anger and if it goes to the extreme level then it explodes. This is what we are witnessing in our society today, the seer said. Stating that the pain has reached a flashpoint and it has exploded, the Swami said people should understand how much Hindus have suffered. That pain has to be addressed first. If people say that such incidents will not take place in the society then no intervention or pressure is required.

# Kerala CM writes to PM to look into deportation of anthropologist

**Thiruvananthapuram, Mar 30 (PTI):** Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting him to look into the "distressful" deportation of Filippo Osella, an anthropologist and academician from the UK, when he arrived in the southern state for a seminar.

Vijayan, in his letter, has requested the Prime Minister to "kindly look into this matter with the seriousness it deserves and issue instructions to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future".

Osella, Professor of Anthropology and South Asian Studies at the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom (UK),



Filippo Osella

had arrived in Kerala on March 24 to attend a seminar at the Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT). However, he was deported on arrival at the Thiruvananthapuram airport. "It is distressful that a reputed scholar like Prof.

Osella had to face deportation at the Thiruvananthapuram airport when he arrived for participating in a seminar in Kochi," the CM said in his letter.

He further said the professor has conducted extensive research work in many places including in Kerala, where he is researching traditional fishing activities.

Vijayan said, in his letter, that India "has a rich tradition of welcoming foreign scholars and social scientists" for research purposes here and they have produced "valuable" publications. "We need to continue this tradition of being friendly and welcoming to scholars," he said.

# HC dismisses challenge to CIC order denying details

■ Of 2018 SC collegium

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday dismissed a challenge to the Central Information Commission's order dismissing an RTI appeal seeking the agenda of the Supreme Court collegium's meeting on December 12, 2018, when certain decisions were purportedly taken on elevation of judges to the apex court.

The order was passed by Justice Yashwant Varma on the petition by activist Anjali Bhardwaj.

In her petition filed in the high court through advocate Prashant Bhushan, the petitioner challenged the CIC's December 16,



2021 order by which her second appeal was dismissed and had sought a direction to the authorities to disclose the available information sought for under the February 26, 2019 RTI application.

The petition had said that on January 23, 2019, Justice Madan B Lokur, who was a part of the December 12, 2018 collegium meeting and retired on December 30, 2018, in an interview expressed his disappointment that

the December 12, 2018 collegium resolution was not uploaded on the Supreme Court website.

He is quoted as having said, 'Once we take certain decisions, they have to be uploaded. I am disappointed that they were not.' In such circumstances, in the interest of transparency in the process of appointments in the judiciary, on February 26, 2019 the petitioner through an RTI application to the CPIO of the Supreme Court sought

copy of the agenda, decisions, and resolution of the collegium meeting held on December 12, 2018, the plea had said.

According to former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi's autobiography 'Justice for the Judge', the names of Justice Pradeep Nandrajog, the then Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court, and Justice Rajendra Menon, the then Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, had received nod for the elevation to the Supreme Court in the collegium meeting on December 12, 2018.

The matter allegedly got leaked after which the issue was kept in abeyance by Justice Gogoi till January, 2019 because of winter break which started on December 15, 2018, the book said.

# Photos capture Ukraine month before bombings

■ Special chamber set up for lenticular photography

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTI):

A charming old building in a public square in Kyiv basks in glorious sunshine with blue skies above while a Cossack monument depicting a warrior spearing a twin-headed dragon stands in silhouette in the foreground. This was an ordinary scene in the Ukrainian capital in early January 2022. But, barely a month later, the skies turned smoky grey, several iconic buildings and historic landmarks, from Kyiv to Kharkiv shelled, and battle-scarred public squares and a large number of its scared citizens huddled beneath crowded bunkers belie the scenes of merri-



Photographs displayed at 'Untold Ukraine (Glimpses)' exhibition in New Delhi.

ments witnessed last Christmas and New Year in the country. Delhi-based photographer Avantika Meattle and her husband were a regular tourist couple in Ukraine from late December to early January, but she had not imagined that the photographs taken by her, would unbe-

knownst become "frozen in time". About 90 photographs of capital Kyiv and the city of Lviv taken by her are displayed in multiple media as part of a three-day exhibition titled "Untold Ukraine (Glimpses)" which opened at India Habitat Centre. After inaugurating the ex-

hibition, Lok Sabha MP Shashi Tharoor said these images in a way "humanise Ukraine" for those who haven't been there, and the photographs are fascinating, but there is "degree of poignancy" to it as well as to the fate of these beautiful buildings in the wake of "reckless bombings" since the conflict began.

Following weeks of escalating tensions between Ukraine and Russia, the latter had announced a military offensive against the eastern European country on February 24.

And, as tanks rolled into its territory, Kyiv had termed it as "full-scale invasion" which Ukraine led by its defiant President Volodymyr Zelensky has been resisting with all its might, garnering praise and solidarity from world over.

# Jharkhand encouraging lac cultivation among rural women

Ranchi, Mar 30 (PTI):

The Jharkhand government is encouraging scientific cultivation of lac to empower women in villages as well as reviving the process in several regions through welfare projects, officials said.

Around 73,000 farmers are engaged in lac production in the state, they said.

Scientific lac cultivation is transforming the lives of people living in remote rural areas of the state. It has also been revived in many areas through the Women Empowerment Project and Johar Project, while better market and price of lac is being ensured for farmers," an official statement said. Nearly 2,000 tonne of peel lac has been



Women producing lac based bangles at Siladon, Jharkhand.

produced by farmers in 2021-22, it said.

A total of 460 collection units and 25 centres are operational across the state to facilitate sale of lac products.

"Efforts are underway to increase income of rural women of

Jharkhand by connecting them with forest produce-based livelihood," the statement said, citing the example of Ranjeeta Devi of Rumkoot village in West Singhbhum district, who fetches an annual income of "up to Rs 3 lakh" from lac cultivation.

## BRIEF

### Granted

**Washington:** The US government said that China has granted visas for federal investigators to travel there and aid in the investigation of the deadly China Eastern Airlines crash. The National Transportation Safety Board said China also granted visas to technical advisers from Boeing, which made the plane, engine manufacturer CFM and the Federal Aviation Administration.

### Emerged

**Barcelona:** Amid the mayhem provoked in the world energy market by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Spain and Portugal have emerged in a strategically advantageous position as an energy island in Europe, with a relatively low reliance on Russian natural gas. Leaders in renewable energy thanks to solar, wind and hydraulic power, Spain and Portugal are now poised to reap the benefits of long-term investments in liquefied natural gas.

# Poland to end all Russian oil imports, Germany warns on gas

Warsaw, Mar 30 (AP):

Poland will take steps to end all Russian oil imports by the end of 2022, the prime minister said Wednesday, as Germany triggered an early warning level for natural gas supplies and called on consumers to save energy amid Russia's war in Ukraine. Poland has already largely reduced its dependence on Russian oil, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said. Morawiecki told a news conference that Poland was launching the most radical plan among European nations to



Russian oil supply into Poland.

wean off Russian energy sources. Poland said it was banning imports of Russian coal. Morawiecki said he expects gas imports will be cut in May. Poland is calling on other European Union countries to also cut dependence on fuel imports from

Russia. Poland argues that money from oil and gas exports are fueling Russia's war machine and that that should stop. Morawiecki called on the European Commission to impose tax on all hydrocarbons imported from Russia to make trade just. Poland has been taking strides to cut reliance on Russian gas. A liquid gas terminal was built in Swinoujscie and is being expanded now, receiving deliveries from Qatar, the US, Norway and other exporters. A new, Baltic pipeline bringing gas from Norway is to open at the end of this year.

## Saudi offered, rebel rejected ceasefire starts in Yemen

Dubai, Mar 30 (AP): A Saudi-led coalition battling rebels who hold Yemen's capital Sanaa began on Wednesday a unilateral cease-fire in the years-long war, even as insurgents said they rejected the proposal. The Saudi-proposed pause in fighting began at 6 a.m. ahead of the holy Muslim fasting month of Ramadan. Several similar efforts have failed, and there was no immediate independent confirmation on whether

hostilities paused between Saudi-led forces and Yemen's Houthi rebels. The cease-fire announcement had raised immediate doubts because the Iran-backed rebels had skipped an ongoing summit over the war in Saudi Arabia, called by the Saudi-based Gulf Cooperation Council, because of the venue at the adversary's territory.

rejected the offer over the continuing closure of Sanaa's airport and restrictions on the country's ports by the Saudi-led coalition. If the blockade is not lifted, the declaration of the coalition of aggression to stop its military operations will be meaningless because the suffering of Yemenis is more severe than the war itself, he tweeted early Wednesday. Within hours, Houthi official Mohammed al-Bukaiti

# Trump asks Putin to help dish dirt on Hunter Biden

Washington, Mar 30 (AFP):

Donald Trump has called on Russian President Vladimir Putin, who launched an invasion of Ukraine last month, to reveal any compromising information he might have on US President Joe Biden's son, Hunter. The former Republican president returned to accusations he had repeated many times during his unsuccessful campaign against Biden in the 2020 presidential election. In an interview excerpt

# China tries to limit economic blow of Shanghai shutdown

Riverfront Bund was quiet and empty

Beijing, Mar 30 (AP):

As millions of Shanghai residents line up for coronavirus tests in the closed-down metropolis, authorities are promising tax cuts for shopkeepers and to keep its busy port functioning to limit disruptions to industry and trade. This week's shutdown of most activities in China's most populous city to contain virus outbreaks jolted financial markets already on edge about Russia's war on Ukraine, higher US interest rates and a Chinese



A resident behind barriers in lockdown receives water from a delivery man, in Shanghai on Wednesday

economic slowdown. The ruling Communist Party is trying to fine-tune its zero tolerance pandemic strategy to rein in job losses and other costs to the world's second-largest economy. The Shanghai government has announced tax refunds, cuts in rent and low-cost loans for small businesses.

broadcast by Real America's Voice "Just the News" show, Trump claimed that the wife of the mayor of Moscow gave \$3.5 million to Hunter Biden. "That's a lot of money," he said. "She gave him \$3.5 million so now I would think Putin would know the answer to that. I think he should release it." "I think we should know that answer," he added. Trump has long claimed, without providing evidence, that the younger Biden received the funds from Elena Baturina, wife of the late Moscow mayor Yuri Luzhkov, in a bid to curry favor with Joe Biden. Trump was impeached by the House of Representatives in 2019 for trying to pressure Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky into digging up what he alleged was compromising information on Biden's son, who had once worked for a Ukrainian energy company.

# South Korea has key rocket launch, days after North's ICBM test

Seoul, Mar 30 (AP):



South Korea's conducts rocket launch.

South Korea said it made its first successful launch of a solid-fuel rocket Wednesday in what it called a major development toward acquiring a space surveillance capability amid rising animosities with rival North Korea. The launch came six days after North Korea conducted its first intercontinental ballistic missile test since 2017 in an apparent attempt to expand its weapons arsenal and increase pressure on the Biden administration amid stalled talks. South

Korea's domestically built solid-propellant rocket was launched from a state-run testing facility with the presence of Defense Minister Suh Wook and other senior officials, the Defense Ministry said in a statement.

## National Highways Authority of India

(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways)  
Office of the Project Director, Project Implementation Unit, Bilaspur  
D-61, HIG-I, Abhilasha Parisar, Behind Hightech Bus Stand, Tifra, Bilaspur (C.G.)-495001

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is hereby informed that pursuant to approval of user fee rates by Regional Office, Raipur (Chhattisgarh) of NHA, following user fee rates shall be made applicable w.e.f. 01/04/2022 to 31/03/2023 for use of section from Km.48+580 to Km.105+980 of NH-200 (New NH 130) at Km 97+516 (Bhojpur Toll Plaza) in the State of Chhattisgarh.

Category of Vehicles	Fee for Single Journey (In Rs.)	Fee for Return Journey within a day (In Rs.)	Fee for Monthly Single Journeys in month (In Rs.)	Fee for Single Journey for the Commercial vehicle registered within the district of fee plaza (In Rs.)
Car, Jeep, Van or Light Motor	90	140	3080	45
Light Commercial Vehicle, Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	150	225	4975	75
Bus / Truck (Two Axles)	315	470	10425	155
Three-axle Commercial Vehicles	340	510	11375	170
HCM or EME or MAV (four to six)	490	735	16350	245
Oversized Vehicles (seven or more axles)	595	895	19905	300

The rate of monthly pass for local non-commercial vehicles registered within a distance of 20 Km. from the toll plaza for the FY 2022-23 shall be Rs.315.00

Kind Attention:- From 15th February 2021 onwards, User Fee payments is mandatory via "FASTag ONLY" and All the lanes have been declared as "FASTag ONLY". Users intending to pay user fee in Cash mode in FASTag lane will have to pay Two times of the applicable User fee rates. In addition to above, Return journey discount & Local journey discount are applicable for payments made via FASTag Only.

Building a Nation, Not Just Roads

## National Highways Authority of India

(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Govt. of India)  
PUBLIC NOTICE ON USER FEE (TOLL) RATES AT CHOTIYA TOLL PLAZA APPLICABLE FROM 01.04.2022

The public are hereby informed that pursuant to Fee Notification published in the Gazette vide S.O. No. 4645 (E) dated 27.12.2019 by MoRTH and approval of user fee rates vide e-office dt. 30.03.2022 of NHA, the user fee for the use of section from km.82.500 to 163.400 (excluding bridge from Chainage km.99.378 to km.99.482) of Katghora to Shivnagar Section of NH-130 is going to be started w.e.f. 01.04.2022 at Chotiya Toll Plaza (Km.117.150, near Chotiya village Korba District) in the State of Chhattisgarh at the following rates:

Category of Vehicle	Fee for Single Journey	Fee for Return Journey within a day	Fee for Monthly Pass valid for 50 Journeys	Fee for Commercial vehicles registered in district
Car, Jeep, Van or Light Motor Vehicle	70	105	2310	35
Light Commercial Vehicle, Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	110	170	3735	55
Bus or Truck (Two axle)	235	350	7825	115
Three Axle Commercial Vehicles	255	385	8535	130
Heavy Construction Machinery (HCM) or Earth Moving Equipment (EME) or Multi Axle Vehicle (4 to 6 Axle)	370	550	12270	185
Oversized Vehicles (7 or more axles)	450	670	14940	225

The rates for monthly pass applicable for local non-commercial vehicle residing within a distance of 20Km from the toll plaza shall be Rs. 315/-

Type of Section	Length (Km.)	Equivalent Length (Km.) for which use fee is to be levied	Lane Configuration
Straight Section	78.281	78.281	2-lane
	1.500	1.500	4-lane
Bypasses (Costing>Rs.10.0 Cr.)	0	0	0
Structure (length>60m)	0.415	4.150	2-lane

- The following concessions are available at above Toll Plaza.
  - Return Journey within 24 hours from time of payment for all categories of vehicles having FASTag (discount 25%)
  - 50 single journeys in a month from date of payment for all categories of vehicles having FASTag (discount 33%)
  - Pass at Rs 315/- per calendar month for non-commercial vehicle having FASTag residing within 20 km from Toll Plaza.
  - Commercial Vehicle having FASTag (excluding those plying under national permit) registered in the District of Toll Plaza (discount 50%)
- The list of exempted vehicles is given in the Amendment of Fee Rules dated 03.12.2010 vide GSR 950(E).
- The vehicle, which is loaded in excess of permissible load, shall pay 02 to 10 times the applicable fee rate as per Gazette notification No.G.S.R.920(E) Dated 25.09.2018.
- The Capital cost of the project is Rs.515.64 Crore. The user fee (toll) rates shall be reduced to 40% on recovery of capital cost.
- For viewing the fee notification dated 27.12.2019 published in the Gazette, e-office of NHA dated 30.03.2022 containing approval of rates, etc, the website <http://nhaitis.org> may be visited.
- For any enquired and/or giving complaints/suggestions, please contact.

Name of Representative Y.B. Singh, GM (Tech.)/Project Director, NHA, PIU-Korba (C.G.)  
Address Plot No.1940/1941, RP Nagar, Phase-1, Korba-495677, Tel. 07759-351000

Kind Attention:- From 15th February 2021 onwards, User Fee payments is mandatory via "FASTag ONLY" and All the lanes have been declared as "FASTag ONLY".

## National Highways Authority of India

(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways)  
Office of the Project Director, Project Implementation Unit, Bilaspur  
D-61, HIG-I, Abhilasha Parisar, Behind Hightech Bus Stand, Tifra, Bilaspur (C.G.)-495001

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is hereby informed that pursuant to approval of user fee rates by Regional Office, Raipur (Chhattisgarh) of NHA, following user fee rates shall be made applicable w.e.f. 01/04/2022 to 31/03/2023 for use of section from Km.105+980 to Km.126+525 (Bilaspur Bypass section of Sargaon-Bilaspur) of NH-200 (New NH 49) at Km 110+300 (Mudipal Toll Plaza) in the State of Chhattisgarh.

Category of Vehicles	Fee for Single Journey (In Rs.)	Fee for Return Journey within a day (In Rs.)	Fee for Monthly Pass for 50 Single Journeys in month (In Rs.)	Fee for Single Journey for the Commercial vehicle registered within the district of fee plaza (In Rs.)
Car, Jeep, Van or Light Motor	45	65	1475	20
Light Commercial Vehicle, Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	70	105	2380	35
Bus / Truck (Two Axles)	150	225	4985	75
Three-axle Commercial Vehicles	165	245	5440	80
HCM or EME or MAV (four to six)	235	350	7820	115
Oversized Vehicles (seven or more axles)	285	430	9515	145

The rate of monthly pass for local non-commercial vehicles registered within a distance of 20 Km. from the toll plaza for the FY 2022-23 shall be Rs.315.00

Kind Attention:- From 15th February 2021 onwards, User Fee payments is mandatory via "FASTag ONLY" and All the lanes have been declared as "FASTag ONLY". Users intending to pay user fee in Cash mode in FASTag lane will have to pay Two times of the applicable User fee rates. In addition to above, Return journey discount & Local journey discount are applicable for payments made via FASTag Only.

Building a Nation, Not Just Roads

## National Highways Authority of India

(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Govt. of India)  
PUBLIC NOTICE ON REVISED USER FEE (TOLL) RATES AT KM. 94.995 JAGTARA TOLL PLAZA APPLICABLE FROM 01.04.2022 (00:00:01 Hrs.)

The public are hereby informed that pursuant to approval of revised user fee rates vide letter dated 30.03.2022 of NHA, the user fee rates for the use of section from Km.81.500 to 130.000 (Dhamtari to Kanker Section) of NH-30 is going to be revised as under w.e.f. 01.04.2022 (00:00:01 Hrs) at Jagtara Toll Plaza (94.995 km, near Jagtara village Balod District) in the State of Chhattisgarh at the following rates:

Category of Vehicle	Fee for Single Journey	Fee for Return Journey within a day	Fee for Monthly Pass valid for 50 Journeys [Ref Para 5 (ii)]	Fee for Commercial vehicles registered in district
Car, Jeep, Van or Light Motor Vehicle	45.00	70.00	1515.00	25.00
Light Commercial Vehicle, Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	75.00	110.00	2445.00	35.00
Bus or Truck (Two axle)	155.00	230.00	5120.00	75.00
Three Axle Commercial Vehicles	170.00	250.00	5585.00	85.00
Heavy Construction Machinery (HCM) or Earth Moving Equipment (EME) or Multi Axle Vehicle (4 to 6 Axle)	240.00	360.00	8030.00	120.00
Oversized Vehicles (7 or more axles)	295.00	440.00	9780.00	145.00

The rates for monthly pass applicable for local non-commercial vehicle resides within a distance of 20Km from the toll plaza for the year 2022-23 shall be Rs. 315/-

Type of Section	Length (Km.)	Equivalent Length (Km.) for which use fee is to be levied	Lane Configuration
Straight Section	40.022	40.022	2-lane
	8.200	8.200	4-lane
Bypasses (Costing>Rs.10.0 Cr.)	0	0	0
Structure (length>60m)	0.190	1.90	2-lane

- The following concessions are available at above Toll Plazas.
  - Return Journey within 24 hours from time of payment for users paying toll fee through FASTag for all categories of vehicles (discount 25%).
  - 50 single journeys in a month from date of payment for users paying toll fee through FASTag for all categories of vehicles (discount 33%).
  - Pass at Rs. 315/- per calendar month for non-commercial vehicle having FASTag residing within 20 km from Toll Plaza.
  - Commercial Vehicle (excluding those plying under national permit) registered in the District of Toll Plaza paying toll fee through FASTag (discount 50%)
- The list of exempted vehicles is given in the Amendment of Fee Rules dated 03.12.2010 vide GSR 950(E).
- The vehicle, which is loaded in excess of permissible load, shall pay 02 to 10 times the applicable fee rate as per Gazette notification No.G.S.R.920(E) Dated 25.09.2018.
- The Capital cost of the project is Rs.193.05 Crore. The user fee (toll) rates shall be reduced to 40% on recovery of capital cost.
- For viewing the fee notification dated 27.07.2019 published in the Gazette, letter of NHA dated 30.03.2022 containing approval of rates, etc, the website <http://nhaitis.org> may be visited.
- For any enquired and/or giving complaints/suggestions, please contact.

Name of Representative S.Choudhury, Project Director, NHA, PIU-Dhamtari (C.G.)  
Address Block F-5, Shivraj Greens, Sihawa Road, Dhamtari  
Contact No. 07722-351010

Kind Attention:- From 15th February 2021 onwards, User Fee payments is mandatory via "FASTag ONLY" and All the lanes have been declared as "FASTag ONLY". Users intending to pay user fee in Cash mode in FASTag lane will have to pay Two times of the applicable User fee rates. In addition to above, Return journey discount & Local journey discount are applicable for payments made via FASTag Only.

Building a Nation, Not Just Roads

# For climate migrants in Bangladesh, town offers new life

New rail line being constructed to connect with India



An aerial view shows Mongla town, Bangladesh's second-largest seaport.

Mongla, Mar 30 (AP):

The 29-year-old Monira Khatun was devastated after her husband abandoned her suddenly. She returned to her father only to face another blow: He died soon after, leaving her to shoulder three other family members' care. Without any work, she was worried about how she would feed them.

refugees like Khatun in the southwestern town of Mongla, where Bangladesh's second-largest seaport is located.

These refugees from climate-impacted areas within Bangladesh lost their homes, land and livelihood, but found a new life in the riverside coastal town about 50 kilometers (30 miles) inland from the Bay of Bengal.

Some 150,000 people now live in Mongla many of whom moved from villages near the Sundarbans forest, the world's largest mangrove forest which straddles the border of Bangladesh and India and harbors endangered Bengal tigers.

**कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)**  
जोन क्र. 01 सकरी  
अल्पकालीन मैन्युअल निविदा सूचना

निविदा क्र./1287/जोन क्र.01 सकरी/जल.कार्य वि./2022 सकरी, दिनांक 30/03/2022  
एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु अल्पकालीन मैन्युअल निविदा दिनांक 11/04/2022 को सायं 03.00 बजे तक स्वीड पोस्ट से आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

01 निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय - 11/04/2022 सायं 03:00 बजे तक  
02 निविदा खोलने की तिथि - 11/04/2022 सायं 04:00 बजे से

क्र.	कार्य का नाम	प्रारंभिक राशि (लाखों में)	अंतिम राशि	निविदा प्रश्न का मूल्य	निविदा प्रश्न फॉर्म	समयावधि (वर्षां क्रतु सहित)	ठेकेदार की श्रेणी
1	जल प्रदाय सामग्री/मरम्मत सामग्री क्र.1	4.00	4000.00	750.00	च-क	03 माह एवं उच्च	क्लास 'D' एवं उच्च

नोट:- कार्य का विस्तृत विवरण/निविदा शर्त एवं अन्य जानकारी कार्यालयीन अवधि में कार्यालय में देखी जा सकती है। जानकारी [www.bilaspurnagar.nigam.com](http://www.bilaspurnagar.nigam.com) में देखी जा सकती है।  
जोन क्र.01 न.पा.नि., बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

वृक्षारोपण कार्य महान, एक वृक्ष सू पुत्र समान



# CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 9 No. 357

## Saving soil health

The Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) content in India has come down to 0.3 percent from 1 percent in the past 70 years which is a cause of concern for the agriculture sector. Soil Organic Carbon is the main component of the soil organic matter and gives soil its water-retention capacity, structure, and fertility. Intensive cultivation of crops without providing proper compost to the soil is the reason behind the fall in SOC content. Biofertilizers and compost can increase the SOC level of the soil. As the Indian population grows, ramping up food production is crucial but so is preserving the sustainability of the ecosystem so that food production can persist into the future. Since the 1960s, the Indian government has subsidized chemical-intensive fertilizers to enhance crop growth. Recently, spiritual guru Sadhguru embarked on a 30,000 km trip through Europe and the Middle East in an effort to 'save soil', meeting celebrities, environmentalists and influencers in dozens of countries along the way. The journey is part of his 'SaveSoil' campaign, which is calling on policymakers to make soil regeneration a priority. The UN has said a third of soil globally is degraded and more than 90 percent could become degraded by 2050. It can take 1,000 years to produce a few centimetres of soil, according to the UN's campaign against desertification. Now, new research from Gujarat has shown that in a head-to-head test of soil properties, organic fertilizer based on traditional ecological knowledge encouraged better soil structure and fertility, even during drought periods. Only about 10-15 percent of farms in the region studied use the traditional fertilizer, but studies like this one could incentivize more sustainable agricultural practices. Soil health broadly comes down to key physical, chemical, and biological characteristics. In a 2020 study, research compared the biological characteristics of soils fertilized with chemicals and soils fertilized with a combination of farmyard compost and 'jeevamrutha', a fermented liquid of cow dung, cow urine, a form of cane sugar called jaggery, gram flour, and soil.

Traditionally fertilized soils showed greater microbial diversity, a sign of nutrient availability, soil health, and resilience than chemically fertilized soils did. It was found that the water-holding capacity of the traditionally fertilized soil was higher than in soils using chemical fertilizers, even throughout two seasons of drought. The more water the soil can retain, the less it leaches nutrients, making it more sustainable in the long term. Soils using traditional fertilizer also had lower soil density, which is crucial for plant rooting, and more stable pH levels throughout the drought periods, even though dry conditions tend to increase salinity. Soils treated with chemical fertilizers tended to have higher pH over time, which can decrease the solubility of nutrients. Overall, 'jeevamrutha' worked better than chemical fertilizers for improving the soil structure and fertility. Changing from chemical to organic fertilizers can result in yield losses for several years, so farmers must know that the transition will be worth it. The best way to improve organic carbon content in soil is through zero budget natural farming methods. Government is implementing Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP) introduced during 2020-21 as a sub scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) for the promotion of traditional indigenous practices including Natural Farming to bring down the input costs. Though the plan is to cover 6,672 blocks in the country in phases over a period of time with at least one cluster each, initially the focus will be on those areas which have been practising natural farming and there is potential to achieve the target at the earliest.

## Noisy controversy

Controversy started after the United Nations report on noise pollution came out. Moradabad city in UP has been described in the report as the second most noise-polluted city in the world, but the Moradabad administration has objections to it. Officials say that the report released by the United Nations regarding noise pollution is wrong. Moradabad Pollution Control Board officer Vikas Mishra says that this report is wrong. There are no sensors installed in the city by the United Nations to check how much noise pollution there is. Not only this, we have got any information related to its monitoring. Noise dosimeter is used to check the noise pollution of any city. It has a microphone which records noise. Data about level of noise pollution is recorded. It is installed in different areas of the city which keep track of the noise. Local administration in Indian cities should install such sensors for accurate data about noise pollution. Moradabad administration cannot discredit the report as accurate data is not available. The UN report titled 'Frontiers 2022: Noise, Blazes and Mismatches', released last month, measured noise levels in 61 cities of the world. Bangladesh's capital Dhaka topped the list with a noise level of 119 decibels (dB). Pakistan's capital city Islamabad was placed on the third spot, where noise pollution level has been recorded at 105 dB.

Notably, all the top three cities are from South Asia. Other Indian cities which recorded a higher decibel than the permissible levels were Delhi (83 dB), Kolkata and Asansol (both 89 dB) in West Bengal and Jaipur (84 dB). According to 1999 WHO guidelines, the report said, the permissible noise level limits are 55 dB (decibels) LAeq (equivalent continuous sound level is the sound level in decibels) for outdoor residential areas and 70 dB LAeq for commercial areas and where there is traffic. Experts said that noise above 70 dB over a prolonged period of time can increase the risk of hearing loss. High levels of noise impair human health and well-being by disrupting sleep or drowning out the beneficial and positive acoustic communications of many animal species that live in these areas, according to Inger Andersen, UNEP executive director, said in the report. She also listed solutions to combat noise pollution, saying electrified transport and green spaces must all be included in city planning to reduce noise levels. Local administration in India has long way to reduce noise pollution.

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.

## PADDY TRANSPORT



A worker drives a tractor as he transports bags of paddy grain in Amritsar, Punjab.

## New India's new record with USD 400 billion of merchandise exports



PIYUSH GOYAL



India's achievement of record USD 400 billion of goods exports is a shining example of the way this country is being governed, reformed and transformed since 2014 with a mission to decisively improve the lives of citizens. The surge in exports is helping farmers, artisans, weavers and factory workers, and helping businesses, small and large to create jobs, scale up operations, become more competitive and make a mark in the global business arena. The export target of USD 400 billion seemed impossible to many in the Covid-ravaged world, where demand was weak, scarce containers were priced exorbitantly and the world was facing job losses and conflicts. But this did not deter Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government from acting decisively and swiftly with a bottom-up approach in assessing the situation, identifying products and regions where exports could be increased, and adopting a partnership approach with exporters and industry bodies to deliver results. The exports mission was revamped when the prime minister gave a clarion call to industry to focus on exports and inspired them to aspire for a quantum jump in India's international trade in goods and services. The PM himself held consultations with ministries, states, Indian missions abroad, commodity boards, industry associations and experts to motivate and inspire all. He continuously monitored the progress of exports.

It was indeed an ambitious mission because the best India had achieved in merchandise exports in the past was USD 330 billion in the pre-Covid days of 2018-19, after which the pandemic battered global trade. But India bounced back rapidly as policy measures, reforms, export-promotion schemes, major initiatives like the Production Linked Incentive Scheme, and bold decisions in the face of adversity propelled India to become the fastest growing major economy in the world. Exports have boomed, setting a series of monthly records that have added up to historic achievement in 2021-22. Exports are contributing to economic growth, creating jobs and helping small businesses and workers. The world is now looking up to India as a trustworthy and reliable partner that can provide quality goods and services on time even at the peak of the pandemic.

The results are spectacular. India achieved the target nine days ahead of schedule. We adopted the 'whole-of-government' approach and worked as partners with exporters. The government proactively helped them overcome any hurdle and encouraged them to grab every opportunity for every product in every country to help achieve the stiff target. Targets were fixed for 200 countries/territories and special emphasis was laid on new and existing markets, lost market share, and the role of small enterprises and startups as a vehicle for exports. But it's not just a story of

numbers. There are exciting new developments such as the export of new products, penetration of new markets, rising exports of manufactured products, an impressive 50 percent growth in engineering exports, and laudable contribution of small businesses and farmers, whose hard work has strengthened global food security. Agricultural exports have risen nearly 25 percent to a record of nearly USD 50 billion. India's hardworking farmers provide almost half of the globally traded rice. Farmers have helped wheat exports jump to a record 70 lakh tonnes, which is softening the impact of the disruption in global wheat trade caused by the crisis in Ukraine, a major supplier.

Similarly, coffee exports have risen to a record of nearly USD 1 billion, an impressive achievement for the sector where 95 percent of the output is from small growers. Marine exports are also booming, helping many small businesses and fishermen. India now needs to maintain the momentum. Our manufacturers, exporters and policy makers cannot afford to be complacent in the fiercely competitive world. Indian industry needs to step up investment in Research and Development and focus sharply on quality. There was a time when there was a big gap between products sold to Indian citizens and the 'export quality' goods that were shipped out. There should be no such gap. The government will scale up efforts to help exporters. Many recent policies will bear fruits for years to come and give the country new global champions in manufacturing and exports.

There will be many success stories like the mobile phone sector, which was once heavily import dependent but now exports have multiplied and imports are drying up. Exporters will also gain from PM Gati Shakti, the National Master Plan for Multimodal Connectivity which the PM launched last October. We now have to make a bigger impact in international trade. This will be challenging

but exciting and achievable. Our government has a track record of achieving very ambitious targets, be it electrification of every village in the country, the dramatic rise in renewable energy capacity along with the equally dramatic fall in its cost, the LED revolution that drastically reduced the cost of energy-efficient bulbs, as well as game-changing welfare schemes to provide ordinary citizens the convenience of toilets, cooking gas, bank accounts, health insurance, water supply, homes, rural roads, internet connectivity and the world's biggest vaccination programme against Covid-19 with the help of India-made vaccines.

India was the 'Plus One' alternative that was on the top of the list for a lot of companies. India's updated Foreign Trade Policy launched on 1 April 2015 rationalized previous export promotion schemes and introduced new ones. The government opened a dedicated division for unified development of the logistics sector, launched an interest equalization scheme to facilitate cheaper credit to exporters, unveiled an agriculture export policy, classified districts as export hubs by identifying products with export potential and addressing bottlenecks, and reached out to potential exporters, especially from the MSME sector, and mentored them. Most engineering goods were exported to US, petroleum products to the UAE, gems and jewellery to China, organic and inorganic chemicals to Bangladesh and drugs and pharmaceuticals to the Netherlands. India is on track to reclaim its status as major trading power it once was. That is an ambitious mission, but the story of Indian exports, like many game-changing initiatives in New India can be summed up with what Nelson Mandela famously said: 'It always seems impossible until it's done.'

(Piyyush Goyal is Union Minister of Commerce and Industry in Government of India.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Portrayed

Indians have always been portrayed very inappropriately in American television shows and films. The first Indian character on American TV was Apu from The Simpsons who for three decades have not only mocked the Indian accent but also the culture. Its voice Hank Azaria received a severe backlash following which he has decided to not lend his voice to Apu anymore. Another character Raj from The Big Bang Theory talks in an accent which its white directors thought would be appropriate for an Indian character. The actor who plays Raj, Kunal Nayyar does not talk in such an accent in real life. The actor is also seen appreciating Howard, another character in the show who mocks the Indian accent. There are also many standup comedians like Gabriel Iglesias who also mocks the Indian accent despite him being a Latino, another accent which is also mocked in American shows and films. Its like the mocked is mocking. I think the makers of any show or film before introducing an Indian character should do a proper research. We Indians do not sound the way you think we sound.

Noopur Baruah, Tezpur

### Epic story

Of the five great epics in Tamil literature, Silappadhikaram, which is known as 'Epic of the Anklet', was written in the 5th-6th century AD by prince Ilango Adigal. Silappadhikaram is a story of the young merchant Kovalan's marriage to the righteous Kannagi, his love for the concubine Madhavi, and his consequent ruin and exile in Madurai, where he is unjustly beheaded after trying to sell his wife's anklet to a wicked goldsmith who had stolen the queen's anklet and charged Kovalan with the theft. Unlike the epics of those times which mostly involve stories about kings and royals, Silappadhikaram illustrates the life of this mundane couple. More significantly, it is written in a dance-drama format and has references to the musical and dance traditions of yesteryears. Silappadhikaram reflects the deeply rooted Vedic culture of the Tamil land, right from the Sangam age and beyond. Interestingly, Silappadhikaram has its root to Jainism, as Ilango Adigal is said to have written the epic from Kodungallur region in Kerala, sitting in his abode Gunavayirkottam, which is known as a Jain institution. And the book Jain Art and Architecture Vol 1, authored by Amalanda Ghosh, corroborates this, saying "A Jain institution of considerable importance is mentioned in Silappadhikaram, and this institution was known as Gunavayirkottam, said to have been situated in Chera country."

Ranganathan, via email



## WHAT THEY TWEET!



Uday@MulaMutha

To set one stat right. Europeans were defeated by the Marathas in 1737-1739 at Vasai & the El Co was defeated at Wadgaon in 1779. Battle of Pollur came later & was not the first defeat of a European army by Indians. As for Tipu, see GB Mehendale's 'Tipu As He Really Was'.

Venugopal@vgmenon99

Global arms industry controls development of weapon systems. Every weapon system has a counter to it. There's never a comfort feeling wrt threat perceptions. At the end of day it is superior tactics, effective cd & control & high morale of troops which is decisive in battles.



Vandana@dr vandanashiva

Farmers who give up chemicals & adopt regenerative organic practises based on #Biodiversity & the #LawOfReturn & #Recycling have more fertile soils, grow more food, increase their incomes by not wasting money on toxic chemicals & non renewable seeds. Higher benefit cost ratio.

Shail Jha@shell-jaws1334

When class, caste, creed, money and lying/muscle power become criteria for selection of lawmakers rather than education and administrative acumen the quality of governance is bound to be dismal. Parochialism and tribalism always kills Professionalism in any field.

Alpha Defense@alpha\_defense  
ALH Dhruv is talk of the town again.

Devilal@devilalsharma

Because they are bots and the maker forget to put emotional angle. And just remember that it is a bot so can get limitless information and have limitless engagement. Most cases automation and AI is an improvement and not a replacement.

Shivam@ShivamShankars

You can support any political party all you want, but the denial of problems and spins is getting out of hand! The population is losing capacity for rational thought, media's become cheerleaders so no accountability required, and all investigation and audit bodies are done...

**BRIEF**

**Embarks**



**Chennai:** Sundram Fasteners has set aside Rs 350 crore of the total Rs 2,000 crore capital expenditure planned for next five years. MD Arathi Krishna said, it is for the manufacture of advanced automotive technology components for next five years.

**Order**

**New Delhi:** Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has won an order for compressor package from Iraq. The order for the package for Baiji Refinery in Iraq has been placed by Northern Refineries Company (NRC), a National Oil refinery company owned by the Ministry of Oil, Iraq. The order envisages the design, engineering, manufacturing and supply of an electric motor driven recycle gas centrifugal compressor. It will be executed.

**Inaugurates**



**New Delhi:** ABB on Wednesday inaugurated a new R&D and engineering facility ABB Innovation Center (AIC) in Bengaluru. ABB India's Sanjeev Sharma said it is instrumental in developing products and solutions, which deploy new-age technologies such as AI.

**Expand**

**Thiruvananthapuram:** Automotive solutions company Acsia Technologies is all set to expand its facility with 85,000 square feet space at the Embassy Taurus TechZone in Technopark Phase-III here. The new office is being set up as part of meeting the demands of the customers which require talent in the advanced automotive software.

**Raises**

**New Delhi:** Pine Labs has raised USD 50 million (about Rs 380 crore) from London-headquartered international investment firm Vitruvian Partners. Pine Labs CEO B Amrith Rau said the company aims to further strengthen its foray into online payments.

**App**

**New Delhi:** Wedding portal Matrimony.com launched the 'Jodi' mobile application to tap 400 million customers who access apps on their smartphones in vernacular languages. The 'Jodi' app will be available in 10 languages, the company said. Matrimony.com chief marketing officer Arjun Bhatia said that the company has started operations with 200 people, and will expand the team as the business grows on smartphones.

## LS approves bill to amend laws governing CAs, CSs

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTD):

Lok Sabha on Wednesday cleared a bill to amend the laws governing chartered accountants, cost accountants and company secretaries providing for revamping the disciplinary committees of the respective professional institutes.

Once the amendments come into force, the presiding officer of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) will be a non-Chartered Accountant (CA). Similarly, disciplinary committees of the institutes of cost accountants and company secretaries would also be presided over by individuals who are not cost accountants and company secretaries, respectively. Piloting the Chartered Accountants, Cost and



Nirmala Sitharaman

Works Accountants and Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the amendments will not in-

fringe upon the autonomy of the three institutes.

The changes will make the institutes more responsible and accountable and align them with global best practices, she said while

replying to a discussion on the bill. The bill was passed by a voice vote after various amendments moved by opposition members were rejected.

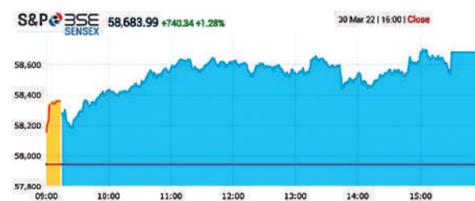
The Institute of Cost Accountants of India is the apex body for cost accountants while the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) is the key body for company secretaries.

Among other amendments, the government has proposed that the disciplinary committee of each of the three apex institutes should have three nominated members who are not a part of the particular institute concerned.

The bill also provide for setting up of a coordination committee of the three bodies headed the Union Corporate Affairs Secretary.

## Sensex rallies over 740 points, Nifty above 17,498 level

Mumbai, Mar 30 (PTD):



Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty rallied for a third day in a row on Wednesday on buying in Reliance Industries, Infosys, HDFC twins and ICICI Bank following gains in global equities amid hopes of a breakthrough in Russia-Ukraine peace talks.

The 30-share BSE barometer index surged 740.34 points or 1.28 per cent to settle at 58,683.99. During the day, it jumped 784.13 points or 1.35 per cent to 58,727.78.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 172.95 points or 1 per cent to settle at 17,498.25.

Among the 30-share pack, Bajaj Finserv, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, Power Grid, HDFC, ICICI Bank, Nestle, Maruti, Reliance Industries Limited were among the lead gainers. On the other hand, TIT, Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, Bharti Airtel and Titan

were among the laggards.

In the previous trade, the BSE benchmark had jumped 350.16 points or 0.61 per cent to settle at 57,943.65. The NSE Nifty gained 103.30 points or 0.60 per cent to settle at 17,325.30. Elsewhere in Asia, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled with gains, while Tokyo ended lower. Stock exchanges in the US ended with gains on Tuesday. In early trading, London's FTSE 100 lost 0.1% to 7,529.06 and the DAX in Frankfurt sank 1.3% to 14,631.35. The CAC 40 in Paris shed 1% to 6,720.90. On Wall Street, futures for the benchmark

S&P 500 index and the Dow Jones Industrial Average were down 0.4%. In Asia, the Shanghai Composite Index rose 2% to 3,266.60.

The Nikkei 225 in Tokyo fell 0.8% to 28,027.25 after the government reported February retail sales declined by a bigger-than-forecast 0.8%. That left retail spending down 2% from its November peak.

The Hang Seng in Hong Kong gained 1.4% to 22,232.03 and the Kospi in Seoul added 0.2% to 2,746.74. Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 advanced 0.7% to 7,514.50. New Zealand and Southeast Asian markets also rose.

## Rupee skids 21 paise to 75.94 against USD, bullion surges

Mumbai, Mar 30 (PTD):

The rupee declined by 21 paise to 75.94 against the US dollar on Wednesday as surging crude oil prices and fuel rate hikes by the oil marketing companies fanned fears of inflation and interest rate hikes.

However, a strong rally in the domestic equities capped the rupee's loss, forex traders said.

Development in the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the movement of crude oil prices remain the main focus for forex markets, they added.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened strong at 75.65 against the American dollar but soon entered the negative territory as investors dumped

riskier assets. During the session, it swung between a high of 75.62 and a low of 75.97. The local unit finally settled at 75.94 against the dollar, down 21 paise from the previous close.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, slipped 0.42 per cent to 98.02. Bullion prices surged. Gold prices on Wednesday rose by Rs 284 to Rs 51,097 per 10 grams in futures trade as speculators created fresh positions on a firm spot demand. On the Multi Commodity Exchange, gold contracts for April delivery traded higher by Rs 284 or 0.56 per cent at Rs 51,097 per 10 grams in a business turnover of 1,702 lots.

## Gold jewellery retailers' revenue may rise 12-15%

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTD):

The revenue of gold jewellery retailers is likely to increase by 12-15 per cent in 2022-23 on steady demand and sustained high prices of gold, rating agency Crisil said on Wednesday.

During 2021-22, revenue of gold jewellery retailers is expected to rise 20-22 per cent albeit on a lower base of the pandemic-impacted last fiscal year, it said in a statement.

According to Crisil, operating margins should improve 50-70 basis points (bps) year-on-year to 7.3-7.5 per cent in fiscal 2023, because of elevated gold prices and improved operating leverage. Consequently, operating profits will rise 12-15 per cent next fiscal



year, resulting in better debt metrics.

"That will keep the credit outlook for organised jewellers stable" next fiscal year, despite higher capital spending and inventory," it said.

This is as per an analysis of 82 of them rated by Crisil Ratings, which accounts for 40 per cent of the sector's revenue. Crisil said jew-

ellery demand is seen steady next fiscal year, with volume growing 8-10 per cent to pre-pandemic levels of 600-650 tonne, owing to normalising operations, store additions and gold prices sustaining above Rs 50,000 per 10 gram.

Crisil Ratings Senior Director Anuj Sethi said, Revenue growth would have been even higher next fiscal but for the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which have cranked up gold prices to Rs 55,000 per 10 gram."

While prices have corrected a touch, continuing volatility will constrain volume growth in the first quarter of next fiscal year, ahead of the wedding and festive seasons, due to partial deferral of purchases, he said.

## Too early to predict impact of Russia-Ukraine war on Indian economy

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTD):

The global macroeconomic uncertainties have increased due to the Russia-Ukraine war, but it is too early to predict its impact on the Indian economy, eminent economist Pinaki Chakraborty said on Wednesday.

In an interview with PTI, Chakraborty said high-frequency data show that in many countries, inflation is higher than expected, there are supply chain disruptions and much higher volatility in financial markets.

"As we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the global macroeconomic uncertainties have increased due to the war between Russia and Ukraine.

"However, it is too early to even predict its impact on the Indian economy," he



Pinaki Chakraborty

said. Chakraborty, the director of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), said India's current macroeconomic situation is definitely better than what it was earlier but due to global uncertainties, the country will have to be watchful.

Russia started its military offensive against Ukraine on February 24. Western nations, including the US, have imposed

major economic and other sanctions on Russia following the aggression.

While noting that the global economy will get impacted due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the eminent economist said quantification of that impact at this stage will be difficult.

"What is the most important is to manage and navigate disruptions created by war, so that we have minimum impact on fisc, minimum impact on our deficit levels and we are able to execute the budgetary priorities accorded into 2022-23 budget," he emphasised.

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

## Gas price to more than double this week

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTD):

In a bonanza for gas producers, Reliance Industries is set to get a record price of around USD 10 per MMBtu for the KG gas, while state-owned ONGC is likely to fetch more than double the rate for its Mumbai High and other fields, sources said. The government-dictated price for natural gas produced in the country is to be revised on April 1 and factoring in the spike in energy prices witnessed last year, the rate paid for gas produced from fields given to state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) on nomination basis is likely to rise to USD 5.93 per million British thermal units from current USD 2.9.

Simultaneously, difficult fields like the ones in Reliance and its partner bp plc operated D6 block in KG basin, are likely to get USD 9.9-10.1 price compared to the current rate of USD 6.13, two sources aware of the matter said.

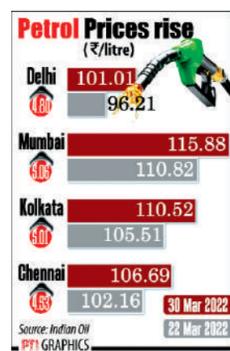
## Consumers expect to feel bite of rising energy prices

**Want to shift from fossil fuels**

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTD):

A majority of consumers worldwide expect their overall spending power to be significantly impacted by rising energy prices, while India tops the list where climate change policies have been cited as the main cause of the recent price rises, a global survey showed on Wednesday.

The World Economic Forum-Ipsos survey also showed that an average of eight in ten want their country to shift away from fossil fuels in the next five years, while the ratio was above-average at almost 90 per cent in the case of Indian respondents.



The 30-country survey was conducted between February 18 and March 4 this year among 22,534 adults. "A majority of consumers worldwide expect their overall spending power to be significantly impacted by further energy price increases, yet

only 13 per cent of those surveyed globally blamed climate policies for rising prices, while 84 per cent of respondents stressed the importance of their own country's shift to sustainable energy sources," the WEF said.

Survey respondents were asked to consider the energy they use for daily expenses - such as transportation, heating or cooling homes, cooking, powering appliances, etc - and assess how much energy price increases would affect their overall spending power.

On average, more than half of consumers (55 per cent) across the 30 countries surveyed expect their overall spending power to be significantly impacted by energy price increases.

## Par panel expresses concern on high spectrum price

**Delay in 5G rollout**

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTD):

Expressing concern over high spectrum price, a Parliamentary Panel on Wednesday asked the government to pay due attention to the issues raised by the telecom operators and take steps for early rollout of the 5G services.

The Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology, chaired by Lok Sabha MP Shashi Tharoor, in its report expressed concern about the 5G rollout delay that will deprive the country of taking advantage of various benefits of 5G when other countries of the world have made no-

ticeable progress in the deployment of the technology. "It is high time that 5G should be rolled out in India in some specific Use Cases, however, the Committee do not see any progress in that direction. The Committee, therefore, reiterates that the Department need to review all their policies relating to 5G so that the country is not left behind in the race for 5G," the panel said in the report.

The panel said that it desires that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) may be impressed to expedite their recommendations on the 5G spectrum so that the 5G auction can be held at the earliest.

## Sebi revises norms for collective investment schemes

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTD):

Seeking to put in place a stricter regulatory framework for collective investment schemes, markets watchdog Sebi has decided to enhance the net worth criteria and track record requirements for entities managing such schemes.

The regulator has also approved changes to listing obligations and disclosure requirement regulations for simplification of procedure for transmission of securities.

It also gave the nod to amend regulations to enable Sebi-registered custodians to provide custodial services in respect of silver or silver-related instru-



ments held by silver ETFs of mutual funds. These decisions were taken at a board meeting of Sebi held.

Amid instances of investors getting defrauded by fraudulent money pooling schemes, the regulator would also restrict a Collective Investment Management Company (CIMC) and its group/associates/shareholders' shareholding in a scheme at 10 per cent or representation on the board of another

CIMC to avoid conflict of interest. Besides, the mandatory investment of CIMC and its designated employees in the Collective Investment Schemes (CIS) have to align their interests with that of the CIS.

Sebi said the net worth criteria would be enhanced and a requirement of having a track record in a relevant field as an eligibility requirement for registration as a CIMC would be put in place.

Among others, there would be a "mandatory requirement of a minimum number of investors, maximum holding of a single investor and minimum subscription amount at CIS level," Sebi said.

## CommMin studying work of MMTC, STC, PEC

Dubai, Mar 30 (PTD):

The commerce ministry is studying the work of its three undertakings - MMTC, STC and PEC, and it will take appropriate steps to protect the national interest, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said.

On a question about whether the commerce ministry is planning to close these units, he said: "We are examining all options and will do what is in the national interest".

"We are studying the work that these three companies are doing and we will take appropriate steps to protect the national interest and protect the country's needs. We should not be wasting

the scarce resources, which taxpayers pay," the minister told PTI.

State Trading Corporation (STC) was set up in 1956 as a trading arm of the government to undertake trade with East European countries.

Project & Equipment Corporation (PEC) was incorporated as a subsidiary of STC in 1971 to handle the canalised business of export of railway and engineering equipment. It became an independent firm in 1997.

Metals & Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC) was created in 1963 as an independent entity on separation from STC, primarily to deal in exports of minerals and ores and imports of non-ferrous metals.

## Urvashi Rautela collaborates with Talk dirty to me' hitmaker Jason Derulo

Actress Urvashi Rautela has announced collaboration with popular singer Jason Derulo, known for belting out hits such as 'Talk dirty to me', 'Wiggle wiggle', 'Swalla' and 'Trumpets' among many others, for their upcoming music single.

Urvashi had shared a glimpse of it on her social media and has made it official on her collaboration for the song.

Jason Derulo, on working with Urvashi, said: "It was a pleasure working with Urvashi Rautela in 'Jaanu'. She's a shining example of raw Indian beauty, and more importantly, Urvashi Rautela is not just the first, but also the second most beautiful woman in the world. "She is an excellent and outstanding actor and performer. She is the ultimate global icon. The only Bollywood film person I know of after Shah Rukh Khan is Urvashi Rautela. She is very famous. I cannot comment on the industry, but I like the emotions and dance that Indian movies involve."

On the work front, Urvashi will also be seen in the Jio studios web series 'Inspector Avinash' opposite Randeep Hooda in a lead role.

The actress is going to play the lead role in a bilingual thriller 'Black Rose' along with the Hindi remake of 'Thiruttu Payale 2'. Apart from that, the actress will be making her Tamil debut with the Rs 200 crore big-budget film 'The Legend' opposite Saravana.

## John Abraham in an action-packed triple role

Sony MAX is all set to raise the temperature this summer with the World Television Premiere of the hottest film of the season, Satyamev Jayate 2. Synonymous to power packed action entertainers John Abraham returns as the famed Satya in the hit action-drama helmed by Milap Zaveri and Divya Khosla Kumar in a pivotal role who returns in front of the camera after 17 years.

It is John VS John in this film as the season actor returns to his favourite action genre in a high octane triple role a rarity especially in the past decade of cinema. Sequel to the 2018 Satyamev Jayate, Satyamev Jayate 2 is a John Abraham show through and through with the action hero rocking an enticing triple role of a vigilante, a police officer and a father, as he sets out on a mission to see a corruption free India. However, the vision of a corruption free India is filled with roadblocks as enemies and wrong doers are spread across verticals in society from police, to politicians, industrialists and even common men. Will Satya prove successful in his fight against corruption and abuse of power?

Initially hesitant to play the third role of the father, John Abraham



does justice and teleports us to a different era as he dons the hat of a herculean farmer much different from the real life people he is known to portray on screen. With comparisons made to the Hulk, sprained wrists and back injuries due to the high octane action sequences, John's macho heroism reflects in the most lavish yet subtle ways owing to his expertise in the action genre. Paying homage to the 80s films, Milap Zaveri captures the commercial grandeur of Satyamev Jayate 2 with adrenaline filled fight sequences, powerful dialogues, and pacy music.

## Kiara Advani looks stylish and confident in her all-white tracksuit as she gets papped

Kiara Advani is one of the most good-looking actresses in Bollywood. She never misses a chance to make everyone's heads turn with her fashion game. With the Summer season at its peak already, it is very essential to wear comfortable clothes. But along with that, it is also necessary to look stylish and well, Kiara is doing exactly that. Today, she looked fabulous in an all-white tracksuit as she was papped outside the Dharma office. In the pictures, we can see Kiara Advani wearing a full sleeves top that she paired with loose and comfy white pants. She left her hair open and wore black sunglasses. Kiara completed her look with white and gold sports shoes.

The actress made sure to wave at the paps before she sat in her car and even smiled at the paps. We have to admit that she looked extremely stylish in this outfit. Meanwhile, Kiara Advani will next be seen in Jug Jugg Jeeyo opposite Varun Dhawan. This film will also star Neetu Kapoor, Anil Kapoor, Prajakta Koli, and Manish Paul in pivotal roles. She also has Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 opposite Kartik Aaryan and Govinda Naam Mera alongside Vicky Kaushal and Bhumi Pednekar.

On the personal front, Kiara Advani is rumoured to be dating her Shershaah co-star Sidharth Malhotra. Both of them are spotted together on several occasions.



## Lock Upp is live on OTT platform



Lock Upp, a unique captive reality format co-created for the first time by two of the biggest Indian streaming platforms featuring a fiery host, Kangana Ranaut bringing together 16 controversial celebrities in a jail for 72 days has hit bullseye as the show has already crossed 100MN+ unique viewers on the show in the first 19 days of its launch. This is the first-ever reality show that has been created with its parallel universe of first-of-its-kind metaverse-based game and the game is live now.

With this game, players can join the celebrity contestants on the show, explore the captive world of the Lock Upp metaverse and take an active role in the real ecosystem and win weekly prizes. Speaking about metaverse, Zulfiqar Khan, COO - Group ALTBalaji, said, "We focused on giving viewers a different experience, so we took the first-ever reality show on an OTT platform to the next level by introducing the first-ever game in the metaverse relating to the show. We opened a new dimension in content development and engagement with advanced technology. The Lock Upp metaverse will give gamers and audiences a chance to be a part of a unique world where they can play along as the show progresses. Gaming enthusiasts worldwide can explore this amazing world of Lock Upp that we have created."

## IIFA awards in Abu Dhabi on May 20 and 21

The grandest celebration of Indian Cinema, the International Indian Film Academy and Awards (IIFA) is set to thrill fans with its 22nd edition in Yas Island, Abu Dhabi on May 20th and 21st, 2022. At a press conference held in Mumbai today, in the presence of this year's host - Salman Khan and actor Varun Dhawan and Ananya Panday, His Excellency Saeed Al Fazari, Strategic Affairs Executive Director of the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi, Miral's CEO Mohamed Abdalla Al Zaabi, Shashank Srivastava, Senior Executive Director, Marketing and Sales, Maruti Suzuki India, among other dignitaries, an official announcement was made about stunning performances at IIFA Rocks by Devi Sri Prasad, Shreya Ghoshal and Tanishk Bagchi amongst others at the highly anticipated event that promises to be a mélange of glitz and glamour.

With excitement increasing all over the world, people can now buy tickets to the biggest celebration of Indian Cinema on <https://www.etihadarena.ae/en/box-office> or you can head to [www.yas island.ae](http://www.yas island.ae) where fans can add all that they need for their visit to Yas Island as a travel package which began on



Tuesday, 8th March, 2022, 10.30am IST. The price denominations range from AED prices 110, 220, 330, 440, 550, 1000 and 1350. (Please note additional charges, terms & conditions may apply).

The event will take place at the

Middle East's largest state-of-the-art indoor entertainment venue, Etihad Arena, part of Yas Bay Waterfront on Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, in collaboration with the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi), and Miral, Abu Dhabi's leading creator of immersive destinations and experiences.

Salman Khan said, "I have always enjoyed being a part of the IIFA Family and travelling to some great destinations but this year we are headed to one of my personal favorites - Yas Island, Abu Dhabi. Over the last 21 years, IIFA has not only given Indian Cinema an international platform, but it has created a wonderful opportunity to take us to our fans and connect millions of people globally. I am proud and excited to host the 2022 IIFA Weekend & Awards at Yas Island, Abu Dhabi as we unite the world through cinema & celebration." Varun Dhawan said, "IIFA Awards has given me some very precious moments of my life. Holding the IIFA trophy, performing in the festivities is special about IIFA. In this edition, we are travelling to Abu Dhabi which is one of my favorite cities and I am really looking forward to connecting with fans and have a fun time overall."

## HOROSCOPE THURSDAY MARCH 31

### Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

Eat, drink, and make merry. But watch out! Don't empty your pockets in one go. Also, guard your reputation. A lot depends on your behaviour, and the big daddies may be watching you. You have a lot at stake, and there should be no regrets later. Let success be your priority for now, says Ganesha. All else will follow.

### Gemini: May 22 - June 21

Today, you are likely to rack your brains to get things done. But your modesty will not do you any good. You will have to show that you are the boss, even if you are not. Your extraordinary brilliance will translate into exceptional performance and will save the day. Never forget that your family is the foundation of your success, says Ganesha.

### Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

Today, you will be in a mishmash of emotions and feelings. Also, there are chances of accumulated feelings finding an outlet. Your capacity for emotional display may take people by surprise. However, you will also enjoy the higher responsibilities reposed on you, predicts Ganesha.

### Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

You are likely to be grinding yourself under at the workplace today. A turning point will arise in romantic liaisons, though if the evening awaiting you is anything to go by, it is something you should welcome wholeheartedly, says Ganesha.

### Cancer: June 22 - July 22

Today, you are likely to be brimming with love and compassion. However, certain negative thoughts will spoil all your good work. But don't fret! Your efforts won't go wasted and you will get the desired results sooner or later, says Ganesha.

### Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

Ganesha predicts today will be a day full of focus and a clear thought process. The clarity of thought you have has been acquired over a period of time, says Ganesha, and that could make all the difference. A crisp application of thoughts to ideas and actions will bring much appreciation from bosses and peers.

### Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

The yogis have finally succeeded in impressing you. Was it a stint in an Art of Living course? Ganesha gives you the thumbs-up and suggests you join that music or dance class you have been wanting to. Generally a nice day, and success is on the cards.

### Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

Working hard, or hardly working - there is a vast difference between the two. You would be wiser to be working hard today, especially if it is success that you desire, says Ganesha. Remember that there is no substitute for hard work, and the sooner you realise this, the better. So sweat it out today.

### Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21

Settling for a new, better employment will help you fast-track your career growth. A telephonic interview might ring in a new offer. A lucrative deal with an MNC would serve well. Your dedication and devotion to work will also peak today, says Ganesha.

### Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

Today is a day of closure. You may find yourself on the winning side of things, says Ganesha. Pending projects will reach completion and you will achieve satisfaction and success in education. With a little extra effort, you can build a castle from stone. Ganesha wishes you a cheerful and colourful day.

### Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

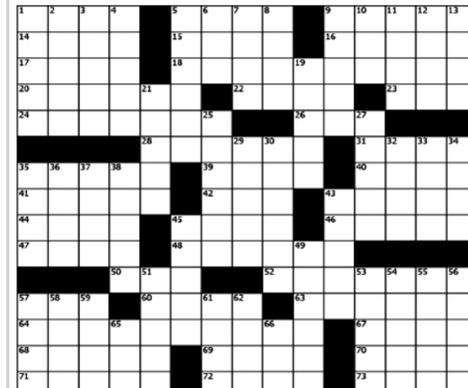
Business might be going very well for you, Virgo, but intense changes on the job could have you feeling stressed. Delays in starting new projects could prove frustrating. Don't fall into the trap of thinking that this is going to be a trend. All should be brought back into focus tomorrow. Go to the gym tonight and work off some frustration.

### Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

It's going to be a day of pleasant surprises. You will try your level best to help people around you, and will find it exceedingly frustrating when the results won't be as expected, says Ganesha. In fact, this may even dampen your spirit and shake your self-confidence.

## CROSSWORD

255



### ACROSS

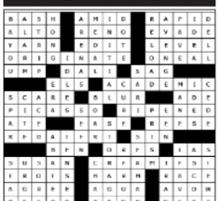
- Common skin problem
- Talk wildly
- Love, Italian-style
- Buddy
- Consumer
- Designated
- Thyme or sage
- On a \_\_\_\_\_ (with little money)
- Artists' stands
- Butterfly catchers

### DOWN

- Nursery item
- Muscle-building drug
- Sailor's ascent
- Julius \_\_\_\_\_
- Produced
- Musical drama
- Prod
- Egg-shaped
- Make merry
- City railways
- Calm
- India's locale

- Englishman, for short
- Newspapers and TV, e.g.
- Lounge about
- Clothing
- Dad's mate
- Most orderly
- To and \_\_\_\_\_
- Spur on
- Invent
- Valid
- Eons
- Our planet
- Like summertime tea
- Wood strip
- Lady's garment
- Quality of sound
- Lampreys

### SOLUTION 254



## Australia says farewell to cricketing legend Warne



Summer Warne reads her eulogy alongside brother Jackson Warne and sister Brooke Warne during the state memorial service for former Australian cricketer Shane Warne at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in Melbourne on Wednesday.

**Melbourne:** Crowds gathered at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Tuesday as Australians said their final goodbyes to Shane Warne. The former leg-spinner, considered one of the greatest cricketers of all-time, died aged 52 earlier this month from a suspected heart attack while on holiday in Koh Samui, Thailand. A private funeral has already been held, attended by dozens of celebrities including ex-England captain Michael Vaughan. A state memorial service was held on Wednesday.

## Bopanna-Shapovalov, Mirza-Flipkens ousted



**Miami:** India's Rohan Bopanna and Sania Mirza were knocked out of the Miami Open from their respective doubles events after contrasting quarterfinal defeats here. Frequent partners since 2019, the Indo-Canadian pair of Bopanna and Denis Shapovalov went down 2-6 1-6 to sixth seeds Wesley Koolhof of Netherlands and Great Britain's Neal Skupski on Tuesday. The unseeded pair of Bopanna and Shapovalov had stunned the top seeded Croatian duo of Nikola Pietrangeli and Mate Pavic in straight sets in the previous round.

## Rohit, Kohli slip; Ashwin rises in Test rankings



**Dubai:** India skipper Rohit Sharma and veteran batter Virat Kohli moved down a rung each to be placed 8th and 10th, respectively, in the latest ICC Test rankings released on Wednesday. Rohit, who continued to remain in the top-ranked Indian in the batters' chart, moved down a place to 8th. He has 754 points, while Kohli, who has 742 rating points moved to the 10th position. Ravindra Jadeja retained the top position among all-rounders, while Ravichandran Ashwin displaced West Indies' Jason Holder to be second. Ashwin and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah continued to hold on to their second and fourth positions, respectively, in the bowlers' chart.

# ICC Women's WC: Australia romp past WI to enter final

Wellington, Mar 30 (PTI):

Australia booked their place in the ICC Women's World Cup final with a dominant 157-run victory over West Indies after Alyssa Healy's belligerent century was complemented by the bowlers here on Wednesday.

Meg Lanning's side were at their destructive best with the bat, with Healy making 129 and adding 216 for the first wicket with Rachael Haynes (85), to post a mammoth 305 for three from 45 overs in a rain-curtailed semifinal.

The West Indies never looked like getting close in their chase. Captain Stafanie Taylor was her side's top-scorer with 48 in a total of 148, indicating the gulf in the class between the two semifinalists.

Play got underway one hour and 45 minutes late after thick mist and drizzle gave way to sunshine with the match shorn of 10 overs.

Put in to bat, Australia were undeterred by the West Indies' fast bowlers running in on a green wicket in gloomy Basin Reverse, making 37 runs in the powerplay.

Healy took her time to get going, making just 10 from 25 balls through the first 10 overs but then picked up pace to bring up her fifty from 63 balls.

Her second fifty would come off just 28 balls as she



Alyssa Healy and Rachael Haynes put on a massive opening stand.

recorded a maiden World Cup hundred.

Healy eventually departed for 129 from 107 balls, including 17 fours and one six, as the West Indies held on to their first catch of the day with substitute Shakera Selman, on for the injured Anisa Mohammed, diving in.

A mini fightback ensued as Chinelle Henry took two wickets in an over, with Haynes going first for 85 from 100 balls before Ashleigh Gardner's promotion from seventh to third ended after 12 runs as the West Indies dragged Australia back to 235 for

three. Lanning and Beth Mooney were there to steady the ship however; the two batters with the highest averages in the tournament, taking Australia past 300, the largest-ever score in a World Cup knockout game.

In reply, the West Indies made a steady start once again, led by Deandra Dottin but soon lost their first wicket as Rashada Williams went for a 10-ball duck, Mooney holding on to a stunning grab off the bowling of Megan Schutt. Annabel Sutherland did what the Windies could not,

safely holding on to a looping catch at long-on to dismiss Dottin for 34.

Hayley Matthews fell for the same score as Jess Jonassen took the first wicket from spin for the day with her fourth ball, Alana King holding on to a poorly-timed shot at mid-off.

Matthews's wicket did not spark the West Indies into life as they slipped to 91 for three in 22.4 overs. Taylor was joined by Shemaine Campbelle as the required run-rate climbed above 10 an over.

Sutherland chipped in with a wicket as Campbelle sent a delivery straight to Jonassen to depart for eight.

Chedean Nation came out with intent cracking a six from her first ball but could add only more before being run out by Healy.

Kycia Knight followed for a two-ball duck as Jonassen moved to 10 wickets for the tournament and reduced the West Indies to 126 for six.

Gardner then looked to catch Jonassen up getting her ninth of the World Cup to dismiss Ramharack LBW a ball after she was dropped by Sutherland.

Taylor eventually departed for 48 from 74, with four fours, and with it the West Indies innings and run in the tournament came to an end as the injured Mohammed and ill Henry did not take to the field.

## Medvedev closes in on No. 1 ranking

Miami Gardens, Mar 30 (AP):



Daniil Medvedev is one win away from returning to No. 1. And Naomi Osaka is two wins away from being a tournament champion again. Shaking off a slow start, the top-seeded Medvedev reached the quarterfinals of the Miami Open on Tuesday by defeating Jensen Brooksby of the U.S. 7-5, 6-1.

Medvedev has yet to drop a set in his three Miami matches. He'll face No. 8 seed and defending Miami champion Hubert Hurkacz in the quarters and if Medvedev prevails there, he'll be assured of supplanting Novak Djokovic and returning to No. 1 in the world.

"I'm not the kind of guy who's going to say, Yeah, I'm the best," Medvedev said. The computer might say it for him soon enough. The Russian held the No. 1 ranking briefly, lost it to Djokovic

again about a week ago and is now closing in on capturing it again.

Brooksby jumped out to an immediate lead, breaking Medvedev's first service game and wound up serving for the first set two points away at 5-4, 30-15. It was all Medvedev from there.

## Osaka to Miami semis



In women's quarterfinal play, the unseeded Osaka who hasn't won a tournament since the 2021 Australian Open made quick work of No. 9 Danielle Collins of the U.S. The former world No. 1 needed only an hour to overpower Collins 6-2, 6-1 and make the Miami semifinals for the first time. This is my childhood tournament and I would love to win here, said Osaka, who spent part of her youth living in South Florida. I've got to take it one round at a time. Collins who has been dealing with neck pain needed

a medical timeout during the match. She's a fighter," Osaka said. She fought through the match." Next up for Osaka: No. 22 Belinda Bencic, who, like Osaka, continued her roll through the tournament. Bencic hasn't faced a seeded player yet and hasn't come close to dropping a set, making the semifinals with a 6-1, 6-2 win over Daria Kasatkina. Bencic has won 48 of the 65 games she's played in the tournament. "I'm really happy I reached a great result here," Bencic said. "Everything else is a bonus."

## CSK, LSG seek improvement in top-order batting

Mumbai, Mar 30 (PTI):

Chennai Super Kings will welcome the return of star all-rounder Moeen Ali as they eye a much improved batting performance in the IPL clash against Lucknow Super Giants here on Thursday.

Both the teams come into the game after a loss in their respective opening matches. A common factor in their defeats were the failure of the top-order and they would be looking to correct that at the Brabourne Stadium. It is still very early days in the two-month long IPL but the toss is already playing a significant role in



the game's outcome. With the second innings dew in mind, teams are preferring to put the opposition in.

The losses for CSK and LSG came after batting first at the Wankhede. Conditions are not expected to be very different at the nearby CCI ground with heavy dew likely to set in the second half of the game.

Lucknow skipper KL Rahul and star opener Quinton De Kock had a forgettable outing on Monday and they would be keen to get some runs under their belt. Rahul needs to lead from the front with the IPL presenting a big test for his captaincy skills.

# FIFA, Qatar prepare for unprecedented World Cup finals draw



Doha, Mar 30 (AP):

A World Cup like no other in its 92-year history will take shape this week at an unprecedented tournament draw.

When FIFA and host nation Qatar stage the draw ceremony show Friday, three of the 32 entries will be placeholders because the three-year qualifying program was delayed and is still ongoing. A once-in-a-century global health crisis and the war in Ukraine made sure of that. It means 37 nations will be involved on Friday, including five which will ultimately not play in November when the first winter World Cup kicks off. The full lineup will not be known until at least June 14, when the intercontinental playoff round ends in Qatar. That is 74 days after the draw and the same date the 2018 tournament started in Russia, which was thrown out of the

final stages of qualifying this time over the invasion of Ukraine. Maybe FIFA got lucky seven years ago by moving the 2022 tournament to November and December to avoid the searing desert heat of Qatar's summer. The later start created wiggle room to clear the match backlog after the COVID-19 pandemic wiped out almost every national-team game outside Europe in 2020.

It has also put uncertainty on stage at the Doha Exhibition & Convention Center, where the show Friday starts at 7 p.m. (1600 GMT) and lasts one hour. One of the balls being drawn from pot 4 of low-ranked teams will represent Peru or Australia or the United Arab Emirates. Another is Ukraine or Wales or Scotland. So it goes at this major World Cup milestone, in perhaps its most unlikely host nation, on April 1. Here's a look at this unusual World Cup draw.

### FIRST-TIMER QATAR

One sure thing is Qatar will be the top-seeded team in Group A, taking position A1 in the schedule of 64 matches in just 28 days. The privilege is given to all host nations even when ranked No. 65 in the world, as Russia was. Qatar is currently No. 52. Still, the 2019 Asian Cup winner is the exception among modern World Cup hosts, having never before qualified for the finals. Qatar's debut opens the tournament on Monday, Nov. 21 at Al Bayt Stadium. It means in the group stage Qatar avoids the world's top-ranked teams, from Nos. 1 to 7 Brazil, Belgium, France, Argentina, England, Spain and Portugal. Those countries will be the next seven drawn out of top-seeded pot 1 and allocated in turn to Groups B through H.

### GOOD DRAW, BAD DRAW?

Is there a good or bad section of the draw to land in? Maybe yes at this congested tournament, which will be four days shorter than the 2018 edition in Russia. Landing in Group B means starting on Nov. 21 instead of Nov. 24 in Group G or H. That means three extra rest days. The Group G winner would have to play seven games in just 25 days to win the title. That team also gets just two full days off before a round of 16 game on Dec. 5. Why is the schedule so tight? This World Cup is jammed into an enforced break in domestic league seasons in Europe.

### GEOGRAPHY LESSON

Geography also limits potential matchups. Teams from the same continent generally can't go in the same group, except for some Europeans. Europe has 13 of the 31 qualifying slots and they cannot all avoid each other. Five groups get two European teams, and the other three groups each get one. It means 2014 winner Germany from pot 2 can land with defending champion France.

### KNOCKOUT STAGE

The 32-team lineup is the perfect number for a knockout bracket. The top two teams in each group where goal difference is the first tiebreaker advance to the round of 16. A team's path through to the quarterfinals, semifinals and final is set in the bracket. If Qatar advances as the Group A winner, it must then play the Group B runner-up. Teams which advance from the same group cannot meet again until the final.

### HOW THE SEEDING WORKS

Seeding pots are filled according to FIFA rankings which weigh results over several years and are officially updated Thursday. The next eight highest-ranked qualifiers go into pot 2, which is the second to be drawn. It includes Germany and likely the United States and Mexico after Wednesday's qualifying games. Next is pot 3 with teams ranked in the 20s by FIFA and finally pot 4 including Canada, back in the World Cup after a 36-year gap. Canada is in pot 4 despite leading the North American qualifying group. The simple format is now complicated by the three playoff entries delayed to June: The European bracket containing Ukraine, which cannot currently prepare a team, and the two intercontinental playoffs. FIFA weighted those entries downward into pot 4 according to the lowest-ranked potential qualifiers, such as Scotland, New Zealand and the UAE. Higher-ranked playoff teams Peru and Wales face being seeded below their true level.

### FIXTURE SCHEDULE

Each four-team group is a round-robin of six games in total. The order each team plays the other is decided by another draw with-in the ceremony. After each team is drawn, a subsequent ball numbered 1, 2, 3 or 4 is picked to place that country in the fixture grid. This unpredictability means the two highest-ranked teams in a group could meet in any of the three rounds.

## Rajapaksa seeks meeting with Kohli to take fitness to next level

**New Delhi:** Skills "come first" for Bhanuka Rajapaksa but the Sri Lankan batter has realised that survival in modern-day cricket is not possible without attaining required fitness standards. Dropped from the national team over fitness issues, Rajapaksa now wants to have a conversation with a supremely-fit Virat Kohli, who he calls the 'Cristiano Ronaldo of cricket'. Being part of the Indian Premier League (IPL), the 30-year-old Lankan can have that opportunity to meet the former India skipper and hopefully turn the tide having endured a dramatic start to year 2022. The 30-year-old announced his international retirement this January and withdrew it a week later on the insistence of authorities. However, he still missed the plane to India due to the same fitness issues, last month. Rajapaksa is sure that the two-month long stint with Punjab Kings would benefit his game immensely and take his fitness to the next level.



## Victim-nun, State file appeals in HC

Against bishop's acquittal in rape case

Kochi, Mar 30 (PTI):

The nun, who claims to have been raped by Roman Catholic Bishop Franco Mulakkal, and the State government have moved the Kerala High Court against his acquittal in the case by a trial court.

While the victim-nun moved the appeal earlier this week, the prosecution moved the High Court on Wednesday challenging the bishop's acquittal after getting sanction for the same from the government during the day.

In its appeal, filed through Additional

Public Prosecutor P Narayanan, against the trial court's January 14, 2022 decision, the prosecution contended that the sessions judge, without appreciating the evidence in the correct perspective, "misconstrued facts and law and gave unwarranted acquittal to the accused" and set him free.

Seeking setting aside of the sessions court's decision, the prosecution has also claimed that the lower court's judgement was "patently wrong, manifestly erroneous and totally perverse".

On January 14, the Additional District and

Sessions Court I, Kottayam, acquitted the Bishop by saying the prosecution failed to produce evidence against the accused.

Mulakkal, 57, was accused of raping the nun multiple times during his visit to a convent in this district between 2014 and 2016 when he was the bishop of the Jalandhar diocese of the Roman Catholic church. The survivor is a member of the Missionaries of Jesus, a diocesan congregation under the Jalandhar Diocese.

In her complaint to the police in June 2018, the nun alleged that

she was subjected to sexual abuse by Franco Mulakkal between 2014 and 2016.

The Special Investigation Team, which probed into the case, arrested the bishop in September 2018 and charged him with wrongful confinement, rape, unnatural sex and criminal intimidation.

Trial in the case, which started in November 2019, concluded on January 10. The court had restrained the print and electronic media from publishing any matter relating to the trial in the case without its permission.

## BOARD EXAMS BEGIN



Class XIth students appear for the Hindi exam of the Haryana Board of School Education (HBSE), at a government school, in Gurugram, Wednesday.

## Gujarat govt yet to recover Rs 49 crore from doctors

Who skipped rural service

Gandhinagar, Mar 30 (PTI):

The Gujarat government on Wednesday informed the Legislative Assembly that over 1,600 MBBS graduates who passed out from state-run medical colleges during the last three years did not serve in rural areas as per the bond they have to sign at the time of admission.

Medical students in government colleges have to sign a bond promising to serve in rural areas for a year after completing studies. Doctors can break the bond by paying Rs 40 lakh to the government.

Between 2019 and 2021, as many as 1,630 medical graduates did not turn up for rural duties after finishing their course, said Health Minister Rushikesh Patel in his replies during Question Hour to a set of questions raised by Congress MLAs. Of these 1,630 doctors, the state government is yet to recover Rs 49.35 crore from 1,155 doctors who had broken the bond and refused to serve in rural areas, said Patel. He added that the process to recover this amount was currently on through relevant authorities. Notably, the data tabled by Patel in

the House revealed that the maximum number of doctors have refused to serve in tribal-dominated Dahod and Chhotaudepur districts. While 377 doctors refused to serve in Dahod during the last three years, 242 did not turn up for their rural duties in Chhotaudepur district, the data showed.

Former Gujarat Health Minister Nitin Patel had once said in the Assembly that even doctors from scheduled tribe communities were not ready to serve in government hospitals in tribal regions after finishing their studies.

To avert man-jumbo conflict

Agartala, Mar 30 (PTI):

The forest department in Tripura has moved a proposal before the state government for erecting solar-powered electric fences around some villages in Khowai district's Teliamura subdivision, where several instances of elephant attacks in the recent past left at least one man dead and many others injured, a senior official said.

Atharamura hill, spanning parts of Khowai and

Dhalai districts, is home to at least 18 elephants, according to the census carried out by the department in 2020-21.

"The ONGC is engaged in laying a gas pipeline in Atharamura hill, which has been identified as a natural elephant corridor. The project will disturb elephants living in the corridor, and they may stray into nearby villages more often. "We have submitted a proposal to the state government for erecting solar fences covering an area of 20 km to keep the elephants away from human habitats," the forest department official said.

If approved by the state government, the matter will then be taken up with ONGC and funds for sanctioning the fencing project will be sought from the oil and gas major.

The solar-powered barrier, once set up, will give a non-lethal shock to the elephants if they come in contact with it, the official said, adding that the cost of erecting fences across 1 km stood around Rs 20 lakh.

In Assam, the solar powered fence has turned out to be a beneficial tool to prevent man-animal conflict in Rani Forest Reserve, near Guwahati,

he stated. Noting that elephants consume salt water in large volumes during summers, the senior official said that measures are being taken to ensure that the pachyderms do not venture out of their habitat in search of it.

"Six salt lakes have already been created in core areas. Twelve more will be coming up soon in the hill. Elephants often raid villages in search of salt," he explained.

In some areas, the department plans to dig trenches because pachyderms can't bypass such obstacles to reach human habitation, he said.

## Women carry kin's body on charpoy for five km

Rewa (MP), Mar 30 (PTI):

Four women were forced to carry the body of their woman relative on a charpoy for nearly five km in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district as no hearse was available. In fact, no government hospital or health centre in the district has a hearse though they have ambulances, said a senior medical officer. A video of the incident, which took place on Tuesday, went viral on social media. The daughter of the dead woman was among the four who carried the body on their shoulders. The other three were her relatives. District Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO) Dr B L Mishra said on Wednesday that the woman, aged about 60 years, was unwell. She died at the Raipur Karchuliyani community health centre during treatment on Tuesday, he said.

## 'Sacking govt employees move to disempower locals'



Mehbooba Mufti

Srinagar, Mar 30 (PTI):

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday flayed the Jammu and Kashmir administration for dismissing five employees and alleged that it was a move to disempower the locals.

The Union Territory administration on Wednesday sacked police

constable Tawseef Ahmed Mir, who has been accused of actively working for Hizbul Mujahideen and trying to kill two of his colleagues, and four more employees for alleged links with terror groups.

It terminated the services of the employees following a recommendation of a designated committee constituted under Article 311 (2) (c) of the Constitution that allows dismissal without an inquiry in the interest of the security of the State.

"On one hand GOI is recruiting retired security personnel from all over India for civilian posts in J&K. But at the same time they are deliberately firing Kashmiri govt employees to offset the balance in the administration & disempowering locals," Mehbooba tweeted.

## PRERARATION FOR RAMZAN



A worker prepares vermicelli, used in traditional sweet dish sheer khurma, popularly consumed ahead of the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan, at a factory, in Prayagraj, Wednesday.

## TN CM presents cash awards to best sericulture farmers

Chennai, Mar 30 (PTI):

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Wednesday presented cash awards to the tune of Rs 6.75 lakh to nine people, including three farmers, in recognition of their contribution to sericulture in the State. The awards were given away on behalf of the Sericulture Department at the Secretariat here. The first prize for the best sericulture farmer carries a purse of Rs one lakh, Rs 75,000 and Rs 50,000 to the second and third farmers. Accordingly, P Chinna of Theni district, K Bhobalakrishnan of Tirupur and C Kamalam of Namakkal district received the awards.

Similarly, the best automatic silk reeler awards were given to R Perumal (Rs one lakh) of Tirupur; C Sekhar (Rs 75,000) of Krishnagiri district, and J

Ramashankar (Rs 50,000) of Tirupur district.

Three best multi-end silk reeler awards were presented to M Jayavel (Rs one lakh) and J Vedavalli (Rs 75,000) of Dharmapuri district, and A Venkatachalapathy (Rs 50,000) of Krishnagiri district. Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises T M Anbarasan, Chief Secretary V Irai Anbu, Handlooms, Handicrafts, Textiles & Khadi Department Principal Secretary Dharmendra Pratap Yadav and Director of Sericulture K Santhi were among those present on the occasion. Tamil Nadu produced 1,834 metric tonnes of raw silk during 2020-2021 and stands third in the country in the production of bivoltine raw silk by producing 1,754 metric tonnes among mulberry silk-producing States.

## Chirag Paswan begins process of vacating bungalow

Allotted to Ram Vilas Paswan

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTI):

Lok Sabha MP Chirag Paswan on Wednesday started the process of vacating the bungalow allotted to his late father Ram Vilas Paswan after a government team was sent to execute an eviction order issued to him last year.

The process of moving furniture and household goods from the bungalow in Janpath in Lutyens' Delhi started shortly after a team from the Directorate of Estates, which comes under the



A truck leaves from 12, Janpath, the bungalow allotted to former union minister Ram Vilas Paswan, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, reached the property, official sources said.

Two loaded trucks drove out of the 12 Janpath bungalow, which was the official address of the Lok

Janshakti Party (LJP), while three more were parked in front.

The bungalow is earmarked for Union ministers and the occupants of the government accommodation have been asked to vacate it, officials said.

The LJP split into two following differences between Chirag Paswan and his uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras after the death of former Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan. Both are locked in a power tussle for the LJP's leadership. The house was used for holding the party's organisational meetings and other related events.

OPPOSITION IN LS

New Delhi, Mar 30 (PTI):

The Opposition on Wednesday dubbed the Rs 1,000 crore package announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech last year for the welfare of the tea garden workers in Assam and West Bengal as "jumla", saying not "a penny" has reached the beneficiaries so far.

Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel, however, dismissed the charge and defended the Centre, saying steps are

being taken to implement the package to ensure that the benefits reach the targeted beneficiaries "in a systematic manner".

"There is no need to doubt the government policy and intent... Definitely, it has taken time," she told the Lok Sabha during the Question Hour and gave details of the steps being taken to implement the proposal.

Patel was replying to a question from Congress member Gaurav Gogoi, who sought to know about the status of the Rs 1,000 crore package announced by Sitharaman in her budget speech last year for

the welfare of the tea garden workers, saying not a penny has reached Assam and Darjeeling in West Bengal.

Gogoi said in the Centre's reply, there is no mention of the Rs 1,000 crore package announced by the finance minister.

Patel said the Tea Board, after the announcement of the package, drafted the Prime Minister Chai Shramik Protsahan scheme and "took it forward".

"Then, one opinion came that all welfare provisions - related to education, health or other facilities -- are already being made available through

various schemes of the ministries and there is already an institutional mechanism available for those," she said.

It was then decided that the Tea Board will identify the beneficiaries and the Centre can take all the welfare schemes to the women workers and their children at the tea gardens of the two states by providing funds to the related ministries over and above their budget.

"One more opinion came that we can set up capital infrastructure like anganwadi centres, hospitals, ayush and wellness centres and schools," the minister said.