

### BRIEF



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with spiritual leader Mufaddal Saifuddin during the inauguration of the Dawoodi Bohra community's Arab Academy in the Marol area of Andheri East, in Mumbai, Friday.

### Arms seized

Chandigarh: A Chinese pistol, five cartridges, a magazine and three kilogram heroin airdropped by a Pakistani drone near the international border in Punjab's Tarn Taran district were seized in a joint operation by BSF and police personnel, officials said on Friday. Director General of Punjab Police Gaurav Yadav said the consignment was airdropped by Pakistan-based smugglers using a drone from across the border. A civilian alerted police on hearing the sound of a drone near the India-Pakistan border in the Khemkaran area on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday, he said, adding that the inputs were shared with the Border Security Force (BSF) and a joint combing operation was launched within a radius of one kilometre from the border.

### Heavy snow

Leh/Jammu: The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) on Friday rescued four persons, including an infant, who were trapped in heavy snowfall in Leh district of Ladakh, officials said. The four were travelling in a car from Khatse towards Neraks but due to heavy snowfall, their vehicle got stuck at the Singay-la Pass, they said. A rescue operation was launched under the supervision of a team of BRO's 114-RCC that was led by junior engineer (JE) Pradeep Rathore. The team, with help of the police, rescued the four persons, including an infant, at around 4.30 am Friday, the officials said, adding they were evacuated to Fotoksar village.

### Probe stayed

Bengaluru: The Karnataka High Court on Friday stayed the Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) proceedings in a corruption case against Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president D K Shivakumar till February 24. The HC has also directed the premier agency to submit an action taken report before February 22 in the case registered under the Prevention of Corruption Act. The Enforcement Directorate had issued summons to Shivakumar while his daughter was issued a notice by the CBI, the Congress leader had revealed on February 8. He had been asked to appear before ED on February 22, which he had alleged to be political vendetta.

Weather	
High 34	Low 13
MARKET	
NIFTY	17,856.50
SENSEX	60,682.70
BULLION	
GOLD	56,752
SILVER	66,846

## SC seeks views of Centre, SEBI on Hindenburg report on Adani firms

### Apex Court asks how to protect investors' interests

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

Concerned over protecting the interests of Indian investors, the Supreme Court Friday favoured creating a robust mechanism to regulate the stock market and sought views of the Centre and market regulator SEBI on PILs alleging exploitation of innocent investors and "artificial crashing" of the Adani Group's stock value.

A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud allayed the apprehension and told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to convey to the officials of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) that it was not "planning any

One of the PILs, filed by lawyer Vishal Tiwari, sought a direction to the Centre to constitute a committee monitored by a retired apex court judge to inquire and investigate into the Hindenburg Research report which has made a slew of allegations against the business conglomerate led by industrialist Gautam Adani. Another PIL, filed by advocate M L Sharma, seeks prosecution of short-seller Nathan Anderson of the US-based Hindenburg Research and his associates in India and the US for allegedly exploiting innocent investors and the "artificial crashing" of the Adani Group's stock value in the market.

witch hunt". The bench, also comprising justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala, sought inputs from the finance ministry and others on various issues, including on making the regulatory mechanism robust to protect the interests of investors in the market where capital flow is seamless in modern

times. "This is just an open dialogue. They have brought an issue before the court. What is of concern is how do we ensure the protection of Indian investors? What happened here was short-selling. Probably SEBI is also doing its investigation. Please tell your officers also this is no witch hunt

that we are planning to do..." it said. "How do we ensure that going in future, we have robust mechanisms? Because today, capital is moving in and out of India seamlessly. How do we ensure in future that Indian investors are protected? Everybody is in the market now," it said. During the brief hearing, the court observed that the PILs say that the loss is of over Rs 10 lakh crore. "How do we ensure that they are protected? How do we ensure that this does not happen in future? What role do we envisage for SEBI? For example, in a different context, you have circuit breakers," it said.

### Cong MP Rajani Ashokrao Patil suspended for remainder of Budget Session



New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI): Raja Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday suspended Congress MP Rajani Ashokrao Patil for the remainder of the current Budget Session for filming House proceedings. Dhankhar, who had earlier

### Unfair: Cong MP on her suspension

New Delhi: Congress MP Rajani Patil, who was suspended by the Raja Sabha on Friday for the remainder of the budget session of Parliament, said it was not fair to give her the harshest punishment as she had not done anything deliberately.

in the day indicated that action would be taken against those who had filmed a ruckus during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech on Thursday, asked leaders of political parties to express their views on the issue.

### Money laundering case

## SC grants interim bail to suspended Jharkhand IAS officer

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Friday granted interim bail for a period of two months to suspended Jharkhand cadre IAS officer Pooja Singhal in a money laundering case to enable her to look after her ailing daughter.

The order was passed by a bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul while hearing Singhal's appeal against the Jharkhand High Court order dismiss-

ing her bail plea in relation to the Enforcement Directorate's probe arising from alleged corruption in the MGNREGA scheme.

"We are inclined to grant interim bail to the petitioner for the purposes of attending to her daughter for a period of two months from the date of release," said the bench also comprising Justice Manoj Misra. The court directed Singhal, represented by senior advocate

## Animal Welfare Board withdraws appeal to celebrate Feb 14 as 'Cow Hug Day'

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) on Friday said it has withdrawn the appeal to celebrate February 14 as 'Cow Hug Day' following directions from the government amid widespread criticism on social media. The withdrawal of the appeal comes just a day after Union minister Parshottam Rupala said it will be good if people respond positively to the call given by the board to celebrate February 14 as 'Cow Hug Day'.

February 14 is observed as Valentine's Day across the world. "As directed by the Competent Authority and Ministry of Fisheries,

Animal Husbandary and Dairying the appeal issued by the Animal Welfare Board of India for celebration of Cow Hug Day on 14th February, 2023 stands withdrawn," the board's secretary S K Dutta said in a notice posted on its website.

It was for the first time that the AWBI had appealed to cow lovers in the country to celebrate 'Cow Hug Day'.

Earlier, the board had said the appeal has been made because the vedic traditions are almost on the "verge of extinction" due to the progress of western culture. On Thursday, Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry

## KUMBHA MELA



A devotee seeks blessings of a 'Naga Sadhu' during 'Bango Kumbha Mela' at Kalyani, in Nadia district, Friday.

## Onus on Pak to create conducive environment for talks: Govt

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

The government on Friday said issues, if any, between India and Pakistan should be resolved bilaterally in an atmosphere free of terror and violence, asserting that the onus is on Islamabad to create such a conducive environment.

In a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha, Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan said according to per media reports, the prime minister of Pakistan remarked

that his message to India is to have talks. "Subsequently, the spokesman of Pakistan's Prime Minister's Office reiterated Pakistan's various pre-conditions to holding any talks with India," he pointed out.

India desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan and India's consistent position is that issues, if any, between India and Pakistan should be resolved bilaterally and peacefully, in an atmosphere free of terror and violence, Muraleedharan said.

## Delhi court convicts four operatives of Al Qaida in Indian Subcontinent

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

A Delhi court on Friday convicted four operatives of Al-Qaida in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) for conspiracy to commit terrorism acts across the country and recruiting members for the terror group.

Special judge Sanjay Khanagwal convicted Maulana Mohd Abdul Rehman Kasmi, Mohd Asif, Zafar Masood and Abdul Sami, saying the prosecution was able to prove its charges against them under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities

(Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The court is likely to hear argument on quantum of sentence on February 14 and the convicts face a maximum punishment of life imprisonment.

"Mohd. Asif, Zafar Masood, Mohd. Abdul Rehman and Abdul Sami are held guilty for commission of offence punishable under section 18 (conspiracy for terror act) and 18-B (recruiting persons for terrorist act) of UAPA and are convicted thereunder," the judge said. The judge, meanwhile, ac-

quitted two suspected AQIS operatives Syed Mohd Zishan Ali and Sabeel Ahmed in the case.

The judge accepted the submissions of both the accused, represented by advocates M S Khan and Qausar Khan, that the prosecution failed to prove the case against them. The judge directed their release on a personal bond of Rs 10,000 each.

The court had in 2017 framed charges against the accused persons, while it discharged another accused Syed Anzar Shah in the case.

## 2023 going to be filled with lot of new developments at ISRO: Somanath



Students watch the launch of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV-D2) carrying EOS-07, Janus-1 and AzaadiSAT-2 satellites, at Satish Dhawan Space Station in Sriharikota, Friday.

Sriharikota (AP), Feb 10 (PTI):

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will undertake a slew of missions in 2023 and prepare for manned space mission, Gaganyaan, the space agency's chief S Somanath said on Friday.

According to ISRO, Gaganyaan project envisages demonstration of human spaceflight capability by launching a crew of 3 members to an orbit of 400 km for a 3-day mission and bringing them back safely to earth, by landing in Indian sea waters. A number of PSLV and

GSLV missions were also scheduled through the year and Friday's successful LV D2 launch has "set the tone" for ISRO's busy schedule this year, he said. "Currently we are preparing the next launch of GSLV MKIII, the LVM3 M3 mission leading to the launch of OneWeb India-2 (with) 36 satellites. So we are preparing that launch," which will happen by mid-March, he told reporters here after the successful launch of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) D2. Immediately after today's LV launch, ISRO was commencing the

launch campaign of PSLV C 55 mission. This launch is for New Space India Limited (NSIL) for a commercial launch, most probably by the end of March, he said, adding the launch campaign will commence today by placing the rocket at the launch pedestal in a new facility that is going to be used this time.

Other plans included landing demonstration of the reusable launch vehicle. "Currently the teams are at the landing site in Chitradurga. We are hoping in a few days of time the initial preparations will be alright and we will be able to do the landing demonstration," Somanath said.

"This year is going to be filled with lot of new developments and activities, specifically leading to the Gaganyaan programme and we are hoping to have the test flight, test vehicle missions...recovery capability module to be demonstrated in one mission today and followed by one more launch this year itself and (we are) also trying for the unmanned mission if these two missions go very well," Somanath said.

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## All India Steel Medical Officers Conference 2023 begins

### Central Chronicle News



**Bhilai, Feb 10:** The All India Steel Medical Officers Conference 23 being hosted by SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant formally took off with the inaugural session at Bhilai Niwas on Friday. Director I/c Bhilai Steel Plant Anirban Dasgupta inaugurated AISMOC 23 by lighting the traditional lamp along with Chief Medical Officer (CMO) I/c Dr M Ravindranath, CMO, Dr Pramod Binayke, Dr Subodh Kumar, Addl CMO and Secretary, Organising Committee in presence of Executive Directors of the Plant Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), S Mukhopadhyay, ED (Projects), AK Chakraborty, ED (MM), Dr AK Panda, ED (Finance), MM Gadre, ED (P&A).

A large number of doctors and specialists from nine different steel plants were present on the occasion. Among the

invitees were former Heads of the Plant's Medical & Health Services Dept including Dr SM Iqbal, Dr SR Rizvi and Dr Subodh Hiran, Dr G Malini, Ex-Director and Dr Jayesh Dave, Ex-Joint Director, JLN Hospital & RC. CMO I/c BSP Dr M Ravindranath welcomed the participants and guests. CMO Dr Pramod Binayke proposed the vote of thanks. A Souvenir on AISMOC

2023 was released on the occasion.

In his inaugural address, DIC, Anirban Dasgupta spoke about the important role of members of the medical fraternity in today's society. He expressed his gratitude to doctors and para medical staff of all steel plants for their contribution in fighting the COVID 19 pandemic.

He also hailed all those involved in supply of

large volumes of liquid oxygen by BSP. Dr Saoumya Swaminathan, Deputy Director General (Programme) and Chief Scientist, World Health Organisation, digitally addressed the inaugural session.

Earlier in the morning, as many as seven papers were presented by different doctors from different steel plants all over India in MBBS Paper Session. The session was presided



over by Dr BK Hota, ED (M & HS) Rourkela Steel Plant) and Dr SJ Rizvi, former Director, M & HS, BSP. Dr Dipti Soi from RINL, Vishakhapatnam, Dr Sudeshna Dasgupta from TMH, Jamshedpur, Dr R Swati from ISP, Burnpur, Dr Chitranjit Roy from DSP, Durgapur, Dr Shiv Marthia from BSOP, Dr Smita Pusp Sekhkar, from BSL, Bokaro and Dr PJ Roy from RSP, Rourkela pre-

sented the papers.

This was followed by a panel discussion on Long Covid Syndrome presided over by Dr G Malini and Dr Jayesh Dave. The panellists were Dr Anil Agrawal from BSL, Bokaro, Dr Reyaz Ahmed from Tata Steel Plant, Dr Sanjay Acharya from RSP, Dr Trinath Das from BSP and Dr SR Bharat Kumar from VISL, Bhadravati.

A Scientific Session

was inaugurated by Dr BK Hota, ED, M & HS, RSP. Seven scientific papers were presented in this session by Dr D Bhaskar from RINL, Dr Shishir Kumar from Tata Main Hospital, Jamshedpur, Dr SK Tiwari, from RSP, Dr Bishwarup Mukherji from ISP, Dr Ardhay das from DSP, Dr Prachi Mene from BSP and Dr Dipti from BSL. A Poster session had also been or-

ganised.

In the post lunch session, Dr Amit David from Ruby Hall Clinic Hospital, Pune delivered a guest lecture on "HIV & Antiretroviral Treatment." In the evening a debate competition was held on the topic: "Can tele-consultation be a part of hospital policy?" Dr Deb Sanjay Nag from Tata Steel Plant spoke for the motion while Dr Kaushalendra Thakur from BSP spoke against the motion.

Another highlight of the Conference today was a symposium on "Recent Advances in Medical Science." As part of this, Dr Aniruddh Mene from BSP spoke on skin banking, Dr Pranayi Behra from ISP spoke on New Management in Retinopathy, Dr Jayant Acharya from RSP spoke on Diabetes in Young Age and Dr Abhik Chatterji from Tata Steel Plant spoke on New Treatment in Hernia Management.

## Chhattisgarh Premier League CPL-T20 begins today

### Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 10:** Under the joint aegis of Chhattisgarh Cricket Council and Veer Sports Club, the biggest and prestigious professional cricket tournament "Chhattisgarh Premier League CPL-T20" is going to be organised from February 11 to February 26. CPL will be simultaneously held in men's and women's categories in Ambikapur, Bilaspur, Bhilai and Nava Raipur.

While addressing media persons here at Supela on Friday, Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee, Sports Cell State President Praveen Jain informed that the



tournament will be inaugurated at 12:00 noon in Gandhi Stadium Ambikapur; around 12:00 noon in Raja Raghuraj Singh Cricket Stadium in Ambikapur, Bilaspur, Bhilai and Nava Raipur.

The selected players of men's category have been auctioned to constitute eight different teams viz Surguja, Bilaspur, Raipur, Nava Raipur, Bhilai, Durg, Rajnandgaon and Abujhmad. A total of 32 matches will be played between these teams. In the women's category, three teams viz. Green, Blue and Red have been constituted. All the four matches of

women's category will be played at Raipur International Stadium.

Praveen Jain said that this tournament will prove to be a game changer for the talented players of the state, who were not getting proper opportunities or were spoiling their career by playing with a tennis ball. CPL would promote professional cricket in the state and the local talents will be able to prepare for bigger tournaments hosted by BCCI. The colourful closing and prize distribution function will be held at Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium, Nava Raipur on February 26, 2023.

## MP Vijay Baghel demands widening of Jagdalpur-Sukma-Konta road

### Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 10:** Member of Parliament Vijay Baghel recently met Bhpender Singh, Union Cabinet Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate changes; and Labour & Employment, and discussed the issue of road widening from Jagdalpur-Sukma-Konta. He requested the Minister to provide permission from the National Wildlife Board for this project.

Baghel said that the Department of Forest and Climate Change, Government of Chhattisgarh had made a communication in this regard June 23, 2022. The de-

partment had requested the National Wildlife Board to grant permission for non-forestry work on 8386 hectares of forest land for the upgradation and widening of the road connecting Jagdalpur-Sukma-Konta which is named National Highway No 30 (Old National Highway No. 221).

This is the only national highway to connect the state of Chhattisgarh with Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for the all-round development of the state. It is necessary to grant permission soon for the upgradation and widening of this national



highway proposed under the Kanger Valley National Park area. The other route passing

from Bijapur is about 150 km longer. Due to the width of the road being only 3 meters, the traffic movement becomes very difficult during the rainy days. It remains obstructed for many days. People from Chhattisgarh state often visit Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for treatment and the emergency vehicles face problems during the rainy season.

The tribals living in this area also face the same problem. The Member of Parliament has expressed hope that the National Wildlife Board will give the necessary permission soon for the betterment of Chhattisgarh state and its people.

## New agency starts collecting tax for BMC

### Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 10:** New agency has started functioning in Bhilai Nagar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and has taken the responsibility of tax collection from Friday. The new agency Shree Publication Stationers Pvt Ltd has started collecting tax in all zone offices including the corporation head office. Tax payer Badha Ram was the first to deposit his tax of Rs 7086 by reaching the tax counter of the new agency in the corporation head office.

The taxpayer also met Mayor Neeraj Pal after depositing the tax. Mayor Neeraj Pal handed over the receipt copy to the taxpayer through the agency. During this, Health in-charge Lakshmi Raju was also present. It is notable that Corporation



Commissioner Rohit Vyas had instructed the newly appointed agency to start collecting tax at the earliest through collection counters so that property tax collection could be started. In this sequel only the new agency has started tax collection work, now it would be easier for the taxpayers to deposit tax.

Property tax, consolidated tax, education cess, user charge, water tax etc will be collected by the agency. Giving information, Saurabh Kumar of the agency explained that the employees of the agency have been given training for tax collection and it will speed up tax collection and different methods will also be adopted to increase tax collection. Municipal Corporation Bhilai has appealed to the taxpayers to deposit their taxes on time and avoid paying extra surcharge.

## Bhilai Shramik Sabha working committee meeting held

### Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 10:** Working committee meeting of Bhilai Shramik Sabha was held at Bhilai Niwas on Thursday. As the quorum was not complete, the meeting was adjourned and resumed after 30 minutes.

Bhilai Shramik Sabha President HS Mishra chaired the meeting. Devendra Singh requested all office bearers to make 5-5 active members to strengthen the union. Rajesh Sharma, Niteshwar Dhruv and Abhishek Mishra and other members supported the proposal.

HN Bharti proposed to take strict action against the members who conspired and filed a forged Form-E for registration



before the Registrar of Firms and Societies in Raipur. He said that such members should be expelled from the union. Tikaram Sahu, Vinod Kumar, Rajesh Srivastava and other members supported this proposal. HS Mishra said that the

wrongdoers are also our colleagues, who have been misled by someone. They will soon realize their mistake and will come back. All the members supported the views of the president. Prem Singh Chandel opined to restart the gate meetings. Parveen

Saudagar, JK Gahine and NK Patel supported his proposal. HS Mishra said that in the last two-three years, the union's strength has deteriorated due to some reasons. To regain a place in the minds of the workers, the union will have to

fight vigorously on important issues.

He added that the management is arbitrarily deducting the amount of LTC which should be returned to the workers. The management must provide arrears of 39 months to the regular employees and full arrears to the retired workers from January 01, 2017 till the date of their retirement.

Anu Kumar also shared his experiences. Jogendra Rao proposed the vote of thanks. Dhaniram Sonwani, A Chinnayya, Vishal Kumar, Vishnu Kumar Patel, Ashok Panda, Shiv Kumar, Sunil Kumar, Manoj Kumar Srivastava, Nitendra Kumar Deshlhare, Hari Ram Baghel and members were present in this meeting.

## DAV Hudco organises Blessing Ceremony for Board Students

### Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 10:** To exalt the spirit of inspiration and aspiration, DAV Public School, Hudco, organised a blessing ceremony for students of class X and XII on February 10, 2023 in the school premises for their bright future.

School management believes that hawans' cleanse the minds of the students and neutralize pre-exam nervousness, which in turn raises their performance level and help out board students face their exams. The students got blessings from almighty God by the sound of Gayatri Mantra and presence of Hawana.



The Hawan ceremony was performed religiously with divine fervour and spirituality. The students were showered upon blessings by Prashant Kumar (Principal cum DRO DAV

institutions CG, Zone A) and the teachers who canopied the entire gathering and bestowed students with positivity, hopefulness and courage through his words of motivation.

He conveyed an important message to students and said 'Let's embrace ourselves instead of chasing to become like others. Accepting, realizing and working with one's individuality is real success'. He further shared valuable tips on how to prepare for the board exams and apprised them with dos and don'ts of the board exams, urged them to strive towards the goal with determination and passion and finally emphasized on written practice and revision for achieving high grades in the board exams. The ceremony came to an end after the distribution of Prasad to all.

## Durg University: Environmental Studies & Human Rights paper to follow objective pattern

### Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 10:** From now on the question paper of Environmental Studies and Human Rights for the students attempting BA, BCom, BSc, BCA etc from Hemchandra Yadav University, Durg will be conducted in objective pattern.

Giving this information, Dr Rajmani Patel (Examinations) said that permission has been received by the University from the coordination committee headed by Governor to conduct the examination through objective method. Students had urged the university administration to con-

duct the examination in objective pattern.

Student organizations believe that all competitive examinations are conducted objectively, but due to the long answer type question system in university examinations, students are not able to practice answering questions in limited time. This is the reason that on experimental basis only the first year question paper of Environmental Studies and Human Rights will be conducted in objective form.

Those students who could not pass the question paper of Environmental Studies

and Human Rights in the first year due to any reason and now want to attempt this question paper along with the second or third year examination of graduation level, they will have to appear for the paper in old format, descriptive type answers to questions.

Dr Rajmani Patel said that there will be a total of 75 questions in the question paper of environmental studies and human rights of all the faculties of the first year, whose total marks will be 75. Students will be given a total time duration of three hours to solve 75 questions. Dr Patel further in-

formed that students will have to answer these 75 questions on OMR sheets like competitive exams. The evaluation of these OMR sheets will also be done through computerized system which will help in releasing the exam result soon.

It is notable that the annual examinations for graduation courses are starting from March 13 and is likely to last till the month of May. At present, more than 50 percent practical examinations of graduate level have been completed, and it is expected that almost all practical examinations will be completed by February 20.

## Health Minister inaugurates National Deworming Day



### By administering Albendazole medicine to the children

**Raipur, Feb 10:** Health and Family Welfare Minister T.S. Singhdeo inaugurated the National Deworming Day by administering Albendazole medicine to the children at his residence office in Raipur. Taking the children in his lap, he himself administered Albendazole medicine. Under the National Deworming Day, Albendazole medicine will be given to 88.59 lakh children and adolescents in the age group of one year to 19 years in 30 districts of the state. The children who were left out of taking medicine today will be given medicine during the mop-up round on

February 15. Chief Medical and Health Officers of all the districts were also present online in the launch programme. Inaugurating the National Deworming Day, Health Minister Mr. Singhdeo said that more people than the total population of India are affected by stomach worms in the whole world. It stunts the physical and mental development of children. Worms also pose a risk of malnutrition and anaemia. To protect children and adolescents from the side effects of worms, deworming medicine is given twice every year by organizing National Deworming Day. He appealed to all the family members that they must feed anthelmintic medicine to their children. He urged everyone

to ensure their participation in this campaign. Mr. Singhdeo said that 50,255 teachers, 47,094 Anganwadi workers and 63,435 Mitans have been trained across the state to ensure feeding of medicine to all children and adolescents on National Deworming Day. Today, deworming medicine is being administered in Anganwadis, government schools, health centers, aided private schools and technical education institutions. He said that a major part of the children's food is eaten by worms. Due to this, children become malnourished and weak and become victims of anaemia. To keep the children healthy and for their physical-mental development, it is necessary to eliminate the

worms in the stomach. Director of National Health Mission Mr. Bhoskar Vilas Sandipan told in the inauguration program of National Deworming Day that during this campaign a target has been set to feed Albendazole medicine to 88.59 lakh children and adolescents in the state. In Raigarh and Sarangarh-Bilalgarh districts, along with Albendazole medicine, medicines are also given to prevent filariasis under the National Filaria Eradication Program. Health Minister T.S. Singhdeo inaugurated the state-of-the-art sonography machine online at Nawapara Urban Primary Health Center in Ambikapur on Friday during the inauguration program of National Deworming Day. Ambikapur's Mayor Dr. Ajay Turkey and District Panchayat Chairman Mr. Rakesh Gupta, along with many public representatives and health department officials virtually participated in the inauguration program.

## NIT Raipur commences its Annual Cultural Fest Eclectika'23

**Raipur, Feb 10:** National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur's Sanskriti - The Cultural Committee inaugurated Eclectika'23, Central India's largest Fest on 10th February 2023.

Dr. Samir Bajpai, Head, Career Development Centre, was the Chief Guest of the inauguration ceremony. Dr. P.Y. Dhekne, Dean (Students' Welfare), Dr. Subhasis Sanyal, HoD, Mechanical Engineering, and Dr. Prabhat Diwan, Dean (Research & Consultancy), were present at the occasion as special guests.

The ceremony began by gifting saplings to the honorable guests, which would serve as souvenirs of the event. The guests then lighted the lamps, and were invited onto the podium to address the gathering. Dr. Dhekne took the opportunity to greet all the guests, and congratulated Team Sanskriti for their judicious use of resources to organise the fest. He emphasized the importance of fair and healthy competition among students, and remarked that the fest was a product of team effort.

Dr. Diwan recalled his experience with students conducting such fests, and highlighted the pioneering roles played by Dr. Sanyal and Dr. Bajpai in organising cultural events and competitions at the Institute. Dr. Sanyal commended all the concerned faculties and coordinators for organising a fest of such large scale. He said that we learn how to lead, plan and manage things while conducting such events.

Dr. Bajpai, speaking lastly expressed his gratitude to be present as the chief guest. He spoke about the fast pace at which technology advances, and that we ought to be ready to adapt with change. He stressed the importance of acquiring soft skills and urged all the seniors to educate students about the same. He remarked that fests like these are ideal places

to hone and excel at such skills, and how they would help students all along their careers. Wishing Team Sanskriti all the best, he declared Eclectika'23 to be Open.

The inauguration was concluded after a vote of thanks by the Head Coordinator of Team Sanskriti. Other Faculty, participants and judges of events were also present.

Day 1 of the fest witnessed multiple Mega-Events. The fashion and talent show - 'Allure' was organised. 'Kalopsia' - an art competition and exhibition was also held, in which Aayush Singh of B.Arch. emerged as the winner and Anushka Gupta of EEE the runner up. 'Avirbhav' - a war of bands was conducted, in which the band 'Shubham Collective' won, and 'Unplugged Diaries' ended as runners up. 'Goonj' - the Nukkad Natak contest was won by the 'Rajbhasha Committee', and 'Abhinav-The Dramatics

Club' became the runners up. Additionally, innumerable mini-events, like Rap Battle, Talent Hunt, Musical Math, Youth Chef, etc. were also conducted which amassed lots of participants. The campus was lively, vibrant and lit up with colours. Students were enthusiastic, had fun and made memories. The ultimate event of the Day was 'Cult Nite', wherein students and teams delivered marvelous performances.

Eclectika'23 will continue on till 12th of February, and would include exciting Mega-Events like, 'Tafree' - a standup comedy contest, 'Clash of Choreos' - a dance competition, 'Eclectika Idol' - a singing competition, and multiple mini-events. The ultimate spectacle of the second day would be 'Artist Night', and the 'EDM Night' would conclude the fest on the third day, on a high and electrifying note.

## Two from inter-state gang nabbed



### For cheating persons of Rs 14 lakh in the name of doubling money in 300 days through Crypto Currency

**Raipur, Feb 10:** It was as per complaint by the complainant in the Arang thana, two inter-state members of a gang related to cheating in the name of company 'Unity Byte' dealing with Crypto currency were nabbed. A five-

member team of Cyber unit and Anti-crime was sent to Karnataka and Tamil Nadu on getting location of the managers of the firm involved and both were arrested from Bengaluru of Karnataka and Salem of TN on charges of cheating around 300 odd persons from all over the country and Chhattisgarh of doubling their money in 300 days through crypto currency. The police has seized their mobile phones and is interrogat-

ing further about other partners and accused involved in this fraud.

The complainant from Arang SK Sahu filed report that he along with other colleagues were given information about Unity Byte (Crypto Currency) company. For information about the Company, Manager Bengaluru Prakash Reddy held a seminar in Lalbagh Hotel in Raipur and gave assurances to double their money in 300 days. The complainants coming under allurements of the Manager, deposited around Rs 14 lakh in different accounts of the Manager KMDRR Ravi, Salank Kalweth, Mutthu Kumar, S Bhupati adn Prakash Reddy and other agents. After few days when they inquired about their amount, they started giving vague response and in this way the MD and team management and

agents of the Company cheated them of Rs 14 lakh. A case under section 420 and 34 of IPC was filed against them and matter was taken under investigation.

As per instructions by SSP Prashant Agrawal, information was collected about the bank account of the persons and the mobile phones on which the MD, agents and others held talks with the customers here in the region. During this the police got a clue of their location of Prakash Reddy in Bengaluru and that of S Bhupati in Salem of TN. A team of five members from state police was deputed to two states and two accused were nabbed from there.

Police is investigating into the matter and taking information about involvement of others and would be making few more arrest in this regard.

## Businessman's manager robbed of Rs 85000

### Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Feb 10:** Some motorcycle-borne miscreants threw chilli powder on the eyes of a manager of a cold storage businessman of Raipur and looted him of cash of Rs 85000 last night in Expressway. The miscreants fled after committing the crime. Police started search in different parts of the city to nab robbers.

Ramakant Soni who works as manager in cold storage was going home via deserted road of expressway, carrying bag containing cash of Rs 85000 after finishing his work late

night from the cold storage. Meanwhile, two bike-borne miscreants came and hit him. Miscreants also started assaulting Ramakant Soni. When Ramakant Soni did not leave his bag, miscreants put chilli powder in his eyes. Due to inflammation in his eyes Ramakant Soni lost his hand from the bag. Taking advantage of the opportunity, the miscreants immediately robbed the bag and fled. Police started investigation at the place mentioned by Ramakant Soni and started effort to trace robbers by activating the informer's network in the nearby localities as well.

## CDAC issues notices to Amarjeet, Netam

### On charges of being involved in anti-party activities

**Raipur/ Delhi, Feb 10:** Senior tribal leader Arvind Netam and PCC general secretary Amarjeet Chawla have been issued notice by AICC for being involved in anti-party activities and have sought clarification from them in a week's time.

As per information in this regard, member of Congress Disciplinary Action Committee (CDAC) Tariq Anwar has issued the notice to Arvind Netam for fielding a candidate from Sarv Adivasi Samaj in the last Bhanupratapur by-poll and campaigning against the Congress candidate in this by-poll.



In the same way, PCC General Secretary Amarjeet Chawla has also been issued notice saying that being posted in the PCC office has passed negative comments against the Congress government and on the reservation issue for delay on part of the Governor, instead of going as per party line, he has favoured the Governor and going against the CM Bhupesh Baghel.

CDAC member Tariq Anwar has sought clarification from the two in a week's time and after which final decision will be taken against the two.

## School van gutted in fire, children safe



### Students were going back to home after School

**Churrikala (Korba), Feb 10:** Just after a tragic road accident in Korar in Kanker district on Thursday afternoon a School Van of Jain Public School, Korba caught fire and at that time 7-8 children were sitting inside. It was timely act by the driver that he took out all the children and took them to a safer place and averated a major incident.

getting the puncture repaired, the driver took out the punctured tyre and started heading for the auto-repair shop, when he found that smoke has started emitting from the Van.

He immediately took out the school children sitting in the Van and took them to a safer place. In no time entire Van caught fire and started burning with high flames. Luckily there was no explosion from the petrol tank. Seeing this the Driver of the Van immediately called 112 and to the Fire-brigade to douse the fire. But by the time the fire-brigade came, entire Van was gutted in fire. The reasons for the fire breaking out in the Van are still unknown and driver was also unaware about it. He was saying that inquiry in this regard should be done.

## Mohalla Lok Adalat to be organized at Div Hqs today

**Bilaspur, Feb 10:** The objective of the Legal Services Authority is to provide speedy and free legal aid to the needy people. In furtherance of said objective and in compliance of directions given by Justice Gautam Bhaduri, Executive Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority, first Mohalla Lok Adalat will be started in the districts located in the five divisional headquarters of Chhattisgarh.

In present time, there are a large number of people, who are being deprived of their basic facilities and access to courts. In absence of



awareness, people from such sections of society get delayed justice or no justice at all. Chhattisgarh State Legal Services

Authority, Bilaspur has established permanent Lok Adalat (public utility service) at five divisional headquarters of the state, namely Raipur, Bilaspur, Durg, Sarguja (Ambikapur), and Jagdalpur. Their work mainly relates to disputes pertaining to housing, real estate, transport service (including the carriage of passengers and goods by air, road and water), postal, telegraph or telephone service, electricity supply, water supply to the public by any institution, service of public protection or sanitary system, hospital or Service in dispensary, in-

urance service, service of banking and other financial institutions, service of fuel supply to the public by any establishment, service of education and educational institutions, hearing applications of victims etc.

Due to weak economic conditions or lack of awareness, people are facing lot of difficulties in accessing to permanent Lok Adalats. Therefore, it has been directed by the Executive Chairman, Justice Gautam Bhaduri that "Mohalla Lok Adalats" should be organized in different localities of the urban areas and such cases should be re-

solved on the spot. For the organization of Mohalla Lok Adalat, Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority is providing legal literacy and Lok Adalat van, in which all the essential facilities including seating arrangements have been made for the judge, two members, employees and parties. The applications submitted earlier by the aggrieved parties can be heard in this Mohalla Lok Adalat and the applications received during this period will also be disposed of in the Mohalla Lok Adalat after informing the concerned departmental officers.

Anand Prakash Wariyal, Member Secretary informed that the first Mohalla Lok Adalat will be held on February 11 in Minibasti Jarhabhatha Ward of Bilaspur City.

That Lok Adalat Van will be flagged off to the venue of the Mohalla Lok Adalat by Executive Chairman Justice Gautam Bhaduri Legal Literacy from District Court Complex Bilaspur at 10.00 am. In this first Mohalla Lok Adalat, a judicial officer of the level of Additional District Judge and two members will be present along with their employees.

## Yuva Shakti Abhiyan held at Govt HS School Mathpuraina



**Raipur, Feb 10:** Yuva Shakti Abhiyan was organized from January 31, 2023 to February 2, 2023 at the Government Higher Secondary School, Mathpuraina, Raipur recently to spread awareness among students about present generation, their responsibility and future.

Dr. Chanchal Deep Kaur (Education, career and skill based knowledge), Dr. Manjiri Bakshi (Interpersonal relation and communication), Dr. Indu Sadhwani (Legal literacy), Dr. Aruna Chaubey (Social Responsibility) were guest speakers. Dr. Usha Dubey was present as guest of honour on the first day of the event. Archana Dubey, who was present as chief guest initiated 1st Day Yuva Shakti Abhiyan on topics of Education, career and skill based knowledge, Interpersonal relation and communication, Legal literacy and Social Responsibility. Members of Shakti Mahila Vigyan Bharti Samiti, Principal, Head of Departments, faculties' non-teaching staffs and students of school were present in the Programme.

## Ram-Van-Gaman circuit work should be completed expeditiously: CS

### Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Feb 10:** Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain has given instructions to speed up the works of Ram-Van-Gaman circuit. He was reviewing in detail the works of Ram-Van-Gaman Circuit in the meeting of officials of Tourism Department at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhavan here. He has instructed the collectors of all the districts of the state where the works of Ram-Van-Gaman circuit are being done, to complete these works on top priority.



He said that the works should be completed soon by coordinating with the Public Works Department, Tourism Board, Forest Department and other

departments. In the meeting, the Chief Secretary took information from the officers of the tourism department regarding the physical and financial progress of the works of Ram-Van-Gaman circuit and the development of tourist places and the idols to be installed at designated places. He instructed to install welcome gates and sign boards at fixed distances on the main road and by-lanes of the circuit. It may be noted that

the total length of sub-routes including the main route of Ram-Van-Gaman path is more than 2200 kms. Plantation is being done along these routes. Place-to-place indicators, information about pilgrimage and tourist places will be given. In the meeting, officers of Chhattisgarh Tourism Board visited Sitamarhi Harchauka (Korea), Ramgarh (Surguja), Shivnarayan (Janjgir-Champa), Turturia (Balodabazar), Chandrakhuri (Raipur), Rajim (Gariaband), Sihawa Saptarishi Ashram (Dhamtari), Jagdalpur (In Bastar) and Ramaram (Sukma), information about the work being done under the Ram-One-Gaman circuit was given through a power point presentation. In the meeting, Secretary of Tourism Department, Mr. Anbalagan P, MD of Tourism Board, Mr. Anil Sahu and other officers participated.

## Meeting of RYMC executive committee concludes

**Raipur, Feb 10:** Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain chaired a meeting of the Executive Central Committee constituted under Rajiv Yuva Mitran Club Yojana (RYMC) at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhavan here today. The amendment in the rules and regulations of the Rajiv Yuva Mitran Club was discussed in the meeting. Additional Chief Secretary Sports and Youth Welfare Renu G Pillay also attended the meeting.

The Sports and Youth Welfare officials informed the meeting about the current provisions of the rules of the Rajiv Yuva Mitran Club. Similarly, a provision was proposed to ensure compliance with the club's financial rules and maintenance of relevant registers. Similarly, the members put forth their views regarding the proposed provision of prioritizing the youth having high qualifications in the field of education, sports, social service, skill development, and environmental protection in the club.

In the meeting, a provi-



sion was proposed to keep a fixed amount out of the sanctioned amount in the budget of the Sports and Youth Welfare Department for Rajiv Yuva Mitran Club Yojana for administrative expenditure. In addition, the remaining amount will be distributed to all the District Collectors by the Director of Sports and Youth Welfare on the instructions of the Governing Body headed by the Chief Minister to transfer the same to the

bank account of the District Level Committee of Rajiv Yuva Mitran Club. The clubs will spend the grant amount by following the financial rules and the amount will not be withdrawn until immediate payment is necessary. Other proposals were discussed in detail in the meeting.

Sports and Youth Welfare Secretary N.N. Ekka, Public Relations Secretary Siddharth Komal Pardeshi, Urban

Administration Special Secretary Ayaz Tamboli, Finance Special Secretary Sheetal Shashwat Verma, Director (Panchayat) Kartikeya Goyal, Rajiv Yuva Mitran Club Officer-in-Charge Ranu Sahu, Sports, and Youth Welfare Director Shweta Sinha, Sports and Youth Welfare Joint Secretary G.L. Sankala, and other members of the committee attended the meeting organized through video conferencing.

## Ch'garh researchers and scientists will now be able to do research with IRRI

**Agreement signed between Ch'garh Govt, IGAU, and IRRI-Manila**

**APC observed modern research techniques at IRRI**

**Raipur, Feb 10:** Scientists and researchers in Chhattisgarh will now have access to research and investigation facilities at the International Rice Research Institute in Manila (IRRI), Philippines. A tripartite agreement (letter of intent) has been signed in this regard between the Chhattisgarh government, the Indira Gandhi Agriculture University (IGUA) in Raipur, and the International Rice Research Institute in Manila. The agreement was signed in the presence of Agriculture Production Commissioner (APC) Dr. Kamal Preet Singh, who recently visited the International Rice Research Center in Manila.

Besides observing the speed breeding program, Dr. Kamal Preet Singh also held discussions with the scientists at the research in-



stitute about the new varieties of rice being developed and gained information about modern technologies. Under the leadership of the Agricultural Production Commissioner, the team of the Chhattisgarh government's agriculture department provided detailed information about the farmer-friendly policies and programmes of the Chhattisgarh government, including the Narva, Garua, Ghurwa, Badi programme, and the Godhan Nyay Yojana. The discussions were well received by

the scientists at the research institute.

The Chhattisgarh team that visited Manila also observed more than 1,30,000 varieties of rice stored at the Institute's world's largest rice germplasm collection, which has been preserved for over 100 years. The Agriculture Production Commissioner emphasized the need to accelerate the development of new varieties of rice in Chhattisgarh in order to increase the production and income of farmers through the Agricultural University. During the discussion be-

tween the Agriculture Production Commissioner and senior officials of the Institute, it was agreed that the International Rice Research Institute would work closely with the Indira Gandhi Agricultural University to use new techniques of rice research to develop new varieties of rice in Chhattisgarh. The Vice-Chancellor of the Indira Gandhi Agricultural University Dr. Girish Chandel, and the Breeding Program Modernization Head of IMRI Dr. Sanjay K. Katiyar, also accompanied Dr. Singh.

## AIIMS-R develops new technique for early diagnosis of Lung Cancer



**Best Research Paper Award in National Conference**

**Raipur, Feb 10:** Experts from All India Institute of Medical Sciences have developed a novel technique to diagnose Lung cancer with the help of PET-CT Scan. New technique will help early diagnosis of lung cancer thus giving more time to experts for treatment. The research has been awarded the best research paper of Indian Society for Study of Lung Cancer.

According to Dr. Ajoy Behera, Department of Pulmonary Medicine Lung cancer is the most common cancer in males

in India. According to National Cancer Registry data 2020 there are 14, 61,427 lung cancer patients in India. 1 in 9 People are at high risk of developing cancer; more than 90% cases are diagnosed at a very late stage leading to poor outcomes.

According to Dr. Ranganath T. Ganga the department has been using a robotic navigation system (MAXIO) under PET-CT Guidance for biopsy of lung tumors. This is a novel technique for biopsy and till date more than 50 patients have undergone the procedure and diagnosis has been achieved in 100% of patients with negligible complications. Dr. Mudalsha Ravina,

Medicine Department said that the advantage of this technique is that tumor samples are taken from active tumor sites based on findings from PET-CT scans. This has a higher chance of diagnosis than other techniques with less complication. The department along with the Nuclear Medicine department has been awarded the 'Best Research Paper of Indian Society for the study' at the National Lung Cancer Conference at AIIMS, Jodhpur. This facility is available only in our AIIMS Raipur in Chhattisgarh and neighboring States. Prof. (Dr.) Nitin M. Nagarkar, Director congratulated the team for new technique and award.

The Department of Pulmonary Medicine has a dedicated Lung cancer treating facility including diagnosis; treatment and follow up, 06 beds are dedicated for care of lung cancer patients.

## Manu Yadav of Ch'garh wins gold in wrestling competition

**Of Khelo India Youth Games**

**Raipur, Feb 10:** Chhattisgarh's player has won the gold medal in the ongoing fifth Khelo India Youth Games wrestling competition in Madhya Pradesh. Chhattisgarh's wrestler Manu Yadav defeated Haryana's wrestler Amarjeet by technical efficiency by 8-0 points in the 1st round while playing in 51 kg weight category Greco-Roman style wrestling. He defeated MP's wrestler in two rounds and also defeated Asian Gold Medalist World Cadet Silver Medalist Ronit Sharma of Haryana by 4-2 points in semi-finals. In the final match, by defeating Maharashtra's wrestler on the basis of technical efficiency in just 30 seconds, he won the gold medal and made Chhattisgarh proud. In the final event of the fifth Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Fencing event is going on in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, the



state's international fencer Deepanshi Netam won bronze medal in the individual event. In the quarter-final match, Dipanshi defeated Prachi of Haryana 15-9 to enter the semi-finals. In her match against Y Khom Sonia Devi of Manipur, Dipanshi lost 11-15 in a closely fought match and had to settle for a bronze medal. The coach of the team is Mohnish Verma and the manager is Mona Patel. From today the team championship will start in the final event of the boys category. In this too, the state is hopeful of a medal. On winning the bronze medal, Chhattisgarh State Fencing Federation Dr. S. Bharathidasan, Secretary Bashir Ahmed and other office bearers have congratulated the medal winners.

## CM paid homage to Amar Shaheed Gundadhur on Bhumkal Day

**Raipur, Feb 10:** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel paid floral tributes to tribal leader Amar Shaheed Gundadhur on the occasion of Bhumkal Memorial Day at his residential office today. On this occasion, Advisor to Chief Minister Mr. Vinod Verma, Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Mineral Development Corporation Girish Dewangan, Parliamentary Secretary U.K. D. Minj, MLA Gulab Kamro and Devendra Yadav were also present.

Remembering, the sacrifice of the hero Gundadhur, who started the rebellion against the British rule for the tribals' water, forest and land, will always remain immortal in history, said chief minister Bhupesh Baghel. Meanwhile, On February 10, 1910, the tribals of Bastar raised the bugle of agitation against the British. Tribal leaders



played an important role in raising this protest and sacrificed everything. In the Bhumkal rebellion under the leadership of Amar Shaheed Gundadhur; the tribals fought staunchly against the British rule despite limited resources. In his memory, the local people of Chhattisgarh, especially the ancient

Dandakaranya region, celebrate Bhumkal Divas every year. As a symbol of tribal consciousness, Martyr Gundadhur will always be alive in the public mind. Bhumkal Divas celebrated in his memory will always give us the courage to raise our voice against exploitation.

## NTPC Lara making best out of waste and empowering women

**Bilaspur, Feb 10:** NTPC Lara is the fast-growing environment friendly power station of Chhattisgarh. With an installed capacity of 1600 megawatt generating capacity, this power station is supplying 50 percent electricity to home state and a major contributor for its development. While producing electricity, some by-products are also generated. Bag filter cloth is one of the products which is used in the ESP buffer hopper and ash silo. After its useable life, these products are considered as

waste material. So far, these used bag filters have no use. But with innovative idea of NTPC Lara management, this waste material (used bag filter) is being used for bag making and has become an income generating activity for the women self-help group.

Initially as an experiment, under CSR-CD, NTPC Lara provided 2 stitching machines to this women's self-help group, named Chhaya of nearby village Chhapora. And provided required training for stitching and tailor-



ing. After training, now these rural women can stitch bags by using the bag filter. So far, they have stitched 1000 bags and provided to NTPC for distri-

bution. For this work they were suitable paid for their work.

After banning of Single use plastic bags, NTPC Lara has distributed these bags among employees and associates as an environment friendly initiative. With initial success this initiative will be extended as demand of these bags are increasing among people. NTPC Lara is the most advanced power station of Chhattisgarh using 800-megawatt super critical technology-based turbine generator, that uses less coal and water in com-

parison to traditional coal fired sub-critical technology. Since NTPC is moving towards green and sustainable energy production more emphasis is being given to environment protection. Afforestation work is being done by Miyawaki plantation, segregation of bio-degradable and non-biodegradable waste. Making of compost by bio-degradable waste and burning of non-biodegradable waste in incinerator of cement factory in an environment friendly process.

## Collector hold time-limit meeting

**Issues instructions to the officers for speedy disposal of pending cases**

**Bemetara, Feb 10:** Collector Padum Singh Elma took a time-limit meeting on Tuesday in the meeting hall of the Collectorate to maintain communication and coordination between the district level officers and subordinate employees and to settle department-wise pending cases by the district administration. In the meeting, along with the progress of development and construction works in the district, he reviewed in detail the flagship schemes of the state government and gave necessary guidelines to the concerned officials. In view of the pending cases of the Revenue Department, the District Collector gave instructions to the officials of the Revenue Department to review them daily and resolve them quickly and to settle the disputed nominations at the earliest. He took information about the lifting of paddy from the procurement centers from the District Food Officer. He also reviewed the progress of chit fund proceedings in the district. He took information about the beneficiaries benefited under the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Landless Agricultural



Labor Justice Scheme. Collector reviewed Ayushman Bharat run by the Medical Department and in which, in case of hospitalization under Ayushman Yojana, the beneficiaries benefited from free treatment of corona, cancer, kidney disease, heart disease, dengue, chikungunya, malaria, dialysis, knee and hip transplant, childlessness, cataract and other marked serious diseases.

The Collector asked regarding the availability of medicines in the CSC and PSC centers of the Health Department. During this, information was also taken about the availability of essential medicines and oxygen supply for the patients, along with necessary instructions were given to the Chief Medical and Health Officer to improve the hospital system. He asked the concerned officers and employees of the Health Department to reach the ward and make sure that necessary arrangements and treatment are made for the patients. Collector instructed the executive engineer of the State Power Distribution Company Limited that wher-

ever the rural industrial park programs are going on, there should be complete power supply. Livestock Development Department reviewed the progress of vaccination of animals and said that it should be ensured to vaccinate cattle on time. He asked the Water Resources Department to complete the water supply in the entire rural and urban areas in a planned manner under the Nal Jal Yojana being implemented in the district and said that there should be no shortage of water from every identified urban area to every village and gram panchayat of the district.

Under the Integrated Child Development Service Scheme from the Women and Child Development Department, the Collector has made efforts to improve the nutritional and health status of children between zero and six years of age, reduce infant mortality rate, maternal mortality rate, eliminate malnutrition, reduce pregnant and instructed to improve the health of child-bearing women and maintain the quality of ready-to-eat nutritional supplements.

## Proud moment for DAVians of Bachel

**Bachel, Feb 10:** One of the bright students of DAVPS Bachel, Adarsh Kumar Malaviya of XII Science cracked JEE Main Exam with 97.5 percentile and has got the eligibility for the second stage-JEE Advance. It is really a gracious and proud moment for all in the DAV Public School, Bachel. Principal Dr. Chetna Sharma and her

team congratulated the shining star and his parents for this great achievement and blessed him for his future endeavours.

It is notable here that IIT JEE is a national level engineering entrance exam. Admissions to the IITs are determined by the joint entrance exam (JEE), which has two stages - JEE Main and JEE Advanced.

## Bailadila to Narayanpur bus service commences

**Dantewada, Feb 09:** Bailadila to Narayanpur direct bus service started today on the special initiative of district administration and police. District Collector Vinit Nandanwar said that continuous efforts are being made by the district administration to provide better transport facilities to the residents of the district. In this line, the bus is going to start from Narayanpur to Bailadila on Thursday.

It is worth mentioning here that before the introduction of this bus service, the residents of the district had to travel a long distance of about 250 kilometers from Dantewada district to Jagdalpur, Jagdalpur to Kondagaon, and from Kondagaon to Narayanpur to reach finally Narayanpur. This was both money and time-consuming. Besides, one has to face the problems of frequent bus changes throughout the journey.

With the commencement of direct bus service from Bailadila to Narayanpur, now the distance of this journey will be reduced by about 100 kilometers. This will be both time and cost-effective. This bus will start from Narayanpur at 7:15 am and will reach Bailadila at 12 noon via Farsgaon, Dhaudai, Kanhargao, Kadenar, Barsoor, Gidam, and Dantewada. This bus service will operate daily.

# Small bone in woman's throat successfully operated

### Through GI Endoscopy at NMDC Apollo Hospital, Bachel

Central Chronicle News

**Bachel, Feb 10:** A woman with a chicken bone stuck in her throat was successfully operated by Dr B Somshekhar Reddy, ENT Expert of NMDC Apollo Hospital Bachel by performing GI Endoscopy even after lots of difficulties and took out the stuck bone in the patient's throat/ neck area. In this operation Dr M Deepak Reddy, a medicine expert was also present.

It is notable here that a tribal woman Paiko, around 70 yrs, W/o Chaneru, R/o Mundrapara, Gamawada, was admitted in NMDC Hospital, Bachel on 19 Jan, 2023 at around 12:00 noon. They complaint

about difficulty in swallowing by the woman as a small bone of chicken had got stuck in her throat area.

Her voice too has reduced a lot. She was immediately admitted and Dr B Somshekhar Reddy (ENT expert) carried out GI Endoscopy of her throat. It was on Jan 20, this patient was successfully operated by Dr M Deepak Reddy of Medicine and Dr B Somshekhar Reddy (ENT) even after lots of difficulty in tracking that small chicken bone in her throat.

Since the bone stuck inside had caused lots of cuts and wound in the esophagus and throat area, it had caused injuries and pus formation as well. It was



after regular treatment and administration of antibiotics that she recovered and on re-checking on 29 Jan 2023, she was found to have fully recovered and healthy and was discharged on Jan 31.

Chief Medical Administrator of NMDC Apollo Hospital, Bachel, Dr SM Haq informed that with availability of GI Endoscopy machine and trained medical experts in the hospital that Paiko got

successfully diagnosed and properly treated, else she might have to be taken to some well-known hospital outside.

During the entire treatment, the hospital staff, nurse and house-keeping took complete care of Paiko and provided her with regular service and food as well. Dr SM Haq informed that NMDC Apollo Hospital Bachel Complex has been serving and providing treatment to the local tribal patients and are extending all possible help to them.

With this facility being provided due to NMDC project, the local tribals need not have to go outside Bachel and they get best of the medical services here itself.

# Action against 23 shops under NTCP

### Central Chronicle News

**Mungeli, Feb 10:** Under the National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP) action was taken in 23 shops under section 4 and 6 of the COTPA Act, in which 11 shops were let off with a warning. Challan action was taken in the remaining 12 shops and a total challan action of Rs.1850 was done.

Under the guidance of Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. Devendra Paikra, District Program Manager Girish Kurre and District Nodal Officer NTCP Dr. Kamlesh Kumar, under the Kotpa Act-2003, on February 6, the enforcement team took action in village Barela area, in which action was taken in 23 shops under sections 4 and 6 of the COTPA Act in collaboration with drug



inspector Ratnesh Kumar Bargah, social worker Balram Sakat, counselor tobacco program Om Prakash Sahu and head constable Rajkumar from Jarhagaon police station.

Section 4 of the COTPA Act-2003 prohibits smoking in public place, Section 5 bans advertisement of cigarettes and

other tobacco products, Section 6 bans sale of cigarettes or other tobacco products near minors and educational institutions, Sections 7, 8 and 10 prohibit the sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products without specific health warnings. Under Section 4 and 6, fine up to Rs 200 can be imposed.

# Raja Bhatia appointed President Guru Singh Sabha

Central Chronicle News

**Kharora, Feb 10:** Social worker Raja Bhatia has been appointed as the President Guru Singh Sabha. Prior to this Satbir Singh Chawla, of Kharora was the president of Guru Singh Sabha.

It was completion of his term that Raja Bhatia was elected as President of Guru Singh Sabha (GSS). The other office bearers appointed as Raja Chawla and Manjit Singh Chabda as V-P; Sandeep Chabda as Secretary and Amarjeet Chawla and Lochan Chabda as the Treasurer.

President Raja Bhatia said that he is thankful to the people of Sikh Samaj



for giving his this responsibility and added that ex-President Satbir Singh Chawla has taken the Sikh Samaj to new heights in city and he would make all possible efforts to meet upto the expectation of people from Sikh Samaj.

# Korar incident left a family from Balod in state of shock

### Brother and sister from a family were victim in Korar accident

Central Chronicle News

**Balod, Feb 10:** The sad incident of death of 7 School children in Korar of Kanker district had not only shaken their families, but entire city, as in this 5 children died on the spot and two others while undergoing treatment in the hospital.

This news left ripples in Balod district, as two children from Gram Dhaneli of Gurur block of Balod district and it has left the family members of both the children in state of shock and grief with no one to blame upon. Local MLA Sangeeta Sinha visited their family to express condolences and to be with the

family and shared a sentimental post as well.

**Manav, Kumkum belonged to Dhaneli**

In the incident at Korar in Kanker district, brother and sister Manav - Kumkum were the two victims from Balod district. When the people of Balod came to know about it that originally the family of above two hails from the district, as they had purchased house here and are earning livelihood practicing agriculture and farming.

This sad news had left Maheshwar Sahu broken and in state of grief and sorrow. Manav Sahu was six yrs and was studying in Class 6th and daughter



Kumkum was 10 yrs and was in Class 4th.

**MLA Sangeeta shared sentimental post**

MLA Sanjali Balod-Sangeeta Sinha went to meet the grieved family members and expressed her condolences and then

shared a post in the social media saying 'children are the life of a family and if their cheerful smile gets lost in some accident, then it leaves deep wound in the heart of their parents and which lasts for lifetime'.

**Would get help from govt**

Close aid of MLA Sumit Rajput informed that Tehsildar Bhanupratappur is going to visit and MLA was waiting for him. He informed that the family member of deceased two

children would get financial aid from the state government.

**About the mishap**

Eight students from a private school were going home in the auto when the accident took place on the Korar-Bhanupratappur Road around 3.10 pm under the Korar police station limits. Autorickshaw ferrying the kids was hit by a truck.

Five students died on the spot, while two others were pronounced dead at a nearby hospital. One student and the auto driver are seriously injured and they have been taken to the state capital Raipur, about 140 km from Korar, for better medical assistance.

# Illegal plotting business flourishing in Mandir Hasaud



Central Chronicle News

**Mandir Hasaud, Feb 10:** Citing illegal plotting business flourishing in Mandir Hasaud, Chairman Tarani Pintu Nirmalkar handed over the application to the SDM and demanded action.

Complaints of illegal plotting are continuously being made in Mandir Hasaud, on which satisfac-

tory action has not been taken so far, therefore Tarani Pintu Nirmalkar, Chairman Arang, has raised his voice as cases of illegal plotting are increasing continuously.

The condition is that illegal plotting is being done on agricultural land without permission, layout approval, being in the outer of the city, which violates the rule of Town of

Country. The same Chairman's representative told that the land, on which the Nagar Panchayat was demolished by running a bulldozer for illegal plotting, is now being sold by illegal plotting.

Beneficiaries will have to pay additional fee for legalizing illegal plotting, where electricity connection, bore mining and con-

struction of house will have to pay many times additional fee in Nagar Panchayat and departments, he said.

In the same illegal colony, the Nagar Panchayat is also not responsible for making arrangements for roads and water drainage, where people are selling land by giving false allurements to the general public.

# Regular practice enhances self-confidence: Swarna-Garima



Central Chronicle News

**Rajim, Feb 10:** Folk singer sisters Garima-Srvana Diwakar, who arrived to present Lokmanch Anjor on the first day of Maghi Punni Mela, said that continuous Riyaz intensifies the self-confidence, due to which we artistes step on the stage and rule the hearts of millions of art lovers. We both sisters do practice every day whether there is a program or not, she added and also said

that they do not forget to take shortcuts to achieve success. It cannot be learned in a day.

From the age of three, under the guidance of my father Santosh Diwakar, we had been learning folk art and apart from my father, Madan Chauhan has been my teacher and inspiration. Everyone in my family is involved in music, and this birth is too short to understand that Chhattisgarhi folk

art is a bottomless ocean, she said. Garima told that she has been selected in National School of Drama, Delhi and it has to be told that only 27 people are taken from all over the country in one session, in which Garima's name is a big example.

These sisters further told that it has been a golden opportunity for them to

perform in front of the former President of the country APJ Abdul Kalam and so far more than 5000 programs have been presented on the stage. They said that they were elated with the arrangement of the state government and expressed their desire to come every year in Rajim Maghi Punni Mela and give programs like this.

# Demonstration by SSHP on conversion

Central Chronicle News

**Balod, Feb 10:** A demonstration by Sarva Sanatan Hindu Panchayat (SSHP) on conversion was done a memorandum was handed in the tehsil office to the President.

Hundreds of Hindu Samaj people had gathered here under the leadership of the Sarva Sanatan Hindu Panchayat and said that the Christian missionaries who came from outside convert the poor by giving them the excuse of treatment and employment, and if the situation is not controlled in Chhattisgarh then it will not take time to become Kerala.

The District President of the Bharatiya Janata Party,



Krishna Kant Pawar, who participated in the sit-in demonstration of the Sarva Hindu Sanatan Panchayat, said that these days all the people of Chhattisgarhi society are getting trapped in the vicious cycle of conversion,

like Sahu Kurmi, Adivasi Nishad and other societies. Pastors are roaming around, their target is small settlements where the need of people is more, and they work their magic by going to such places and converting people to reli-

gion. Today we have to fight a solid fight against this and the government in Chhattisgarh One should also take positive initiative regarding this, he said.

On the topic of conversion issue in Narayanpur, senior citizen Radheshyam

Jal Kshatriya said that a peaceful meeting was being held here in Narayanpur, which has been spoiled by some anti-social elements, but simple people have been attacked by 'rasuka'.

Action is being taken and the real culprits are absconding, here the government's policy and intentions are also not correct. Former MLA Rajendra Kumar Rai, MLA Dr. Balmukund Dewangan, senior citizen Lekh Ram Sahu, Devlal Thakur etc. said that in order to keep Hindu culture, customs, tradition of Chhattisgarh alive and there are families who are living a happy life, today people from outside are promoting religious conversion here.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the notification of the general public that Shri Manish Kandra S/o Shri Shankar Lal Kandra, R/o Akriti Vihar, Amliidh, Raipur (C.G) is the sole and legal owner of the property Area - 620 Sq. Ft., Bearing Khazra No. 15014/6, Mouja-Amliidh, P.H.No. 1144/5, Tahsil & District - Raipur (C.G).

That, Shri Manish Kandra S/o Shri Shankar Lal Kandra had purchased the subjected property from 1) Shri Sundarlati Krishnani S/o Late Shri Kaudamal Krishnani & 2) Shri Ganeshyam Das Krishnani S/o Shri Sundarlati Krishnani, vide registered sale deed, vide Book No.A-1, Grant No.74514, Page No.92 to 119, Serial No.1734, On Dated - 13/08/2020.

That, 1) Shri Sundarlati Krishnani S/o Late Shri Kaudamal Krishnani & 2) Shri Ganeshyam Das Krishnani S/o Shri Sundarlati Krishnani have purchased the subjected property from Shri Rajkumar Gajwani S/o Shri Bedamal Gajwani, vide registered sale deed registered, vide Book No. 1, Grant No. 65346, Page No.76 to 85, Serial No.8618 (G), On Dated - 26/12/2014.

That, Shri Manish Kandra S/o Shri Shankar Lal Kandra has misplaced the Original Previous Sale Deed Dated - 26/12/2014 and after thorough search Original Sale Deed Dated - 26/12/2014 could not be found.

That, above said lost Original Sale Deed Dated 26/12/2014 is not mortgaged in any financial / non financial institution, banks, NBFC or in any Sahukar.

I hereby invite objection from any person, Banks Municipal Officers, Tax Department, Govt. Development Society etc. upon the above declaration of the above said original sale deed dated - 26/12/2014 within 07 days from the publication of this notice. It may be noted that any objection thereto in the above declaration in respect of the above referred property will not be bona fide and shall not be binding on the my client against the said property will remain unaffected.

Place: Raipur  
Dated: 09/02/2023

**Rakesh Raghuwanshi** (Advocate)  
Office-3-2952, Gumi Vihar,  
Amliidh, Raipur (C.G.)-492006  
9713164302/8602310900

## TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Regd. Address: 11th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganpat Rao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400 013  
CIN No.U67190MH2008PLC187552

### DEMAND NOTICE

**Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules")**

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited (TCHFL) under the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Rules already issued detailed Demand Notice dated below under Section 13(2) of the Act, calling upon the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) (all singularly or together referred to as "Obligors"/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s)) listed hereunder, to pay the amount mentioned in the respective Demand Notice, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice, as per details given below. Copies of the said Notices are served by Registered Post A.D. and are available with the undersigned, and the said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) to pay to TCHFL, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice/s, the amount indicated herein below against their respective names, together with further interest as detailed below from the respective dates mentioned below in column (d) till the date of payment and / or realisation, read with the loan agreement and other documents/ writings, if any, executed by the said Obligor(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to TCHFL by the said Obligor(s) respectively.

S. No.	Loan Account No.	Name of Obligor(s)/ Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s)	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice & Date of NPA
1	TCHF02600 0010000579 & TCHF02600 00100067044	Mr. Inderjeet Singh Sahni (Borrower), Gagan Service, Mrs. Gurjeet Sahni & Mr. Amandeep Singh Sahni, Ms. Tavneet Sahni (Co-borrowers)	Rs. 3,08,41,991/-	06-02-2023 03-01-2023

**Description of the Secured Assets/ Immovable Properties/Mortgaged Properties:** All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being land along with house built thereon, Kh. No- 174/13, Area 0.115 Hect., Situated At Tatibandh, Raipur, P.C No- 103, RIC- Raipur-1, Tahsil & District Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

\*With further interest, additional interest at the rate as more particularly stated in respective Demand Notices dated mentioned above, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and/or realization. If the said Obligor(s) shall fail to make payment to TCHFL as aforesaid, then TCHFL shall proceed against the above Secured Asset(s)/Immovable Property (ies) under Section 13(4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.

The said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset(s)/Immovable Property(ies), whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of TCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date: 11.02.2023, Place : Raipur  
Authorised Officer

**BRIEF**



**Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren with his father and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) supremo Shibu Soren after the latter was admitted to Medanta Hospital.**

**Soren hospitalised**

**Ranchi:** Jharkhand Mukti Morcha patriarch Shibu Soren was hospitalised with breathing difficulties but his condition is "stable now", an official of the hospital, where he is undergoing treatment, said on Friday. The 79-year-old former chief minister of Jharkhand has been diagnosed with a lower tract respiratory infection. The JMM supremo was taken to the private hospital here on Thursday evening after he complained of breathing problems.

**Roadshow cancelled**

**Mangaluru:** A roadshow of Union Home Minister Amit Shah which was planned in Mangaluru on Saturday has been cancelled due to security reasons, according to the local BJP unit. Shah, who is scheduled to participate in functions in Puttur taluk during the day, is likely to reach Mangaluru in the evening. The BJP Dakshina Kannada district unit had considered holding a roadshow in the city. However, it has been cancelled due to security reasons, party district president Sudarshan Moodbidri said in a statement here on Friday.

**Lumla bypoll**

**Itanagar:** BJP candidate Tsering Lhamu was on Friday declared elected the MLA of Lumla constituency in Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang district without a contest. Tsering Lhamu, the wife of former MLA Jambey Tashi, was the only candidate who filed her nomination for the by-election to the seat. The by-election was necessitated due to the death of her husband in November last year. Returning Officer Rinchin Dorjee Thungon declared the result at 3 pm after the deadline for the withdrawal of candidature was over; Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Liken Koyu said.

**Building gutted**

**Thiruvananthapuram:** A major fire broke out in a commercial building at busy Vazhuthacaud in the heart of the Kerala capital on Friday, police said. It further said that the aquarium shop, where the fire broke out in the afternoon, was completely gutted. Thick black smoke was billowing from the building, located on M P Appan Road here, local residents said. Several units of fire services personnel rushed to the spot and are trying to contain the flames, police said, adding that more details would be available later. Seeking to avoid further dangers, people are being evacuated from nearby houses and other buildings, they added.

## AAP targets BJP over Mehrauli demolition drive

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI)



**Demolition workers during an anti-encroachment drive to demolish alleged illegal structures, at Mehrauli in New Delhi, Friday.**

The Aam Aadmi Party on Friday lashed out at the BJP over the Mehrauli demolition drive and accused it was replicating what British did during their rule.

Addressing a press conference here, Senior AAP leader Durgesh Pathak accused the BJP of renegeing on its poll promises of 'Jahan Jhuggi Wahan Makaan' and said they were demolishing unauthorised colonies and slum areas to exact revenge for losing the Vidhan Sabha and MCD polls. "I don't think this has ever happened in Independent India. This used to happen during the British rule. Those who

supported freedom fighters in 1857 Mutiny were hanged, their houses demolished. This is being replicated by the BJP," Pathak alleged.

He also said they will approach the court in this matter. "Our party MLAs Naresh Yadav and Somnath Bharti have been detained. Even our coun-

cellor has been detained. BJP is taking revenge from people for not choosing them in Vidhan Sabha and MCD polls. They had promised to build houses but they are demolishing jhuggies. We won't allow this to happen," the AAP leader said.

Pathak said that residents of other areas like Tughlakabad and Madipur in Punjabi Bagh have also been served demolition notices.

"We are seeing videos from Mehrauli and they are saddening. Women are fainting, people are crying. We will not let this happen. The bulldozers will have to pass over our bodies if they want to carry out the demolition," he said.

## Karnataka govt follows model of inclusive development: Governor

Bengaluru, Feb 10 (PTI)

Karnataka Governor Thaaarchand Gehlot on Friday said the state government is following the model of inclusive development aimed at navigating the path of progress to achieve the goals set for the next 25 years of 'Amrit Kaal'.

In his address to the joint sitting of the State legislature, Gehlot said the government implemented the Cow Slaughter Prohibition Act to protect cattle wealth.

The last session of the 15th Legislative Assembly of Karnataka commenced on Friday.

The 11-day long session will see Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who also holds the Finance portfolio, presenting his government's last budget on February 17.

The Governor said 100 government 'Goshalas' are

being constructed to protect the weak, sick and orphaned animals, which farmers cannot rear.

Speaking about lumpy care disease among cows, Gehlot said one crore cattle have been vaccinated as a precautionary measure.

He dwelt at length on farmers' and SC/ST welfare and healthcare measures taken by the government.

The Governor also hailed the state for initiating various schemes to attract investments.

Gehlot said the 'Raitha Vidya Nidhi Yojana', benefiting farmers, has been extended to the weavers, farm labourers and also other categories.

"My government is committed to the welfare and development of farmers, labourers, poor, weaker sections and the underprivileged and is marching in the forefront of de-

velopment," the Governor said.

According to him, during 2022-23, short-term crop loan disbursement of Rs 15,066 crore at zero per cent interest rate till end of December has been given to 20.19 lakh farmers.

The state government has provided Rs 2,031 crore to 14.63 lakh farmers who suffered crop loss due to heavy rains and floods in 2022-23.

Also, till December-end last year, Rs 1,215 crore at zero per cent interest rate has been disbursed to self-help groups, the Governor said.

"My government is following the model of inclusive development and I am confident that it will successfully navigate the path of progress laid by our Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the next 25 years of 'Amrit Kaal'," Gehlot added.

## Rajasthan Budget: Gehlot announces inflation relief package of Rs 19,000 crore

Jaipur, Feb 10 (PTI)

Presenting the last budget of his government before the Assembly polls, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced a Rs 19,000 crore inflation relief package that includes free food packets every month to poor families, LPG cylinders for Rs 500 to Ujjwala Scheme beneficiaries and free electricity up to 100 units per month to domestic consumers.

Gehlot, who also holds the finance portfolio, extended the benefits of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) to the employees of state government boards, corporations, academies and universities. No new tax was imposed in the state budget 2023-24.

He said reliefs have been given and no new tax has been imposed in the last four budgets. The budget



**Youngsters play at Shangumugham beach, in Thiruvananthapuram, Friday.**

proposed to increase the coverage amount from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 25 lakh annually per family in the state government's ambitious Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana.

Gehlot also announced enacting a law on social security and Gig Workers Welfare Act, one-time registration to appear for competitive exams, and free electricity for farmers consuming up to 2,000 units of electricity.

"I announce to give free Chief Minister Annapurna food packets every month along with free ration to about one crore families coming under the purview of the National Food Security Act," he said.

"One kilogram pulses, sugar, salt and one litre edible oil will be made available in this packet. About Rs 3,000 crore will be spent on this," he added. In the

budget proposed for 2023-24, the senior Congress leader said, "About 76 lakh families included in the BPL and the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana will get LPG cylinders for Rs 500. Rs 1,500 crore will be spent on this."

He said, "Domestic consumers will be given 100 units of electricity free of cost per month under the Chief Minister's Free Electricity Scheme. This limit was 50 units last year."

"With this, more than 1.04 crore families out of 1.19 crore in the state will be able to get domestic electricity free of cost. The state will incur a burden of Rs 7,000 crore on this," he added. Gehlot said the state government aims to provide free electricity to domestic users consuming 300 units per month in a phased manner. The chief minister also announced

to increase the accidental insurance coverage from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh under the Chiranjeevi scheme. According to the budget announced, a welfare fund of Rs 200 crore will be set up for the people working in the gig economy sector. The term gig workers refer to those engaged in work for app-based services like Zomato, Swiggy, Ola and Uber. The scope of 'Gig Economy' is increasing and the number of 'Gig Workers' in the state has increased to 3-4 lakh and there is no system of social security for them, Gehlot noted.

"To save them from harassment, I propose to bring Gig Workers Welfare Act, under which Gig Workers Welfare Fund will be set up with Rs 200 crore, along with the constitution of Gig Workers Welfare Board," he said.

## MAHAPANCHAYAT



**Farmers and labourers attend 'Kisan Mazdoor Mahapanchayat', in Muzaffarnagar, Friday.**

## 'Fix issues plaguing NCC's training centre within 15 days'

● Delhi Dy CM Sisodia to officials

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI)

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Friday instructed officials to sort out within 15 days issues plaguing the NCC's Naval Training Centre at Okhla Barrage here. Sisodia had on Thursday felicitated 30 NCC cadets at the Delhi Secretariat for winning various awards in the Annual Republic Day Camp. Some officials of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) had highlighted the problems at the facility during a discussion with the deputy CM. The NCC cadets get military training, including boating and

sailing, at the training centre across the Yamuna river.

On Friday, the deputy chief minister inspected the centre and instructed officials of the Public Works Department and Flood and Irrigation Control Department to fix the route leading to the facility and remove shrubs and bushes along the river so that the cadets could train better.

The minister asked the officials to make an action plan for the work needed to be carried out. He said he would visit the centre again after the 15-day period is over to inspect the work done by them.

"The NCC makes our youth disciplined and inculcates spirit of patriotism in them.

## 'New Parliament building must be accessible to people with disabilities'

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI)

Just installing ramps for people who are disabled is not enough, rights activists said here, asserting that the government must ensure that the new Parliament building is accessible to people with different disabilities.

The debate around the current Parliament building not being disabled-friendly ignited after former prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh was designated a seat in the last row of Rajya Sabha as it was difficult to bring his wheelchair to the front row. The disability rights activists hoped that the new Parliament building under construction addresses all kinds of disabilities and is not just made accessible to people who are physically challenged. Asked about this, a Central Public Works

Department (CPWD) official said the new Parliament will adhere to all requisite guidelines as prescribed by the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

National Platform for the Rights of the Disabled (NPRD) general secretary Muralidharan said it needs to be understood that every disability has its own requirement.

"Disability accessibility is not a question of just physical accessibility alone. People think ramp construction is enough but they need to understand that this alone does not address the problem. There are gradient components to it too, at times it is very steep so the ratio of the ramp has to be kept in mind," he said.

Every disability has its own requirement. A person with visual disability has a different kind of require-

ment than a person with hearing impairment. Accessible toilets are also needed, just a western commode is not enough, Muralidharan said.

A wheelchair user has many needs too, he added.

"Does the new Parliament address that," the activist asked.

Accessibility of water taps has to be checked as well, he said, adding, "These are the things which are not kept in mind. People think having a ramp is enough, even having an escalator is not enough, what we need is an elevator, which is preferable. And within a single disability also there are many requirements."

Arman Ali, executive director at the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People, too said accessibility cannot merely transcend

to building ramps.

"The need of the hour is to make accessibility for disabled persons a universal concept, not just on paper but in actuality. The Parliament building for instance needs to be accessible to all persons with disabilities. Disability doesn't solely come in the form of a wheelchair user. But in all forms, it also requires other accessibility needs, access to information in all accessible formats," he said. Ali suggested the usage of large prints and sign language interpretation during the session. "Parliament's accessibility should not be limited to a particular row for ease of mobility but the entire House, including the Speaker's chair. India is at the forefront of cultural and economic growth. However, what is lacking is the representation of disabled people in the political arena. Thus

it is high time we start giving political representation to people with disability in Parliament, among other sectors," he added.

Dr Satendra Singh, a disability rights activist and founder of the Doctors with Disabilities group, said as per the Accessible India campaign, many audits are happening but unless a person is a wheelchair user, their needs are not understood properly.

"Only when a disabled person visits Parliament, will we know the real picture. Ramps are the only visible feature, after that no one cares. The harmonised guidelines of the government for addressing accessibility are self explanatory but the problem is the officials are not well-trained to follow them. Even two steps can be like climbing the Everest for some people with disabilities," he said.

## Congress asks people not to pay new cess on fuel prices

New Delhi / Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 10 (PTI): KPCC president K Sudhakaran on Friday said his party will intensify the protest against the Kerala's Left government's budget decisions to levy cess on fuel prices and asked the people not to pay the increased amount.

Addressing the media in New Delhi, Sudhakaran said the Congress party will protect those who may face any issues for not paying the increased cess amount.

"The state is being stifled due to the adamant at-

titude of the Chief Minister. All sectors of the society have been affected due to this budget," Sudhakaran said, adding that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will have to withdraw the excess liability imposed on the people.

"Congress will intensify the protest against the budget decisions...I urge the people not to pay the increased fuel cess amount. We will protect those who face issues due to non-payment of cess," the Congress leader said.

Sudhakaran claimed that Vijayan, when he was in the opposition, had ear-

lier called for not paying the tax imposed by the then UDF regime.

The Kannur MP also alleged that the new tax was being implemented by the government, for the party workers. He alleged that such a measure was being taken due to the corruption and extravagance of the Left government.

He also urged the state government to take stringent action against officials who have failed to collect taxes in the state.

He said the responsibility of tax collection solely rests on the government itself.

# Indian mission reaches out to students after modern slavery fears in UK

London, Feb 10 (PTD):

The Indian High Commission here on Friday appealed for students to contact the mission for help and counselling amid fears that over 50 of them may have become victims of modern slavery while working at care homes in North Wales.

The Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA), a UK government intelligence and investigative agency for labour exploitation, reported earlier this week that it had succeeded in getting a court order against five individuals for labour abuse.

The GLAA said it has identified "more than 50 Indian students as being

potential victims of modern slavery and labour abuse over the last 14 months" in relation to the case.

"We were concerned to read this news. Indian students who have suffered this, please contact us at pol3.london@mea.gov.in, and we will provide help/counselling. We assure you of confidentiality in our response," the High Commission tweeted.

Five people - Mathew Issac, 32, Jinu Cherian, 30, Eldhose Cherian, 25, Eldhose Kuriachan, 25, and Jacob Liju, 47 - are suspected of recruiting and exploiting vulnerable Indian students working in care homes across North Wales and have

been handed a Slavery and Trafficking Risk Order (STRO).

All five, originally from Kerala, were arrested by GLAA between December 2021 and May 2022 and while investigations remain ongoing, there have been no criminal charges brought against them at this stage.

They are said to have links to care homes in Abergele, Pwllheli, Llandudno, and Colwyn Bay across the region, either by working there themselves or having a direct family link to someone who works in them.

GLAA said Issac and his wife Jinu Cherian also supplied workers through Alexa Care Solutions, a recruitment agency registered in May

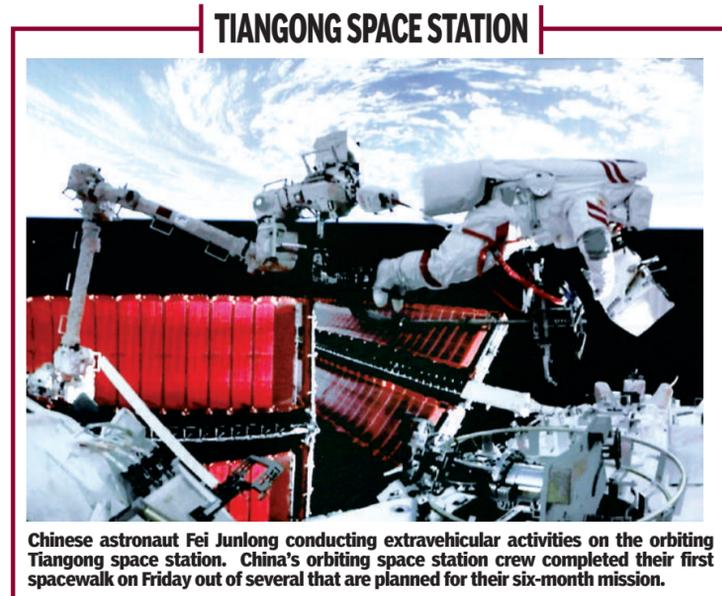
2021.

Reports to the Modern Slavery and Exploitation Helpline three months later claimed that Indian workers employed by Alexa Care were not being paid correctly or were having their wages withheld. Significant concerns were raised at the same time about the workers' appearance and that they always appeared to be hungry, the agency revealed. "We are all aware that staffing levels have been a cause of concern in the care sector for some time, and have not been helped by the COVID pandemic," said GLAA Senior Investigating Officer Martin Plimmer.

"Unfortunately, where labour shortages exist, there is an increased risk

of opportunists using the situation for their own financial gain, usually at the expense of workers that they are exploiting.

"Tackling the exploitation of workers in care homes is one of the GLAA's top priorities, and this order is crucial in restricting the activities of those we suspect would otherwise commit slavery or trafficking offences," he said. The STRO comes with a series of stringent conditions on the accused, including preventing them from arranging work, transport or travel for anyone and allowing the GLAA access, at any reasonable time, to where they are living to establish and confirm that the order is being complied with.



Chinese astronaut Fei Junlong conducting extravehicular activities on the orbiting Tiangong space station. China's orbiting space station crew completed their first spacewalk on Friday out of several that are planned for their six-month mission.

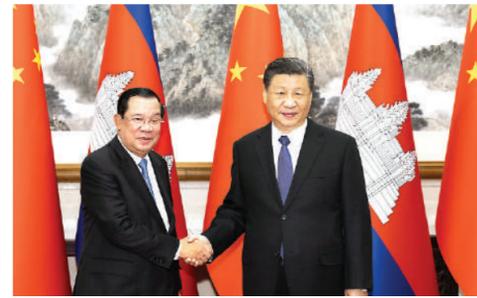
# Cambodia's Hun Sen receives support on Beijing visit

Beijing, Feb 10 (AP):

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen received multiple assurances of Chinese economic and political support during a meeting Friday in Beijing with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"(China) firmly supports Cambodia in safeguarding national sovereignty and security, firmly supports Cambodia in steadily advancing major domestic political agendas and economic and social development, and resolutely opposes external forces interfering in Cambodia's internal affairs," Xi was quoted as telling Hun Sen by China's official Xinhua News Agency. China will also encourage more Chinese enterprises to invest in Cambodia, help in the construction of the Sihanoukville economic zone in Cambodia's southwest on the Gulf of Thailand, and support building transportation infrastructure, Xi said.

Hun Sen was quoted as thanking China for providing COVID-19 vaccines and said Cambodia "firmly supports China in safeguarding national sovereignty, security, and development interests" and "firmly opposes any external forces interfering in China's internal affairs on



Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen, left, and Chinese President Xi Jinping shake hands on the sidelines of a meeting at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, Friday, Feb. 10.

issues related to Hong Kong, Xinjiang, and Tibet."

Cambodia is a key Chinese diplomatic partner, helping dampen criticism of Beijing within the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, several of whose members are engaged in territorial disputes with China in the South China Sea.

The meeting at the Diaoyutai State Guest House comes in the middle of Hun Sen's three-day visit. He was to meet later with outgoing Premier Li Keqiang, after which the leaders were to oversee the signing of a raft of agreements. Hun Sen took power in 1998 and with strong Chinese backing has eliminated all demo-

cratic threats to his rule, muzzling the press and locking up or exiling opponents and critics.

In return, China has gained an outsized role in Cambodian politics and the economy, as seen in the numerous Chinese-funded projects, hotels and casinos dotting the landscape.

China's state banks have also financed airports, roads and other infrastructure built with Chinese loans. More than 40 per cent of Cambodia's USD 10 billion in foreign debt is owed to China, although Cambodia has not asked Beijing to restructure that burden, unlike other countries such as Sri Lanka, Zambia and Ethiopia, which have taken out massive Chinese loans.

# Rescues in Turkey offer moments of relief in quake aftermath



A rescuer takes care of a young girl rescued 4 days after the earthquake, in Kahramanmaraş, southern Turkey, early Friday, Feb. 10.

Skenderun (Turkey), Feb 10 (AP):

Rescuers pulled several people alive from the shattered remnants of buildings on Friday, some who survived more than 100 hours trapped under crushed concrete in the bitter cold after a catastrophic earthquake slammed Turkey and Syria, killing more than 20,000.

The survivors included six relatives who huddled

in a small pocket under the rubble, a teenager who drank his own urine to slake his thirst, and a 4-year-old boy offered a jelly bean to calm him down as he was shimmied out.

But the flurry of dramatic rescues some broadcast live on Turkish television could not obscure the overwhelming devastation of what Turkey's president called "the disaster of the century". Entire neighbourhoods

of high-rise buildings have been reduced to twisted metal, pulverised concrete and exposed wires, and the magnitude 7.8 quake has already killed more people than Japan's Fukushima earthquake and tsunami, with many more bodies undoubtedly yet to be recovered and counted.

Four days after the earthquake hammered a sprawling border region that is home to more than 13.5 million people, relatives wept and chanted as rescuers pulled 17-year-old Adnan Muhammed Korkut from a basement in Turkey's Gaziantep, near the quake's epicentre. He had been trapped there for 94 hours, forced to drink his own urine to survive.

"Thank God you arrived," he said, embracing his mother and others who leaned down to kiss and hug him as he was being loaded into an ambulance. For one of the rescuers, identified only as Yasemin, Adnan's survival hit home hard.

# Russia hits targets across Ukraine with missiles, drones

Kyiv, Feb 10 (AP):

Russia unleashed strategic bombers, killer drones and rockets in a barrage of attacks across Ukraine early on Friday, as a military push by Moscow that Kyiv says has been brewing for days appeared to pick up pace ahead of the one-year anniversary of its invasion.

The Kremlin's forces focused their bombardments on Ukraine's industrial east, especially the Luhansk and Donetsk provinces that make up the industrial Donbas region where fighting has recently been most intense, the Ukrainian military said.

Moscow-backed separatists have been fighting Ukrainian forces there since 2014.

But the barrage went further, also taking aim at the capital, Kyiv, and Lviv, near Ukraine's Western border with Poland. It also struck critical infrastructure in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city in the

northeast. Seven people were wounded there, two of them seriously, regional Governor Oleh Syniehubov said.

Air raid sirens went off across much of the country. The Ukrainian Air Force said its defences destroyed five Kalibr missiles and five Iranian-made killer drones.

The bombardments could be an effort by Russia to soften up Ukraine's defences ahead of a ground assault, which Kyiv believes Moscow is planning in the east where the Kremlin is striving to secure areas it has illegally annexed and where it claims its rule is welcomed.

In the Donetsk region, local Ukrainian officials reported that the Russian military deployed additional troops and launched offensive operations. "There is a daily escalation and Russian attacks are becoming active throughout the region," Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said.

# Pakistan agrees to IMF conditions: FM Dar

● Staff-level accord still pending

Islamabad, Feb 10 (PTD):

The Pakistan government has received a memorandum on the terms and conditions from the IMF for the completion of a USD 7 billion loan programme, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said on Friday but acknowledged that both sides are yet to clinch a staff-level agreement on the much-needed bailout for the cash-strapped country.

Dar made the statement after an IMF delegation, which left Pakistan on Thursday night after 10 days of talks with the government, said virtual discussions would continue on the ninth review of the programme.

The Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP) is a key



document that describes all the conditions, steps, and policy measures on the basis of which the two sides declare the staff-level agreement.

Once the draft MEFP has been shared, the two sides discuss the policy measures outlined in the document. Once these are finalised, a staff-level agreement is signed, which is then forwarded to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) executive board for approval.

An IMF mission led by Nathan Porter visited Islamabad from January 31 to February 9 to hold discussions under the ninth review of the authorities' programme supported by the IMF Extended Fund Facility (EFF) arrangement.

Pakistan, whose foreign exchange has dropped below USD 3 billion, is in desperate need of financial assistance and a bailout package from the IMF to prevent it from economic collapse.

form of the next tranche.

As the visiting delegation left without a concluding statement, there was some confusion about the outcome of the talks and whether a draft MEFP had been shared.

Dar, however, insisted on Friday's press conference that there was no confusion.

"We insisted that they (the Fund delegation) give us the MEFP before leaving so we could look at it over the weekend,"

he said, adding that the government and the IMF officials would hold a virtual meeting in this regard on Monday. "I am confirming that the MEFP draft has been received by us at 9 am today (Friday)," he added.

"We will completely go through the [MEFP] over the weekend and will hold a virtual meeting with [Fund officials]. It will obviously take a few days."

**GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**MINIMATA BANGO DAM DIVISION NO. 03 MACHADOLI**  
**DISTT. KORBA (C.G.)**

**e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
 eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

**(THIRD CALL)**

**System Tender No. : 123793/NIT No. : 09/SAC/2022-23,**  
**Dated : 09-02-2023**

**Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 27-02-2023 at 17:30 Hour**

**Name of Work : TREATMENT OF 3 BUCKET (E.D.A.) EPOXY TREATMENT WORK UNDER E.R.M. OF MINIMATA (HASDEO) BANGO DAM MACHADOLI (BLOCK NO. 19 TO 26).**

**Probable Amount of Contract - Rs. 1241.41 Lakhs**  
 (SOR enforced from 01.08.2010 & amendment on dated 01.08.2014)

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date **16.02.2023, at 17:31 Hours (IST)** onwards.

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

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**MINIMATA BANGO DAM DIVISION NO. 03**  
**MACHADOLI (C.G.)**  
 G-98390/2

**SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**E - AUCTION SALE PROGRAMME OF SCRAP IN SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**

The auction Schedule Programme for Three Months from March 2023 to May 2023 is as under:

[A] March 2023

GSD/ Raipur	BSP/ Division	Raipur/ Division	Nagpur/ Division	GSD/ Nagpur
06.03.2023	07.03.2023	03.03.2023	02.03.2023	---
14.03.2023	13.03.2023	10.03.2023	09.03.2023	15.03.2023
21.03.2023	20.03.2023	16.03.2023	17.03.2023	24.03.2023
31.03.2023	27.03.2023	29.03.2023	28.03.2023	---

[B] April 2023

GSD/ Raipur	BSP/ Division	Raipur/ Division	Nagpur/ Division	GSD/ Nagpur
11.04.2023	10.04.2023	13.04.2023	12.04.2023	03.04.2023
19.04.2023	17.04.2023	20.04.2023	18.04.2023	---
28.04.2023	26.04.2023	27.04.2023	25.04.2023	24.04.2023

[C] May 2023

GSD/ Raipur	BSP/ Division	Raipur/ Division	Nagpur/ Division	GSD/ Nagpur
08.05.2023	10.05.2023	11.05.2023	04.05.2023	16.05.2023
17.05.2023	18.05.2023	19.05.2023	15.05.2023	---
31.05.2023	29.05.2023	30.05.2023	26.05.2023	25.05.2023

Please visit website : [www.ireps.gov.in/e-Auction](http://www.ireps.gov.in/e-Auction) for details of e-Auction schedule and e-Catalogue. Auction will start at 10.00 A.M. and may be continued next day, if considered necessary. Material shall be disposed off on "as is where is basis". Available at: GSD/ Raipur & Divisions at (Bilaspur, Nagpur and Raipur). Type of material : Scrap Rail, Cast Iron, P. Way Scrap, Melting, M.S. Condemned rolling stock, Non-Ferrous such as Copper, Aluminum, Batteries and abandoned structure etc. For detailed Auction catalogue, please see the Website: [www.ireps.gov.in/e-Auction](http://www.ireps.gov.in/e-Auction). CPR/10/455 For Principal Chief Material Manager/Bilaspur f South East Central Railway @secrail

**SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**

On behalf of the President of India, the Sr. Divisional Materials Manager South East Central Railway, Bilaspur Division, invites e-Tenders for supply of the following items.

**E-Tender Notice No. NIT/11/23/01** Dated 03.02.2023

**Description:** Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 30/42MVA, 132/27KV, 50 Hz, Single Phase, ONAN/ONAF Tractor Power Transformer with on Load Tap Changer at KRBA TSS RDSP Specification No. TI/SPC/PSI/TRNPWR/3201 or latest. Make RDSO approved vendor.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Due Date	Due Time	Tender Cost	EMD
1	11225073C	09.03.2023	10:30 Hrs.	Rs. Nil	Rs. 4,43,370.00

The tenderers may please visit website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

**Sr. Divisional Materials Manager**  
 South East Central Railway, Bilaspur  
 f South East Central Railway @secrail

**कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता,**  
**लो.नि.वि., राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग मण्डल, रायपुर (छ.ग.)**

दिनांक 08.02.2023

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्र.	निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना क्र.	सिस्टम आई.डी. क्र.	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत	निविदा की अंतिम तिथि
1	04/SE/NH/G/15-3/2023	2023_MoRTH_739123_1	Paving Shoulder/Granular Shoulder work in Km. 25.530 to 31.540 = 6.010 Km. Jagdalpur-Sukma-Konta Road of NH-30 (Old NH-221)	Rs. 93.31 Lacs	22-02-2023
2	05/SE/NH/G/15-3/2023	2023_MoRTH_739124_1	Planting and maintaining of flowering plants from Km. 4.325 to 10.00 of NH-30 (MMI Hospital Chowk to Saddani Darbar)	Rs. 33.33 Lacs	22-02-2023
3	06/SE/NH/G/15-3/2023	2023_MoRTH_739125_1	Milling & Overlay on Tekari Railway Over Bridge (ROB) from Km. 3.200 to Km. 4.200 (Total length 1026 Mtr) of NH 130B (Dhaneli-Khors section).	Rs. 51.57 Lacs	22-02-2023

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी सड़क परिवहन एवं राजमार्ग मंत्रालय (MORT&H) के ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

**अधीक्षण अभियंता**  
**लो.नि.वि., राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग मण्डल,**  
**रायपुर (छ.ग.)**  
 G-98377/1

**कार्यालय, नगर पालिक निगम, भिलाई (छ.ग.)**

क्रमांक/लो.क.नि./जोन-4/2023/ /1231 निविदा सूचना भिलाई, दिनांक 10-02-23

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्र.	कार्य का नाम	निविदा लागत (लाख में)	निविदा प्रारंभ हेतु आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि	निविदा विभाग में प्राप्त होने की अंतिम तिथि
1	वार्ड क्र. 40 शास. प्राथमिक शाला संकर नगर छावनी का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य।	6.00	03.03.2023	09.03.2023
2	वार्ड क्र. 41 शास. प्राथमिक शाला राजीव नगर का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य।	6.00	03.03.2023	09.03.2023
3	वार्ड क्र. 46 शास. प्राथमिक शाला दुर्गा मंदिर खुर्सीपार का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य।	10.00	03.03.2023	09.03.2023
4	वार्ड क्र. 46 शास. पूर्व माध्यमिक शाला दुर्गा मंदिर खुर्सीपार का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य।	4.18	03.03.2023	09.03.2023
5	वार्ड क्र. 50 शास. प्राथमिक शाला सेक्टर 11 खुर्सीपार का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य।	6.00	03.03.2023	09.03.2023
6	वार्ड क्र. 50 शास. पूर्व माध्यमिक शाला सेक्टर 11 जेन-2 खुर्सीपार का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य।	10.00	03.03.2023	09.03.2023
7	वार्ड क्र. 51 शहीद वीर नाथयण सिंह नगर शासकीय प्राथमिक शाला का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य।	6.00	03.03.2023	09.03.2023
8	वार्ड क्र. 41 शास. पूर्व माध्यमिक शाला संकर नगर छावनी का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य।	10.00	03.03.2023	09.03.2023
9	वार्ड क्र. 47 डबरापारा चौक में डोम शेड निर्माण कार्य। (द्वितीय बार)	15.00	03.03.2023	09.03.2023

निविदा स्वीड पोस्ट/विस्टर्ड डाक से स्वीकार किये जावेंगे। उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी नगर पालिक निगम भिलाई की वेबसाइट [www.bhilainagarinagam.com](http://www.bhilainagarinagam.com) अथवा संचालनालय की वेबसाइट [www.uad.cg.gov.in](http://www.uad.cg.gov.in) में भी देखी जा सकती है।

**जोन आयुक्त**  
 धर से निकलने वाले गोल एवं सूखा कचरे को अलग कर सफाई मित्र (रिक्शा) को देंगे।  
 जेन-4, शिवाजी नगर, नगर पालिक निगम, भिलाई



## CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 48 No. 129

### Pakistan must change its approach to terrorism

The recent suicide attack in the high security Police Lines in Peshawar, Pakistan, left over a 100 dead and around 200 injured. The attack was initially claimed by the TTP (Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan) which subsequently denied its involvement. The Pak government believes it to be a faction of the TTP aligned with the ISKP (Islamic State Khorasan Province). Within Pakistan the blame game for permitting terrorism to grow unchecked continues between the current government and its predecessors, Imran Khan led PTI. It was in the same city, Peshawar, in Dec 2014, the same TTP attacked the army school leaving 150 dead including 134 students. Pakistan has for long been accusing the Taliban led dispensation in Kabul for not acting against the TTP. Even in this case Pakistan's spokesperson stated that it expected 'sincere cooperation' from the Afghan government to address the 'challenge of terrorism.' The Afghan government rejected Pakistan's accusation with its foreign minister stating, "We ask Pakistan's ministers to not throw the snow of their own roofs onto the roofs of others. They should consider their problems in their own country. We advise them to look into the Peshawar explosion in great detail." Pakistan has always followed a policy of good versus bad terrorism. The Afghan Taliban, which it officially supported, was 'good,' which as per their view has turned rogue. Kabul pushed Pakistan for talks with the TTP, providing it safe re-entry into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as also giving it space and time to regroup and re-build its cadre. Its ideology of Sharia law is supported by many Pak clerics, members of its armed forces as also large numbers of its Islamized society. It is possible that this attack was facilitated by its supporters within police lines. The Pak army's peace talks with the TTP were questioned by the public which wanted those responsible for the massacre of army school students in 2014 to be brought to book. The public never trusted the TTP, but Imran and the establishment did. Today, the public has been proved right and the Pak leadership wrong. Yet those involved in pushing talks have refused to accept the blame. Pakistan ignored the cardinal rule that you never negotiate with terrorists. Post earlier terrorist strikes, Pakistan could launch counterattacks at TTP camps across the border as it did post the attack on the army school. The US also compelled the Kabul administration to look the other way. Further, US drone strikes targeted TTP camps. Now with a Taliban government in Kabul any attacks across the Durand Line would result in retaliation as also provision of greater freedom to the TTP. The strike in Peshawar and increased terrorist activities in the region is forcing a migration of the population. A subsequent attack on a police station in Mianwali in Punjab displayed that the TTP has expanded deep into the country and unless acted against could endanger the nation. The Pak army had for decades outsourced its security duties to terrorist groups. It permitted various anti-India terrorist groups to keep Kashmir on the boil, while backing the Taliban against a democratic Afghanistan, while it raked in money from its business enterprises as also from the US. It did launch some operations against the TTP, but these were only in name as the TTP was largely suppressed by its main backer, the Taliban. The TTP got its freedom to target the Pak army only after the Taliban gained power in Kabul. The Pak army was only involved in anti-terrorist operations against the Baloch, leading to extra-judicial killings and enforced disappearances. These actions added to the strength of Baloch freedom fighters, and they began targeting Chinese investors. Now with some Baloch groups swearing allegiance to the TTP, the scenario has become precarious. The seeds of terrorism sowed by Pakistan to target neighbouring countries have returned to haunt it. Terrorist groups have grown so powerful that they are nominating their own shadow government openly challenging the state. Its defence minister, Khawaja Asif, admitted, 'we sowed seeds of terrorism. Worshippers weren't martyred during prayers even in India or Israel, but it happened in Pakistan.' The weakening security environment in Pakistan comes when they face an economic meltdown amidst political turmoil. The IMF is insisting Pak cuts its defence budget and military manpower alongside other stringent measures, most of which would impact the common man possibly enhancing unrest. Its closest benefactors, Saudi and the UAE are insisting Pak seeks peace with India and stops screaming on Kashmir. They have made promises of deposits but await outcome of IMF talks. China is conspicuous by its silence in providing aid. Pak is now fighting alone to survive. Its own policies are now haunting it.

### Increasing population of aged and unskilled youth, a matter of concern

Rajender Kumar Sharma

Recently, a news has been in the Newspapers and TV News Channels that Canada will issue 5 lakh visas per year for immigrants by 2025. Behind this is the joint opinion of the ruling and opposition parties that the country is facing a shortage of skilled working people and about 10 lakh posts are lying vacant in the various departments. This logic is being given by the Canadian Govt., along with it there is another side of this immigration as well, the increasing population of old people and decreasing youth population in the country. Canada is also in the list of those countries where from 2025 to 2030, 20 percent of the total population will be above 65 years of age, in such a situation it will need a young population and the need will be fulfilled by migrants. And a large number of these migrants are in the Asia continent, especially the human resource of a young country like India is capable of meeting this demand of skilled youth population. Although at present, China is at the first place in terms of the population of the elderly. According to a news, among all the countries in the world, China is such a country, which is rapidly turning into the country of the most elderly people. In the year 2015, 25.4 crore people were above 60 years of age, while 17.6 crore people were above 65 years. It is estimated that in 2040, more than 40 crore people in China will be above 60 years of age. This will be 28 percent of the total population. This number will increase in the coming years. There is a slight difference in the definition of youth of United Nations and India. According to the United Nations definition, 15 to 24 people are kept in the category of youth while according to the Indian definition, 15 to 29 age groups people are kept in the category of youth. If we go by the statistics of the United Nations, then India is the country with the most youth with its 27 percent youth population. According to a news report by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MOSPI) titled 'Youth in India 2022'. In this report, figures have been given regarding the youth. According to this report, by 2021 the population of the country was estimated to be 136 crores. Out of this, 27.3% i.e. 37.14 crore population is youth. The report tells that India is now getting old. By 2036, only 34.55 crore population in the country will be young. It has been estimated in the report that in the next 15 years, the population of youth in India will decrease by about 2.59 crore and the population of the elderly will start increasing. The future of the country is hidden in the above figures. Developed countries are attracting our youth for education, employment and a better lifestyle in their countries and migration of the country's youth to foreign countries in case of lack of employment opportunities is a matter of concern. Let us understand that for the last few years, why the trend of going abroad for higher education and employment has increased among the educated and skilled youth of India and settling there permanently? Foreign higher education institutions, along with education, also allow limited hours of employment or job to the students, due to which the student can easily complete his education without putting any extra financial burden on the parents. Such attractions are attracting high income group as well as middle income group students towards foreign institutions. As a result of which the talent of the country is migrating to foreign countries, the educated and skilled youth of the country are settling abroad. The result of which will be the increase in the number of less educated and unskilled youth in the country and such population will be in the form of an additional burden on the government. This will be such a population which will be young but their participation in the economic development of the country will be negligible. Important schemes like "Start Up" will also be fruitful only when the youth is educated and skilled. Unskilled class can become a major reason for the failure of such important schemes. In such a situation, keeping its educated and skilled youth in their own country, ensuring their participation in the country's economic development is a big challenge before the country. On the other hand, the increasing elderly population in the country is also the responsibility of the government. In such a situation, the government will have to work on such employment-oriented education programs for the youth, which can stop their migration to foreign countries and the country can always remain young.

### PROTEST



Jammu and Kashmir Rehbar-e-Khel teachers protest outside Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) office, in Jammu, Friday, Feb. 10.

### Prevention, treatment and rehabilitation: 3-level approach against drugs

25 Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) dedicated to the Nation's service



DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR



The 'Magnitude of Substance Use in India' Report, was released in 2019 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) and the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC), AIIMS, Delhi that showed increasing trends of drug use in India. Several drugs have been a part of the tradition and continue to be so in some parts of the country, even today. However, the use of drugs has spread beyond traditional use and is surfacing as an issue of abuse among youth. As per medical research, it is accepted that drug addiction or substance use disorder is a chronic, relapsing health condition caused by a multitude of genetic, biological, environmental and lifestyle-related factors and can be cured by a combination of approaches such as counselling, lifestyle changes and medical treatment involving medicines. Therefore, responding to drug problems in any society requires an informed, multi-pronged strategy that simultaneously addresses the drug supply and reduction of drug demand. On the occasion of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the Hon'ble Prime Minister tweeted "I laud all those working at the grassroots to eliminate the menace of drugs from our society. Every such effort to save lives is vital. After all, drugs bring with it darkness, destruction and devastation".

The government's NCORD mechanism has assisted in addressing drug use on a greater level. Its direction and convergence have led

to unified action by all agencies and stakeholders confronting substance use on a single platform. On 15 August 2020, a community-driven mass movement campaign, Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, was launched against substance use in 272 vulnerable districts of the country. As a second step of this mass movement, another 100 vulnerable districts were added to the list in 2022. Since its inception, Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan has made enormous changes in drug demand reduction with the help of stakeholders who actively envision and work for better community outreach through advocacy-related activities. To date, more than 9.3 crore people have been sensitized on substance abuse, including more than 3 crore youth and more than 2 crore women; and more than 2.7 lakh educational institutions have participated in this mission.

The Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan, hand-holds women, children, educational institutions, and civil society organizations to lead and become the torchbearers in this course of action. The campaign has a strong force of more than 8000 master volunteers, who are trained and sensitized to deliver the message of adverse effects of using drugs, course of redressal and rehabilitation for those struggling with the substance in the most distant sectors. A range of events like marathons, folk musicals, local sports events, boat or cycle rallies and numerous other

activities are organized to connect with the masses in regional languages and more culturally, engaging ways to create a more profound impact and eventually affect the demand for substances. It commits to partner with higher educational institutions, universities, campuses and schools in reaching out and identifying dependent populations; by focusing on counselling and providing treatment facilities in hospitals and rehabilitation centres along with capacity-building programmes for service providers, the campaign is an end to end resolution to the increasing trends in drug usage.

The National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction, the umbrella scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, provides financial assistance to state governments, union territories, NGOs/other voluntary organizations, districts and government hospitals for preventive education, awareness, rehabilitation treatment, to integrate those at the margins of the society back into the mainstream and provide them substantial support to live a life of dignity. There are 341 Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCAAs), 49 Community-based Peer-Led Intervention (CPLIs), 72 Outreach and Drop in Centres (ODICs), and 14 District De-addiction Centres (DDACs) across the country, providing free-of-cost facilities to the people struggling with the menace of drugs. The idea is to offer a helping hand to those on the margins, help their families and social circles understand the challenges, and provide a positive space for them to thrive.

In this tally of progress, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is now ready to add 25 Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) in collaboration with National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC) AIIMS, New Delhi. Ministry dedicated 25 addiction treatment facilities to the nation, under the banner of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment-led campaign,

Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan. The 25 ATFs are located in government hospitals across the country and will be scaled-up further to cover most cities and districts in the country. The types of hospitals range from district hospitals in Simdega, Jharkhand or Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh to larger academic institutions like Siddhartha Medical College, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh or Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Benmina, Kashmir. These Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) will be established in government hospitals across 125 districts and provide treatment to addiction patients as part of the general healthcare framework. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment fully funds the scheme and supports the participating government hospitals in the provision of trained health professionals, free of cost, medicines, and sustainable infrastructure support services.

As the Minister of Home Affairs said in the Parliament, "Our government's policy is very clear, those consuming drugs are victims. We should be sensitive towards them and give victims a conducive atmosphere for their rehabilitation." The issue of substance use is a more significant social problem that cuts across sections of society across age groups, gender, communities and regions and affects families and the personal growth of individuals. It requires a multi-pronged strategy to simultaneously address the issue of demand for substances by providing opportunities for rehabilitation, dismantling the stigmas associated with those engaged and by effectively ingraining the idea of 'no first touch of drugs' among the youth. The campaign successfully draws on these ideas and seeks the support of the masses to come forward in attaining the goal of 'Nasha Mukh Bharat'.

(This Article is written by Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Not a laughing matter

PM Narendra Modi's reply to the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address again sidelined the allegations against him. As usual, instead of replying to the alleged wrongdoings or favouritism with regard to the Adani issue, he chose to blame Congress rule. The Congress has already paid the price for its misrule. The BJP and its brass should learn lessons from Congress' mistakes. It seems that it is not the trust and faith of 140 crore Indians, but the 'lost decade', as referred to by the PM, that is shielding the BJP. Taking jibes at the Opposition and evoking laughter from the Treasury Benches, instead of coming out with a convincing reply to the allegations, is the forte of the Prime Minister. Having a comfortable majority in Parliament and other electoral victories do not mean that he is not answerable to the masses.

Sanjeev Trikhya, Fatehabad

#### Indigenisation of copters

Refer to the editorial 'Hal facility a milestone', India has started manufacturing defence equipment, thereby cutting down its bill of importing arms from other countries. The latest addition to the list is manufacturing of Light Utility Helicopters in India. These helicopters will add more strength to the country's defence preparedness. It will also augment avenues for utilisation of these all-purpose helicopters in other fields. India should consider employing these choppers for civil purposes like ferrying goods and people from one place to other. These helicopters can be used for heli taxi service in big cities. This will help in decongesting busy roads and trains.

MKN, Raipur

#### Border infrastructure

The geographical location of India is such that it cannot trust the Chinese army on the borders. The current regime is laying stress on increasing investments for developing infrastructure along the border for greater connectivity. The construction of the 135-km-long Chushul-Dungti-Fukche-Demchok road in the Ladakh region, which is of strategic importance, has already been started. According to official documents, the length of roads along the China border has doubled in the last eight years. Increased connectivity will provide greater mobility to our forces in case of any 'misadventure' at the border.

Ravinder Kumar Thakur, by mail

### Empowering Women and Girls in Science



Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

11th February is celebrated as the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. It is commemorated to achieve full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls. The day that reminds us to work towards improving access for women to technology and science education and creating an enabling environment

for female scientists and technologists. Even though women have made tremendous progress towards increasing their participation in higher education, they are still under-represented in these fields. According to UNESCO, 132 million girls are out of school worldwide and only 66% of countries have achieved gender parity in primary education. Full and equal participation in science for women and girls can play a vital role in ensuring diversity in research, expanding the pool of talented researchers and bringing in fresh perspectives. The most likely reason for the imbalance is that society reinforces the idea that boys and girls have different interests and abilities. It is observed that the most important one is mindset, which has been targeting

women right from their cradles. Women don't need science, is at the back of many minds. It is society, not nature, that tells us girls should favour arts and humanities and leave maths and physics to the boys. Despite the growing temps of technological development and popularity of feminism, women do not still possess equal position in the society. Women have played an important role in the development of science and technology, but there is an insufficient number of females in those career fields. According to a study conducted in 14 countries, the probability for female students of graduating with a Bachelor's degree, Master's degree and Doctor's degree in science-related field are 18%, 8% and 2% respectively, while the percentages of male students

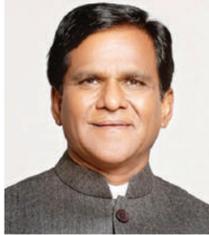
are 37%, 18% and 6%. Less than 4 % of Nobel Prizes for science have ever been awarded to women, and only 11%\* of senior research roles are held by women in Europe. Asima Chatterjee was the first woman to be awarded a Doctor of Science by an Indian University - in 1944, by the University of Calcutta. Women need to get out of their comfort zone and give math and science a try. Plenty of women are pursuing careers in physiology, liberal studies, nursing and such, but not enough women are pursuing careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. It is the time to recognize women's contributions in research and innovation, smash stereotypes and defeat discrimination against women and girls in science. Full and equal

participation in science for women and girls can play a vital role in ensuring diversity in research, expanding the pool of talented researchers and bringing in fresh perspectives. Self-motivation and hard work will help female scientist overcome challenges like maintaining work life balance, taking childcare responsibilities and time management issues. If girls see more positive female role models in science it would give them more confidence and a greater sense of belonging in those subjects. Don't we think we need to encourage and support girls and women achieve their full potential as scientific researchers and innovators?

(Writer can be contacted at his email: dixitptrakr@yahoo.in)

**BRIEF**

**Overseas investors**



**New Delhi:** Minister of State for Mines Raosaheb Patil Danve has urged overseas investors to invest in India as he underlined the initiatives taken by his ministry in the mining and mineral sector. Danve is leading the Indian delegation at Mining Indaba International Conclave which is one of the most popular mining conclaves in the world held every year at Cape Town, South Africa. He addressed the international audience on February 8. Bilateral ministerial-level meetings with Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Congo and Zambia took place on the sidelines of the conclave. Several interactions took place among the Indian delegates and delegates from various countries and organisations.

**Lending rates**

**New Delhi:** Leading public sector lenders Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Bank of Baroda (BoB) have raised their lending rates by up to 25 basis points following the interest rate hike by Reserve Bank earlier this week. PNB in a regulatory filing said it has effected a 25 basis point increase in the Repo Linked Lending Rate (RLLR) from 8.75 per cent to 9 per cent effective from Thursday. The Reserve Bank on Wednesday hiked the benchmark policy rate by 25 basis points to 6.5 per cent, citing sticky core inflation. It was the sixth time the interest rate has been hiked by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) since May last year, taking the total quantum of increase to 250 basis points. BoB increased its Marginal Cost of Funds Based Lending Rate (MCLR) by 5 basis points across all tenures. The new rates are effective from February 12, BoB said in a regulatory filing.

**Digital credit**

**New Delhi:** The government will roll out digital credit service this year which will enable even small street vendors to avail credit from large banks, Telecom and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Thursday. Speaking at 'Digital Payments Utsav', Vaishnaw said it will be rolled out like UPI service and will be a big achievement under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Digital India'. "This year we will be rolling out digital credit and NPCI will take a big lead in that over a period of next 10-12 months. A good construct of digital credit will be created," Vaishnaw said. At the event, the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) unveiled a prototype of voice-based payment system for UPI. The minister said people will soon be able to make payments by speaking on the phone in their local language.

## New tax regime to leave higher disposable income in hands of people: Sitharaman

**New Delhi, Feb 10:**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said the new tax regime, which offers a rebate on annual income of up to Rs 7 lakh, will leave higher disposable income in the hands of people. Replying to the discussion on Union Budget for 2023-24 in the Lok Sabha, Sitharaman said the Budget astutely balances the requirement of development imperatives within the limits of fiscal prudence.

She said the Budget focuses on the middle class, employment generation, MSME, agri sector, rural population, health and green growth. Sitharaman said the new tax regime announced in the Budget is "very attractive" as the tax exemption limit has been hiked to Rs 3 lakh,



**Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha during Budget Session of Parliament, in New Delhi, Friday, Feb. 10.**

from Rs 2.5 lakh earlier. Besides, a standard deduction of Rs 50,000 too has been allowed under the scheme. This new tax regime will benefit the majority of middle-class taxpayers, she said, adding that the rebate has been provided on an income of up to Rs 7 lakh. "Since the

enhanced rebate limit is unconditional, it leaves higher disposable income in the hands of people," Sitharaman said. Under the revamped concessional tax regime, which will be effective from the next fiscal, no tax would be levied for income up to Rs 3 lakh. Income between Rs

3-6 lakh would be taxed at 5 per cent; Rs 6-9 lakh at 10 per cent; Rs 9-12 lakh at 15 per cent; Rs 12-15 lakh at 20 per cent and income of Rs 15 lakh and above will be taxed at 30 per cent. However, no tax would be levied on annual income of up to Rs 7 lakh.

Responding to RSP member NK Premachandran's remark that the new tax regime will not be beneficial for a person earning Rs 9 lakh annually and having an investment of Rs 4.5 lakh in tax savings instruments, Sitharaman said for a person saving Rs 4.5 lakh will be an "effort-ridden exercise".

"For a person earning Rs 9 lakh, it's not always possible to have Rs 4.5 lakh as saving and then also have enough money to spend on your family," Sitharaman said.

## If India is a bright spot for world, UP is driving growth of country: PM Modi

**Lucknow, Feb 10:**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday asserted that if India is a bright spot for the world, then it is Uttar Pradesh which is driving the country's growth. "Today UP has become a hope. If India is a bright spot for the world, then it is UP, which is driving the growth of India."

"Within 5-6 years, UP has established a new identity for itself. Now, UP is being identified by good governance. Now, UP is being identified by better law and order, peace and stability."

Now, wealth creators here will get new opportunities," Modi said after inaugurating the "Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit, 2023". The Prime Minister, who is MP from Varanasi, said Uttar Pradesh, which was earli-



er known as a 'BIMARU' state, is today known for good governance. BIMARU is a term used earlier to refer to states that have poor economic conditions. The acronym BIMARU comprises the first letters of four states - Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Modi also mentioned the benefits of millet, which is also known as 'mota anaj' and has emerged as a superfood today. He said, millets,

"which we now call 'Shri Anna', have very high nutritional value. Our effort is that India's 'Shri Anna' addresses global nutrition security". The Prime Minister said, "Today, the aspirations of the society of India are giving a push to the governments. And, these aspirations are also bringing speed to the developmental works". "Today, India is carrying out reforms not out of compulsion, but out of conviction," he said. The Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023 is being held from February 10-12.

It is the flagship investment summit of the Uttar Pradesh government. The summit will bring together policymakers, industry leaders, academia, think tanks and leaders from across the world to explore business opportunities and forge partnerships.

## Airtel Payments Banks launches Biz Khata

**New Delhi, Feb 10:**

Airtel Payments Bank announced the launch of its current account - BizKhata, which comes with unlimited transactions and instant activation for small merchants and business partners across the country. A large number of small business owners continue to use savings accounts for business purposes as they cannot meet the minimum balance requirement of the business accounts. This makes the process of differentiating personal and business transactions cumbersome. Airtel Payments Bank's BizKhata has been designed specifically for these small merchants and business owners. It brings all business transactions to one platform and allows them to maintain clear records while enjoying multiple banking ben-

efits. The current account solution will be available to existing and new merchants and business partners of Airtel Payments Bank. A business owner can easily open this account within 5 minutes with biometric authentication and minimal paperwork.

Ganesh Ananthanarayanan, Chief Operating Officer of Airtel Payments Bank, said, "At Airtel Payments Bank, we aim to make banking accessible and simple. Our research reflected that fear of high charges levied on not meeting the minimum balance requirement and going beyond the defined number of transactions is a setback for small business owners to start a business account. With this insight, we created BizKhata account to enable and offer the benefits of business banking to small business owners."

## Reliance to invest Rs 75,000 crore in UP in 4 yrs: Ambani

**Lucknow, Feb 10:**

Reliance Industries Ltd will invest Rs 75,000 crore in rolling out 5G mobile telephony services, expanding retail network and setting up renewable energy capacity in Uttar Pradesh in the next four years, its chairman Mukesh Ambani said on Friday.

Ambani also announced foray of the oil-to-telecom conglomerate into bio-energy business, converting agriculture waste into gas which can be used as fuel in industries, run automobiles or light kitchen stoves. Speaking at the Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023 here, Ambani said his group will set up 10 GigaWatts of renewable energy capacity and roll



out 5G services across the state in the next 10 months. "We plan to invest an additional Rs 75,000 crore in UP over the next four years across Jio, retail, and renewable businesses," he said. "These new investments will create an additional over 1 lakh jobs in the state," he added. The investment will be in addition to Rs 50,000 crore already invested in the state. Reliance

Jio, the nation's largest telecom company by subscribers, will complete its rollout of 5G to cover every town and village in the state by December 2023. Stating that this will help modernise all areas of business and industry, agriculture, social sector, and governance, he said the company plans to do pilots on its two new innovative initiatives - Jio School and Jio AI Doctor - to bring top-class education and healthcare in the most affordable way to villages and small towns across Uttar Pradesh.

Reliance Retail, he said, will revolutionise hundreds of thousands of kiranas and small stores across the state, enabling them to grow more and earn more.

## Milk prices increased due to rise in fodder cost: Union minister Balyan

**New Delhi, Feb 10:**

Milk prices in the country have risen due to increase in the feed and fodder cost, Union Minister Sanjeev Kumar Balyan said in Rajya Sabha on Friday. Balyan, who is Minister of State of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, said dairy companies pass on 75 per cent of the retail price to farmers. There is a need to balance between farmers and consumers. Farmers need to get higher returns on milk for them to take up dairy farming, he said. In the recent time, there has been increase in the prices of feed and fodder due to which prices of milk have



gone up. If fodder rates come down, automatically milk prices will also decline, the minister added.

Replying to another supplementary question, Balyan said three private firms are conducting trial of a vaccine developed by Hisar-based ICAR institute for the control of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in cattle.

### BUSINESS LITERATURE FEST

Festival 2023

February 10-11, 2023

Union Minister for Labour & Employment Bhupender Yadav during the BIMTECH Business Literature Fest 2023, in Greater Noida, Friday, Feb. 10.

## Polycab India announced as official partner

**Mumbai, Feb 10:**

Polycab India Ltd. (PIL), India's leading electrical goods company with a consolidated turnover of INR 122+ billion in FY22 announced an official partnership with the International Cricket Council. The partnership will include Polycab's sponsorship of all major men's and women's ICC global events scheduled until the end of 2023, including the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa, the ICC World Test Championship Final in the United Kingdom, and the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 scheduled in India. Polycab India has been a well-known brand in Indian households for a few decades and this association with ICC will help the company

increase its brand visibility and awareness amongst more than 1 billion cricket enthusiasts across the world. Through this partnership, Polycab will aim to deepen its engagement with their existing and future customer's and drive the message - 'We Innovate for a Brighter Living'. All communication throughout the tournament will focus on its innovative, safe and energy efficient products, build customer and influencer awareness and engagement.

Mr. Nilesh Malani, President & Chief Marketing Officer, Polycab India Ltd. said: "It is a matter of great pride for Polycab, a reputed home-grown brand with presence in 60+ countries, partner with the International Cricket Council.

## Realme launches 10 Pro 5G Coca-Cola edition in India

**New Delhi, Feb 10:**

The most trusted smartphone brand, realme, has partnered with the global iconic soft drink brand, Coca-Cola®, to create the most stunning smartphone, the realme 10 Pro 5G Coca-Cola Edition. The limited edition smartphone comes in an 8+128GB variant priced at Rs 20,999. This partnership brings technology and lifestyle together to create a seamless and fun experience for customers.

Commenting on the collaboration, Mr. Madhav Sheth, CEO, realme India, VP, realme, and President, realme International Business Group said, "At realme, we constantly endeavor to explore new ways to offer unique and leap forward experiences



to our users, and our collaboration with Coca-Cola is yet another step in that direction. Over the years, both brands have worked towards a common goal to bring positivity and joy

## LIC chairman says, will meet Adani Group top management soon

**Mumbai, Feb 10:**

The LIC management will soon meet the top management of the crisis-ridden Adani Group and seek clarification on the crisis being faced by the diversified conglomerate, chairman MR Kumar said here on Thursday.

LIC's investment into Adani group firms' stock has come under criticism by the opposition parties as well as investors after US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research made a litany of allegations against the Gautam Adani-led group, saying its companies manage and manipulate share prices, run offshore shell companies for round-tripping and lacking in corporate governance practices.



"Though our investor team has already sought clarifications from the Adanis, our top management did not contact them yet as we have been busy preparing the results."

We are soon going to call them to meet us and explain. We want to understand what is happening in the market and in the

group," the chairman told reporters at the earnings conference on Thursday. "We'll be calling them in sometime soon to know how are they managing the whole crisis," Kumar added. Kumar, however, refused to give a timeline of the meeting between LIC and Adani group officials.

LIC, which is the nation's largest institutional investor, is the second largest shareholder in most of the listed Adani group companies, with a cumulative investment of Rs 36,474.78 crore as of January 27, which in percentage terms is 4.23 per cent of the total public holding in those companies. But for LIC's Rs 44.76 lakh crore investment asset under management, this is only 0.97 per cent.

## Okaya EV unveils secured and water resistant E-Scooter

**New Delhi, Feb 10:**

Okaya EV, India's fastest growing electric vehicle brand, has strengthened its 'Faast' series that offers enhanced performance and range-oriented scooters with the launch of its latest scooter Okaya Faast F3. Okaya Faast F3 delivers an exceptional range of 125 Km on a single charge, is waterproof and dust-resistant and has a maximum speed of 70Km based upon loading capacity. With its unique features and safety parameters, Okaya Faast F3 is designed for people who are looking for a dependable and affordable scooter.

Addressing modern consumer needs, the scooter is powered by a 1200W motor delivering peak power of 2500W, along with 3.53 kWh Li-ion LFP Dual batteries



with switchable technology to extend battery life. It takes around 4-5 hours to get fully charged. The scooter comes with a 3-year warranty on the battery and motor. With the launch of the Faast F3, Okaya aims to bring an affordable range of electric scooters in India and increase the adoption of electric vehicles.



## Rohit was made to work hard: Vikram Rathour



Nagpur, Feb 10 (PTI):

Australia made Rohit Sharma "work hard" for his 120-run knock and it was a special effort since it came on a track that wasn't easy to bat on, India batting coach Vikram Rathour said after the hosts strengthened their position in the series-opener. Rohit's hundred and half-centuries from Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel has given India a first innings lead of 144, going into the third day. "It was a special innings by Rohit and it is a great feeling (to see him score runs). He showed good temperament and it was very important innings as the surface wasn't easy to bat on," Rathour said at the end of the second day's play. Since he started opening in Test matches, Rohit has played some great knocks but the three hundreds that stand out include his epic 161 on a Chepauk snake pit, a ton at the Oval and Friday's knock on a low, slow turner against Australia. "That is the quality of his batting," Rathour said. "He has got runs on seaming tracks in England. But if we talk about this particular innings, he was made to work hard for his runs. Normally, with Rohit when he scores his first few runs, he then pushes the score. But here he had to work hard," the former Test opener said. India scored 95 runs in the final session, courtesy a 81-run stand between Axar (52 batting) and Jadeja (66 batting) but Rathour didn't want to sound complacent about the fact that the match is as good as in India's pocket. "I don't think so. You can't say till the last ball is bowled," he said cautiously. When asked if Axar's batting came into consideration when he was picked ahead of Kuldeep, Rathour denied emphatically.

# Rohit, Jadeja and Axar give India control

Nagpur, Feb 10 (PTI):

Skipper Rohit Sharma conjured up one his most impressive Test hundreds under pressure against a quality Australian attack as India vaulted to a crucial 144-run lead in the series-opener after ending the day two at 321 for 7, here Friday.

Rohit (120) displayed class and composure of the highest order and in the process became the first Indian captain to have scored a century in all three formats.

While Rohit's ninth Test hundred is worth its weight in gold, Ravindra Jadeja's (66 not out) 18th half-century is also priceless. The all-rounder's knock will be equally important in the context of the game.

Jadeja once again showed his true worth by adding 61 runs for the sixth wicket with Rohit and another 81 runs for the unconquered eighth-wicket with Axar Patel (52 batting), who is also playing a fine hand.

It was a battle of attrition for Indian batters, especially Rohit and Jadeja with the home team putting on board 244 runs on the second day.

On a slow track where other batters found the run-scoring extremely difficult, the Indian captain was concentration-personified.

It had the same class as the 161 he scored in against England in 2021 in the Chennai Test. The opener put his best foot forward against an attack, led by spinners Nathan Lyon (1/98) and Todd Murphy (5/82), who got a five-for on Test debut.

In fact, both the off-break bowlers came



round the wicket against right-handers to stem the flow of runs and succeeded partially. It took Rohit 171 balls to

reach his hundred. He hit 15 boundaries and two sixes in a knock that spanned more than four and half hours.

But the hallmark of his innings was the rotation of strike and how he traded risk for caution. Having read the nature

of the pitch perfectly, Rohit curbed his natural flair and channelised his "inner Cheteshwar Pujara" and testimony to that was 62 completely out of character runs that he scored across two sessions on the day.

He had scored 56 runs in half-a-session on Thursday evening.

Pull has been Rohit's go-to shot in every form of cricket he didn't take his opposite number Pat Cummins' (1/74) bait, save one time when he hit him for a maximum behind square.

He didn't try to get to his hundred in a hurry, playing out maidens and taking singles before whipping Cummins to square leg for a boundary that took his score in the 90s.

It was an inside-out lofted drive over extra cover off Murphy that brought up his hundred, and once again reiterated the theory that in adverse situations, individuals with the highest degree of skill prevail.

Once second new ball was taken, Cummins dismissed Rohit with an unplayable delivery that was fast and also moved away late after pitching.

However Jadeja stood firm and got good support from fellow all-rounder Axar to further consolidate India's position in the game. Virat Kohli (12) along with debutants Suryakumar Yadav (8) and Kona Bharat (8) would be disappointed that they didn't score big.

In the case of Kohli, bespectacled Murphy bowled a similar delivery to the former India skipper that had earlier accounted for Cheteshwar Pujara.

## I'll look back at this feat for rest of my life: Murphy



Nagpur, Feb 10 (PTI):

Todd Murphy has had a "special" couple of days and the bespectacled Australian Test debutant, who resembled more like a professor of history rather than practitioner of finger spin, couldn't be happier for his five-wicket haul against India in the ongoing opening Test here. Murphy has so far picked up 5 for 82 in 36 overs in India's first innings, with the wickets of KL Rahul, Cheteshwar Pujara and Virat Kohli in his kitty. "It's been a pretty special couple of days and to top it off with a five-wicket haul on debut is more than I ever hope for and it is going to be something that I'll look back on for the rest of my life and be proud of," Murphy said at the end of the second day's play. Murphy was all praise for the Indian batters and their ability to use their hands against spinners. "I haven't bowled to a lot of people from around the world but I think the Indian guys they use their hands really well. They get their hands out in front of their pads and they have got a lot of scoring options too. "So always a really difficult challenge there. And it was quite tough," he said. Murphy started out as a medium pacer but later found off-breaks to be his calling card. "I think in all honesty my medium pace wasn't really any good anyway, so it sort of just came a time where I was tinkering in the nets with off-spin bowling and yeah, got some really good feedback that what was coming out of my hand was alright. "So, just went from there and kept working at it and it's been the best thing I've ever done. So thankful I have," he said. It has been one hell of a journey for Murphy, who wasn't even playing first-class cricket a year back and now has five-for in Tests to boast of.

## Jackson, Vasavada tons turn it around for Saurashtra

Bengaluru, Feb 10 (PTI):

Sheldon Jackson and skipper Arpit Vasavada struck a century each as Saurashtra turned the tables on Karnataka by just 43 runs with six wickets in hands and two full days' play remaining. Resuming at the overnight score of 76 for 2, Saurashtra did not have a good start as they lost Harvik Desai (33) inside five overs, trapped LBW by Vasuki Koushik. But then came the turnaround as Jackson and Vasavada joined hands and played patiently to build a partnership. The duo displayed classical Test match temperament, defending the good

balls but not hesitating to dispatch the bad deliveries to the boundary.

It was complete frustration for the Karnataka bowlers as they failed to break the partnership or trouble the duo, who looked determined.

Off-spinner Krishnappa Gowtham (1/68) finally broke the partnership in the 98th over, trapping Jackson in front of the wicket but by then it was too late as Saurashtra had already undone the hard work of Karnataka skipper Mayank Agarwal, who scored 249 in the first innings to more-or-less single-handedly take his side past the 400-run mark.

Sheldon Jackson and skipper Arpit Vasavada struck a century each as Saurashtra turned the tables on Karnataka.



Sheldon Jackson and skipper Arpit Vasavada struck a century each as Saurashtra turned the tables on Karnataka.

## Akash Deep's five-for puts Bengal in driver's seat against MP

Indore, Feb 10 (PTI):

Bengal pacer Akash Deep bowled a game-changing spell en route to a five-wicket haul to put his team in the driver's seat against defending champions Madhya Pradesh in the Ranji Trophy semifinal here on Friday.

Akash Deep (5/42), who played a key role in their win over Jharkhand in the quarterfinals, rattled Madhya Pradesh's recovery act led by overnight batter Saransh Jain (65), claiming two wickets in two balls.

He uprooted Jain's off-stump and in the next ball trapped Kumar Kartikeya leg-before to breathe life into Bengal's lacklustre at-

tack, which also has Ishan Porel and Mukesh Kumar.

He grabbed his fourth five-wicket haul in first-class cricket dismissing Avesh Khan before Madhya Pradesh were bowled out for 170 when their No. 11 batter Gaurav Yadav was run out.

Bengal took a huge first innings lead of 268 runs but skipper Manoj Tiwary did not enforce follow-on.

Bengal ended the third day on 59 for 2, with an overall lead of 327 runs to inch closer to the final. The two-time Ranji champions last reached the final in 2020 where they lost to Saurashtra. Bengal are yet to win the Ranji Trophy since 1989-90. Much like the first innings,

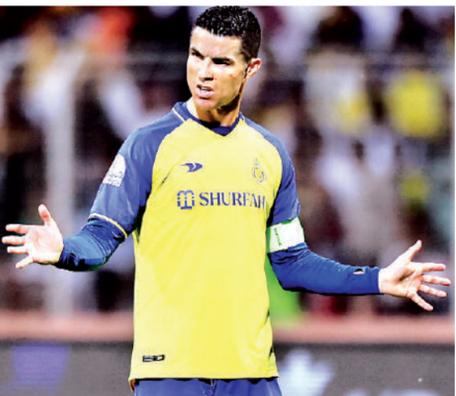
the opening duo of Abhimanyu Easwaran (19) and Karan Lal (17) departed in quick succession.

First innings centurion duo of Sudip Gharami (12 batting) and Anustup Majumdar (9 batting) were at the crease with two more days to go.

Earlier resuming at the overnight score of 56 for 2, night watchman Anubhav Agarwal departed with the addition of just two runs after edging one off Mukesh Kumar.

At the other end, Akash Deep cleaned up Rajat Patidar for a duck, while left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed dismissed MP skipper Aditya Srivastava (7) as half of their side were out in the pavilion for 89.

## Cristiano Ronaldo scores 4 goals in Saudi Pro League game



Mecca, Feb 10, (AP):

Cristiano Ronaldo scored four goals for his new Saudi Arabian team, bringing his career tally in domestic leagues to 503.

Ronaldo, four days after his 38th birthday, scored twice in each half to help Al Nassr defeat Al Wehda 4-0 in a Saudi Pro League game. The five-time Ballon

d'Or winner who starred for Real Madrid, Juventus and Manchester United joined Al Nassr after the World Cup. The Portugal star signed a contract through June 2025. Ronaldo had a disappointing World Cup where he was benched in the knockout rounds and left the field in tears after Portugal lost in the quarterfinals to Morocco.

## Ponting targets Warner's poor run in India

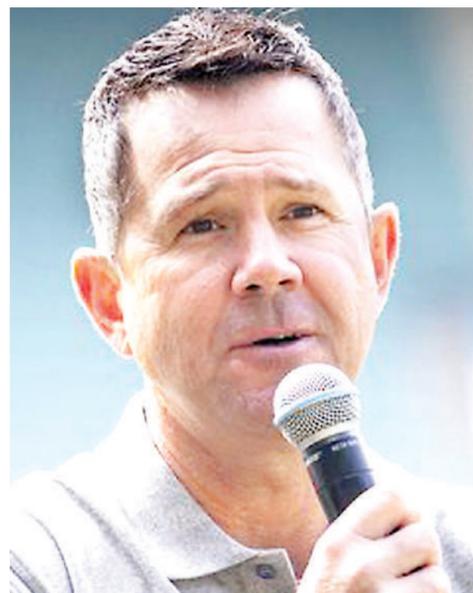
Melbourne, Feb 10 (PTI):

Former Australian captain Ricky Ponting has dropped a hint to his country's selectors that they revisit David Warner's place in the playing XI if he continues to fire blanks in Test cricket in the sub-continent.

The 36-year-old opening stalwart came up with another underwhelming performance on the opening day of the first Test in Nagpur on Thursday with Mohammed Shami bowling him through the gate for one and leaving the visitors two down for just two runs.

Warner's batting record on overseas Tests isn't flattering with the southpaw accumulating 2,994 runs at a modest average of 33.64. In India, it drops further to 22.88.

"I think he averages 24 in India, something like that, from about eight Test matches," Ponting told ICC Review.



"Nine Test matches — well, eight-and-a-half, he's got another (innings) yet — but that average

would've dipped down again today (Thursday). He's one of the players that has come out and said

that winning in India, as far as he's concerned, would be maybe even bigger than winning an Ashes series." The legendary cricketer added that if Australia are really keen on winning the series, they should pick their best lineup, hinting that a call on Warner should be taken soon. "So, if the selectors and the coach and the captain, if they are so hell-bent on winning this series and a couple of their batters for the first few games don't fire, then I think they have to have a look at picking who they think is their best line-up going forward," said Ponting. He hinted that if someone like Travis Head, the "Player of the Series" during the 2021/22 Ashes and the joint second-highest run-getter during the recently-concluded three-Test series against South Africa, could be axed for the Nagpur Test, then Warner too can be benched.

## Mandhana doubtful starter against Pakistan



Cape Town, Feb 10 (PTI):

India vice captain Smriti Mandhana is likely to miss the Women's T20 World Cup opener against Pakistan on Sunday as she is yet to recover from a finger injury she suffered during a warm-up game.

The 26-year-old opener injured her left middle finger while fielding during the warm-up match against Australia on Monday. "She suffered an injury in the practice game. We can't say she is out of World Cup yet. But she could miss the Pakistan game," an ICC

source told PTI.

The southpaw had batted at number three against Australia instead of her usual opening position. Her innings lasted only three balls.

Mandhana had subsequently missed India's second warm-up game against Bangladesh on Wednesday. Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's fitness is also a concern. She had injured her shoulder during the final of the Tri-Series against South Africa last week. "Body is fine. It will get better with rest." Kaur had said after the final.

## Uttarakhand paper leaks protest

# Dhami says political organisations which have lost ground 'instigating' youths

Dehradun, Feb 10 (PTI):

A day after a protest against recruitment exam paper leaks here turned violent, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Friday said some political organisations which have lost ground across the country are instigating the youth for their own interests. He said the protest turned violent as "elements from outside" joined it and efforts are being made to identify them.

A protest by youths against recruitment examination paper leaks turned violent when the protestors clashed with police personnel and hurled stones at them on

Thursday. Some youths were injured as police resorted to lathi-charge to disperse the protestors.

"We have been saying all along that some political organisations which have lost ground not just in Uttarakhand but all over the country are instigating the youth to serve their own interests. The protest turned violent as elements from outside joined it. It is being ascertained who they were," Dhami told reporters here, without taking any names.

After the question papers for an exam were leaked, Dhami said, it was cancelled and fresh dates were announced. No examination fee was taken from the students and they



A protestor raises slogans at Shaheed Smarak in district court premises against police action during protest over alleged irregularities in state government recruitment examinations, in Dehradun, Friday.

were also allowed to travel to their exam centres in Uttarakhand Roadways buses free of cost.

"We did all this only be-

cause we wanted to protect the students' interests. We want to tell our sons and daughters to focus on their prepara-

tions for the forthcoming examinations. All examinations will now be held with probity and transparency," he said.

As promised to the youth, the promulgation of an ordinance to prevent the use of unfair means in recruitment examinations in the state, making it a cognisable and non-bailable offence, was approved on Thursday, the chief minister said.

The ordinance has a provision for a maximum punishment of life imprisonment and a fine of up to Rs 10 crore for those indulging in or facilitating the use of unfair means in recruitment examinations from printing question papers to publishing results.

# Centre, probe agencies not going after big fish of international drug syndicates: SC

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

The Supreme Court Friday said the Centre and investigating agencies are not arresting big fish who are members of international drug syndicates but catching small fish like agriculturists and someone standing at a bus stand in NDPS cases.

The remarks of the top court came on a bail plea of an accused who was arrested after opium was found in his fields and has served more than five years in jail. A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala said, "We must say that the

Government of India and the investigating agencies are not arresting big fish. Why don't you go after international drug syndicates? Try to catch them. You are only catching small fish like agriculturists, someone standing at bus stand or other places."

The top court was hearing the bail plea of Sabir who was booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act after opium of commercial quantity was recovered by the police from his agriculture lands.

Additional Solicitor General Vikramjeet Banerjee, appearing for the Madhya Pradesh gov-

ernment and the Narcotics Control Bureau, opposed the bail plea, saying that it was not a small quantity and he had already been convicted twice. The bench said the maximum sentence for the quantity of psychotropic substance recovered is 10 years and he has already served more than five years in jail for the offence.

"These are small-time farmers who could not secure bail for the offence," the bench observed, adding that he was entitled for bail. The top court then proceeded to grant bail and rejected the submission of the state government and the NCB.

# SC dismisses Google's plea for modification in Jan 19 order upholding NCLAT view on penalty

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain the plea of Google LLC seeking modification of its January 19 order and said the company can raise its grievances during hearing of its appeal before the NCLAT.

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala said at most it can add "without prejudice" in the January 19

order and nothing more. Senior advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for the US tech giant said some portion in the January 19 order needs to be deleted. The bench said the order was dictated in the open court and therefore there is nothing to clarify or modify.

The counsel appearing for Competition Commission of India (CCI) said the appeal of Google LLC is listed for hearing next week before the National Company

Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) and they can raise these issues before the tribunal. The bench told Singh, "Sorry, it can't be done. We will not do it. You can raise all these grievances during the hearing of the appeals".

On January 19, in a setback to Google, the top court had endorsed the order of the NCLAT declining to grant an interim stay on the imposition of a penalty of Rs 1,337 crore on the US tech giant by the competition regulator for

allegedly abusing its dominant position in the Android mobile device ecosystem. The top court had said at the interlocutory stage, it would suffice to say that the findings of the CCI against Google were neither without jurisdiction nor suffering from any manifest error warranting its interference.

It had granted a week's time to the US firm to deposit 10 per cent of Rs 1,337 crore penalty imposed on it by the CCI.

The top court had asked

the NCLAT to decide Google's appeal against the competition regulator's order by March 31 this year after charting out the time schedule for the hearing.

"It is suffice to note that the findings which have been arrived at by the CCI cannot be held, at the interlocutory stage, to be either without jurisdiction or suffering from a manifest error which would have necessitated interference at the interlocutory stage", it had ordered.

# Yoga pulled me out of mental and physical agony: Prez

Bhubaneswar, Feb 10 (PTI):

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday said that yoga had helped her when she was in mental and physical agony, while asserting that regular practice of it could help people achieve success in all spheres of life. She also noted that empowerment of women is the mantra to establish India as the "Biswa Guru" (world leader).

Murmu, who arrived here earlier in the day on a two-day visit to her home

state, stressed the need for the practice of yoga which could help citizens grow spiritually leading to the overall development of individuals and the nation as a whole. While sharing her own experience at the foundation day function of Janaprabha Mission, a charitable organisation, the President said, "At one point of time, I felt completely broken both physically and mentally and embarked on yoga. I am here today standing before you and speaking to you just because of yoga."

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### BRIEF



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with spiritual leader Mufaddal Saifuddin during the inauguration of the Dawoodi Bohra community's Arab Academy in the Marol area of Andheri East, in Mumbai, Friday.

### Arms seized

Chandigarh: A Chinese pistol, five cartridges, a magazine and three kilogram heroin airdropped by a Pakistani drone near the international border in Punjab's Tarn Taran district were seized in a joint operation by BSF and police personnel, officials said on Friday. Director General of Punjab Police Gaurav Yadav said the consignment was airdropped by Pakistan-based smugglers using a drone from across the border. A civilian alerted police on hearing the sound of a drone near the India-Pakistan border in the Khemkaran area on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday, he said, adding that the inputs were shared with the Border Security Force (BSF) and a joint combing operation was launched within a radius of one kilometre from the border.

### Heavy snow

Leh/Jammu: The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) on Friday rescued four persons, including an infant, who were trapped in heavy snowfall in Leh district of Ladakh, officials said. The four were travelling in a car from Khatse towards Neraks but due to heavy snowfall, their vehicle got stuck at the Singay-la Pass, they said. A rescue operation was launched under the supervision of a team of BRO's 114-RCC that was led by junior engineer (JE) Pradeep Rathore. The team, with help of the police, rescued the four persons, including an infant, at around 4.30 am Friday, the officials said, adding they were evacuated to Fotoksar village.

### Probe stayed

Bengaluru: The Karnataka High Court on Friday stayed the Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) proceedings in a corruption case against Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president D K Shivakumar till February 24. The HC has also directed the premier agency to submit an action taken report before February 22 in the case registered under the Prevention of Corruption Act. The Enforcement Directorate had issued summons to Shivakumar while his daughter was issued a notice by the CBI, the Congress leader had revealed on February 8. He had been asked to appear before ED on February 22, which he had alleged to be political vendetta.

Weather	
High 34	Low 13
MARKET	
NIFTY	17,856.50
SENSEX	60,682.70
BULLION	
GOLD	56,752
SILVER	66,846

## SC seeks views of Centre, SEBI on Hindenburg report on Adani firms

### Apex Court asks how to protect investors' interests

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

Concerned over protecting the interests of Indian investors, the Supreme Court Friday favoured creating a robust mechanism to regulate the stock market and sought views of the Centre and market regulator SEBI on PILs alleging exploitation of innocent investors and "artificial crashing" of the Adani Group's stock value.

A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud allayed the apprehension and told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to convey to the officials of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) that it was not "planning any

One of the PILs, filed by lawyer Vishal Tiwari, sought a direction to the Centre to constitute a committee monitored by a retired apex court judge to inquire and investigate into the Hindenburg Research report which has made a slew of allegations against the business conglomerate led by industrialist Gautam Adani. Another PIL, filed by advocate M L Sharma, seeks prosecution of short-seller Nathan Anderson of the US-based Hindenburg Research and his associates in India and the US for allegedly exploiting innocent investors and the "artificial crashing" of the Adani Group's stock value in the market.

witch hunt". The bench, also comprising justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala, sought inputs from the finance ministry and others on various issues, including on making the regulatory mechanism robust to protect the interests of investors in the market where capital flow is seamless in modern

times. "This is just an open dialogue. They have brought an issue before the court. What is of concern is how do we ensure the protection of Indian investors? What happened here was short-selling. Probably SEBI is also doing its investigation. Please tell your officers also this is no witch hunt

that we are planning to do..." it said. "How do we ensure that going in future, we have robust mechanisms? Because today, capital is moving in and out of India seamlessly. How do we ensure in future that Indian investors are protected? Everybody is in the market now," it said. During the brief hearing, the court observed that the PILs say that the loss is of over Rs 10 lakh crore. "How do we ensure that they are protected? How do we ensure that this does not happen in future? What role do we envisage for SEBI? For example, in a different context, you have circuit breakers," it said.

### Cong MP Rajani Ashokrao Patil suspended for remainder of Budget Session



New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI): Raja Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday suspended Congress MP Rajani Ashokrao Patil for the remainder of the current Budget Session for filming House proceedings. Dhankhar, who had earlier

### Unfair: Cong MP on her suspension

New Delhi: Congress MP Rajani Patil, who was suspended by the Raja Sabha on Friday for the remainder of the budget session of Parliament, said it was not fair to give her the harshest punishment as she had not done anything deliberately.

in the day indicated that action would be taken against those who had filmed a ruckus during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech on Thursday, asked leaders of political parties to express their views on the issue.

### Money laundering case

## SC grants interim bail to suspended Jharkhand IAS officer

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Friday granted interim bail for a period of two months to suspended Jharkhand cadre IAS officer Pooja Singhal in a money laundering case to enable her to look after her ailing daughter.

The order was passed by a bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul while hearing Singhal's appeal against the Jharkhand High Court order dismiss-

ing her bail plea in relation to the Enforcement Directorate's probe arising from alleged corruption in the MGNREGA scheme.

"We are inclined to grant interim bail to the petitioner for the purposes of attending to her daughter for a period of two months from the date of release," said the bench also comprising Justice Manoj Misra. The court directed Singhal, represented by senior advocate

Sidharth Luthra, to not influence the witnesses, as alleged by the agency, and not visit Jharkhand except for attending court hearings. The counsel for the agency argued during the hearing that Singhal's daughter was being "medically managed" and her husband the girl's stepfather was there to look after her and there were "serious apprehensions" with respect to the accused influencing witnesses if released.

## SC gets 2 more judges; top court to function with full strength of 34

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

The government on Friday elevated two high court chief justices to the Supreme court, taking it to its full strength of 34 judges after a gap of nine months. Law Minister Kiren Rijiju took to Twitter to announce the fresh appointments to the top court and extended his best wishes to them. Justice Rajesh Bindal, Chief Justice, Allahabad HC and Justice Aravind Kumar, Chief Justice, Gujarat HC are likely to take oath as judges of the Supreme Court in the next two days, sources familiar with the process of appointing judges to the higher judiciary said. Once they take the oath, the top court will achieve its full strength of 34 judges, including the Chief Justice of India.

Their names were recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium on January 31. The Department of Justice in the Union law ministry issued separate notifications announcing their appointments.

While all six members of the Collegium, led by CJI DY Chandrachud, were unanimous in recommending the name of Justice Bindal, Justice K M Joseph had a reservation about the name of Justice

Kumar, according to a resolution uploaded on the apex court website. After the elevation of these judges, acting chief justices -Pritinker Diwaker and Sonia Giridhar Gokani- were appointed to the Allahabad and the Gujarat High Courts respectively.

Both are senior-most judges in their respective high courts. Born on April 16, 1961, Justice Bindal was to demit office in April this year on attaining the age of 62 years. But following his elevation to the Supreme Court, he now has three more years. HC judges retire at 62 while SC judges retire at 65 years.

Justice Kumar was born on July 14, 1962, and would turn 61 in July this year. Earlier this week, Rajasthan High Court Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal, Patna High Court Chief Justice Sanjay Karol, Manipur High Court Chief Justice PV Sanjay Kumar, Patna High Court judge Ahsanuddin Amanullah, and Allahabad High Court judge Manoj Misra took oath as Supreme Court judges after their elevation last Saturday.

Between May and July this year, six judges of the apex court will demit office upon attaining the age of 65 years.

## 2023 going to be filled with lot of new developments at ISRO: Somanath



Students watch the launch of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV-D2) carrying EOS-07, Janus-1 and AzaadiSAT-2 satellites, at Satish Dhawan Space Station in Sriharikota, Friday.

Sriharikota (AP), Feb 10 (PTI):

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will undertake a slew of missions in 2023 and prepare for manned space mission, Gaganyaan, the space agency's chief S Somanath said on Friday.

According to ISRO, Gaganyaan project envisages demonstration of human spaceflight capability by launching a crew of 3 members to an orbit of 400 km for a 3-day mission and bringing them back safely to earth, by landing in Indian sea waters. A number of PSLV and

### Probe ordered for missing viscera samples

Indore (MP), Feb 10 (PTI): The Indore police in Madhya Pradesh on Friday ordered a probe after a few viscera samples went missing from a police station, with its staff claiming that the internal organs were eaten away by rats, an official said.

Viscera comprises body parts like the lungs, heart, and the organs of the digestive, excretory, and reproductive systems. Viscera samples are preserved in many murder and unnatural death cases where autopsy findings might not be conclusive.

## KUMBHA MELA



A devotee seeks blessings of a 'Naga Sadhu' during 'Bango Kumbha Mela' at Kalyani, in Nadia district, Friday.

## Animal Welfare Board withdraws appeal to celebrate Feb 14 as 'Cow Hug Day'

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) on Friday said it has withdrawn the appeal to celebrate February 14 as 'Cow Hug Day' following directions from the government amid widespread criticism on social media. The withdrawal of the appeal comes just a day after Union minister Parshottam Rupala said it will be good if people respond positively to the call given by the board to celebrate February 14 as 'Cow Hug Day'. February 14 is observed as Valentine's Day across the world. "As directed by the Competent Authority and Ministry of Fisheries,

and Dairying Parshottam Rupala had said it will be good if people respond positively to the call given by the AWBI to celebrate February 14 as 'Cow Hug Day'.

Rupala had said that not much should be read into the choice of February 14 as a date for this purpose.

"This country has an age-old tradition of worshipping the cow and it is a matter of great happiness that people embrace the cow. It is good if people respond positively to our appeal," the minister had told reporters. Since February 14 is a day of love, it is good if people remember and love the cow on that day.

Earlier, the board had said the appeal has been made because the vedic traditions are almost on the "verge of extinction" due to the progress of western culture. On Thursday, Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry

## Onus on Pak to create conducive environment for talks: Govt

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

The government on Friday said issues, if any, between India and Pakistan should be resolved bilaterally in an atmosphere free of terror and violence, asserting that the onus is on Islamabad to create such a conducive environment.

In a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha, Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan said according to per media reports, the prime minister of Pakistan remarked

that his message to India is to have talks. "Subsequently, the spokesman of Pakistan's Prime Minister's Office reiterated Pakistan's various pre-conditions to holding any talks with India," he pointed out.

India desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan and India's consistent position is that issues, if any, between India and Pakistan should be resolved bilaterally and peacefully, in an atmosphere free of terror and violence, Muraleedharan said.

## Delhi court convicts four operatives of Al Qaida in Indian Subcontinent

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

A Delhi court on Friday convicted four operatives of Al-Qaida in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) for conspiracy to commit terrorism acts across the country and recruiting members for the terror group.

Special judge Sanjay Khanagwal convicted Maulana Mohd Abdul Rehman Kasmi, Mohd Asif, Zafar Masood and Abdul Sami, saying the prosecution was able to prove its charges against them under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities

(Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The court is likely to hear argument on quantum of sentence on February 14 and the convicts face a maximum punishment of life imprisonment.

"Mohd. Asif, Zafar Masood, Mohd. Abdul Rehman and Abdul Sami are held guilty for commission of offence punishable under section 18 (conspiracy for terror act) and 18-B (recruiting persons for terrorist act) of UAPA and are convicted thereunder," the judge said.

The judge, meanwhile, acquitted two suspected AQIS operatives Syed Mohd Zishan Ali and Sabeel Ahmed in the case.

The judge accepted the submissions of both the accused, represented by advocates M S Khan and Qausar Khan, that the prosecution failed to prove the case against them. The judge directed their release on a personal bond of Rs 10,000 each.

The court had in 2017 framed charges against the accused persons, while it discharged another accused Syed Anzar Shah in the case.

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## All India Steel Medical Officers Conference 2023 begins

### Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 10:** The All India Steel Medical Officers Conference 23 being hosted by SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant formally took off with the inaugural session at Bhilai Niwas on Friday. Director I/c Bhilai Steel Plant Anirban Dasgupta inaugurated AISMOC 23 by lighting the traditional lamp along with Chief Medical Officer (CMO) I/c Dr M Ravindranath, CMO, Dr Pramod Binayke, Dr Subodh Kumar, Addl CMO and Secretary, Organising Committee in presence of Executive Directors of the Plant Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), S Mukhopadhyay, ED (Projects), AK Chakraborty, ED (MM), Dr AK Panda, ED (Finance), MM Gadre, ED (P&A).

A large number of doctors and specialists from nine different steel plants were present on the occasion. Among the



invitees were former Heads of the Plant's Medical & Health Services Dept including Dr SM Iqbal, Dr SR Rizvi and Dr Subodh Hiran, Dr G Malini, Ex-Director and Dr Jayesh Dave, Ex-Joint Director, JLN Hospital & RC. CMO I/c BSP Dr M Ravindranath welcomed the participants and guests. CMO Dr Pramod Binayke proposed the vote of thanks. A Souvenir on AISMOC

2023 was released on the occasion.

In his inaugural address, DIC, Anirban Dasgupta spoke about the important role of members of the medical fraternity in today's society. He expressed his gratitude to doctors and para medical staff of all steel plants for their contribution in fighting the COVID 19 pandemic.

He also hailed all those involved in supply of

large volumes of liquid oxygen by BSP. Dr Saoumya Swaminathan, Deputy Director General (Programme) and Chief Scientist, World Health Organisation, digitally addressed the inaugural session.

Earlier in the morning, as many as seven papers were presented by different doctors from different steel plants all over India in MBBS Paper Session. The session was presided



over by Dr BK Hota, ED (M & HS) Rourkela Steel Plant) and Dr SJ Rizvi, former Director, M & HS, BSP. Dr Dipti Soi from RINL, Vishakhapatnam, Dr Sudeshna Dasgupta from TMH, Jamshedpur, Dr R Swati from ISP, Burnpur, Dr Chitranjit Roy from DSP, Durgapur, Dr Shiv Martha from BSOP, Dr Smita Pusp Shekhar, from BSL, Bokaro and Dr PJ Roy from RSP, Rourkela pre-

sented the papers.

This was followed by a panel discussion on Long Covid Syndrome presided over by Dr G Malini and Dr Jayesh Dave. The panellists were Dr Anil Agrawal from BSL, Bokaro, Dr Reyaz Ahmed from Tata Steel Plant, Dr Sanjay Acharya from RSP, Dr Trinath Das from BSP and Dr SR Bharat Kumar from VISL, Bhadravati.

A Scientific Session

was inaugurated by Dr BK Hota, ED, M & HS, RSP. Seven scientific papers were presented in this session by Dr D Bhaskar from RINL, Dr Shishir Kumar from Tata Main Hospital, Jamshedpur, Dr SK Tiwari, from RSP, Dr Bishwarup Mukherji from ISP, Dr Ardhay das from DSP, Dr Prachi Mene from BSP and Dr Dipti from BSL. A Poster session had also been or-

ganised.

In the post lunch session, Dr Amit Dravid from Ruby Hall Clinic Hospital, Pune delivered a guest lecture on "HIV & Antiretroviral Treatment." In the evening a debate competition was held on the topic: "Can tele-consultation be a part of hospital policy?" Dr Deb Sanjay Nag from Tata Steel Plant spoke for the motion while Dr Kaushalendra Thakur from BSP spoke against the motion.

Another highlight of the Conference today was a symposium on "Recent Advances in Medical Science." As part of this, Dr Aniruddh Mene from BSP spoke on skin banking, Dr Pranayi Behra from ISP spoke on New Management in Retinopathy, Dr Jayant Acharya from RSP spoke on Diabetes in Young Age and Dr Abhik Chatterji from Tata Steel Plant spoke on New Treatment in Hernia Management.

## Chhattisgarh Premier League CPL-T20 begins today

### Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 10:** Under the joint aegis of Chhattisgarh Cricket Council and Veer Sports Club, the biggest and prestigious professional cricket tournament "Chhattisgarh Premier League CPL-T20" is going to be organised from February 11 to February 26. CPL will be simultaneously held in men's and women's categories in Ambikapur, Bilaspur, Bhilai and Nava Raipur.

While addressing media persons here at Supela on Friday, Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee, Sports Cell State President Praveen Jain informed that the



tournament will be inaugurated at 12:00 noon in Gandhi Stadium Ambikapur; around 12:00 noon in Raja Raghuraj Singh Cricket Stadium in Ambikapur, Bilaspur, Bhilai and Nava Raipur.

The selected players of men's category have been auctioned to constitute eight different teams viz Surguja, Bilaspur, Raipur, Nava Raipur, Bhilai, Durg, Rajnandgaon and Abujhmad. A total of 32 matches will be played between these teams. In the women's category, three teams viz. Green, Blue and Red have been constituted. All the four matches of

women's category will be played at Raipur International Stadium.

Praveen Jain said that this tournament will prove to be a game changer for the talented players of the state, who were not getting proper opportunities or were spoiling their career by playing with a tennis ball. CPL would promote professional cricket in the state and the local talents will be able to prepare for bigger tournaments hosted by BCCI. The colourful closing and prize distribution function will be held at Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium, Nava Raipur on February 26, 2023.

## MP Vijay Baghel demands widening of Jagdalpur-Sukma-Konta road

### Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 10:** Member of Parliament Vijay Baghel recently met Bhupender Singh, Union Cabinet Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate changes; and Labour & Employment, and discussed the issue of road widening from Jagdalpur-Sukma-Konta. He requested the Minister to provide permission from the National Wildlife Board for this project.

Baghel said that the Department of Forest and Climate Change, Government of Chhattisgarh had made a communication in this regard June 23, 2022. The de-

partment had requested the National Wildlife Board to grant permission for non-forestry work on 8386 hectares of forest land for the upgradation and widening of the road connecting Jagdalpur-Sukma-Konta which is named National Highway No 30 (Old National Highway No. 221).

This is the only national highway to connect the state of Chhattisgarh with Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for the all-round development of the state. It is necessary to grant permission soon for the upgradation and widening of this national



highway proposed under the Kanger Valley National Park area. The other route passing

from Bijapur is about 150 km longer. Due to the width of the road being only 3 meters, the traffic movement becomes very difficult during the rainy days. It remains obstructed for many days. People from Chhattisgarh state often visit Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for treatment and the emergency vehicles face problems during the rainy season.

The tribals living in this area also face the same problem. The Member of Parliament has expressed hope that the National Wildlife Board will give the necessary permission soon for the betterment of Chhattisgarh state and its people.

## New agency starts collecting tax for BMC

### Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 10:** New agency has started functioning in Bhilai Nagar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and has taken the responsibility of tax collection from Friday. The new agency Shree Publication Stationers Pvt Ltd has started collecting tax in all zone offices including the corporation head office. Tax payer Badha Ram was the first to deposit his tax of Rs 7086 by reaching the tax counter of the new agency in the corporation head office.

The taxpayer also met Mayor Neeraj Pal after depositing the tax. Mayor Neeraj Pal handed over the receipt copy to the taxpayer through the agency. During this, Health in-charge Lakshmi Raju was also present. It is notable that Corporation



Commissioner Rohit Vyas had instructed the newly appointed agency to start collecting tax at the earliest through collection counters so that property tax collection could be started. In this sequel only the new agency has started tax collection work, now it would be easier for the taxpayers to deposit tax.

Property tax, consolidated tax, education cess, user charge, water tax etc will be collected by the agency. Giving information, Saurabh Kumar of the agency explained that the employees of the agency have been given training for tax collection and it will speed up tax collection and different methods will also be adopted to increase tax collection. Municipal Corporation Bhilai has appealed to the taxpayers to deposit their taxes on time and avoid paying extra surcharge.

## Bhilai Shramik Sabha working committee meeting held

### Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 10:** Working committee meeting of Bhilai Shramik Sabha was held at Bhilai Niwas on Thursday. As the quorum was not complete, the meeting was adjourned and resumed after 30 minutes.

Bhilai Shramik Sabha President HS Mishra chaired the meeting. Devendra Singh requested all office bearers to make 5-5 active members to strengthen the union. Rajesh Sharma, Niteshwar Dhruv and Abhishek Mishra and other members supported the proposal.

HN Bharti proposed to take strict action against the members who conspired and filed a forged Form-E for registration



before the Registrar of Firms and Societies in Raipur. He said that such members should be expelled from the union. Tikaram Sahu, Vinod Kumar, Rajesh Srivastava and other members supported this proposal. HS Mishra said that the

wrongdoers are also our colleagues, who have been misled by someone. They will soon realize their mistake and will come back. All the members supported the views of the president. Prem Singh Chandel opined to restart the gate meetings. Parveen

Saudagar, JK Gahine and NK Patel supported his proposal. HS Mishra said that in the last two-three years, the union's strength has deteriorated due to some reasons. To regain a place in the minds of the workers, the union will have to

fight vigorously on important issues.

He added that the management is arbitrarily deducting the amount of LTC which should be returned to the workers. The management must provide arrears of 39 months to the regular employees and full arrears to the retired workers from January 01, 2017 till the date of their retirement.

Anu Kumar also shared his experiences. Jogendra Rao proposed the vote of thanks. Dhaniram Sonwani, A Chinnayya, Vishal Kumar, Vishnu Kumar Patel, Ashok Panda, Shiv Kumar, Sunil Kumar, Manoj Kumar Srivastava, Nitendra Kumar Deshlhare, Hari Ram Baghel and members were present in this meeting.

## DAV Hudco organises Blessing Ceremony for Board Students

### Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 10:** To exalt the spirit of inspiration and aspiration, DAV Public School, Hudco, organised a blessing ceremony for students of class X and XII on February 10, 2023 in the school premises for their bright future.

School management believes that hawans' cleanse the minds of the students and neutralize pre-exam nervousness, which in turn raises their performance level and help out board students face their exams. The students got blessings from almighty God by the sound of Gayatri Mantra and presence of Hawana.



The Hawan ceremony was performed religiously with divine fervour and spirituality. The students were showered upon blessings by Prashant Kumar (Principal cum DRO DAV

institutions CG, Zone A) and the teachers who canopied the entire gathering and bestowed students with positivity, hopefulness and courage through his words of motivation.

He conveyed an important message to students and said 'Let's embrace ourselves instead of chasing to become like others. Accepting, realizing and working with one's individuality is real success'. He further shared valuable tips on how to prepare for the board exams and apprised them with dos and don'ts of the board exams, urged them to strive towards the goal with determination and passion and finally emphasized on written practice and revision for achieving high grades in the board exams. The ceremony came to an end after the distribution of Prasad to all.

## Durg University: Environmental Studies & Human Rights paper to follow objective pattern

### Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 10:** From now on the question paper of Environmental Studies and Human Rights for the students attempting BA, BCom, BSc, BCA etc from Hemchandra Yadav University, Durg will be conducted in objective pattern.

Giving this information, Dr Rajmani Patel (Examinations) said that permission has been received by the University from the coordination committee headed by Governor to conduct the examination through objective method. Students had urged the university administration to con-

duct the examination in objective pattern.

Student organizations believe that all competitive examinations are conducted objectively, but due to the long answer type question system in university examinations, students are not able to practice answering questions in limited time. This is the reason that on experimental basis only the first year question paper of Environmental Studies and Human Rights will be conducted in objective form.

Those students who could not pass the question paper of Environmental Studies

and Human Rights in the first year due to any reason and now want to attempt this question paper along with the second or third year examination of graduation level, they will have to appear for the paper in old format, descriptive type answers to questions.

Dr Rajmani Patel said that there will be a total of 75 questions in the question paper of environmental studies and human rights of all the faculties of the first year, whose total marks will be 75. Students will be given a total time duration of three hours to solve 75 questions. Dr Patel further in-

formed that students will have to answer these 75 questions on OMR sheets like competitive exams. The evaluation of these OMR sheets will also be done through computerized system which will help in releasing the exam result soon.

It is notable that the annual examinations for graduation courses are starting from March 13 and is likely to last till the month of May. At present, more than 50 percent practical examinations of graduate level have been completed, and it is expected that almost all practical examinations will be completed by February 20.

## Health Minister inaugurates National Deworming Day



### By administering Albendazole medicine to the children

**Raipur, Feb 10:** Health and Family Welfare Minister T.S. Singhdeo inaugurated the National Deworming Day by administering Albendazole medicine to the children at his residence office in Raipur. Taking the children in his lap, he himself administered Albendazole medicine. Under the National Deworming Day, Albendazole medicine will be given to 88.59 lakh children and adolescents in the age group of one year to 19 years in 30 districts of the state. The children who were left out of taking medicine today will be given medicine during the mop-up round on

February 15. Chief Medical and Health Officers of all the districts were also present online in the launch programme. Inaugurating the National Deworming Day, Health Minister Mr. Singhdeo said that more people than the total population of India are affected by stomach worms in the whole world. It stunts the physical and mental development of children. Worms also pose a risk of malnutrition and anaemia. To protect children and adolescents from the side effects of worms, deworming medicine is given twice every year by organizing National Deworming Day. He appealed to all the family members that they must feed anthelmintic medicine to their children. He urged everyone

to ensure their participation in this campaign. Mr. Singhdeo said that 50,255 teachers, 47,094 Anganwadi workers and 63,435 Mitans have been trained across the state to ensure feeding of medicine to all children and adolescents on National Deworming Day. Today, deworming medicine is being administered in Anganwadis, government schools, health centers, aided private schools and technical education institutions. He said that a major part of the children's food is eaten by worms. Due to this, children become malnourished and weak and become victims of anaemia. To keep the children healthy and for their physical-mental development, it is necessary to eliminate the

worms in the stomach. Director of National Health Mission Mr. Bhoskar Vilas Sandipan told in the inauguration program of National Deworming Day that during this campaign a target has been set to feed Albendazole medicine to 88.59 lakh children and adolescents in the state. In Raigarh and Sarangarh-Bilalgarh districts, along with Albendazole medicine, medicines are also given to prevent filariasis under the National Filaria Eradication Program. Health Minister T.S. Singhdeo inaugurated the state-of-the-art sonography machine online at Nawapara Urban Primary Health Center in Ambikapur on Friday during the inauguration program of National Deworming Day. Ambikapur's Mayor Dr. Ajay Turkey and District Panchayat Chairman Mr. Rakesh Gupta, along with many public representatives and health department officials virtually participated in the inauguration program.

## NIT Raipur commences its Annual Cultural Fest Eclectika'23

**Raipur, Feb 10:** National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur's Sanskriti - The Cultural Committee inaugurated Eclectika'23, Central India's largest Fest on 10th February 2023.

Dr. Samir Bajpai, Head, Career Development Centre, was the Chief Guest of the inauguration ceremony. Dr. P.Y. Dhekne, Dean (Students' Welfare), Dr. Subhasis Sanyal, HoD, Mechanical Engineering, and Dr. Prabhat Diwan, Dean (Research & Consultancy), were present at the occasion as special guests.

The ceremony began by gifting saplings to the honorable guests, which would serve as souvenirs of the event. The guests then lighted the lamps, and were invited onto the podium to address the gathering. Dr. Dhekne took the opportunity to greet all the guests, and congratulated Team Sanskriti for their judicious use of resources to organise the fest. He emphasized the importance of fair and healthy competition among students, and remarked that the fest was a product of team effort.

Dr. Diwan recalled his experience with students conducting such fests, and highlighted the pioneering roles played by Dr. Sanyal and Dr. Bajpai in organising cultural events and competitions at the Institute. Dr. Sanyal commended all the concerned faculties and coordinators for organising a fest of such large scale. He said that we learn how to lead, plan and manage things while conducting such events.

Dr. Bajpai, speaking lastly expressed his gratitude to be present as the chief guest. He spoke about the fast pace at which technology advances, and that we ought to be ready to adapt with change. He stressed the importance of acquiring soft skills and urged all the seniors to educate students about the same. He remarked that fests like these are ideal places

to hone and excel at such skills, and how they would help students all along their careers. Wishing Team Sanskriti all the best, he declared Eclectika'23 to be Open.

The inauguration was concluded after a vote of thanks by the Head Coordinator of Team Sanskriti. Other Faculty, participants and judges of events were also present.

Day 1 of the fest witnessed multiple Mega-Events. The fashion and talent show - 'Allure' was organised. 'Kalopsia' - an art competition and exhibition was also held, in which Aayush Singh of B.Arch. emerged as the winner and Anushka Gupta of EEE the runner up. 'Avirbhav' - a war of bands was conducted, in which the band 'Shubham Collective' won, and 'Unplugged Diaries' ended as runners up. 'Goonj' - the Nukkad Natak contest was won by the 'Rajbhasha Committee', and 'Abhinav-The Dramatics

Club' became the runners up. Additionally, innumerable mini-events, like Rap Battle, Talent Hunt, Musical Math, Youth Chef, etc. were also conducted which amassed lots of participants. The campus was lively, vibrant and lit up with colours. Students were enthusiastic, had fun and made memories. The ultimate event of the Day was 'Cult Nite', wherein students and teams delivered marvelous performances.

Eclectika'23 will continue on till 12th of February, and would include exciting Mega-Events like, 'Tafree' - a standup comedy contest, 'Clash of Choreos' - a dance competition, 'Eclectika Idol' - a singing competition, and multiple mini-events. The ultimate spectacle of the second day would be 'Artist Night', and the 'EDM Night' would conclude the fest on the third day, on a high and electrifying note.

## Two from inter-state gang nabbed



### For cheating persons of Rs 14 lakh in the name of doubling money in 300 days through Crypto Currency

**Raipur, Feb 10:** It was as per complaint by the complainant in the Arang thana, two inter-state members of a gang related to cheating in the name of company 'Unity Byte' dealing with Crypto currency were nabbed. A five-

member team of Cyber unit and Anti-crime was sent to Karnataka and Tamil Nadu on getting location of the managers of the firm involved and both were arrested from Bengaluru of Karnataka and Salem of TN on charges of cheating around 300 odd persons from all over the country and Chhattisgarh of doubling their money in 300 days through crypto currency. The police has seized their mobile phones and is interrogat-

ing further about other partners and accused involved in this fraud.

The complainant from Arang SK Sahu filed report that he along with other colleagues were given information about Unity Byte (Crypto Currency) company. For information about the Company, Manager Bengaluru Prakash Reddy held a seminar in Lalbagh Hotel in Raipur and gave assurances to double their money in 300 days. The complainants coming under allurements of the Manager, deposited around Rs 14 lakh in different accounts of the Manager KMDRR Ravi, Salank Kalweth, Mutthu Kumar, S Bhupati adn Prakash Reddy and other agents. After few days when they inquired about their amount, they started giving vague response and in this way the MD and team management and

agents of the Company cheated them of Rs 14 lakh. A case under section 420 and 34 of IPC was filed against them and matter was taken under investigation.

As per instructions by SSP Prashant Agrawal, information was collected about the bank account of the persons and the mobile phones on which the MD, agents and others held talks with the customers here in the region. During this the police got a clue of their location of Prakash Reddy in Bengaluru and that of S Bhupati in Salem of TN. A team of five members from state police was deputed to two states and two accused were nabbed from there.

Police is investigating into the matter and taking information about involvement of others and would be making few more arrest in this regard.

## Businessman's manager robbed of Rs 85000

### Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Feb 10:** Some motorcycle-borne miscreants threw chilli powder on the eyes of a manager of a cold storage businessman of Raipur and looted him of cash of Rs 85000 last night in Expressway. The miscreants fled after committing the crime. Police started search in different parts of the city to nab robbers.

Ramakant Soni who works as manager in cold storage was going home via deserted road of expressway, carrying bag containing cash of Rs 85000 after finishing his work late

night from the cold storage. Meanwhile, two bike-borne miscreants came and hit him. Miscreants also started assaulting Ramakant Soni. When Ramakant Soni did not leave his bag, miscreants put chilli powder in his eyes. Due to inflammation in his eyes Ramakant Soni lost his hand from the bag. Taking advantage of the opportunity, the miscreants immediately robbed the bag and fled. Police started investigation at the place mentioned by Ramakant Soni and started effort to trace robbers by activating the informer's network in the nearby localities as well.

## CDAC issues notices to Amarjeet, Netam

### On charges of being involved in anti-party activities

**Raipur/ Delhi, Feb 10:** Senior tribal leader Arvind Netam and PCC general secretary Amarjeet Chawla have been issued notice by AICC for being involved in anti-party activities and have sought clarification from them in a week's time.

As per information in this regard, member of Congress Disciplinary Action Committee (CDAC) Tariq Anwar has issued the notice to Arvind Netam for fielding a candidate from Sarv Adivasi Samaj in the last Bhanupratapur by-poll and campaigning against the Congress candidate in this by-poll.



In the same way, PCC General Secretary Amarjeet Chawla has also been issued notice saying that being posted in the PCC office has passed negative comments against the Congress government and on the reservation issue for delay on part of the Governor, instead of going as per party line, he has favoured the Governor and going against the CM Bhupesh Baghel.

CDAC member Tariq Anwar has sought clarification from the two in a week's time and after which final decision will be taken against the two.

## School van gutted in fire, children safe



### Students were going back to home after School

**Churrikala (Korba), Feb 10:** Just after a tragic road accident in Korar in Kanker district on Thursday afternoon a School Van of Jain Public School, Korba caught fire and at that time 7-8 children were sitting inside. It was timely act by the driver that he took out all the children and took them to a safer place and averated a major incident.

It is notable here that a School Van of Jain Public School, Korba, was taking children from Korba to Katghora, when one of its tyre got punctured near Churrikala bus stand. For

getting the puncture repaired, the driver took out the punctured tyre and started heading for the auto-repair shop, when he found that smoke has started emitting from the Van.

He immediately took out the school children sitting in the Van and took them to a safer place. In no time entire Van caught fire and started burning with high flames. Luckily there was no explosion from the petrol tank. Seeing this the Driver of the Van immediately called 112 and to the Fire-brigade to douse the fire. But by the time the fire-brigade came, entire Van was gutted in fire. The reasons for the fire breaking out in the Van are still unknown and driver was also unaware about it. He was saying that inquiry in this regard should be done.

## Mohalla Lok Adalat to be organized at Div Hqs today

**Bilaspur, Feb 10:** The objective of the Legal Services Authority is to provide speedy and free legal aid to the needy people. In furtherance of said objective and in compliance of directions given by Justice Gautam Bhaduri, Executive Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority, first Mohalla Lok Adalat will be started in the districts located in the five divisional headquarters of Chhattisgarh.

In present time, there are a large number of people, who are being deprived of their basic facilities and access to courts. In absence of



awareness, people from such sections of society get delayed justice or no justice at all. Chhattisgarh State Legal Services

Authority, Bilaspur has established permanent Lok Adalat (public utility service) at five divisional headquarters of the state, namely Raipur, Bilaspur, Durg, Sarguja (Ambikapur), and Jagdalpur. Their work mainly relates to disputes pertaining to housing, real estate, transport service (including the carriage of passengers and goods by air, road and water), postal, telegraph or telephone service, electricity supply, water supply to the public by any institution, service of public protection or sanitary system, hospital or Service in dispensary, in-

urance service, service of banking and other financial institutions, service of fuel supply to the public by any establishment, service of education and educational institutions, hearing applications of victims etc.

Due to weak economic conditions or lack of awareness, people are facing lot of difficulties in accessing to permanent Lok Adalats. Therefore, it has been directed by the Executive Chairman, Justice Gautam Bhaduri that "Mohalla Lok Adalats" should be organized in different localities of the urban areas and such cases should be re-

solved on the spot. For the organization of Mohalla Lok Adalat, Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority is providing legal literacy and Lok Adalat van, in which all the essential facilities including seating arrangements have been made for the judge, two members, employees and parties. The applications submitted earlier by the aggrieved parties can be heard in this Mohalla Lok Adalat and the applications received during this period will also be disposed of in the Mohalla Lok Adalat after informing the concerned departmental officers.

Anand Prakash Wariyal, Member Secretary informed that the first Mohalla Lok Adalat will be held on February 11 in Minibasti Jarhabhatha Ward of Bilaspur City.

That Lok Adalat Van will be flagged off to the venue of the Mohalla Lok Adalat by Executive Chairman Justice Gautam Bhaduri Legal Literacy from District Court Complex Bilaspur at 10.00 am. In this first Mohalla Lok Adalat, a judicial officer of the level of Additional District Judge and two members will be present along with their employees.

## Yuva Shakti Abhiyan held at Govt HS School Mathpuraina



**Raipur, Feb 10:** Yuva Shakti Abhiyan was organized from January 31, 2023 to February 2, 2023 at the Government Higher Secondary School, Mathpuraina, Raipur recently to spread awareness among students about present generation, their responsibility and future.

Dr. Chanchal Deep Kaur (Education, career and skill based knowledge), Dr. Manjiri Bakshi (Interpersonal relation and communication), Dr. Indu Sadhwani (Legal literacy), Dr. Aruna Chaubey (Social Responsibility) were guest

speakers. Dr. Usha Dubey was present as guest of honour on the first day of the event. Archana Dubey, who was present as chief guest initiated 1st Day Yuva Shakti Abhiyan on topics of Education, career and skill based knowledge, Interpersonal relation and communication, Legal literacy and Social Responsibility. Members of Shakti Mahila Vigyan Bharti Samiti, Principal, Head of Departments, faculties' non-teaching staffs and students of school were present in the Programme.

## Ram-Van-Gaman circuit work should be completed expeditiously: CS

### Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Feb 10:** Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain has given instructions to speed up the works of Ram-Van-Gaman circuit. He was reviewing in detail the works of Ram-Van-Gaman Circuit in the meeting of officials of Tourism Department at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhavan here. He has instructed the collectors of all the districts of the state where the works of Ram-Van-Gaman circuit are being done, to complete these works on top priority.

He said that the works should be completed soon by coordinating with the Public Works Department, Tourism Board, Forest Department and other



departments. In the meeting, the Chief Secretary took information from the officers of the tourism department regarding the physical and financial progress of the works of Ram-Van-Gaman circuit and the development of tourist places and the idols to be installed at designated places. He instructed to install welcome gates and sign boards at fixed distances on the main road and by-lanes of the circuit. It may be noted that

the total length of sub-routes including the main route of Ram-Van-Gaman path is more than 2200 kms. Plantation is being done along these routes. Place-to-place indicators, information about pilgrimage and tourist places will be given. In the meeting, officers of Chhattisgarh Tourism Board visited Sitamarhi Harchauka (Korea), Ramgarh (Surguja), Shivnarayan (Janjgir-Champa), Turturia (Balodabazar),

Chandrakhuri (Raipur), Rajim (Gariaband), Sihawa Saptarishi Ashram (Dhamtari), Jagdalpur (In Bastar) and Ramaram (Sukma), information about the work being done under the Ram-One-Gaman circuit was given through a power point presentation. In the meeting, Secretary of Tourism Department, Mr. Anbalagan P, MD of Tourism Board, Mr. Anil Sahu and other officers participated.

## Meeting of RYMC executive committee concludes

**Raipur, Feb 10:** Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain chaired a meeting of the Executive Central Committee constituted under Rajiv Yuva Mitran Club Yojana (RYMC) at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhavan here today. The amendment in the rules and regulations of the Rajiv Yuva Mitran Club was discussed in the meeting. Additional Chief Secretary Sports and Youth Welfare Renu G Pillay also attended the meeting.

The Sports and Youth Welfare officials informed the meeting about the current provisions of the rules of the Rajiv Yuva Mitran Club. Similarly, a provision was proposed to ensure compliance with the club's financial rules and maintenance of relevant registers. Similarly, the members put forth their views regarding the proposed provision of prioritizing the youth having high qualifications in the field of education, sports, social service, skill development, and environmental protection in the club.

In the meeting, a provi-



sion was proposed to keep a fixed amount out of the sanctioned amount in the budget of the Sports and Youth Welfare Department for Rajiv Yuva Mitran Club Yojana for administrative expenditure. In addition, the remaining amount will be distributed to all the District Collectors by the Director of Sports and Youth Welfare on the instructions of the Governing Body headed by the Chief Minister to transfer the same to the

bank account of the District Level Committee of Rajiv Yuva Mitran Club. The clubs will spend the grant amount by following the financial rules and the amount will not be withdrawn until immediate payment is necessary. Other proposals were discussed in detail in the meeting.

Sports and Youth Welfare Secretary N.N. Ekka, Public Relations Secretary Siddharth Komal Pardeshi, Urban

Administration Special Secretary Ayaz Tamboli, Finance Special Secretary Sheetal Shashwat Verma, Director (Panchayat) Kartikeya Goyal, Rajiv Yuva Mitran Club Officer-in-Charge Ranu Sahu, Sports, and Youth Welfare Director Shweta Sinha, Sports and Youth Welfare Joint Secretary G.L. Sankala, and other members of the committee attended the meeting organized through video conferencing.

## Ch'garh researchers and scientists will now be able to do research with IRRI

**Agreement signed between Ch'garh Govt, IGAU, and IRRI-Manila**

**APC observed modern research techniques at IRRI**

**Raipur, Feb 10:** Scientists and researchers in Chhattisgarh will now have access to research and investigation facilities at the International Rice Research Institute in Manila (IRRI), Philippines. A tripartite agreement (letter of intent) has been signed in this regard between the Chhattisgarh government, the Indira Gandhi Agriculture University (IGUA) in Raipur, and the International Rice Research Institute in Manila. The agreement was signed in the presence of Agriculture Production Commissioner (APC) Dr. Kamal Preet Singh, who recently visited the International Rice Research Center in Manila.

Besides observing the speed breeding program, Dr. Kamal Preet Singh also held discussions with the scientists at the research in-



stitute about the new varieties of rice being developed and gained information about modern technologies. Under the leadership of the Agricultural Production Commissioner, the team of the Chhattisgarh government's agriculture department provided detailed information about the farmer-friendly policies and programmes of the Chhattisgarh government, including the Narva, Garua, Ghurwa, Badi programme, and the Godhan Nyay Yojana. The discussions were well received by

the scientists at the research institute.

The Chhattisgarh team that visited Manila also observed more than 1,30,000 varieties of rice stored at the Institute's world's largest rice germplasm collection, which has been preserved for over 100 years. The Agriculture Production Commissioner emphasized the need to accelerate the development of new varieties of rice in Chhattisgarh in order to increase the production and income of farmers through the Agricultural University. During the discussion be-

tween the Agriculture Production Commissioner and senior officials of the Institute, it was agreed that the International Rice Research Institute would work closely with the Indira Gandhi Agricultural University and use new techniques of rice research to develop new varieties of rice in Chhattisgarh. The Vice-Chancellor of the Indira Gandhi Agricultural University Dr. Girish Chandel, and the Breeding Program Modernization Head of IMRI Dr. Sanjay K. Katiyar, also accompanied Dr. Singh.

## AIIMS-R develops new technique for early diagnosis of Lung Cancer



**Best Research Paper Award in National Conference**

**Raipur, Feb 10:** Experts from All India Institute of Medical Sciences have developed a novel technique to diagnose Lung cancer with the help of PET-CT Scan. New technique will help early diagnosis of lung cancer thus giving more time to experts for treatment. The research has been awarded the best research paper of Indian Society for Study of Lung Cancer.

According to Dr. Ajoy Behera, Department of Pulmonary Medicine Lung cancer is the most common cancer in males

in India. According to National Cancer Registry data 2020 there are 14, 61,427 lung cancer patients in India. 1 in 9 People are at high risk of developing cancer; more than 90% cases are diagnosed at a very late stage leading to poor outcomes.

According to Dr. Ranganath T. Ganga the department has been using a robotic navigation system (MAXIO) under PET-CT Guidance for biopsy of lung tumors. This is a novel technique for biopsy and till date more than 50 patients have undergone the procedure and diagnosis has been achieved in 100% of patients with negligible complications. Dr. Mudalsha Ravina,

Medicine Department said that the advantage of this technique is that tumor samples are taken from active tumor sites based on findings from PET-CT scans. This has a higher chance of diagnosis than other techniques with less complication. The department along with the Nuclear Medicine department has been awarded the 'Best Research Paper of Indian Society for the study' at the National Lung Cancer Conference at AIIMS, Jodhpur. This facility is available only in our AIIMS Raipur in Chhattisgarh and neighboring States. Prof. (Dr.) Nitin M. Nagarkar, Director congratulated the team for new technique and award.

The Department of Pulmonary Medicine has a dedicated Lung cancer treating facility including diagnosis; treatment and follow up, 06 beds are dedicated for care of lung cancer patients.

## Manu Yadav of Ch'garh wins gold in wrestling competition

**Of Khelo India Youth Games**

**Raipur, Feb 10:** Chhattisgarh's player has won the gold medal in the ongoing fifth Khelo India Youth Games wrestling competition in Madhya Pradesh. Chhattisgarh's wrestler Manu Yadav defeated Haryana's wrestler Amarjeet by technical efficiency by 8-0 points in the 1st round while playing in 51 kg weight category Greco-Roman style wrestling. He defeated MP's wrestler in two rounds and also defeated Asian Gold Medalist and World Cadet Silver Medalist Ronit Sharma of Haryana by 4-2 points in semi-finals. In the final match, by defeating Maharashtra's wrestler on the basis of technical efficiency in just 30 seconds, he won the gold medal and made Chhattisgarh proud. In the final event of the fifth Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Fencing event is going on in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, the



state's international fencer Deepanshi Netam won bronze medal in the individual event. In the quarter-final match, Dipanshi defeated Prachi of Haryana 15-9 to enter the semi-finals. In her match against Y Khom Sonia Devi of Manipur, Dipanshi lost 11-15 in a closely fought match and had to settle for a bronze medal. The coach of the team is Mohnish Verma and the manager is Mona Patel. From today the team championship will start in the final event of the boys category. In this too, the state is hopeful of a medal. On winning the bronze medal, Chhattisgarh State Fencing Federation Dr. S. Bharathidasan, Secretary Bashir Ahmed and other office bearers have congratulated the medal winners.

## CM paid homage to Amar Shaheed Gundadhur on Bhumkal Day

**Raipur, Feb 10:** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel paid floral tributes to tribal leader Amar Shaheed Gundadhur by offering flowers on the occasion of Bhumkal Memorial Day at his residential office today. On this occasion, Advisor to Chief Minister Mr. Vinod Verma, Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Mineral Development Corporation Girish Dewangan, Parliamentary Secretary U.K. D. Minj, MLA Gulab Kamro and Devendra Yadav were also present.

Remembering, the sacrifice of the hero Gundadhur, who started the rebellion against the British rule for the tribals' water, forest and land, will always remain immortal in history, said chief minister Bhupesh Baghel. Meanwhile, On February 10, 1910, the tribals of Bastar raised the bugle of agitation against the British. Tribal leaders



played an important role in raising this protest and sacrificed everything. In the Bhumkal rebellion under the leadership of Amar Shaheed Gundadhur; the tribals fought staunchly against the British rule despite limited resources.

In his memory, the local people of Chhattisgarh, especially the ancient

Dandakaranya region, celebrate Bhumkal Divas every year.

As a symbol of tribal consciousness, Martyr Gundadhur will always be alive in the public mind. Bhumkal Divas celebrated in his memory will always give us the courage to raise our voice against exploitation.

## NTPC Lara making best out of waste and empowering women

**Bilaspur, Feb 10:** NTPC Lara is the fast-growing environment friendly power station of Chhattisgarh. With an installed capacity of 1600 megawatt generating capacity, this power station is supplying 50 percent electricity to home state and a major contributor for its development. While producing electricity, some by-products are also generated. Bag filter cloth is one of the products which is used in the ESP buffer hopper and ash silo. After its useable life, these products are considered as

waste material. So far, these used bag filters have no use. But with innovative idea of NTPC Lara management, this waste material (used bag filter) is being used for bag making and has become an income generating activity for the women self-help group.

Initially as an experiment, under CSR-CD, NTPC Lara provided 2 stitching machines to this women's self-help group, named Chhaya of nearby village Chhapora. And provided required training for stitching and tailor-



ing. After training, now these rural women can stitch bags by using the bag filter. So far, they have stitched 1000 bags and provided to NTPC for distri-

bution. For this work they were suitable paid for their work.

After banning of Single use plastic bags, NTPC Lara has distributed these bags among employees and associates as an environment friendly initiative. With initial success this initiative will be extended as demand of these bags are increasing among people. NTPC Lara is the most advanced power station of Chhattisgarh using 800-megawatt super critical technology-based turbine generator, that uses less coal and water in com-

parison to traditional coal fired sub-critical technology. Since NTPC is moving towards green and sustainable energy production more emphasis is being given to environment protection. Afforestation work is being done by Miyawaki plantation, segregation of bio-degradable and non-biodegradable waste. Making of compost by bio-degradable waste and burning of non-biodegradable waste in incinerator of cement factory in an environment friendly process.

## Collector hold time-limit meeting

**Issues instructions to the officers for speedy disposal of pending cases**

**Bemetara, Feb 10:** Collector Padum Singh Elma took a time-limit meeting on Tuesday in the meeting hall of the Collectorate to maintain communication and coordination between the district level officers and subordinate employees and to settle department-wise pending cases by the district administration. In the meeting, along with the progress of development and construction works in the district, he reviewed in detail the flagship schemes of the state government and gave necessary guidelines to the concerned officials. In view of the pending cases of the Revenue Department, the District Collector gave instructions to the officials of the Revenue Department to review them daily and resolve them quickly and to settle the disputed nominations at the earliest. He took information about the lifting of paddy from the procurement centers from the District Food Officer. He also reviewed the progress of chit fund proceedings in the district. He took information about the beneficiaries benefited under the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Landless Agricultural



Labor Justice Scheme. Collector reviewed Ayushman Bharat run by the Medical Department and in which, in case of hospitalization under Ayushman Yojana, the beneficiaries benefited from free treatment of corona, cancer, kidney disease, heart disease, dengue, chikungunya, malaria, dialysis, knee and hip transplant, childlessness, cataract and other marked serious diseases.

The Collector asked regarding the availability of medicines in the CSC and PSC centers of the Health Department. During this, information was also taken about the availability of essential medicines and oxygen supply for the patients, along with necessary instructions were given to the Chief Medical and Health Officer to improve the hospital system. He asked the concerned officers and employees of the Health Department to reach the ward and make sure that necessary arrangements and treatment are made for the patients.

Collector instructed the executive engineer of the State Power Distribution Company Limited that wher-

ever the rural industrial park programs are going on, there should be complete power supply.

Livestock Development Department reviewed the progress of vaccination of animals and said that it should be ensured to vaccinate cattle on time. He asked the Water Resources Department to complete the water supply in the entire rural and urban areas in a planned manner under the Nal Jal Yojana being implemented in the district and said that there should be no shortage of water from every identified urban area to every village and gram panchayat of the district.

Under the Integrated Child Development Service Scheme from the Women and Child Development Department, the Collector has made efforts to improve the nutritional and health status of children between zero and six years of age, reduce infant mortality rate, maternal mortality rate, eliminate malnutrition, reduce pregnant and instructed to improve the health of child-bearing women and maintain the quality of ready-to-eat nutritional supplements.

## Proud moment for DAVians of Bachel

**Bachel, Feb 10:** One of the bright students of DAVPS Bachel, Adarsh Kumar Malaviya of XII Science cracked JEE Main Exam with 97.5 percentile and has got the eligibility for the second stage-JEE Advance. It is really a gracious and proud moment for all in the DAV Public School, Bachel. Principal Dr. Chetna Sharma and her

team congratulated the shining star and his parents for this great achievement and blessed him for his future endeavours.

It is notable here that IIT JEE is a national level engineering entrance exam. Admissions to the IITs are determined by the joint entrance exam (JEE), which has two stages-JEE Main and JEE Advanced.

## Bailadila to Narayanpur bus service commences

**Dantewada, Feb 09:** Bailadila to Narayanpur direct bus service started today on the special initiative of district administration and police. District Collector Vinit Nandanwar said that continuous efforts are being made by the district administration to provide better transport facilities to the residents of the district. In this line, the bus is going to start from Narayanpur to Bailadila on Thursday.

It is worth mentioning here that before the introduction of this bus service, the residents of the district had to travel a long distance of about 250 kilometers from Dantewada district to Jagdalpur, Jagdalpur to Kondagaon, and from Kondagaon to Narayanpur to reach finally Narayanpur. This was both money and time-consuming. Besides, one has to face the problems of frequent bus changes throughout the journey.

With the commencement of direct bus service from Bailadila to Narayanpur, now the distance of this journey will be reduced by about 100 kilometers. This will be both time and cost-effective. This bus will start from Narayanpur at 7:15 am and will reach Bailadila at 12 noon via Farsgaon, Dhaudai, Kanhargao, Kadenar, Barsoor, Gidam, and Dantewada. This bus service will operate daily.

# Small bone in woman's throat successfully operated

Through GI Endoscopy at NMDC Apollo Hospital, Bachel

## Central Chronicle News

**Bachel, Feb 10:** A woman with a chicken bone stuck in her throat was successfully operated by Dr B Somshekhar Reddy, ENT Expert of NMDC Apollo Hospital Bachel by performing GI Endoscopy even after lots of difficulties and took out the stuck bone in the patient's throat/ neck area. In this operation Dr M Deepak Reddy, a medicine expert was also present.

It is notable here that a tribal woman Paiko, around 70 yrs, W/o Chaneru, R/o Mundrapara, Gamawada, was admitted in NMDC Hospital, Bachel on 19 Jan, 2023 at around 12:00 noon. They complaint

about difficulty in swallowing by the woman as a small bone of chicken had got stuck in her throat area.

Her voice too has reduced a lot. She was immediately admitted and Dr B Somshekhar Reddy (ENT expert) carried out GI Endoscopy of her throat. It was on Jan 20, this patient was successfully operated by Dr M Deepak Reddy of Medicine and Dr B Somshekhar Reddy (ENT) even after lots of difficulty in tracking that small chicken bone in her throat.

Since the bone stuck inside had cause lots of cuts and wound in the esophagus and throat area, it had caused injuries and pus formation as well. It was



after regular treatment and administration of antibiotics that she recovered and on re-checking on 29 Jan 2023, she was found to have fully recovered and healthy and was discharged on Jan 31.

Chief Medical Administrator of NMDC Apollo Hospital, Bachel, Dr SM Haq informed that with availability of GI Endoscopy machine and trained medical experts in the hospital that Paiko got

successfully diagnosed and properly treated, else she might have to be taken to some well-known hospital outside.

During the entire treatment, the hospital staff, nurse and house-keeping took complete care of Paiko and provided her with regular service and food as well. Dr SM Haq informed that NMDC Apollo Hospital Bachel Complex has been serving and providing treatment to the local tribal patients and are extending all possible help to them.

With this facility being provided due to NMDC project, the local tribals need not have to go outside Bachel and they get best of the medical services here itself.

# Action against 23 shops under NTCP

## Central Chronicle News

**Mungeli, Feb 10:** Under the National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP) action was taken in 23 shops under section 4 and 6 of the COTPA Act, in which 11 shops were let off with a warning. Challan action was taken in the remaining 12 shops and a total challan action of Rs.1850 was done.

Under the guidance of Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. Devendra Paikra, District Program Manager Girish Kurre and District Nodal Officer NTCP Dr. Kamlesh Kumar, under the Kotpa Act-2003, on February 6, the enforcement team took action in village Barela area, in which action was taken in 23 shops under sections 4 and 6 of the COTPA Act in collaboration with drug



inspector Ratnesh Kumar Bargah, social worker Balram Sakat, counselor tobacco program Om Prakash Sahu and head constable Rajkumar from Jarhagaon police station.

Section 4 of the COTPA Act-2003 prohibits smoking in public place, Section 5 bans advertisement of cigarettes and

other tobacco products, Section 6 bans sale of cigarettes or other tobacco products near minors and educational institutions, Sections 7, 8 and 10 prohibit the sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products without specific health warnings. Under Section 4 and 6, fine up to Rs 200 can be imposed.

# Raja Bhatia appointed President Guru Singh Sabha

## Central Chronicle News

**Kharora, Feb 10:** Social worker Raja Bhatia has been appointed as the President Guru Singh Sabha. Prior to this Satbir Singh Chawla, of Kharora was the president of Guru Singh Sabha.

It was completion of his term that Raja Bhatia was elected as President of Guru Singh Sabha (GSS). The other office bearers appointed as Raja Chawla and Manjit Singh Chabda as V-P; Sandeep Chabda as Secretary and Amarjeet Chawla and Lochan Chabda as the Treasurer.

President Raja Bhatia said that he is thankful to the people of Sikh Samaj



for giving his this responsibility and added that ex-President Satbir Singh Chawla has taken the Sikh Samaj to new heights in city and he would make all possible efforts to meet upto the expectation of people from Sikh Samaj.

# Korar incident left a family from Balod in state of shock

Brother and sister from a family were victim in Korar accident

## Central Chronicle News

**Balod, Feb 10:** The sad incident of death of 7 School children in Korar of Kanker district had not only shaken their families, but entire city, as in this 5 children died on the spot and two others while undergoing treatment in the hospital.

This news left ripples in Balod district, as two children from Gram Dhaneli of Gurur block of Balod district and it has left the family members of both the children in state of shock and grief with no one to blame upon. Local MLA Sangeeta Sinha visited their family to express condolences and to be with the

family and shared a sentimental post as well.

**Manav, Kumkum belonged to Dhaneli**

In the incident at Korar in Kanker district, brother and sister Manav - Kumkum were the two victims from Balod district. When the people of Balod came to know about it that originally the family of above two hails from the district, as they had purchased house here and are earning livelihood practicing agriculture and farming.

This sad news had left Maheshwar Sahu broken and in state of grief and sorrow. Manav Sahu was six yrs and was studying in Class 6th and daughter



Kumkum was 10 yrs and was in Class 4th.

**MLA Sangeeta shared sentimental post**

MLA Sanjali Balod-Sangeeta Sinha went to meet the grieved family members and expressed her condolences and then

shared a post in the social media saying 'children are the life of a family and if their cheerful smile gets lost in some accident, then it leaves deep wound in the heart of their parents and which lasts for lifetime'.

**Would get help from govt**

Close aid of MLA Sumit Rajput informed that Tehsildar Bhanupratapur is going to visit and MLA was waiting for him. He informed that the family member of deceased two

children would get financial aid from the state government.

**About the mishap**

Eight students from a private school were going home in the auto when the accident took place on the Korar-Bhanupratapur Road around 3.10 pm under the Korar police station limits. Autorickshaw ferrying the kids was hit by a truck.

Five students died on the spot, while two others were pronounced dead at a nearby hospital. One student and the auto driver are seriously injured and they have been taken to the state capital Raipur, about 140 km from Korar, for better medical assistance.

# Illegal plotting business flourishing in Mandir Hasaud



## Central Chronicle News

**Mandir Hasaud, Feb 10:** Citing illegal plotting business flourishing in Mandir Hasaud, Chairman Tarani Pintu Nirmalkar handed over the application to the SDM and demanded action.

Complaints of illegal plotting are continuously being made in Mandir Hasaud, on which satisfac-

tory action has not been taken so far, therefore Tarani Pintu Nirmalkar Chairman Arang, has raised his voice as cases of illegal plotting are increasing continuously.

The condition is that illegal plotting is being done on agricultural land without permission, layout approval, being in the outer of the city, which violates the rule of Town of

Country. The same Chairman's representative told that the land, on which the Nagar Panchayat was demolished by running a bulldozer for illegal plotting, is now being sold by illegal plotting.

Beneficiaries will have to pay additional fee for legalizing illegal plotting, where electricity connection, bore mining and con-

struction of house will have to pay many times additional fee in Nagar Panchayat and departments, he said.

In the same illegal colony, the Nagar Panchayat is also not responsible for making arrangements for roads and water drainage, where people are selling land by giving false allurements to the general public.



# Regular practice enhances self-confidence: Swarna-Garima

## Central Chronicle News

**Rajim, Feb 10:** Folk singer sisters Garima-Srvana Diwakar, who arrived to present Lokmanch Anjor on the first day of Maghi Punni Mela, said that continuous Riyaz intensifies the self-confidence, due to which we artistes step on the stage and rule the hearts of millions of art lovers. We both sisters do practice every day whether there is a program or not, she added and also said that they do not forget to take shortcuts to achieve success. It cannot be learned in a day.

From the age of three, under the guidance of my father Santosh Diwakar, we had been learning folk art and apart from my father, Madan Chauhan has been my teacher and inspiration. Everyone in my family is involved in music, and this birth is too short to un-



derstand that Chhattisgarhi folk art is a bottomless ocean, she said. Garima told that she has been selected in National School of Drama, Delhi and it has to be told that only 27 people are taken from all over the

country in one session, in which Garima's name is a big example. These sisters further told that it has been a golden opportunity for them to perform in front of the former President of the country APJ Abdul Kalam and so far more than 5000

programs have been presented on the stage. They said that they were elated with the arrangement of the state government and expressed their desire to come every year in Rajim Maghi Punni Mela and give programs like this.

# Demonstration by SSHP on conversion

## Central Chronicle News

**Balod, Feb 10:** A demonstration by Sarva Sanatan Hindu Panchayat (SSHP) on conversion was done a memorandum was handed in the tehsil office to the President.

Hundreds of Hindu Samaj people had gathered here under the leadership of the Sarva Sanatan Hindu Panchayat and said that the Christian missionaries who came from outside convert the poor by giving them the excuse of treatment and employment, and if the situation is not controlled in Chhattisgarh then it will not take time to become Kerala.

The District President of the Bharatiya Janata Party,



Krishna Kant Pawar, who participated in the sit-in demonstration of the Sarva Sanatan Hindu Panchayat, said that these days all the people of Chhattisgarhi society are getting trapped in the vicious cycle of conversion,

like Sahu Kurmi, Adivasi Nishad and other societies. Pastors are roaming around, their target is small settlements where the need of people is more, and they work their magic by going to such places and converting people to reli-

gion. Today we have to fight a solid fight against this and the government in Chhattisgarh One should also take positive initiative regarding this, he said.

On the topic of conversion issue in Narayanpur, senior citizen Radheshyam

Jal Kshatriya said that a peaceful meeting was being held here in Narayanpur, which has been spoiled by some anti-social elements, but simple people have been attacked by 'rasuka'.

Action is being taken and the real culprits are absconding, here the government's policy and intentions are also not correct. Former MLA Rajendra Kumar Rai, MLA Dr. Balmukund Dewangan, senior citizen Lekh Ram Sahu, Devlal Thakur etc. said that in order to keep Hindu culture, customs, tradition of Chhattisgarh alive and there are families who are living a happy life, today people from outside are promoting religious conversion here.

# ECoR GM inspects Angul-Jharsuguda Road-Sambalpur railway section

## Central Chronicle News

**Sambalpur, Feb 10:** East Coast Railway General Manager Manoj Sharma inspected Jarapada-Jharsuguda Road Railway Section between Angul and Jharsuguda along with Sambalpur area and reviewed various ongoing Railway projects and infrastructural works in the region with the Railway officials at Sambalpur.

Sharma inspected the double line section between Jarapada and Jharsuguda Road with Window Trailing and took stock of various traffic facility works and other infrastructural works for smooth train operation along with various passenger amenities available at the Stations in the route.



General Manager also inspected the Construction site for Freight Train Examination with ROH facility at Sarla and also reviewed the on-going Railway Infrastructural Works and under construction Railway projects with the Railway officials at Sambalpur.

Sharma advised Railway officials to speed up the on-going infra works in the region and to keep close coordination with all the agencies including local administration from the grass root level so that on-going works will be completed at the earliest.

**BRIEF**



**Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren with his father and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) supreme Shibu Soren after the latter was admitted to Medanta Hospital.**

**Soren hospitalised**

**Ranchi:** Jharkhand Mukti Morcha patriarch Shibu Soren was hospitalised with breathing difficulties but his condition is "stable now", an official of the hospital, where he is undergoing treatment, said on Friday. The 79-year-old former chief minister of Jharkhand has been diagnosed with a lower tract respiratory infection. The JMM supreme was taken to the private hospital here on Thursday evening after he complained of breathing problems.

**Roadshow cancelled**

**Mangaluru:** A roadshow of Union Home Minister Amit Shah which was planned in Mangaluru on Saturday has been cancelled due to security reasons, according to the local BJP unit. Shah, who is scheduled to participate in functions in Puttur taluk during the day, is likely to reach Mangaluru in the evening. The BJP Dakshina Kannada district unit had considered holding a roadshow in the city. However, it has been cancelled due to security reasons, party district president Sudarshan Moodbidri said in a statement here on Friday.

**Lumla bypoll**

**Itanagar:** BJP candidate Tsering Lhamu was on Friday declared elected the MLA of Lumla constituency in Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang district without a contest. Tsering Lhamu, the wife of former MLA Jambey Tashi, was the only candidate who filed her nomination for the by-election to the seat. The by-election was necessitated due to the death of her husband in November last year. Returning Officer Rinchin Dorjee Thungon declared the result at 3 pm after the deadline for the withdrawal of candidature was over; Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Liken Koyu said.

**Building gutted**

**Thiruvananthapuram:** A major fire broke out in a commercial building at busy Vazhuthacaud in the heart of the Kerala capital on Friday, police said. It further said that the aquarium shop, where the fire broke out in the afternoon, was completely gutted. Thick black smoke was billowing from the building, located on M P Appan Road here, local residents said. Several units of fire services personnel rushed to the spot and are trying to contain the flames, police said, adding that more details would be available later. Seeking to avoid further dangers, people are being evacuated from nearby houses and other buildings, they added.

## AAP targets BJP over Mehrauli demolition drive

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI)

The Aam Aadmi Party on Friday lashed out at the BJP over the Mehrauli demolition drive and accused it was replicating what British did during their rule.

Addressing a press conference here, Senior AAP leader Durgesh Pathak accused the BJP of reneging on its poll promises of 'Jahan Jhuggi Wahan Makaan' and said they were demolishing unauthorised colonies and slum areas to exact revenge for losing the Vidhan Sabha and MCD polls. "I don't think this has ever happened in Independent India. This used to happen during the British rule. Those who



**Demolition workers during an anti-encroachment drive to demolish alleged illegal structures, at Mehrauli in New Delhi, Friday.**

supported freedom fighters in 1857 Mutiny were hanged, their houses demolished. This is being replicated by the BJP," Pathak alleged.

He also said they will approach the court in this matter. "Our party MLAs Naresh Yadav and Somnath Bharti have been detained. Even our coun-

cellor has been detained. BJP is taking revenge from people for not choosing them in Vidhan Sabha and MCD polls. They had promised to build houses but they are demolishing jhuggies. We won't allow this to happen," the AAP leader said.

Pathak said that residents of other areas like Tughlakabad and Madipur in Punjabi Bagh have also been served demolition notices.

"We are seeing videos from Mehrauli and they are saddening. Women are fainting, people are crying. We will not let this happen. The bulldozers will have to pass over our bodies if they want to carry out the demolition," he said.

## Karnataka govt follows model of inclusive development: Governor

Bengaluru, Feb 10 (PTI)

Karnataka Governor Thaaarchand Gehlot on Friday said the state government is following the model of inclusive development aimed at navigating the path of progress to achieve the goals set for the next 25 years of 'Amrit Kaal'.

In his address to the joint sitting of the State legislature, Gehlot said the government implemented the Cow Slaughter Prohibition Act to protect cattle wealth.

The last session of the 15th Legislative Assembly of Karnataka commenced on Friday.

The 11-day long session will see Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who also holds the Finance portfolio, presenting his government's last budget on February 17.

The Governor said 100 government 'Goshalas' are

being constructed to protect the weak, sick and orphaned animals, which farmers cannot rear.

Speaking about lumpy care disease among cows, Gehlot said one crore cattle have been vaccinated as a precautionary measure.

He dwelt at length on farmers' and SC/ST welfare and healthcare measures taken by the government.

The Governor also hailed the state for initiating various schemes to attract investments.

Gehlot said the 'Raitha Vidya Nidhi Yojana', benefiting farmers, has been extended to the weavers, farm labourers and also other categories.

"My government is committed to the welfare and development of farmers, labourers, poor, weaker sections and the underprivileged and is marching in the forefront of de-

velopment," the Governor said.

According to him, during 2022-23, short-term crop loan disbursement of Rs 15,066 crore at zero per cent interest rate till end of December has been given to 20.19 lakh farmers.

The state government has provided Rs 2,031 crore to 14.63 lakh farmers who suffered crop loss due to heavy rains and floods in 2022-23.

Also, till December-end last year, Rs 1,215 crore at zero per cent interest rate has been disbursed to self-help groups, the Governor said.

"My government is following the model of inclusive development and I am confident that it will successfully navigate the path of progress laid by our Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the next 25 years of 'Amrit Kaal'," Gehlot added.

## Rajasthan Budget: Gehlot announces inflation relief package of Rs 19,000 crore

Jaipur, Feb 10 (PTI)

Presenting the last budget of his government before the Assembly polls, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced a Rs 19,000 crore inflation relief package that includes free food packets every month to poor families, LPG cylinders for Rs 500 to Ujjwala Scheme beneficiaries and free electricity up to 100 units per month to domestic consumers.

Gehlot, who also holds the finance portfolio, extended the benefits of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) to the employees of state government boards, corporations, academies and universities. No new tax was imposed in the state budget 2023-24.

He said reliefs have been given and no new tax has been imposed in the last four budgets. The budget



**Youngsters play at Shangumugham beach, in Thiruvananthapuram, Friday.**

proposed to increase the coverage amount from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 25 lakh annually per family in the state government's ambitious Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana.

Gehlot also announced enacting a law on social security and Gig Workers Welfare Act, one-time registration to appear for competitive exams, and free electricity for farmers consuming up to 2,000 units of electricity.

"I announce to give free Chief Minister Annapurna food packets every month along with free ration to about one crore families coming under the purview of the National Food Security Act," he said.

"One kilogram pulses, sugar, salt and one litre edible oil will be made available in this packet. About Rs 3,000 crore will be spent on this," he added. In the

budget proposed for 2023-24, the senior Congress leader said, "About 76 lakh families included in the BPL and the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana will get LPG cylinders for Rs 500. Rs 1,500 crore will be spent on this."

He said, "Domestic consumers will be given 100 units of electricity free of cost per month under the Chief Minister's Free Electricity Scheme. This limit was 50 units last year."

"With this, more than 1.04 crore families out of 1.19 crore in the state will be able to get domestic electricity free of cost. The state will incur a burden of Rs 7,000 crore on this," he added. Gehlot said the state government aims to provide free electricity to domestic users consuming 300 units per month in a phased manner. The chief minister also announced

to increase the accidental insurance coverage from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh under the Chiranjeevi scheme. According to the budget announced, a welfare fund of Rs 200 crore will be set up for the people working in the gig economy sector. The term gig workers refer to those engaged in work for app-based services like Zomato, Swiggy, Ola and Uber. The scope of 'Gig Economy' is increasing and the number of 'Gig Workers' in the state has increased to 3-4 lakh and there is no system of social security for them, Gehlot noted.

"To save them from harassment, I propose to bring Gig Workers Welfare Act, under which Gig Workers Welfare Fund will be set up with Rs 200 crore, along with the constitution of Gig Workers Welfare Board," he said.

## MAHAPANCHAYAT



**Farmers and labourers attend 'Kisan Mazdoor Mahapanchayat', in Muzaffarnagar, Friday.**

## 'Fix issues plaguing NCC's training centre within 15 days'

● Delhi Dy CM Sisodia to officials

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI)

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Friday instructed officials to sort out within 15 days issues plaguing the NCC's Naval Training Centre at Okhla Barrage here. Sisodia had on Thursday felicitated 30 NCC cadets at the Delhi Secretariat for winning various awards in the Annual Republic Day Camp. Some officials of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) had highlighted the problems at the facility during a discussion with the deputy CM. The NCC cadets get military training, including boating and

sailing, at the training centre across the Yamuna river.

On Friday, the deputy chief minister inspected the centre and instructed officials of the Public Works Department and Flood and Irrigation Control Department to fix the route leading to the facility and remove shrubs and bushes along the river so that the cadets could train better.

The minister asked the officials to make an action plan for the work needed to be carried out. He said he would visit the centre again after the 15-day period is over to inspect the work done by them. "The NCC makes our youth disciplined and inculcates spirit of patriotism in them.

## 'New Parliament building must be accessible to people with disabilities'

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI)

Just installing ramps for people who are disabled is not enough, rights activists said here, asserting that the government must ensure that the new Parliament building is accessible to people with different disabilities.

The debate around the current Parliament building not being disabled-friendly ignited after former prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh was designated a seat in the last row of Rajya Sabha as it was difficult to bring his wheelchair to the front row. The disability rights activists hoped that the new Parliament building under construction addresses all kinds of disabilities and is not just made accessible to people who are physically challenged. Asked about this, a Central Public Works

Department (CPWD) official said the new Parliament will adhere to all requisite guidelines as prescribed by the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

National Platform for the Rights of the Disabled (NPRD) general secretary Muralidharan said it needs to be understood that every disability has its own requirement.

"Disability accessibility is not a question of just physical accessibility alone. People think ramp construction is enough but they need to understand that this alone does not address the problem. There are gradient components to it too, at times it is very steep so the ratio of the ramp has to be kept in mind," he said.

Every disability has its own requirement. A person with visual disability has a different kind of require-

## Congress asks people not to pay new cess on fuel prices

**New Delhi / Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 10 (PTI):** KPCC president K Sudhakaran on Friday said his party will intensify the protest against the Kerala's Left government's budget decisions to levy cess on fuel prices and asked the people not to pay the increased amount.

Addressing the media in New Delhi, Sudhakaran said the Congress party will protect those who may face any issues for not paying the increased cess amount.

"The state is being stifled due to the adamant at-

titude of the Chief Minister. All sectors of the society have been affected due to this budget," Sudhakaran said, adding that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will have to withdraw the excess liability imposed on the people.

"Congress will intensify the protest against the budget decisions...I urge the people not to pay the increased fuel cess amount. We will protect those who face issues due to non-payment of cess," the Congress leader said.

Sudhakaran claimed that Vijayan, when he was in the opposition, had ear-

lier called for not paying the tax imposed by the then UDF regime.

The Kannur MP also alleged that the new tax was being implemented by the government, for the party workers. He alleged that such a measure was being taken due to the corruption and extravagance of the Left government.

He also urged the state government to take stringent action against officials who have failed to collect taxes in the state.

He said the responsibility of the mismanagement of tax collection solely rests on the government itself.

it is high time we start giving political representation to people with disability in Parliament, among other sectors," he added.

Dr Satendra Singh, a disability rights activist and founder of the Doctors with Disabilities group, said as per the Accessible India campaign, many audits are happening but unless a person is a wheelchair user, their needs are not understood properly.

"Only when a disabled person visits Parliament, will we know the real picture. Ramps are the only visible feature, after that no one cares. The harmonised guidelines of the government for addressing accessibility are self explanatory but the problem is the officials are not well-trained to follow them. Even two steps can be like climbing the Everest for some people with disabilities," he said.

## Indian mission reaches out to students after modern slavery fears in UK

London, Feb 10 (PTD):

The Indian High Commission here on Friday appealed for students to contact the mission for help and counselling amid fears that over 50 of them may have become victims of modern slavery while working at care homes in North Wales.

The Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA), a UK government intelligence and investigative agency for labour exploitation, reported earlier this week that it had succeeded in getting a court order against five individuals for labour abuse.

The GLAA said it has identified "more than 50 Indian students as being

potential victims of modern slavery and labour abuse over the last 14 months" in relation to the case.

"We were concerned to read this news. Indian students who have suffered this, please contact us at pol3.london@mea.gov.in, and we will provide help/counselling. We assure you of confidentiality in our response," the High Commission tweeted.

Five people - Mathew Issac, 32, Jinu Cherian, 30, Eldhose Cherian, 25, Eldhose Kuriachan, 25, and Jacob Liju, 47 - are suspected of recruiting and exploiting vulnerable Indian students working in care homes across North Wales and have

been handed a Slavery and Trafficking Risk Order (STRO).

All five, originally from Kerala, were arrested by GLAA between December 2021 and May 2022 and while investigations remain ongoing, there have been no criminal charges brought against them at this stage.

They are said to have links to care homes in Abergele, Pwllheli, Llandudno, and Colwyn Bay across the region, either by working there themselves or having a direct family link to someone who works in them.

GLAA said Issac and his wife Jinu Cherian also supplied workers through Alexa Care Solutions, a recruitment agency registered in May

2021.

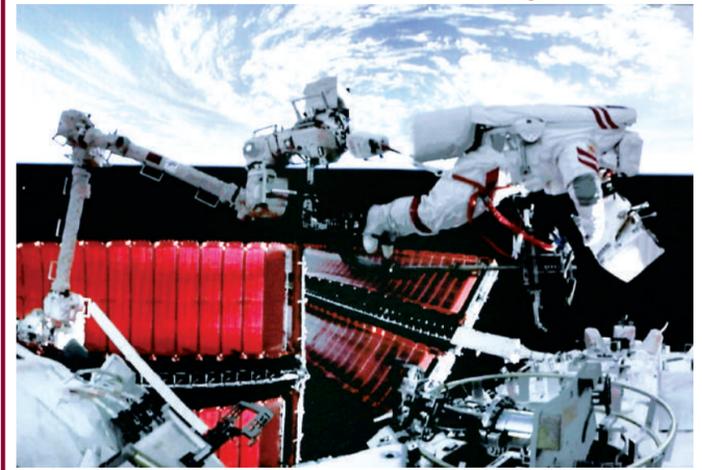
Reports to the Modern Slavery and Exploitation Helpline three months later claimed that Indian workers employed by Alexa Care were not being paid correctly or were having their wages withheld. Significant concerns were raised at the same time about the workers' appearance and that they always appeared to be hungry, the agency revealed. "We are all aware that staffing levels have been a cause of concern in the care sector for some time, and have not been helped by the COVID pandemic," said GLAA Senior Investigating Officer Martin Plimmer.

"Unfortunately, where labour shortages exist, there is an increased risk

of opportunists using the situation for their own financial gain, usually at the expense of workers that they are exploiting.

"Tackling the exploitation of workers in care homes is one of the GLAA's top priorities, and this order is crucial in restricting the activities of those we suspect would otherwise commit slavery or trafficking offences," he said. The STRO comes with a series of stringent conditions on the accused, including preventing them from arranging work, transport or travel for anyone and allowing the GLAA access, at any reasonable time, to where they are living to establish and confirm that the order is being complied with.

## TIANGONG SPACE STATION



Chinese astronaut Fei Junlong conducting extravehicular activities on the orbiting Tiangong space station. China's orbiting space station crew completed their first spacewalk on Friday out of several that are planned for their six-month mission.

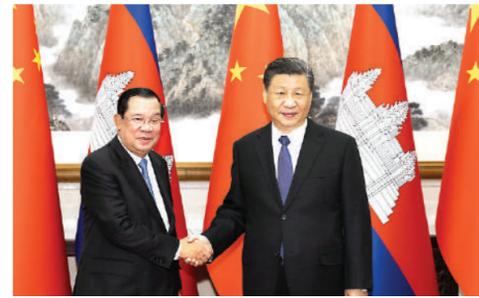
## Cambodia's Hun Sen receives support on Beijing visit

Beijing, Feb 10 (AP):

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen received multiple assurances of Chinese economic and political support during a meeting Friday in Beijing with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"(China) firmly supports Cambodia in safeguarding national sovereignty and security, firmly supports Cambodia in steadily advancing major domestic political agendas and economic and social development, and resolutely opposes external forces interfering in Cambodia's internal affairs," Xi was quoted as telling Hun Sen by China's official Xinhua News Agency. China will also encourage more Chinese enterprises to invest in Cambodia, help in the construction of the Sihanoukville economic zone in Cambodia's southwest on the Gulf of Thailand, and support building transportation infrastructure, Xi said.

Hun Sen was quoted as thanking China for providing COVID-19 vaccines and said Cambodia "firmly supports China in safeguarding national sovereignty, security, and development interests" and "firmly opposes any external forces interfering in China's internal affairs on



Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen, left, and Chinese President Xi Jinping shake hands on the sidelines of a meeting at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, Friday, Feb. 10.

issues related to Hong Kong, Xinjiang, and Tibet."

Cambodia is a key Chinese diplomatic partner, helping dampen criticism of Beijing within the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, several of whose members are engaged in territorial disputes with China in the South China Sea.

The meeting at the Diaoyutai State Guest House comes in the middle of Hun Sen's three-day visit. He was to meet later with outgoing Premier Li Keqiang, after which the leaders were to oversee the signing of a raft of agreements. Hun Sen took power in 1998 and with strong Chinese backing has eliminated all demo-

cratic threats to his rule, muzzling the press and locking up or exiling opponents and critics.

In return, China has gained an outsized role in Cambodian politics and the economy, as seen in the numerous Chinese-funded projects, hotels and casinos dotting the landscape.

China's state banks have also financed airports, roads and other infrastructure built with Chinese loans. More than 40 per cent of Cambodia's USD 10 billion in foreign debt is owed to China, although Cambodia has not asked Beijing to restructure that burden, unlike other countries such as Sri Lanka, Zambia and Ethiopia, which have taken out massive Chinese loans.

## Rescues in Turkey offer moments of relief in quake aftermath



A rescuer takes care of a young girl rescued 4 days after the earthquake, in Kahramanmaraş, southern Turkey, early Friday, Feb. 10.

Skenderun (Turkey), Feb 10 (AP):

Rescuers pulled several people alive from the shattered remnants of buildings on Friday, some who survived more than 100 hours trapped under crushed concrete in the bitter cold after a catastrophic earthquake slammed Turkey and Syria, killing more than 20,000.

The survivors included six relatives who huddled

in a small pocket under the rubble, a teenager who drank his own urine to slake his thirst, and a 4-year-old boy offered a jelly bean to calm him down as he was shimmied out.

But the flurry of dramatic rescues some broadcast live on Turkish television could not obscure the overwhelming devastation of what Turkey's president called "the disaster of the century".

Entire neighbourhoods

of high-rise buildings have been reduced to twisted metal, pulverised concrete and exposed wires, and the magnitude 7.8 quake has already killed more people than Japan's Fukushima earthquake and tsunami, with many more bodies undoubtedly yet to be recovered and counted.

Four days after the earthquake hammered a sprawling border region that is home to more than 13.5 million people, relatives wept and chanted as rescuers pulled 17-year-old Adnan Muhammed Korkut from a basement in Turkey's Gaziantep, near the quake's epicentre. He had been trapped there for 94 hours, forced to drink his own urine to survive.

"Thank God you arrived," he said, embracing his mother and others who leaned down to kiss and hug him as he was being loaded into an ambulance. For one of the rescuers, identified only as Yasemin, Adnan's survival hit home hard.

## Russia hits targets across Ukraine with missiles, drones

Kyiv, Feb 10 (AP):

Russia unleashed strategic bombers, killer drones and rockets in a barrage of attacks across Ukraine early on Friday, as a military push by Moscow that Kyiv says has been brewing for days appeared to pick up pace ahead of the one-year anniversary of its invasion.

The Kremlin's forces focused their bombardments on Ukraine's industrial east, especially the Luhansk and Donetsk provinces that make up the industrial Donbas region where fighting has recently been most intense, the Ukrainian military said.

Moscow-backed separatists have been fighting Ukrainian forces there since 2014.

But the barrage went further, also taking aim at the capital, Kyiv, and Lviv, near Ukraine's Western border with Poland. It also struck critical infrastructure in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city in the

northeast. Seven people were wounded there, two of them seriously, regional Governor Oleh Syniehubov said.

Air raid sirens went off across much of the country. The Ukrainian Air Force said its defences destroyed five Kalibr missiles and five Iranian-made killer drones.

The bombardments could be an effort by Russia to soften up Ukraine's defences ahead of a ground assault, which Kyiv believes Moscow is planning in the east where the Kremlin is striving to secure areas it has illegally annexed and where it claims its rule is welcomed.

In the Donetsk region, local Ukrainian officials reported that the Russian military deployed additional troops and launched offensive operations. "There is a daily escalation and Russian attacks are becoming active throughout the region," Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said.

## Pakistan agrees to IMF conditions: FM Dar

● Staff-level accord still pending

Islamabad, Feb 10 (PTD):

The Pakistan government has received a memorandum on the terms and conditions from the IMF for the completion of a USD 7 billion loan programme, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said on Friday but acknowledged that both sides are yet to clinch a staff-level agreement on the much-needed bailout for the cash-strapped country.

Dar made the statement after an IMF delegation, which left Pakistan on Thursday night after 10 days of talks with the government, said virtual discussions would continue on the ninth review of the programme.

The Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP) is a key



document that describes all the conditions, steps, and policy measures on the basis of which the two sides declare the staff-level agreement.

Once the draft MEFP has been shared, the two sides discuss the policy measures outlined in the document. Once these are finalised, a staff-level agreement is signed, which is then forwarded to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) executive board for approval.

An IMF mission led by Nathan Porter visited Islamabad from January 31 to February 9 to hold discussions under the ninth review of the authorities' programme supported by the IMF Extended Fund Facility (EFF) arrangement.

Pakistan, whose foreign exchange has dropped below USD 3 billion, is in desperate need of financial assistance and a bailout package from the IMF to prevent it from economic collapse.

The successful completion of the ninth review will bring the cash-strapped country USD 1.2 billion in the

form of the next tranche.

As the visiting delegation left without a concluding statement, there was some confusion about the outcome of the talks and whether a draft MEFP had been shared.

Dar, however, insisted on Friday's press conference that there was no confusion.

"We insisted that they (the Fund delegation) give us the MEFP before leaving so we could look at it over the weekend,"

he said, adding that the government and the IMF officials would hold a virtual meeting in this regard on Monday.

"I am confirming that the MEFP draft has been received by us at 9 am today (Friday)," he added.

"We will completely go through the [MEFP] over the weekend and will hold a virtual meeting with [Fund officials]. It will obviously take a few days."

## GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINIMATA BANGO DAM DIVISION NO. 03 MACHADOLI DISTT. KORBA (C.G.)

### e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

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

(THIRD CALL)

System Tender No. : 123793/NIT No. : 09/SAC/2022-23, Dated : 09-02-2023

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 27-02-2023 at 17:30 Hour

Name of Work : TREATMENT OF 3 BUCKET (E.D.A.) EPOXY TREATMENT WORK UNDER E.R.M. OF MINIMATA (HASDEO) BANGO DAM MACHADOLI (BLOCK NO. 19 TO 26).

Probable Amount of Contract - Rs. 1241.41 Lakhs (SOR enforced from 01.08.2010 & amendment on dated 01.08.2014)

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 16.02.2023, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.

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

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINIMATA BANGO DAM DIVISION NO. 03 MACHADOLI (C.G.) G-98390/2

## SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, the Sr. Divisional Materials Manager South East Central Railway, Bilaspur Division, invites e-Tenders for supply of the following items.

E-Tender Notice No. NIT/11/23/01 Dated 03.02.2023  
Description: Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 30/42MVA, 132/27KV, 50 Hz, Single Phase, ONAN/ONAF Tractor Power Transformer with on Load Tap Changer at KRBA TSS RDSP Specification No. TI/SPC/PSI/TRNPWR/3201 or latest. Make RDSO approved vendor.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Due Date	Due Time	Tender Cost	EMD
1	11225073C	09.03.2023	10:30 Hrs.	Rs. Nil	Rs. 4,43,370.00

The tenderers may please visit website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

Sr. Divisional Materials Manager South East Central Railway, Bilaspur

f South East Central Railway @seccrail

## कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, लो.नि.वि., राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग मण्डल, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

दिनांक 08.02.2023

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्र.	निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना क्र.	सिस्टम आई.डी. क्र.	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत	निविदा की अंतिम तिथि
1	04/SE/NH/G/15-3/2023	2023_MoRTH_739123_1	Paving Shoulder/Granular Shoulder work in Km. 25.530 to 31.540 = 6.010 Km. Jagdalpur-Sukma-Konta Road of NH-30 (Old NH-221)	Rs. 93.31 Lacs	22-02-2023
2	05/SE/NH/G/15-3/2023	2023_MoRTH_739124_1	Planting and maintaining of flowering plants from Km. 4.325 to 10.00 of NH-30 (MMI Hospital Chowk to Saddani Darbar)	Rs. 33.33 Lacs	22-02-2023
3	06/SE/NH/G/15-3/2023	2023_MoRTH_739125_1	Milling & Overlay on Tekari Railway Over Bridge (ROB) from Km. 3.200 to Km. 4.200 (Total length 1026 Mtr) of NH 130B (Dhaneli-Khors section).	Rs. 51.57 Lacs	22-02-2023

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी सड़क परिवहन एवं राजमार्ग मंत्रालय (MORT&H) के ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

अधीक्षण अभियंता लो.नि.वि., राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग मण्डल, रायपुर (छ.ग.) G-98377/1

## कार्यालय, नगर पालिक निगम, भिलाई ( छ.ग. )

क्रमांक/लो.क.नि./जोन-4/2023/ /1231 निविदा सूचना भिलाई, दिनांक 10-02-23

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्र.	कार्य का नाम	निविदा लागत (लाख में)	निविदा प्रारंभ हेतु आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि	निविदा विभाग में प्राप्त होने की अंतिम तिथि
1	वार्ड क्र. 40 शास. प्राथमिक शाला संकर नगर छावनी का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य।	6.00	03.03.2023	09.03.2023
2	वार्ड क्र. 41 शास. प्राथमिक शाला राजीव नगर का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य।	6.00	03.03.2023	09.03.2023
3	वार्ड क्र. 46 शास. प्राथमिक शाला दुर्गा मंदिर खुर्सीपार का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य।	10.00	03.03.2023	09.03.2023
4	वार्ड क्र. 46 शास. पूर्व माध्यमिक शाला दुर्गा मंदिर खुर्सीपार का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य।	4.18	03.03.2023	09.03.2023
5	वार्ड क्र. 50 शास. प्राथमिक शाला सेक्टर 11 खुर्सीपार का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य।	6.00	03.03.2023	09.03.2023
6	वार्ड क्र. 50 शास. पूर्व माध्यमिक शाला सेक्टर 11 जेन-2 खुर्सीपार का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य।	10.00	03.03.2023	09.03.2023
7	वार्ड क्र. 51 शहीद वीर नाथयण सिंह नगर शासकीय प्राथमिक शाला का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य।	6.00	03.03.2023	09.03.2023
8	वार्ड क्र. 41 शास. पूर्व माध्यमिक शाला संकर नगर छावनी का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य।	10.00	03.03.2023	09.03.2023
9	वार्ड क्र. 47 डबरापारा चौक में डोम शेड निर्माण कार्य। (द्वितीय बार)	15.00	03.03.2023	09.03.2023

निविदा स्वीड पोस्ट/विस्टर्ड डाक से स्वीकार किये जावेंगे। उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी नगर पालिक निगम भिलाई की वेबसाइट [www.bhilainagarinagam.com](http://www.bhilainagarinagam.com) अथवा संचालनालय की वेबसाइट [www.uad.cg.gov.in](http://www.uad.cg.gov.in) में भी देखी जा सकती है।

जोन आयुक्त नगर पालिक निगम, भिलाई

घर से निकलने वाले गोल एवं सड़ा कचरे को अलग कर सफाई मित्र (रिक्शा) को दें।



## CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 10 No. 312

### Pakistan must change its approach to terrorism

The recent suicide attack in the high security Police Lines in Peshawar, Pakistan, left over a 100 dead and around 200 injured. The attack was initially claimed by the TTP (Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan) which subsequently denied its involvement. The Pak government believes it to be a faction of the TTP aligned with the ISKP (Islamic State Khorasan Province). Within Pakistan the blame game for permitting terrorism to grow unchecked continues between the current government and its predecessors, Imran Khan led PTI. It was in the same city, Peshawar, in Dec 2014, the same TTP attacked the army school leaving 150 dead including 134 students. Pakistan has for long been accusing the Taliban led dispensation in Kabul for not acting against the TTP. Even in this case Pakistan's spokesperson stated that it expected 'sincere cooperation' from the Afghan government to address the 'challenge of terrorism.' The Afghan government rejected Pakistan's accusation with its foreign minister stating, 'We ask Pakistan's ministers to not throw the snow of their own roofs onto the roofs of others. They should consider their problems in their own country. We advise them to look into the Peshawar explosion in great detail.' Pakistan has always followed a policy of good versus bad terrorism. The Afghan Taliban, which it officially supported, was 'good,' which as per their view has turned rogue. Kabul pushed Pakistan for talks with the TTP, providing it safe re-entry into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as also giving it space and time to regroup and re-build its cadre. Its ideology of Sharia law is supported by many Pak clerics, members of its armed forces as also large numbers of its Islamized society. It is possible that this attack was facilitated by its supporters within police lines. The Pak army's peace talks with the TTP were questioned by the public which wanted those responsible for the massacre of army school students in 2014 to be brought to book. The public never trusted the TTP, but Imran and the establishment did. Today, the public has been proved right and the Pak leadership wrong. Yet those involved in pushing talks have refused to accept the blame. Pakistan ignored the cardinal rule that you never negotiate with terrorists. Post earlier terrorist strikes, Pakistan could launch counterattacks at TTP camps across the border as it did post the attack on the army school. The US also compelled the Kabul administration to look the other way. Further, US drone strikes targeted TTP camps. Now with a Taliban government in Kabul any attacks across the Durand Line would result in retaliation as also provision of greater freedom to the TTP. The strike in Peshawar and increased terrorist activities in the region is forcing a migration of the population. A subsequent attack on a police station in Mianwali in Punjab displayed that the TTP has expanded deep into the country and unless acted against could endanger the nation. The Pak army had for decades out-sourced its security duties to terrorist groups. It permitted various anti-India terrorist groups to keep Kashmir on the boil, while backing the Taliban against a democratic Afghanistan, while it raked in money from its business enterprises as also from the US. It did launch some operations against the TTP, but these were only in name as the TTP was largely suppressed by its main backer, the Taliban. The TTP got its freedom to target the Pak army only after the Taliban gained power in Kabul. The Pak army was only involved in anti-terrorist operations against the Baloch, leading to extra-judicial killings and enforced disappearances. These actions added to the strength of Baloch freedom fighters, and they began targeting Chinese investors. Now with some Baloch groups swearing allegiance to the TTP, the scenario has become precarious. The seeds of terrorism sowed by Pakistan to target neighbouring countries have returned to haunt it. Terrorist groups have grown so powerful that they are nominating their own shadow government openly challenging the state. Its defence minister, Khawaja Asif, admitted, 'we sowed seeds of terrorism. Worshippers weren't martyred during prayers even in India or Israel, but it happened in Pakistan.' The weakening security environment in Pakistan comes when they face an economic meltdown amidst political turmoil. The IMF is insisting Pak cuts its defence budget and military manpower alongside other stringent measures, most of which would impact the common man possibly enhancing unrest. Its closest benefactors, Saudi and the UAE are insisting Pak seeks peace with India and stops screaming on Kashmir. They have made promises of deposits but await outcome of IMF talks. China is conspicuous by its silence in providing aid. Pak is now fighting alone to survive. Its own policies are now haunting it.

### Increasing population of aged and unskilled youth, a matter of concern

Rajender Kumar Sharma

Recently, a news has been in the Newspapers and TV News Channels that Canada will issue 5 lakh visas per year for immigrants from 2025. Behind this is the joint opinion of the ruling and opposition parties that the country is facing a shortage of skilled working people and about 10 lakh posts are lying vacant in the various departments. This logic is being given by the Canadian Govt., along with it there is another side of this immigration as well, the increasing population of old people and decreasing youth population in the country. Canada is also in the list of those countries where from 2025 to 2030, 20 percent of the total population will be above 65 years of age, in such a situation it will need a young population and the need will be fulfilled by migrants. And a large number of these migrants are in the Asia continent, especially the human resource of a young country like India is capable of meeting this demand of skilled youth population. Although at present, China is at the first place in terms of the population of the elderly. According to a news, among all the countries in the world, China is such a country, which is rapidly turning into the country of the most elderly people. In the year 2015, 25.4 crore people were above 60 years of age, while 17.6 crore people were above 65 years. It is estimated that in 2040, more than 40 crore people in China will be above 60 years of age. This will be 28 percent of the total population. This number will increase in the coming years. There is a slight difference in the definition of youth of United Nations and India. According to the United Nations definition, 15 to 24 people are kept in the category of youth while according to the Indian definition, 15 to 29 age groups people are kept in the category of youth. If we go by the statistics of the United Nations, then India is the country with the most youth with its 27 percent youth population. According to a news report by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MOSPI) titled 'Youth in India 2022'. In this report, figures have been given regarding the youth. According to this report, by 2021 the population of the country was estimated to be 136 crores. Out of this, 27.3% i.e. 37.14 crore population is youth. The report tells that India is now getting old. By 2036, only 34.55 crore population in the country will be young. It has been estimated in the report that in the next 15 years, the population of youth in India will decrease by about 2.59 crore and the population of the elderly will start increasing. The future of the country is hidden in the above figures. Developed countries are attracting our youth for education, employment and a better lifestyle in their countries and migration of the country's youth to foreign countries in case of lack of employment opportunities is a matter of concern. Let us understand that for the last few years, why the trend of going abroad for higher education and employment has increased among the educated and skilled youth of India and settling there permanently? Foreign higher education institutions, along with education, also allow limited hours of employment or job to the students, due to which the student can easily complete his education without putting any extra financial burden on the parents. Such attractions are attracting high income group as well as middle income group students towards foreign institutions. As a result of which the talent of the country is migrating to foreign countries, the educated and skilled youth of the country are settling abroad. The result of which will be the increase in the number of less educated and unskilled youth in the country and such population will be in the form of an additional burden on the government. This will be such a population which will be young but their participation in the economic development of the country will be negligible. Important schemes like 'Start Up' will also be fruitful only when the youth is educated and skilled. Unskilled class can become a major reason for the failure of such important schemes. In such a situation, keeping its educated and skilled youth in their own country, ensuring their participation in the country's economic development is a big challenge before the country. On the other hand, the increasing elderly population in the country is also the responsibility of the government. In such a situation, the government will have to work on such employment-oriented education programs for the youth, which can stop their migration to foreign countries and the country can always remain young.

### PROTEST



Jammu and Kashmir Rehbar-e-Khel teachers protest outside Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) office, in Jammu, Friday, Feb. 10.

## Prevention, treatment and rehabilitation: 3-level approach against drugs

25 Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) dedicated to the Nation's service



DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR



The 'Magnitude of Substance Use in India' Report, was released in 2019 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) and the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC), AIIMS, Delhi that showed increasing trends of drug use in India. Several drugs have been a part of the tradition and continue to be so in some parts of the country, even today. However, the use of drugs has spread beyond traditional use and is surfacing as an issue of abuse among youth. As per medical research, it is accepted that drug addiction or substance use disorder is a chronic, relapsing health condition caused by a multitude of genetic, biological, environmental and lifestyle-related factors and can be cured by a combination of approaches such as counselling, lifestyle changes and medical treatment involving medicines. Therefore, responding to drug problems in any society requires an informed, multi-pronged strategy that simultaneously addresses the drug supply and reduction of drug demand. On the occasion of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the Hon'ble Prime Minister tweeted "I laud all those working at the grassroots to eliminate the menace of drugs from our society. Every such effort to save lives is vital. After all, drugs bring with it darkness, destruction and devastation".

The government's NCORD mechanism has assisted in addressing drug use on a greater level. Its direction and convergence have led

to unified action by all agencies and stakeholders confronting substance use on a single platform. On 15 August 2020, a community-driven mass movement campaign, Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, was launched against substance use in 272 vulnerable districts of the country. As a second step of this mass movement, another 100 vulnerable districts were added to the list in 2022. Since its inception, Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan has made enormous changes in drug demand reduction with the help of stakeholders who actively envision and work for better community outreach through advocacy-related activities. To date, more than 9.3 crore people have been sensitized on substance abuse, including more than 3 crore youth and more than 2 crore women; and more than 2.7 lakh educational institutions have participated in this mission.

The Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan, hand-holds women, children, educational institutions, and civil society organizations to lead and become the torchbearers in this course of action. The campaign has a strong force of more than 8000 master volunteers, who are trained and sensitized to deliver the message of adverse effects of using drugs, course of redressal and rehabilitation for those struggling with the substance in the most distant sectors. A range of events like marathons, folk musicals, local sports events, boat or cycle rallies and numerous other

activities are organized to connect with the masses in regional languages and more culturally, engaging ways to create a more profound impact and eventually affect the demand for substances. It commits to partner with higher educational institutions, universities, campuses and schools in reaching out and identifying dependent populations; by focusing on counselling and providing treatment facilities in hospitals and rehabilitation centres along with capacity-building programmes for service providers, the campaign is an end to end resolution to the increasing trends in drug usage.

The National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction, the umbrella scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, provides financial assistance to state governments, union territories, NGOs/other voluntary organizations, districts and government hospitals for preventive education, awareness, rehabilitation treatment, to integrate those at the margins of the society back into the mainstream and provide them substantial support to live a life of dignity. There are 341 Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCAAs), 49 Community-based Peer-Led Intervention (CPLIs), 72 Outreach and Drop in Centres (ODICs), and 14 District De-addiction Centres (DDACs) across the country, providing free-of-cost facilities to the people struggling with the menace of drugs. The idea is to offer a helping hand to those on the margins, help their families and social circles understand the challenges, and provide a positive space for them to thrive.

In this tally of progress, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is now ready to add 25 Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) in collaboration with National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC) AIIMS, New Delhi. Ministry dedicated 25 addiction treatment facilities to the nation, under the banner of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment-led campaign,

Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan. The 25 ATFs are located in government hospitals across the country and will be scaled-up further to cover most cities and districts in the country. The types of hospitals range from district hospitals in Simdega, Jharkhand or Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh to larger academic institutions like Siddhartha Medical College, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh or Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Benmina, Kashmir. These Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) will be established in government hospitals across 125 districts and provide treatment to addiction patients as part of the general healthcare framework. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment fully funds the scheme and supports the participating government hospitals in the provision of trained health professionals, free of cost, medicines, and sustainable infrastructure support services.

As the Minister of Home Affairs said in the Parliament, "Our government's policy is very clear, those consuming drugs are victims. We should be sensitive towards them and give victims a conducive atmosphere for their rehabilitation." The issue of substance use is a more significant social problem that cuts across sections of society across age groups, gender, communities and regions and affects families and the personal growth of individuals. It requires a multi-pronged strategy to simultaneously address the issue of demand for substances by providing opportunities for rehabilitation, dismantling the stigmas associated with those engaged and by effectively ingraining the idea of 'no first touch of drugs' among the youth. The campaign successfully draws on these ideas and seeks the support of the masses to come forward in attaining the goal of 'Nasha Mukh Bharat'.

(This Article is written by Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Not a laughing matter

PM Narendra Modi's reply to the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address again sidelined the allegations against him. As usual, instead of replying to the alleged wrongdoings or favouritism with regard to the Adani issue, he chose to blame Congress rule. The Congress has already paid the price for its misrule. The BJP and its brass should learn lessons from Congress' mistakes. It seems that it is not the trust and faith of 140 crore Indians, but the 'lost decade', as referred to by the PM, that is shielding the BJP. Taking jibes at the Opposition and evoking laughter from the Treasury Benches, instead of coming out with a convincing reply to the allegations, is the forte of the Prime Minister. Having a comfortable majority in Parliament and other electoral victories do not mean that he is not answerable to the masses.

Sanjeev Trikha, Fatehabad

#### Indigenisation of copters

Refer to the editorial 'Hal facility a milestone', India has started manufacturing defence equipment, thereby cutting down its bill of importing arms from other countries. The latest addition to the list is manufacturing of Light Utility Helicopters in India. These helicopters will add more strength to the country's defence preparedness. It will also augment avenues for utilisation of these all-purpose helicopters in other fields. India should consider employing these choppers for civil purposes like ferrying goods and people from one place to other. These helicopters can be used for heli taxi service in big cities. This will help in decongesting busy roads and trains.

MKN, Raipur

#### Border infrastructure

The geographical location of India is such that it cannot trust the Chinese army on the borders. The current regime is laying stress on increasing investments for developing infrastructure along the border for greater connectivity. The construction of the 135-km-long Chushul-Dungti-Fukche-Demchok road in the Ladakh region, which is of strategic importance, has already been started. According to official documents, the length of roads along the China border has doubled in the last eight years. Increased connectivity will provide greater mobility to our forces in case of any 'misadventure' at the border.

Ravinder Kumar Thakur, by mail

## Empowering Women and Girls in Science



Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

11th February is celebrated as the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. It is commemorated to achieve full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls. The day that reminds us to work towards improving access for women to technology and science education and creating an enabling environment

for female scientists and technologists. Even though women have made tremendous progress towards increasing their participation in higher education, they are still under-represented in these fields. According to UNESCO, 132 million girls are out of school worldwide and only 66% of countries have achieved gender parity in primary education. Full and equal participation in science for women and girls can play a vital role in ensuring diversity in research, expanding the pool of talented researchers and bringing in fresh perspectives. The most likely reason for the imbalance is that society reinforces the idea that boys and girls have different interests and abilities. It is observed that the most important one is mindset, which has been targeting

women right from their cradles. Women don't need science, is at the back of many minds. It is society, not nature, that tells us girls should favour arts and humanities and leave maths and physics to the boys. Despite the growing temps of technological development and popularity of feminism, women do not still possess equal position in the society. Women have played an important role in the development of science and technology, but there is an insufficient number of females in those career fields. According to a study conducted in 14 countries, the probability for female students of graduating with a Bachelor's degree, Master's degree and Doctor's degree in science-related field are 18%, 8% and 2% respectively, while the percentages of male students

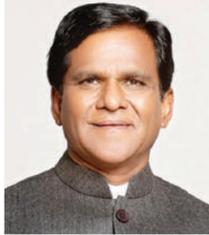
are 37%, 18% and 6%. Less than 4% of Nobel Prizes for science have ever been awarded to women, and only 11% of senior research roles are held by women in Europe. Asima Chatterjee was the first woman to be awarded a Doctor of Science by an Indian University - in 1944, by the University of Calcutta. Women need to get out of their comfort zone and give math and science a try. Plenty of women are pursuing careers in physiology, liberal studies, nursing and such, but not enough women are pursuing careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. It is the time to recognize women's contributions in research and innovation, smash stereotypes and defeat discrimination against women and girls in science. Full and equal

participation in science for women and girls can play a vital role in ensuring diversity in research, expanding the pool of talented researchers and bringing in fresh perspectives. Self-motivation and hard work will help female scientist overcome challenges like maintaining work life balance, taking childcare responsibilities and time management issues. If girls see more positive female role models in science it would give them more confidence and a greater sense of belonging in those subjects. Don't we think we need to encourage and support girls and women achieve their full potential as scientific researchers and innovators?

(Writer can be contacted at his email: dixitptrakr@yahoo.in)

**BRIEF**

**Overseas investors**



**New Delhi:** Minister of State for Mines Raosaheb Patil Danve has urged overseas investors to invest in India as he underlined the initiatives taken by his ministry in the mining and mineral sector. Danve is leading the Indian delegation at Mining Indaba International Conclave which is one of the most popular mining conclaves in the world held every year at Cape Town, South Africa. He addressed the international audience on February 8. Bilateral ministerial-level meetings with Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Congo and Zambia took place on the sidelines of the conclave. Several interactions took place among the Indian delegates and delegates from various countries and organisations.

**Lending rates**

**New Delhi:** Leading public sector lenders Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Bank of Baroda (BoB) have raised their lending rates by up to 25 basis points following the interest rate hike by Reserve Bank earlier this week. PNB in a regulatory filing said it has effected a 25 basis point increase in the Repo Linked Lending Rate (RLLR) from 8.75 per cent to 9 per cent effective from Thursday. The Reserve Bank on Wednesday hiked the benchmark policy rate by 25 basis points to 6.5 per cent, citing sticky core inflation. It was the sixth time the interest rate has been hiked by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) since May last year, taking the total quantum of increase to 250 basis points. BoB increased its Marginal Cost of Funds Based Lending Rate (MCLR) by 5 basis points across all tenures. The new rates are effective from February 12, BoB said in a regulatory filing.

**Digital credit**

**New Delhi:** The government will roll out digital credit service this year which will enable even small street vendors to avail credit from large banks, Telecom and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Thursday. Speaking at 'Digital Payments Utsav', Vaishnaw said it will be rolled out like UPI service and will be a big achievement under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Digital India'. "This year we will be rolling out digital credit and NPCI will take a big lead in that over a period of next 10-12 months. A good construct of digital credit will be created," Vaishnaw said. At the event, the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) unveiled a prototype of voice-based payment system for UPI. The minister said people will soon be able to make payments by speaking on the phone in their local language.

## New tax regime to leave higher disposable income in hands of people: Sitharaman

**New Delhi, Feb 10:**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said the new tax regime, which offers a rebate on annual income of up to Rs 7 lakh, will leave higher disposable income in the hands of people. Replying to the discussion on Union Budget for 2023-24 in the Lok Sabha, Sitharaman said the Budget astutely balances the requirement of development imperatives within the limits of fiscal prudence.

She said the Budget focuses on the middle class, employment generation, MSME, agri sector, rural population, health and green growth. Sitharaman said the new tax regime announced in the Budget is "very attractive" as the tax exemption limit has been hiked to Rs 3 lakh,



**Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha during Budget Session of Parliament, in New Delhi, Friday, Feb. 10.**

from Rs 2.5 lakh earlier. Besides, a standard deduction of Rs 50,000 too has been allowed under the scheme. This new tax regime will benefit the majority of middle-class taxpayers, she said, adding that the rebate has been provided on an income of up to Rs 7 lakh. "Since the

enhanced rebate limit is unconditional, it leaves higher disposable income in the hands of people," Sitharaman said. Under the revamped concessional tax regime, which will be effective from the next fiscal, no tax would be levied for income up to Rs 3 lakh. Income between Rs

3-6 lakh would be taxed at 5 per cent, Rs 6-9 lakh at 10 per cent, Rs 9-12 lakh at 15 per cent, Rs 12-15 lakh at 20 per cent and income of Rs 15 lakh and above will be taxed at 30 per cent. However, no tax would be levied on annual income of up to Rs 7 lakh.

Responding to RSP member NK Premachandran's remark that the new tax regime will not be beneficial for a person earning Rs 9 lakh annually and having an investment of Rs 4.5 lakh in tax savings instruments, Sitharaman said for a person saving Rs 4.5 lakh will be an "effort-ridden exercise".

"For a person earning Rs 9 lakh, it's not always possible to have Rs 4.5 lakh as saving and then also have enough money to spend on your family," Sitharaman said.

## If India is a bright spot for world, UP is driving growth of country: PM Modi

**Lucknow, Feb 10:**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday asserted that if India is a bright spot for the world, then it is Uttar Pradesh which is driving the country's growth. "Today UP has become a hope. If India is a bright spot for the world, then it is UP, which is driving the growth of India."

"Within 5-6 years, UP has established a new identity for itself. Now, UP is being identified by good governance. Now, UP is being identified by better law and order, peace and stability."

Now, wealth creators here will get new opportunities," Modi said after inaugurating the "Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit, 2023". The Prime Minister, who is MP from Varanasi, said Uttar Pradesh, which was earli-



er known as a 'BIMARU' state, is today known for good governance. BIMARU is a term used earlier to refer to states that have poor economic conditions. The acronym BIMARU comprises the first letters of four states - Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Modi also mentioned the benefits of millet, which is also known as 'mota anaj' and has emerged as a superfood today. He said, millets,

"which we now call 'Shri Anna', have very high nutritional value. Our effort is that India's 'Shri Anna' addresses global nutrition security". The Prime Minister said, "Today, the aspirations of the society of India are giving a push to the governments. And, these aspirations are also bringing speed to the developmental works". "Today, India is carrying out reforms not out of compulsion, but out of conviction," he said. The Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023 is being held from February 10-12.

It is the flagship investment summit of the Uttar Pradesh government. The summit will bring together policymakers, industry leaders, academia, think tanks and leaders from across the world to explore business opportunities and forge partnerships.

## Airtel Payments Banks launches Biz Khata

**New Delhi, Feb 10:**

Airtel Payments Bank announced the launch of its current account - BizKhata, which comes with unlimited transactions and instant activation for small merchants and business partners across the country. A large number of small business owners continue to use savings accounts for business purposes as they cannot meet the minimum balance requirement of the business accounts. This makes the process of differentiating personal and business transactions cumbersome. Airtel Payments Bank's BizKhata has been designed specifically for these small merchants and business owners. It brings all business transactions to one platform and allows them to maintain clear records while enjoying multiple banking ben-

efits. The current account solution will be available to existing and new merchants and business partners of Airtel Payments Bank. A business owner can easily open this account within 5 minutes with biometric authentication and minimal paperwork.

Ganesh Ananthanarayanan, Chief Operating Officer of Airtel Payments Bank, said, "At Airtel Payments Bank, we aim to make banking accessible and simple. Our research reflected that fear of high charges levied on not meeting the minimum balance requirement and going beyond the defined number of transactions is a setback for small business owners to start a business account. With this insight, we created BizKhata account to enable and offer the benefits of business banking to small business owners."

**Lucknow, Feb 10:**

Reliance Industries Ltd will invest Rs 75,000 crore in rolling out 5G mobile telephony services, expanding retail network and setting up renewable energy capacity in Uttar Pradesh in the next four years, its chairman Mukesh Ambani said on Friday.

Ambani also announced foray of the oil-to-telecom conglomerate into bio-energy business, converting agriculture waste into gas which can be used as fuel in industries, run automobiles or light kitchen stoves. Speaking at the Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023 here, Ambani said his group will set up 10 GigaWatts of renewable energy capacity and roll



out 5G services across the state in the next 10 months. "We plan to invest an additional Rs 75,000 crore in UP over the next four years across Jio, retail, and renewable businesses," he said. "These new investments will create an additional over 1 lakh jobs in the state," he added. The investment will be in addition to Rs 50,000 crore already invested in the state. Reliance

Jio, the nation's largest telecom company by subscribers, will complete its rollout of 5G to cover every town and village in the state by December 2023. Stating that this will help modernise all areas of business and industry, agriculture, social sector, and governance, he said the company plans to do pilots on its two new innovative initiatives - Jio School and Jio AI Doctor - to bring top-class education and healthcare in the most affordable way to villages and small towns across Uttar Pradesh.

Reliance Retail, he said, will revolutionise hundreds of thousands of kiranas and small stores across the state, enabling them to grow more and earn more.

## Milk prices increased due to rise in fodder cost: Union minister Balyan

**New Delhi, Feb 10:**

Milk prices in the country have risen due to increase in the feed and fodder cost, Union Minister Sanjeev Kumar Balyan said in Rajya Sabha on Friday. Balyan, who is Minister of State of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, said dairy companies pass on 75 per cent of the retail price to farmers. There is a need to balance between farmers and consumers. Farmers need to get higher returns on milk for them to take up dairy farming, he said. In the recent time, there has been increase in the prices of feed and fodder due to which prices of milk have



gone up. If fodder rates come down, automatically milk prices will also decline, the minister added.

Replying to another supplementary question, Balyan said three private firms are conducting trial of a vaccine developed by Hisar-based ICAR institute for the control of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in cattle.

### BUSINESS LITERATURE FEST

**Union Minister for Labour & Employment Bhupender Yadav during the BIMTECH Business Literature Fest 2023, in Greater Noida, Friday, Feb. 10.**

## Polycab India announced as official partner

**Mumbai, Feb 10:**

Polycab India Ltd. (PIL), India's leading electrical goods company with a consolidated turnover of INR 122+ billion in FY22 announced an official partnership with the International Cricket Council. The partnership will include Polycab's sponsorship of all major men's and women's ICC global events scheduled until the end of 2023, including the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa, the ICC World Test Championship Final in the United Kingdom, and the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 scheduled in India. Polycab India has been a well-known brand in Indian households for a few decades and this association with ICC will help the company

increase its brand visibility and awareness amongst more than 1 billion cricket enthusiasts across the world. Through this partnership, Polycab will aim to deepen its engagement with their existing and future customer's and drive the message - 'We Innovate for a Brighter Living'. All communication throughout the tournament will focus on its innovative, safe and energy efficient products, build customer and influencer awareness and engagement.

Mr. Nilesh Malani, President & Chief Marketing Officer, Polycab India Ltd. said: "It is a matter of great pride for Polycab, a reputed home-grown brand with presence in 60+ countries, partner with the International Cricket Council.

## Realme launches 10 Pro 5G Coca-Cola edition in India

**New Delhi, Feb 10:**

The most trusted smartphone brand, realme, has partnered with the global iconic soft drink brand, Coca-Cola®, to create the most stunning smartphone, the realme 10 Pro 5G Coca-Cola Edition. The limited edition smartphone comes in an 8+128GB variant priced at Rs 20,999. This partnership brings technology and lifestyle together to create a seamless and fun experience for customers.

Commenting on the collaboration, Mr. Madhav Sheth, CEO, realme India, VP, realme, and President, realme International Business Group said, "At realme, we constantly endeavor to explore new ways to offer unique and leap forward experiences



to our users, and our collaboration with Coca-Cola is yet another step in that direction. Over the years, both brands have worked towards a common goal to bring positivity and joy

## LIC chairman says, will meet Adani Group top management soon

**Mumbai, Feb 10:**

The LIC management will soon meet the top management of the crisis-ridden Adani Group and seek clarification on the crisis being faced by the diversified conglomerate, chairman MR Kumar said here on Thursday.

LIC's investment into Adani group firms' stock has come under criticism by the opposition parties as well as investors after US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research made a litany of allegations against the Gautam Adani-led group, saying its companies manage and manipulate share prices, run offshore shell companies for round-tripping and lacking in corporate governance practices.



"Though our investor team has already sought clarifications from the Adanis, our top management did not contact them yet as we have been busy preparing the results."

We are soon going to call them to meet us and explain. We want to understand what is happening in the market and in the

group," the chairman told reporters at the earnings conference on Thursday. "We'll be calling them in sometime soon to know how are they managing the whole crisis," Kumar added. Kumar, however, refused to give a timeline of the meeting between LIC and Adani group officials.

LIC, which is the nation's largest institutional investor, is the second largest shareholder in most of the listed Adani group companies, with a cumulative investment of Rs 36,474.78 crore as of January 27, which in percentage terms is 4.23 per cent of the total public holding in those companies. But for LIC's Rs 44.76 lakh crore investment asset under management, this is only 0.97 per cent.

## Okaya EV unveils secured and water resistant E-Scooter

**New Delhi, Feb 10:**

Okaya EV, India's fastest growing electric vehicle brand, has strengthened its 'Faast' series that offers enhanced performance and range-oriented scooters with the launch of its latest scooter Okaya Faast F3. Okaya Faast F3 delivers an exceptional range of 125 Km on a single charge, is waterproof and dust-resistant and has a maximum speed of 70Km based upon loading capacity. With its unique features and safety parameters, Okaya Faast F3 is designed for people who are looking for a dependable and affordable scooter.

Addressing modern consumer needs, the scooter is powered by a 1200W motor delivering peak power of 2500W, along with 3.53 kWh Li-ion LFP Dual batteries



with switchable technology to extend battery life. It takes around 4-5 hours to get fully charged. The scooter comes with a 3-year warranty on the battery and motor. With the launch of the Faast F3, Okaya aims to bring an affordable range of electric scooters in India and increase the adoption of electric vehicles.



## Rohit was made to work hard: Vikram Rathour



Nagpur, Feb 10 (PTI):

Australia made Rohit Sharma "work hard" for his 120-run knock and it was a special effort since it came on a track that wasn't easy to bat on, India batting coach Vikram Rathour said after the hosts strengthened their position in the series-opener. Rohit's hundred and half-centuries from Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel has given India a first innings lead of 144, going into the third day. "It was a special innings by Rohit and it is a great feeling (to see him score runs). He showed good temperament and it was very important innings as the surface wasn't easy to bat on," Rathour said at the end of the second day's play. Since he started opening in Test matches, Rohit has played some great knocks but the three hundreds that stand out include his epic 161 on a Chepauk snake pit, a ton at the Oval and Friday's knock on a low, slow turner against Australia. "That is the quality of his batting," Rathour said. "He has got runs on seaming tracks in England. But if we talk about this particular innings, he was made to work hard for his runs. Normally, with Rohit when he scores his first few runs, he then pushes the score. But here he had to work hard," the former Test opener said. India scored 95 runs in the final session, courtesy a 81-run stand between Axar (52 batting) and Jadeja (66 batting) but Rathour didn't want to sound complacent about the fact that the match is as good as in India's pocket. "I don't think so. You can't say till the last ball is bowled," he said cautiously. When asked if Axar's batting came into consideration when he was picked ahead of Kuldeep, Rathour denied emphatically.

# Rohit, Jadeja and Axar give India control

Nagpur, Feb 10 (PTI):

Skipper Rohit Sharma conjured up one his most impressive Test hundreds under pressure against a quality Australian attack as India vaulted to a crucial 144-run lead in the series-opener after ending the day two at 321 for 7, here Friday.

Rohit (120) displayed class and composure of the highest order and in the process became the first Indian captain to have scored a century in all three formats.

While Rohit's ninth Test hundred is worth its weight in gold, Ravindra Jadeja's (66 not out) 18th half-century is also priceless. The all-rounder's knock will be equally important in the context of the game.

Jadeja once again showed his true worth by adding 61 runs for the sixth wicket with Rohit and another 81 runs for the unconquered eighth-wicket with Axar Patel (52 batting), who is also playing a fine hand.

It was a battle of attrition for Indian batters, especially Rohit and Jadeja with the home team putting on board 244 runs on the second day.

On a slow track where other batters found the run-scoring extremely difficult, the Indian captain was concentration-personified.

It had the same class as the 161 he scored in against England in 2021 in the Chennai Test. The opener put his best foot forward against an attack, led by spinners Nathan Lyon (1/98) and Todd Murphy (5/82), who got a five-for on Test debut.

In fact, both the off-break bowlers came



round the wicket against right-handers to stem the flow of runs and succeeded partially. It took Rohit 171 balls to

reach his hundred. He hit 15 boundaries and two sixes in a knock that spanned more than four and half hours.

But the hallmark of his innings was the rotation of strike and how he traded risk for caution. Having read the nature

of the pitch perfectly, Rohit curbed his natural flair and channelised his "inner Cheteshwar Pujara" and testimony to that was 62 completely out of character runs that he scored across two sessions on the day.

He had scored 56 runs in half-a-session on Thursday evening.

Pull has been Rohit's go-to shot in every form of cricket he didn't take his opposite number Pat Cummins' (1/74) bait, save one time when he hit him for a maximum behind square.

He didn't try to get to his hundred in a hurry, playing out maidens and taking singles before whipping Cummins to square leg for a boundary that took his score in the 90s.

It was an inside-out lofted drive over extra cover off Murphy that brought up his hundred, and once again reiterated the theory that in adverse situations, individuals with the highest degree of skill prevail.

Once second new ball was taken, Cummins dismissed Rohit with an unplayable delivery that was fast and also moved away late after pitching.

However Jadeja stood firm and got good support from fellow all-rounder Axar to further consolidate India's position in the game. Virat Kohli (12) along with debutants Suryakumar Yadav (8) and Kona Bharat (8) would be disappointed that they didn't score big.

In the case of Kohli, bespectacled Murphy bowled a similar delivery to the former India skipper that had earlier accounted for Cheteshwar Pujara.

## I'll look back at this feat for rest of my life: Murphy



Nagpur, Feb 10 (PTI):

Todd Murphy has had a "special" couple of days and the bespectacled Australian Test debutant, who resembled more like a professor of history rather than practitioner of finger spin, couldn't be happier for his five-wicket haul against India in the ongoing opening Test here. Murphy has so far picked up 5 for 82 in 36 overs in India's first innings, with the wickets of KL Rahul, Cheteshwar Pujara and Virat Kohli in his kitty. "It's been a pretty special couple of days and to top it off with a five-wicket haul on debut is more than I ever hope for and it is going to be something that I'll look back on for the rest of my life and be proud of," Murphy said at the end of the second day's play. Murphy was all praise for the Indian batters and their ability to use their hands against spinners. "I haven't bowled to a lot of people from around the world but I think the Indian guys they use their hands really well. They get their hands out in front of their pads and they have got a lot of scoring options too. "So always a really difficult challenge there. And it was quite tough," he said. Murphy started out as a medium pacer but later found off-breaks to be his calling card. "I think in all honesty my medium pace wasn't really any good anyway, so it sort of just came a time where I was tinkering in the nets with off-spin bowling and yeah, got some really good feedback that what was coming out of my hand was alright. "So, just went from there and kept working at it and it's been the best thing I've ever done. So thankful I have," he said. It has been one hell of a journey for Murphy, who wasn't even playing first-class cricket a year back and now has five-for in Tests to boast of.

## Jackson, Vasavada tons turn it around for Saurashtra

Bengaluru, Feb 10 (PTI):

Sheldon Jackson and skipper Arpit Vasavada struck a century each as Saurashtra turned the tables on Karnataka by just 43 runs with six wickets in hands and two full days' play remaining. Resuming at the overnight score of 76 for 2, Saurashtra did not have a good start as they lost Harvik Desai (33) inside five overs, trapped LBW by Vasuki Koushik. But then came the turnaround as Jackson and Vasavada joined hands and played patiently to build a partnership. The duo displayed classical Test match temperament, defending the good

balls but not hesitating to dispatch the bad deliveries to the boundary.

It was complete frustration for the Karnataka bowlers as they failed to break the partnership or trouble the duo, who looked determined.

Off-spinner Krishnappa Gowtham (1/68) finally broke the partnership in the 98th over, trapping Jackson in front of the wicket but by then it was too late as Saurashtra had already undone the hard work of Karnataka skipper Mayank Agarwal, who scored 249 in the first innings to more-or-less single-handedly take his side past the 400-run mark.

Sheldon Jackson and skipper Arpit Vasavada struck a century each as Saurashtra turned the tables on Karnataka.



Sheldon Jackson and skipper Arpit Vasavada struck a century each as Saurashtra turned the tables on Karnataka.

## Akash Deep's five-for puts Bengal in driver's seat against MP

Indore, Feb 10 (PTI):

Bengal pacer Akash Deep bowled a game-changing spell en route to a five-wicket haul to put his team in the driver's seat against defending champions Madhya Pradesh in the Ranji Trophy semifinal here on Friday.

Akash Deep (5/42), who played a key role in their win over Jharkhand in the quarterfinals, rattled Madhya Pradesh's recovery act led by overnight batter Saransh Jain (65), claiming two wickets in two balls.

He uprooted Jain's off-stump and in the next ball trapped Kumar Kartikeya leg-before to breathe life into Bengal's lacklustre at-

tack, which also has Ishan Porel and Mukesh Kumar.

He grabbed his fourth five-wicket haul in first-class cricket dismissing Avesh Khan before Madhya Pradesh were bowled out for 170 when their No. 11 batter Gaurav Yadav was run out.

Bengal took a huge first innings lead of 268 runs but skipper Manoj Tiwary did not enforce follow-on.

Bengal ended the third day on 59 for 2, with an overall lead of 327 runs to inch closer to the final. The two-time Ranji champions last reached the final in 2020 where they lost to Saurashtra. Bengal are yet to win the Ranji Trophy since 1989-90. Much like the first innings,

the opening duo of Abhimanyu Easwaran (19) and Karan Lal (17) departed in quick succession.

First innings centurion duo of Sudip Gharami (12 batting) and Anustup Majumdar (9 batting) were at the crease with two more days to go.

Earlier resuming at the overnight score of 56 for 2, night watchman Anubhav Agarwal departed with the addition of just two runs after edging one off Mukesh Kumar.

At the other end, Akash Deep cleaned up Rajat Patidar for a duck, while left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed dismissed MP skipper Aditya Srivastava (7) as half of their side were out in the pavilion for 89.

## Cristiano Ronaldo scores 4 goals in Saudi Pro League game



Mecca, Feb 10, (AP):

Cristiano Ronaldo scored four goals for his new Saudi Arabian team, bringing his career tally in domestic leagues to 503.

Ronaldo, four days after his 38th birthday, scored twice in each half to help Al Nassr defeat Al Wehda 4-0 in a Saudi Pro League game. The five-time Ballon

d'Or winner who starred for Real Madrid, Juventus and Manchester United joined Al Nassr after the World Cup. The Portugal star signed a contract through June 2025. Ronaldo had a disappointing World Cup where he was benched in the knockout rounds and left the field in tears after Portugal lost in the quarterfinals to Morocco.

## Ponting targets Warner's poor run in India

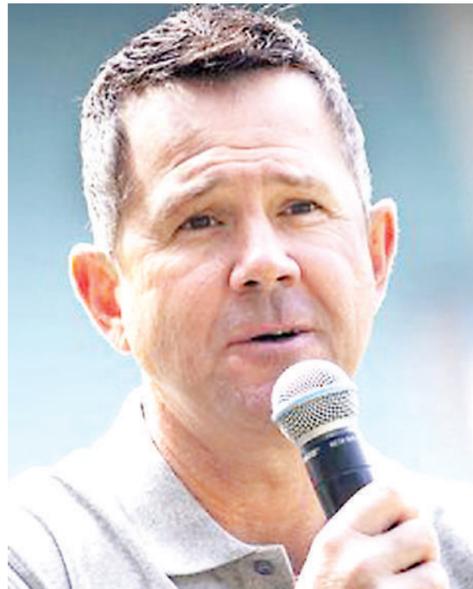
Melbourne, Feb 10 (PTI):

Former Australian captain Ricky Ponting has dropped a hint to his country's selectors that they revisit David Warner's place in the playing XI if he continues to fire blanks in Test cricket in the sub-continent.

The 36-year-old opening stalwart came up with another underwhelming performance on the opening day of the first Test in Nagpur on Thursday with Mohammed Shami bowling him through the gate for one and leaving the visitors two down for just two runs.

Warner's batting record in overseas Tests isn't flattering with the southpaw accumulating 2,994 runs at a modest average of 33.64. In India, it drops further to 22.88.

"I think he averages 24 in India, something like that, from about eight Test matches," Ponting told ICC Review.



"Nine Test matches — well, eight-and-a-half, he's got another (innings) yet — but that average

would've dipped down again today (Thursday). He's one of the players that has come out and said

that winning in India, as far as he's concerned, would be maybe even bigger than winning an Ashes series." The legendary cricketer added that if Australia are really keen on winning the series, they should pick their best lineup, hinting that a call on Warner should be taken soon. "So, if the selectors and the coach and the captain, if they are so hell-bent on winning this series and a couple of their batters for the first few games don't fire, then I think they have to have a look at picking who they think is their best line-up going forward," said Ponting. He hinted that if someone like Travis Head, the "Player of the Series" during the 2021/22 Ashes and the joint second-highest run-getter during the recently-concluded three-Test series against South Africa, could be axed for the Nagpur Test, then Warner too can be benched.

## Mandhana doubtful starter against Pakistan



Cape Town, Feb 10 (PTI):

India vice captain Smriti Mandhana is likely to miss the Women's T20 World Cup opener against Pakistan on Sunday as she is yet to recover from a finger injury she suffered during a warm-up game.

The 26-year-old opener injured her left middle finger while fielding during the warm-up match against Australia on Monday. "She suffered an injury in the practice game. We can't say she is out of World Cup yet. But she could miss the Pakistan game," an ICC

source told PTI.

The southpaw had batted at number three against Australia instead of her usual opening position. Her innings lasted only three balls.

Mandhana had subsequently missed India's second warm-up game against Bangladesh on Wednesday. Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's fitness is also a concern. She had injured her shoulder during the final of the Tri-Series against South Africa last week. "Body is fine. It will get better with rest." Kaur had said after the final.

## Uttarakhand paper leaks protest

# Dhami says political organisations which have lost ground 'instigating' youths

Dehradun, Feb 10 (PTI):

A day after a protest against recruitment exam paper leaks here turned violent, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Friday said some political organisations which have lost ground across the country are instigating the youth for their own interests. He said the protest turned violent as "elements from outside" joined it and efforts are being made to identify them.

A protest by youths against recruitment examination paper leaks turned violent when the protestors clashed with police personnel and hurled stones at them on

Thursday. Some youths were injured as police resorted to lathi-charge to disperse the protestors.

"We have been saying all along that some political organisations which have lost ground not just in Uttarakhand but all over the country are instigating the youth to serve their own interests. The protest turned violent as elements from outside joined it. It is being ascertained who they were," Dhami told reporters here, without taking any names.

After the question papers for an exam were leaked, Dhami said, it was cancelled and fresh dates were announced. No examination fee was taken from the students and they



A protestor raises slogans at Shaheed Smarak in district court premises against police action during protest over alleged irregularities in state government recruitment examinations, in Dehradun, Friday.

were also allowed to travel to their exam centres in Uttarakhand Roadways buses free of cost.

"We did all this only be-

cause we wanted to protect the students' interests. We want to tell our sons and daughters to focus on their prepara-

tions for the forthcoming examinations. All examinations will now be held with probity and transparency," he said.

As promised to the youth, the promulgation of an ordinance to prevent the use of unfair means in recruitment examinations in the state, making it a cognisable and non-bailable offence, was approved on Thursday, the chief minister said.

The ordinance has a provision for a maximum punishment of life imprisonment and a fine of up to Rs 10 crore for those indulging in or facilitating the use of unfair means in recruitment examinations from printing question papers to publishing results.

# Centre, probe agencies not going after big fish of international drug syndicates: SC

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

The Supreme Court Friday said the Centre and investigating agencies are not arresting big fish who are members of international drug syndicates but catching small fish like agriculturists and someone standing at a bus stand in NDPS cases.

The remarks of the top court came on a bail plea of an accused who was arrested after opium was found in his fields and has served more than five years in jail. A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala said, "We must say that the

Government of India and the investigating agencies are not arresting big fish. Why don't you go after international drug syndicates? Try to catch them. You are only catching small fish like agriculturists, someone standing at bus stand or other places."

The top court was hearing the bail plea of Sabir who was booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act after opium of commercial quantity was recovered by the police from his agriculture lands.

Additional Solicitor General Vikramjeet Banerjee, appearing for the Madhya Pradesh gov-

ernment and the Narcotics Control Bureau, opposed the bail plea, saying that it was not a small quantity and he had already been convicted twice. The bench said the maximum sentence for the quantity of psychotropic substance recovered is 10 years and he has already served more than five years in jail for the offence.

"These are small-time farmers who could not secure bail for the offence," the bench observed, adding that he was entitled for bail. The top court then proceeded to grant bail and rejected the submission of the state government and the NCB.

# SC dismisses Google's plea for modification in Jan 19 order upholding NCLAT view on penalty

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain the plea of Google LLC seeking modification of its January 19 order and said the company can raise its grievances during hearing of its appeal before the NCLAT.

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala said at most it can add "without prejudice" in the January 19

order and nothing more.

Senior advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for the US tech giant said some portion in the January 19 order needs to be deleted. The bench said the order was dictated in the open court and therefore there is nothing to clarify or modify.

The counsel appearing for Competition Commission of India (CCI) said the appeal of Google LLC is listed for hearing next week before the National Company

Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) and they can raise these issues before the tribunal. The bench told Singh, "Sorry, it can't be done. We will not do it. You can raise all these grievances during the hearing of the appeals".

On January 19, in a setback to Google, the top court had endorsed the order of the NCLAT declining to grant an interim stay on the imposition of a penalty of Rs 1,337 crore on the US tech giant by the competition regulator for

allegedly abusing its dominant position in the Android mobile device ecosystem. The top court had said at the interlocutory stage, it would suffice to say that the findings of the CCI against Google were neither without jurisdiction nor suffering from any manifest error warranting its interference.

It had granted a week's time to the US firm to deposit 10 per cent of Rs 1,337 crore penalty imposed on it by the CCI.

The top court had asked

the NCLAT to decide Google's appeal against the competition regulator's order by March 31 this year after charting out the time schedule for the hearing.

"It is suffice to note that the findings which have been arrived at by the CCI cannot be held, at the interlocutory stage, to be either without jurisdiction or suffering from a manifest error which would have necessitated interference at the interlocutory stage", it had ordered.

# Yoga pulled me out of mental and physical agony: Prez

Bhubaneswar, Feb 10 (PTI):

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday said that yoga had helped her when she was in mental and physical agony, while asserting that regular practice of it could help people achieve success in all spheres of life. She also noted that empowerment of women is the mantra to establish India as the "Biswa Guru" (world leader).

Murmu, who arrived here earlier in the day on a two-day visit to her home

state, stressed the need for the practice of yoga which could help citizens grow spiritually leading to the overall development of individuals and the nation as a whole. While sharing her own experience at the foundation day function of Janaprabha Mission, a charitable organisation, the President said, "At one point of time, I felt completely broken both physically and mentally and embarked on yoga. I am here today standing before you and speaking to you just because of yoga."

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