



### BRIEF



A foreign tourist during a photo shoot at the Taj Mahal in Agra, Wednesday.

### CBSE exams

**New Delhi:** The CBSE board exams for classes 10 and 12 began on Wednesday with over 38 lakh students set to appear for the examinations at 7,250 centres.

### Lifer

**Baghpat:** local court on Wednesday sentenced a man to life in prison after finding him guilty of raping and killing a five-year-old girl. The girl was found murdered in July 2021. She had been abducted and raped in the district's Badaut Kotwali area, Superintendent of Police Neeraj Jadaun said.

### ED action

**New Delhi:** The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday said it has frozen Rs 29.5 crore kept in bank and demat accounts after it carried out raids in multiple cities in a money laundering case linked to cheating of investors through a mobile phone-based application.

**Weather**  
High 33 Low 14

**MARKET**  
NIFTY 18,015.85  
SENSEX 61,275.09

**BULLION**  
GOLD 56,240  
SILVER 65,477

### CABINET DECISION

## 7 new battalions with 9,400 personnel to guard LAC

**New Delhi, Feb 15 (PTI):**

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday sanctioned seven new battalions and an operational border base with a fresh strength of 9,400 personnel for the India-China LAC guarding force Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), officials said. The proposal was cleared after the meeting of the cabinet that was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to the government sanction, the fresh manpower will be utilised for manning 47 new border posts and a dozen 'staging camps' or troops bases along this frontier. The armies of India and China are engaged in a standoff in Ladakh since 2020.

### Approves plan to set up 2 lakh PACS, dairy, fishery cooperatives

Seeking to strengthen the cooperative movement in the country, the union Cabinet on Wednesday approved setting up of 2 lakh Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) and dairy-fishery cooperatives in uncovered villages and panchayats over the next five years. At present, there are around 63,000 functional PACS in the country. The Cabinet approved steps to strengthen the cooperative movement in the country and deepen its reach up to the grassroots. The plan is to establish PACS in each uncovered panchayat, viable dairy cooperatives in each uncovered panchayat/village and viable fishery cooperatives in each coastal panchayat/village as well as panchayat/village having large water bodies.

### Rs 4,800 cr funds for development of VVP

The Union cabinet on Wednesday approved a Rs 4,800 crore allocation for the 'Vibrant Villages Programme' (VVP), a centrally-sponsored scheme, to ensure the comprehensive development of villages along the northern border areas. The financial allocation for 2022-23 to 2025-26 was approved at a meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and will include Rs 2,500 crore for the development of roads infrastructure, Union I&B Minister Anurag Thakur told reporters.

The about 90,000 personnel strong ITBP was raised in the aftermath of the 1962 Chinese aggression and it is tasked to guard the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC) on India's eastern flank.

## SC upholds conviction in murder case

### Quality, not quantity, of witnesses matters

**New Delhi, Feb 15 (PTI):**

It is not the quantity but the quality of witnesses which matters, the Supreme Court said on Wednesday while upholding the conviction and life term awarded to three convicts for murdering four members of a family in Uttar Pradesh in 2007.

The apex court noted two daughters of one of the deceased had seen the assailants killing their family members and one of them, who was examined as a prosecution witness in the case and was injured during the incident, was a "fully reliable witness".

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Vikram Nath delivered its verdict on a

batch of appeals, including those filed by the four convicts, challenging the February 2012 judgement of the Allahabad High Court which had affirmed their conviction in the case. The apex court noted that one of the convicts, Ajai, has since died.

While affirming their conviction, the high court had commuted to life term the death sentence awarded to them by the trial court.

In its verdict, the top court said that non-examination of one of the daughters and the father of one of the deceased as a witness has no material bearing and it is the discretion of prosecution to lead as much evidence as is necessary for proving the charge. "It is not the quantity of the witnesses but the quality of witnesses

which matters," the bench said in its judgement.

It said the daughter, who was examined as a witness in the case, was an injured witness having received grievous and life-threatening injuries in the incident.

Dealing with arguments advanced on behalf of one of the convicts that there were several discrepancies and inconsistencies in the evidence, the bench said, "We need not go into details as the same are minor and do not have any impact on the findings recorded by the courts below."

It also dealt with the appeal filed by the state of Uttar Pradesh for enhancement of sentence.

The apex court said the high court had given "sound and cogent reasons" for commuting the death sentence into life term.

## 33 Naxalites surrender

**Sukma, Feb 15:**

Thirty three Naxalites, including three carrying a reward of Rs 1 lakh each on their heads, have surrendered in Sukma district, police said on Wednesday.

The Naxalites turned themselves in before police during a 'Jan Darshan' programme organised on Tuesday at Dabbamarka camp in the district, Sukma Superintendent of Police Sunil Sharma said.

Three of them - Dandakaranya Adivasi Kisan Majdoor Sangthan president Dirdo Muda, Chetna Natya Mandli (cultural outfit of Naxals) president Hidma and militia commander Wajam Hidma - were carrying a reward of Rs 1 lakh each on their heads, while the others were lower rank cadres, he said.

### CELEBRATORY FIRING AT WEDDING

## Police seize weapons from panchayat official, son

**Janjgir-Champa, Feb 15:**

Police have seized the licensed weapons of a panchayat office-bearer and his son in Janjgir-Champa district after a video surfaced of celebratory firing at the latter's marriage function, an official said.

The incident took place in Rasota village under Pamgarh police station limits on February 12.

After a video of the celebratory firing during the marriage function went viral on social media platforms, Pamgarh station house officer (SHO) was directed to conduct a probe into it and take action. Additional Superintendent of Police Anil Soni said.

Based on the statements of eyewitnesses and findings surfaced during investigation, it came to light that terms and condition of the weapon licence were violated by the licence holders, he said.

As a preventive measure, the police subsequently seized the licensed pistols of district panchayat vice president Raghendra Pratap Singh and his son Shantanu Singh along with around 50 bullets and two empty shells, the official said.

Based on the probe into the matter, a report was forwarded to the district collector with a recommendation for suspension of the weapon licenses and their confiscation, the police said.

### CONVICTION IN 15-YR OLD CASE

## Azam Khan son disqualified from assembly for 2nd time

**Lucknow, Feb 15 (PTI):**

The People Act lists of offences which can lead to disqualification of legislators and states that anyone sentenced to imprisonment of two years or more shall be disqualified "from the date of such conviction" and remain disqualified for another six years after serving time in jail.

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### OFFICIAL DATA

## Lowest occupancy in Bilaspur-Nagpur Vande Bharat Express

**New Delhi, Feb 15 (PTI):**

The Bilaspur-Nagpur Vande Bharat Express had the lowest occupancy among the eight such trains in the country till January this fiscal while the Mumbai-Gandhinagar route recorded the highest, official data showed.

The Bilaspur-Nagpur Vande Bharat Express had a 55-per cent occupancy rate while the train running between Mumbai and Gandhinagar recorded 126 per cent, the data showed. The low occupancy of three Vande Bharat trains marred the perfect record of the five other indigenous trains, capable of running at 180 kilometres per hour.

The occupancy rates of two more Vande Bharat trains launched on February 10 to take the total number of these trains to 10 are not part of the data.

Vande Bharat trains between Bilaspur and Nagpur, New Delhi and Amb Andaura (Himachal Pradesh) and Chennai Central (MAS) and Mysore Junction recorded an average occupancy of 55 per cent, 70 per cent and 75 per cent, respectively, during the current financial year, lower than the 100 per cent average registered on the five other routes.

The Vande Bharat train between Mumbai and Gandhinagar was the most popular in both directions. The Mumbai-Gandhinagar route had 126.24 per cent occupancy while the Gandhinagar-Mumbai route had 127.74 per cent during the period under review.

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# BJP stages gherao at MLA's residence

**Bhilai, Feb 15:**

On Wednesday, a large number of BJP party workers led by BJP District President Jitendra Verma staged gherao at the residence of MLA Arun Vora. They raised the issues including the ban on the PM housing scheme and lease distribution, drinking water supply, law and order, low level health facilities, bad roads, poor sanitation, etc.

BJP workers, women, youth and people waiting for PM Awas gathered at Satrupa Sheela Mandir and offered aarti to the goddess.

Thereafter they marched to the residence of Congress MLA Arun Vora in Padmanabhpur. Blaming the Congress for snatching the rights of the poor, they raised slogans and gheraoed the MLA's residence. Police team had



barricaded the road to prevent the demonstrators from reaching Vora's residence. But the BJP workers broke the barricade and managed to reach the residence of Arun Vora. Later, the MLA came out to interact with the demonstrators and alleged that the fund for PM Awas is not being released by the central government. In his reply, District BJP President Jitendra

Verma showed a letter written by Panchayat and Health Minister TS Singh Deo to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on July 16, 2022, in which TS Singh Deo had expressed displeasure for returning crores of rupees of this scheme. On this, MLA Arun Vora replied that he too wants proper implementation of the scheme. District General Secretary Lalit Chandrakar and

Surendra Kaushik said that inaction and false accusations have now become the identity of Congress leaders. Women from Ward No 4, 5, 20, 21, 22 broke pots in front of Vora's house and expressed their anger over non-availability of drinking water.

Leader of the Opposition Ajay Verma, Dinesh Dewangan, Dr Devnarayan Tandi, Doman Lal Korsewada, Prityal Belchandan, Ajay Tiwari, Devendra Singh Chandel, Vinayak Natu, KS Chauhan, Alka Bagmar, Ashish Nimje, Amita Banjare, Vinod Arora, Nilesh Agarwal, Manoj Soni, Madan Wadhwa, Raja Mahobia, Rakesh Duggad, Rajneesh Srivastava, Narayan Dutt Tiwari, Gajendra Yadav, Chandrashekhar Chandrakar, Dr Sunil Sahu and others were present.

# BSP supports Abujmarh Malkhamb team in 5th All India Khelo India Youth Games 2022

**Bhilai, Feb 15:**

Ten players of Abujmarh, representing Narayanpur Abujmarh Malkhamb Academy from Chhattisgarh under the CSR ambit of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant won bronze medal in the 5th All India Khelo India Youth Games 2022. Chhattisgarh Malkhamb recently. Women and Men players of Chhattisgarh created history by winning the title of team champion with earning 201.25 points with their best game in the Khelo India Youth Games 2022 held at Ujjain on February 07, 2023.

Bhilai Steel Plant (SAIL) provided special financial assistance and appropriate sports equipment and facilities for the Malkhamb Academy, making necessary equipment available at the right time. SAIL-BSP thereby has made a special contribution in encouraging the



Malkhamb team of Chhattisgarh from Ronghat area.

A rule was made in the Youth Games 2022 to give medals by adding the combined marks of all women and men

players, due to which the first, second and third places were taken out, in which Chhattisgarh Malkhamb team got the third place and captured the bronze medal.

The names of the bronze medallist boys and girls category players include Manu Dhruv, Monu Netam, Shyamal Potai, Rakesh Varda, Santosh Sori and Ravindra Kumar in the Boys category; Sarita Poyam, Durgeshwari Kumeti, Santay Potai, Jayanti Kachalam, Himanshi Usendi and Shiksha Dinkar represented the Girls team. Premchand Shukla, General Manager of Chhattisgarh Malkhamb team Pushkar Dinkar, Manager, Bisan Kaser Coach, Manoj Prasad and Poonam Prasad and Dr Rajkumar Sharma, Technical Officer kept the team morale high by congratulating the team in Ujjain. Patron of Chhattisgarh Malkhamb Sangh and former BDA President Anil Tah and Vice President Raja Sarkar, Treasurer Anil Singh have conveyed their best wishes from Bilaspur.

# 'Karamveer' leadership programme conducted at HRDC



**Bhilai, Feb 15:** The third edition of a special 2-day Leadership Development Program for Non-Executives titled 'KarmVeer' was successfully conducted by SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's HRD Department from February 13-14, 2023 at HRDC, Bhilai. The target population for this special intervention was a cross-section of National awardees (Shram/Vishwakarma/Quality circle) of BSP. 29 persons from different departments of the Plant partici-

pated in the programme. Sanjay Dhar, CGM (HRD&BE) threw light on the objective of the programme. Amulya Priyadarshi, GM (HRD) was the Faculty/Trainer during the programme. It consisted of many innovative group tasks and inputs on individual Leadership development. On the concluding day, Chief Guest Nisha Soni, CGM (Personnel) took feedback from the participants and urged participants to share learnings from this workshop.

# CII Chhattisgarh conducts session at SRGI

**Bhilai, Feb 15:**

Confederation of Indian Industry, Chhattisgarh conducted a session on Employability Challenges of Engineering Graduates and Industry Expectations on 13th February 2023 at Sanjay Rungta Group of Institutions, Bhilai. The session was organized with a sole objective of enlightening and reminding the students about the expectations of industry from the graduates.

Umesh Chitlangia, Chairman, CII Chhattisgarh State Council & MD Polybond Insulation Pvt Ltd, Dr Ajit Varwandkar, Convenor, CII Education & Skill Panel & Director FS Management (I) Pvt Ltd, Dilip Mohanty, President (HR), Jayaswal Neco



Industries Ltd, Sanjay Rungta, Chairman SRGI & President, Association of Private Professional Institutions of Chhattisgarh (APPIC), Sidharth Agarwal, Vice Chairman, CII Chhattisgarh State Council & Director Godawari Power & Ispat Ltd and Satish Pandey, State Head, CII were present. The session was initiated by Umesh Chitlangia, who urged the students to equip themselves with the latest skills and certifica-

tions in their respective domains required by the industry. Dr Ajit Varwandkar explained a four point formula of Meritocracy, Presence of Mind, Communication and Social Networking and Curiosity to learn-for success in endeavours. Dilip Mohanty recommended the need to work on industry institute interface to enhance employability skills. Sanjay Rungta explained the importance of good communication, academic and professional

skills and asked the students to put in sincere and committed efforts in this direction. Sidharth Agarwal emphasized on the importance of internships, live projects along with academic pursuits.

The students had a great learning experience as they were able to have interaction and a session of Q&A with the dignitaries. Sidharth Agarwal proposed the formal vote of thanks.

Dr Saket Rungta, Director SRGI, Dr T Ramarao, Director Academics, Mohd Sajid Ansari, Assistant Director, Abhishek Soni, GM T&P, Dr Anurag Sharma, Principal RSR RCET, Deans and Heads of various departments and faculty members were also present.

# SAIL declares Q3 results for financial year 2022-23, posts net profit of Rs 463.54 Crore

Performance of Q3 FY 23 (Standalone) at a glance:

	Unit	Q3 FY 23	Q3 FY 22
Crude Steel Production	Million Tonne	4.708	4.531
Sales Volume	Million Tonne	4.151	3.840
Revenue from Operations	Rs. Crore	25041.88	25245.92
Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation (EBITDA)	Rs. Crore	2197.53	3659.41
Profit Before Tax (PBT)	Rs. Crore	634.69	1930.98
Profit After Tax (PAT)	Rs. Crore	463.54	1443.10

**Bhilai, Feb 15:**

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) posted its financial performance for the third quarter of the current financial year 2022-23 (Q3 FY 23). The company has achieved the best ever quarterly crude steel production during Q3FY23. The company has been steadily increasing the crude steel production in the recent months. The sales volume in Q3FY23

also saw an increase over the corresponding period over last year. The challenging global situation and economic scenario all over the world had its impacts on the steel prices affecting the margins of the steelmakers. However, with the government's focus on enhancing capital expenditure in infrastructure sector, the domestic steel consumption is expected to witness an increase in the short to medium term.

# Blessing Ceremony organised at MBVB

**Bhilai, Feb 15:**

Blessing Ceremony for class XII, a batch of 2022-23 was organised at Mar Baselios Vidhya Bhawan, Kailash Nagar recently. Teachers and students of class XII assembled in the auditorium to celebrate an occasion of an end and of a beginning.

The programme began with the welcome of guests and the lighting of the lamp and with the soulful rendition of the Prayer Song sung by the teachers. This was followed by the presentation of a slideshow of a medley of magical memories that marked their years spent in school, giving the students and their teachers a fascinating flashback of their journey. Chief Guest and Motivational speaker Dr Kishor Dutta



addressed the students mentioning that this is the time to get exposure to the 'real world' and they have been trained so well by the school that they are now ready to face the challenges of the world. He added that as MBVBians there will be very high expectations from them so their conduct should be exemplary. He motivated the students to be prepared for the challenges that life throws

at them and apply the learning that they received in their school life. He advised the students to always follow the right path. Students need to make the right decisions for their future after giving careful thought as it will affect the direction of their life, he added. He believed each one of the students is working to the best of his capability and making full use of the time that is

remaining before the board exams. In his welcome address Principal of the school BVK Reddy blessed the students and wished that each one of them comes out with flying colours and they make themselves, their parents, teachers, and the school proud. He boosted the morale of the students with motivational words. Along with the blessings, students were presented mementos by the Chief Guest Rev Fr Aju K Varghese, Rev Fr PS Varghese and the Principal.

In his brief address Rev Fr PS Varghese Executive Vice President Christian college of engineering and technology blessed the students and led the gathering in the candle prayer. He exhorted the students to pursue higher education in engineering field in CCET College & graduation courses in Saint Thomas college Kailashnagar situated in the same campus.

This was followed by a photo session of all class XII students with their teachers and the Principal. Students enjoyed lunch along with their teachers and principal. Program was compered by Deepa Justin and vote of thanks was proposed by Suma Das.

# Guest Lecture organised on 'Importance & Implementation of IPR in Real World'

**Bhilai, Feb 15:**

The PG Department of Economics St Thomas College in collaboration with Department of Economics Govt VYTPG Autonomous College Durg organised online Guest Lecture on "Importance & Implementation of IPR in the Real World". The Guest speaker of the session was Advocate Siddharth Tiwari practitioner at High Court of Chhattisgarh and Supreme Court of India. On this occasion Administrator Dr Joshi Varghese and Principal Dr MG Roymon, St Thomas College and Dr RN Singh Principal, HoD of Economics Department Dr Shikha Agrawal and other faculties of Govt VYTPG Autonomous College were also present. At the outset Dr Mariam Jacob, HOD, PG



Department of Economics, welcomed the guests and participants of the session. The Guest Speaker Advocate Siddharth Tiwari began the session by detailed discussion on the various types of Intellectual Property Rights, Patent Act, Innovation, exclusive rights of owner which develops under TRIPS and WTO agreement. He also spoke on the importance of Trade Mark, Copy Rights and

Geographical Indications. The session was very interactive and queries of the students and faculty were addressed by the resource person.

Dr Aparna Ghosh Faculty of Economics coordinated the programme, Dr Kiran Bala Das and Bhavana C Dewangan were also present in the programme and vote of thanks proposed by Dhriti Vashnav student of BA 1st year.

# Folk art and culture are heritage of Chhattisgarh state: Dr Shivkumar Dahariya

**Bhilai, Feb 15:** Folk art and culture are the heritage of the state of Chhattisgarh. Promotion of this heritage is being encouraged through Ganiyari Lok Kala Mahotsava. For this event, the Mayor of Bhilai-Charoda Municipal Corporation and his team deserve appreciation. A full facilitated community hall will be built at Ganiyari at a cost of Rs One crore for the accommodation of folk artistes coming from different states during this festival, said Urban Administration and Development Minister Dr Shivkumar Dahariya while addressing the closing ceremony of Ganiyari Lok Kala Mahotsava. Under the aegis of Guru Ghasidas Kala Evam Sahitya Vikas Samiti, Ganiyari, a two-day

Ganiyari Lok Kala Mahotsava was organized on February 11 and 12. It was inaugurated by Chaitanya Baghel, son of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. In the closing ceremony on February 12, the dignitaries were honored by Urban Administration Minister Dr Shivkumar Dahariya.

Dr Dahariya said that the state of Chhattisgarh has been identified with folk art and culture. This identity is being expanded through the Ganiyari Lok Kala Mahotsava. Today, Ganiyari Lok Kala Mahotsava has established its identity at national level. The efforts of Mayor Nirmal Kosre and his team have been commendable. Announcing the construction of a grand and well-equipped community building at Ganiyari at a cost of Rs One crore on the

demand of the committee, the Minister instructed the Corporation Commissioner Ajay Kumar Tripathi to initiate proceedings in this regard.

Chairman of the Organizing Committee and Mayor of Municipal Corporation Bhilai Charoda Nirmal Kosre said that Ganiyari Lok Kala Mahotsava is being organized for the last 13 years. This year, apart from Chhattisgarh, folk art troupes from nine different states of the country have arrived to participate in the festival. The artists from the Assam, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh staged the presentation of folk art. Expressing gratitude to the Urban Administration Minister Dr Shivkumar Dahariya



for gifting the community building, Nirmal Kosre said that after the construction of this building, the problem of providing accommodation to the artists

coming from other states would be solved.

On the first day of the two-day Ganiyari Lok Kala Mahotsava, Satnam Ke Sandesh Chowka Party

from Durg district, Shri Ramdas Manas Parivar from Bandaura from Kabirdham, Ramdhuni Jai Maa Sharda Ramdhuni from Bhainsbod of Balod district, Satyam Panthi Dal from Dhusera in Raipur, Lorik Chanda Natya Kala Manch from Deurgaon Bemetara, Nacha Gammat Sheet Basant Naach Party from Khairagarh; Bihu from Assam, Gudasi dance from Telangana, Badhaai dance from Madhya Pradesh, Lavani from Maharashtra Mumbai, Dhol dance from Karnataka, Goti Puwa dance from Orissa, Peacock dance from Uttar Pradesh Mathura, Gaur Madhya from Narayanpur, gave their presentations. In the evening, Lok Sangeet Dhwarohar Mahadev Hirwan gave a presentation. On the second day,

Pandwani Shri Krishna Kinkar Mandali from Pahanda Durg, Raut Nach Jai Radha Krishna Mandali Khajiri from Rajnandgaon, Jas Jhanki Dhan from Dongri Bilaspur, Rekha Devar and Sathu Devar Karma dance; Amrita Ward - Bharthari; Satsang Balika Panthi Party Nikum; Comedy Event Kachra-Bodra by Urvashi Sahu and Upasana Vaishnav; Sambalpuri Dance from Orissa; Dholu Kunitha Dance from Karnataka; Braj Holi from Uttar Pradesh; Tribal Dance from Andhra Pradesh; Gudum Baja from Madhya Pradesh; Telangana Gudasi Tribal dance, Bihu from Assam, Lavani from Maharashtra, Tribal Gedi dance from Chhattisgarh and night performance by Sanjay Surila Night Sarguja were presented. The closing cer-

emony was presided over by Chhattisgarh Scheduled Castes Commission Chairman KP Khande. Among the very special guests, Padmashri Dr RS Barle, Amrita Barle, Mayor Nirmal Kosre and members of the Mayor's Council and councilors were present. Padmashri Dr RS Barle, Amrita Barle, folk singer Sunil Soni, Priyamvada Ramteke, SR Bandhe, Geeta Banjare, Leeladhar Singh Verma, Devendra Chhatija and Sunil Maurya were honoured. Guru Ghasidas Kala evam Sahitya Vikas Samiti, Guru Vandana Mahila Self Help Group, Nayi Disha Mahila Self Help Group, Radhe-Radhe Mahila Self Help Group, Jai Budha Dev Mahila Group and villagers made special cooperation in making the program successful.

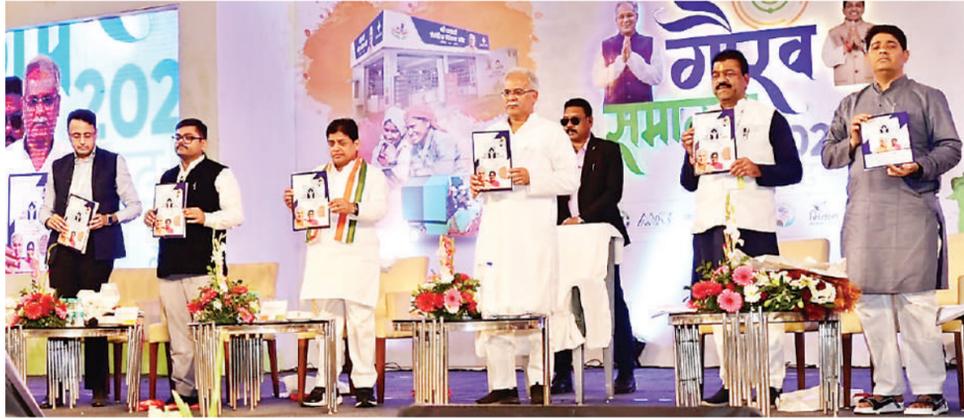
# CM declares Rs 1000 cr for all urban bodies in state

**In the 'Gaurav Samagam-2023' prog of UADD**

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 15: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel gave gift of development worth Rs 1000 crore to citizens of the state. Taking part in the 'Gaurav Samagam-2023' organised by the Urban Administration and Development Department (UADD), CM said that his government is providing better facilities to citizens sitting at home. Along with this the urban bodies have improved upon the services to general citizen. Baghel claimed that his government has improved the system of making ration card and now everybody can get ration card made easily. Earlier taking building permission was difficult task, but now it has been simplified. Through Mukhyamantri Mitan Yojana, people are no availing 15 services sitting at home, he added.

CM making big declarations on the occasion said that in order to provide employment to youths,



software and hardware based BPOs will be opened in Raipur and Bhilai. For better education to students, a world-class Central Library cum reading zone will be established in Bhilai at the cost of Rs 20 crore. CM on this occasion made a declaration that in line with RIPA, Urban Cottages and Service Industries Parks will be opened in all the municipal corporations and Nagar Palikas. To increase the health services to citizens, Smart Health Kiosks will be formed in all the Municipal Corporations and in this

**Urban bodies presented with awards: In the Gaurav Samagam programme, the urban bodies were presented with awards and prizes for better implementation of department's schemes and projects:**

1. Nagar Nigam Birgaon declared 'Most active Body' for 'Mukhyamantri Mitan Yojana'.
2. Nagar Nigam Bhilai-Charouda- Awarded for intensive coverage.
3. Nagar Nigam Ambikapur- Awarded for better services of urban bodies
4. For best performance in Mukhyamantri Slum Swasthya Yojana- Nagar Nigam, Dhamtari, Nagar Palika Parishad (NPP) Dalli-Rajhara; Nagar Panchayat Aamadi.
5. For better performance in Shri Dhanwantari Generic Medical Stores Schemes- Nagar Palika Nigam Raigarh; Nagar Palika Parishad Gariyaband; and Nagar Panchayat Gurur were awarded.
6. For maximum recovery- RMC Raipur; Nagar Palika Parishad Deepaka; Nagar Panchayat Kharora were awarded.

facilities of free of cost BP, Sugar, blood test will be available. CM making declaration of installing CCTVs, modern toilets and developmental works in the market areas of cities, said that as per demand of public representatives, the rate of 'Chungi Tax' by urban bodies has been hiked from Rs 26 to Rs 35.

CM made important announcements and this includes providing nearly Rs 1,000 crore for the development of all urban bodies in the state. RMC will receive Rs 100 cr; Rs 50 cr and Rs 25 cr to Bilaspur and Durg

## Announcements made by CM

- Urban Women's Livelihood Centre will be established in Raipur, Bhilai, and Bilaspur.
- BPO centres with software and hardware for youth employment will be established in Raipur and Bhilai.
- Bhilai will get a world-class Central Library and reading zone.
- RIPA will lead to the establishment of Urban Cottages and Service Industries Parks in all municipal corporations and municipalities.
- CCTV will be installed along with

- modern toilets and development systems in market areas of cities.
- Smart Health Kiosks will be built in Municipal Corporations
- Announcement of proper drainage system in waterlogged areas of Raipur city.
- Announcement to simplify land development rules.
- Announcement for upgradation of Mahatma Gandhi Stadium, road construction and beautification located in Ambikapur.
- Increase in the 'Chungi Kar' from Rs 26 to Rs 35

Municipal Corporations respectively; Rs 20 cr each to Bhilai-Charoda, Ambikapur, and Jagdalpur; Rs 15 cr each to Risali, Rajnandgaon, Raigarh, and Korba; Rs 10 cr each to Birgaon, Dhamtari, and Chirmiri. All Nagar Palikas will receive Rs 5 cr, and all

Nagar Panchayats will receive Rs 3 cr each.

Addressing the programme Minister for Urban Administration and Development Dr Shiv Kumar Daharia said that in last four yrs, the urban bodies have done commendable work in improving basic amenities

like roads, drainage, water, electricity and sanitation and improved upon the system. The development standards in the Urban Bodies are being improved. He said that due to sensitive approach of CM Baghel, there is better development in all the areas of Urban Bodies. The programme was attended by Parliamentary Secretary of UADD Rekhand Jain, Mayor RMC Ejaz Dhebar, Special Secy. Dr Ayyaz Tamboli, Director R Ekka, CEO SUDA Soumil Ranjan Choubey, and Mayors, Speakers and Presidents of Municipal corporations and nagar Palikas and other public representatives.

In this programme CM Bhupesh Baghel released a coffee table books on the departmental achievements of the department for last four years along with a video also and released a 'margdarshika' of 'Mor Pradarshan Mor Samman' under PMAY; guidance for Aspirational Toilet Design under Swachh Bharat Mission and presented selected beneficiaries under PMAY on the theme of 'Khushiyo ka Ashiyana'.

## HM Amit Shah likely to visit Bastar next month

**To attend public meeting under Lok Sabha visit campaign**

back the two Lok Sabha constituencies which it had lost in the last Parliamentary polls.

It is learn that the Union Home Minister Amit Shah is likely to make visit to Bastar next month. According to the information received, Shah might attend the CRPF event in Bastar on March 18 or 19 during his visit to Chhattisgarh next. It would be his second visit to the election-bound state within two months under the campaign of Lok Sabha visit launched by the BJP to win



## Two-day national conf in Govt. Nagarjun Science College from today

Raipur, Feb 15: A two-day national conference will be organised at the Shaheed Rajiv Pandey auditorium by the Botany department of Government Nagarjun PG Science College (GNPGSC) Raipur on Feb 16-17. The subject of this conference is 'Current Trends and Prospects in Botany'. This conference will be inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University Dr KL Verma and in the chief presence of Member Secretary State Bio-Diversity Board Dr Arun Pandey.

The keynote speakers in this conference are Dr LB Choudhary, of N.B.R.I.

Luknow. In this two-day conference, Dr Kapgate, Palio Botanist (Maharashtra), Dr. T. Srinivasu, RTM University Nagpur, and Dr S. K. Jadhav from Pt. RSU Raipur and Dr Sudhir Pandey of Guru Ghasidas University Bilaspur, Dr Satish Verulkar from IGAU, Raipur, Dr ML Nayak from ex-Director CCOST Raipur and Dr Veenapani Dubey Botanist and Dr DK Shrivastava, Bilaspur, Resource Person, will be present.

In this two-day national conference, more than 100 participants are expected to take part and there will be 10 guest lectures and

more than 50 researchers will present their research papers. In addition to this, poster session will also be organised and in which the researchers will present their original research in the form of poster. It is by evaluating the original research and best paper presentation that the prizes too will be awarded by the Committee. The conference will conclude on Feb 17 at 4:00 pm and in this Dr ML Nayak will be the chief guest and Dr Amit Dubey, Scientist-CCOST Raipur will be the special guest. At the conclusion the participants will be presented with certificates and mementos.

## SAFETY FIRST



Morning hours in capital city is intense heat and school students adopting measures to avoid the same.

## HNLU awarded Skill Development Leadership Award -2023



**At the 31st World HRD Congress**

Raipur, Feb 15: Hidayatullah National Law University (HNLU) a premier National Law University of the country was awarded the prestigious Times Ascent Skill Development Leadership Award 2023 at the 31st World HRD Congress held at Taj Land's End, Mumbai. Prof. Vivekanandan, Vice Chancellor remarked "The award given by the World HRD congress is a testimony to the collective efforts of the HNLU fraternity in its efforts to contribute to the mandate of the University. The faculty, students and staff have immensely contributed braving the last two years of pandemic and this will motivate to continue the efforts for excellence in performance."

The Skill Development Leadership Awards is a result of an intensely researched process undertaken by the research cell

which consists of Postgraduates in History & Management with a combined 100+ years research experience. The research cell regularly tracks and annually recognizes the path-breaking initiatives taken by organizations and universities making a mark in the leadership. The jury of the award comprises of senior professionals from across the globe. Some of the key criteria & parameters assessed while selection are Educational Quality & Standards, Outreach Program, Leadership Initiative towards Skill Development, Best in Class Infrastructure, Impact from Learners Point of View, Future Orientation and Social Impact. The award was received by Prof. Dr. Uday Shankar, Registrar of HNLU presented by Mr. Ayo Muritala, CEO of KNEROW in the presence of Dr.R.L. Bhatia, Founder of World CSR day and World Sustainability at the Taj Lands End in Mumbai on 15th February 2023.

## Bansal, Anwar reviews preparations for Plenary Session

**Holds meetings with different Committees, inspects venue for the session**

Raipur, Feb 15: The National Treasurer AICC Pawan Bansal, General Secretary Tariq Anwar along with the PCC State in-Charge Kumari Selja, CM Bhupesh Baghel, PCC Chief Mohan Markam, Secretary in-charge Dr Chandan Yadav, Saptagirishankar Ulka, advisor to AICC National President Sampalji, Vijay Jangid reviewed about the preparations for the Congress 85th Plenary Session and also conducted inspection of the venue for the session in Naya Raipur. They also took stock of preparations holding meeting with the in-charge of different committees at Rajiv Bhavan. They also reviewed about the outline for the Plenary Session and responsibilities given to different committees formed for it.

PCC Chief Mohan Markam informed that AICC's 85th Plenary Session will be held on Feb



24-25-26. In this Session, the subject committees will give their recommendations on different subjects and for which resolutions too will be passed in the Plenary Session. On the first day of the Session on Feb 24, the registration of delegates will be done and on the second day i.e Feb 25- there will be samelan of the PCC and AICC representatives. On the third day a massive public meeting will be held opposite IGAU in Jora. To make the plenary session successful, a total of 13 sub-committees have

been formed and this include Public Meeting Samiti, Dais Samiti; publicity Samiti; exhibition samiti; Medical samiti; Communication samiti; Transport Samiti; fund samiti; acomodation samiti and others.

PCC Chief Mohan Markam said that this Plenary Session is not only a milestone for the Congress, but for the future of the country. The people of the nation are enthusiastically looking towards opinions and policies of Congress on various burning issues.

The resolutions to be passed on agriculture, economic, employment, foreign policy and other s subjects will give new orientation to the country. Right from the country's freedom struggle to reconstruction of the nation, Congress has played an important role and today also when the ruling party is not sparing the constitution and attacking the constitutional institutions, at that time, the role and importance of Congress is crucial in saving the democracy, he added.

## DPI again entrusted with implementation of RTE

Raipur, Feb 15: Directorate Public Instructions (DPI) has been again given the responsibility of implementation of Right To Education (RTE) for the children from weaker section of society for providing free education to them.

Above decision has been taken following the protest launched by Chhattisgarh Private School Management Association (CPSMA). It is notable that presently the Director "Samagra Siksha" is having the administrative powers for the implementation of RTE in schools. However due to several reasons, the CPSMA was against the poor implementation of the

free education for children and has launched agitation against the Director "Samagra Siksha" in support to their various demand. They had even registered protest wearing black arm band to draw the attention of the state government.

With the above order, the Private School Management is happy and would chalk out further strategy in support to their various demands on Thursday.

They have also been agitated over delay in the payment of the overdue fees they wanted from the state government due to various technical reasons.

## RDA reduces Booking amount for Housing Scheme

**At Kamal Vihar under AHS**

Raipur, Feb 15: Raipur Development Authority (RDA) administration on Wednesday reduced the Booking amount of 288 flats in Sector 13 of Kamal Vihar Scheme under the Affordable

Housing Scheme (AHS) from existing Rs 1.90 lakh to Rs 50 thousand.

Providing the above information in a statement issued here, the RDA Chief Executive Officer Dharmesh Kumar Sahu said that all modern facilities would be provided to people under the Affordable Housing

Scheme to the people from Lower Income Group (LIG) in the eight-storied building residential scheme.

He said that the Tender for the construction would be taken up soon to provide better compound gated community in the Integrated Township Scheme of

state-run Development Agency.

Meanwhile, the two-day Loan Fair would be held for the various residential schemes at Indraprastha Raipura of RDA on February 16 and 17. Information about the other schemes too would be provided to the people on the spot.

## नवभारत

"Navabharat" the premier publishing house with an impressive growth record and work environment is looking for dynamic, versatile and goal-oriented and skilled candidates for the following position based at RAIPUR

**Manager (Advertisement & Marketing) : MBA/ PGDBM**  
Experience : 15 Years

Experience / Professional to develop and manage targeted advertisement sale from various revenue stream, should have strong leadership, excellent communication and presentation skills. A visionary leader and team player with stellar track record of superior performance in advertising sales, customer relationship management and account penetration. Should be able to explore & implement new ideas for revenue generation. Will be responsible for all functions & development of marketing department.

**Manager (Events) : MBA/ PGDBM**  
Experience : 10 Years

Ability to conceptualize events of various scales with good brand communication and organizing skills. Co-ordination with external vendors and multitasking between internal dept. for successful delivery. The incumbent shall be a dynamic marketing professional who will lead Navabharat Events & execute programs to develop assets for our brand.

Candidates may send their resume via email : [hr@navabharat.org](mailto:hr@navabharat.org)

## Art-culture of the region gets a new identity from Mainpat Festival: Daharia

### Mainpat Festival begins

Inauguration of development works worth Rs 78 cr

350 couples tied nuptial knot under Chief Minister Kanya Vivah Yojana

Raipur, Feb 15: In a bid to encourage folk art and culture of the region, the Mainpat Festival has commenced from today in Mainpat, which is renowned as a Buddhist pilgrimage site in Chhattisgarh. The festival was inaugurated today by Urban Administration Minister Dr. Shiv Kumar Daharia and Culture Minister Amarjit Bhagat. The three-day festival which is being organized near Ropakar reservoir in Mainpat will host attractive presentation of Shaila, Karma and other local folk dance and songs performed by the folk artists of Surguja region. Addressing the inauguration ceremony program, Urban Administration Minister Dr. Daharia said



that Mainpat Festival is being organized with the aim of preserving and promoting the natural and cultural heritage of the region. A glimpse of the tribal art culture of Chhattisgarh, and especially Surguja region will be seen in this festival. He further said that such events will give a new identity to the art culture of the region. There are many places of interest in Surguja, in which invaluable historical sites and cultural heritage are present. Buddhist monastery and spirituality are also affluently present in the Mainpat region. The Tibetans here live in harmony and brotherhood

with everyone. Tibetan Buddhist Monk Dalai Lama has also visited this region twice.

On this occasion, Minister Dr. Daharia inaugurated and performed Bhumi Pujan of various development and construction works worth Rs 78 crore and inspected the exhibition based on departmental achievements and visited the stalls of various departments. Blessings were also given to 350 couples who tied the knot under the Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana organized by the Women and Child Development Department. Six Muktanjali vehicles were also flagged off during the

program.

Dr. Daharia said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, planning is being done keeping in mind the people of all classes so that the benefits and respect of the scheme can be given to all classes. He said that the farmers of Chhattisgarh are getting the highest price for paddy in the country and next year farmers will get even more price for paddy. He said that Rajiv Yuva Mitan Club has been formed to increase the participation of youth in the progress of the state.

Culture Minister Amarjit Bhagat said that the Mainpat Festival, which started 8 years ago, has made a unique identity in the country and the state. He further said that after the formation of our government, the work of loan waiver of farmers and purchase of paddy at the highest price in the country was done. Along with the development works, the state government is also working to preserve the cultural heritage. He said that despite the tough challenges during the Covid period, the state government made arrangements for

medicines, treatment and food for all. Free rice is also being given since the Covid period.

A record 1 crore 8 lakh metric tonnes of paddy was procured this year. During the program, appointment letters were also given to the people of 41 special backward tribes of the district.

Dr. Pritam Ram, President of CGMSC, Balkrishna Pathak, President of Chhattisgarh Local Tribal Health Traditions and Vanaushadhi Plants Board Ajay Agarwal, Vice President of the 20-Point Program Implementation Committee, Irfan Siddiqui, Member of the State Madrasa Board, member of the State Gau-Seva Commission, Atal Bihari Yadav, Member of Tel Ghani Board Laxmi Gupta, Member of State Seed Certification Board Arvind Gupta, Member of State Urdu Academy Badruddin Iraqi, Member of State Karmakar Mandal Anil Singh and many public representatives, senior administrative officers and a large number of tourists and common citizens were present at the festival.

## Students performed a miracle, making a garden in three days: Prof. Dave

### Students of CU create a garden and learn landscaping

Bilaspur, Feb 15: The students of Guru Ghasidas Central University prepared a very beautiful garden in just three days. The Vice-Chancellor of the Central University, Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawal is constantly striving with the aim of promoting skill development among the students.

In this context, a three-day workshop was organized under the joint aegis of Rural Technology and Social Development Department and Skill Development Cell, S w a v a l a m b i Chhattisgarh. In this workshop, former Vice-Chancellor of Saurashtra University, Gujarat, Prof. Nilambari Dave also gave her contribution and guidelines.

Prof. Dave was very excited to see the work of the students and said that it was nothing less than a miracle that a very beautiful garden was made in just three days at a place where there used to be a lot of dirt and only thorny bushes. This garden, she said, is so beautiful that it will be taken as a model



in the whole university.

Dr. Pushparaj Singh, Head of the Department of Rural Technology, said that the iron benches and desks lying in the junk have been used for fencing the garden, due to which useless things have also been put to good use. The organizer of the workshop, Assistant Professor, Dr. Dilip Kumar said that 72 students from 16 departments participated in

this workshop. Students made gardens following all the directives for landscaping, as well as for plant propagation. They also learnt about different budding techniques for rose plants, veneer, side and stone grafting in mango plants, and single and mixed layering and knotting in guava plants. Nodal Officer of Skill Development Cell, Dr. Rohit Raja was also present in this workshop.

## Devshree Sharma of Columbia selected in National Integration Camp



Raipur, Feb 15: Devashree Sharma, a volunteer student of the National Service Scheme Unit of Columbia Institute of Pharmacy, Raipur, affiliated to Chhattisgarh Swami Vivekananda Technical University, Bilhail, was selected in the National Integration Camp organized from Feb 10 to 16, 2023 at Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar, Anand, Gujarat. In this camp Devashree Sharma actively participated in various competitions like singing, dancing, Rangoli competition, and made people aware about the making

and utility of Plastic Picking Bottle (P2B). It is to be noted that cooperation on Plastic Picking Bottle (P2B) was initiated by Vice President of NGO, Sahyog - Ek Koshish, Mrs. Monika Bagrecha Madam in the month of January which was a part of her campaign in NSS Special Camp. Secretary of Columbia Group of Institutions, Shri Harjeet Singh Hura Sir, Director Pharmacy, Prof. Amit Roy and Principal Prof. Ravindra Kumar Pandey congratulated the student on her achievement and wished her a bright future.

## Helpline started from Feb 21 before the start of Board exams

Raipur, Feb 15: Helpline-2023 is being started by the Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education from February 21 in the context of high school, higher secondary and higher secondary vocational examinations by the Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education. Students, teachers and parents can call on the helpline on the toll free no. 18002334363 to solve their exam related problems. Secretary, Board of Secondary Education, Prof. VK Goyal told that psychiatrists, educational motivators, subject experts and officers of the Board will be present in the helpline. Psychologists, psychiatrists, educational motivators will give counsel by solving the problems related to exam fear, exam stress. The subject experts will solve the problems related to the examination of the subject to be held on the next day and the officials of the board will solve the problems related to the board.

## Villagers distributed needy household materials by CRPF



### In the CAP organised by 219 CRPF Battalion

Konta, Feb 15: Under the guidance of Sunit Kumar Rai, DIG, CRPF, Konta Range & in the direction of Nitin Kumar, Commandant 219 Bn CRPF, in a bid to bridge the gap between villagers and security personnel, the 219 Battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) organized a Civic Action Programme (CAP) in core naxal area of Bheji

axis. The 219 Battalion of CRPF organized the programme and distributed 30 No's plastic water tanks (Sintax) for storing drinking water during extreme summer season and 24 No's Tin sheets to needy and poor villagers who wants to repair their leaking roof tops. The objective of such Civic Action Programme was to inculcate a sense of security by developing cordial relation and harnessing co-operation with villagers living in rural area.

The villagers were also briefed about various social welfare & developmental schemes of Central as well State Government. The villagers of Vill- Bheji & Antherpara were benefited through Civic Action Programme organized at Bheji camp.

On this occasion Neraj Kumar Singh (2nd in Command), Dr. Adil Aziz (Medical Officer), Devendra Thakur (SHO Bheji), subordinate officers and other personnel's of 219 Bn CRPF were present. All the nearby villagers participated with zeal & zest in this event, which clearly indicate that villagers have increase their faith to government as well as 219 Bn. CRPF and good rapport and trust also being established between the common citizens and the security forces. The people of this area are joining the main stream of development and leaving Maoist ideology. A new ray of hope has awakened in all the villagers due to the development work done by the CRPF-219 Battalion.

## Singhdeo inspected super specialty hospital under construction



Raipur, Feb 15: Health Minister T.S. Singhdeo during his stay at Jagdalpur on Tuesday inspected the under construction super specialty hospital at Dimrapal. Seeing the layout drawing of the hospital building under construction, he inquired about the facilities and arrangements proposed there. He instructed

to complete the construction work within the time limit. Health Department Secretary Mr. Prasanna R., Director Medical Education Department Dr. Vishnu Dutt, Bastar District Health Department officials and Jagdalpur Medical College Dean Dr. Paikra were also present during this period.

## Adarsh Kumar Malaviya secures 97.5 percentile



### Cracks JEE Main's exam; proud moment for DAVians

Bacheli, Feb 15: One of the students of DAVPS Bacheli, 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 the DAVians.

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.

## Petroleum Board and SAIL Academy Rourkela to play finals today



Rajnandgaon, Feb 15: SAIL Academy Rourkela, defeated Railway Coach Factory, Kapurthala by 5-2 in the first semi-final of 79th Mahant Raja Sarveswar Das All India Hockey Tournament. In the second semi-final, Petroleum Sports, Petroleum Board, New Delhi defeated SAI Excellency Hostel, Lucknow by 4-1 and entered into the finals of the above tourney. The final between both the above teams will be played on Feb 16 at 2:00 pm and the prize distribution will be done at the hands of CM Bhupesh Baghel and other

guests. In the semi-finals today, MLA Rajnandgaon and ex-CM Dr Raman Singh, former MP and ex-Mayor Madhusudhan Yadav and President District Cricket Association Susheel Kothari witnessed the match and boosted the morale of the players obtaining their introduction on the ground.

Two semifinals were played in the 79th Mahant Raja Sarveswar Das All India Hockey Tournament in the Astro-turf ground of Digvijay Stadium in Rajnandgaon here on Wednesday. The first semifinal was between SAIL



Academy Rourkela and Railway Coach Factory, Kapurthala. SAIL Academy defeated the later by 5-2 and entered into the finals. In the 6th minute of the match, Carbin Lakra converted a penalty corner into a goal and got a lead of 1-0. But in the 10th minute, Kapurthala's team also got a penalty corner and Deepak Kumar of the team managed to convert it into a goal. After this in the 14th minute, SAIL again got a penalty corner and which was again converted into goal by Carbin Lakra and they got lead of 2-1. The third goal by SAIL Academy was scored by Anmol Ekka in the 26th minute and the team got lead of 3-1. In the 35th minute, Deepak Kumar of

Kapurthala converted a penalty corner into a goal and got the score to 3-2. Just two minutes after this, Anmol Ekka converted a penalty corner into a goal and got lead of 4-2 and finally in the 55th minute, Sonu Nishad through field goal took the lead of SAIL Academy to 5-2 and entered the finals. The second semi-final match was also one-sided and the Petroleum Board, Delhi, lased with experience hockey players defeated SAI Excellency Centre, Lucknow by 4-1. In the first quarter of the match, there were many ups & down, but in the 19th minute of the second quarter, Affan Yusuf scored a field goal and got lead of 1-0. In the third quarter of the match, in the 40th minute,

Sunil SV scored a goal and Petroleum Board got lead of 2-0. The third goal from Delhi's team was scored by Sunil Yadav converting a penalty stroke and the fourth goal by Sunil Yadav in the 51st minute, taking the score to 4-1. Lucknow got a penalty corner in the 52nd minute and in this Deepak Patel reduced the defeat of his team by 4-1 and finally Petroleum Board Delhi entered into finals. In today's match, the man-of-the-match was presented by Rajesh Jain and Sonu Nishad of SAIL Academy was declared the man-of-the-match and in the second semi-final, Sunil Yadav of Petroleum Board New Delhi got the title and cash prize of Rs 1500 each.

### Tomorrow's final

Petroleum Sports, Petroleum Board, New Delhi V/s SAIL Academy Rourkela at 2:00 pm

## CM inaugurates mud house made of clay in Mayali

Raipur, Feb 15: Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated an earthen mud house in Mayali village of Kunkuri block of Jashpur district. On this occasion, Assembly Speaker Dr. Charandas Mahant, Home and Public Works Minister Mr. Tamradhwaj Sahu, Public Health Minister Mr. T.S. Singhdeo, School Education Minister Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam, Parliamentary Secretary and Kunkuri MLA Mr. U.D. Minj, Jashpur MLA Mr. Vinay Bhagat, Raigarh



MLA Mr. Prakash Nayak, Collector Dr. Ravi Mittal, Superintendent of Police Mr. D. Ravi Shankar,

District Panchayat CEO Mr. Jitendra Yadav and other officers were present.

## Two die, four others seriously injured

When two bikes with three riders on each collided head-on

Balod, Feb 15:

Two youth died and four others were seriously injured on the spot last night at around 9:00 pm under Mahamaya Thana, when their bike collided head-on. The condition of two admitted in the hospital is reported to be critical.

Were returning after watching Madhai:

The four other persons who got seriously injured in the accident have been referred to higher centres. The incident took place on Gram Bamhani Kopedera road of Mahamaya Thana. As per information, one Sandeep Kumar R/o North Bastar Kanker, Gram Parekodo, Naklasa was returning from after watching Madhai. During this Santram going to



Gram Kopedera from Bamhani collided with Sandeep's bike and he died on the spot. It is learnt that six persons were travelling in two motorcycles and out of which four others also got seriously injured and have been sent to higher centres for treatment in 108.

Were going to drop marriage invitation:

When the accident took place the people and police nearby checked the dicky of the bike and found marriage invitation cards and suspected that they were going to drop it somewhere. But this accident took place before the distribution of cards and then others were contacted and their family members were informed.

Condition of injured critical:

In this entire accident, four other got seriously injured and the doctors were offering treatment to them. Since the other two who died on the spot, their bodies were sent to the hospital for post-mortem to be done next day in the morning and after which the body will be handed over to their family members.

Both victims were driving bikes:

The two persons who died on the spot were driving their bikes and were having two extra riders on their back. The impact of collision was so high that two died on the spot, as they were in the front and other four also got seriously injured. None were wearing helmets.

## Action taken against School, College buses

Mahasamund, Feb 15: The District Transport Officer (DTO) took action against the private schools vehicles of Schools and Colleges carrying school and college students to & fro. In the checking, permit and fitness of the two vehicles was found to be invalid. Four School buses were registered as private vehicle and likewise action was taken on them.

During the checking, 6 vehicles were without the valid RTO papers and due to which fine of Rs 30000 was imposed against them and challan was cut. DTO Ramkumar Dhruv informed that as per the guidelines of the Supreme Court and instructions of the Transport department they are conducted regular checking of School buses and are also conducted health check-up of the vehicle drivers along with eye testing, to ensure smooth and safe drive for School, College students.

## Workshop held on OPS, NPS



Korea, Feb 15:

A one-day workshop was organized regarding the option selection and implementation of old pension scheme and old pension scheme under the chairmanship of Divisional Joint Director Fund Accounts and Pension Ambikapur K.S.Marawi. In the workshop, old pension scheme (OPS), new pension scheme (NPS) and new pension scheme were explained in detail so that officers and employees do not face any problem in choosing the appropriate

scheme. Joint Director Marawi also told that according to the instructions issued by the Finance Department of the State Government, all the officers and employees appointed between November 01, 2004 and March 31, 2022, should choose the old pension scheme or to remain unchanged in the new contributory pension scheme, to present the option mandatory. The last date for option submission has been fixed as 24 February 2023, he said and the process of filling the notarized option and upload-

ing it online in the portal of personnel wealth was told through PPT to the officers-employees present in the workshop by District Treasury Officer Mr. V.G. Ugrade. Officers and employees of various departments of the district including Deputy Director of Fund Accounts and Pension Office Ambikapur Anil Tirkey, Assistant Director Ramnarayan, Bharthari Prasad Nagesh and Omkar Sai, Assistant Treasury Officer and treasury staff of District Treasury Korea were present.

## Teacher's felicitation ceremony held



At Govt Multipurpose HS School

Bilaspur, Feb 15:

A teacher felicitation ceremony was organized by former students of 1976 batch of Government Multipurpose Higher Secondary School, Bilaspur here. In the ceremony, the alumni honored former teachers of the school Mr. C.R. K Rao, Dr. R. D. Singh, S.L. Kesharwani, H.B. Shukla, B.L. Sharma, R.S. Dewangan, and V.S. Tiwari. Former Chief Secretary R.K. P. Mandal, former Education Secretary Hemant Pahare, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Electricity Regulatory Commission Shailendra Shukla,

Satyanarayan Rathore and former students were present. Former students bowed down to all the teachers and said that today we all have reached this stage because of the education and blessings of the teachers and said that the teachers here have provided new heights to the school with the light of their knowledge.

Former teacher C R K Rao, on this occasion took attendance of the students of 1976 batch and got them taught the subject of physics. All the former teachers and former students present remembered the golden moments spent in the school 50 years ago and got emotional. On this occasion, the principal of the school R.K. Gaurah and a large number of teachers and students were present.

## Winning or losing are two sides of the same coin: Rashmi

171 teams taking part in the Late Balram Singh memorial cricket tournament

Takathpur, Feb 15:

'The winning team is always enthusiastic and cheerful, but the losing team should never get demotivated, because defeat is not an outcome of one's fate and victory does not make one 'King'. Both life and sports is a struggle, as competition, challenges are part & parcel of one's life and which continues lifelong. Then be it victory or defeat, one should surge ahead walking tall as victorious and taking win or lose as two sides of the same coin, should move ahead taking up the challenges and lessons learnt. Then be it the sports ground, or the responsibilities of one's family or the ups & downs in business or trade, one should always continue to perform and give his level best, hoping for the best to come'.

The above are the words of MLA and Parliamentary Secretary Rashmi Singh while speaking at the ongoing



Tennis Ball Cricket tournament in the memory of Late Balram Singh among 171 teams here on Tuesday. The Tennis Ball cricket is going on in six different zones of Takathpur area under convener'ship of MLA and Parliamentary Secretary Rajani Ashish Singh.

In the first match played between Hafa V/s Vidyasar, the Hafa team taking batting first, set up a target of 60 runs for Vidyasar. Chasing this huge target, the Vidyasar team were all out making

26 runs and Hafa team won the match. Manish Tribhuvan was the man-of-the-match. In the second match between Pendari V/s Mendra, the later set up target of 56 runs taking batting first and the Pendari team won the making chasing this small target and the Man-of-the-Match was Narendra Sahu. In the third match, Pendari V/s Ghutaku, the Ghutaku team set up target of 112 runs and chasing which the Pendari team could score just 85 runs losing 7 wickets and

lost the match. The man-of-the-match was Pintu Patel. In the fourth match between Ganiyari V/s Parsada, the Ganiyari team elected to bat first and scored 87 runs and chasing the target, Parsada team could make only 54 run and lost the match. The man-of-the-match was Rahul Suryavanshi.

Rashmi Singh personally visits the cricket match venue in the morning and ensures that all facilities are being provided in all the zones.

## Disabled cricket players to get sports kit

Korba, Feb 15:

A Janchoupal was organized in the Collectorate meeting room here, in which District Collector Sanjeev Jha listened to the problems of the people and resolved them. Officers of various departments present in Janchoupal were also present, to whom the Collector gave necessary guidelines regarding the redressal of the problems of the people.

In Janchoupal, 153 people presented applications regarding their problems and demands, including disabled players of Wheelchair Cricket Association, who reached Janchoupal, demanded cricket kit, track suit for convenience in the game. Showing sensitivity to this demand, Mr. Jha directed the officials of the Social Welfare Department and the Sports Department to provide necessary facilities to the disabled players. Pushpa Mahant, a resident of Dharakpur village



of Kartla tehsil in Janchaipal, submitted an application before the Collector seeking aid to continue her studies owing to poor financial conditions. Additional Collector Vijendra Patle was instructed to aid the student by the Collector. Similarly, Khilavan Singh, a resident of Annapurna Vihar HTPS Colony under Darri tehsil, applied for record rectification before the Collector in Janchaipal, for which Darri Tehsildar was directed to take necessary action by the Collector.

## Civil Welfare College student's visit Chaturbhuj temple



Nandini Ahiwara, Feb 15: Students of Sociology subject of Civil Welfare College, visited Chaturbhuj temple as part of educational tour. They also visited Radhakrishna Temple, Hanuman Temple, Durga Temple, Shivaling and Gau Teerth Kund, famous all over the country. Giving information related to this historical

place, the priest of the temple, Pandit Suryakant Vaishnav said that a king named Banasar used to rule here, due to which the place was named Banbard. This temple was built by the kings of the Vakataka or Gupta dynasty in the 16th century. He also said that a three-day grand fair is organized here every year on Magha Purnima, in which devotees come

from many areas across the country and take bath in this holy tank.

He said that with this type of event students get acquainted with the glorious historical heritage of Indian society, rich cultural heritage, religious traditions, customs, festivals, and fairs of the country. Dr. R.N. Tandon HOD, Sociology led the students in the tour.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all people that Shri Anil Kumar Singh S/o Late Shri Virendra Pratap Singh & Shri Ramesh Agrawal S/o Shri Tarachand Agrawal R/o Kadarpur, Ambikapur has sold the property an Open land bearing the part of Kh. No. 4464, Area 0.077 Hect, & part of Kh. No. 4465/1 Area 0.015 Hect, total Area 0.092 Hect. Situated at, Mouja Ambikapur, P.H. No. 15, Tah. & Distt. Ambikapur (C.G.) to Shri Ghanshyam Das Agrawal S/o Late Shri Jankandas Agrawal & Shri Manish Kumar Agarwal S/o Shri Balwant Ray Agrawal R/o Kharsiya Road Ambikapur, by registered Sale Deed Dt. 30.03.2001.

After that above named Owners has sold the above said property to Smt. Meena Agrawal W/o Shri Anil Agrawal R/o Ambikapur, by registered Sale Deed Dt. 07.07.2016.

That the original Previous Sale Deed date 30.03.2001 is lost somewhere. Whose report is complained in related police station Ambikapur, Dt. 13.02.2023.

That M/s Geeta Laxmi Marden Rice Mill Pvt. Ltd., desire to mortgage the same property forgetting loan to my Clint Axis Bank, Raipur.

Whose ever whether individual society, Association, Bank or housing board have any claim right authority are title over it, he should within 07 days of publication of this public notice approach and apprise this office under the following address of his claim and objections.

After expiry of 07 days no objection shall be entertained, such objection deemed invalid and void and shall be not tenable. Please take notice Date: 15.02.2023 Yours truly, Vijay Rathore, Advocate Off. Cum Res. - Behind of Barat Gas Godam Laxmi Nagar, Pachpadi Naka, Raipur (C.G.) Mob. 9425202167

## ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL

Registered Office: Indian Rayon Compound, Varad, Gujarat - 362268. Branch Address: Sky Park, unit Nos.402 & 403, 4th Floor, Adjacent G E Road, Ravi Nagar, Opp. Rani Sati Mandir, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001.

## APPENDIX IV/See Rule 8 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Possession Notice (For Immovable Property) Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 has issued a Demand notice dated 11-05-2021 calling upon the borrowers VIJENDRA PRATAP SINGH, TARA SINGH AND MANOJ SINGH seeking repayment of the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 6,34,238.55/- (Rupees Six Lakh Thirty Four Thousand Two Thirty Eight and Fifty Five Paise Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and to the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 14th Day of Feb of the year, 2023.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited for an amount of Rs. Rs. 6,34,238.55/- (Rupees Six Lakh Thirty Four Thousand Two Thirty Eight and Fifty Five Paise Only) and interest thereon. Borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section 8 of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property Details of Immovable Properties Deposited For Creating Equitable Mortgage House No. 48, Cgbb Atal Awas Yojna, Dhanusli Tah Arang Dist Raipur (C.G.), Raipur H.O., Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India-492001 House No. 48, Cgbb Atal Awas Yojna, Area 558.87 Sq. Ft, Dhanusli Tah Arang Dist Raipur (C.G.), Raipur, H.O. Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India-492001.

Date: 14/02/2023 Place: RAIPUR

Power House Branch, G.E.Road, Power House Chowk, Bhalil, Dist-Durg (C.G.), Pin-490011, Mobile-9893424700, Email: PHBhalil.Raipur@bankofindia.co.in Bhalil Branch, Plot No. 6 Indira Place, Civic Centre, Bhalil, Tel: 0788-2264778/2264517, 0788-2264778/2264517, Email: Bhalil.Raipur@bankofindia.co.

## बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India

POSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties) [Under Rule-8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas, The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Bank of India under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the following borrower/s to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being detail as mentioned here, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules as mentioned below.

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Bank of India for an amount detail given as below.

Branch Name	Borrower Name	Description of the Properties	Demand Notice	Amount Due
Branch: Power House	M/S Bharti Mobile Prop. Mrs. Uma Prayapati w/o Mr. Gyanendra Prayapati	Hypothecation of Stock of all types of Mobile and its Accessories Situated at M/S Bharti Mobile, Shop No 21, 26, Himalaya Complex, Akash Ganga, Supela, Bhalil, District-Durg.	Date 10.09.2021 Possession Notice Date 15.02.2023	₹ 30,95,604/- (Thirty Lakh Ninety five Thousand Six Hundred Four Rupees Only) + Interest + Other expenses
Branch: Bhalil	Mr. B. Laxmi Narayan S/o. Late Mr. Ramanna Baiपाली	All the Part and Piece of Diverted Land and Building Situated at Plot No 8, block No 23, Ward No -12, Jawahar Nagar Awas Yojna, Bhalil, Tehsil and District-Durg, Chhattisgarh in the name of Mr. B Laxmi Narayan. Area-135 sq.mt. Boundaries: - North: Open Plot, South: Open Plot, East: Open Plot, West: Tar Road.	Date 06.10.2022 Possession Notice Date 13.02.2023	₹ 31,35,797.24/- (Thirty One Lac Thirty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Seven Rupees and Twenty Four Paise) + interest + Other expenses
Branch: Bhalil	M/s. Laxmi Marketing, Prop. - Mr. B. Laxmi Narayan S/o. Late Mr. Ramanna Baiपाली	a) All the Part and Piece of Diverted Land and Building Situated at Plot No 8, block No 23, Ward No -12, Jawahar Nagar Awas Yojna, Bhalil, Tehsil and District-Durg, Chhattisgarh in the name of Mr. B Laxmi Narayan. Area-135 sq.mt. Boundaries: - North: Open Plot, South: Open Plot, East: Open Plot, West: Tar Road. b) All the part and piece of diverted land situated at Plot No.	Date 06.10.2022 Possession Notice Date 13.02.2023	₹ 92,68,100.61/- (Ninety Two Lac Sixty Eight Thousand One Hundred Rupees and Sixty One Paise) + interest + Other expenses
90, Kh no 502/1, PHN-19/22, Ward no 63, Mouja- Risal, Block & RNM- Durg-1, Tehsil and District- Durg, Chhattisgarh in the name of Mr B Laxmi Narayan. Area- 1050 Sqft. Boundaries: - North: Others Plot, South: Concrete Road, East: Others Plot, West: Others Plot. c) All the part and piece of diverted land situated at Plot no 162, Kh no 781/3, PHN-42, Village- Umarpoti, Block-Durg, RNM-Andra, Tehsil and District-Durg, Chhattisgarh in the name of Mr B Laxmi Narayan Area- 1000 Sqft. Boundaries: - North: 10' Wide Land & Other Residence, South: Residence of Sandeep Manna, East: Murrum Road, West: Others Residence.				

Date: 16.02.2023, Place : Bhalil Authorized Officer, Bank of India

## Farmers, account holders lodge complaint



Against the Branch Manager of Union Bank of India, Fingeshwar Branch

Fingeshwar, Feb 15:

The account holders of Union Bank of India, Fingeshwar Branch, including farmers, Sarpanch and villagers, filed complaint against Branch Manager of the Bank on four-five points and sent an application to Divisional Office Raipur and to head office in Mumbai as well.

Farmer Revaram, DD Rishi, Kamesh Sahu and all the villagers from Gram Sirri khurd, Kundel, Barula, Chhabhati and others lodged complaint

against the Branch Manager Union Bank of India, Fingeshwar Branch, for not passing on the benefit of Kissan Credit Card to the farmers; misbehaving with them on transferring of amount from general account to loan account; not behaving with the farmers in cordial manner when asked about Bank's and government's schemes and not increasing loan amount under Kissan Credit Card every year and other such issues, by going to Union Bank of India, Divisional Office Raipur. Here they met the senior officers of the Bank saying that due to lack of which, they are not getting benefit of various schemes for rural beneficiaries.

## SBI State Bank of India

RACPC- ZONAL OFFICE, BYRON BAZAR, RAIPUR (C.G.) Ph:-0771-4089154,4267586 | Fax: 0771-4040334

## POSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property) [See rule 8 (1)]

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the STATE BANK OF INDIA under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a Demand Notice date as below mentioned date calling upon the Borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and interest thereon within 60 days from date of the receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 said rules on this the date mentioned below. The borrowers in particular and the Public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of STATE BANK OF INDIA, for amount mentioned and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sl No.	Name of the Borrower	Demand Notice Dt. Possession Notice Dt.	Outstanding Amount	Description of the Immovable Property
1.	1)Mr. Mithun Sutar S/o Mr. Hargovind Sutar, 2) Mr. Anup Kumar Sutar S/o Mr. Hargovind Sutar	(1) 13.12.2022 (2) 13.02.2023	Rs. 21,51,312.00 + Interest & Other Charges thereon.	DUPLEX BUNGLOW NO. 280, KH NO. 232/8, AT SIMRAN CITY 5.PHASE-2, MATPURENA, CHANDRASHEKHAR AZAD WARD NO. 52, PH NO.-105, DISTT + THE- RAIPUR, BOUNDARIES:- NORTH-ROAD, EAST- PLOT NO. 279, SOUTH-BOUNDARY WALL, WEST-PLOT NO. 281

Date: 13.02.2023, Place: Raipur Authorized Officer, RACPC Raipur, State Bank of India

**BRIEF**



**Ladakhi people stage a protest at Jantar Mantar, in New Delhi, Wednesday.**

**Imprisonment**

**Gonda (UP):** A court here sentenced a man to 14 years of rigorous imprisonment for raping a minor girl at Tarabganj area here in 2014. Special Judge, POCSO court, Jitendra Gupta on Tuesday convicted one Holi for raping the 12-year-old girl on December 10, 2014, Special Public Prosecutor Anup Pratap Singh said.

**Recover**

**Chandigarh:** The Border Security Force (BSF) has recovered one kg heroin in Punjab's Fazilka district, the force said on Wednesday. The heroin sealed in a packet was found near village Bachan Singh Ki Dhani on Tuesday, the BSF said in a statement. BSF troops have once again foiled the nefarious design of smugglers, it further said.

**Assault**

**Gurugram:** Two friends staying at an OYO hotel in Bilaspur were allegedly thrashed by the staff for demanding a refund, police said. According to the complaint lodged by Sandeep Kumar and Vikas, the incident took place on February 11 at 'Happy Stay OYO Hotel' on the Delhi-Jaipur Highway. The duo checked in at 9 pm and there was a power cut at around 11.30 pm. When the electricity did not get restored till 1 am, Kumar approached the hotel staff who told him that there will be no power till the morning, the complaint said.

**Skip**

**New Delhi:** Law Minister and BJP leader Kiren Rijiju said he is suffering from viral fever and will not be campaigning in Meghalaya on Wednesday for assembly polls. Rijiju had been campaigning in Tripura ahead of Thursday's assembly polls. "Suffering from acute viral fever since last 24 hours... I've been asked to remain indoor and take rest," he wrote on Twitter.

**Watery grave**

**Panaji:** A man and her woman partner who had come to Goa to celebrate Valentine's Day drowned in the Arabian Sea near a beach, police said on Wednesday. The deceased, Vibhu Sharma (27), who worked with a private firm in Mumbai, and Supriya Dubey (26), employed in Bengaluru, ventured into the waters near the Palolem beach in Canacona taluka of South Goa district for a swim after dinner on Monday night, they said.

**Shiv Sena (UBT) to Fadnavis**

## In which case were you fearing arrest?

**Mumbai, Feb 15 (PTI):**

The Shiv Sena (UBT) on Wednesday took a dim view of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' claim that the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government had tried to put him in jail, and asked the BJP leader in which case was he "fearing" arrest.

An editorial in the Sena mouthpiece 'Saamana' claimed that IPS officers had threatened MVA legislators to support Fadnavis and spied on them by tapping their phones.

Fadnavis should explain if such "illegal" phone tapping is a crime or not, it said. Maharashtra's political culture has never seen

instances of arrest of political opponents and harassment of their family members, the Marathi publication said.

After the 2019 Assembly polls, the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena snapped ties with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over the issue of sharing the chief ministerial post. Thackeray later tied-up with the Nationalist Congress Party and the Congress to form the MVA in the state.

His government collapsed in June last year after a revolt against the Sena leadership by Eknath Shinde and 39 other legislators. On June 30, Shinde became the chief minister with BJP leader Fadnavis

as his deputy. Fadnavis recently said the previous MVA government had given a target to then Mumbai police commissioner Sanjay Pandey to put me in jail, but the police officer could not succeed as he had done nothing wrong.

Reacting to it, the Saamana editorial on Wednesday asked, "Why is Fadnavis scared that he may be arrested?"

"In which case was he fearing arrest and what connection did he have with the case...Fadnavis should have clarified," it said. "In the last few days, Fadnavis has been speaking blatant lies," it claimed, adding this is not the "sanskar" of the Sangh

(RSS). The Marathi daily said the MVA government had filed cases against IPS officer Rashmi Shukla in Pune and Mumbai in connection with the alleged phone tapping. The phones of MVA leaders were illegally tapped when Fadnavis was the chief minister, it said. The phone numbers of MVA leaders were out for tapping under different names said to be of drug peddlers and terrorists, it claimed. Fadnavis should also explain if such "illegal" tapping is a crime or not, the editorial said. The investigating officers in the case visited Fadnavis when he was the leader of opposition and took his statement respectfully.

## BJP manifesto promises package for eastern Nagaland

**Pledges for preservation of Naga culture**

**Kohima, Feb 15 (PTI):**

The BJP has released its manifesto for the upcoming Nagaland assembly elections, promising a special package for the eastern part of the state and establishment of a board for the holistic development of the region if the party returns to power for the second time in a row.

The BJP and its ally NDPP are contesting the February 27 assembly elections with a 20:40 seat-sharing arrangement.

In its manifesto released by party president JP Nadda on Tuesday, the saffron party also announced a slew of measures for creating infrastructure, economic advancement, and boosting healthcare and agriculture, besides skill development.

"We will work with the central government to expedite the construction of the Trans-Nagaland Highway to enable easy access across districts, especially from eastern Nagaland," it stated.

Eastern Nagaland was in the news recently as there was a vote boycott call by an organisation

spearheading an agitation demanding a separate state comprising six districts of the area. However, the call was later withdrawn. The BJP manifesto also promised to establish a dedicated Nagaland cultural research fund with an investment of Rs 1,000 crore to preserve the Naga identity, set up a cultural university and invest Rs 100 crore to promote and expand the scope of all major tribal festivals.

The party also assured people of providing free rice and wheat monthly and 5 kg of black chickpeas and one litre of mustard oil per family quarter-

ly at subsidised rates to all PDS beneficiaries for the general welfare.

The manifesto promised to increase the existing pension to Rs 1,000 per month for senior citizens, specially-abled, and widows and also provide health insurance cards for cashless medical facilities for all government employees. The BJP also announced that it will provide free health insurance and social security insurance to all unorganised workers and, in conjunction with the Centre, give affordable housing to all under the PM Awas Yojana by 2025.

## Plea in Kerala HC seeking law

**To prohibit practice of black magic, sorcery**

**Kochi, Feb 15 (PTI):** A plea has been filed in the Kerala High Court seeking to pass a law to prohibit the practice of black magic, sorcery and inhuman evil practices in the society.

A bench headed by the Chief Justice S Manikumar which had on Tuesday considered the plea, asked the government what was the reason for the delay in passing such a statute.

The court has said that it will further hear the matter after two weeks.

The writ petition filed by Kerala Yukthi Vadhi Sangam, which claims to stand for rationalism, humanism, scientific temper and spirit of inquiry, told the High Court that the state was continuously witnessing some crimes in connection with superstitious beliefs. "Currently,

there are no adequate provisions in the general penal statute to prohibit the same or to be otherwise dealt with...Karnataka and Maharashtra are two states which have passed statutes in this regard," the plea, filed through lawyer P V Jeevesh, said.

The petition sought to consider and take a decision on the recommendation of the law reforms commission report 2019 with regard to the enactment of 'The Kerala Prevention of Eradication of Inhuman Evil Practices, Sorcery and Black Magic Bill-2019'.

It also sought to declare human sacrifice and other inhuman, evil and barbaric practices and black magic, etc, as illegal and to take action against black magic and witchcraft centres in the state. The plea also sought to declare that films, serials, telefilms having content of superstitious beliefs as illegal.

## Left rally in Kolkata spreads 'message of love' on V-Day

**Kolkata, Feb 15 (PTI):**

Left-wing student organisations on Tuesday took out a rally and organised programmes to "spread the message of love" on Valentine's Day, as couples around the city celebrated the occasion with fanfare.

At Jadavpur University (JU), members of the Arts Faculty Student Union, affiliated to SFI, took part in a rally, titled 'Ghrinar Biruddhe Bhalobasar Michhil' (against hatred).

Students, holding flags in rainbow colours, covered a distance of over two kilometres from university campus to Golpark.

Taking a dig at the BJP-led Union government over its 'Cow Hug Day' notification for Valentine's Day, which was later withdrawn, Priti Sarkar, one of the participants, said, "It goes on to show the mindset of the rightwing forces

like the saffron party. No wonder their sister organisations chase couples away on finding them anywhere in public places on this day."

"Let us learn how to love, let us fight against gender discrimination, let us fight against the move to intimidate minorities," she said.

Bajrang Dal activists reportedly drove away couples from a park in Gujarat during the day.

Echoing Sarkar, Subhankar Majumder, the general secretary of SFI in JU, called Hindutva forces "anti-science and superstitious". "Our rally aims to spread the message of love in the face of the hate agenda peddled by Hindutva forces. Let us reject them on this day of love," he said.

In another part of the city, Anandarup Dhar, the office-bearer of

**LIFE MISSION PROJ**

## Kerala court sends Sivasankar to 5-day ED custody

**Kochi, Feb 15 (PTI):**

A special court here on Wednesday sent M Sivasankar, former Principal Secretary to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, to five-day Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody in connection with alleged violation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulations) Act in the Life Mission, a flagship housing project of the state government.

Sivasankar was taken into custody on Tuesday night by the central agency which has been questioning the former IAS officer for the past three days. His arrest was recorded earlier in the day.

The PMLA court here today granted till February 20 custody of Sivasankar to ED and issued a direction

to produce him before it on that date. The court directed ED to provide relaxation time to Sivasankar during interrogation and also medical assistance if needed, court sources said. Sivasankar, who retired on January 31, was earlier arrested in a related gold smuggling case involving diplomatic baggage to UAE consulate.

The CBI had in 2020 filed an FIR in a Kochi court under section 120 B of the IPC and section 35 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010 on a complaint by the then Wadakanerry Congress MLA, Anil Akkara, listing Santosh Eappen, Managing Director of Unitac Builder, Kochi as the first accused and Sane Ventures as the second accused.

The two companies had undertaken the construction based on the agreement entered with them by Red Crescent, an international humanitarian movement, which had agreed to provide Rs 20 crore towards the Life Mission project.

Akkara had also alleged that there had been a violation of the FCRA by the Life Mission project, private companies and others. The alleged FCRA violation and corruption in the project had snowballed into a major political issue at that time with opposition parties charging that Swapna Suresh, a key accused in the gold smuggling case, had admitted before an NIA court that she had received Rs 1 crore as commission from the project.

**ALI-AI-LIGING FEST**



**Mising community women drink rice-beer while celebrating Ali-Ai-Liging, a festival associated with agriculture, in Guwahati, Wednesday.**

## Maha to run 'copy-free' exam campaign

**Photocopy shops in vicinity of exam centres to remain shut**

**Mumbai, Feb 15 (PTI):**

The Maharashtra government has decided to take steps to implement the "copy-free exams" campaign which includes shutting photocopy shops in 50-metre radius of the examination centres ahead of the Class 10 and 12 exams.

The Maharashtra Board's Class 10 exams will begin on March 2 and of Class 12 from February 21.

According to a presentation made by officials at a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief

Minister Eknath Shinde on Tuesday, the exam centres will be graded according to their 'sensitivity', and the entry of unauthorised people will be banned within 50 metres of an exam centre. Police presence around the exam centres would also be stepped up.

The education commissioner has been appointed as nodal officer and district collectors as coordinating officers for the campaign.

The cabinet also passed the Maharashtra Medical Purchase Authority Bill. Under this, the governing board will be headed by the chief minister with an Indian Administrative Service officer as its Chief Executive Officer.

**LAST MINUTE PREPARATIONS**



**10th class students outside a centre for the CBSE Board Exam 2023, in Moradabad, Wednesday.**

## 'Will quit politics after Tripura polls'

**Charilam (Tripura), Feb 15 (PTI):**

Tipra Motha chairman Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma announced that he will quit politics after the February 16 Tripura assembly elections and will never seek votes as Bubagra' (king).

Addressing a rally here on the last day of the campaign on Tuesday, the scion of the former royal family of Tripura said many leaders have deserted him without understanding his feeling for putting up a fight for protecting the rights of poor people who have no food, shelter and education access.

"Today is my last speech on a political stage and I will never seek votes as a Bubagra after the assembly elections. It pained me but I have fought a tough battle for you," he said. Tripura will go to poll



**Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma**

for the 60-member assembly on February 16 and counting will take place on March 2.

"It is sure Bubagra will not be in politics after March 2 but I will be with my people forever. I will work for healthcare, education, giving scholarships to the poor," he said, while addressing an election rally at Charilam, around 35 km from Agartala.

Deputy Chief Minister Jishnu Deb Varma, an

other member of the erstwhile royal family, is the BJP candidate from the Charilam constituency.

"He (Jishnu Debbarma) knows when I take a challenge, I see only dofa (community). I will not give an inch of land to him in the battle," he said.

However, he added: "It is not a fight of the royal family... It is a fight for the poor who don't have food, shelter and education."

Subodh Debbarma is the Tipra Motha nominee in Charilam constituency. Debbarma also asserted that he is not anti-Bengali.

"The family that helped and respects Rabindranath Tagore and Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose needs no certificate of not being anti-Bengali," he said.

The party is contesting 42 of the 60 seats in Tripura.

## Anti-India graffiti by Khalistani extremists on Ram Mandir in Mississauga

India raises issue with Canada

Toronto, Feb 15 (PTI):

A prominent Hindu temple in Canada has been defaced by 'Khalistani extremists' with anti-India graffiti in an apparent hate crime, prompting the Indian mission here to condemn the incident and urge Canadian authorities to take swift action against the perpetrators.

The latest incident took place at a Ram Mandir in Mississauga on February 13. The time of the incident is, however, not known.

"We strongly condemn the defacing of Ram Mandir in Mississauga with anti-India graffiti. We have requested Canadian authorities to investigate the incident and take prompt action on perpe-



trators." India's Consulate in Toronto tweeted on Tuesday. "Vandalism occurred overnight (February 13th) at the Shri Ram Mandir in Mississauga, Ontario Canada. We at the Ram Mandir are very disturbed by this occurrence and we are working with the appropriate law enforcement authority on this matter," the Facebook page of the temple said. The walls of the temple painted with pro-Khalistani slogans

and anti-India graffiti. This is not the first time that a Hindu Temple in Canada was defaced with anti-India graffiti.

In January, a Hindu Temple in Brampton Canada was defaced with hate-filled messages directed towards India, causing an outrage among the Indian community.

In September, the BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir, Toronto was defaced by "Canadian Khalistani extremists". The BAPS

Swaminarayan Sanstha is a spiritual, volunteer-driven faith dedicated to improving society through individual growth by fostering the Hindu ideals of faith, unity, and selfless service. Last September, the Ministry of External Affairs issued a statement condemning the rise of hate crimes against Indians and anti-India activities in Canada, expressing their concern with stern language.

Statistics Canada reported a 72 per cent increase in hate crimes based on religion, sexual orientation, and race between 2019 and 2021.

This has led to increased fears among minority communities, particularly the Indian community, which is the fastest-growing demographic group in Canada, accounting for almost four per cent of the population.

## ARTISTS PERFORM 'SEVU SEVU'



Traditional artists perform "sevu sev" welcome ceremony at the inauguration of 12th World Hindi Conference, in Nadi, Fiji, Wednesday, Feb. 15.

## India organises special exhibition on millets at UN headquarters

Washington, Feb 15 (PTI):

India has organised a special exhibition on the millets at the UN headquarters in New York to commemorate the 'International Year of Millets 2023'.

The focus of the exhibition launched on Tuesday by India's Permanent Mission to the UN was on the different kinds of millets grown in India, their nutritional value and health benefits, including information on calorific content.

The exhibition was attended by over a hundred delegates from the UN member states and senior UN officials.

In her brief remarks, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ruchira Kamboj shared the reasons why India pursued making 2023 the International Year of Millets (IYM) and how mil-



lets were an important solution in the collective march towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This was followed by a launch video on the IYM and a special address by the Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed.

The Co-Founder and Director of MRIDA Group, Arun Nagpal, shared his experiences on his journey with millets from the farm to the table. This was followed by a special address by the Chef de Cabinet of the UN Secretary-General Earle

Courtenay Rattray, after which the exhibition was officially opened.

Millet-based savouries were the other attraction for the guests to taste, while millet grains were also placed on display. The United Nations was treated to a sensory blend of seeing, touching, tasting, and learning about millets.

The millet exhibition will be on display at the United Nations General Assembly Delegates Entrance Exhibition area from 14-17 February 2023, a media release said.

## Jaishankar, Fiji deputy PM discusses advancing bilateral ties

Nadi (Fiji), Feb 15 (PTI):

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday met Biman Prasad, Deputy Prime Minister of Fiji, and discussed ways to further advance long-standing bilateral ties.

Jaishankar is on a three-day visit to the South Pacific archipelago nation to attend the 12th World Hindi Conference.

His visit is the first by an incoming ministerial delegation after the formation of the new government in Fiji in December last year. "Great to meet @FijiGovernment DPM @bimanprasad in Nadi shortly after our meeting in New Delhi. Discussed further advancing our long-standing ties through our development cooperation," Jaishankar tweeted along with the pictures.

Welcoming Jaishankar, Biman Prasad said, "...It was a pleasure meeting again and discussing strengthening of our development coop-



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with Fiji Deputy Prime Minister Biman Prasad at a meeting in Nadi, Fiji.

eration." Fiji's Deputy Prime Minister Biman Prasad visited India last week.

Jaishankar also visited a temple in Nadi, Fiji.

"Visited the Sri Siva Subrahmanya Swami temple in Nadi and had a darshan. Along with my Parliamentary colleagues, could see first-hand our vibrant culture and traditions flourishing in Fiji," he tweeted. The first World Hindi Conference was organised in 1975 in Nagpur. To date, 11 World Hindi Conferences have been organised in different parts of the world.

## Great stride made in India-US trade relationship: USTR

Washington, Feb 15 (PTI):

Under the Biden administration, India and the US has made great strides in their trade relationships, top US officials have said after President Joe Biden announced that Air India has agreed to a historic purchase of airplanes from Boeing.

On Tuesday, the White House announced that Boeing and Air India have reached an agreement under which the airline will purchase 190 B737 MAX, 20 B787, and 10 B777X for a total of 220 firm orders valued at USD 34 billion at the list price.

There will be an option to buy 70 more aircraft that could take the total transaction value to USD 45.9 billion, a deal that US President Biden described as a "historic agreement".

"I'm thrilled to celebrate this new development in the thriving trade relationship between the United States and India. Today's an-

nouncement is a deal of historic significance between the Boeing Company and the Tata Group," US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said.

Observing that the Air India orders will be Boeing's third biggest sale of all time in dollar value and second in quantity, Raimondo said this is a win for workers, manufacturers, and suppliers across the United States, and it reaffirms the deep and lasting relationship between the two nations.

Raimondo is scheduled to travel to India in March to co-chair the US-India CEO Forum and US-India Commercial Dialogue meetings with her Indian counterpart Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

"We're also delighted to be working with India as part of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) for Prosperity, a his-

toric opportunity to strengthen our economic ties and fuel economic prosperity across the Indo-Pacific region," she said adding that she is optimistic about the opportunities for the US-India economic relationship in the years to come.

The IPEF was launched jointly by the US and other partner countries of the Indo-Pacific region on May 23, 2022, in Tokyo.

Boeing-Air India deal reaffirms that optimism, the commerce secretary said. "Over the last two years, we have made great strides toward expanding the bilateral trade relationship between the US and India, including through the US-India Trade Policy Forum, to expand market access for American businesses, producers and our workers," said Deputy United States Trade Representative Sarah Bianchi.

## Romania, Moldova both report strange objects in their skies

Bucharest, Feb 15 (AP):

Romania briefly scrambled military jets and neighbouring Moldova temporarily closed its air space after authorities in both countries reported mysterious weather balloon-like objects traversing their skies.

The incidents occurred at around midday local time and briefly raised concerns in the two Eastern European countries, both which border Ukraine and have been affected by Russia's war.

Romania's defence min-

istry said it deployed two jets that are under NATO command to its southeastern skies to seek an aerial object it described as being small with "characteristics similar to a weather balloon." It had been detected initially by radar systems in Romanian airspace at an altitude of about 11,000 metres (36,000 feet). "The crews of the two aircraft did not confirm the presence of the aerial target, neither visually nor on the onboard radars," a ministry statement said, adding that the two MiG-21 LanceR aircraft stayed in

the vicinity for about 30 minutes before returning to base.

Romanian Foreign Minister Bogdan Aurescu told reporters at U.N. headquarters in New York that "the Romanian fighter jets did not find any object, even if it was spotted on the radar so no threat for the Romanian airspace."

It was unclear whether the two incidents were related, and neither country said where they believed the objects had come from.

## Afghanistan remains primary source of terrorist threat: UN

United Nations, Feb 15 (PTI):

Afghanistan remains the primary source of terrorist threat for Central and South Asia, with groups such as ISIL-K, Al-Qaeda and Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan enjoying greater freedom of movement in the country owing to the absence of an effective Taliban security strategy, a UN report has said. The 31st report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring

Team (ISIL, Al-Qaida), was issued here on Tuesday.

The report said that Afghanistan remains the primary source of terrorist threat for Central and South Asia.

"It originates from groups including the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan (ISIL-K), Al-Qaeda, Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan, as well as ETIM/TIP (Eastern

Turkistan Islamic Movement/Turkistan Islamic Party), Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, Islamic Jihad Group, Khatiba Imam al-Bukhari, Khatiba al-Tawhid wal-Jihad, Jamaat Ansarullah and others. These groups enjoy greater freedom of movement in Afghanistan owing to the absence of an effective Taliban security strategy," the report said.

### OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, CIRCLE NO-1 RAIPUR (C.G.)

#### Tender Notice (1st Call)

Contractors, Registered appropriate class in Unified Registration System [e-Registration] invited Online tenders for the following works :-

NIT No./ System Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable amount of contract
1	2	3
183/123938	CONSTRUCTION OF OFFICE BLOCK AT ANTI-CORRUPTION BUREAU CIVIL LINE RAIPUR (C.G.) (DEPOSITE WORK)	Rs. 22.37 Lakh

Last date of tender Download Date up to 05.03.2023 Time 17:30 PM

Note :- All eligible/interested contractors are mandated to get enrolled on the e Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Superintending Engineer P.W.D. Raipur Circle No-1 Raipur (C.G.)

G-98502/2

### GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES DIVISION, SURAJPUR (C.G.)

#### e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

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

(1st Call) System Tender No. : 124283 NIT No. : 05/SAC/2022-23 Surajpur, Dated : 13.02.2023

Online Tenders are Invited for The Following Works up to 06.03.2023 at 17:30 Hour (IST) :-

Name of Work : RENOVATION OF GONDA LIS SCHEME C.C. LINING MARHATA CANAL R.D.0M TO R.D. 1740M, GONDA CANAL R.D. 0M TO 720M, SATTIPARA CANAL R.D. 0M TO 2520M, MINOR CANAL 0M TO R.D. 1700M INCLUDING 03 NOS. VRD,02 NOS. C.D. AND 26 NOS OUTLETS.

Probable Amount of Contract : - Rs. 256.63 Lakhs (As per S.O.R Dated 01.08.2010 & As amended dated 01.08.2014 and 22.08.2022)

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 20.02.2023, 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 Water Resources Division, Surajpur (C.G.) For, Chief Engineer, Hasdeo Ganga Basin, Water Resources Department, Ambikapur (C.G.)

G-98507/1

### GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN, RAIPUR (C.G.)

#### e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

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

(1st Call) System Tender No. : 124486/NIT No. : 13/SAC/2022-23, Rajnandgaon, Dated : 13.02.2023

Online Tenders are Invited for the following works up to 06.03.2023 at 17:30 Hour

Name of Work : Renovation of Tank and C.C. Lining of main canal from RD 0 m to 5490 m and construction of 05 Nos. of V/RB and 35 Nos of Inlet & outlet of Dharmutola Tank Scheme under Chhuria Division of Rajnandgaon District.

Probable Amount of Contract : - Rs. 389.01 Lakhs (As per S.O.R Dated 01.08.2010 (As amended dated 22.08.2022))

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 20.02.2023, 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 Water Resources Division, Rajnandgaon (C.G.) For, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godawari Basin Raipur (C.G.)

G-98511/1

### न्यायालय नायब तहसीलदार

डोंगरगांव के न्यायालय में मामला

क्रमांक: 202302091100009/20230291100009

विषय:- ब-121 मामले की श्रेणी - राजस्व सन:- 2022-2023

रामपुर प.ह.नं. 00035 / 115 (1.1810 हे. )। पक्षकारों का विवरण - आवेदक पक्षकार - छ.ग.स्टेट पावर डिस्ट्री. कंपनी लिमि., राजनांदगांव, अनावेदक पक्षकार छ.ग. शासन.

#### ईशतहार

एतद द्वारा सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि आवेदक छ.स्टेट पावर डिस्ट्री. कंपनी लिमि. राजनांदगांव का ज्ञापन क्रमांक 13-1/कार्य/1018 राजनांदगांव दिनांक 20/01/2023 प्राप्त। प्राप्त ज्ञापन के अनुसार ग्रामीण उपसंभाग राजनांदगांव अंतर्गत वितरण केन्द्र-अर्जुनी के ग्राम रामपुर पटवारी हल्का नं. 35 तहसील डोंगरगांव जिला राजनांदगांव स्थित शासकीय मूमि खसरा नं. 115 रकबा 1.181 हेक्टेयर मूमि पर विद्युत पॉवर प्लांट 33/11 केडी सब-स्टेशन निर्माण हेतु मूमि आवंटन किये जाने सरपंच ग्राम पंचायत रामपुर के बैठक दिनांक 16/12/2022, नक्शा खसरा, बी-1की नकल के साथ प्रस्तुत किया है।

उक्त संबंध में जिस किसी भी व्यक्ति को दावा/आपत्ति हो पेशी दिनांक 20.02.2023 को स्वयं अथवा अपने प्राधिकृत अधिकृत के माध्यम से न्यायालय में प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं। बाद में प्राप्त दावा आपत्ति पर विचार नहीं किया जावेगा। आज दिनांक 06.02.2023 को मेरे हस्ताक्षर एवं न्यायालय के मुहर से जारी किया गया।

यह ईशतहार मेरे हस्ताक्षर एवं पदमुद्रा से आज दिनांक 06/02/2023 को जारी किया जाता है।

नायब तहसीलदार डोंगरगांव

### दक्षिण पूर्व मध्य रेलवे

पेंशन अदालत का आयोजन

सेवानिवृत्त रेलवे कर्मचारियों/अशक्तता पेंशनर/पारिवारिक पेंशनर की सुविधा हेतु दक्षिण पूर्व मध्य रेलवे रायपुर द्वारा मंडल रेल प्रबंधक कार्यालय में 15.03.2023 को प्रातः 11 बजे पेंशन अदालत का आयोजन किया जाएगा।

यदि आपको सेवानिवृत्ति के पर्याय मिलने वाले बकाया निपटान (सेमेंट ऑफ सेटलमेंट डेंयूज) से संबंधित अथवा पेंशन युगलान संबंधी कोई शिकायत है, तो आप अपना अयावेदन दो प्रतियों में दिनांक 23.02.2023 तक प्रस्तुत करें। न्यायालय में लिखित प्रकरण, नियुक्ति तथा अन्य नीतिगत मामलों को पेंशन अदालत में शामिल नहीं किया जायेगा। सेवानिवृत्त वे सभी कर्मचारी जिन्हें इस संबंध में अपने आवेदन पत्र प्रस्तुत करने हैं, वे अपने आवेदन पत्र बरिश्द मंडल कार्मिक अधिकारी दक्षिण पूर्व मध्य रेलवे रायपुर न्यू डी.आर.एम आफिस खमतलाई रायपुर(छ.ग.) 492008 के कार्यालय में दिनांक 23.02.2023 तक निम्नलिखित प्रारूप में जमा कर दें।

#### आवेदन का प्रारूप

1	पी.पी.ओ. क्रमांक:
2	सेवानिवृत्त कर्मचारी का नाम:
3	पदनाम(सेवानिवृत्त/अशक्तता पेंशनर/पारिवारिक पेंशनर के समूह):
4	मंडल / युनिट का नाम/अंतिम कार्यस्थल
5	किताब:
6	मंडल / कार्यालय:
7	अंतिम वेतन:
8	सेवानिवृत्त/अशक्तता/मृत्यु का दिनांक:
9	मोबाईल/टेलीफोन नंबर:
10	पत्राचार के लिए पता:
11	सेवानिवृत्त/अशक्तता पेंशनर/पारिवारिक पेंशनर के शिकायत का विस्तृत विवरण:

नोट:- (पी.पी.ओ. एवं सेवा प्रमाण पत्र की छाया प्रति संलग्न करें)

पीआर/आर/डीजीओ/एपी/222 आवेदक के हस्ताक्षर

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## CENTRAL Chronicle

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### Overhauling the ITI ecosystem

The paradox of India's demographic dividend and the unemployment of a large number of trained youths in the industrial sector speak volumes about the underutilization of the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in the country. The ITI education matching the demand for labour force trained in skills required by industries is critical to bridge the gap. The NITI Aayog's recent report, "Transforming Industrial Training Institutes," brings to the fore that even after more than seven decades of establishment of ITIs in the country, the vocational training institutes failed to ensure a steady flow of skilled workers, which also slowed the pace of industrialization. The report highlights that of the total capacity of 25 lakh trainees, only 10.5 lakh seats are filled in about 14789 ITIs, while "placement rates portray an even more dismal picture of the ecosystem." Contrary to the popular perception of private educational and training institutes having greater attraction for students, trainees, and parents, seat utilisation is higher in government ITIs as compared to private ITIs. Ironically, 78.4 percent of ITIs are private, which accounts for 62% of all seats, and 21.59% are government, which accounts for only 38% of seats. Seat utilisation in government ITIs is 56.74%, while it is 43% in private ITIs. This also demonstrates the hard fact that industrial training has not received the due attention from the government; both at the Center and in states, and that leaving its growth to the private sector did not meet the desired objectives. The detailed analysis of the ITI ecosystem in the report is a ready reckoner for policymakers, industries, and existing institutes, both government-run and private, to identify bottlenecks. The NITI Aayog has recommended a seven-pronged approach pertaining to changes in administration, curriculum, reporting, monitoring, resource mobilization, and other relevant sectors in its report, which is based on a study undertaken by the national think tank. Around 66% of the total ITIs are situated in five states: Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra, which says a lot about the skewed development of industrial training in the country. Farm mechanisation and rising input costs, coupled with a lack of remunerative prices, have reduced the capacity of the agriculture sector to absorb more labour. This has led to outmigration of several lakh of youth from farm families in industrially backward regions like Northeast in search of greener pastures in industrially advanced states for opportunities in industries as well as service sectors. The ITIs can play a crucial role in increasing the employability of this youth as a skilled workforce, but the majority of them migrating as unskilled workers point towards the deficiencies in the ecosystem. The NITI Aayog study finds that most popular trades in ITIs include Electrician, Fitter, Machinist, Welder, Motor Vehicle Mechanic, Draughtsman, etc., while there are some non-engineering trades such as Bamboo works, Baker and Confectioner, Corporate Housekeeping, Creche Management and Dress Making. Some of the problems grappling the ITI ecosystem identified in the report include failure to stick to the timetable while conducting trade-specific classes and laboratory training, and laboratory equipment in some ITIs remaining out of order. Limited financial power of ITI principals in government ITIs delays procurement of machines and instruments meeting industry requirement required for practical training. The interaction of the study team with principals also reveals that even after the signing of Memorandum of Understandings between ITI and industry, many industries are not delegating trainers on time, due to which instructors are not able to get training from the industry periodically. Besides, technical faults in machines procured from industry that are not repaired in a time-bound manner and sometimes get delayed for months also adversely affect training schedules. The NITI Aayog lays emphasis on the availability of quality, competent, and trained trainers for producing a workforce for the future. The government and industry collaborating to create a pool of trained trainers will go a long way towards improving the overall ecosystem and enhancing the employability of trainees. It recommends that ITIs require revamping and upgrading in line with the requirements of the changing world of work and re-look at courses and curriculum in terms of their relevance and quality, inculcate an entrepreneurial spirit in students, and establish long-term collaborations for industry exposure. Assam Cabinet's recent decision to accord certified status to ITI diploma holders can be expected to increase enrolment but improving the overall ecosystem by removing the bottlenecks including overcoming the challenges of introduction of new curriculum and availability of modern laboratory equipped with later machines and instruments will be crucial to achieve the objectives of industrial training. Another key recommendation made in the report is putting in place appropriate tools, technologies, and infrastructure to transition to a digital or hybrid mode of learning and devising suitable strategies for outreach and advocacy on the employment prospects of ITI courses. A complete overhaul of the ITI ecosystem has become an urgent necessity.

### Healing of ozone layer

Dr Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

It is surprising news that the ozone recovery is on track, according to the quadrennial assessment study published recently by the Scientific Assessment Panel to the Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances supported by the U.N. Scientists and environmentalists have lauded efforts to close the ozone hole as one of humanity's greatest ecological triumphs for decades. The recovery of the ozone layer serves as evidence of our ability to bring about significant change. The majority of people thought it was impossible, so it is a remarkable achievement. The world is now protected from the potentially disastrous effects of ultraviolet radiation thanks to the ozone layer, which is currently recovering. The ozone layer is also necessary for the existence of humans and other living things because it traps enough solar energy to act as an atmospheric blanket. A panel of experts supported by the UN ruled that the ozone layer is on track to regenerate within four decades thanks to the global phase-out of ozone-depleting substances. The effort to close the ozone hole, which was made possible by the 1987 Montreal Protocol, which forbade a set of chemicals frequently found in refrigerants and aerosols, has been hailed by scientists and environmentalists as one of humanity's greatest ecological triumphs. If present policies are followed, it is anticipated that the ozone layer will return to 1980 levels (before the ozone hole appeared) by 2066 over the Antarctic, 2045 over the Arctic, and 2040 for the rest of the planet. The ozone layer is also responsible for the present climatic change that we are experiencing, including the current heat wave and floods that are a result of global warming. We continue to worry about the difficult process of regenerating the ozone layer. The ozone layer must therefore always be monitored since its recovery will have a significant positive impact on the global climate and ecosystem.

Central Chronicle welcomes, articles, write ups, comments on different issues for editorial page (800-900 words), Letter to editor for this page. It can be sent by e-mail at: editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com

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

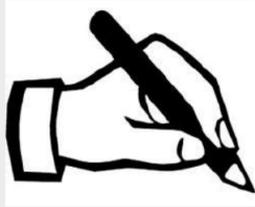
### PROTEST AGAINST THE KERALA BUDGET



Police use water cannon to disperse Muslim Youth League (MYL) activists during their protest against the Kerala Budget, in Thiruvananthapuram, Wednesday, Feb. 15.

## BJP is battle ready for the nine State Assembly elections in 2023

KALYANI SHANKAR



There could be a musical chair this year with nine states going for elections. It will be a trailer and the semi-final before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The results will show whether the BJP continues to sway the voters or the Congress-led Opposition will defeat the BJP in the upcoming elections. Regional satraps would naturally want to protect their turf.

The nine election-bound states are Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, and the four northeastern states, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura.

The poll schedule runs through the year. Meghalaya, Nagaland, and Tripura will go to polls in February, and Karnataka in April-May. Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, and Mizoram will face elections at the year-end. Jammu and Kashmir may also go for polls, the first since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. Congress, BJP, and region-

al parties are all playing it, marshalling all their resources. The states where BJP and Congress remain the leading contenders are big states like Karnataka, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh. Congress is ruling Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, BJP Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh. A two percent swing, either way, would change the results.

BJP wants to expand further while Congress struggles to raise its head. It has already lost the northeastern states, which was its stronghold at one point of time to the BJP, and BJP has increased its foothold steadily everywhere. Even the Left have lost Tripura to the B JP. With such high stakes, the worst-case scenario for Congress is to lose Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh and not win any of the other seven states. The best-case scenario is to retain what it has and gain more.

The BJP is on a mission mode. Mission 350' (to get 350 seats in Lok Sabha) is their stated goal. It is going all out to enable Prime Minister Narendra Modi to perform a hat trick.

The BJP chief J P Nadda has sounded the poll bugle this month, asking the cadres to "Prepare to win all nine Assembly polls this year. The party is getting votes of Backward Classes, SCs and STs and is giving them representation. This shows our resolve of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, and

Sabka Prayas," he said; while addressing the party's national executive recently.

The two parties have already begun their poll exercises, with Modi campaigning in the North East and the Congress concentrating on Rahul's Bharat Jodo Yatra. Key regional players like the ambitious Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, hoping for a hat trick, is also preparing for the battle of 2023.

The BJP wants to focus on the South, which has 129 seats, of which the party has only 29 seats, 25 coming from Karnataka. The party wants to win at least 50 seats. But the regional satraps have a firm hold in Southern states, be it Telangana or Kerala.

"The upcoming 2023 assembly elections will be the final journey for the opposition parties, especially the Congress party. According to former Tripura chief minister Biplov Kumar Deb, it will be a trial by fire between BJP and regional parties in the northeastern states. The seven states count for 25 seats.

After completing Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo' Yatra last week, the Congress workers are enthused.

We must wait for Yatra's electoral impact, as it depends on follow-up. Organizational unity is a crucial challenge, especially in states such as Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Telangana, where traditionally, Congress had done well in the past. The party's high

command must not mess up as it did in Punjab and elsewhere. It must choose its alliance partners and assess its strength correctly.

Secondly, it has to find a balance between old guards and younger leaders. Thirdly, Congress must choose a new, catchy narrative and raise correct issues, particularly of interest to the common man, like bread and butter issues.

For the BJP, money is no constraint, nor is the organization. Above all, The BJP depends on Modi's magic to sway the voters.

However, the Saffron party is on the back foot regarding price rise, inflation, and jobs. There are no takers for its Hindutva ideology in the South.

If the opposition concentrates on the bread and butter issues and convinces the voters to move away from the BJP, it would be an 'advantage Opposition.' The BJP also has to fight the Dynasties, welfare politics, and social engineering to conquer the South. Regional satraps like K. Chandrashekar Rao still have a hold on the electorate.

Each player has to use a different poll strategy to win and go for a suitable alliance. The Congress needs a different narrative, while the BJP ideology does not attract people in the South. The parties have to overcome some disadvantages to utilize their advantages successfully. Ultimately, it all depends on the voters and Dame Luck.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Raid at BBC office

Income Tax (IT) officials searched the BBC's (British Broadcasting Corporation) Delhi and Mumbai offices on 14th February and seized phones and laptops, weeks after a massive controversy over the UK broadcaster's documentary series on Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi and the deadly sectarian riots in Gujarat in 2002. One has to agree that the BBC report's fairness is debatable. However, conducting an IT raid (to mild it called 'survey' for the concerns allegations of international taxation and transfer pricing irregularities involving the BBC), as a tool to attack them just shows to the world that we have something to hide and we are trying to intimidate the BBC. IT raids are to be conducted when the company has falsified IT records not when they have reported misinformation. This just shows once again the world that the Modi government agencies are tools to be used at the ruling party's need and not agencies that do the work that they are supposed to. But people wonder, when Adani group manipulated books, created shell companies and involved in money laundering, as result after the Hindenburg report, ten lakh crores wiped out from its pocket, but at that time IT, CBI and ED are sleeping. The timing of the raid - within a month after the release of the documentary - made glaringly obvious that it was not undertaken purely for economic reasons. It's nothing but to penalize free journalism.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

#### Make WPL a success

Five franchises opened their purses to shell out Rs 59.5 crore to buy 87 players. Though Rs 3.4 crore for Smriti Mandhana may not look as astronomical as what some male players get for IPL, it must be noted that the latter is a 15-year-old brand and has established its credibility over a decade. Hopefully, once all stakeholders, including the critical ones and fans embrace the Women's Premier League (WPL) with the same love and passion, we may see higher amounts being bid for women cricketers too in the coming years. Now, all efforts should be aimed at making WPL a success.

Bal Govind, Noida

#### PM's uncivil gesture

His recent 'performances' in Parliament and outside suggest that PM Modi wants to project himself as a superhero. His utterance 'Desh dekh raha hai, ek akela kitnon pe bhari padh raha hai' is one such example. However, it is unfortunate that in a fit of bravado, he sometimes transgresses the limits of civility. One such instance was when he sarcastically asked Congress leader Rahul why he was a Gandhi and not a Nehru. The PM insulted him because in our society, an individual is known by his father's name. Such uncivil behaviour is not expected from the PM. He should apologise to Rahul.

Beant Singh Bedi, Mohali

## Ring system around dwarf planet on the edge of Solar System discovered

Scientists have discovered a new ring system around a dwarf planet on the edge of the Solar System, according to a new study.

According to the study, the ring system is around a dwarf planet, named Quaoar, which is approximately half the size of Pluto and orbits the Sun beyond Neptune.

The ring system orbits much further out than is typical for other ring systems, calling into question current theories of how ring systems are formed, the study said.

The discovery was made by an international team of astronomers using HiPERCAM - an extremely

sensitive high-speed camera developed by scientists at the University of Sheffield, UK, which is mounted on the world's largest optical telescope, the 10.4 metre diameter Gran Telescopio Canarias (GTC) on La Palma, Spain, the study said.

The discovery is published in the journal Nature.

The rings are too small and faint to see directly in an image. Instead, the researchers made their discovery by observing an occultation, when the light from a background star was blocked by Quaoar as it orbits the Sun, the study said.

The event lasted less

than a minute, but was unexpectedly preceded and followed by two dips in light, indicative of a ring system around Quaoar, the study said.

Ring systems are relatively rare in the Solar System - as well as the well-known rings around the giant planets Saturn, Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune, only two other minor planets possess rings - Chariklo and Haumea, the study said.

All of the previously known ring systems are able to survive because they orbit close to the parent body, so that tidal forces prevent the ring material from accreting and forming moons, the study

said. According to the study, what made the ring system around Quaoar remarkable was that it lay at a distance of over seven planetary radii - twice as far out as what was previously thought to be the maximum radius according to the so-called 'Roche limit', which is the outer limit of where ring systems were thought to be able to survive.

For comparison, the main rings around Saturn lie within three planetary radii. This discovery has therefore forced a rethink on theories of ring formation, the study said.

"It was unexpected to discover this new ring system in our Solar System, and it

was doubly unexpected to find the rings so far out from Quaoar, challenging our previous notions of how such rings form.

"The use of our high-speed camera - HiPERCAM - was key to this discovery as the event lasted less than one minute and the rings are too small and faint to see in a direct image," said Professor Vik Dhillon, co-author of the study from the University of Sheffield's Department of Physics and Astronomy.

"Everyone learns about Saturn's magnificent rings when they're a child, so hopefully this new finding will provide further insight into how they came to be," said Dhillon.

**BRIEF**

**Steel prices**



**New Delhi:** The volatility in steel prices is expected to continue and the industry must learn to live with the "new normal", T V Narendran the global CEO and MD of Tata Steel has suggested. Replying to a question on the continuous fluctuations in prices of steel, he said industry members, both producers and consumers, can not wish away the price volatility and instead should look at how it can be managed. "I have never seen the type of volatility we have seen in the last 8 to 9 months in my 34 years of association with the industry. It's a new normal we need to learn to live with it," Narendran told PTI in a video conference.

**Budget presentation**



**Kolkata:** West Bengal Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya on Wednesday presented a Rs 3.39-lakh crore budget for 2023-24, with a proposal to waive agricultural income tax on tea gardens for two years and extend credit facility to young entrepreneurs. She said the state GDP is projected to grow at 8.4 per cent and the industry at 7.8 per cent in the ongoing 2022-23 fiscal.

**Transmission lines**



**New Delhi:** Over 17,000 circuit kilometers of transmission lines were installed in India in the last nine years to strengthen the electricity distribution system, Union Power Minister R K Singh said. He made the remarks while addressing delegates from the West African region at an event organised by the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in collaboration with Grid Controller of India Ltd (Grid-India) and West African Power Pool (WAPP) in the national capital.

**5G service**

**Shimla:** Himachal Pradesh chief minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched the fifth generation (5G) internet network of telecom service provider Jio in the state. Expansion of 5G services would further strengthen the digital infrastructure in the state, which would bring new opportunities besides enriching the experiences for every individual especially students, businessmen and professionals, the chief minister said.

## FM exhorts exporters to 'foresee' impact of global slowdown

**Engage with govt**  
**New Delhi, Feb 15:**



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during an interactive session on the theme 'India's role in the Emerging World Order' organised by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), in New Delhi, Wednesday, Feb. 15.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday exhorted exporters to be receptive and 'foresee' how the recession or slowing economy abroad will pan out for them, while asking them to constantly engage with the government. Stating that external uncertainties are far more 'unpredictable' and therefore challenging, Sitharaman said in a post-pandemic, post-war world, and where there is a repeat occurrence of virus, there is no fixed 'template' to deal with uncertainties. With regard to imports, she assured the industry that the government is looking at specific items to see which are going to be consistently

needed for next few years as well as those whose import could hurt domestic manufacturers. "The changes abroad, recession abroad or the slowing economy abroad are all going to be challenge for Indian exporters. So Indian exporters will have to be far more receptive of what is happening there or even foresee how that will pan out for them and keep constantly engaging with the government otherwise at a time when exporters have to be on their toes, such

challenges demotivate them," Sitharaman said at the ASSOCHAM event here. The minister's comments came after commerce ministry data showed that India's exports dipped by 6.58 per cent to USD 32.91 billion in January - second straight month of decline - due to slowdown in global demand. Imports in January too contracted by 3.63 per cent, the second consecutive month, to USD 50.66 billion. Sitharaman further said that customs authorities at the borders are keeping a tab on both exports and imports. "No way are we blanket taking a position, we are looking at specific items to see which are going to be consistently needed for next few years and which are going to hurt us.

Contracting for the second month in a row, India's exports dipped by 6.58 per cent to USD 32.91 billion in January due to slowdown in global demand, even as the trade deficit touched a 12-month low of USD 17.75 billion during the month, according to official data released on Wednesday. Imports in January too contracted by 3.63 per cent, the second consecutive month, to USD 50.66 billion. Sitharaman further said that customs authorities at the borders are keeping a tab on both exports and imports. "No way are we blanket taking a position, we are looking at specific items to see which are going to be consistently needed for next few years and which are going to hurt us.

## Exports dip by 6.58 pc in Jan; trade deficit lowest in 12-months at USD 17.75 bn

**New Delhi Feb 15:**



12.2 per cent to USD 34.48 billion in December 2022.

Contracting for the second month in a row, India's exports dipped by 6.58 per cent to USD 32.91 billion in January due to slowdown in global demand, even as the trade deficit touched a 12-month low of USD 17.75 billion during the month, according to official data released on Wednesday. Imports in January too contracted by 3.63 per cent, the second consecutive month, to USD 50.66 billion. Sitharaman further said that customs authorities at the borders are keeping a tab on both exports and imports. "No way are we blanket taking a position, we are looking at specific items to see which are going to be consistently needed for next few years and which are going to hurt us.

Last time, it was in January 2022, when the trade deficit touched USD 17.42 billion. Export sectors that recorded negative growth during the 10-months period of this fiscal include engineering goods, iron ore, plastic and linoleum, gems and jewellery. Engineering exports dipped by 3.37 per cent to USD 88.27 billion during April-January 2022-23. In the same period, gems and jewellery shipments declined by 0.54 per cent to USD 31.61 billion. Sectors which recorded positive growth include petroleum products, elec-

tronic goods, rice, ready-made garments of textiles and chemicals. "The overall exports (goods and services) growth in the current financial year is about 17.33 per cent. The main engine behind this export growth is the Services sector, which has been growing at a historically high growth rate of about 30 per cent. "Merchandise exports are also cumulatively growing at 8.5 per cent. We are optimistic that this growth momentum would continue despite strong global headwinds," Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthal told reporters. Gold imports during April-January this fiscal contracted by 11.26 per cent to USD 29 billion, as against USD 40.35 billion in the same period last year. In the 10-months of the current fiscal, crude oil imports rose 53.54 per cent to USD 178.45 billion.

## Early availability of ITR forms to enable return filing from April 1: CBDT

**New Delhi, Feb 15:**

The Income Tax department on Wednesday said the ITR forms for 2022-23 will come into effect from April 1 and have been notified well in advance to enable the filing of returns from the beginning of the ensuing Assessment Year. To facilitate taxpayers and to improve the ease of filing, no significant changes have been made to the ITR forms in comparison to the last year's ITR Forms. Only bare minimum changes necessitated due to amendments in the Income-Tax Act, 1961, have been made, it added. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on February 10 notified income tax return forms 1-6 for individuals, professionals and businesses for income earned in 2022-23. Also, ITR-7 form for charitable trusts, scientific

research institute, political parties and universities was notified on February 14. "These ITR forms will come into effect from April 1, 2023, and have been notified well in advance in order to enable filing of returns from the beginning of the ensuing Assessment Year," the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a statement. Usually, ITR forms for a particular financial year are notified by the end of March or early April. ITR Form 1 (Saha) and ITR Form 4 (Sugam) are simpler forms that cater to a large number of small and medium taxpayers. Saha can be filed by a resident individual having income up to Rs 50 lakh and who receives income from salary, one house property, other sources (interest) and agricultural income up to Rs 5,000.

## Govt to decide on raising sugar export quota in March: Food Secy

**New Delhi, Feb 15:**

The government will take a call next month on increasing the sugar export quota from the present 60 lakh tonnes for the current marketing year after assessing the domestic production, Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra said on Wednesday. The food ministry has allowed 60 lakh tonnes of sugar exports for the current 2022-23 marketing year (October-September), which is expected to see a drop in the sugar production. India exported a record 110 lakh tonnes of sugar in the previous year. "We have not yet taken a call. We are closely monitoring the production and we would take a call may be in March depending on what the final figures of anticipated production



are," Chopra told reporters here when asked whether the government will hike the sugar export quota. He said the sugar production is estimated to be lower in the 2022-23 marketing year because of bad weather in some producing states. Recently, Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) said that sugar production is estimated to fall 5 per cent in the current marketing year to 340 lakh tonnes as more quantity of sugarcane juice is being diverted for the produc-

tion of ethanol. Sugar production stood at 358 lakh tonnes in the 2021-22 marketing year. There will be an estimated diversion of 45 lakh tonnes of sweetener towards ethanol manufacturing. Sugarcane juice/syrup and B-molasses are being diverted to ethanol making. In the previous 2021-22 marketing year, 32 lakh tonnes of sweetener was diverted towards manufacturing of ethanol for blending with petrol. The actual sugar production in Maharashtra is estimated to decline to 121 lakh tonnes in 2022-23 from 137 lakh tonnes in the previous year. Uttar Pradesh will see a marginal decline to 101 lakh tonnes from 102 lakh tonnes, while Karnataka may witness a decline to 56 lakh tonnes from 60 lakh tonnes.

## India leapfrogged 40 yrs of development with DPI: G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant

**Lucknow, Feb 15:**

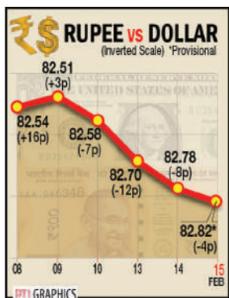
With effective implementation of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) like Aadhaar, CoWin, many others, India leapfrogged 40 years of development and made progress in seven years which was expected to be achieved in 47 years, G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant said here. Kant was giving a keynote address in the first Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG) meeting that witnessed active participation from G20 members, knowledge partners, and eight guest countries. "With effective implementation of DPI, India leapfrogged 40 years of development and made progress in 7 years which was expected to be



achieved in 47 years. Any country can use the already developed DPIs and innovate on the top of the same," Kant said in a statement. Kant said at length about the successes of DPI in terms of inclusion, delivery of social services, preventing monopolisation in digital space, and security, privacy & governance. He shared the full suite of Indian DPIs, namely Aadhaar, CoWIN, DigiLocker, etc in his address.

## Rupee falls by 4 paise to close at 82.82 against US dollar

**Mumbai, Feb 15:**



The rupee pared most of its initial losses to close down by 4 paise at 82.82 (provisional) against the US currency on Wednesday on lower trade deficit data for the month of January. Forex traders said a stronger American currency in the overseas markets capped the appreciation bias. At the inter-bank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened lower at 82.90 against the greenback amid early losses in domestic equities. The local unit recovered some ground later in the day in line with equities to close at 82.82 (provisional), down 4 paise over its previous close of 82.78. During the session the domestic

unit witnessed an intraday high of 82.79 and a low of 82.90 against the American dollar. According to Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, the rupee erased earlier losses on upbeat trade deficit in India's trade deficit in

January fell to a 12-month low of USD 17.75 billion as imports declined by 3.63 per cent year-on-year to USD 50.66 billion. Exports in January dipped by 6.58 per cent to USD 32.91 billion, as against USD 35.23 billion a year ago. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.21 per cent higher at 103.45. "Dollar strengthened as CPI data from US printed at 6.4 per cent in January, above estimates of 6.2 per cent, but slightly lower than 6.5 per cent in December, signaling that sticky inflation may keep interest rates holding on at higher levels for longer," Choudhary said.

## Mandaviya inaugurates IFFCO's 2 nano-urea plants in UP

**New Delhi, Feb 15:**

Union Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated cooperative organisation IFFCO's nano urea plants at Aonla and Phulpur in Uttar Pradesh, and also announced that a government's expert panel has given approval for launch of nano di-ammonium phosphate (DAP). India imports a large quantity of urea and DAP fertilisers to meet domestic demand. The production of nano urea and nano DAP will help in reduction of imports and the government's fertiliser subsidy bill.



## Sensex, Nifty rise for 2nd day on gains in oil, IT & banking shares

**Mumbai, Feb 15:**



Benchmark Sensex pared early losses to close 242 points higher while Nifty settled above the 18,000-mark on Wednesday following gains in IT, oil and select banking stocks amid mixed global trends. Extending gains for a second day, the 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 242.83 points or 0.40 per cent to close at 61,022.26 with 20 of its constituents ending in the green.

The index opened lower at 60,990.05 but later regained foot to touch a high of 61,352.55 in day trade. The broader Nifty of NSE rose by 86 points or 0.48 per cent to settle above the 18,000-mark at 18,015.85, following gains in RIL, Tech Mahindra and Adani Enterprises. Among Sensex stocks, Tech Mahindra rose the most by 5.79 per cent. Index major Reliance Industries spurred 2.22 per cent, while Bajaj Finserv, Bharti Airtel, Tata Steel, M&M, Nestle Industries, HCL Tech, Kotak Bank, Tata Motors,

ICICI Bank and Titan also advanced. Hindustan Unilever fell the most by 1.22 per cent. ITC, Sun Pharma, L&T, HDFC twins and IndusInd Bank were among the major losers. In the broader market, the BSE midcap index advanced 0.69 per cent while the smallcap index rose by 0.36 per cent. Meanwhile, Asian and European stocks were mixed after US inflation fell less than expected, raising expectations of aggressive rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve. In Asia, the Shanghai Composite Index lost 0.4 per cent, the Nikkei 225 in Tokyo declined 0.4 per cent and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong dropped 1.4 per cent.

## Jaguar TCS Racing ready for inaugural Greenko Hyderabad E-Priz

**Hyderabad, Feb 15:**



Jaguar TCS Racing will debut their Jaguar I-TYPE 6 in India this weekend, as the 2023 ABB FIA Formula E World Championship takes to the streets of Hyderabad for the first time. Lights will go green at 15:00 local time on Saturday 11 February at the Greenko Hyderabad E-Priz, the first of four brand new race locations for Season 9 of the all-electric world championship. The race comprises of 32 laps of a 2.83km street circuit, positioned on the banks of the heart-shaped Hussain Sagar Lake. Drivers Mitch Evans and Sam Bird are aiming to secure further points and

podiums following positive performances at the Diriyah double-header in January. In rounds two and three, Sam secured third and fourth place positions, while Mitch scored points after finishing tenth and seventh respectively and starred in qualifying and the early stages of round three when he

led the race from the first corner. Jaguar TCS Racing announce a new partnership with AERO who join as an Official Supplier. Revolutionary to the paint industry, AERO offers a radical alternative to traditional car paint by using advanced, film-based material technologies with an incredibly streamlined

and sustainable manufacturing and application process. AERO's self-healing film system is used on the new black, white and gold asymmetric livery of the Jaguar I-TYPE 6.

James Barclay, Jaguar TCS Racing Team Principal: "Ever since the 2023 race calendar was announced, Hyderabad has been one of the tracks that the whole team has been looking forward to. The next three race locations are new in Formula E and we enjoy the challenge of new circuits as a team. Hyderabad is a new opportunity for our drivers and engineers to take on and importantly it's also a home race for Tata and our title partner, TCS.

**Mumbai, Feb 15:**

Ola Electric, India's largest electric vehicles company, announced the expansion of its D2C footprint in Bilaspur with the opening of a new Ola. With 200 such experience centres already operational across all major cities in the country, the company will expand its existing network to include 500 outlets by March 2023.



With an aim to provide all services under one roof, Ola Experience Centres allow EV enthusiasts to experience Ola's EV technology and gather any information regarding the vehicles. They also

enable customers to avail test rides of the S1 and S1 Pro, seek assistance in purchase from Ola's Brand Champions, get details on financing options and culminate into their purchase journey on the Ola app. These Experience Centres also double up as one-stop destinations for all the post sales care and maintenance of Ola scooters. Accelerating India's

EV adoption even further, the company has rolled out exclusive offers with its 'Love on 2 Wheels' campaign including a discount of Rs 12,000 on Ola S1 Pro and free access to its hypercharger network for a year. Additionally, customers can now take home an Ola scooter at zero down payment, opt for EMIs starting as low as Rs 2,499, avail reduced interest rates starting at 8.99% and zero processing fee, and enjoy additional discounts on select credit cards. Besides these, customers also have the option to exchange their petrol scooters for brand new Ola S1s and earn a bonus of up to Rs 4,000.

## Rashmika wins hearts with her love for pooch Aura on V-Day

Rashmika Mandanna of 'Pushpa' fame, whom her co-star Allu Arjun describes as a 'national crush', has shared a video of herself with her pooch Aura to extend warm wishes for Valentine's Day to her fans.

In the video, the actress can be seen lying down and playing with Aura. In the caption, she wrote: "Happy Valentine's Day from us to you my loves." Rashmika's fans have flooded the video with comments.

On her personal front,

Rashmika is the subject of much speculation over her relationship status and her hookup with her 'Geeta Govindam' co-star Vijay Devarakonda.

Rashmika has so far not spelt out anything concrete, but their messages on social media and pictures of shared holidays frequently fuel the rumours.

On the work front, Rashmika will be next seen in 'Pushpa 2', opposite Allu Arjun all over again. She also has 'Animal' opposite Ranbir Kapoor.



## Samantha climbs 600 steps barefoot, prays to Palani Murugan

Samantha Ruth Prabhu climbed 600 steps of the Palani Murugan temple in Tamil Nadu on February 13 draped in an all-white churidar-kurta and offered prayers at the temple.

She also lit a camphor diya and tweeted on the same. She was accompanied by her 'Jaanu' movie director C. Premkumar and other friends.

The actor, who suffers from Myositis, an autoimmune disease condition that causes acute muscular pain, has started shooting for the web series 'Citadel' in which she shares screen space with Bollywood actor Varun



Dhawan. 'Citadel' is the Indian version of the international sci-fi action web series of the same name created by the Russo

Brothers. In the international series, Priyanka Chopra plays the lead.

The Indian web series is directed by the director

duo Raj and DK, who had helmed the popular web series, 'The Family Man', in which Samantha played the role of Raji, a Sri Lankan Tamil militant. She had recently tweeted: "I am thrilled to be part of this brilliant universe conceptualised by the Russo Brothers AGBO. I am also looking forward to working with Varun for the first time. He is someone who is full of life and cheer when you are around him." Samantha is awaiting the release of her Telugu mythological movie 'Shakunthalam' in which she shares the screen with Prakash Raj and Dev Mohan. The movie is to be released on April 14.

## Ayushi spills bean on her upcoming new look in show 'Ajooni'

The television show 'Ajooni' marked Ayushi Khurana's acting debut as the lead. With the audience's growing acclaim for the show, Ayushi Khurana quickly rose to fame and earned a devoted fan base for her portrayal of the powerful, intelligent, and persistent 'Ajooni' in the show. With the upcoming track bringing significant twists and turns, viewers will witness Ayushi Khurana, also known as Ajooni, in a new role as she seeks to reveal Shikha's true motivations in front of the family. Ayushi Khurana shares her new appearance and the preparations she made for it. She says, "I'll be portraying a character named 'Kamli' in the

show, and this is a fresh look for me. Overall, trying something new is a refreshing experience. Additionally, a new aspect of appearance, Kamli stands out for having bunny teeth, making it occasionally challenging to speak so sometimes I fumble while delivering my dialogues but eventually I've adapted to her nature now and getting better with delivering my dialogues while having those bunny teeth's. But it's great fun because I get to try out a new look and persona. Also, it's fun to play Kamli as she's very funny."



## Priyanka Chopra gives love a second chance in 'Love Again' trailer

The makers of 'Love Again' starring Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Sam Heughan dropped the trailer of the film on the occasion of Valentine's Day, and promised a complete love-filled ride.

It tells the tale of a grieving Priyanka who gives love another chance after a loss. Priyanka's American pop-star husband, singer-actor Nick Jonas has a cameo in the film as they share an awkward kiss.

The trailer starts with a glimpse of Priyanka as Mira who struggles to move on with her life after the death of her boyfriend. She keeps sending texts at the old number which is now being used by Sam, as his new work phone.

Rob, who is a journal-



LOVE AGAIN OFFICIAL TRAILER

ist, gets fascinated by Mira's honest and heart-broken texts as she opens up about her old wounds. Rob and Mira cross paths at an opera night and hit

it off but Rob is scared to open up about his feelings towards her.

'Love Again', directed by Jim Strouse, is slated to release in theatres May

12, 2023. Based on the 2016 German film SMS fur Dich by Karoline Herfurth, the film was previously titled 'Text for You'.

## Krish Chauhan returns in 'Punyashlok Ahilyabai'

Enthralling viewers for over 2 years, Sony Entertainment Television's period drama, 'Punyashlok Ahilyabai' brings alive the life and trial of Malwa's benevolent queen, Ahilyabai Holkar. Be it the right to education, widow remarriage, women empowerment, or managing the darbar after losing her husband, she always stood for the right and proved that one becomes great not by gender or birth but by deeds.

Starring Aetashaa Sangiri, Rajesh Shringarpore, and Malhar Pandya, the show took a 6-year leap revisiting another inspiring chapter of Ahilya Bai of how she received the prestigious title of 'Punyashlok'. Joining the team post leap is young actor Krish Chauhan. Interestingly, Krish played the character of young Khanderao in this historical drama and making a comeback to the show, he will now essay the role of Malerao Holkar (Khanderao and Ahilya's only son).



## Tyga: India has one of the most energetic crowds I've seen



American rapper Tyga, who is all set to perform at Vh1 Supersonic 2023, says India has one of the most energetic crowds he has seen.

The 3-day event will feature American Rapper Tyga, who was one of the star perform-

ers at the pre-Grammys held recently at Los Angeles, this year.

Ecstatic to be a part of the music and lifestyle festival, \*Tyga says, "Whenever I put on a show, a concert, or a tour, what matters most to me is the people, their love, and the vibe that I am creating for them. India has one of the most energetic crowds I've seen. I cannot wait to take the stage at Vh1 Supersonic and feel all that energy and the excitement!" Vh1 Supersonic 2023 is an audio-visual, multisensory music and lifestyle experience one would want to mark on their calendars.

## Aayudh's mom pampers him with a variety of gifts on his B'day!

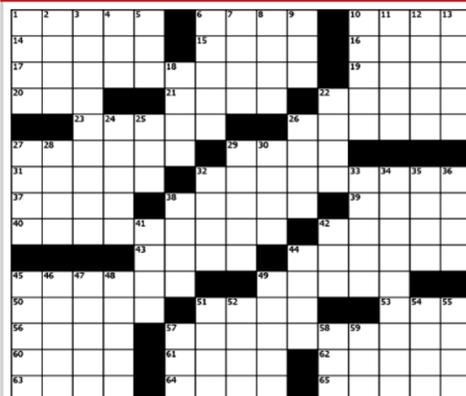
Aayudh Bhanushali, a budding actor, is the son of actor Krishna's role in &TV's family drama Doosri Maa will turn a year old on February 15. The celebrations have already begun a week ahead with his mother pampering him with a gift-a-day as a countdown to his birthday. An excited, Aayudh shares, "Birthdays are the best days of the year as everyone's attention is on you. I always love celebrating my birthday, calling my friend's home for birthday parties, or celebrating at my favourite restaurant. But this year my mother had a special plan in



store by showering me with gifts every day for the entire week till my actual birthday. Probably she must have seen my secret wish list somewhere and has been trying to tick off my favourite things that I wanted to buy from it (laughs). It is quite fun and exciting.

## CROSSWORD

563



### ACROSS

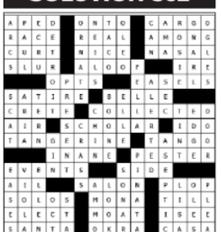
- Green sauce
- Actor \_\_\_\_\_ Dillon
- Deer
- Emotionally distant
- Gumbo ingredient
- Mister (Ger.)
- "Gone with the Wind" setting
- Cleveland's lake
- Nile viper
- Small lake
- Old hat

### DOWN

- Command
- Soup vessel
- Come into sight
- Locks
- Suspicious
- Put up with
- Lima's country
- Termite, e.g.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sampras of tennis
- Barcelona natives
- Prom
- IX

- Our planet's
- Skill
- December visitor
- Assumed name
- Nays
- Haul
- Weeps convulsively
- Monotonous
- Leg part
- Raised, as animals
- Crowlike bird
- Broker's advice
- Charged atoms
- Contract negotiator
- Pub orders
- Shredded
- Separate
- Provisional
- Engrave with acid
- Inferior grades
- Fishing need
- Country hotels
- Anchorman \_\_\_\_\_ Rather
- Orient
- Duties
- Unaccompanied
- Defame
- Painter's stand
- Future flowers
- Notorious emperor
- Not shut
- Cookie cooker
- Departed
- Baseball stat
- Savings plan (abbr.)
- Children's game

### SOLUTION 562



# India becomes No. 1 team in all formats

**Ashwin rises to 2nd spot in ICC Test bowlers rankings**

Dubai, Feb 15 (PTI):

India on Wednesday claimed the top spot in the latest ICC Test rankings to become the number one ranked side in all three formats of the game. India's big innings and 132-run win over Australia in the first Test catapulted the 'Men in Blue' to the top spot, dislodging the Pat Cummins-led team. Already the top T20 side, India had reached the number one spot in ODIs last month after beating New Zealand 3-0.

India (115) are four rating points ahead of Australia (111) in the Test rankings and a win in the second Test, starting Friday, will not only consolidate their top spot but also aid their push for entering second consecutive World Test Championship Final. India need to win the four-match Border Gavaskar Trophy 3-1 or 3-0 to make the final. Among individuals, India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin jumped to the second spot in the Men's Test Bowlers Rankings following his eight-wicket show against Australia in Nagpur.

Left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja, who made a successful comeback after almost five months due to a knee injury, has moved up to the



India's Ishan Kishan (L) and Shubman Gill take part in a practice session at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi on February 15.

16th position, courtesy his player-of-the-match winning effort in the Border Gavaskar Trophy series-opener. The spin duo haunted Australia in the first Test between by sharing 15 wickets between them as India won by an innings 132 runs inside three days.

Ashwin ensured India wrapped up a stunning

victory before tea on the third day, as the veteran off-spinner took 5/37 in the second innings to go with 3/42 earlier in the match.

The 36-year-old is 21 rating points behind Australia captain Pat Cummins and is contenting to return to the No.1 ranking for the first time since 2017.

While Ashwin stepped

up in what turned out to be the last session of the Test, Jadeja did the damage on the first day with 5/47, including the prized wickets of Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne.

Jadeja then took 2/34 in the second Australian innings. Australia were bowled out for just 91.

Among other Indian bowlers, pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who too has been out of action since September last due to a lower back stress fracture, is placed fifth.

In the Test batting chart, India captain Rohit Sharma has been rewarded for his match-defining ton in Nagpur. He gained two spots to be at number eight.

Rohit came to the crease after Australia were all out for 177 in their first innings, then made the wicket look all-but tame with an assured 120 that set the tone for the rest of the match.

Wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant, who will be out of action for an indefinite period following his horrific car accident, is the other Indian batter in top-10. He is placed seventh.

In contrast Australian openers David Warner and Usman Khawaja have paid the price for being dismissed cheaply twice.

Warner has fallen six places to 20th after his scores of 1 and 10, while Khawaja has dropped two spots to 10th after only making 1 and 5 in the first Test.

**Dominic Thiem wins 1st match of 2023 at Argentina Open**



Buenos Aires, Feb 15 (AP):

Dominic Thiem accomplished his main objective at the Argentina Open, getting his first win of the year after an abdominal injury and struggles with his form.

Thiem, the 2020 US Open champion whose career-best ranking is No. 3, entered the tournament at No. 99 and said he feared losing his safe spot at top ATP tournaments if he continued to fall in the rankings.

The 29-year-old Austrian beat seventh-seeded Alex Molcan 7-6 (4) 6-3 in the clay-court tournament on Tuesday. Thiem will face Juan Pablo Varillas in the second round. Thiem won at Buenos Aires in 2016 and 2018. More recently, he was eliminated in the first round of the Australian Open by Andrey Rublev.

This year's defending champion, Casper Ruud, is skipping the tournament. The top attraction is second-ranked Carlos Alcaraz, who will face Laslo Djere in the second round on Wednesday.

**Women's T20 World Cup**

# Richa, Harmanpreet seal comfortable win for India

Cape Town, Feb 15 (PTI):

Richa Ghosh seals the win with a four – a pull shot off Shamilla Connell helps India chase down the target of 119 in 18.1 Overs in their Women's T20 World Cup Group 2 match here on Wednesday. Ghosh remains unbeaten on 44 off 32. This is India's second consecutive win of the tournament. India lost two wickets in quick succession after a flying start courtesy Shafali Verma who scored four fours in the first over of the chase. They finished the Powerplay with 41/2 before losing Shafali on 28 to Karishma Ramharack. Captain Harmanpreet contributed 28 before the last batsman out as India reached 119 for 4 in 18.1 overs.

Earlier India off-spinner Deepti Sharma spun a web around the West Indies batters to restrict them to 118 for six.

The seasoned Deepti (3/15) picked three wickets to become the first Indian to get to 100 T20I wickets.

Asked to bowl, Pooja Vastrakar (1/21), opening with the new ball, gave India the early breakthrough, getting rid of the dangerous Hayley Matthew (2), striking on her very first ball.

The West Indies skipper was done in by the extra bounce as Richa Ghosh completed a regulation catch.

Pooja continued to put pressure on the West Indies, bowling a wicket



maiden. Shemaine Campbelle (30) hit West Indies' first boundary in the third over, slapping a Renuka Singh (1/22) delivery past square leg.

The introduction of spin led to West Indies collecting 12 runs, including two fours from Rajeshwari Gayakwad's over.

West Indies were 53 for 1 at the halfway mark. Campbelle and Stefanie Taylor (42) steadied the West Indies innings as they slowly but steadily stitched a 73-run partnership. The two shared nine boundaries between them.

However, twin strikes from the ever-reliable Deepti led to a mini batting collapse. The off-spinner first punished Campbelle for going for a reverse sweep with Smriti

Mandhana completing a lovely catch at short third.

Three balls later, she trapped Taylor leg before which was initially deemed not out by the umpire but India successfully reviewed the decision and got it changed.

Chinelle Henry (2) was the next to go as Mandhana and Ghosh effected her run out.

India were able to stem the flow of runs but their fielding was found wanting. Deepti dropped Chedean Nation on 3 in the 16th over.

Nation and Shabika Gajabi (15) took West Indies past the 100-run mark. Deepti reached the 100-wicket milestone in the last over when she bamboozled Aly Fletcher (0).

# Starc hopeful of playing second Test against India

New Delhi, Feb 15 (PTI):

An optimistic Mitchell Starc on Wednesday said he was hopeful of returning to the Australian playing XI for the second Test against India, starting here on Friday.

The pace ace missed the series opener, which Australia lost by an innings 132 runs inside three days, due to a tendon damage to his left middle finger. He arrived in India on Saturday. "There's a few boxes to tick but it's on track I'd like to be a little further down the road (in the recovery)," Starc told reporters. "But it's progressing not as fast as I would have liked, but it's as planned in terms of the medical stuff. I'll do everything I can to be fully available for selection. Then it's a discussion for the rest of the group involved," he



added. Australia have been laid low by injuries to key players including Starc and all-rounder Cameron Green, who is also recovering from a finger injury.

The duo trained on Wednesday, bowling on a centre-wicket strip, while Green also batted for over an hour.

A call on their selection will be taken on Thursday. "I probably had different expectations coming out of the splint than what is the reality but pushing it today, we'll see how it goes when I wake up tomorrow," Starc said. "It'll come down to how it reacts by the end of the day, how the medical staff see it, how the selectors and Pat and 'Ronnie' (coach Andrew McDonald) feel about it as well."

The left-arm pacer said his finger is still not at full strength. "Still lacking a bit of strength having been in a splint for six weeks. There's still a fair bit of restriction there, it's progressing each day," said Starc.

Bengaluru, Feb 15 (PTI):

Australian Ben Sawyer, currently in charge of the New Zealand women's team, has been appointed as head coach of Royal Challengers Bangalore ahead of next month's Women's Premier League (WPL).

The 45-year-old Sawyer is also the current coach of Birmingham Phoenix in The Hundred. He has also served as head coach of the Sydney Sixers in the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) besides being assistant coach of Australia women.

"He (Sawyer) has won three World Cups with Australia. A fast-bowling expert. He has also won the BBL titles with Sydney Sixers. He has made it to the finals of The Hundred as well," RCB's Director of Cricket operations Mike Hesson said in a video posted on the team's twitter handle.



"He has been involved in women's cricket for over 20 years, knows the women's game inside out, knows the players very well. He has been thoroughly involved in our preparations leading up to the auction as well."

Sawyer will be assisted by Maloran Rangarajan (assistant coach and head of scouting), VR Vanitha (scout and fielding coach) and RX Murali (batting coach).

The team manager and doctor for the tournament will be Dr Harini while

# RCB name Australian Ben Sawyer as head coach for WPL

Bengaluru: Indian tennis icon

Sania Mirza, who played her last Grand Slam at the Australian Open last month, was roped in by the Royal Challengers Bangalore team as its mentor in the upcoming Women's Premier League. "It is a pleasure for me to join the RCB women's team as a mentor," the winner of six Grand Slam and 43 WTA titles said in an RCB statement. "Indian women's cricket has seen a tectonic shift with the Women's Premier League, and I am really looking forward to being a part of this revolutionary pitch," Mirza said in a statement issued by the franchise. "RCB and its brand philosophy perfectly resonates with my vision and outlook as that's how I have approached my playing career and it's also how I see contributing to sports post my retirement."

"RCB has been a popular team and much followed team in the IPL over the years. I am immensely happy to see them building a team for the



Women's Premier League... "It will push the women's sports to new heights in the country, open new doors to women cricketers and help make sports the first career choice for young girls and young parents with a girl child," she added.

Navnita Gautam (head athletic therapist), Huzefa Talib (strength and conditioning coach), Sabyasachi Sahoo (head physio) and Soumyadeep Pyne (Head of Operations) are the other support staffs.

Earlier in the day, RCB named tennis legend Sania Mirza as the mentor of the side for the WPL to be held in Mumbai from March 4 to 26.

RCB has built a strong team, acquiring 18 players, including some big names of women's cricket -- Smriti Mandhana, Australia's Ellyse Perry and Megan Schutt, New Zealand captain Sophie Devine, England skipper Heather Knight and South African all-rounder Dane Van Niekerk along with Richa Ghosh, during the WPL auction on Monday in Mumbai.

RCB will open its campaign against Delhi Capitals at the Brabourne Stadium on March 5.

# Mbappe can't save slumping PSG against Bayern Munich

Paris, Feb 15 (AP):

Not even Kylian Mbappe's substitute appearance could end Paris Saint-Germain's slump, as it lost 1-0 at home to Bayern Munich in the first leg of their round-of-16 Champions League clash.

A third straight loss made it five defeats in 11 games this year for PSG coach Christophe Galtier's team. Bayern winger Kingsley Coman volleyed home inside the penalty area from Alphonso Davies' left-wing cross in the 53rd minute. The Paris-raised Coman, who PSG sold to Juventus when he was 18, held his hands up to show he wasn't celebrating scoring against his former club again.

"It's the city where I was born and raised so it was difficult to celebrate here," Coman said.



Bayern Munich's players celebrate after scoring team's first goal during first leg of the UEFA Champions League round of 16 football match between Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and FC Bayern Munich at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris.

"Given our performance we could have done more, but at the end it was a bit difficult so we're satisfied

with the win." When Bayern won the last of its six Champions League titles in 2020, it beat PSG 1-0

with Coman heading home the winner. The World Cup superstar Mbappe made an unex-

pectedly quick recovery from injury and had two would-be goals disallowed for offside after coming on in the second half.

"It was difficult, unpredictable. I wasn't supposed to play but I wanted to play and help my mates. We did everything, we worked night and day to get me some game time," Mbappe said. "I wanted to (start the game). But sometimes you have to be satisfied with what you can do, and that's all I could do." The return leg is on March 8.

PSG was eliminated by Real Madrid in the last 16 last season and may need Mbappe at this best to avoid another early exit.

"When we have our players ready and we can play our attacking game, they (Bayern) are not comfortable," Mbappe said. "We have to retain how we finished the game. We saw that we can cause them problems."

# Wareham, Lanning star as Australia cruise to 8-wicket win over Bangladesh

Gqeberha, Feb 15 (PTI):

Leg-spinner Georgia Wareham grabbed three wickets on her return after more than a year, while skipper Meg Lanning slammed an unbeaten 48 as defending champions Australia eased to an eight-wicket win over Bangladesh in the Women's T20 World Cup here.

This was Australia's second win in the tournament for as many matches as they climbed past Sri Lanka atop the Group 1 standings on net run rate.

Wareham, who last played an international match in October 2021, bagged 3/20 from her four overs and was well-supported by pacer Darcie Brown (2/23) as Bangladesh managed a paltry 107 for seven after opting to bat.

It was a struggle for Bangladesh from the onset with captain Nigar Sultana standing tall amid the



Australia's Meg Lanning watches the ball after playing a shot.

ruins, scoring 57 off 50 balls.

Bangladesh lost Shamima Sultana early with Beth Mooney taking a brilliant catch at extra cover from the bowling of Brown. The fast bowler's second wicket soon followed as she uprooted Murshida Khatun's leg stump with just 11 runs on the board. Then came in Bangladesh's leading run scorer and captain Sultana, who struck back-to-back fours to inject some momentum into the innings. Sultana's half-century came off 41 balls, including seven boundaries.

Wareham struck twice in the 17th over, bowling Shorna for 12 shortly after the teenager's first boundary, before repeating the trick to dismiss Rumana Ahmed. Sultana then departed, Lanning taking a routine catch from the bowling of Ashleigh Gardner, before Megan Schutt dismissed Nahida Akter at the death.

## I-T dept survey on BBC India continues

For second day

New Delhi, Feb 15 (PTI):

The Income Tax department survey operation against the BBC India continued for the second day with the sleuths understood to be making copies of electronic and paper-based financial data of the organisation, officials said Wednesday.

The tax department had launched the action on Tuesday at the BBC's Delhi and Mumbai offices along with at least two linked premises as part of an investigation into alleged tax evasion against the British broadcaster in India.

Sleuths knocked at the doors of the BBC around 11:30 AM on Tuesday and they are still present, sources aware of the development told PTI.

The tax officials are speaking to staffers of the BBC in the finance and some other departments even as other staffers and journalists were allowed to leave Tuesday night.

Some computer peripherals and mobile phones were cloned as part of the operation, officials had said. The action, which sparked a sharp political



ITBP and Police personnel deployed outside the BBC office after a protest against BBC by Hindu Sena activists amid the Income Tax Department's survey operation, conducted as part of a tax evasion investigation, at KG Marg in New Delhi, Wednesday.

debate with the ruling BJP accusing the BBC of "venomous reporting" and the opposition questioning the timing of the move, came weeks after the broadcaster aired a two-part documentary, "India: The Modi

Question", on the prime minister and the 2002 Gujarat riots.

The survey is being carried out to investigate issues related to international taxation and transfer pricing of BBC sub-

sidary companies, officials had said on Tuesday.

While there has been no official statement from the Income Tax department on the action, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has said it was coop-

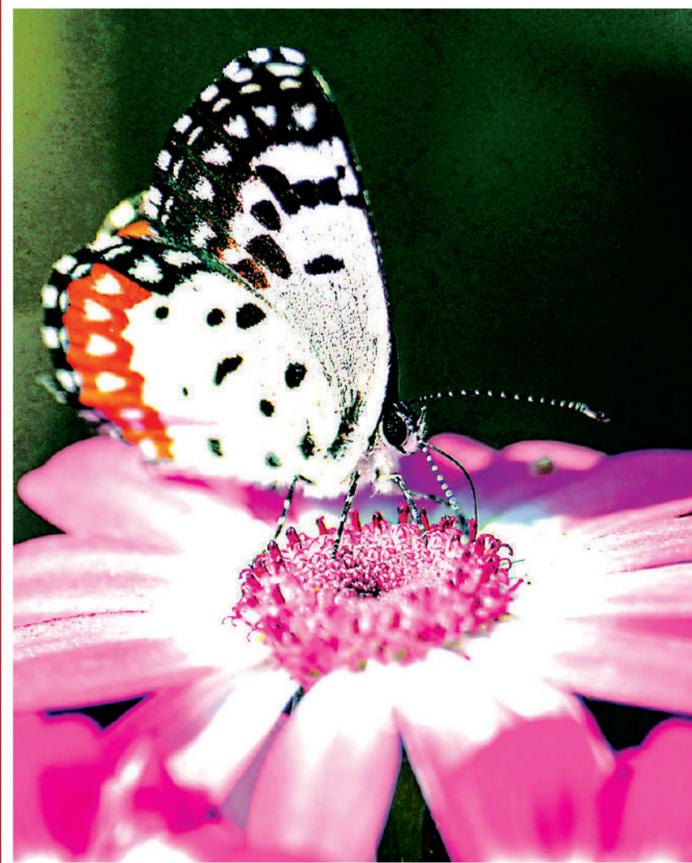
erating with the authorities.

"The Income Tax Authorities remain at the BBC offices in New Delhi and Mumbai. Many staff have now left the building, but some have been asked to remain and are continuing to cooperate with the ongoing enquiries," a BBC News Press Team said in an official Twitter post at 10:26 pm on Tuesday.

We are supporting our staff during this time and continue to hope to have this situation resolved as soon as possible. Our output and journalism continues as normal and we are committed to serving our audiences in India, the post added.

As part of a survey, the Income Tax department only covers the business premises of a company and does not raid residences and other locations of its promoters or directors. The Supreme Court last week dismissed a plea seeking the imposition of a complete ban on the BBC in India in the wake of the controversial documentary, terming the petition "entirely misconceived" and "absolutely meritless".

## NATURE'S BEAUTY



A butterfly visits a common daisy at a garden, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

### MATTER OF CONCERN

## In Raj, groundwater 'over-exploited' in 219 blocks

Jaipur, Feb 15 (PTI):

About 219 of Rajasthan's 302 blocks, including seven urban areas, fall under the 'over-exploited' category in terms of groundwater usage, the Assembly was informed on Wednesday.

In reply to a question by BJP member and Deputy Leader of Opposition Rajendra Rathore, the government said the latest groundwater analysis report from March 2022 showed that 219 blocks were 'over-exploited'.

Among the others, 22 blocks are 'critical', 20 are

'semi-critical' and 38 are in the 'safe' category, it said.

Three blocks were not included in the analysis due to saline groundwater. The seven urban areas included are Ajmer, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Kota, Udaipur and Bikaner.

Sixteen blocks in Jaipur are over-exploited — the highest in the state — followed by Jodhpur (15), Nagaur (14) and Barmer (14). Among the blocks in the 'safe' category, nine are in the Sriganganagar district, eight in Hanumangarh and six each in Hanumangarh and Nagaur.

The state government said a draft bill has been prepared in compliance with the formation of Ground Water Conservation and Management Authority for the proper use of groundwater and the convenience of industrial units in the state. The formation of the authority was announced in the state budget.

The draft bill, which incorporates suggestions from the Law Department, has been sent to the Finance Department for approval, the government said.

## 'Get into writing only if your soul has something to say'

New Delhi, Feb 15 (PTI):

It wasn't until his second book, "The Secret of Nagas", was published and became an instant hit among readers in 2011 that author Amish Tripathi let go of his full-time job as a banker.

"I resigned when my royalty cheque was bigger than my monthly salary," Amish, who uses only one name in his books, told PTI. The "pragmatic and practical approach" of having a job to take care of the bills is the most important advice Amish has for new and upcoming writers.

"Writing is a high risk, high return game so don't get into writing if your purpose is money or fame.

There are other much easier ways, become a banker, or join IT. Get into writing only if you feel your soul has something to say," said the author of the best-selling Shiva Trilogy.

The 48-year-old writer, who is director of the Nehru Centre in London, added that there was no dishonour in having a job. However, it means working double time if one wants to write.

"There is no escaping hard work. But once your book is ready, then you can become a practical, pragmatic guy because nothing sells by itself. You have to do proper marketing, you have to promote it properly," he said during a recent visit to India. Amish, who is also minister (Culture



Amish Tripathi

and Education) at the High Commission of India in the UK, has written eight mythological and historical fiction books, including the Shiva Trilogy and

the Ram Chandra series of four books retelling the Hindu epic of Ramayan. He has also authored two non-fiction books.

Amish was one of the first Indian authors in English to set the ball rolling in the genre of mythological fiction with "The Immortals of Meluha" in 2010. The section has since seen the rise of several titles based on mythological characters by young English writers.

Other bestselling books in the mythological fiction genre include Ashwin Sanghi's "The Krishna Key", Anand Neelakantan's "Asura: Tale of the Vanquished" and "Ajaya: Epic of the Kaurava Clan", Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's

"The Palace of Illusions" and "The Liberation of Sita" by P Lalita Kumari, who writes under the pen name Volga.

Talking about picking up the then-neglected genre of fiction writing, Amish said the demand had always been there. But there was lack of supply.

Indian readers and writers have been "obsessed" with the Ramayan, the Mahabharat and the Puranas, he said, giving the examples of Hindi writer Narendra Kohli's depiction of the Mahabharat in his magnum opus "Mahasamar" (1988) and Marathi author Shivaji Sawant's retelling of the epic battle from the perspective of Karna in "Mrityunjaya" (1967).

## DEMOLITION DRIVE



Bulldozers being used to demolish illegal structures at the Tauba Colony of Zakir Nagar, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

## Delhi's Hindu College completes 124 years

Unveils new logo, anthem, alumni website

New Delhi, Feb 15 (PTI): From a humble beginning in 1899 at the historic Kinari Bazar to becoming one of the most sought-after colleges in the country, Delhi's Hindu College has lived up to its motto — "steered by the past, moulding the future".

The college, which owes its formation to the country's freedom movement, completed 124 years on Wednesday.

At its 124th Founder's Day, the college under the University of Delhi launched a new logo, "kul-geet" (college anthem) and



an alumni website.

The college also announced plans for the upcoming year. The event was attended by India's G-20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant as the chief guest.

The new college logo features the tagline of "steered by the past, moulding the future". It

combines a sketch of the original college structure with some new campus infrastructure, reflecting the college's rich history and its commitment to innovation and progress.

The logo will be prominently displayed on all letterheads, websites and office stationery from

Wednesday. On the occasion, a college anthem was released. It has been composed by a former faculty member and alumnus Dr. Harish Naval.

The song is a heartfelt tribute to the college and its legacy and will be played at future college events.

In addition, there were previews of two upcoming publications

"Viraasat", a coffee table book tracing the history of Hindu College, and "Sansmarono Mein Hindu", an anthology of historical anecdotes and photos about the college.

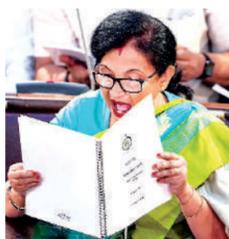
These publications will be a valuable resource for anyone interested in the college's rich legacy.

## TMC govt presents Rs 3.39-lakh cr budget

Sops for farmers, tea gardens, youth

Kolkata, Feb 15 (PTI):

Ahead of panchayat elections, the Mamata Banerjee-led West Bengal government on Wednesday presented a Rs 3.39-lakh crore budget for 2023-24, focusing on farmers, an ailing tea sector, the state's potential as a logistics hub and budding entrepreneurs. Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya said the state GDP is projected to grow at 8.4 per cent and the industry at 7.8 per cent in the ongoing 2022-23 fiscal, both higher than the country's expected growth rates. "I propose to provide a 3,39,162 crore budget for financial year 2023-24," Bhattacharya said, while placing the financial statement in the assembly. She said an upcoming West Bengal Logistics



West Bengal Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya presents the State Budget 2023-24 in the Assembly in Kolkata, Wednesday.

Policy 2023 will leverage the state's strategic position at the cross-roads of South Asia and Asean nations to create a global logistics hub. "It will streamline the sector and help Bengal to

secure a strategic position in the global supply chain," Bhattacharya said.

The development of an Industrial and Economic Corridor with three branches — Dankuni-Haldia, Dankuni-Raghunathpur and Dankuni-Kalyani — "will provide better connectivity and create employment opportunity for about one lakh people," she added. The minister also said a Rs 350-crore fund will be set up to extend credit of up to Rs 5 lakh each to 2 lakh young entrepreneurs. Reacting to the budget, Vivek Jalan, Partner, Tax Connect Advisory, said amidst increase in tax collections due to increased GST compliance and collections in Bengal, the focus has been on employment and industry.

## Mrs world 2022 Sargam Koushal not averse to joining Bollywood

Jammu, Feb 15 (PTI):

Jammu-born Sargam Koushal, who won the Mrs World crown to India in December last year, says she would not mind joining Bollywood but for now she wants to focus on educating youth against the drug menace.

The Mumbai-based model, 32, became the first Indian to win the crown after Aditi Govitrikar in 2001. "I will feel good if an opportunity comes my way from Bollywood, known for its popularity and fame. I do not have any problem with that but right now there are more important things to do," Koushal told reporters



Mrs. World 2022 Sargam Koushal addresses a press conference in Jammu, Wednesday.

here. "We are planning a campaign in May or June for the youth to motivate them to stay away from drugs," she added.

On the first visit to her birthplace after winning the beauty pageant in Las Vegas on December 17 last year, Koushal said she is totally focused on the awareness campaign to empower women and young girls.

"From Mrs India to Mrs world, I do not see any change in between but surely the responsibility has gone up manifold," she said.

Koushal thanked her parents for their support and said she would like other parents, husbands and others to support

women in achieving their dreams. "I am modelling and will continue to do so. I started modelling even though I like teaching the most."

**कैंसर सर्जरी**  
पश्चात अंगों का पुनःनिर्माण  
(जबड़ा, स्तन व अन्य)

ड. च. शास्त्रन से मान्यता प्राप्त

**कालड़ा बर्न एंव**

प्लास्टिक कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी सेंटर  
आर. के. सी. के सामने, चौथे कालोनी एवं पंचवटी  
नाका, धर्मपुरी रोड, कलकत्ता नॉर्थ, रायपुर  
कॉल : 98271 43060/8871003060

Apy 9827144371



### BRIEF



A foreign tourist during a photo shoot at the Taj Mahal in Agra, Wednesday.

### CBSE exams

**New Delhi:** The CBSE board exams for classes 10 and 12 began on Wednesday with over 38 lakh students set to appear for the examinations at 7,250 centres.

### Lifer

**Baghpat:** local court on Wednesday sentenced a man to life in prison after finding him guilty of raping and killing a five-year-old girl. The girl was found murdered in July 2021. She had been abducted and raped in the district's Badaut Kotwali area, Superintendent of Police Neeraj Jadaun said.

### ED action

**New Delhi:** The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday said it has frozen Rs 29.5 crore kept in bank and demat accounts after it carried out raids in multiple cities in a money laundering case linked to cheating of investors through a mobile phone-based application.

**Weather**  
High 33 Low 14

**MARKET**  
NIFTY 18,015.85  
SENSEX 61,275.09

**BULLION**  
GOLD 56,240  
SILVER 65,477

### CABINET DECISION

## 7 new battalions with 9,400 personnel to guard LAC

**New Delhi, Feb 15 (PTI):**

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday sanctioned seven new battalions and an operational border base with a fresh strength of 9,400 personnel for the India-China LAC guarding force Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), officials said. The proposal was cleared after the meeting of the cabinet that was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to the government sanction, the fresh manpower will be utilised for manning 47 new border posts and a dozen 'staging camps' or troops bases along this frontier. The armies of India and China are engaged in a standoff in Ladakh since 2020.

### Approves plan to set up 2 lakh PACS, dairy, fishery cooperatives

Seeking to strengthen the cooperative movement in the country, the union Cabinet on Wednesday approved setting up of 2 lakh Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) and dairy-fishery cooperatives in uncovered villages and panchayats over the next five years. At present, there are around 63,000 functional PACS in the country. The Cabinet approved steps to strengthen the cooperative movement in the country and deepen its reach up to the grassroots. The plan is to establish PACS in each uncovered panchayat, viable dairy cooperatives in each uncovered panchayat/village and viable fishery cooperatives in each coastal panchayat/village as well as panchayat/village having large water bodies.

### Rs 4,800 cr funds for development of VVP

The Union cabinet on Wednesday approved a Rs 4,800 crore allocation for the 'Vibrant Villages Programme' (VVP), a centrally-sponsored scheme, to ensure the comprehensive development of villages along the northern border areas. The financial allocation for 2022-23 to 2025-26 was approved at a meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and will include Rs 2,500 crore for the development of roads infrastructure, Union I&B Minister Anurag Thakur told reporters.

The about 90,000 personnel strong ITBP was raised in the aftermath of the 1962 Chinese aggression and it is tasked to guard the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC) on India's eastern flank.

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### 33 Naxalites surrender

**Sukma, Feb 15:**

Thirty three Naxalites, including three carrying a reward of Rs 1 lakh each on their heads, have surrendered in Sukma district, police said on Wednesday.

The Naxalites turned themselves in before police during a 'Jan Darshan' programme organised on Tuesday at Dabbamarka camp in the district, Sukma Superintendent of Police Sunil Sharma said.

Three of them - Dandakaranya Adivasi Kisan Majdoor Sangthan president Dirdo Muda, Chetna Natya Mandli (cultural outfit of Naxals) president Hidma and militia commander Wajam Hidma - were carrying a reward of Rs 1 lakh each on their heads, while the others were lower rank cadres, he said.

### CELEBRATORY FIRING AT WEDDING

## Police seize weapons from panchayat official, son

**Janjgir-Champa, Feb 15:**

Police have seized the licensed weapons of a panchayat office-bearer and his son in Janjgir-Champa district after a video surfaced of celebratory firing at the latter's marriage function, an official said.

The incident took place in Rasota village under Pamgarh police station limits on February 12.

After a video of the celebratory firing during the marriage function went viral on social media platforms, Pamgarh station house officer (SHO) was directed to conduct a probe into it and take action. Additional Superintendent of Police Anil Soni said.

Based on the statements of eyewitnesses and findings surfaced during investigation, it came to light that terms and condition of the weapon licence were violated by the license holders, he said.

As a preventive measure, the police subsequently seized the licensed pistols of district panchayat vice president Raghendra Pratap Singh and his son Shantanu Singh along with around 50 bullets and two empty shells, the official said.

Based on the probe into the matter, a report was forwarded to the district collector with a recommendation for suspension of the weapon licenses and their confiscation, the police said.

## SC upholds conviction in murder case

### Quality, not quantity, of witnesses matters

**New Delhi, Feb 15 (PTI):**

It is not the quantity but the quality of witnesses which matters, the Supreme Court said on Wednesday while upholding the conviction and life term awarded to three convicts for murdering four members of a family in Uttar Pradesh in 2007.

The apex court noted two daughters of one of the deceased had seen the assailants killing their family members and one of them, who was examined as a prosecution witness in the case and was injured during the incident, was a "fully reliable witness".

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Vikram Nath delivered its verdict on a

batch of appeals, including those filed by the four convicts, challenging the February 2012 judgement of the Allahabad High Court which had affirmed their conviction in the case. The apex court noted that one of the convicts, Ajai, has since died.

While affirming their conviction, the high court had commuted to life term the death sentence awarded to them by the trial court.

In its verdict, the top court said that non-examination of one of the daughters and the father of one of the deceased as a witness has no material bearing and it is the discretion of prosecution to lead as much evidence as is necessary for proving the charge. "It is not the quantity of the witnesses but the quality of witnesses

which matters," the bench said in its judgement.

It said the daughter, who was examined as a witness in the case, was an injured witness having received grievous and life-threatening injuries in the incident.

Dealing with arguments advanced on behalf of one of the convicts that there were several discrepancies and inconsistencies in the evidence, the bench said, "We need not go into details as the same are minor and do not have any impact on the findings recorded by the courts below."

It also dealt with the appeal filed by the state of Uttar Pradesh for enhancement of sentence.

The apex court said the high court had given "sound and cogent reasons" for commuting the death sentence into life term.

### CONVICTION IN 15-YR OLD CASE

## Azam Khan son disqualified from assembly for 2nd time

**Lucknow, Feb 15 (PTI):**

The People Act lists of offences which can lead to disqualification of legislators and states that anyone sentenced to imprisonment of two years or more shall be disqualified "from the date of such conviction" and remain disqualified for another six years after serving time in jail.

The People Act lists of offences which can lead to disqualification of legislators and states that anyone sentenced to imprisonment of two years or more shall be disqualified "from the date of such conviction" and remain disqualified for another six years after serving time in jail.



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### OFFICIAL DATA

## Lowest occupancy in Bilaspur-Nagpur Vande Bharat Express

**New Delhi, Feb 15 (PTI):**

The Bilaspur-Nagpur Vande Bharat Express had the lowest occupancy among the eight such trains in the country till January this fiscal while the Mumbai-Gandhinagar route recorded the highest, official data showed.

The Bilaspur-Nagpur Vande Bharat Express had a 55-per cent occupancy rate while the train running between Mumbai and Gandhinagar recorded 126 per cent, the data showed. The low occupancy of three Vande Bharat trains marred the perfect record of the five other indigenous trains, capable of running at 180 kilometres per hour.

The occupancy rates of two more Vande Bharat trains launched on February 10 to take the total number of these trains to 10 are not part of the data.

Vande Bharat trains between Bilaspur and Nagpur, New Delhi and Amb Andaura (Himachal Pradesh) and Chennai Central (MAS) and Mysore Junction recorded an average occupancy of 55 per cent, 70 per cent and 75 per cent, respectively, during the current financial year, lower than the 100 per cent average registered on the five other routes.

The Vande Bharat train between Mumbai and Gandhinagar was the most popular in both directions. The Mumbai-Gandhinagar route had 126.24 per cent occupancy while the Gandhinagar-Mumbai route had 127.74 per cent during the period under review.

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# BJP stages gherao at MLA's residence

**Bhilai, Feb 15:**

On Wednesday, a large number of BJP party workers led by BJP District President Jitendra Verma staged gherao at the residence of MLA Arun Vora. They raised the issues including the ban on the PM housing scheme and lease distribution, drinking water supply, law and order, low level health facilities, bad roads, poor sanitation, etc.

BJP workers, women, youth and people waiting for PM Awas gathered at Satrupa Sheela Mandir and offered aarti to the goddess.

Thereafter they marched to the residence of Congress MLA Arun Vora in Padmanabhpur. Blaming the Congress for snatching the rights of the poor, they raised slogans and gheraoed the MLA's residence. Police team had



barricaded the road to prevent the demonstrators from reaching Vora's residence. But the BJP workers broke the barricade and managed to reach the residence of Arun Vora. Later, the MLA came out to interact with the demonstrators and alleged that the fund for PM Awas is not being released by the central government. In his reply, District BJP President Jitendra

Verma showed a letter written by Panchayat and Health Minister TS Singh Deo to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on July 16, 2022, in which TS Singh Deo had expressed displeasure for returning crores of rupees of this scheme. On this, MLA Arun Vora replied that he too wants proper implementation of the scheme. District General Secretary Lalit Chandrakar and

Surendra Kaushik said that inaction and false accusations have now become the identity of Congress leaders. Women from Ward No 4, 5, 20, 21, 22 broke pots in front of Vora's house and expressed their anger over non-availability of drinking water.

Leader of the Opposition Ajay Verma, Dinesh Dewangan, Dr Devnarayan Tandi, Doman Lal Korsewada, Prityal Belchandan, Ajay Tiwari, Devendra Singh Chandel, Vinayak Natu, KS Chauhan, Alka Bagmar, Ashish Nimje, Amita Banjare, Vinod Arora, Nilesh Agarwal, Manoj Soni, Madan Wadhwa, Raja Mahobia, Rakesh Duggad, Rajneesh Srivastava, Narayan Dutt Tiwari, Gajendra Yadav, Chandrashekhar Chandrakar, Dr Sunil Sahu and others were present.

# BSP supports Abujmarh Malkhamb team in 5th All India Khelo India Youth Games 2022

**Bhilai, Feb 15:**

Ten players of Abujmarh, representing Narayanpur Abujmarh Malkhamb Academy from Chhattisgarh under the CSR ambit of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant won bronze medal in the 5th All India Khelo India Youth Games 2022. Women and Men players of Chhattisgarh created history by winning the title of team champion with their best game in the Khelo India Youth Games 2022 held at Ujjain on February 07, 2023.

Bhilai Steel Plant (SAIL) provided special financial assistance and appropriate sports equipment and facilities for the Malkhamb Academy, making necessary equipment available at the right time. SAIL-BSP thereby has made a special contribution in encouraging the



Mallakhamb team of Chhattisgarh from Rowhat area.

A rule was made in the Youth Games 2022 to give medals by adding the combined marks of all women and men

players, due to which the first, second and third places were taken out, in which Chhattisgarh Malkhamb team got the third place and captured the bronze medal.

The names of the bronze medallist boys and girls category players include Manu Dhruv, Monu Netam, Shyamal Potai, Rakesh Varda, Santosh Sori and Ravindra Kumar in the Boys category; Sarita Poyam, Durgeshwari Kumeti, Santay Potai, Jayanti Kachalam, Himanshi Usendi and Shiksha Dinkar represented the Girls team. Premchand Shukla, General Manager of Chhattisgarh Malkhamb team Pushkar Dinkar, Manager, Bisan Kaser Coach, Manoj Prasad and Poonam Prasad and Dr Rajkumar Sharma, Technical Officer kept the team morale high by congratulating the team in Ujjain. Patron of Chhattisgarh Malkhamb Sangh and former BDA President Anil Tah and Vice President Raja Sarkar, Treasurer Anil Singh have conveyed their best wishes from Bilaspur.

# 'Karamveer' leadership programme conducted at HRDC



**Bhilai, Feb 15:** The third edition of a special 2-day Leadership Development Program for Non-Executives titled 'KarmVeer' was successfully conducted by SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's HRD Department from February 13-14, 2023 at HRDC, Bhilai. The target population for this special intervention was a cross-section of National awardees (Shram/Vishwakarma/Quality circle) of BSP. 29 persons from different departments of the Plant partici-

pated in the programme. Sanjay Dhar, CGM (HRD&BE) threw light on the objective of the programme. Amulya Priyadarshi, GM (HRD) was the Faculty/Trainer during the programme. It consisted of many innovative group tasks and inputs on individual Leadership development. On the concluding day, Chief Guest Nisha Soni, CGM (Personnel) took feedback from the participants and urged participants to share learnings from this workshop.

# CII Chhattisgarh conducts session at SRGI

**Bhilai, Feb 15:**

Confederation of Indian Industry, Chhattisgarh conducted a session on Employability Challenges of Engineering Graduates and Industry Expectations on 13th February 2023 at Sanjay Rungta Group of Institutions, Bhilai. The session was organized with a sole objective of enlightening and reminding the students about the expectations of industry from the graduates.

Umesh Chitlangia, Chairman, CII Chhattisgarh State Council & MD Polybond Insulation Pvt Ltd, Dr Ajit Varwandkar, Convenor, CII Education & Skill Panel & Director FS Management (I) Pvt Ltd, Dilip Mohanty, President (HR), Jayaswal Neco



Industries Ltd, Sanjay Rungta, Chairman SRGI & President, Association of Private Professional Institutions of Chhattisgarh (APPIC), Sidharth Agarwal, Vice Chairman, CII Chhattisgarh State Council & Director Godawari Power & Ispat Ltd and Satish Pandey, State Head, CII were present. The session was initiated by Umesh Chitlangia, who urged the students to equip themselves with the latest skills and certifica-

tions in their respective domains required by the industry. Dr Ajit Varwandkar explained a four point formula of Meritocracy, Presence of Mind, Communication and Social Networking and Curiosity to learn-for success in endeavours. Dilip Mohanty recommended the need to work on industry institute interface to enhance employability skills. Sanjay Rungta explained the importance of good communication, academic and professional

skills and asked the students to put in sincere and committed efforts in this direction. Sidharth Agarwal emphasized on the importance of internships, live projects along with academic pursuits.

The students had a great learning experience as they were able to have interaction and a session of Q&A with the dignitaries. Sidharth Agarwal proposed the formal vote of thanks.

Dr Saket Rungta, Director SRGI, Dr T Ramarao, Director Academics, Mohd Sajid Ansari, Assistant Director, Abhishek Soni, GM T&P, Dr Anurag Sharma, Principal RSR RCET, Deans and Heads of various departments and faculty members were also present.

# SAIL declares Q3 results for financial year 2022-23, posts net profit of Rs 463.54 Crore

Performance of Q3 FY 23 (Standalone) at a glance:

	Unit	Q3 FY 23	Q3 FY 22
Crude Steel Production	Million Tonne	4.708	4.531
Sales Volume	Million Tonne	4.151	3.840
Revenue from Operations	Rs. Crore	25041.88	25245.92
Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation (EBITDA)	Rs. Crore	2197.53	3659.41
Profit Before Tax (PBT)	Rs. Crore	634.69	1930.98
Profit After Tax (PAT)	Rs. Crore	463.54	1443.10

**Bhilai, Feb 15:**

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) posted its financial performance for the third quarter of the current financial year 2022-23 (Q3 FY 23). The company has achieved the best ever quarterly crude steel production during Q3FY23. The company has been steadily increasing the crude steel production in the recent months. The sales volume in Q3FY23

also saw an increase over the corresponding period over last year. The challenging global situation and economic scenario all over the world had its impacts on the steel prices affecting the margins of the steelmakers. However, with the government's focus on enhancing capital expenditure in infrastructure sector, the domestic steel consumption is expected to witness an increase in the short to medium term.

# Blessing Ceremony organised at MBVB

**Bhilai, Feb 15:**

Blessing Ceremony for class XII, a batch of 2022-23 was organised at Mar Baselios Vidhya Bhawan, Kailash Nagar recently. Teachers and students of class XII assembled in the auditorium to celebrate an occasion of an end and of a beginning.

The programme began with the welcome of guests and the lighting of the lamp and with the soulful rendition of the Prayer Song sung by the teachers. This was followed by the presentation of a slideshow of a medley of magical memories that marked their years spent in school, giving the students and their teachers a fascinating flashback of their journey. Chief Guest and Motivational speaker Dr Kishor Dutta



addressed the students mentioning that this is the time to get exposure to the 'real world' and they have been trained so well by the school that they are now ready to face the challenges of the world. He added that as MBVBians there will be very high expectations from them so their conduct should be exemplary. He motivated the students to be prepared for the challenges that life throws

at them and apply the learning that they received in their school life. He advised the students to always follow the right path. Students need to make the right decisions for their future after giving careful thought as it will affect the direction of their life, he added. He believed each one of the students is working to the best of his capability and making full use of the time that is

remaining before the board exams. In his welcome address Principal of the school BVK Reddy blessed the students and wished that each one of them comes out with flying colours and they make themselves, their parents, teachers, and the school proud. He boosted the morale of the students with motivational words. Along with the blessings, students were presented mementos by the Chief Guest Rev Fr Aju K Varghese, Rev Fr PS Varghese and the Principal.

In his brief address Rev Fr PS Varghese Executive Vice President Christian college of engineering and technology blessed the students and led the gathering in the candle prayer. He exhorted the students to pursue higher education in engineering field in CCET College & graduation courses in Saint Thomas college Kailashnagar situated in the same campus.

This was followed by a photo session of all class XII students with their teachers and the Principal. Students enjoyed lunch along with their teachers and principal. Program was compered by Deepa Justin and vote of thanks was proposed by Suma Das.

# Guest Lecture organised on 'Importance & Implementation of IPR in Real World'

**Bhilai, Feb 15:**

The PG Department of Economics St Thomas College in collaboration with Department of Economics Govt VYTPG Autonomous College Durg organised online Guest Lecture on "Importance & Implementation of IPR in the Real World". The Guest speaker of the session was Advocate Siddharth Tiwari practitioner at High Court of Chhattisgarh and Supreme Court of India. On this occasion Administrator Dr Joshi Varghese and Principal Dr MG Roymon, St Thomas College and Dr RN Singh Principal, HoD of Economics Department Dr Shikha Agrawal and other faculties of Govt VYTPG Autonomous College were also present. At the outset Dr Mariam Jacob, HOD, PG



Department of Economics, welcomed the guests and participants of the session. The Guest Speaker Advocate Siddharth Tiwari began the session by detailed discussion on the various types of Intellectual Property Rights, Patent Act, Innovation, exclusive rights of owner which develops under TRIPS and WTO agreement. He also spoke on the importance of Trade Mark, Copy Rights and

Geographical Indications. The session was very interactive and queries of the students and faculty were addressed by the resource person. Dr Aparna Ghosh Faculty of Economics coordinated the programme, Dr Kiran Bala Das and Bhavana C Dewangan were also present in the programme and vote of thanks proposed by Dhriti Vashnav student of BA 1st year.

# Folk art and culture are heritage of Chhattisgarh state: Dr Shivkumar Dahariya

**Bhilai, Feb 15:** Folk art and culture are the heritage of the state of Chhattisgarh. Promotion of this heritage is being encouraged through Ganiyari Lok Kala Mahotsava. For this event, the Mayor of Bhilai-Charoda Municipal Corporation and his team deserve appreciation. A full facilitated community hall will be built at Ganiyari at a cost of Rs One crore for the accommodation of folk artistes coming from different states during this festival, said Urban Administration and Development Minister Dr Shivkumar Dahariya while addressing the closing ceremony of Ganiyari Lok Kala Mahotsava. Under the aegis of Guru Ghasidas Kala Evam Sahitya Vikas Samiti, Ganiyari, a two-day

Ganiyari Lok Kala Mahotsava was organized on February 11 and 12. It was inaugurated by Chaitanya Baghel, son of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. In the closing ceremony on February 12, the dignitaries were honored by Urban Administration Minister Dr Shivkumar Dahariya.

Dr Dahariya said that the state of Chhattisgarh has been identified with folk art and culture. This identity is being expanded through the Ganiyari Lok Kala Mahotsava. Today, Ganiyari Lok Kala Mahotsava has established its identity at national level. The efforts of Mayor Nirmal Kosre and his team have been commendable. Announcing the construction of a grand and well-equipped community building at Ganiyari at a cost of Rs One crore on the

demand of the committee, the Minister instructed the Corporation Commissioner Ajay Kumar Tripathi to initiate proceedings in this regard.

Chairman of the Organizing Committee and Mayor of Municipal Corporation Bhilai Charoda Nirmal Kosre said that Ganiyari Lok Kala Mahotsava is being organized for the last 13 years. This year, apart from Chhattisgarh, folk art troupes from nine different states of the country have arrived to participate in the festival. The artists from Assam, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh staged the presentation of folk art. Expressing gratitude to the Urban Administration Minister Dr Shivkumar Dahariya



for gifting the community building, Nirmal Kosre said that after the construction of this building, the problem of providing accommodation to the artists

coming from other states would be solved. On the first day of the two-day Ganiyari Lok Kala Mahotsava, Satnam Ke Sandesh Chowka Party

from Durg district, Shri Ramdas Manas Parivar from Bandaura from Kabirdham, Ramdhuni Jai Maa Sharda Ramdhuni from Bhainsbod of Balod district, Satyam Panthi Dal from Dhusera in Raipur, Lorik Chanda Natya Kala Manch from Deurgaon Bemetara, Nacha Gammat Sheet Basant Naach Party from Khairagarh; Bihu from Assam, Gudasi dance from Telangana, Badhaai dance from Madhya Pradesh, Lavani from Maharashtra Mumbai, Dhol dance from Karnataka, Goti Puwa dance from Orissa, Peacock dance from Uttar Pradesh Mathura, Gaur Madhya from Narayanpur, gave their presentations. In the evening, Lok Sangeet Dharohar Mahadev Hirwar gave a presentation. On the second day,

Pandwani Shri Krishna Kinkar Mandali from Pahanda Durg, Raut Nach Jai Radha Krishna Mandali Khajiri from Rajnandgaon, Jas Jhanki Dhan from Dongri Bilaspur, Rekha Devar and Sathu Devar Karma dance; Amrita Ward - Bharthari; Satsang Balika Panthi Party Nikum; Comedy Event Kachra-Bodra by Urvashi Sahu and Upasana Vaishnav; Sambalpuri Dance from Orissa; Dholu Kunitha Dance from Karnataka; Braj Holi from Uttar Pradesh; Tribal Dance from Andhra Pradesh; Gudum Baja from Madhya Pradesh; Telangana Gudasi Tribal dance, Bihu from Assam, Lavani from Maharashtra, Tribal Gedi dance from Chhattisgarh and night performance by Sanjay Surila Night Sarguja were presented. The closing cer-

emony was presided over by Chhattisgarh Scheduled Castes Commission Chairman KP Khande. Among the very special guests, Padmashri Dr RS Barle, Amrita Barle, Mayor Nirmal Kosre and members of the Mayor's Council and councilors were present. Padmashri Dr RS Barle, Amrita Barle, folk singer Sunil Soni, Priyamvada Ramteke, SR Bandhe, Geeta Banjare, Leeladhar Singh Verma, Devendra Chhatija and Sunil Maurya were honoured. Guru Ghasidas Kala evam Sahitya Vikas Samiti, Guru Vandana Mahila Self Help Group, Nayi Disha Mahila Self Help Group, Radhe-Radhe Mahila Self Help Group, Jai Budha Dev Mahila Group and villagers made special cooperation in making the program successful.

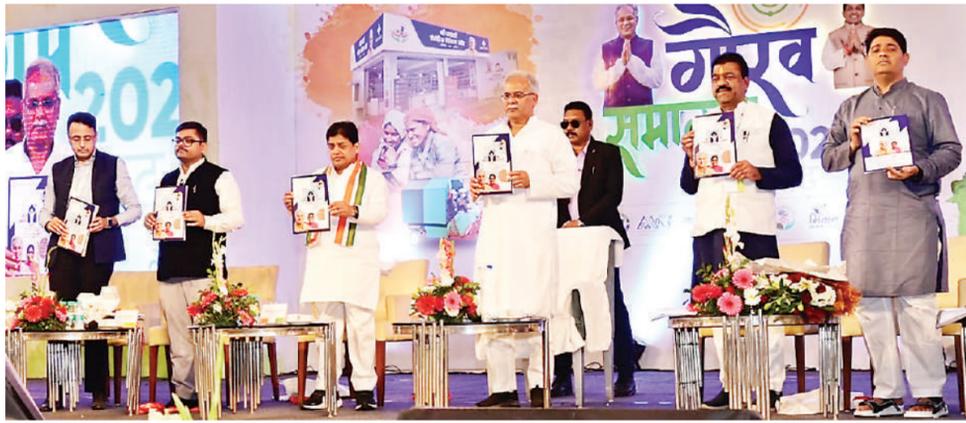
# CM declares Rs 1000 cr for all urban bodies in state

**In the 'Gaurav Samagam-2023' prog of UADD**

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 15: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel gave gift of development worth Rs 1000 crore to citizens of the state. Taking part in the 'Gaurav Samagam-2023' organised by the Urban Administration and Development Department (UADD), CM said that his government is providing better facilities to citizens sitting at home. Along with this the urban bodies have improved upon the services to general citizen. Baghel claimed that his government has improved the system of making ration card and now everybody can get ration card made easily. Earlier taking building permission was difficult task, but now it has been simplified. Through Mukhyamantri Mitan Yojana, people are no availing 15 services sitting at home, he added.

CM making big declarations on the occasion said that in order to provide employment to youths,



software and hardware based BPOs will be opened in Raipur and Bhilai. For better education to students, a world-class Central Library cum reading zone will be established in Bhilai at the cost of Rs 20 crore. CM on this occasion made a declaration that in line with RIPA, Urban Cottages and Service Industries Parks will be opened in all the municipal corporations and Nagar Palikas. To increase the health services to citizens, Smart Health Kiosks will be formed in all the Municipal Corporations and in this

**Urban bodies presented with awards: In the Gaurav Samagam programme, the urban bodies were presented with awards and prizes for better implementation of department's schemes and projects:**

1. Nagar Nigam Birgaon declared 'Most active Body' for 'Mukhyamantri Mitan Yojana'.
2. Nagar Nigam Bhilai-Charouda- Awarded for intensive coverage.
3. Nagar Nigam Ambikapur- Awarded for better services of urban bodies
4. For best performance in Mukhyamantri Slum Swasthya Yojana- Nagar Nigam, Dhamtari, Nagar Palika Parishad (NPP) Dalli-Rajhara; Nagar Panchayat Aamadi.
5. For better performance in Shri Dhanwantari Generic Medical Stores Schemes- Nagar Palika Nigam Raigarh; Nagar Palika Parishad Gariyaband; and Nagar Panchayat Gurur were awarded.
6. For maximum recovery- RMC Raipur; Nagar Palika Parishad Deepaka; Nagar Panchayat Kharora were awarded.

facilities of free of cost BP, Sugar; blood test will be available. CM making declaration of installing CCTVs, modern toilets and developmental works in the market areas of cities, said that as per demand of public representatives, the rate of 'Chungi Tax' by urban bodies has been hiked from Rs 26 to Rs 35.

CM made important announcements and this includes providing nearly Rs 1,000 crore for the development of all urban bodies in the state. RMC will receive Rs 100 cr; Rs 50 cr and Rs 25 cr to Bilaspur and Durg

## Announcements made by CM

- Urban Women's Livelihood Centre will be established in Raipur, Bhilai, and Bilaspur.
- BPO centres with software and hardware for youth employment will be established in Raipur and Bhilai.
- Bhilai will get a world-class Central Library and reading zone.
- RIPA will lead to the establishment of Urban Cottages and Service Industries Parks in all municipal corporations and municipalities.
- CCTV will be installed along with

- modern toilets and development systems in market areas of cities.
- Smart Health Kiosks will be built in Municipal Corporations
- Announcement of proper drainage system in waterlogged areas of Raipur city.
- Announcement to simplify land development rules.
- Announcement for upgradation of Mahatma Gandhi Stadium, road construction and beautification located in Ambikapur.
- Increase in the 'Chungi Kar' from Rs 26 to Rs 35

Municipal Corporations respectively; Rs 20 cr each to Bhilai -Charoda, Ambikapur, and Jagdalpur; Rs 15 cr each to Risali, Rajnandgaon, Raigarh, and Korba; Rs 10 cr each to Birgaon, Dhamtari, and Chirmiri. All Nagar Palikas will receive Rs 5 cr; and all

Nagar Panchayats will receive Rs 3 cr each.

Addressing the programme Minister for Urban Administration and Development Dr Shiv Kumar Daharia said that in last four yrs, the urban bodies have done commendable work in improving basic amenities

like roads, drainage, water, electricity and sanitation and improved upon the system. The development standards in the Urban Bodies are being improved. He said that due to sensitive approach of CM Baghel, there is better development in all the areas of Urban Bodies. The programme was attended by Parliamentary Secretary of UADD Rekhand Jain, Mayor RMC Ejaz Dhebar, Special Secy. Dr Ayyaz Tamboli, Director R Ekka, CEO SUDA Soumil Ranjan Choubey, and Mayors, Speakers and Presidents of Municipal corporations and Nagar Palikas and other public representatives.

In this programme CM Bhupesh Baghel released a coffee table books on the departmental achievements of the department for last four years along with a video also and released a 'margdarshika' of 'Mor Pradarshan Mor Samman' under PMAY; guidance for Aspirational Toilet Design under Swachh Bharat Mission and presented selected beneficiaries under PMAY on the theme of 'Khushiyo ka Ashiyana'.

## HM Amit Shah likely to visit Bastar next month

**To attend public meeting under Lok Sabha visit campaign**



Raipur, Feb 15: With an eye on the tribal vote bank, the senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah is likely to make visit to Bastar next month.

According to the information received, Shah might attend the CRPF event in Bastar on March 18 or 19 during his visit to Chhattisgarh next. It would be his second visit to the election-bound state within two months under the campaign of Lok Sabha visit launched by the BJP to win

back the two Lok Sabha constituencies which it had lost in the last Parliamentary polls. It is learn that the Union Home Minister Amit Shah would be addressing a public meeting in Bastar next month apart from attending the CRPF convocation ceremony. It is notable that the saffron brigade has set a target to win back the Legislative Assembly segments in the tribal-dominated region after losing major ground in last elections.

## Two-day national conf in Govt. Nagarjun Science College from today

Raipur, Feb 15: A two-day national conference will be organised at the Shaheed Rajiv Pandey auditorium by the Botany department of Government Nagarjun PG Science College (GNPGSC) Raipur on Feb 16-17. The subject of this conference is 'Current Trends and Prospects in Botany'. This conference will be inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University Dr KL Verma and in the chief presence of Member Secretary Bio-Diversity Board Dr Arun Pandey.

The keynote speakers in this conference are Dr LB Choudhary, of N.B.R.I.

Luknow. In this two-day conference, Dr Kapgate, Palio Botanist (Maharashtra), Dr. T. Srinivasu, RTM University Nagpur, and Dr S. K. Jadhav from Pt. RSU Raipur and Dr Sudhir Pandey of Guru Ghasidas University Bilaspur, Dr Satish Verulkar from IGAU, Raipur, Dr ML Nayak from ex-Director CCOST Raipur and Dr Veenapani Dubey Botanist and Dr DK Shrivastava, Bilaspur, Resource Person, will be present.

In this two-day national conference, more than 100 participants are expected to take part and there will be 10 guest lectures and

more than 50 researchers will present their research papers. In addition to this, poster session will also be organised and in which the researchers will present their original research in the form of poster. It is by evaluating the original research and best paper presentation that the prizes too will be awarded by the Committee. The conference will conclude on Feb 17 at 4:00 pm and in this Dr ML Nayak will be the chief guest and Dr Amit Dubey, Scientist-CCOST Raipur will be the special guest. At the conclusion the participants will be presented with certificates and mementos.



Morning hours in capital city is intense heat and school students adopting measures to avoid the same.

## HNLU awarded Skill Development Leadership Award -2023



**At the 31st World HRD Congress**

Raipur, Feb 15: Hidayatullah National Law University (HNLU) a premier National Law University of the country was awarded the prestigious Times Ascent Skill Development Leadership Award 2023 at the 31st World HRD Congress held at Taj Land's End, Mumbai. Prof. Vivekanandan, Vice Chancellor remarked "The award given by the World HRD congress is a testimony to the collective efforts of the HNLU fraternity in its efforts to contribute to the mandate of the University. The faculty, students and staff have immensely contributed braving the last two years of pandemic and this will motivate to continue the efforts for excellence in performance."

which consists of Postgraduates in History & Management with a combined 100+ years research experience. The research cell regularly tracks and annually recognizes the path-breaking initiatives taken by organizations and universities making a mark in the leadership. The jury of the award comprises of senior professionals from across the globe. Some of the key criteria & parameters assessed while selection are Educational Quality & Standards, Outreach Program, Leadership Initiative towards Skill Development, Best in Class Infrastructure, Impact from Learners Point of View, Future Orientation and Social Impact. The award was received by Prof. Dr. Uday Shankar, Registrar of HNLU presented by Mr. Ayo Muritala, CEO of KNEROW in the presence of Dr.R.L. Bhatia, Founder of World CSR day and World Sustainability at the Taj Lands End in Mumbai on 15th February 2023.

## Bansal, Anwar reviews preparations for Plenary Session

**Holds meetings with different Committees, inspects venue for the session**

Raipur, Feb 15: The National Treasurer AICC Pawan Bansal, General Secretary Tariq Anwar along with the PCC State in-Charge Kumari Selja, CM Bhupesh Baghel, PCC Chief Mohan Markam, Secretary in-charge Dr Chandan Yadav, Saptagirishankar Ulka, advisor to AICC National President Sampalji, Vijay Jangid reviewed about the preparations for the Congress 85th Plenary Session and also conducted inspection of the venue for the session in Naya Raipur. They also took stock of preparations holding meeting with the in-charge of different committees at Rajiv Bhavan. They also reviewed about the outline for the Plenary Session and responsibilities given to different committees formed for it.

PCC Chief Mohan Markam informed that AICC's 85th Plenary Session will be held on Feb



24-25-26. In this Session, the subject committees will give their recommendations on different subjects and for which resolutions too will be passed in the Plenary Session. On the first day of the Session on Feb 24, the registration of delegates will be done and on the second day i.e Feb 25- there will be samelan of the PCC and AICC representatives. On the third day a massive public meeting will be held opposite IGAU in Jora. To make the plenary session successful, a total of 13 sub-committees have

been formed and this include Public Meeting Samiti, Dais Samiti; publicity Samiti; exhibition samiti; Medical samiti; Communication samiti; Transport Samiti; fund samiti; acomodation samiti and others. PCC Chief Mohan Markam said that this Plenary Session is not only a milestone for the Congress, but for the future of the country. The people of the nation are enthusiastically looking towards opinions and policies of Congress on various burning issues.

The resolutions to be passed on agriculture, economic, employment, foreign policy and other subjects will give new orientation to the country. Right from the country's freedom struggle to reconstruction of the nation, Congress has played an important role and today also when the ruling party is not sparing the constitution and attacking the constitutional institutions, at that time, the role and importance of Congress is crucial in saving the democracy, he added.

## DPI again entrusted with implementation of RTE

Raipur, Feb 15: Directorate Public Instructions (DPI) has been again given the responsibility of implementation of Right To Education (RTE) for the children from weaker section of society for providing free education to them.

Above decision has been taken following the protest launched by Chhattisgarh Private School Management Association (CPSMA). It is notable that presently the Director "Samagra Siksha" is having the administrative powers for the implementation of RTE in schools. However due to several reasons, the CPSMA was against the poor implementation of the

free education for children and has launched agitation against the Director "Samagra Siksha" in support to their various demand. They had even registered protest wearing black arm band to draw the attention of the state government.

With the above order, the Private School Management is happy and would chalk out further strategy in support to their various demands on Thursday.

They have also been agitated over delay in the payment of the overdue fees they wanted from the state government due to various technical reasons.

## RDA reduces Booking amount for Housing Scheme

**At Kamal Vihar under AHS**

Raipur, Feb 15: Raipur Development Authority (RDA) administration on Wednesday reduced the Booking amount of 288 flats in Sector 13 of Kamal Vihar Scheme under the Affordable

Housing Scheme (AHS) from existing Rs 1.90 lakh to Rs 50 thousand.

Providing the above information in a statement issued here, the RDA Chief Executive Officer Dharmesh Kumar Sahu said that all modern facilities would be provided to people under the Affordable Housing

Scheme to the people from Lower Income Group (LIG) in the eight-storied building residential scheme.

He said that the Tender for the construction would be taken up soon to provide better compound gated community in the Integrated Township Scheme of

state-run Development Agency.

Meanwhile, the two-day Loan Fair would be held for the various residential schemes at Indraprastha Raipura of RDA on February 16 and 17. Information about the other schemes too would be provided to the people on the spot.

### नवभारत

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## Art-culture of the region gets a new identity from Mainpat Festival: Daharia

### Mainpat Festival begins

Inauguration of development works worth Rs 78 cr

350 couples tied nuptial knot under Chief Minister Kanya Vivah Yojana

Raipur, Feb 15: In a bid to encourage folk art and culture of the region, the Mainpat Festival has commenced from today in Mainpat, which is renowned as a Buddhist pilgrimage site in Chhattisgarh. The festival was inaugurated today by Urban Administration Minister Dr. Shiv Kumar Daharia and Culture Minister Amarjit Bhagat. The three-day festival which is being organized near Ropakhar reservoir in Mainpat will host attractive presentation of Shaila, Karma and other local folk dance and songs performed by the folk artists of Surguja region. Addressing the inauguration ceremony program, Urban Administration Minister Dr. Daharia said



that Mainpat Festival is being organized with the aim of preserving and promoting the natural and cultural heritage of the region. A glimpse of the tribal art culture of Chhattisgarh, and especially Surguja region will be seen in this festival. He further said that such events will give a new identity to the art culture of the region. There are many places of interest in Surguja, in which invaluable historical sites and cultural heritage are present. Buddhist monastery and spirituality are also affluently present in the Mainpat region. The Tibetans here live in harmony and brotherhood

with everyone. Tibetan Buddhist Monk Dalai Lama has also visited this region twice.

On this occasion, Minister Dr. Daharia inaugurated and performed Bhumi Pujan of various development and construction works worth Rs 78 crore and inspected the exhibition based on departmental achievements and visited the stalls of various departments. Blessings were also given to 350 couples who tied the knot under the Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana organized by the Women and Child Development Department. Six Muktanjali vehicles were also flagged off during the

program.

Dr. Daharia said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, planning is being done keeping in mind the people of all classes so that the benefits and respect of the scheme can be given to all classes. He said that the farmers of Chhattisgarh are getting the highest price for paddy in the country and next year farmers will get even more price for paddy. He said that Rajiv Yuva Mitan Club has been formed to increase the participation of youth in the progress of the state.

Culture Minister Amarjit Bhagat said that the Mainpat Festival, which started 8 years ago, has made a unique identity in the country and the state. He further said that after the formation of our government, the work of loan waiver of farmers and purchase of paddy at the highest price in the country was done. Along with the development works, the state government is also working to preserve the cultural heritage. He said that despite the tough challenges during the Covid period, the state government made arrangements for

medicines, treatment and food for all. Free rice is also being given since the Covid period.

A record 1 crore 8 lakh metric tonnes of paddy was procured this year. During the program, appointment letters were also given to the people of 41 special backward tribes of the district.

Dr. Pritam Ram, President of CGMSC, Balkrishna Pathak, President of Chhattisgarh Local Tribal Health Traditions and Vanashadhi Plants Board Ajay Agarwal, Vice President of the 20-Point Program Implementation Committee, Irfan Siddiqui, Member of the State Madrasa Board, member of the State Gau-Seva Commission, Atal Bihari Yadav, Member of Tel Ghani Board Laxmi Gupta, Member of State Seed Certification Board Arvind Gupta, Member of State Urdu Academy Badruddin Iraqi, Member of State Karmakar Mandal Anil Singh and many public representatives, senior administrative officers and a large number of tourists and common citizens were present at the festival.

## Students performed a miracle, making a garden in three days: Prof. Dave

Students of CU create a garden and learn landscaping

Bilaspur, Feb 15: The students of Guru Ghasidas Central University prepared a very beautiful garden in just three days. The Vice-Chancellor of the Central University, Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawal is constantly striving with the aim of promoting skill development among the students.

In this context, a three-day workshop was organized under the joint aegis of Rural Technology and Social Development Department and Skill Development Cell, S w a v a l a m b i Chhattisgarh. In this workshop, former Vice-Chancellor of Saurashtra University, Gujarat, Prof. Nilambari Dave also gave her contribution and guidelines.

Prof. Dave was very excited to see the work of the students and said that it was nothing less than a miracle that a very beautiful garden was made in just three days at a place where there used to be a lot of dirt and only thorny bushes. This garden, she said, is so beautiful that it will be taken as a model



in the whole university.

Dr. Pushparaj Singh, Head of the Department of Rural Technology, said that the iron benches and desks lying in the junk have been used for fencing the garden, due to which useless things have also been put to good use. The organizer of the workshop, Assistant Professor, Dr. Dilip Kumar said that 72 students from 16 departments participated in

this workshop. Students made gardens following all the directives for landscaping, as well as for plant propagation. They also learnt about different budding techniques for rose plants, veneer, side and stone grafting in mango plants, and single and mixed layering and knotting in guava plants.

Nodal Officer of Skill Development Cell, Dr. Rohit Raja was also present in this workshop.

## Devshree Sharma of Columbia selected in National Integration Camp



Raipur, Feb 15: Devashree Sharma, a volunteer student of the National Service Scheme Unit of Columbia Institute of Pharmacy, Raipur, affiliated to Chhattisgarh Swami Vivekananda Technical University, Bilhail, was selected in the National Integration Camp organized from Feb 10 to 16, 2023 at Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar, Anand, Gujarat. In this camp Devashree Sharma actively participated in various competitions like singing, dancing, Rangoli competition, and made people aware about the making

and utility of Plastic Picking Bottle (P2B). It is to be noted that cooperation on Plastic Picking Bottle (P2B) was initiated by Vice President of NGO, Sahyog - Ek Koshish, Mrs. Monika Bagrecha Madam in the month of January which was a part of her campaign in NSS Special Camp. Secretary of Columbia Group of Institutions, Shri Harjeet Singh Hura Sir, Director Pharmacy, Prof. Amit Roy and Principal Prof. Ravindra Kumar Pandey congratulated the student on her achievement and wished her a bright future.

## Helpline started from Feb 21 before the start of Board exams

Raipur, Feb 15: Helpline-2023 is being started by the Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education from February 21 in the context of high school, higher secondary and higher secondary vocational examinations by the Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education. Students, teachers and parents can call on the helpline on the toll free no. 18002334363 to solve their exam related problems. Secretary, Board of Secondary Education, Prof. VK Goyal told that psychiatrists, educational motivators, subject experts and officers of the Board will be present in the helpline. Psychologists, psychiatrists, educational motivators will give counsel by solving the problems related to exam fear, exam stress. The subject experts will solve the problems related to the examination of the subject to be held on the next day and the officials of the board will solve the problems related to the board.

## Villagers distributed needy household materials by CRPF



In the CAP organised by 219 CRPF Battalion

Konta, Feb15: Under the guidance of Sunit Kumar Rai, DIG, CRPF, Konta Range & in the direction of Nitin Kumar, Commandant 219 Bn CRPF, in a bid to bridge the gap between villagers and security personnel, the 219 Battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) organized a Civic Action Programme (CAP) in core naxal area of Bheji

axis. The 219 Battalion of CRPF organized the programme and distributed 30 No's plastic water tanks (Sintax) for storing drinking water during extreme summer season and 24 No's Tin sheets to needy and poor villagers who wants to repair their leaking roof tops. The objective of such Civic Action Programme was to inculcate a sense of security by developing cordial relation and harnessing co-operation with villagers living in rural area.

## Singhdeo inspected super specialty hospital under construction



Raipur, Feb 15: Health Minister T.S. Singhdeo during his stay at Jagdalpur on Tuesday inspected the under construction super specialty hospital at Dimrapal. Seeing the layout drawing of the hospital building under construction, he inquired about the facilities and arrangements proposed there. He instructed

to complete the construction work within the time limit. Health Department Secretary Mr. Prasanna R., Director Medical Education Department Dr. Vishnu Dutt, Bastar District Health Department officials and Jagdalpur Medical College Dean Dr. Paikra were also present during this period.

## Adarsh Kumar Malaviya secures 97.5 percentile



Cracks JEE Main's exam; proud moment for DAVians

Bacheli, Feb 15: One of the students of DAVPS Bacheli, 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 the DAVians.

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.

## CM inaugurates mud house made of clay in Mayali

Raipur, Feb 15: Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated an earthen mud house in Mayali village of Kunkuri block of Jashpur district. On this occasion, Assembly Speaker Dr. Charandas Mahant, Home and Public Works Minister Mr. Tamradhwaj Sahu, Public Health Minister Mr. T.S. Singhdeo, School Education Minister Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam, Parliamentary Secretary and Kunkuri MLA Mr. U.D. Minj, Jashpur MLA Mr. Vinay Bhagat, Raigarh



MLA Mr. Prakash Nayak, Collector Dr. Ravi Mittal, Superintendent of Police Mr. D. Ravi Shankar,

District Panchayat CEO Mr. Jitendra Yadav and other officers were present.

## Petroleum Board and SAIL Academy Rourkela to play finals today



Rajnandgaon, Feb 15: SAIL Academy Rourkela, defeated Railway Coach Factory, Kapurthala by 5-2 in the first semi-final of 79th Mahant Raja Sarveswar Das All India Hockey Tournament. In the second semi-final, Petroleum Sports, Petroleum Board, New Delhi defeated SAI Excellency Hostel, Lucknow by 4-1 and entered into the finals of the above tourney. The final between both the above teams will be played on Feb 16 at 2:00 pm and the prize distribution will be done at the hands of CM Bhupesh Baghel and other

guests. In the semi-finals today, MLA Rajnandgaon and ex-CM Dr Raman Singh, former MP and ex-Mayor Madhusudhan Yadav and President District Cricket Association Susheel Kothari witnessed the match and boosted the morale of the players obtaining their introduction on the ground.

Two semifinals were played in the 79th Mahant Raja Sarveswar Das All India Hockey Tournament in the Astro-turf ground of Digvijay Stadium in Rajnandgaon here on Wednesday. The first semifinal was between SAIL



Academy Rourkela and Railway Coach Factory, Kapurthala. SAIL Academy defeated the later by 5-2 and entered into the finals. In the 6th minute of the match, Carbin Lakra converted a penalty corner into a goal and got a lead of 1-0. But in the 10th minute, Kapurthala's team also got a penalty corner and Deepak Kumar of the team managed to convert it into a goal. After this in the 14th minute, SAIL again got a penalty corner and which was again converted into goal by Carbin Lakra and they got lead of 2-1. The third goal by SAIL Academy was scored by Anmol Ekka in the 26th minute and the team got lead of 3-1. In the 35th minute, Deepak Kumar of

Kapurthala converted a penalty corner into a goal and got the score to 3-2. Just two minutes after this, Anmol Ekka converted a penalty corner into a goal and got lead of 4-2 and finally in the 55th minute, Sonu Nishad through field goal took the lead of SAIL Academy to 5-2 and entered the finals. The second semi-final match was also one-sided and the Petroleum Board, Delhi, lased with experience hockey players defeated SAI Excellency Centre, Lucknow by 4-1. In the first quarter of the match, there were many ups & down, but in the 19th minute of the second quarter, Affan Yusuf scored a field goal and got lead of 1-0. In the third quarter of the match, in the 40th minute,

Sunil SV scored a goal and Petroleum Board got lead of 2-0. The third goal from Delhi's team was scored by Sunil Yadav converting a penalty stroke and the fourth goal by Sunil Yadav in the 51st minute, taking the score to 4-1. Lucknow got a penalty corner in the 52nd minute and in this Deepak Patel reduced the defeat of his team by 4-1 and finally Petroleum Board Delhi entered into finals. In today's match, the man-of-the-match was presented by Rajesh Jain and Sonu Nishad of SAIL Academy was declared the man-of-the-match and in the second semi-final, Sunil Yadav of Petroleum Board New Delhi got the title and cash prize of Rs 1500 each.

### Tomorrow's final

Petroleum Sports, Petroleum Board, New Delhi V/s SAIL Academy Rourkela at 2:00 pm

## Two die, four others seriously injured

When two bikes with three riders on each collided head-on

Balod, Feb 15:

Two youth died and four others were seriously injured on the spot last night at around 9:00 pm under Mahamaya Thana, when their bike collided head-on. The condition of two admitted in the hospital is reported to be critical.

Were returning after watching Madhai:

The four other persons who got seriously injured in the accident have been referred to higher centres. The incident took place on Gram Bamhani Kopedera road of Mahamaya Thana. As per information, one Sandeep Kumar R/o North Bastar Kanker, Gram Parekodo, Naklasa was returning from after watching Madhai. During this Santram going to



Gram Kopedera from Bamhani collided with Sandeep's bike and he died on the spot. It is learnt that six persons were travelling in two motorcycles and out of which four others also got seriously injured and have been sent to higher centres for treatment in 108.

Were going to drop marriage invitation:

Condition of injured critical:

In this entire accident, four other got seriously injured and the doctors were offering treatment to them. Since the other two who died on the spot, their bodies were sent to the hospital for post-mortem to be done next day in the morning and after which the body will be handed over to their family members.

Both victims were driving bikes:

The two persons who died on the spot were driving their bikes and were having two extra riders on their back. The impact of collision was so high that two died on the spot, as they were in the front and other four also got seriously injured. None were wearing helmets.

## Action taken against School, College buses

Mahasamund, Feb 15: The District Transport Officer (DTO) took action against the private schools vehicles of Schools and Colleges carrying school and college students to & fro. In the checking, permit and fitness of the two vehicles was found to be invalid. Four School buses were registered as private vehicle and likewise action was taken on them.

During the checking, 6 vehicles were without the valid RTO papers and due to which fine of Rs 30000 was imposed against them and challan was cut. DTO Ramkumar Dhruv informed that as per the guidelines of the Supreme Court and instructions of the Transport department they are conducted regular checking of School buses and are also conducted health check-up of the vehicle drivers along with eye testing, to ensure smooth and safe drive for School, College students.

## Workshop held on OPS, NPS



Korea, Feb 15:

A one-day workshop was organized regarding the option selection and implementation of old pension scheme and old pension scheme under the chairmanship of Divisional Joint Director Fund Accounts and Pension Ambikapur K.S.Maravi. In the workshop, old pension scheme (OPS), new pension scheme (NPS) and new pension scheme were explained in detail so that officers and employees do not face any problem in choosing the appropriate

scheme. Joint Director Marawi also told that according to the instructions issued by the Finance Department of the State Government, all the officers and employees appointed between November 01, 2004 and March 31, 2022, should choose the old pension scheme or to remain unchanged in the new contributory pension scheme, to present the option mandatory. The last date for option submission has been fixed as 24 February 2023, he said and the process of filling the notarized option and upload-

ing it online in the portal of personnel wealth was told through PPT to the officers-employees present in the workshop by District Treasury Officer Mr. V.G. Ugade. Officers and employees of various departments of the district including Deputy Director of Fund Accounts and Pension Office Ambikapur Anil Tirkey, Assistant Director Ramnarayan, Bharthari Prasad Nagesh and Omkar Sai, Assistant Treasury Officer and treasury staff of District Treasury Korea were present.

## Teacher's felicitation ceremony held



At Govt Multipurpose HS School

Bilaspur, Feb 15:

A teacher felicitation ceremony was organized by former students of 1976 batch of Government Multipurpose Higher Secondary School, Bilaspur here. In the ceremony, the alumni honored former teachers of the school Mr. C.R. K Rao, Dr. R. D. Singh, SL Kesharwani, H.B. Shukla, BL Sharma, R.S. Dewangan, and VS Tiwari. Former Chief Secretary R.K. P. Mandal, former Education Secretary Hemant Pahare, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Electricity Regulatory Commission Shailendra Shukla,

Satyanarayan Rathore and former students were present. Former students bowed down to all the teachers and said that today we all have reached this stage because of the education and blessings of the teachers and said that the teachers here have provided new heights to the school with the light of their knowledge.

Former teacher C R K Rao, on this occasion took attendance of the students of 1976 batch and got them taught the subject of physics. All the former teachers and former students present remembered the golden moments spent in the school 50 years ago and got emotional. On this occasion, the principal of the school R.K Gaurah and a large number of teachers and students were present.

## Winning or losing are two sides of the same coin: Rashmi

171 teams taking part in the Late Balram Singh memorial cricket tournament

Takathpur, Feb 15:

'The winning team is always enthusiastic and cheerful, but the losing team should never get demotivated, because defeat is not an outcome of one's fate and victory does not make one 'King'. Both life and sports is a struggle, as competition, challenges are part & parcel of one's life and which continues lifelong. Then be it victory or defeat, one should surge ahead walking tall as victorious and taking win or lose as two sides of the same coin, should move ahead taking up the challenges and lessons learnt. Then be it the sports ground, or the responsibilities of one's family or the ups & downs in business or trade, one should always continue to perform and give his level best, hoping for the best to come'.

The above are the words of MLA and Parliamentary Secretary Rashmi Singh while speaking at the ongoing



Tennis Ball Cricket tournament in the memory of Late Balram Singh among 171 teams here on Tuesday. The Tennis Ball cricket is going on in six different zones of Takathpur area under convenership of MLA and Parliamentary Secretary Rajani Ashish Singh.

In the first match played between Hafa V/s Vidyasar, the Hafa team taking batting first, set up a target of 60 runs for Vidyasar. Chasing this huge target, the Vidyasar team were all out making

26 runs and Hafa team won the match. Manish Tribhuvan was the man-of-the-match. In the second match between Pendar V/s Mendra, the later set up target of 56 runs taking batting first and the Pendar team won the making chasing this small target and the Man-of-the-Match was Narendra Sahu. In the third match, Pendar V/s Ghutaku, the Ghutaku team set up target of 112 runs and chasing which the Pendar team could score just 85 runs losing 7 wickets and

lost the match. The man-of-the-match was Pintu Patel. In the fourth match between Ganiyari V/s Parsada, the Ganiyari team elected to bat first and scored 87 runs and chasing the target, Parsada team could make only 54 run and lost the match. The man-of-the-match was Rahul Suryavanshi.

Rashmi Singh personally visits the cricket match venue in the morning and ensures that all facilities are being provided in all the zones.

## Disabled cricket players to get sports kit

Korba, Feb 15:

A Janchoupal was organized in the Collectorate meeting room here, in which District Collector Sanjeev Jha listened to the problems of the people and resolved them. Officers of various departments present in Janchoupal were also present, to whom the Collector gave necessary guidelines regarding the redressal of the problems of the people.

In Janchoupal, 153 people presented applications regarding their problems and demands, including disabled players of Wheelchair Cricket Association, who reached Janchoupal, demanded cricket kit, track suit for convenience in the game. Showing sensitivity to this demand, Mr. Jha directed the officials of the Social Welfare Department and the Sports Department to provide necessary facilities to the disabled players.

Pushpa Mahant, a resident of Dharakpur village



of Kartla tehsil in Janchaupal, submitted an application before the Collector seeking aid to continue her studies owing to poor financial conditions.

Additional Collector Vijendra Patle was instructed to aid the student by the Collector. Similarly, Khilavan Singh, a resident of Annapurna Vihar HTPS Colony under Darri tehsil, applied for record rectification before the Collector in Janchaupal, for which Darri Tehsildar was directed to take necessary action by the Collector.

## Civil Welfare College student's visit Chaturbhuj temple



Nandini Ahiwara, Feb 15: Students of Sociology subject of Civil Welfare College, visited Chaturbhuj temple as part of educational tour. They also visited Radhakrishna Temple, Hanuman Temple, Durga Temple, Shivling and Gau Teerth Kund, famous all over the country.

Giving information related to this historical

place, the priest of the temple, Pandit Suryakant Vaishnav said that a king named Banasur used to rule here, due to which the place was named Banbard. This temple was built by the kings of the Vakataka or Gupta dynasty in the 16th century. He also said that a three-day grand fair is organized here every year on Magha Purnima, in which devotees come

from many areas across the country and take bath in this holy tank.

He said that with this type of event students get acquainted with the glorious historical heritage of Indian society, rich cultural heritage, religious traditions, customs, festivals, and fairs of the country. Dr. R.N. Tandon HOD, Sociology led the students in the tour.

## Centuries old tradition of making Shivling from sand in Triveni Sangam

Rajim, Feb 15: At Maghi Punni Mela on Monday, after taking bath at Triveni Sangam, devotees performed Jalabishek by making Shivling from river sand and Bilvapatra, Dhatura, Kesharaiya, Kaner as well as milk, curd, ghee, mishri, sugar, honey, scented oil, sandalwood, Gangajal were dedicated and Aarti was performed and half parikrama was performed and later, worship and water Abhishek were performed in the temples.

According to legends, during the period of exile Dasharatha's son Ramchandra along with Devi Sita reached Maharishi Lomesh on foot by the river route and after spending Chaturmas, he completely destroyed the demons present here. During this, Goddess Sita bathed in the Sangam River and performed Jalabishek by making a Shivling out of sand to worship Shiva. As soon as he poured water, streams gushed out from five sides



and from that day onwards the Shivling was named P a n c h m u k h i Kuleshwarnath Mahadev.

According to the information, such Shivling is not found anywhere else in the world, it has been kept in the category of rare Shivlings. Also according to Srimadrajilochanamahatmya Granth, the age of the king was passing by and many religious rituals were performed with the desire of a son and on the advice of a Brahmarshi, the king visited Kuleshwarnath Jyotirlinga and the king and the queen bathed at the confluence of three rivers and offered 100 bilvapatra after water anointing of Panchmukhi



Kuleshwarnath Mahadev and due to which they got hundred sons.

Govt developing Rajim under the Ram Van Gaman circuit

Also the hermitage of Lomash Rishi is situated at a distance of about 300 yards from the Kuleshwarnath Mahadev Temple and when Lord Ram reached here during exile in Tretayug, he met Lomash Rishi. Dr. Mannulal Yadu has written in his article that by stopping Chaturmas, Ramchandra completely destroyed the demonic powers present here and the Government of Chhattisgarh is developing Rajim under the Ram Vanagaman Circuit.

## Farmers, account holders lodge complaint



Against the Branch Manager of Union Bank of India, Fingeshwar Branch

Fingeshwar, Feb 15:

The account holders of Union Bank of India, Fingeshwar Branch, including farmers, Sarpanch and villagers, filed complaint against Branch Manager of the Bank on four-five points and sent an application to Divisional Office Raipur and to head office in Mumbai as well.

Farmer Revaram, DD Rishi, Kamesh Sahu and all the villagers from Gram Sirri khurd, Kundel, Barula, Chhabhati and others lodged complaint

against the Branch Manager Union Bank of India, Fingeshwar Branch, for not passing on the benefit of Kissan Credit Card to the farmers; misbehaving with them on transferring of amount from general account to loan account; not behaving with the farmers in cordial manner when asked about Bank's and government's schemes and not increasing loan amount under Kissan Credit Card every year and other such issues, by going to Union Bank of India, Divisional Office Raipur. Here they met the senior officers of the Bank saying that due to lack of which, they are not getting benefit of various schemes for rural beneficiaries.

## Show cause notice to Commissioner and Gauthan in-charge

M a n e n d r a g a r h - Chirmiri-Bharatpur, Feb 15: District Collector P.S.Dhruv, has issued a show cause notice to Corporation Commissioner and Gauthan, in the matter of closed cow dung purchase in Gauthan of Chhota Bazar located in Chirmiri Municipal Corporation of the district and negligence in preparing vermicompost from the purchased cow dung. As per informa-

tion, the Collector accidentally reached Chhota Bazar Gauthan to take stock of the activities being conducted in Gauthan and found out that cow dung was not being procured in Gauthan and expressed deep displeasure and reprimanded Municipal Commissioner Vijendra Singh and Assistant Engineer Hemshankar Gajendra, in-charge of Gauthan, for negligence in the implementation of



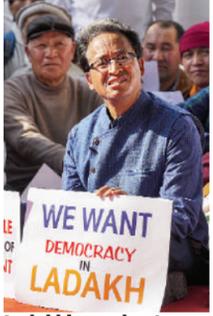
the important scheme of the government. The

Collector has issued show cause notices to both the

officers and summoned their reply within two

days. It is worth mentioning that vermicompost worth Rs 65 lakh has been prepared in Gauthan located in Chhota Bazar. Rs 10 lakh is left for preparing vermicompost. The women of the Swachh Chirmiri Women's Self-Help Group present there were immediately instructed to prepare vermicompost and fill it in sacks and instructed the corporation commissioner to make proper arrangements for its sale.

**BRIEF**



**Ladakhi people stage a protest at Jantar Mantar, in New Delhi, Wednesday.**

**Imprisonment**

**Gonda (UP):** A court here sentenced a man to 14 years of rigorous imprisonment for raping a minor girl at Tarabganj area here in 2014. Special Judge, POCSO court, Jitendra Gupta on Tuesday convicted one Holi for raping the 12-year-old girl on December 10, 2014, Special Public Prosecutor Anup Pratap Singh said.

**Recover**

**Chandigarh:** The Border Security Force (BSF) has recovered one kg heroin in Punjab's Fazilka district, the force said on Wednesday. The heroin sealed in a packet was found near village Bachan Singh Ki Dhani on Tuesday, the BSF said in a statement. BSF troops have once again foiled the nefarious design of smugglers, it further said.

**Assault**

**Gurugram:** Two friends staying at an OYO hotel in Bilaspur were allegedly thrashed by the staff for demanding a refund, police said. According to the complaint lodged by Sandeep Kumar and Vikas, the incident took place on February 11 at 'Happy Stay OYO Hotel' on the Delhi-Jaipur Highway. The duo checked in at 9 pm and there was a power cut at around 11.30 pm. When the electricity did not get restored till 1 am, Kumar approached the hotel staff who told him that there will be no power till the morning, the complaint said.

**Skip**

**New Delhi:** Law Minister and BJP leader Kiren Rijiju said he is suffering from viral fever and will not be campaigning in Meghalaya on Wednesday for assembly polls. Rijiju had been campaigning in Tripura ahead of Thursday's assembly polls. "Suffering from acute viral fever since last 24 hours... I've been asked to remain indoor and take rest," he wrote on Twitter.

**Watery grave**

**Panaji:** A man and her woman partner who had come to Goa to celebrate Valentine's Day drowned in the Arabian Sea near a beach, police said on Wednesday. The deceased, Vibhu Sharma (27), who worked with a private firm in Mumbai, and Supriya Dubey (26), employed in Bengaluru, ventured into the waters near the Palolem beach in Canacona taluka of South Goa district for a swim after dinner on Monday night, they said.

**Shiv Sena (UBT) to Fadnavis**

## In which case were you fearing arrest?

**Mumbai, Feb 15 (PTI):**

The Shiv Sena (UBT) on Wednesday took a dim view of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' claim that the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government had tried to put him in jail, and asked the BJP leader in which case was he "fearing" arrest.

An editorial in the Sena mouthpiece 'Saamana' claimed that IPS officers had threatened MVA legislators to support Fadnavis and spied on them by tapping their phones.

Fadnavis should explain if such "illegal" phone tapping is a crime or not, it said. Maharashtra's political culture has never seen

instances of arrest of political opponents and harassment of their family members, the Marathi publication said.

After the 2019 Assembly polls, the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena snapped ties with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over the issue of sharing the chief ministerial post. Thackeray later tied-up with the Nationalist Congress Party and the Congress to form the MVA in the state.

His government collapsed in June last year after a revolt against the Sena leadership by Eknath Shinde and 39 other legislators. On June 30, Shinde became the chief minister with BJP leader Fadnavis

as his deputy. Fadnavis recently said the previous MVA government had given a target to then Mumbai police commissioner Sanjay Pandey to put me in jail, but the police officer could not succeed as he had done nothing wrong.

Reacting to it, the Saamana editorial on Wednesday asked, "Why is Fadnavis scared that he may be arrested?"

"In which case was he fearing arrest and what connection did he have with the case...Fadnavis should have clarified," it said. "In the last few days, Fadnavis has been speaking blatant lies," it claimed, adding this is not the "sanskrit" of the Sangh

(RSS). The Marathi daily said the MVA government had filed cases against IPS officer Rashmi Shukla in Pune and Mumbai in connection with the alleged phone tapping. The phones of MVA leaders were illegally tapped when Fadnavis was the chief minister, it said. The phone numbers of MVA leaders were out for tapping under different names said to be of drug peddlers and terrorists, it claimed. Fadnavis should also explain if such "illegal" tapping is a crime or not, the editorial said. The investigating officers in the case visited Fadnavis when he was the leader of opposition and took his statement respectfully.

## BJP manifesto promises package for eastern Nagaland

**Pledges for preservation of Naga culture**

**Kohima, Feb 15 (PTI):**

The BJP has released its manifesto for the upcoming Nagaland assembly elections, promising a special package for the eastern part of the state and establishment of a board for the holistic development of the region if the party returns to power for the second time in a row.

The BJP and its ally NDPP are contesting the February 27 assembly elections with a 20:40 seat-sharing arrangement.

In its manifesto released by party president JP Nadda on Tuesday, the saffron party also announced a slew of measures for creating infrastructure, economic advancement, and boosting healthcare and agriculture, besides skill development.

"We will work with the central government to expedite the construction of the Trans-Nagaland Highway to enable easy access across districts, especially from eastern Nagaland," it stated.

Eastern Nagaland was in the news recently as there was a vote boycott call by an organisation

spearheading an agitation demanding a separate state comprising six districts of the area. However, the call was later withdrawn. The BJP manifesto also promised to establish a dedicated Nagaland cultural research fund with an investment of Rs 1,000 crore to preserve the Naga identity, set up a cultural university and invest Rs 100 crore to promote and expand the scope of all major tribal festivals.

The party also assured people of providing free rice and wheat monthly and 5 kg of black chickpeas and one litre of mustard oil per family quarter-

ly at subsidised rates to all PDS beneficiaries for the general welfare.

The manifesto promised to increase the existing pension to Rs 1,000 per month for senior citizens, specially-abled, and widows and also provide health insurance cards for cashless medical facilities for all government employees. The BJP also announced that it will provide free health insurance and social security insurance to all unorganised workers and, in conjunction with the Centre, give affordable housing to all under the PM Awas Yojana by 2025.

## Plea in Kerala HC seeking law

**To prohibit practice of black magic, sorcery**

**Kochi, Feb 15 (PTI):** A plea has been filed in the Kerala High Court seeking to pass a law to prohibit the practice of black magic, sorcery and inhuman evil practices in the society.

A bench headed by the Chief Justice S Manikumar which had on Tuesday considered the plea, asked the government what was the reason for the delay in passing such a statute.

The court has said that it will further hear the matter after two weeks.

The writ petition filed by Kerala Yukthi Vadhi Sangam, which claims to stand for rationalism, humanism, scientific temper and spirit of inquiry, told the High Court that the state was continuously witnessing some crimes in connection with superstitious beliefs. "Currently,

there are no adequate provisions in the general penal statute to prohibit the same or to be otherwise dealt with...Karnataka and Maharashtra are two states which have passed statutes in this regard," the plea, filed through lawyer P V Jeevesh, said.

The petition sought to consider and take a decision on the recommendation of the law reforms commission report 2019 with regard to the enactment of 'The Kerala Prevention of Eradication of Inhuman Evil Practices, Sorcery and Black Magic Bill-2019'.

It also sought to declare human sacrifice and other inhuman, evil and barbaric practices and black magic, etc, as illegal and to take action against black magic and witchcraft centres in the state. The plea also sought to declare that films, serials, telefilms having content of superstitious beliefs as illegal.

## Left rally in Kolkata spreads 'message of love' on V-Day

**Kolkata, Feb 15 (PTI):**

Left-wing student organisations on Tuesday took out a rally and organised programmes to "spread the message of love" on Valentine's Day, as couples around the city celebrated the occasion with fanfare.

At Jadavpur University (JU), members of the Arts Faculty Student Union, affiliated to SFI, took part in a rally, titled 'Ghrinar Biruddhe Bhalobasar Michhil' (against hatred).

Students, holding flags in rainbow colours, covered a distance of over two kilometres from university campus to Golpark.

Taking a dig at the BJP-led Union government over its 'Cow Hug Day' notification for Valentine's Day, which was later withdrawn, Priti Sarkar, one of the participants, said, "It goes on to show the mindset of the rightwing forces

like the saffron party. No wonder their sister organisations chase couples away on finding them anywhere in public places on this day."

"Let us learn how to love, let us fight against gender discrimination, let us fight against the move to intimidate minorities," she said.

Bajrang Dal activists reportedly drove away couples from a park in Gujarat during the day.

Echoing Sarkar, Subhankar Majumder, the general secretary of SFI in JU, called Hindutva forces "anti-science and superstitious". "Our rally aims to spread the message of love in the face of the hate agenda peddled by Hindutva forces. Let us reject them on this day of love," he said.

In another part of the city, Anandarup Dhar, the office-bearer of

**LIFE MISSION PROJ**

## Kerala court sends Sivasankar to 5-day ED custody

**Kochi, Feb 15 (PTI):**

A special court here on Wednesday sent M Sivasankar, former Principal Secretary to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, to five-day Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody in connection with alleged violation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulations) Act in the Life Mission, a flagship housing project of the state government.

Sivasankar was taken into custody on Tuesday night by the central agency which has been questioning the former IAS officer for the past three days. His arrest was recorded earlier in the day.

The PMLA court here today granted till February 20 custody of Sivasankar to ED and issued a direction

to produce him before it on that date. The court directed ED to provide relaxation time to Sivasankar during interrogation and also medical assistance if needed, court sources said. Sivasankar, who retired on January 31, was earlier arrested in a related gold smuggling case involving diplomatic baggage to UAE consulate.

The CBI had in 2020 filed an FIR in a Kochi court under section 120 B of the IPC and section 35 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010 on a complaint by the then Wadakanancherry Congress MLA, Anil Akkara, listing Santosh Eappen, Managing Director of Unitac Builder, Kochi as the first accused and Sane Ventures as the second accused.

The two companies had undertaken the construction based on the agreement entered with them by Red Crescent, an international humanitarian movement, which had agreed to provide Rs 20 crore towards the Life Mission project.

Akkara had also alleged that there had been a violation of the FCRA by the Life Mission project, private companies and others. The alleged FCRA violation and corruption in the project had snowballed into a major political issue at that time with opposition parties charging that Swapna Suresh, a key accused in the gold smuggling case, had admitted before an NIA court that she had received Rs 1 crore as commission from the project.

**ALI-AI-LIGING FEST**



**Mising community women drink rice-beer while celebrating Ali-Ai-Liging, a festival associated with agriculture, in Guwahati, Wednesday.**

## Maha to run 'copy-free' exam campaign

**Photocopy shops in vicinity of exam centres to remain shut**

**Mumbai, Feb 15 (PTI):**

The Maharashtra government has decided to take steps to implement the "copy-free exams" campaign which includes shutting photocopy shops in 50-metre radius of the examination centres ahead of the Class 10 and 12 exams.

The Maharashtra Board's Class 10 exams will begin on March 2 and of Class 12 from February 21.

According to a presentation made by officials at a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief

Minister Eknath Shinde on Tuesday, the exam centres will be graded according to their 'sensitivity', and the entry of unauthorised people will be banned within 50 metres of an exam centre. Police presence around the exam centres would also be stepped up.

The education commissioner has been appointed as nodal officer and district collectors as coordinating officers for the campaign.

The cabinet also passed the Maharashtra Medical Purchase Authority Bill. Under this, the governing board will be headed by the chief minister with an Indian Administrative Service officer as its Chief Executive Officer.

**LAST MINUTE PREPARATIONS**



**10th class students outside a centre for the CBSE Board Exam 2023, in Moradabad, Wednesday.**

## 'Will quit politics after Tripura polls'

**Charilam (Tripura), Feb 15 (PTI):**

Tipra Motha chairman Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma announced that he will quit politics after the February 16 Tripura assembly elections and will never seek votes as Bubagra' (king).

Addressing a rally here on the last day of the campaign on Tuesday, the scion of the former royal family of Tripura said many leaders have deserted him without understanding his feeling for putting up a fight for protecting the rights of poor people who have no food, shelter and education access.

"Today is my last speech on a political stage and I will never seek votes as a Bubagra after the assembly elections. It pained me but I have fought a tough battle for you," he said. Tripura will go to poll



**Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma**

for the 60-member assembly on February 16 and counting will take place on March 2.

"It is sure Bubagra will not be in politics after March 2 but I will be with my people forever. I will work for healthcare, education, giving scholarships to the poor," he said, while addressing an election rally at Charilam, around 35 km from Agartala.

Deputy Chief Minister Jishnu Deb Varma, an

other member of the erstwhile royal family, is the BJP candidate from the Charilam constituency.

"He (Jishnu Debbarma) knows when I take a challenge, I see only dofa (community). I will not give an inch of land to him in the battle," he said.

However, he added: "It is not a fight of the royal family... It is a fight for the poor who don't have food, shelter and education."

Subodh Debbarma is the Tipra Motha nominee in Charilam constituency. Debbarma also asserted that he is not anti-Bengali.

"The family that helped and respects Rabindranath Tagore and Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose needs no certificate of not being anti-Bengali," he said.

The party is contesting 42 of the 60 seats in Tripura.

## Anti-India graffiti by Khalistani extremists on Ram Mandir in Mississauga

India raises issue with Canada

Toronto, Feb 15 (PTI):

A prominent Hindu temple in Canada has been defaced by 'Khalistani extremists' with anti-India graffiti in an apparent hate crime, prompting the Indian mission here to condemn the incident and urge Canadian authorities to take swift action against the perpetrators.

The latest incident took place at a Ram Mandir in Mississauga on February 13. The time of the incident is, however, not known.

"We strongly condemn the defacing of Ram Mandir in Mississauga with anti-India graffiti. We have requested Canadian authorities to investigate the incident and take prompt action on perpe-



trators." India's Consulate in Toronto tweeted on Tuesday. "Vandalism occurred overnight (February 13th) at the Shri Ram Mandir in Mississauga, Ontario Canada. We at the Ram Mandir are very disturbed by this occurrence and we are working with the appropriate law enforcement authority on this matter," the Facebook page of the temple said. The walls of the temple painted with pro-Khalistani slogans

and anti-India graffiti.

This is not the first time that a Hindu Temple in Canada was defaced with anti-India graffiti.

In January, a Hindu Temple in Brampton Canada was defaced with hate-filled messages directed towards India, causing an outrage among the Indian community.

In September, the BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir, Toronto was defaced by "Canadian Khalistani extremists". The BAPS

Swaminarayan Sanstha is a spiritual, volunteer-driven faith dedicated to improving society through individual growth by fostering the Hindu ideals of faith, unity, and selfless service. Last September, the Ministry of External Affairs issued a statement condemning the rise of hate crimes against Indians and anti-India activities in Canada, expressing their concern with stern language.

Statistics Canada reported a 72 per cent increase in hate crimes based on religion, sexual orientation, and race between 2019 and 2021.

This has led to increased fears among minority communities, particularly the Indian community, which is the fastest-growing demographic group in Canada, accounting for almost four per cent of the population.

## ARTISTS PERFORM 'SEVU SEVU'



Traditional artists perform "sevu sev" welcome ceremony at the inauguration of 12th World Hindi Conference, in Nadi, Fiji, Wednesday, Feb. 15.

## India organises special exhibition on millets at UN headquarters

Washington, Feb 15 (PTI):

India has organised a special exhibition on the millets at the UN headquarters in New York to commemorate the 'International Year of Millets 2023'.

The focus of the exhibition launched on Tuesday by India's Permanent Mission to the UN was on the different kinds of millets grown in India, their nutritional value and health benefits, including information on calorific content.

The exhibition was attended by over a hundred delegates from the UN member states and senior UN officials.

In her brief remarks, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ruchira Kamboj shared the reasons why India pursued making 2023 the International Year of Millets (IYM) and how mil-



lets were an important solution in the collective march towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This was followed by a launch video on the IYM and a special address by Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed.

The Co-Founder and Director of MRIDA Group, Arun Nagpal, shared his experiences on his journey with millets from the farm to the table. This was followed by a special address by the Chef de Cabinet of the UN Secretary-General Earle

Courtenay Rattray, after which the exhibition was officially opened.

Millet-based savouries were the other attraction for the guests to taste, while millet grains were also placed on display. The United Nations was treated to a sensory blend of seeing, touching, tasting, and learning about millets.

The millet exhibition will be on display at the United Nations General Assembly Delegates Entrance Exhibition area from 14-17 February 2023, a media release said.

## Jaishankar, Fiji deputy PM discusses advancing bilateral ties

Nadi (Fiji), Feb 15 (PTI):

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday met Biman Prasad, Deputy Prime Minister of Fiji, and discussed ways to further advance long-standing bilateral ties.

Jaishankar is on a three-day visit to the South Pacific archipelago nation to attend the 12th World Hindi Conference.

His visit is the first by an incoming ministerial delegation after the formation of the new government in Fiji in December last year. "Great to meet @FijiGovernment DPM @bimanprasad in Nadi shortly after our meeting in New Delhi. Discussed further advancing our long-standing ties through our development cooperation," Jaishankar tweeted along with the pictures.

Welcoming Jaishankar, Biman Prasad said, "...It was a pleasure meeting again and discussing strengthening of our development coop-



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with Fiji Deputy Prime Minister Biman Prasad at a meeting in Nadi, Fiji.

eration."

Fiji's Deputy Prime Minister Biman Prasad visited India last week.

Jaishankar also visited a temple in Nadi, Fiji. "Visited the Sri Siva Subrahmanya Swami temple in Nadi and had a darshan. Along with my Parliamentary colleagues, could see first-hand our vibrant culture and traditions flourishing in Fiji," he tweeted.

The first World Hindi Conference was organised in 1975 in Nagpur. To date, 11 World Hindi Conferences have been organised in different parts of the world.

## Great stride made in India-US trade relationship: USTR

Washington, Feb 15 (PTI):

Under the Biden administration, India and the US has made great strides in their trade relationships, top US officials have said after President Joe Biden announced that Air India has agreed to a historic purchase of airplanes from Boeing.

On Tuesday, the White House announced that Boeing and Air India have reached an agreement under which the airline will purchase 190 B737 MAX, 20 B787, and 10 B777X for a total of 220 firm orders valued at USD 34 billion at the list price.

There will be an option to buy 70 more aircraft that could take the total transaction value to USD 45.9 billion, a deal that US President Biden described as a "historic agreement".

"I'm thrilled to celebrate this new development in the thriving trade relationship between the United States and India. Today's an-

ouncement is a deal of historic significance between the Boeing Company and the Tata Group," US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said.

Observing that the Air India orders will be Boeing's third biggest sale of all time in dollar value and second in quantity, Raimondo said this is a win for workers, manufacturers, and suppliers across the United States, and it reaffirms the deep and lasting relationship between the two nations.

Raimondo is scheduled to travel to India in March to co-chair the US-India CEO Forum and US-India Commercial Dialogue meetings with her Indian counterpart Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

"We're also delighted to be working with India as part of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) for Prosperity, a his-

toric opportunity to strengthen our economic ties and fuel economic prosperity across the Indo-Pacific region," she said adding that she is optimistic about the opportunities for the US-India economic relationship in the years to come.

The IPEF was launched jointly by the US and other partner countries of the Indo-Pacific region on May 23, 2022, in Tokyo.

Boeing-Air India deal reaffirms that optimism, the commerce secretary said. "Over the last two years, we have made great strides toward expanding the bilateral trade relationship between the US and India, including through the US-India Trade Policy Forum, to expand market access for American businesses, producers and our workers," said Deputy United States Trade Representative Sarah Bianchi.

## Romania, Moldova both report strange objects in their skies

Bucharest, Feb 15 (AP):

Romania briefly scrambled military jets and neighbouring Moldova temporarily closed its air space after authorities in both countries reported mysterious weather balloon-like objects traversing their skies.

The incidents occurred at around midday local time and briefly raised concerns in the two Eastern European countries, both which border Ukraine and have been affected by Russia's war.

Romania's defence min-

istry said it deployed two jets that are under NATO command to its southeastern skies to seek an aerial object it described as being small with "characteristics similar to a weather balloon." It had been detected initially by radar systems in Romanian airspace at an altitude of about 11,000 metres (36,000 feet). "The crews of the two aircraft did not confirm the presence of the aerial target, neither visually nor on the onboard radars," a ministry statement said, adding that the two MiG-21 LanceR aircraft stayed in

the vicinity for about 30 minutes before returning to base.

Romanian Foreign Minister Bogdan Aurescu told reporters at U.N. headquarters in New York that "the Romanian fighter jets did not find any object, even if it was spotted on the radar so no threat for the Romanian airspace."

It was unclear whether the two incidents were related, and neither country said where they believed the objects had come from.

## Afghanistan remains primary source of terrorist threat: UN

United Nations, Feb 15 (PTI):

Afghanistan remains the primary source of terrorist threat for Central and South Asia, with groups such as ISIL-K, Al-Qaeda and Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan enjoying greater freedom of movement in the country owing to the absence of an effective Taliban security strategy, a UN report has said. The 31st report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring

Team (ISIL, Al-Qaida), was issued here on Tuesday.

The report said that Afghanistan remains the primary source of terrorist threat for Central and South Asia.

"It originates from groups including the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan (ISIL-K), Al-Qaeda, Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan, as well as ETIM/TIP (Eastern

Turkistan Islamic Movement/Turkistan Islamic Party), Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, Islamic Jihad Group, Khatiba Imam al-Bukhari, Khatiba al-Tawhid wal-Jihad, Jamaat Ansarullah and others. These groups enjoy greater freedom of movement in Afghanistan owing to the absence of an effective Taliban security strategy," the report said.

### OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, CIRCLE NO-1 RAIPUR (C.G.)

#### Tender Notice (1st Call)

Contractors, Registered appropriate class in Unified Registration System [e-Registration] invited Online tenders for the following works :-

NIT No./ System Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable amount of contract
1	2	3
183/123938	CONSTRUCTION OF OFFICE BLOCK AT ANTI-CORRUPTION BUREAU CIVIL LINE RAIPUR (C.G.) (DEPOSITE WORK)	Rs. 22.37 Lakh

Last date of tender Download Date up to 05.03.2023 Time 17:30 PM

Note :- All eligible/interested contractors are mandated to get enrolled on the e Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Superintending Engineer P.W.D. Raipur Circle No-1 Raipur (C.G.)

G-98502/2

### GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES DIVISION, SURAJPUR (C.G.)

#### e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

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

(1st Call)

System Tender No. : 124283 NIT No. : 05/SAC/2022-23 Surajpur, Dated : 13.02.2023

Online Tenders are Invited for The Following Works up to 06.03.2023 at 17:30 Hour (IST) :-

Name of Work : RENOVATION OF GONDA LIS SCHEME C.C. LINING MARHATA CANAL R.D.0M TO R.D. 1740M, GONDA CANAL R.D. 0M TO 720M, SATTIPARA CANAL R.D. 0M TO 2520M, MINOR CANAL 0M TO R.D. 1700M INCLUDING 03 NOS. VRD,02 NOS. C.D. AND 26 NOS OUTLETS.

Probable Amount of Contract - Rs. 256.63 Lakhs (As per S.O.R Dated 01.08.2010 & As amended dated 01.08.2014 and 22.08.2022)

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 20.02.2023, 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 Water Resources Division, Surajpur (C.G.) For, Chief Engineer, Hasdeo Ganga Basin, Water Resources Department, Ambikapur (C.G.)

G-98507/1

### GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN, RAIPUR (C.G.)

#### e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

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

(1st Call)

System Tender No. : 124486/NIT No. : 13/SAC/2022-23, Rajnandgaon, Dated : 13.02.2023

Online Tenders are Invited for the following works up to 06.03.2023 at 17:30 Hour

Name of Work : Renovation of Tank and C.C. Lining of main canal from RD 0 m to 5490 m and construction of 05 Nos. of VRB and 35 Nos of Inlet & outlet of Dharmutola Tank Scheme under Chhuria Branch of Rajnandgaon District.

Probable Amount of Contract - Rs. 389.01 Lakhs (As per S.O.R Dated 01.08.2010 (As amended dated 22.08.2022))

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 20.02.2023, 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 Water Resources Division, Rajnandgaon (C.G.) For, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godawari Basin Raipur (C.G.)

G-98511/1

### न्यायालय नायब तहसीलदार डोंगरगांव के न्यायालय में मामला

क्रमांक: 202302091100009/20230291100009

विषय:- ब-121 मामले की श्रेणी - राजस्व सन:- 2022-2023

रामपुर प.ह.नं. 00035 / 115 (1.1810 हे.) ।

पक्षकारों का विवरण - आवेदक पक्षकार - छ.ग.स्टेट पावर डिस्ट्री. कंपनी लिमि., राजनांदगांव, अनावेदक पक्षकार छ.ग. शासन .

#### ईशतहार

एतद द्वारा सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि आवेदक छ.स्टेट पावर डिस्ट्री. कंपनी लिमि. राजनांदगांव का ज्ञापन क्रमांक 13-1/कार्य/1018 राजनांदगांव दिनांक 20/01/2023 प्राप्त। प्राप्त ज्ञापन के अनुसार ग्रामीण उपसंभाग राजनांदगांव अंतर्गत वितरण केन्द्र-अर्जुनी के ग्राम रामपुर पटवारी हल्का नं. 35 तहसील डोंगरगांव जिला राजनांदगांव स्थित शासकीय मृमि खसरा नं. 115 रकबा 1.181 हेक्टेयर मृमि पर विद्युत पॉवर प्लांट 33/11 के वही सब-स्टेशन निर्माण हेतु मृमि आवंटन किये जाने सरपंच ग्राम पंचायत रामपुर के बैठक दिनांक 16/12/2022, नवशा खसरा, बी-1की नकल के साथ प्रस्तुत किया है।

उक्त संबंध में जिस किसी भी व्यक्ति को दावा/आपत्ति हो पेशी दिनांक 20.02.2023 को स्वयं अथवा अपने प्राधिकृत अधिकृत के माध्यम से न्यायालय में प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं। बाद में प्राप्त दावा आपत्ति पर विचार नहीं किया जावेगा। आज दिनांक 06.02.2023 को मेरे हस्ताक्षर एवं न्यायालय के मुहर से जारी किया गया।

यह ईशतहार मेरे हस्ताक्षर एवं पदमुद्रा से आज दिनांक 06/02/2023 को जारी किया जाता है।

नायब तहसीलदार डोंगरगांव

### दक्षिण पूर्व मध्य रेलवे

पेंशन अदालत का आयोजन

सेवानिवृत्त रेलवे कर्मचारियों/अशक्तता पेंशनर/पारिवारिक पेंशनर की सुविधा हेतु दक्षिण पूर्व मध्य रेलवे रायपुर द्वारा मंडल रेल प्रबंधक कार्यालय में 15.03.2023 को प्रातः 11 बजे पेंशन अदालत का आयोजन किया जाएगा।

यदि आपको सेवानिवृत्ति के पर्यन्त मिलने वाले बकाया निपटान (सेमेन्ट ऑफ सेटलमेंट डेंयूज) से संबंधित अथवा पेंशन मुताबत संबंधी कोई शिकायत है, तो आप अपना अग्र्यावेदन दो प्रतियों में दिनांक 23.02.2023 तक प्रस्तुत करें। न्यायालय में लंबित प्रकरण, नियुक्ति तथा अन्य नीतिगत मामलों को पेंशन अदालत में शामिल नहीं किया जायेगा। सेवानिवृत्त वे सभी कर्मचारी जिन्हें इस संबंध में अपने आवेदन पत्र प्रस्तुत करने हैं, वे अपने आवेदन पत्र बरिश्द मंडल कार्मिक अधिकारी दक्षिण पूर्व मध्य रेलवे रायपुर न्यू डी.आर.एम आफिस खमतलाई रायपुर(छ.ग) 492008 के कार्यालय में दिनांक 23.02.2023 तक निम्नलिखित प्रारूप में जमा कर दें।

आवेदन का प्रारूप	
1	पी.पी.ओ. क्रमांक:
2	सेवानिवृत्त कर्मचारी का नाम:
3	पदनाम(सेवानिवृत्त/अशक्तता पेंशनर/ पारिवारिक पेंशनर के समूह):
4	मंडल / युनिट का नाम/अंतिम कार्यस्थल
5	किताब:
6	मंडल/कार्यालय:
7	अंतिम वेतन:
8	सेवानिवृत्त/अशक्तता/मृत्यु का दिनांक:
9	नोबार्ड/टेलीफोन नंबर:
10	पत्राचार के लिए पता:
11	सेवानिवृत्त/अशक्तता पेंशनर/पारिवारिक पेंशनर के शिकायत का विस्तृत विवरण:

नोट:- (पी.पी.ओ. एवं सेवा प्रमाण पत्र की छाया प्रति संलग्न करें)

पीआर/आर/डीजीओ/एपी/222 आवेदक के हस्ताक्षर

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## CENTRAL Chronicle

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### Overhauling the ITI ecosystem

The paradox of India's demographic dividend and the unemployment of a large number of trained youths in the industrial sector speak volumes about the underutilization of the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in the country. The ITI education matching the demand for labour force trained in skills required by industries is critical to bridge the gap. The NITI Aayog's recent report, "Transforming Industrial Training Institutes," brings to the fore that even after more than seven decades of establishment of ITIs in the country, the vocational training institutes failed to ensure a steady flow of skilled workers, which also slowed the pace of industrialization. The report highlights that of the total capacity of 25 lakh trainees, only 10.5 lakh seats are filled in about 14789 ITIs, while "placement rates portray an even more dismal picture of the ecosystem." Contrary to the popular perception of private educational and training institutes having greater attraction for students, trainees, and parents, seat utilisation is higher in government ITIs as compared to private ITIs. Ironically, 78.4 percent of ITIs are private, which accounts for 62% of all seats, and 21.59% are government, which accounts for only 38% of seats. Seat utilisation in government ITIs is 56.74%, while it is 43% in private ITIs. This also demonstrates the hard fact that industrial training has not received the due attention from the government; both at the Center and in states, and that leaving its growth to the private sector did not meet the desired objectives. The detailed analysis of the ITI ecosystem in the report is a ready reckoner for policymakers, industries, and existing institutes, both government-run and private, to identify bottlenecks. The NITI Aayog has recommended a seven-pronged approach pertaining to changes in administration, curriculum, reporting, monitoring, resource mobilization, and other relevant sectors in its report, which is based on a study undertaken by the national think tank. Around 66% of the total ITIs are situated in five states: Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra, which says a lot about the skewed development of industrial training in the country. Farm mechanisation and rising input costs, coupled with a lack of remunerative prices, have reduced the capacity of the agriculture sector to absorb more labour. This has led to outmigration of several lakh of youth from farm families in industrially backward regions like Northeast in search of greener pastures in industrially advanced states for opportunities in industries as well as service sectors. The ITIs can play a crucial role in increasing the employability of this youth as a skilled workforce, but the majority of them migrating as unskilled workers point towards the deficiencies in the ecosystem. The NITI Aayog study finds that most popular trades in ITIs include Electrician, Fitter, Machinist, Welder, Motor Vehicle Mechanic, Draughtsman, etc., while there are some non-engineering trades such as Bamboo works, Baker and Confectioner, Corporate Housekeeping, Creche Management and Dress Making. Some of the problems grappling the ITI ecosystem identified in the report include failure to stick to the timetable while conducting trade-specific classes and laboratory training, and laboratory equipment in some ITIs remaining out of order. Limited financial power of ITI principals in government ITIs delays procurement of machines and instruments meeting industry requirement required for practical training. The interaction of the study team with principals also reveals that even after the signing of Memorandum of Understandings between ITI and industry, many industries are not delegating trainers on time, due to which instructors are not able to get training from the industry periodically. Besides, technical faults in machines procured from industry that are not repaired in a time-bound manner and sometimes get delayed for months also adversely affect training schedules. The NITI Aayog lays emphasis on the availability of quality, competent, and trained trainers for producing a workforce for the future. The government and industry collaborating to create a pool of trained trainers will go a long way towards improving the overall ecosystem and enhancing the employability of trainees. It recommends that ITIs require revamping and upgrading in line with the requirements of the changing world of work and re-look at courses and curriculum in terms of their relevance and quality, inculcate an entrepreneurial spirit in students, and establish long-term collaborations for industry exposure. Assam Cabinet's recent decision to accord certified status to ITI diploma holders can be expected to increase enrolment but improving the overall ecosystem by removing the bottlenecks including overcoming the challenges of introduction of new curriculum and availability of modern laboratory equipped with later machines and instruments will be crucial to achieve the objectives of industrial training. Another key recommendation made in the report is putting in place appropriate tools, technologies, and infrastructure to transition to a digital or hybrid mode of learning and devising suitable strategies for outreach and advocacy on the employment prospects of ITI courses. A complete overhaul of the ITI ecosystem has become an urgent necessity.

### Healing of ozone layer

Dr Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

It is surprising news that the ozone recovery is on track, according to the quadrennial assessment study published recently by the Scientific Assessment Panel to the Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances supported by the U.N. Scientists and environmentalists have lauded efforts to close the ozone hole as one of humanity's greatest ecological triumphs for decades. The recovery of the ozone layer serves as evidence of our ability to bring about significant change. The majority of people thought it was impossible, so it is a remarkable achievement. The world is now protected from the potentially disastrous effects of ultraviolet radiation thanks to the ozone layer, which is currently recovering. The ozone layer is also necessary for the existence of humans and other living things because it traps enough solar energy to act as an atmospheric blanket. A panel of experts supported by the UN ruled that the ozone layer is on track to regenerate within four decades thanks to the global phase-out of ozone-depleting substances. The effort to close the ozone hole, which was made possible by the 1987 Montreal Protocol, which forbade a set of chemicals frequently found in refrigerants and aerosols, has been hailed by scientists and environmentalists as one of humanity's greatest ecological triumphs. If present policies are followed, it is anticipated that the ozone layer will return to 1980 levels (before the ozone hole appeared) by 2066 over the Antarctic, 2045 over the Arctic, and 2040 for the rest of the planet. The ozone layer is also responsible for the present climatic change that we are experiencing, including the current heat wave and floods that are a result of global warming. We continue to worry about the difficult process of regenerating the ozone layer. The ozone layer must therefore always be monitored since its recovery will have a significant positive impact on the global climate and ecosystem.

Central Chronicle welcomes, articles, write ups, comments on different issues for editorial page (800-900 words), Letter to editor for this page. It can be sent by e-mail at: editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com  
The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

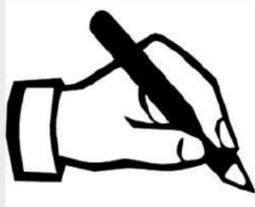
### PROTEST AGAINST THE KERALA BUDGET



Police use water cannon to disperse Muslim Youth League (MYL) activists during their protest against the Kerala Budget, in Thiruvananthapuram, Wednesday, Feb. 15.

## BJP is battle ready for the nine State Assembly elections in 2023

KALYANI SHANKAR



There could be a musical chair this year with nine states going for elections. It will be a trailer and the semi-final before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The results will show whether the BJP continues to sway the voters or the Congress-led Opposition will defeat the BJP in the upcoming elections. Regional satraps would naturally want to protect their turf.

The nine election-bound states are Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, and the four northeastern states, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura.

The poll schedule runs through the year. Meghalaya, Nagaland, and Tripura will go to polls in February, and Karnataka in April-May. Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, and Mizoram will face elections at the year-end. Jammu and Kashmir may also go for polls, the first since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. Congress, BJP, and region-

al parties are all playing it, marshalling all their resources. The states where BJP and Congress remain the leading contenders are big states like Karnataka, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh. Congress is ruling Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, BJP Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh. A two percent swing, either way, would change the results.

BJP wants to expand further while Congress struggles to raise its head. It has already lost the northeastern states, which was its stronghold at one point of time to the BJP, and BJP has increased its foothold steadily everywhere. Even the Left have lost Tripura to the B JP. With such high stakes, the worst-case scenario for Congress is to lose Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh and not win any of the other seven states. The best-case scenario is to retain what it has and gain more.

The BJP is on a mission mode. Mission 350' (to get 350 seats in Lok Sabha) is their stated goal. It is going all out to enable Prime Minister Narendra Modi to perform a hat trick.

The BJP chief J P Nadda has sounded the poll bugle this month, asking the cadres to "Prepare to win all nine Assembly polls this year. The party is getting votes of Backward Classes, SCs and STs and is giving them representation. This shows our resolve of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, and

Sabka Prayas," he said; while addressing the party's national executive recently.

The two parties have already begun their poll exercises, with Modi campaigning in the North East and the Congress concentrating on Rahul's Bharat Jodo Yatra. Key regional players like the ambitious Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, hoping for a hat trick, is also preparing for the battle of 2023.

The BJP wants to focus on the South, which has 129 seats, of which the party has only 29 seats, 25 coming from Karnataka. The party wants to win at least 50 seats. But the regional satraps have a firm hold in Southern states, be it Telangana or Kerala.

"The upcoming 2023 assembly elections will be the final journey for the opposition parties, especially the Congress party. According to former Tripura chief minister Biplov Kumar Deb, it will be a trial by fire between BJP and regional parties in the northeastern states. The seven states count for 25 seats.

After completing Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo' Yatra last week, the Congress workers are enthused.

We must wait for Yatra's electoral impact, as it depends on follow-up. Organizational unity is a crucial challenge, especially in states such as Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Telangana, where traditionally, Congress had done well in the past. The party's high

command must not mess up as it did in Punjab and elsewhere. It must choose its alliance partners and assess its strength correctly.

Secondly, it has to find a balance between old guards and younger leaders. Thirdly, Congress must choose a new, catchy narrative and raise correct issues, particularly of interest to the common man, like bread and butter issues.

For the BJP, money is no constraint, nor is the organization. Above all, The BJP depends on Modi's magic to sway the voters.

However, the Saffron party is on the back foot regarding price rise, inflation, and jobs. There are no takers for its Hindutva ideology in the South.

If the opposition concentrates on the bread and butter issues and convinces the voters to move away from the BJP, it would be an 'advantage Opposition.' The BJP also has to fight the Dynasties, welfare politics, and social engineering to conquer the South. Regional satraps like K. Chandrashekar Rao still have a hold on the electorate.

Each player has to use a different poll strategy to win and go for a suitable alliance. The Congress needs a different narrative, while the BJP ideology does not attract people in the South. The parties have to overcome some disadvantages to utilize their advantages successfully. Ultimately, it all depends on the voters and Dame Luck.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Raid at BBC office

Income Tax (IT) officials searched the BBC's (British Broadcasting Corporation) Delhi and Mumbai offices on 14th February and seized phones and laptops, weeks after a massive controversy over the UK broadcaster's documentary series on Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi and the deadly sectarian riots in Gujarat in 2002. One has to agree that the BBC report's fairness is debatable. However, conducting an IT raid (to mild it called 'survey' for the concerns allegations of international taxation and transfer pricing irregularities involving the BBC), as a tool to attack them just shows to the world that we have something to hide and we are trying to intimidate the BBC. IT raids are to be conducted when the company has falsified IT records not when they have reported misinformation. This just shows once again the world that the Modi government agencies are tools to be used at the ruling party's need and not agencies that do the work that they are supposed to. But people wonder, when Adani group manipulated books, created shell companies and involved in money laundering, as result after the Hindenburg report, ten lakh crores wiped out from its pocket, but at that time IT, CBI and ED are sleeping. The timing of the raid - within a month after the release of the documentary - made glaringly obvious that it was not undertaken purely for economic reasons. It's nothing but to penalize free journalism.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

#### Make WPL a success

Five franchises opened their purses to shell out Rs 59.5 crore to buy 87 players. Though Rs 3.4 crore for Smriti Mandhana may not look as astronomical as what some male players get for IPL, it must be noted that the latter is a 15-year-old brand and has established its credibility over a decade. Hopefully, once all stakeholders, including the critical ones and fans embrace the Women's Premier League (WPL) with the same love and passion, we may see higher amounts being bid for women cricketers too in the coming years. Now, all efforts should be aimed at making WPL a success.

Bal Govind, Noida

#### PM's uncivil gesture

His recent 'performances' in Parliament and outside suggest that PM Modi wants to project himself as a superhero. His utterance 'Desh dekh raha hai, ek akela kitnon pe bhari padh raha hai' is one such example. However, it is unfortunate that in a fit of bravado, he sometimes transgresses the limits of civility. One such instance was when he sarcastically asked Congress leader Rahul why he was a Gandhi and not a Nehru. The PM insulted him because in our society, an individual is known by his father's name. Such uncivil behaviour is not expected from the PM. He should apologise to Rahul.

Beant Singh Bedi, Mohali

## Ring system around dwarf planet on the edge of Solar System discovered

Scientists have discovered a new ring system around a dwarf planet on the edge of the Solar System, according to a new study.

According to the study, the ring system is around a dwarf planet, named Quaoar, which is approximately half the size of Pluto and orbits the Sun beyond Neptune.

The ring system orbits much further out than is typical for other ring systems, calling into question current theories of how ring systems are formed, the study said.

The discovery was made by an international team of astronomers using HiPERCAM - an extremely

sensitive high-speed camera developed by scientists at the University of Sheffield, UK, which is mounted on the world's largest optical telescope, the 10.4 metre diameter Gran Telescopio Canarias (GTC) on La Palma, Spain, the study said.

The discovery is published in the journal Nature.

The rings are too small and faint to see directly in an image. Instead, the researchers made their discovery by observing an occultation, when the light from a background star was blocked by Quaoar as it orbits the Sun, the study said.

The event lasted less

than a minute, but was unexpectedly preceded and followed by two dips in light, indicative of a ring system around Quaoar, the study said.

Ring systems are relatively rare in the Solar System - as well as the well-known rings around the giant planets Saturn, Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune, only two other minor planets possess rings - Chariklo and Haumea, the study said.

All of the previously known ring systems are able to survive because they orbit close to the parent body, so that tidal forces prevent the ring material from accreting and forming moons, the study

said. According to the study, what made the ring system around Quaoar remarkable was that it lay at a distance of over seven planetary radii - twice as far out as what was previously thought to be the maximum radius according to the so-called 'Roche limit', which is the outer limit of where ring systems were thought to be able to survive.

For comparison, the main rings around Saturn lie within three planetary radii. This discovery has therefore forced a rethink on theories of ring formation, the study said.

"It was unexpected to discover this new ring system in our Solar System, and it

was doubly unexpected to find the rings so far out from Quaoar, challenging our previous notions of how such rings form.

"The use of our high-speed camera - HiPERCAM - was key to this discovery as the event lasted less than one minute and the rings are too small and faint to see in a direct image," said Professor Vik Dhillon, co-author of the study from the University of Sheffield's Department of Physics and Astronomy.

"Everyone learns about Saturn's magnificent rings when they're a child, so hopefully this new finding will provide further insight into how they came to be," said Dhillon.

**BRIEF**

**Steel prices**



**New Delhi:** The volatility in steel prices is expected to continue and the industry must learn to live with the "new normal", T V Narendran the global CEO and MD of Tata Steel has suggested. Replying to a question on the continuous fluctuations in prices of steel, he said industry members, both producers and consumers, can not wish away the price volatility and instead should look at how it can be managed. "I have never seen the type of volatility we have seen in the last 8 to 9 months in my 34 years of association with the industry. It's a new normal we need to learn to live with it," Narendran told PTI in a video conference.

**Budget presentation**



**Kolkata:** West Bengal Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya on Wednesday presented a Rs 3.39-lakh crore budget for 2023-24, with a proposal to waive agricultural income tax on tea gardens for two years and extend credit facility to young entrepreneurs. She said the state GDP is projected to grow at 8.4 per cent and the industry at 7.8 per cent in the ongoing 2022-23 fiscal.

**Transmission lines**



**New Delhi:** Over 17,000 circuit kilometers of transmission lines were installed in India in the last nine years to strengthen the electricity distribution system, Union Power Minister R K Singh said. He made the remarks while addressing delegates from the West African region at an event organised by the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in collaboration with Grid Controller of India Ltd (Grid-India) and West African Power Pool (WAPP) in the national capital.

**5G service**

**Shimla:** Himachal Pradesh chief minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched the fifth generation (5G) internet network of telecom service provider Jio in the state. Expansion of 5G services would further strengthen the digital infrastructure in the state, which would bring new opportunities besides enriching the experiences for every individual especially students, businessmen and professionals, the chief minister said.

## FM exhorts exporters to 'foresee' impact of global slowdown

**Engage with govt**  
**New Delhi, Feb 15:**



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during an interactive session on the theme 'India's role in the Emerging World Order' organised by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), in New Delhi, Wednesday, Feb. 15.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday exhorted exporters to be receptive and 'foresee' how the recession or slowing economy abroad will pan out for them, while asking them to constantly engage with the government. Stating that external uncertainties are far more 'unpredictable' and therefore challenging, Sitharaman said in a post-pandemic, post-war world, and where there is a repeat occurrence of virus, there is no fixed 'template' to deal with uncertainties. With regard to imports, she assured the industry that the government is looking at specific items to see which are going to be consistently

needed for next few years as well as those whose import could hurt domestic manufacturers. "The changes abroad, recession abroad or the slowing economy abroad are all going to be challenge for Indian exporters. So Indian exporters will have to be far more receptive of what is happening there or even foresee how that will pan out for them and keep constantly engaging with the government otherwise at a time when exporters have to be on their toes, such

challenges demotivate them," Sitharaman said at the ASSOCHAM event here. The minister's comments came after commerce ministry data showed that India's exports dipped by 6.58 per cent to USD 32.91 billion in January - second straight month of decline - due to slowdown in global demand.

Imports in January too contracted by 3.63 per cent, the second consecutive month, to USD 50.66 billion. Sitharaman further said that customs authorities at the borders are keeping a tab on both exports and imports. "No way are we blanket taking a position, we are looking at specific items to see which are going to be consistently needed for next few years and which are going to hurt us.

## Exports dip by 6.58 pc in Jan; trade deficit lowest in 12-months at USD 17.75 bn

**New Delhi Feb 15:**



Contracting for the second month in a row, India's exports dipped by 6.58 per cent to USD 32.91 billion in January due to slowdown in global demand, even as the trade deficit touched a 12-month low of USD 17.75 billion during the month, according to official data released on Wednesday. Imports in January too contracted by 3.63 per cent, the second consecutive month, to USD 50.66 billion.

Cumulatively, however, during April-January 2022-23, the country's merchandise exports rose 8.51 per cent to USD 369.25 billion, while imports increased 21.89 per cent to USD 602.20 billion, the data showed. The merchandise trade deficit for the April-January this fiscal stood at about USD 233 billion. The country's exports had contracted by

12.2 per cent to USD 34.48 billion in December 2022.

Last time, it was in January 2022, when the trade deficit touched USD 17.42 billion. Export sectors that recorded negative growth during the 10-months period of this fiscal include engineering goods, iron ore, plastic and linoleum, gems and jewellery. Engineering exports dipped by 3.37 per cent to USD 88.27 billion during April-January 2022-23. In the same period, gems and jewellery shipments declined by 0.54 per cent to USD 31.61 billion. Sectors which recorded positive growth include petroleum products, elec-

tronic goods, rice, ready-made garments of textiles and chemicals. "The overall exports (goods and services) growth in the current financial year is about 17.33 per cent. The main engine behind this export growth is the Services sector, which has been growing at a historically high growth rate of about 30 per cent. "Merchandise exports are also cumulatively growing at 8.5 per cent. We are optimistic that this growth momentum would continue despite strong global headwinds," Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal told reporters. Gold imports during April-January this fiscal contracted by 11.26 per cent to USD 29 billion, as against USD 40.35 billion in the same period last year. In the 10-months of the current fiscal, crude oil imports rose 53.54 per cent to USD 178.45 billion.

## Early availability of ITR forms to enable return filing from April 1: CBDT

**New Delhi, Feb 15:**

The Income Tax department on Wednesday said the ITR forms for 2022-23 will come into effect from April 1 and have been notified well in advance to enable the filing of returns from the beginning of the ensuing Assessment Year. To facilitate taxpayers and to improve the ease of filing, no significant changes have been made to the ITR forms in comparison to the last year's ITR Forms. Only bare minimum changes necessitated due to amendments in the Income-Tax Act, 1961, have been made, it added. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on February 10 notified income tax return forms 1-6 for individuals, professionals and businesses for income earned in 2022-23. Also, ITR-7 form for charitable trusts, scientific

research institute, political parties and universities was notified on February 14. "These ITR forms will come into effect from April 1, 2023, and have been notified well in advance in order to enable filing of returns from the beginning of the ensuing Assessment Year," the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a statement. Usually, ITR forms for a particular financial year are notified by the end of March or early April. ITR Form 1 (Saha) and ITR Form 4 (Sugam) are simpler forms that cater to a large number of small and medium taxpayers. Saha can be filed by a resident individual having income up to Rs 50 lakh and who receives income from salary, one house property, other sources (interest) and agricultural income up to Rs 5,000.

## Govt to decide on raising sugar export quota in March: Food Secy

**New Delhi, Feb 15:**



The government will take a call next month on increasing the sugar export quota from the present 60 lakh tonnes for the current marketing year after assessing the domestic production, Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra said on Wednesday. The food ministry has allowed 60 lakh tonnes of sugar exports for the current 2022-23 marketing year (October-September), which is expected to see a drop in the sugar production. India exported a record 110 lakh tonnes of sugar in the previous year. "We have not yet taken a call. We are closely monitoring the production and we would take a call may be in March depending on what the final figures of anticipated production

are," Chopra told reporters here when asked whether the government will hike the sugar export quota. He said the sugar production is estimated to be lower in the 2022-23 marketing year because of bad weather in some producing states. Recently, Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) said that sugar production is estimated to fall 5 per cent in the current marketing year to 340 lakh tonnes as more quantity of sugarcane juice is being diverted for the produc-

tion of ethanol. Sugar production stood at 358 lakh tonnes in the 2021-22 marketing year. There will be an estimated diversion of 45 lakh tonnes of sweetener towards ethanol manufacturing. Sugarcane juice/syrup and B-molasses are being diverted to ethanol making. In the previous 2021-22 marketing year, 32 lakh tonnes of sweetener was diverted towards manufacturing of ethanol for blending with petrol. The actual sugar production in Maharashtra is estimated to decline to 121 lakh tonnes in 2022-23 from 137 lakh tonnes in the previous year. Uttar Pradesh will see a marginal decline to 101 lakh tonnes from 102 lakh tonnes, while Karnataka may witness a decline to 56 lakh tonnes from 60 lakh tonnes.

## India leapfrogged 40 yrs of development with DPI: G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant

**Lucknow, Feb 15:**

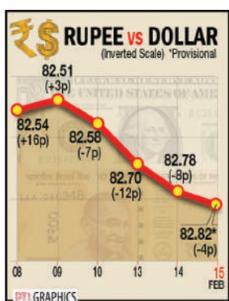


With effective implementation of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) like Aadhaar, CoWin, many others, India leapfrogged 40 years of development and made progress in seven years which was expected to be achieved in 47 years, G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant said here. Kant was giving a keynote address in the first Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG) meeting that witnessed active participation from G20 members, knowledge partners, and eight guest countries. "With effective implementation of DPI, India leapfrogged 40 years of development and made progress in 7 years which was expected to be

achieved in 47 years. Any country can use the already developed DPIs and innovate on the top of the same," Kant said in a statement. Kant said in a length about the successes of DPI in terms of inclusion, delivery of social services, preventing monopolisation in digital space, and security, privacy & governance. He shared the full suite of Indian DPIs, namely Aadhaar, CoWIN, DigiLocker, etc in his address.

## Rupee falls by 4 paise to close at 82.82 against US dollar

**Mumbai, Feb 15:**



The rupee pared most of its initial losses to close down by 4 paise at 82.82 (provisional) against the US currency on Wednesday on lower trade deficit data for the month of January. Forex traders said a stronger American currency in the overseas markets capped the appreciation bias. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened lower at 82.90 against the greenback amid early losses in domestic equities. The local unit recovered some ground later in the day in line with equities to close at 82.82 (provisional), down 4 paise over its previous close of 82.78. During the session the domestic

unit witnessed an intraday high of 82.79 and a low of 82.90 against the American dollar. According to Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, the rupee erased earlier losses on upbeat trade deficit in India's trade deficit in

January fell to a 12-month low of USD 17.75 billion as imports declined by 3.63 per cent year-on-year to USD 50.66 billion. Exports in January dipped by 6.58 per cent to USD 32.91 billion, as against USD 35.23 billion a year ago. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.21 per cent higher at 103.45. "Dollar strengthened as CPI data from US printed at 6.4 per cent in January, above estimates of 6.2 per cent, but slightly lower than 6.5 per cent in December, signaling that sticky inflation may keep interest rates holding on at higher levels for longer," Choudhary said.

## Mandaviya inaugurates IFFCO's 2 nano-urea plants in UP

**New Delhi, Feb 15:**



Union Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated cooperative organisation IFFCO's nano urea plants at Aonla and Phulpur in Uttar Pradesh, and also announced that a government's expert panel has given approval for launch of nano di-ammonium phosphate (DAP). India imports a large quantity of urea and DAP fertilisers to meet domestic demand. The production of nano urea and nano DAP will help in reduction of imports and the government's fertiliser subsidy bill.

## Sensex, Nifty rise for 2nd day on gains in oil, IT & banking shares

**Mumbai, Feb 15:**



Benchmark Sensex pared early losses to close 242 points higher while Nifty settled above the 18,000-mark on Wednesday following gains in IT, oil and select banking stocks amid mixed global trends. Extending gains for a second day, the 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 242.83 points or 0.40 per cent to close at 61,275.09 with 20 of its constituents ending in the green.

The index opened lower at 60,990.05 but later regained foot to touch a high of 61,352.55 in day trade. The broader Nifty of NSE rose by 86 points or 0.48 per cent to settle above the 18,000-mark at 18,015.85, fol-

lowing gains in RIL, Tech Mahindra and Adani Enterprises. Among Sensex stocks, Tech Mahindra rose the most by 5.79 per cent. Index major Reliance Industries spurred 2.22 per cent, while Bajaj Finserv, Bharti Airtel, Tata Steel, M&M, Nestle Industries, HCL Tech, Kotak Bank, Tata Motors,

ICICI Bank and Titan also advanced.

Hindustan Unilever fell the most by 1.22 per cent. ITC, Sun Pharma, L&T, HDFC twins and IndusInd Bank were among the major losers. In the broader market, the BSE midcap index advanced 0.69 per cent while the smallcap index rose by 0.36 per cent. Meanwhile, Asian and European stocks were mixed after US inflation fell less than expected, raising expectations of aggressive rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve. In Asia, the Shanghai Composite Index lost 0.4 per cent, the Nikkei 225 in Tokyo declined 0.4 per cent and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong dropped 1.4 per cent.

## Jaguar TCS Racing ready for inaugural Greenko Hyderabad E-Priz

**Hyderabad, Feb 15:**



Jaguar TCS Racing will debut their Jaguar I-TYPE 6 in India this weekend, as the 2023 ABB FIA Formula E World Championship takes to the streets of Hyderabad for the first time. Lights will go green at 15:00 local time on Saturday 11 February at the Greenko Hyderabad E-Priz, the first of four brand new race locations for Season 9 of the all-electric world championship. The race comprises of 32 laps of a 2.83km street circuit, positioned on the banks of the heart-shaped Hussain Sagar Lake. Drivers Mitch Evans and Sam Bird are aiming to secure further points and

podiums following positive performances at the Diriyah double-header in January. In rounds two and three, Sam secured third and fourth place positions, while Mitch scored points after finishing tenth and seventh respectively and starred in qualifying and the early stages of round three when he

led the race from the first corner. Jaguar TCS Racing announce a new partnership with AERO who join as an Official Supplier. Revolutionary to the paint industry, AERO offers a radical alternative to traditional car paint by using advanced, film-based material technologies with an incredibly streamlined

and sustainable manufacturing and application process. AERO's self-healing film system is used on the new black, white and gold asymmetric livery of the Jaguar I-TYPE 6.

James Barclay, Jaguar TCS Racing Team Principal: "Ever since the 2023 race calendar was announced, Hyderabad has been one of the tracks that the whole team has been looking forward to. The next three race locations are new in Formula E and we enjoy the challenge of new circuits as a team. Hyderabad is a new opportunity for our drivers and engineers to take on and importantly it's also a home race for Tata and our title partner, TCS.

**Mumbai, Feb 15:**

Ola Electric, India's largest electric vehicles company, announced the expansion of its D2C footprint in Bilaspur with the opening of a new Ola. With 200 such experience centres already operational across all major cities in the country, the company will expand its existing network to include 500 outlets by March 2023.

With an aim to provide all services under one roof, Ola Experience Centres allow EV enthusiasts to experience Ola's EV technology and gather any information regarding the vehicles. They also



enable customers to avail test rides of the S1 and S1 Pro, seek assistance in purchase from Ola's Brand Champions, get details on financing options and culminate into their purchase journey on the Ola app. These Experience Centres also double up as one-stop destinations for all the post sales care and maintenance of Ola scooters. Accelerating India's

EV adoption even further, the company has rolled out exclusive offers with its 'Love on 2 Wheels' campaign including a discount of Rs 12,000 on Ola S1 Pro and free access to its hypercharger network for a year. Additionally, customers can now take home an Ola scooter at zero down payment, opt for EMIs starting as low as Rs 2,499, avail reduced interest rates starting at 8.99% and zero processing fee, and enjoy additional discounts on select credit cards. Besides these, customers also have the option to exchange their petrol scooters for brand new Ola S1s and earn a bonus of up to Rs 4,000.

## Rashmika wins hearts with her love for pooch Aura on V-Day

Rashmika Mandanna of 'Pushpa' fame, whom her co-star Allu Arjun describes as a 'national crush', has shared a video of herself with her pooch Aura to extend warm wishes for Valentine's Day to her fans.

In the video, the actress can be seen lying down and playing with Aura. In the caption, she wrote: "Happy Valentine's Day from us to you my loves." Rashmika's fans have flooded the video with comments.

On her personal front,

Rashmika is the subject of much speculation over her relationship status and her hookup with her 'Geeta Govindam' co-star Vijay Devarakonda.

Rashmika has so far not spelt out anything concrete, but their messages on social media and pictures of shared holidays frequently fuel the rumours.

On the work front, Rashmika will be next seen in 'Pushpa 2', opposite Allu Arjun all over again. She also has 'Animal' opposite Ranbir Kapoor.



## Samantha climbs 600 steps barefoot, prays to Palani Murugan

Samantha Ruth Prabhu climbed 600 steps of the Palani Murugan temple in Tamil Nadu on February 13 draped in an all-white churidar-kurta and offered prayers at the temple.

She also lit a camphor diya and tweeted on the same. She was accompanied by her 'Jaanu' movie director C. Premkumar and other friends.

The actor, who suffers from Myositis, an autoimmune disease condition that causes acute muscular pain, has started shooting for the web series 'Citadel' in which she shares screen space with Bollywood actor Varun



Dhawan. 'Citadel' is the Indian version of the international sci-fi action web series of the same name created by the Russo

Brothers. In the international series, Priyanka Chopra plays the lead.

The Indian web series is directed by the director

duo Raj and DK, who had helmed the popular web series, 'The Family Man', in which Samantha played the role of Raji, a Sri Lankan Tamil militant. She had recently tweeted: "I am thrilled to be part of this brilliant universe conceptualised by the Russo Brothers AGBO. I am also looking forward to working with Varun for the first time. He is someone who is full of life and cheer when you are around him." Samantha is awaiting the release of her Telugu mythological movie 'Shakunthalam' in which she shares the screen with Prakash Raj and Dev Mohan. The movie is to be released on April 14.

## Ayushi spills bean on her upcoming new look in show 'Ajooni'

The television show 'Ajooni' marked Ayushi Khurana's acting debut as the lead. With the audience's growing acclaim for the show, Ayushi Khurana quickly rose to fame and earned a devoted fan base for her portrayal of the powerful, intelligent, and persistent 'Ajooni' in the show. With the upcoming track bringing significant twists and turns, viewers will witness Ayushi Khurana, also known as Ajooni, in a new role as she seeks to reveal Shikha's true motivations in front of the family. Ayushi Khurana shares her new appearance and the preparations she made for it. She says, "I'll be portraying a character named 'Kamli' in the

show, and this is a fresh look for me. Overall, trying something new is a refreshing experience. Additionally, a new aspect of Ajooni will be revealed to the viewers, and it will be extremely entertaining. In terms of appearance, Kamli stands out for having bunny teeth, making it occasionally challenging to speak so sometimes I fumble while delivering my dialogues but eventually I've adapted to her nature now and getting better with delivering my dialogues while having those bunny teeth. But it's great fun because I get to try out a new look and persona. Also, it's fun to play Kamli as she's very funny."



## Priyanka Chopra gives love a second chance in 'Love Again' trailer

The makers of 'Love Again' starring Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Sam Heughan dropped the trailer of the film on the occasion of Valentine's Day, and promised a complete love-filled ride.

It tells the tale of a grieving Priyanka who gives love another chance after a loss. Priyanka's American pop-star husband, singer-actor Nick Jonas has a cameo in the film as they share an awkward kiss.

The trailer starts with a glimpse of Priyanka as Mira who struggles to move on with her life after the death of her boyfriend. She keeps sending texts at the old number which is now being used by Sam, as his new work phone.

Rob, who is a journal-



ist, gets fascinated by Mira's honest and heart-broken texts as she opens up about her old wounds. Rob and Mira cross paths at an opera night and hit

it off but Rob is scared to open up about his feelings towards her.

'Love Again', directed by Jim Strouse, is slated to release in theatres May

12, 2023. Based on the 2016 German film SMS fur Dich by Karoline Herfurth, the film was previously titled 'Text for You'.

## Krish Chauhan returns in 'Punyashlok Ahilyabai'

Enthralling viewers for over 2 years, Sony Entertainment Television's period drama, 'Punyashlok Ahilyabai' brings alive the life and trial of Malwa's benevolent queen, Ahilyabai Holkar. Be it the right to education, widow remarriage, women empowerment, or managing the darbar after losing her husband, she always stood for the right and proved that one becomes great not by gender or birth but by deeds.

Starring Aetashaa Sansgiri, Rajesh Shringarpore, and Malhar Pandya, the show took a 6-year leap revisiting another inspiring chapter of Ahilya Bai of how she received the prestigious title of 'Punyashlok'. Joining the team post leap is young actor Krish Chauhan. Interestingly, Krish played the character of young Khanderao in this historical drama and making a comeback to the show, he will now essay the role of Malerao Holkar (Khanderao and Ahilya's only son).



## Tyga: India has one of the most energetic crowds I've seen



American rapper Tyga, who is all set to perform at Vh1 Supersonic 2023, says India has one of the most energetic crowds he has seen.

The 3-day event will feature American Rapper Tyga, who was one of the star perform-

ers at the pre-Grammys held recently at Los Angeles, this year.

Ecstatic to be a part of the music and lifestyle festival, \*Tyga says, "Whenever I put on a show, a concert, or a tour, what matters most to me is the people, their love, and the vibe that I am creating for them. India has one of the most energetic crowds I've seen. I cannot wait to take the stage at Vh1 Supersonic and feel all that energy and the excitement!" Vh1 Supersonic 2023 is an audio-visual, multisensory music and lifestyle experience one would want to mark on their calendars.

## Aayudh's mom pampers him with a variety of gifts on his B'day!

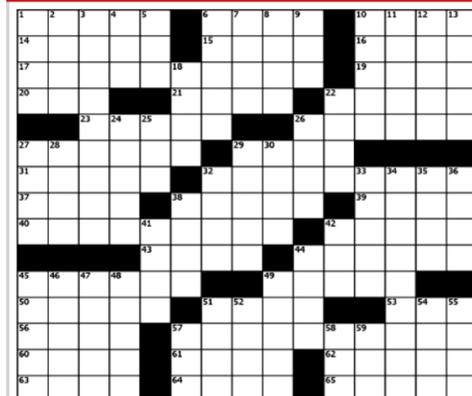
Aayudh Bhanushali, a budding actor, is the son of &TV's family drama Doosri Maa will turn a year old on February 15. The celebrations have already begun a week ahead with his mother pampering him with a gift-a-day as a countdown to his birthday. An excited, Aayudh shares, "Birthdays are the best days of the year as everyone's attention is on you. I always love celebrating my birthday, calling my friend's home for birthday parties, or celebrating at my favourite restaurant. But this year my mother had a special plan in



store by showering me with gifts every day for the entire week till my actual birthday. Probably she must have seen my secret wish list somewhere and has been trying to tick off my favourite things that I wanted to buy from it (laughs). It is quite fun and exciting.

## CROSSWORD

563



### ACROSS

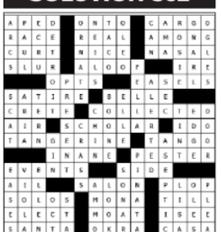
- Green sauce
- Actor \_\_\_\_\_ Dillon
- Deer
- Emotionally distant
- Gumbo ingredient
- Mister (Ger.)
- "Gone with the Wind" setting
- Cleveland's lake
- Nile viper
- Small lake
- Old hat

### DOWN

- Command
- Soup vessel
- Come into sight
- Locks
- Suspicious
- Put up with
- Lima's country
- Termite, e.g.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sampras of tennis
- Barcelona natives
- Prom
- IX

- Our planet's
- Skill
- December visitor
- Assumed name
- Nays
- Haul
- Weeps convulsively
- Monotonous
- Leg part
- Raised, as animals
- Crowlike bird
- Broker's advice
- Charged atoms
- Contract negotiator
- Pub orders
- Shredded
- Separate
- Provisional
- Engrave with acid
- Inferior grades
- Fishing need
- Country hotels
- Anchorman \_\_\_\_\_ Rather
- Orient
- Duties
- Unaccompanied
- Defame
- Painter's stand
- Future flowers
- Notorious emperor
- Not shut
- Cookie cooker
- Departed
- Baseball stat
- Savings plan (abbr.)
- Children's game

### SOLUTION 562



# India becomes No. 1 team in all formats

**Ashwin rises to 2nd spot in ICC Test bowlers rankings**

Dubai, Feb 15 (PTI):

India on Wednesday claimed the top spot in the latest ICC Test rankings to become the number one ranked side in all three formats of the game. India's big innings and 132-run win over Australia in the first Test catapulted the 'Men in Blue' to the top spot, dislodging the Pat Cummins-led team.

India (115) are four rating points ahead of Australia (111) in the Test rankings and a win in the second Test, starting Friday, will not only consolidate their top spot but also aid their push for entering second consecutive World Test Championship Final. India need to win the four-match Border Gavaskar Trophy 3-1 or 3-0 to make the final. Among individuals, India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin jumped to the second spot in the Men's Test Bowlers Rankings following his eight-wicket show against Australia in Nagpur.

Left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja, who made a successful comeback after almost five months due to a knee injury, has moved up to the



India's Ishan Kishan (L) and Shubman Gill take part in a practice session at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi on February 15.

16th position, courtesy his player-of-the-match winning effort in the Border Gavaskar Trophy series-opener. The spin duo haunted Australia in the first Test between by sharing 15 wickets between them as India won by an innings 132 runs inside three days.

Ashwin ensured India wrapped up a stunning

victory before tea on the third day, as the veteran off-spinner took 5/37 in the second innings to go with 3/42 earlier in the match.

The 36-year-old is 21 rating points behind Australia captain Pat Cummins and is contenting to return to the No.1 ranking for the first time since 2017.

While Ashwin stepped

up in what turned out to be the last session of the Test, Jadeja did the damage on the first day with 5/47, including the prized wickets of Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne.

Jadeja then took 2/34 in the second Australian innings. Australia were bowled out for just 91.

Among other Indian bowlers, pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who too has been out of action since September last due to a lower back stress fracture, is placed fifth.

In the Test batting chart, India captain Rohit Sharma has been rewarded for his match-defining ton in Nagpur. He gained two spots to be at number eight.

Rohit came to the crease after Australia were all out for 177 in their first innings, then made the wicket look all-but tame with an assured 120 that set the tone for the rest of the match.

Wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant, who will be out of action for an indefinite period following his horrific car accident, is the other Indian batter in top-10. He is placed seventh.

In contrast Australian openers David Warner and Usman Khawaja have paid the price for being dismissed cheaply twice. Warner has fallen six places to 20th after his scores of 1 and 10, while Khawaja has dropped two spots to 10th after only making 1 and 5 in the first Test.

**Dominic Thiem wins 1st match of 2023 at Argentina Open**



Buenos Aires, Feb 15 (AP):

Dominic Thiem accomplished his main objective at the Argentina Open, getting his first win of the year after an abdominal injury and struggles with his form.

Thiem, the 2020 US Open champion whose career-best ranking is No. 3, entered the tournament at No. 99 and said he feared losing his safe spot at top ATP tournaments if he continued to fall in the rankings. The 29-year-old Austrian beat seventh-seeded Alex Molcan 7-6 (4) 6-3 in the clay-court tournament on Tuesday. Thiem will face Juan Pablo Varillas in the second round. Thiem won at Buenos Aires in 2016 and 2018. More recently, he was eliminated in the first round of the Australian Open by Andrey Rublev. This year's defending champion, Casper Ruud, is skipping the tournament. The top attraction is second-ranked Carlos Alcaraz, who will face Laslo Djere in the second round on Wednesday.

## Women's T20 World Cup

# Richa, Harmanpreet seal comfortable win for India

Cape Town, Feb 15 (PTI):

Richa Ghosh seals the win with a four – a pull shot off Shamilia Connell helps India chase down the target of 119 in 18.1 Overs in their Women's T20 World Cup Group 2 match here on Wednesday. Ghosh remains unbeaten on 44 off 32. This is India's second consecutive win of the tournament. India lost two wickets in quick succession after a flying start courtesy Shafali Verma who scored four fours in the first over of the chase. They finished the Powerplay with 41/2 before losing Shafali on 28 to Karishma Ramharack. Captain Harmanpreet contributed 28 before the last batsman out as India reached 119 for 4 in 18.1 overs.

Earlier India off-spinner Deepti Sharma spun a web around the West Indies batters to restrict them to 118 for six.

The seasoned Deepti (3/15) picked three wickets to become the first Indian to get to 100 T20I wickets.

Asked to bowl, Pooja Vastrakar (1/21), opening with the new ball, gave India the early breakthrough, getting rid of the dangerous Hayley Matthews (2), striking on her very first ball.

The West Indies skipper was done in by the extra bounce as Richa Ghosh completed a regulation catch.

Pooja continued to put pressure on the West Indies, bowling a wicket



maiden. Shemaine Campbelle (30) hit West Indies' first boundary in the third over, slapping a Renuka Singh (1/22) delivery past square leg.

The introduction of spin led to West Indies collecting 12 runs, including two fours from Rajeshwari Gayakwad's over.

West Indies were 53 for 1 at the halfway mark. Campbelle and Stefanie Taylor (42) steadied the West Indies innings as they slowly but steadily stitched a 73-run partnership. The two shared nine boundaries between them.

However, twin strikes from the ever-reliable Deepti led to a mini batting collapse. The off-spinner first punished Campbelle for going for a reverse sweep with Smriti

Mandhana completing a lovely catch at short third.

Three balls later, she trapped Taylor leg before which was initially deemed not out by the umpire but India successfully reviewed the decision and got it changed.

Chinelle Henry (2) was the next to go as Mandhana and Ghosh effected her run out.

India were able to stem the flow of runs but their fielding was found wanting. Deepti dropped Chedean Nation on 3 in the 16th over.

Nation and Shabika Gajabi (15) took West Indies past the 100-run mark. Deepti reached the 100-wicket milestone in the last over when she bamboozled Aly Fletcher (0).

# Starc hopeful of playing second Test against India

New Delhi, Feb 15 (PTI):

An optimistic Mitchell Starc on Wednesday said he was hopeful of returning to the Australian playing XI for the second Test against India, starting here on Friday.

The pace ace missed the series opener, which Australia lost by an innings 132 runs inside three days, due to a tendon damage to his left middle finger. He arrived in India on Saturday. "There's a few boxes to tick but it's on track I'd like to be a little further down the road (in the recovery)," Starc told reporters. "But it's progressing not as fast as I would have liked, but it's as planned in terms of the medical stuff. I'll do everything I can to be fully available for selection. Then it's a discussion for the rest of the group involved," he



added. Australia have been laid low by injuries to key players including Starc and all-rounder Cameron Green, who is also recovering from a finger injury.

The duo trained on Wednesday, bowling on a centre-wicket strip, while Green also batted for over an hour.

A call on their selection will be taken on Thursday. "I probably had different expectations coming out of the splint than what is the reality but pushing it today, we'll see how it goes when I wake up tomorrow," Starc said. "It'll come down to how it reacts by the end of the day, how the medical staff see it, how the selectors and Pat and 'Ronnie' (coach Andrew McDonald) feel about it as well."

The left-arm pacer said his finger is still not at full strength. "Still lacking a bit of strength having been in a splint for six weeks. There's still a fair bit of restriction there, it's progressing each day," said Starc.

## RCB name Australian Ben Sawyer as head coach for WPL

Bengaluru, Feb 15 (PTI):

Australian Ben Sawyer, currently in charge of the New Zealand women's team, has been appointed as head coach of Royal Challengers Bangalore ahead of next month's Women's Premier League (WPL).

The 45-year-old Sawyer is also the current coach of Birmingham Phoenix in The Hundred. He has also served as head coach of the Sydney Sixers in the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) besides being assistant coach of Australia women.

"He (Sawyer) has won three World Cups with Australia. A fast-bowling expert. He has also won the BBL titles with Sydney Sixers. He has made it to the finals of The Hundred as well," RCB's Director of Cricket operations Mike Hesson said in a video posted on the team's twitter handle.



"He has been involved in women's cricket for over 20 years, knows the women's game inside out, knows the players very well. He has been thoroughly involved in our preparations leading up to the auction as well."

Sawyer will be assisted by Maloran Rangarajan (assistant coach and head of scouting), VR Vanitha (scout and fielding coach) and RX Murali (batting coach).

The team manager and doctor for the tournament will be Dr Harini while

## Sania Mirza to mentor RCB in WPL

Bengaluru: Indian tennis icon Sania Mirza, who played her last Grand Slam at the Australian Open last month, was roped in by the Royal Challengers Bangalore team as its mentor in the upcoming Women's Premier League. "It is a pleasure for me to join the RCB women's team as a mentor," the winner of six Grand Slam and 43 WTA titles said in an RCB statement. "Indian women's cricket has seen a tectonic shift with the Women's Premier League, and I am really looking forward to being a part of this revolutionary pitch," Mirza said in a statement issued by the franchise. "RCB and its brand philosophy perfectly resonates with my vision and outlook as that's how I have approached my playing career and it's also how I see contributing to sports post my retirement. RCB has been a popular team and much followed team in the IPL over the years. I am immensely happy to see them building a team for the



Women's Premier League... "It will push the women's sports to new heights in the country, open new doors to women cricketers and help make sports the first career choice for young girls and young parents with a girl child," she added.

Navnita Gautam (head athletic therapist), Huzefa Talib (strength and conditioning coach), Sabyasachi Sahoo (head physio) and Soumyadeep Pyne (Head of Operations) are the other support staffs.

Earlier in the day, RCB named tennis legend Sania Mirza as the mentor of the side for the WPL to be held in Mumbai from March 4 to 26.

RCB has built a strong team, acquiring 18 players, including some big names of women's cricket -- Smriti Mandhana, Australia's Ellyse Perry and Megan Schutt, New Zealand captain Sophie Devine, England skipper Heather Knight and South African all-rounder Dane Van Niekerk along with Richa Ghosh, during the WPL auction on Monday in Mumbai.

RCB will open its campaign against Delhi Capitals at the Brabourne Stadium on March 5.

# Mbappe can't save slumping PSG against Bayern Munich

Paris, Feb 15 (AP):

Not even Kylian Mbappe's substitute appearance could end Paris Saint-Germain's slump, as it lost 1-0 at home to Bayern Munich in the first leg of their round-of-16 Champions League clash.

A third straight loss made it five defeats in 11 games this year for PSG coach Christophe Galtier's team. Bayern winger Kingsley Coman volleyed home inside the penalty area from Alphonso Davies' left-wing cross in the 53rd minute. The Paris-raised Coman, who PSG sold to Juventus when he was 18, held his hands up to show he wasn't celebrating scoring against his former club again.

"It's the city where I was born and raised so it was difficult to celebrate here," Coman said.



Bayern Munich's players celebrate after scoring team's first goal during first leg of the UEFA Champions League round of 16 football match between Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and FC Bayern Munich at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris.

"Given our performance we could have done more, but at the end it was a bit difficult so we're satisfied

with the win." When Bayern won the last of its six Champions League titles in 2020, it beat PSG 1-0

with Coman heading home the winner. The World Cup superstar Mbappe made an unex-

pectedly quick recovery from injury and had two would-be goals disallowed for offside after coming on in the second half.

"It was difficult, unpredictable. I wasn't supposed to play but I wanted to play and help my mates. We did everything, we worked night and day to get me some game time," Mbappe said. "I wanted to (start the game). But sometimes you have to be satisfied with what you can do, and that's all I could do." The return leg is on March 8.

PSG was eliminated by Real Madrid in the last 16 last season and may need Mbappe at this best to avoid another early exit. "When we have our players ready and we can play our attacking game, they (Bayern) are not comfortable," Mbappe said. "We have to retain how we finished the game. We saw that we can cause them problems."

# Wareham, Lanning star as Australia cruise to 8-wicket win over Bangladesh

Gqeberha, Feb 15 (PTI):

Leg-spinner Georgia Wareham grabbed three wickets on her return after more than a year, while skipper Meg Lanning slammed an unbeaten 48 as defending champions Australia eased to an eight-wicket win over Bangladesh in the Women's T20 World Cup here.

This was Australia's second win in the tournament from as many matches as they climbed past Sri Lanka atop the Group 1 standings on net run rate. Wareham, who last played an international match in October 2021, bagged 3/20 from her four overs and was well-supported by pacer Darcie Brown (2/23) as Bangladesh managed a paltry 107 for seven after opting to bat.

It was a struggle for Bangladesh from the onset with captain Nigar Sultana standing tall amid the



Australia's Meg Lanning watches the ball after playing a shot.

ruins, scoring 57 off 50 balls.

Bangladesh lost Shamima Sultana early with Beth Mooney taking a brilliant catch at extra cover from the bowling of Brown. The fast bowler's second wicket soon followed as she uprooted Murshida Khatun's leg stump with just 11 runs on the board. Then came in Bangladesh's leading run scorer and captain Sultana, who struck back-to-back fours to inject some momentum into the innings. Sultana's half-century came off 41 balls, including seven boundaries.

Wareham struck twice in the 17th over, bowling Shorna for 12 shortly after the teenager's first boundary, before repeating the trick to dismiss Rumana Ahmed. Sultana then departed, Lanning taking a routine catch from the bowling of Ashleigh Gardner, before Megan Schutt dismissed Nahida Akter at the death.

## I-T dept survey on BBC India continues

For second day

New Delhi, Feb 15 (PTI):

The Income Tax department survey operation against the BBC India continued for the second day with the sleuths understood to be making copies of electronic and paper-based financial data of the organisation, officials said Wednesday.

The tax department had launched the action on Tuesday at the BBC's Delhi and Mumbai offices along with at least two linked premises as part of an investigation into alleged tax evasion against the British broadcaster in India.

Sleuths knocked at the doors of the BBC around 11:30 AM on Tuesday and they are still present, sources aware of the development told PTI.

The tax officials are speaking to staffers of the BBC in the finance and some other departments even as other staffers and journalists were allowed to leave Tuesday night.

Some computer peripherals and mobile phones were cloned as part of the operation, officials had said. The action, which sparked a sharp political



ITBP and Police personnel deployed outside the BBC office after a protest against BBC by Hindu Sena activists amid the Income Tax Department's survey operation, conducted as part of a tax evasion investigation, at KG Marg in New Delhi, Wednesday.

debate with the ruling BJP accusing the BBC of "venomous reporting" and the opposition questioning the timing of the move, came weeks after the broadcaster aired a two-part documentary, "India: The Modi

Question", on the prime minister and the 2002 Gujarat riots.

The survey is being carried out to investigate issues related to international taxation and transfer pricing of BBC sub-

sidary companies, officials had said on Tuesday.

While there has been no official statement from the Income Tax department on the action, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has said it was coop-

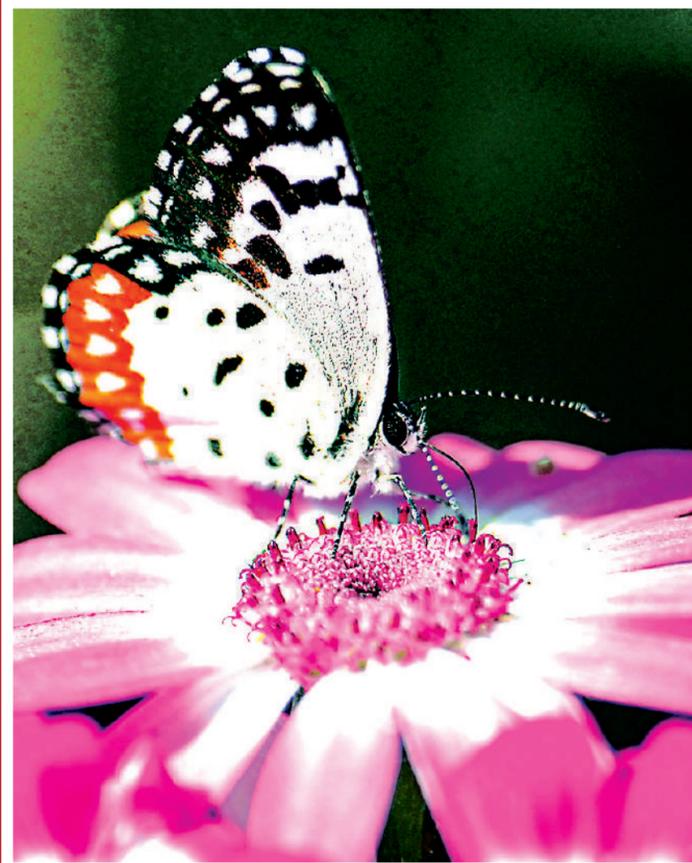
erating with the authorities.

"The Income Tax Authorities remain at the BBC offices in New Delhi and Mumbai. Many staff have now left the building, but some have been asked to remain and are continuing to cooperate with the ongoing enquiries," a BBC News Press Team said in an official Twitter post at 10:26 pm on Tuesday.

We are supporting our staff during this time and continue to hope to have this situation resolved as soon as possible. Our output and journalism continues as normal and we are committed to serving our audiences in India, the post added.

As part of a survey, the Income Tax department only covers the business premises of a company and does not raid residences and other locations of its promoters or directors. The Supreme Court last week dismissed a plea seeking the imposition of a complete ban on the BBC in India in the wake of the controversial documentary, terming the petition "entirely misconceived" and "absolutely meritless".

## NATURE'S BEAUTY



A butterfly visits a common daisy at a garden, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

### MATTER OF CONCERN

## In Raj, groundwater 'over-exploited' in 219 blocks

Jaipur, Feb 15 (PTI):

About 219 of Rajasthan's 302 blocks, including seven urban areas, fall under the 'over-exploited' category in terms of groundwater usage, the Assembly was informed on Wednesday.

In reply to a question by BJP member and Deputy Leader of Opposition Rajendra Rathore, the government said the latest groundwater analysis report from March 2022 showed that 219 blocks were 'over-exploited'.

Among the others, 22 blocks are 'critical', 20 are

'semi-critical' and 38 are in the 'safe' category, it said.

Three blocks were not included in the analysis due to saline groundwater. The seven urban areas included are Ajmer, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Kota, Udaipur and Bikaner.

Sixteen blocks in Jaipur are over-exploited — the highest in the state — followed by Jodhpur (15), Nagaur (14) and Barmer (14). Among the blocks in the 'safe' category, nine are in the Sriganganagar district, eight in Hanumangarh and six each in Hanumangarh and Nagaur.

The state government said a draft bill has been prepared in compliance with the formation of Ground Water Conservation and Management Authority for the proper use of groundwater and the convenience of industrial units in the state. The formation of the authority was announced in the state budget.

The draft bill, which incorporates suggestions from the Law Department, has been sent to the Finance Department for approval, the government said.

## 'Get into writing only if your soul has something to say'

New Delhi, Feb 15 (PTI):

It wasn't until his second book, "The Secret of Nagas", was published and became an instant hit among readers in 2011 that author Amish Tripathi let go of his full-time job as a banker.

"I resigned when my royalty cheque was bigger than my monthly salary," Amish, who uses only one name in his books, told PTI. The "pragmatic and practical approach" of having a job to take care of the bills is the most important advice Amish has for new and upcoming writers.

"Writing is a high risk, high return game so don't get into writing if your purpose is money or fame.

There are other much easier ways, become a banker, or join IT. Get into writing only if you feel your soul has something to say," said the author of the best-selling Shiva Trilogy.

The 48-year-old writer, who is director of the Nehru Centre in London, added that there was no dishonour in having a job. However, it means working double time if one wants to write.

"There is no escaping hard work. But once your book is ready, then you can become a practical, pragmatic guy because nothing sells by itself. You have to do proper marketing, you have to promote it properly," he said during a recent visit to India. Amish, who is also minister (Culture



Amish Tripathi

and Education) at the High Commission of India in the UK, has written eight mythological and historical fiction books, including the Shiva Trilogy and

the Ram Chandra series of four books retelling the Hindu epic of Ramayan. He has also authored two non-fiction books.

Amish was one of the first Indian authors in English to set the ball rolling in the genre of mythological fiction with "The Immortals of Meluha" in 2010. The section has since seen the rise of several titles based on mythological characters by young English writers.

Other bestselling books in the mythological fiction genre include Ashwin Sanghi's "The Krishna Key", Anand Neelakantan's "Asura: Tale of the Vanquished" and "Ajaya: Epic of the Kaurava Clan", Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's

"The Palace of Illusions" and "The Liberation of Sita" by P Lalita Kumari, who writes under the pen name Volga.

Talking about picking up the then-neglected genre of fiction writing, Amish said the demand had always been there. But there was lack of supply.

Indian readers and writers have been "obsessed" with the Ramayan, the Mahabharat and the Puranas, he said, giving the examples of Hindi writer Narendra Kohli's depiction of the Mahabharat in his magnum opus "Mahasamar" (1988) and Marathi author Shivaji Sawant's retelling of the epic battle from the perspective of Karna in "Mrityunjaya" (1967).

## DEMOLITION DRIVE



Bulldozers being used to demolish illegal structures at the Tauba Colony of Zakir Nagar, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

## Delhi's Hindu College completes 124 years

Unveils new logo, anthem, alumni website

New Delhi, Feb 15 (PTI): From a humble beginning in 1899 at the historic Kinari Bazar to becoming one of the most sought-after colleges in the country, Delhi's Hindu College has lived up to its motto — "steered by the past, moulding the future".

The college, which owes its formation to the country's freedom movement, completed 124 years on Wednesday.

At its 124th Founder's Day, the college under the University of Delhi launched a new logo, "kul-geet" (college anthem) and



an alumni website.

The college also announced plans for the upcoming year. The event was attended by India's G-20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant as the chief guest.

The new college logo features the tagline of "steered by the past, moulding the future". It

combines a sketch of the original college structure with some new campus infrastructure, reflecting the college's rich history and its commitment to innovation and progress.

The logo will be prominently displayed on all letterheads, websites and office stationery from

Wednesday. On the occasion, a college anthem was released. It has been composed by a former faculty member and alumnus Dr. Harish Naval.

The song is a heartfelt tribute to the college and its legacy and will be played at future college events.

In addition, there were previews of two upcoming publications —

"Viraasat", a coffee table book tracing the history of Hindu College, and "Sansmarono Mein Hindu", an anthology of historical anecdotes and photos about the college. These publications will be a valuable resource for anyone interested in the college's rich legacy.

## TMC govt presents Rs 3.39-lakh cr budget

Sops for farmers, tea gardens, youth

Kolkata, Feb 15 (PTI):

Ahead of panchayat elections, the Mamata Banerjee-led West Bengal government on Wednesday presented a Rs 3.39-lakh crore budget for 2023-24, focusing on farmers, an ailing tea sector, the state's potential as a logistics hub and budding entrepreneurs. Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya said the state GDP is projected to grow at 8.4 per cent and the industry at 7.8 per cent in the ongoing 2022-23 fiscal, both higher than the country's expected growth rates. "I propose to provide a 3,39,162 crore budget for financial year 2023-24," Bhattacharya said, while placing the financial statement in the assembly. She said an upcoming West Bengal Logistics



West Bengal Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya presents the State Budget 2023-24 in the Assembly in Kolkata, Wednesday.

Policy 2023 will leverage the state's strategic position at the cross-roads of South Asia and Asean nations to create a global logistics hub. "It will streamline the sector and help Bengal to

secure a strategic position in the global supply chain," Bhattacharya said.

The development of an Industrial and Economic Corridor with three branches — Dankuni-Haldia, Dankuni-Raghunathpur and Dankuni-Kalyani — "will provide better connectivity and create employment opportunity for about one lakh people," she added. The minister also said a Rs 350-crore fund will be set up to extend credit of up to Rs 5 lakh each to 2 lakh young entrepreneurs. Reacting to the budget, Vivek Jalan, Partner, Tax Connect Advisory, said amidst increase in tax collections due to increased GST compliance and collections in Bengal, the focus has been on employment and industry.

## Mrs world 2022 Sargam Koushal not averse to joining Bollywood

Jammu, Feb 15 (PTI):

Jammu-born Sargam Koushal, who won the Mrs World crown to India in December last year, says she would not mind joining Bollywood but for now she wants to focus on educating youth against the drug menace.

The Mumbai-based model, 32, became the first Indian to win the crown after Aditi Govitrikar in 2001. "I will feel good if an opportunity comes my way from Bollywood, known for its popularity and fame. I do not have any problem with that but right now there are more important things to do," Koushal told reporters



Mrs. World 2022 Sargam Koushal addresses a press conference in Jammu, Wednesday.

here. "We are planning a campaign in May or June for the youth to motivate them to stay away from drugs," she added.

On the first visit to her birthplace after winning the beauty pageant in Las Vegas on December 17 last year, Koushal said she is totally focused on the awareness campaign to empower women and young girls.

"From Mrs India to Mrs world, I do not see any change in between but surely the responsibility has gone up manifold," she said.

Koushal thanked her parents for their support and said she would like other parents, husbands and others to support

women in achieving their dreams. "I am modelling and will continue to do so. I started modelling even though I like teaching the most.

**कैंसर सर्जरी**  
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(जबड़ा, स्तन व अन्य)

ड. च. शास्त्रन से मान्यता प्राप्त

**कालड़ा बर्न एंव**

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