



### BRIEF



A sunbird perches on a branch of Orange Silk Cotton Tree (Bombax ceiba), in New Delhi, Saturday.

### Nabbed

**Mumbai:** A 73-year-old man wanted in a case of robbery registered in suburban Borivali 32 years ago was arrested on Saturday, city police said. The accused was arrested from neighbouring Bhayander where he was living, said an official of Borivali police station. He had been declared as an absconding accused by the Dindoshi court in the city and police had been asked to produce him before the court.

### Cremated

**Kolkata:** The mortal remains of eminent classical singer Pandit Vijay Kumar Kichlu was cremated on Saturday at Keoratala crematorium in south Kolkata. Kichlu, a Padma Shri awardee and recipient of the Sangit Natak Akademi award, passed away at a Kolkata hospital on Friday evening at the age of 93.

### Murdered

**Bengaluru:** Two persons were killed in a clash during a cricket match in a village near Doddaballapura in Bengaluru rural district, police said on Saturday. According to police, the incident occurred in village Dodda Belamangala where a second pre-university college student Prateek (17) and BE graduate D S Bharat Kumar (23) were stabbed to death following a clash between two groups during a cricket match.

### Accident

**Sagar:** Seven persons were killed in two accidents in Sagar and Dewas districts in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday, police officials said. In Sagar, four passengers, including a woman, were killed and 20 persons were injured after a speeding bus overturned at Niwar Ghati, some 70 kilometres from the district headquarters, on the road leading to Chhatarpur, Superintendent of Police Tarun Nayak said.

### Leopard cub

**Kanker:** A leopard cub was killed by a speeding vehicle in Kanker district on Saturday, a forest official said. The animal's body was found along the Kanker-Koror road near village Bardeori, said forest ranger Sandeep Singh. Citing autopsy findings, the official said that the 5-month-old cub was hit by a speeding vehicle.

### Panel

**Mumbai:** The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay has formed a panel to conduct a "parallel" probe into the death of a first-year B.Tech student amid allegations of caste bias and has urged its students to come forward if they have "relevant" information.

**Weather**  
High 33 Low 15

### GST COUNCIL MEETING

## 'All GST compensation dues will be cleared'

New Delhi, Feb 18 (PTI):

GST Council, the apex decision-making authority, on Saturday reduced the tax rate on several items, including 'rab' (liquid jagger) and pencil sharpeners, besides rationalising late fee for the delayed filing of annual returns.

Briefing media after the 49th meeting of the GST Council, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also informed that reports of the GoM (Group of Ministers) on checking tax evasion by pan masala and gutkha industry, and on Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunals (GSTATs), have been taken on board.

Headed by Union



Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addresses a press conference after the 49th GST Council meeting, in New Delhi, Saturday.

Finance Minister, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council comprises finance ministers of states and UTs (with legislature).

Sitharaman also announced that the central government has decided to clear the entire pending

balance GST compensation of Rs 16,982 crore for June 2022. The Centre has decided to release the amount from its own resources and the same will be recouped from the future compensation cess collection, she said.

With this release, the Centre would clear the entire provisionally admissible compensation dues for five years as envisaged in the GST (Compensation to States) Act 2017, an official release said. The Centre will also clear the admissible final GST Compensation to those states who have provided revenue figures certified by the Accountant General which amounts to Rs 16,524 crore, Sitharaman said.

She said the panel recommended reduction of GST rate on Rab (liquid jaggery) from 18 per cent to nil if sold loose or 5 per cent, if pre-packaged and labelled.

For pencil sharpeners, the duty has been reduced to 12 per cent from the current 18 per cent.

It also decided that if a device like a tag-tracking device or data logger is already affixed on a container, no separate IGST would be levied on the affixed device and the nil IGST treatment available for the containers would also be available to them.

Another important decision includes extending exemption benefit covers on coal rejects supplies to and by coal washery.

## Ramesh Bais takes over as Maha Governor

Mumbai, Feb 18 (PTI):

Ramesh Bais on Saturday took oath as the 20th Governor of Maharashtra, replacing Bhagat Singh Koshyari.

Bais was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Acting Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court S V Gangapurwala at the Raj Bhavan here. Bais took oath in Marathi.

State Chief Minister Eknath Shinde was present at the swearing-in ceremony. Earlier State Chief Secretary Manukumkar Srivastava read out the Warrant of Appointment issued by President Droupadi Murmu appointing Ramesh Bais as the Governor of Maharashtra. The Swearing in Ceremony began and concluded with the National Anthem



Bombay High Court Acting Chief Justice S.V. Gangapurwala administers the oath to BJP leader Ramesh Bais as Maharashtra Governor during a ceremony at Raj Bhavan, in Mumbai, Saturday.

played by the ceremonial police band. A Guard of Honour was presented by the Indian Navy to the Governor soon after the oath taking ceremony.

Spouse of the Governor Mrs Rambai Bais, Union Minister of State Ramdas Athawale, Maharashtra's Minister for Tourism and Women and Child Welfare Mangal Prabhat Lodha,

Speaker of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rahul Narwekar, Lokayukta Justice (retd) Vidyasagar Kanade, Chairman of Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission Justice (retd) K K Tated, people's representatives, Secretaries of various departments, senior police officers and invitees were present.

## BSF recovers drugs, arms after gunfight with smugglers

Along Pak border

Chandigarh, Feb 18 (PTI):

The BSF on Saturday recovered 20 packets of heroin and a cache of arms and ammunition after a gunfight with Pakistani smugglers along the international border of India and Pakistan in Punjab's Gurdaspur, an official said.

The gunfight began when the 113 Battalion of the Border Security Force noticed suspicious movement of smugglers ahead of fencing in the area near Khasawali village in the Gurdaspur district early morning, said the official.



A gun recovered by BSF during a search operation after gunfight with smugglers near the India-Pakistan border, in Punjab, Saturday.

"During patrolling in the dense fog at 5.30 am, BSF constable Hem Ram noticed some suspicious movement. As he challenged them, the smugglers from the Pakistani side opened

fire. Our jawan retaliated with 25 rounds," BSF Deputy Inspector General Prabhakar Joshi told reporters in Gurdaspur.

Joshi said a team led by a patrol commander soon joined them and helped in the gunfight, which went on for a "long time."

Later, in a search operation, the force found a 15-foot-long pipe about 30 metres away from the fencing, with 20 packets of heroin in it, said Joshi. A further search of the area led to the recovery of two pistols (one made in Turkey and the other Made in China), six magazines, and 242 live rounds, said the BSF DIG.

### SURPRISING BUT TRUE

## Man accused in death of Raj men prominent face of cow vigilantism

Gurugram, Feb 18 (PTI):

Mohit Yadav alias Monu Manesar, who is evading arrest in the murder case of two men in Rajasthan, became a prominent face of cow vigilantism in Haryana during the last five years - helped by his presence on social media. A member of the Bajrang Dal, 30-year-old Monu in a video message denied his involvement in the case and claimed he was at a hotel at the time of the incident. He also shared CCTV footage from the hotel on social media.

He joined the Bajrang Dal as a co-coordinator in his home district Manesar in 2011 and was a member of the district

cow protection task force formed by authorities after Haryana's cow protection law came into force in December 2015.

He is now the district president of Bajrang Dal and frequently courts controversy over the actions of his own cow protection group and shares videos of vigilantes chasing, confronting and nabbing alleged

cow smugglers. The videos, mostly live streams, have thousands of views and comments. He has 83,000 followers on Facebook and more than 2 lakh subscribers on YouTube. He received a silver play button from YouTube in October last year as the number of subscribers crossed one lakh.



Monu Manesar

### DEVOTION AND FAITH



Devotees perform a ritual at Rajeshwar Mandir on the occasion of 'Maha Shivratri', in Jammu, Saturday. (inset) Devotees perform 'abhishek' of a 'Shivling' at Shiv temple on the occasion of Mahashivratri festival, in Gurugram.

### NIKKI YADAV MURDER CASE

## Sahil Gehlot's father, 4 others arrested

New Delhi, Feb 18 (PTI):

### Sent to police custody

Earlier on Tuesday, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Archana Beniwal had remanded Gehlot (24) in five days' police custody. Those sent to police custody on Friday include Sahil's father Virender Singh, his cousins Naveen and Ashish and friends Lokesh and Amar. Naveen is a police constable. The five were produced at the residence of the duty magistrate, a court source said. Police said the five co-accused were arrested after ascertaining their role in the killing. Gehlot and the five co-accused will be produced in court on Monday on expiry of their police remand.

prime accused Sahil Gehlot, he said.

Gehlot, already under police custody, has been in-

terrogated at length.

Since his arrest, he has confessed to murdering his girlfriend, Nikki Yadav, because she had been pressuring him to marry her.

The two, according to police, had already solemnised their marriage in 2020.

She was actually his wife and not a live-in partner, the Special commissioner said. Therefore, she was pleading with him not to go ahead with the marriage fixed by his family with another woman on February 10, he added.

When Gehlot could not convince Nikki Yadav to make way for his marriage to the woman, he hatched a plan to kill her and roped in others.

## EC faces litmus test

New Delhi, Feb 18 (PTI):

The Election Commission has settled internal disputes in several political parties with the test of majority in their legislative and organisational wings. After it recognised the group led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde as the real Shiv Sena, the commission is now expected to deliver its final order on the internal dispute in the Lok Janshakti Party. The LJP split in 2021, months after the demise of its founder Ram Vilas Paswan. Its two factions are now led by the founder's son Chirag Paswan and brother Pashupati Kumar Paras. In an interim order on October 2, 2021, the EC had barred the two factions from using the Lok Janshakti Party name or its symbol "bungalow" till the dispute was settled by it.

## Delhi mayor election on Feb 22

New Delhi, Feb 18 (PTI):

Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) VK Saxena has given his nod to convene the municipal House on February 22 to hold the election for the post of mayor, Raj Niwas officials said on Saturday.

The LG's nod came hours after Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal recommended to him that the mayoral election be held on the said date.

The development comes a day after the Supreme Court ordered the issuance of a notice within 24 hours for convening the first meeting of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to fix the date of elections for the mayor, the deputy mayor and the members of the Standing

### LG tried to influence SC order: Kejriwal

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal accused Lieutenant Governor (LG) VK Saxena on Saturday of trying to "forcibly" prevent the city government from presenting its views before the Supreme Court in the MCD mayoral poll case, a day after the top court said aldermen cannot vote in the election. Addressing a press conference here, Kejriwal alleged that the LG tried to "interfere in the administration of justice" and committed "contempt of court". No reaction was immediately available from the LG's office to the claims and allegations made by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader. Kejriwal said the petitioner in the case, the AAP's mayoral candidate Shelly Oberoi, had added the LG and the Delhi government as separate parties to her petition in the apex court. He said the AAP government and the LG had "contrary viewpoints on all the issues related to the case". The AAP had vociferously opposed the nomination of 10 aldermen by the LG to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the decision of the civic body's presiding officer to give them the right to vote to elect the mayor, the deputy mayor and the standing committee members.

Committee. In a shot in the arm for the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the apex court also held on Friday that the members nominated by the LG to the

MCD cannot vote to elect the mayor. "Recommended MCD mayor elections to be held on 22 Feb," Kejriwal said in a tweet earlier in the day.

# Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Indian Divyang T20 Champion Trophy Cup Unveiled

**Chhattisgarh to host National Divyang Cricket tournament for the first time in 22 years**

**Central Chronicle News**

**Bhilai, Feb 18:** For the first time in 22 years, a national level cricket tournament for Divyang -the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Indian Divyang Cricket T20 Cup- is being organised in the state by Chhattisgarh Divyang Cricket Association under the aegis of Differently Abled Cricket Council of India from February 20-23, 2023 at BSP Cricket Ground, Indira Palace Civic Centre.

The final match of the tournament will be played at Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium Raipur on February 23 informed Arun Kumar Shrivastava, President, Chhattisgarh Divyang Cricket Association, at a press conference immediately after

the unveiling of the T20 Champion Trophy Cup at the Divyang BSP Cricket Ground.

Indian Sultans, Royal Indians, Indian Fighters, Indian Legends are the teams that would perform in the competition. Based on the performance of the teams in the aforesaid tournament, which is supported and guided by BCCI and Chhattisgarh

Cricket Association, team will be selected for the upcoming international cricket tournament, he further informed.

The competition is being organised in association with Shree Chaturbhuj Memorial Foundation and Essel Engineering Works. Dr



Abhishek Pallava, Superintendent of Police, Durg will formally inaugurate the tournament at 11:30 hrs on February 22. The tournament will be played in 20-20 format and two matches will be played daily. The final match of the competition will be played at Shaheed Veer

Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium on February 23, 2023.

It needs a mention that 64 players from all over the country have been selected by the Differently Abled Council of India during the national tournament held last month in

Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Selected players will showcase their sporting skills in the Champions Trophy.

Chhattisgarh para cricket team captain Shrimant Jha and two more players from the state have also been selected for the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Indian Divyang Cricket T20 Cup tournament. Efforts are on to invite former international players for the final.

Abhishek Singh, Vice President of the Association detailed on the achievement of the Divyang cricket team of the state which has been excellent. So far Chhattisgarh Divyang cricket team has become

the winner in 12 national competitions.

Chhattisgarh Wheelchair Cricket Association, Chhattisgarh Blind Cricket Association, Chhattisgarh Deaf Cricket Association are working under the umbrella of Chhattisgarh Disabled Cricket Association. It is expected that soon Chhattisgarh Differently Abled Cricket Committee will come into being under the patronage of Chhattisgarh State Cricket Association.

President Arun Kumar Shrivastava, Vice President Abhishek Singh, Secretary Srimant Jha, Founder of Shri Chaturbhuj Memorial Foundation Seema Shrivastava, Secretary Jasveer Kaur, Member Akash Vaishnav were present at the unveiling.

## Roshan of Sharda Vidyalaya finds place in Fit India Quiz-2022

**Central Chronicle News**

**Bhilai, Feb 18:** Roshan Chandrakar, a student of Class XI (Maths Faculty) at Sharda Vidyalaya, Risali ranked 9th in the state at the in preliminary round of Fit India Quiz-2022. National Testing Agency conducted this competition through online system on December 08-09, 2022. A highly enthusiastic and dedicated student, Roshan, participated in the competition on self-motivation.

Apart from performing brilliantly in the Academic Examinations, Roshan is keen in participating in various competitions. In the CBSE All India Secondary School Examination (AISSE), he secured first position in the school. On this achievement of Roshan,



**Roshan Chandrakar**

the director of Shakuntala Group of Schools, Sanjay Ojha has congratulated and extended him best wishes for future. School Manager Mamta Ojha, Principal Sutapa Sarkar, Headmistress Pushpa Singh, Senior Mistress Renjini MR, Senior Activity Incharge Pooja Babbar also appreciated Roshan for his achievement.

## 25-year-old sentenced to 10 years RI for raping, impregnating minor girl

**Central Chronicle News**

**Bhilai, Feb 18:** A Fast Track Special Court in Durg sentenced a 25-year-old man to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment for raping and impregnating a minor girl. On Friday, the Additional Sessions Judge (Fourth), FTSC - POCSO, Sangeeta Naveen Tiwari convicted Harish Chandravanshi (25), son of Late Govind Lal Chandravanshi a resident of village Medha, Durg (Rajnandgaon). The victim girl had lodged a complaint at Padmanabhpur Chowki on June 24, 2019.

Special Prosecutor Santosh Kasar informed that the victim

had come to Durg for studies and resided here as a paying guest in Adarsh Nagar. During her stay in Durg, she got acquainted with the accused. Initially, Harish proposed to her for marriage but the girl refused as she wanted to continue her studies. However, Harish continued to lure her by making tall claims. As the girl remained adamant on her decision, Harish reached her room on September 02, 2018 and raped her. When the girl screamed, he threatened to kill her and share her obscene video on social media. Later, the accused raped her on different occasions. Due to repeated penetrative sexual assault, the girl became pregnant.

When the girl's parents came to know about the incident, they contacted Harish and asked him to marry their daughter. But Harish refused to marry her. Later, the girl gave birth to a premature baby on May 21, 2019. She lodged an FIR against the accused on June 24, 2019.

After trial, the Special Court found the accused guilty for offences of rape, aggravated sexual assault and penetrative sexual assault. He was sentenced to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment and Rs 10000 fine under section 376 (2) (n) of IPC. In case of non-payment of fine, the convict will serve an additional rigorous imprisonment of one year.

**Central Chronicle News**

**Bhilai, Feb 18:** Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas took an important meeting regarding C-Mart at the auditorium of Bhilai Municipal Corporation the other day. Heads of various department of the district attended the meeting. Representatives from Education Department, Women and Child Development Department, Industry Department, Akshaya Patra, Social Welfare Department, Tribal Department, Home Guard Commandant were among those present.

The meeting deliberated on how to promote the products prepared specially for sale in C-Mart and those made by

## BMC Commissioner takes assessment meeting regarding C-Mart



women of self-help groups. Thought was given on purchase of materials procured in gov-

ernment departments for use from C-Mart. Products that are required by the depart-

from various departments.

Discussion was also held on making arrangements to deliver the products of the purchaser department. Heads of various departments would also visit C-Mart regarding the products. Deputy Collector Lavkesh Dhruv, District Education Officer Abhay Jaiswal, DPO Vipin Jain, Tara Devi from Social Welfare Department, Assistant Tribal Commissioner Priyavanda Ramteke, Anand Pathak, DL Dahria, Govind Sao, Prakash Kumar Pandey, Dharendra Kumar, Anjali, Nagendra Kumar, Rajeev, Sohanlal Banjare and representative from Akshay Patra were present.

## Durg University: Examination for PhD course work proposed in March end

**Central Chronicle News**

**Bhilai, Feb 18:** Hemchand Yadav University (Durg University) is preparing to organise the written examination of PhD course work in the last week of March. In this regard, notification regarding filling of online application form and date of examination for appearing in PhD coursework examination will be issued soon by the examination department of the university.

Giving this information, the Dean, Student Welfare and PhD cell in-charge Dr Prashant Srivastava re-

vealed that the Vice-Chancellor of the University Dr Aruna Palta gave directives at the meeting of the officers. Dr Srivastava informed that more than 60 research scholars of 15 subjects will participate in this course work examination.

According to the data available with the PhD Cell of the University, those eligible to appear in the PhD course work examination include 08 in Hindi subject, 02 in Chemistry, 03 in Physics, 01 in Sociology, 01 in Botany, 01 in Economics, 03 in Microbiology, 07 in Political Science, 13 in

Commerce, 04 in English, 13 in Education, 02 in Mathematics, 03 in History and 01 in Geography.

Detailing on the process, Dr Srivastava explained that this PhD course work exam will be conducted in 02 phases. In the first phase, it will be mandatory for the research scholars to give power point presentation related to their subject in front of the subject experts.

Subject-wise time-table regarding power point presentation will be informed by the university to the research scholars at

the earliest. In the second phase, the examination of theory paper will be conducted through offline mode. In this, 50 objective type questions will be asked, each question will be of 02 marks.

This question paper will have two parts. In the first part, there will be 35 questions related to research methodology, process and application of computer and in the second part, 15 questions related to research and publication ethics will be asked.

According to UGC rules, getting 55 percent marks is mandatory to pass the

written examination of PhD course work. As per University Ordinance No 45 and UGC rules, such research scholars who have passed MPhil examination from a recognized university and have taken Research Methodology as a compulsory paper in the mark sheet of M Phil and those who have been given exemption for course work examination by the Departmental Research Degree Committee keeping in view the rules, only such research scholars will be eligible for exemption from the examination for PhD course.

## Farmer leader Rakesh Tikait visits dharna site at CCM Medical College

**Central Chronicle News**

**Bhilai, Feb 18:** Bharatiya Kisan Union National Spokesperson and farmer leader Rakesh Tikait visited the dharna site at Chandulal Chandrakar Memorial Government Medical College in Kachandur to meet the retrenched workers of the college. The aggrieved workers have been staging demonstrations for the past several months.

Extending his support to the retrenched workers, he assured to discuss their issue with the top leaders of Indian National Congress. Over the issue of regularization of services of sanitation workers, Tikait asked the office bearers of Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha Mazdoor Karyakarta Samiti and Jan Swasthya Karmachari Union to provide related documents to him.

He expressed ire on coming to know that power and water supply has been cut at the dharna site. Tikait further said that public movements are underway at 22 different places in Chhattisgarh and emphasised on the need of united struggle for ensuring success.

On the matter of Chandulal Medical College, he clearly said



that the first priority should be given to the existing employees. The sanitation workers of the Nagriya Nikay Janwadi Safai Kamgar Union gave a memorandum to Rakesh Tikait regarding the issue of regularization of support to their movement.

He reiterated that the workers and the farmers would be able to achieve success only through joint struggle. When a man lives in the village, he is called a farmer. When he comes to the industry, he is called a labourer. Employees are facing several kinds of problems and it is necessary for everyone to come together to struggle.

He added that everyone should come forward to support the struggle of retrenched workers. Members and office bearers of Pragatisheel Cement Shramik Sangh ACC, Rajnandgaon Kisan Sangh, JP Cement Nagariya Nikay Janwadi

Safai Kamgar Union, industrial labourers, Gondwana, AICTU, LOIMU, House Lease Samyukt Sangharsh Samiti and others were present.

Rakesh Tikait informed that he was on his four-day visit to Chhattisgarh. He said that there is an issue of land acquisition in Chhattisgarh. He added that their basic issue is the fixation of MSP. On visiting Chhattisgarh, he came to know about the actual condition.

Farmer leaders Rajiv Singh Janaud, Praveen Shyokand, Dhalesh Sahu, Rajendra Parganiha, Shyam Lal Sahu, Surendra Mohanty, Ramakant Banjare, Manoj Kosre, Pushpa Barle, Sumit, Dhanush, Sheela, Anita, Neera, Chandrakala, Taram, Kalyan Patel, Bandhan Soni, Shivendra, Uttara Narayan, Mahesh, Kaladas Dahariya and others were present.

## School in Station Maroda to be repaired, Home Minister performs Bhoomi Pujan

**Central Chronicle News**

**Bhilai, Feb 18:** The primary and middle school located in the densely populated, labour dominated area of Station Maroda under Risali Municipal limits at an estimated expenses of Rs 41.30 lakh. Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, Risali Mayor Shashi Sinha and Speaker Keshav Banchor performed Bhoomi Pujan for the same and thereafter participated in the annual function of the school.

In his address Home Minister said that all the celebrations and festivals had stopped during the Corona period. As soon as the state government de-



ecided to start the festivals again, efforts were made to bring back the old and traditional form of sports that prevailed earlier such as Madai Mela. He urged

the teachers of the school that apart from school education they should also teach moral and cultural values to the children, which is important in the

present era. School children presented a cultural program where in they performed traditional dances. The Home Minister took the

opportunity to honour the winners of the gold medal in the National Polo Competition. At the end, the school committee honoured the Home Minister with a memento.

State Congress General Secretary Jitendra Sahu, MIC member Chandrabhaskar Thakur, Chandrabhaskar Nigam, Anup Dey, Sonia Dewangan, Ishwari Sahu, Parameshwar Kumar, Councilor Anil Deshmukh, Zaheer Abbas, Rekha Devi, Gajendri Kothari, Block Congress President Mukund Bhau, Alderman Sangeeta Singh, Santudas Manikpuri, School Management Committee members were present.

## BJP corners CM over Congress MLA's stir against SP

● Chandrakar seeks intervention from Baghel

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 18: Senior Congress Legislator from Balrampur-Ramanujanji Brihaspati Singh has given another opportunity to the principal opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to corner the ruling Congress government after he has openly announced demonstration against the District

Superintendent of Police (SP) Mohit Garg. Reacting sharply to the stir launched, the BJP's Chief Spokesperson and Senior Legislator Ajay Chandrakar has sought opinion from the Chief Minister if he is going to remove the SP as raised demand by Singh or would act strongly against the MLA who has announced protest against the Congress government in his home constituency. Chandrakar said that while the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has

termed the BJP's demonstration to be against the public sentiments, his own Congress Legislator is leveling allegations against the SP and District Collector from his home district.

He also sought from the CM to clear the scenario in an unprecedented circumstances in which the ruling MLA has launched campaign against the SP. While the Chief Minister is not able to put control on his MLA, he is questioning the protest of opposition, the BJP spokesperson added.

## WORSHIPPING LORD SHIVA



Devotees standing in queue to wait for their turn to worship Lord Shiva on the occasion of Mahashivratri here on Saturday.

## Amidst unrest BJYM chief Bhagat extends executive body

● Several District Unit President announced

Raipur, Feb 18: Amidst growing resentment over the new executive body of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), the State Unit President Ravi Bhagat has appointed few more office-bearers and has also announced District Unit Presidents in few more districts after instructions from the State BJP President Arun Sao.

Deepika Shouri from Sukma has been appointed as State Vice President whereas Gauri Gupta from Bilaspur would be the State Secretary. Similarly, Nitesh Sahu from Durg has been entrusted with Co Treasurer whereas Karti Minpal from Dhamtari would be co Media in-

charge. Similarly, Geet Yadav has been appointed Durg BJYM District President whereas Amit Mishra for Bhilai, Sushil Singh for Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur District Unit, Ayesha Singh Boni for Khairagarh-Chuikhadan, Devprakash Netam for Mohla-Manpur, Lokesh Sahu for Shakti District, Ajay Nayak for Sarangarh-Bilaigarh District and Sanjay Sodhi for Sukma District. Few more enthusiastic youth brigade members have been included in the executive body as special invitee to boost the confidence of the party rank and file.

Bhagat said that the Youth brigade is ready to dethrone the ruling Congress government in the upcoming Legislative Assembly polls.

## NABARD conducts state credit seminar

● Total credit potential for Chhattisgarh state during 2023-24 pegged at Rs 46,057 crore

Raipur, Feb 18: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) organised the State Credit Seminar 2023-24 for Chhattisgarh at its Naya Raipur Regional Office on February 17, 2023. Mrs Reeny Ajith, Regional Director, RBI, presided over the programme as Chief Guest and unveiled the State Focus Paper (2023-24).

Dr. Gyanendra Mani, CGM, NABARD, in his address, highlighted the projections for bank credit in the State for Rs 46,057 crore for 2023-24 showing an increase of 23% over



the previous year. He also outlined the importance of the State Focus Paper in the credit planning process and the initiatives taken by NABARD in infrastructure development, promotional and developmental activities in the state.

Mrs. Reeny Ajith in her address, appreciated the role of NABARD in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or '2030 Agenda' through the State Focus Paper. She appealed to all Banks to enhance Ground

level credit flow in the State as per the projection estimated by NABARD.

Bajinath Chandrakar, Chairman, CGStCB, in his address outlined role of NABARD in agriculture and rural livelihood development in Chhattisgarh. He stressed on giving special attention to Kodo Kudki and Ragi for tribal development in the state. Mrs Sheetal Shashwat Verma, IRS, Director, Financial Institution, told that along with credit, availability of credit at the right time is

essential for development, besides pointing out immense possibilities of credit flow in ten aspirational districts and one Utarkarsh district in the State. The event was attended by Dr. Tamboli Ayyaz, IAS, Special Secretary, Dharmesh Kumar Sahu, IAS, MD, CSWC, GoCG; DK Upadhyay, Convener, SLBC, I K Gohil, Chairman, Chhattisgarh Rajya Gramin Bank and other officials of various State Government Departments.

## Preparations begin for swearing in of the Governor

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 18: In connection with the preparations for the swearing-in ceremony of Chhattisgarh State's nominated Governor Vishwa Bhushan Harichandan, a meeting was held here at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhavan under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain. The Chief Secretary has instructed the officials to make other arrangements including reception at the airport on the arrival of the Governor. In the meeting, discussions were held with the officials regarding the preparations for the swearing-in ceremony of the Governor, including meeting arrangements, security arrangements.



In the meeting, necessary instructions were given to the officers regarding the minute-to-minute program of the swearing-in ceremony, arrangements for the honorable guests in the swearing-in ceremony and other arrangements. In the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister Mr.

Subrat Sahoo, Principal Secretary Parliamentary Affairs, Dr. Alok Shukla, Secretary to Governor Mr. Amrit Khalkho, Secretary General Administration Mr. D.D. Singh, Secretary Public Health and Family Welfare Mr. Prasanna R., Secretary Revenue Mr. NN Ekka,

Commissioner Raipur Mr. Yashwant Kumar, Collector Raipur Dr. Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure, IG Raipur Mr. Ajay Yadav, Commissioner Municipal Corporation Mr. Mayank Chaturvedi including public relations, Public Works and other department officials participated.

## Millet Carnival: Millet stalls set up by startups from 7 states including Chhattisgarh



● Women presented a doll made of millet to the Chief Minister

Raipur, Feb 18: The sale cum exhibition of millet products has been organized by startups from Chhattisgarh as well as 7 states of the country at the Millet Carnival in Raipur. Various products including cake, cookies, soup,

laddoos prepared from millet have been kept in this exhibition organized by the startup. Information regarding these products is being taken enthusiastically by the common people. The carnival was opened to the general public daily from 12 noon to 10 pm. Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel along with Forest Minister Mr. Mohammad

Akbar, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Housing Board Mr. Kuldeep Juneja, Mayor of Municipal Corporation Mr. Aiyaz Dhebar visited the exhibition put up by the startup in the carnival and encouraged them. Chief Minister Mr. Baghel also inaugurated the live food counter on this occasion. Millet bhajiyas, pakoras, cutlets were being prepared in this counter by the women of self-help groups.

The Chief Minister enjoyed 'bhajiyas' and 'pakoras' prepared by the women during the observation. On this occasion, the women presented attractive dolls made of millet to the Chief Minister. Appreciating this, the Chief Minister encouraged them.

## Govt working to preserve the rich cultural heritage of state: Umesh Patel

Raipur, Feb 18: Higher Education Minister Umesh Patel reached various villages of Raigarh development block for public relations. He visited Sangitrai, Kenapali, Thakurpali and Aurabhantha villages of Raigarh block. During this, along with inaugurating development works, he also announced new works. On this occasion, the Higher Education Minister said that the Chhattisgarh government is working to preserve the rich cultural heritage of the state by promoting traditional Teej festivals and food along with the development of villages and strengthening the rural economy. To connect the coming generations with folk festivals, we have started declaring holidays on festivals and celebrating them with full customs. During the last 4



years such schemes were prepared and implemented which benefited all sections. Work has been done to make the poor, farmers, labourers and women economically empowered by linking them with various

schemes in the village. As soon as he came into government, he did the work of massive loan waiver. Today, farmers in agriculture-dominated Chhattisgarh are getting fair prices for their crops.

Farmers are now getting Rs 2640 per quintal for paddy from input support bonus along with support price. This is the highest in the whole country. Along with paddy, input subsidy bonus is also

available for other crops. This has been going on continuously for the last four years. On the one hand, schemes are being run for the economic progress of the farmers, while the landless laborers are being given an annual assistance of Rs.7,000. Swami Atmanand English Medium Schools have been opened with the aim of strengthening the foundation for the competitive examinations of the children, where children are studying in English medium in government school fees. During this, District Panchayat President Mr. Nirakar Patel, Mr. Dilip Patel, District Vice President Mrs. Chanchala Paras Sao, Former District President Mr. Kanhaiya Charan Patel, Sarpanch Mr. Ravi Shankar Sidar and other public representatives and villagers were present.

## Workshop on Home Automation Technology held



Raipur, Feb 18: National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur's Robotix Club organized a 3-in-one workshop on Home Automation Technology on 18th February 2023. The workshop was organized under the guidance of Dr. Rajesh Doriya, Professor In-charge, Robotix, and aimed at enlightening and imparting knowledge on the domains of Internet of Things (IoT), Web Development and Integration of IoT & Web Development.

Participants were taught Home Automation using NodeMCU (ESP8266). By working on the project of the home automation system, students were given invaluable exposure and were able to develop their founda-

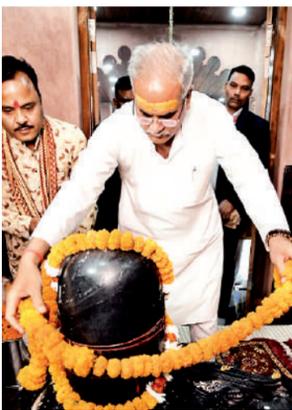
tional knowledge in electronics, IoT, and web development. Practical experience utilizing microcontrollers like the ESP8266 as well as front-end and back-end web development was also gained by the students. Programming skills in the ARDUINO IDE to examine the threshold values at which LDR sensors provide intensity of room illumination were also acquired and were put to application in determining if light switches should be turned on.

Values for environmental parameters such as temperature and humidity were also obtained using DSI1. Students also benefitted, having procured HTML and CSS programming skills while understanding web

development. Students were also educated on NODEJS and were taught about the back end of administering a website. The students integrated IoT, microcontrollers, and web development using their understanding of how server function in web servers. Microcontroller values were sent to the servers of the websites they created for further processing.

The workshop was triumphant in illuminating the students about the various techniques of home automation and it proved to be quite beneficial for students as they were given invaluable practical exposure. The workshop concluded successfully with active participation of students.

## CM attends 'Shivling Pran Pratishtha Samaroh' of Media City



Raipur, Feb 18: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel visited Media City located in Mahoba Bazar of the capital Raipur on Friday evening and attended the 'Shivling Pran Pratishtha Samaroh' in the colony. He wished for the happiness and prosperity of the people. He also inaugurated the newly constructed

'Shivalaya Parisar' in Media City. Pran Pratishtha (consecration) of 'Shivling' in Media City on the auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri, is a matter of great pride, said the Chief Minister, adding that Shivling is a wonderful confluence of Shiva and Shakti.

According to him no festival is complete without invocation of blessings of Lord Shiva and Mother Shakti. Baghel was accorded an unprecedented welcome by the Media City family. Discussion was also held by the members of the Board of Directors of Media City regarding expansion of facilities.

## Students doing research on Superfood

Raipur, Feb 18: Girl students studying home science in Raipur are doing research on Millet i.e. superfood. These girl students have also set up a food stall in the Millet Carnival going on at Subhash Stadium, Raipur. Girl students of Government Duddhari Bajrang Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Raipur, who are doing research on millets, informed that they are doing research on millets after being impressed by the incentives being given by the Government of Chhattisgarh to millets and the works of Millet Mission started for this. The food stalls set up by them have dishes like kodo, kutki made pasta, noodles, cake, roti and khurmi. Their sales are also increasing. Balushahi of millet, appe of kodo, chivda made of kodo-kutki and bhel are the main attractions at their stalls. Impressed by the works of Millet Mission, they are doing research on Millet. Millet, known as superfood, is becoming popular



day by day due to having more nutrients than other food grains. Visitors to the food stall are also taking information about these dishes with enthusiasm and curiosity. Research students told that nowadays fast foods are the latest trend, people like easy and quick things like Chowmein, Pasta and Manchurian, but it also has a bad effect on our health, so we have developed Kodo-Kutki Se Pasta, Dishes like Noodles, Roti, Cake, Khurmi have also been prepared so that the new generation can also

understand the benefits of consuming millets. It may be noted that Chhattisgarh Government has entered into an MoU with the Chhattisgarh State Small Forest Produce Association with the Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad, to promote millet cultivation. Under this, a target has been set to double the productivity of millet. CSIDC has introduced a scheme of 50 percent subsidy on land, plant and equipment in select blocks to encourage millet based industries.

**NANHE FARISHTE CAMPAIGN**

## 319 children safely handed over to families

**By RPF under SECR**

Raipur, Feb 18: Railway Protection Force, South East Central Railway is discharging its social responsibilities with utmost priority along with the safety of railway passengers and railway property. Along with providing assistance to the needy passengers dutifully, the Railway Protection Force is continuously running a campaign for their convenience and safety, paying special attention to women and children.

In this series, the Railway Protection Force, South East Central Railway, discharging its responsibilities efficiently, till the month of January in the year 2022-23, under 'Operation Nanhe Farishte' safely returned



319 minors who ran away from home. The children, which included 187 boys and 132 girls, were rescued at various stations/trains and handed over to NGOs and their guardians.

South East Central Railway, Security Force personnel are diligently performing their duties round the clock with the aim of vigilance, security and service, discharging their social responsibilities with service. These works being done by the Railway Protection Force are continuously getting very positive and encouraging response from the public. Along with this, prompt assistance is provided to the passengers through Security Helpline and Women Helpline running round the clock in Railway Protection Force Control Room. Special attention is being paid to the

safety of women passengers by deployment of women RPF staff at railway stations/trains. The vulnerable night running trains are being escorted by RPF personnel to ensure the safety of the passengers. A strict vigil is being kept on the activities of criminals involved in theft of passenger luggage, drug abuse, pick-pocketing and other heinous crimes like theft, dacoity by deployment of decoy task force teams in unsafe trains/sections in sufficient numbers.

The morale of RPF officers and staff of South East Central Railway is very high and they are committed and dedicated towards RPF objectives of ensuring proper security of railway passengers, passenger premises and railway property.

## SECL CMD receives ET Ascent Business Leader of the Year Award

Bilaspur/Mumbai, Feb 18: South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) CMD Dr Prem Sagar Mishra has been honored with the prestigious ET Ascent Business Leader of the Year Award 2022-23. The award was presented at a function held at Hotel Taj Lands End Mumbai on Friday evening. This award is an acknowledgement of Dr. Mishra's forward-thinking leadership under which SECL has been consistently delivering great results.

It may be noted that under the leadership of Dr. Prem Sagar Mishra, SECL is moving towards historic results in the financial year. The company has registered an increase of more than 20 million tons in coal production compared to the same period last year, while with an increase of about 55 million cubic meters in overburden removal (OBR), the company is heading for the highest OB removal in any year since



inception.

In this financial year, SECL dispatched 101.72 million tons of coal to the power sector during April-December 22, which is 10 per cent higher than the previous year and the highest ever dispatch by SECL in the previous period. In calendar year 2022, SECL approved 647 employment in land acquisition cases, which is the highest employment pro-

vided by SECL in a year. Under the leadership of Dr. Prem Sagar Mishra, the company's profit (unaudited) till the second quarter of FY 22-23 is estimated at Rs 1142.23 crore and it is about 40 percent higher than the same period last year. In the period from January to December, SECL has succeeded in obtaining environmental clearance for six projects from the

Environment Ministry.

Dr. Mishra has launched Mission Nachiketa for skill development of personnel in SECL which emphasizes the need for inculcating the attitude of continuous learning and skill development among officers and employees of SECL. Ratnesh Srivastava, General Manager (CSR/Welfare) and Sanish Chandra (Public Relations Officer) were part of the SECL delegation at the event held in Mumbai. On this momentous occasion, SECL Functional Directors, Chief Vigilance Officer and all the employees at SECL congratulated Dr. Mishra and conveyed their best wishes.

It is worth mentioning that Dr. Prem Sagar Mishra has also been given the CMD Leadership Award for his outstanding contribution at the 9th edition of the prestigious Governance Now PSU Awards held in New Delhi on 16.02.2023.

## Sadbhavna Hospital, Naya Raipur successfully completed two years

**Free knee camp organised got massive response**

Raipur, Feb 18: Sadbhavna Hospital, Naya Raipur, has successfully completed two years with service to health work. Over the years, Sadbhavna Hospital has set a new record in the field of medicine due to modern technology, efficient doctors and better management. Providing better medical treatment to the patients with excellent medical service has resulted that today the fame of the hospital has spread to Chhattisgarh, Bihar,



Orissa, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. Now patients from other states are taking the services of Sadbhavna Hospital for their treatment. So far the hospital has done more than 25000 OPDs, more than 250 All inside ACL Surgeries, more than 300 deliveries, more

than 200 Laparoscopic Surgeries and more than 500 Joint transplants through PPP technique. Sadbhavna Hospital is the first Surgical Speciality hospital of Naya Raipur. Dr. Ankur Gupta is joint replacement and arthroscopy specialist. Dr. Jyotsna Gandhi Gupta is a specialist in

Gynecology and Infertility, who is treating all types of diseases with laparoscopy. She has full mastery in the treatment of all types of normal and high risk pregnancy. The dedication of all these expert doctors and efficient team has instilled a sense of security and trust in the patients along with belongingness.

We want to celebrate this success by serving our suffering patients and needy people. On this occasion, the hospital has organised a free camp for patients suffering from knee pain on February 16 at Sadbhavna Hospital Sector-30, Naya Raipur which got massive response.

## 'Convert challenges into opportunities'

Raipur, Feb 18: "Consider stress as challenges and convert them in to opportunities for sure success in life," said motivational speaker CA Nikesh Agrawal while addressing a session on 'Exam Stress Management' at Shri Gujrati English Medium Higher Secondary School auditorium, Devendra Nagar the other day. Agrawal while addressing about 400 students of Class X and XII along with their parents underlined the importance of time management and advised to break their syllabus into small chunks and prepare a time table as per the time available for examination. Agrawal strongly believed that elements of distraction like mobile phones should be kept away while undertaking studies and fix a particular time totally

**Motivational Speaker Nikesh Agrawal addressing the session.**

dedicated for the use of mobile. In course of his delivery he made the students perform certain activities so as to draw their attention towards him. Later in the programme CA Agrawal was felicitated by the office bearers of Shri Gujrati Shikshan

Sangh which include Ashok Bhai Patel Secretary of Shri Gujrati Shikshan Sangh, Vitthal Das Patel Joint Secretary, Administrator V K Mishra and senior member of GSS Mauji Bhai. At the beginning school principal Dr Shailesh Sharma gave his

welcome speech and secretary Ashok Bhai Patel also spoke on the occasion. Vice Principal S V Chandrasekhar proposed vote of thanks. Academic Coordinator Bhaskar Sharma and faculty members also graced the occasion.

## Ch'garh lifts more than 100 lakh MT paddy for custom milling

Raipur, Feb 18: Under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the skilled management of the state government has resulted in the lifting of more than 100 lakh MT of paddy for custom milling. While DO has been issued for the lifting of about 104 lakh MT of paddy. A successful procurement of 107.53 lakh MT of paddy has been carried out this year at the support price from farmers.

It is worth mentioning that, following the initia-

tion of Chief Minister Bhupesh last year, the lifting of paddy has again been started from procurement centers for custom milling this year, which has resulted in a significant reduction in transportation expenditure for the state government. Along with this, the lengthy process of paddy lifting after procurement of paddy has also been shortened.

Till January 31, 2023, nearly 107.53 lakh MT of paddy has been procured

by the state government from more than 23.82 lakh farmers.

About Rs 22, 067 crores have been released by Markfed to Apex Bank under the bank-linking arrangement for payment to the farmers in lieu of paddy procurement. Out of the total paddy procured so far, DO has been issued for the lifting of more than 104 lakh MT of paddy for custom milling. Against this, more than 100 lakh MT of paddy has been lifted by the millers.

## Villagers, children distributed needy items

**By 50th CRPF Battalion in Elarmadgu, Bodhrajpadar**

Konta, Feb 17: In Konta block of Sukma district, a Civic Action Programme (CAP) was organized among the villagers of Elarmadgu and Bodhrajpadar in highly sensitive Naxalite affected area. It was done under the guidance of 50th Battalion CRPF Elarmadgu, Camp Commandant Narendra Pal Singh (PMG). In which daily use school items like pen, pencil, school bag, sketch pen, register and household items like blanket, mosquito net, rain umbrella, saree etc. were distributed to the children of these villages and along with this fruit plants such



as coconut, guava, banana, papaya, lemon, custard apple and seeds were also distributed to the villagers. The villagers were informed about the various development schemes being run by the Government of India and the State Government and their benefits.

The villagers of Elarmadgu and Bodhrajpadar areas have benefited from the Civic Action Programme organized by 50th CRPF Battalion. Along with this, through medical camps for better health of these villagers, the villagers were awakened to

take precautions to prevent diseases. And medicines were also distributed after treating common diseases like cold, cough, fever, high blood pressure, body pain, joint pain, old wound / wound, sore throat and malaria.

On this occasion, other of-

ficers and subordinate officers of 50th CRPF Battalion were also present in the event. All the nearby villagers took part in this event, which shows that the villagers of this area are increasing their faith in the government and good relations and trust are being established between the common citizens and the security forces. The people of this area are leaving the Naxalite ideology and joining the main stream of development. A new ray of hope has awakened in all the villagers due to the development work done by the 50th CRPF Battalion.

Civic Action Programme 50th CRPF Battalion Commanding Officer R.K. Singh, Assistant Commandant and Pundarik Mishra, Assistant Commandant, were present.

## Aditya Rajee welcomes huge number of devotees

**On the occasion of Mahashivratri Mahabhandara**

Raipur, Feb 18: Today, on the occasion of Maha Shivratri, Mahabhandara was organized in Kachna with worship of Bholenath. This event is being organized continuously for 6 years. Aditya Rajee Singh's family started Mahabhandara after the completion of temple con-

struction 6 years ago and the series continues. Today, about 2100 devotees took Prasad in this Maha Bhandara from noon. Aditya Rajee congratulated the devotees. He also shared that his grandmother holds special belief in this temple and used to offer water at the shivaling. Ishwar Das Bairagi and his family have always been doing service and worship there. After the birth of Aditya Rajee, the construction work of the

temple was almost completed and the Shivaling of Bholenath was established inside the temple from the open sky. Day by day the faith of the devotees of Bholenath is increasing towards this temple. This temple is situated behind the Brahmakumari Ashram located at Kachna turning.

The people present in Mahabhandara chanted Lord Shiva, the whole atmosphere became Shivalike. In the evening too, Shiva bhajans were organized and Phal Prasad sweets were distributed. Ishwar Bairagi, Shiva Vaishno Parivar, Sanjeeva Reddy, LN Banchor, K. P. Singh, Chandra Vas Devi, Pawan Thakur, Dharendra Sharma, Akhilesh Singh, Aasha, Namrata Singh Santosh Tiwari had special contributions in this Mahabhandara and whole event of Mahashivratri.

## Villagers getting information through Street Plays

**About major government schemes**

Bijapur, Feb 18: Chhattisgarh Public Relations Department is effectively promoting important ambitious schemes of the Government of Chhattisgarh among the locals. Through Kala Jatha teams conversing in local dialect, citizens from the most remote areas of the district are being connected with the mainstream by providing them benefits from the government schemes. In various panchayats including Cherpalli, Kottapalli, Pampal, Gullapenta, Bijapur block's Gangalur, Itpal, Bhairamgarh block's



Temrubhatha, Tumnar, Kodoli, Pusnar and Mingachal gram panchayats of Bhopalpatnam block of the district, the villagers are being enthusiastically informed about government schemes through street play performances. Villagers are being told

about the Gauthans established under the government's priority scheme Narva, Garva, Gurva, Bari, and the benefits that would accrue from it. Locals are benefiting from this scheme by participating in various activities and gaining financial em-

powerment. Similarly, under the Haat-Bazar Clinic Yojana, people are taught how to examine themselves, as well as how to take preventive measures against diseases. The artists of Kalajathas are inspiring the villagers to take advan-

tage of these schemes. Apart from the schemes such as Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, Godhan Nyay Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhoomiheen Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana, Masahati Survey, Dhanvantari Generic Medical Store Yojana, Dai Didi Clinic Yojana, Mukhyamantri Suposhan Abhiyan, Forest Rights Act Implementation, Swami Atmanand English Medium School Yojana, Vriksha Ropan Protsahan Yojana, Rajiv Yuva Mitran Club Yojana, Half Biji-Bill Yojana, and Mukhyamantri Shehri Slum Swasthya Yojana and various other schemes are being promoted.

## Addl. Comm conducts inspection in govt offices

**In Bharatpur block of MCB district**

**Central Chronicle News**

Manendragarh, Chirmiri, Bharatpur (MCB), Feb 18: The Addl. Comm. Commissioner Surguja Division Mahavir Ram conducted inspection of various government offices in Bharatpur block of MCB District and this included, SDM (Revenue), Tehsil Office, Integrated Child & Development Project office; BRC Office and Agriculture depart-



ment and others. During this Mahavir conducted close inspection of different regis-

same time finding the shortcomings in the register and in the documents, he asked to correct the same soon and directed to maintain better management of the documents.

During the inspection he also gave instructions on how to ensure cleanliness, better maintenance and sanitation in the office premises. During this SDM Bharatpur Mulchand Chopda, CEO Janpad Panchayat Anil Agnihotri, Block level officers and employees were present.

ters maintained the offices and directed the concerned to ensure its timely updation. At the

## Make declaration in villages for Ayushman card

**Central Chronicle News**

Sakti, Feb 18: The Collector Sakti directed the departmental officers to make declarations in the villages about making of 'Ayushman card', so that more and more people from villages can get benefited.

Under Ayushman Card, the BPL and ration-card holders can get free of cost treatment facility upto Rs 5 lakh for entire family and the APL card holders can get facility upto Rs 50000 per year.

### Collector holds departmental meeting



**Collector Panna holds review of GNY: Collector Nupro Rashi**

Panna conducted review of Godhan Nyay Yojana (GNY) and took informa-

tion about the produce and vegetables being produced in the 'Gauthans' and its sale and about establishment of Paint unit in the district and its present condition.

Apart from this he also reviewed about vermicompost, purchase of cow urine, 'Swalambi Yojana', Geo-Tagging, and about 'Narwa-Ghurwa, Garuva and Badi' scheme of the state government and directed for clearing the payments for cow-dung purchase soon.

## Newly constructed road worth lakhs damaged

**Central Chronicle News**

Dongargarh, Feb 18: A newly constructed road worth lakhs has reportedly got damaged due to poor quality of construction. As per information, the CC road built in the newly constructed vegetable market under the over bridge, was done without strengthening the lower part of the land before construction, therefore leading to it getting damaged, because after construction, neither mudrooms were laid in sufficient quantity on both sides of the road, nor was water sprinkling done regularly.

This road got damaged in just two months even after plying without heavy vehicles and dust starts flying on the road due to the movement of two wheelers too. Similarly, the

condition of the CC road built on the road leading to the CMO quarter (fair ground) is also the same and the construction agency does not consider it necessary to pour water on the side of the road in the mudroom regularly, nor are the officers and engineers considering it necessary to be present at the time of construction. Construction work is given only to those who have high reach and this is the reason why it is not in the control of the engineer and the officer to inspect the construction work or to find the deficiency in the construction work.

### What officer says

Construction will be investigated before payment CMO - Municipal CMO Pramod Shukla

## Govt schemes to change lives of the people: Pingua

**Central Chronicle News**

Bilaspur, Feb 18: Principal Secretary of Home and Forest Department and in-charge of the district Manoj Kumar Pingua reviewed the progress of government schemes by holding a meeting of officers here.

Addressing the meeting he said that our aim is not only to achieve the target under various schemes, but to see change in the lives of the people and its positive results should also be visible.

Regarding the implementation of the schemes, feedback must be taken from the beneficiaries and better improvements can be made in the schemes only on the



basis of feedback, he said. He stressed on the continuity of the redressal process of revenue matters and instructions were given not to keep it limited to the campaign only.

Collector Saurabh kumar, SP Santosh Singh, DFO Kumar Nishant, Commissioner Kunal

Dudawat and all district level senior officers were present in the meeting. In the first meeting held after his appointment as Secretary in-charge, Pingua apprised himself of the progress of the state government's flagship schemes. After taking information about the

pending proposals of various departments at the government level, he assured to resolve them soon.

Collector Saurabh Kumar informed about the major achievements of the state government in the district and urged for approval of separate set-up for traffic policing in Bilaspur city and posting of two deputy collectors for the district office. Due to non-approval of master plan in urban areas like Kota, Masturi, Takhatpur, the problems faced in diversion were informed.

He also informed about the latest progress of airport development, Arpa Bhainsajhar, two bargages built on Arpa River and Jal Jeevan Mission.

## Gunderdehi's Payal to share screen space with Swara Bhaskar



**Central Chronicle News**

Balod, Feb 18: Bollywood's famous actress Swara Bhaskar has shot one of her web series at different places in Chhattisgarh, although the name of this web series has been kept secret, but the most important thing in this web series is that more than a dozen artists of Chhattisgarh and Payal Sharma, who lives in Gunderdehi, Balod district of Chhattisgarh, is also part of the series.

Payal is an active leader of Congress and is member of Gunderdehi Janpad Panchayat of Balod district, also Vice President of the State Kisan Congress, who looks after the Durg division, apart from being an artist. Sharma has played two important characters with Bhaskar and soon the web series will be released on OTT

platform. Talking about her experience with Swara, she said that experience was very good and she told that this web series is of 9 episodes, in which Swara Bhaskar will play different characters, out of which she has been given an important role in 2 episodes.

## Cultural platform a boon for artists at Rajim Maghi Punni fair



**Central Chronicle News**

Rajim, Feb 18: Rajim Maghi Punni fair which commenced from 5th February is being seen and heard not only in Chhattisgarh but in large numbers in the country and abroad through print media, electronic media,

social media or other mediums.

The fair has also eventually turned a boon for artist all over due to the stage presented by the government for displaying their art. Folk singer Mamta Chandrakar even called it the prestigious stage of the world as oppor-

tunities are being given to all big and small artistes, due to which a lot of happiness is being seen in them.

Also the texture of the Muktakanshi main festival stage appears to be unique from the point of view of architecture and the speciality of the stage spread over a long and wide

square area is explained by the audience coming here.

On the right side, a balcony has been made by putting red stone on the stairs for the audience to sit and the aura of the background has been enhanced by the LEDs.

A huge gallery for the audience to sit in front is divided into four different lanes, in which 12 sections give relaxation to both men and women and on the main festival stage, eminent folk artists of the state are taking Chhattisgarhi folk art across seven seas by presenting folk culture on folk tunes.

Ramayana, Pandwani, Lokkala Manch, Jagrata, Raut Nacha, Sua dance, Panthi dance, Mangal Bhajan, Holi Geet, Kavi Sammelan etc. are buzzing and also Bhajans are being sung daily on Mahanadi Aarti, due to which the artists here are getting opportunity to reflect their genre of art forms and its vivacity.

## Three in Mazda got seriously injured



- ◆ One got cut in the leg; two others also injured
- ◆ When Mazda collided with a truck from opposite direction

**Central Chronicle News**

Mungeli, Feb 18: Three persons on Mazda vehicle got seriously injured and the leg of one of the person's got cut and two others were also injured in head-on collision between a Mazda vehicle and truck on Raipur-Patharia turn. Here the Mazda coming from Patharia met with collision with a truck going from Mungeli to Raipur. Since the arrangement of ambulance could not made early, the nearby persons got agitated and the police on reaching there took

situation under control and later sent the injured to nearby hospital for treatment.

A Mazda vehicle bearing No. CG 08 L 1578 was of Nihal Saluja of Mungeli and in this three persons were seated. The three passengers in Mazda are from Bada Bazar, Daupara area of Mungeli. The injured were taken to hospital in an ambulance. The police on reaching the site came to rescue of those injured and one Yogesh Yadav tried to help the person with broken leg by wrapping a cloth around in order to reduce blood loss and helped in taking him upto the ambulance and to the hospital. In this SI Mungeli Police and constable Yogesh Yadav calmed the crowd and shifted the injured to the hospital.

## Collector conducts surprise inspection in Schools

### Hold talks with students; informs them about various subjects and how to prepare for exams

**Central Chronicle News**

Manendragarh, Chirmiri-Bharatpur, Feb 18: Collector PS Dhruv conducted surprise inspection of many schools and took stock of studies and education being imparted to students. During this Collector took a class of school children in Secondary School Piparia and checked their level of knowledge.

He also took classes in Hindi and History. On this occasion Collector directed the teachers to ensure cleanliness in the School and directed them to pay special attention towards studies and education of School students. Collector Dhruv conducted surprise inspec-



tion of Govt Middle School, Piparia; High School, Piparia; Primary School Morga run by the SC Welfare Department and Maharajpur Primary and Secondary School. During inspection of Classes 6, 7th, 8th, in Secondary School Piparia,

he checked the level of vocabulary, writing skills and speaking ability of children. He gave information in detailed to students of Class 8th about the Mahatma Gandhi's journey from England to India; 'Savinay Avagya Andolan', 'Bharad Chodo

Andolan', 'Dandi Yatra', non-cooperation movement; trusteeship Sarvodya Ramrajya; their dreams for India and other subjects.

Collector informed the students of Class 7th about how to calculate the annual interest and gave infor-

mation on various subjects to students of Class 9th and 10th and how to prepare for the exams. Collector Dhruv motivated children to study with dedication and do lot of hard work. He directed the Head Master of School to carry out cleaning at the back side of the School and took information about quality of mid-day meal served to the students.

During inspection of primary school, Collector also conducted inspection of Secondary School Maharajpur and expressed annoyance over less presence of school children and directed the teachers present, head master to contact the parents of school children and ensure cent percent

presence in the School on daily basis.

**Union Bank of India** 1st Floor, Infront of Gumber Petrol Pump Vyapar Vihar Road, Bilaspur (C.G.) 495004

**POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule - 8 (1)]**

Whereas the Authorized Officers of Union Bank of India, Ambikapur Main Branch under Securitisation 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 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice of the following borrowers/guarantors/ mortgagors calling upon them to repay the amount mentioned in the Notices within 60 days from the date of said Notices.

The Borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors having failed to repay the amount. Notices are hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagor in particular and the public in general that Authorized Officer has taken symbolic possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said rules on below mentioned dates.

The Borrowers/guarantors/mortgagor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Union Bank of India, for the amounts and interests and incidental expenses and costs and charges thereon as mentioned below.

A. Name of the Borrowers	Description of Secured Assets	1. Date of Demand Notice
B. Name of the Branch		2. Outstanding (in Rs.)
A. M/s. M. B. Agro Products, Prop Mahesh Kumar Ekka S/O Mohar Lal Ekka (Borrower)	All part and parcel of Residential Building situated at Kh. No. 726/4, Ph. No. 31, Village- Kharakona, Bijpara, Tah-Lundra Dist- Sarguja C.G. Area 2153 Sq. Ft. Owner of Property Mahesh Kumar Ekka. Bounded by as per sale deed: East- Land of Indernath, West- Land of Seller, North- Land of Nand, South- Land of Mohar Lal.	3. Date of Possession
Mohar Lal Ekka S/O Sukhan Ram Ekka (Mortgagor/ Guarantor)		1. 02.11.2022
		2. ₹ 6,68,841.11 interest & other exp.
		3. 16.02.2023

B- Ambikapur Main Branch. Date: 18.02.2023, Place: Bilaspur (C.G.) Authorized Officer/Union Bank of India



## US, Europe need India to outdo China: US Senator

Washington, Feb 18:

The US and Europe need countries like India on board to outcompete China, top American Senator Chuck Schumer said on asserting that they all need to work together to ensure the democratic international order does not disintegrate in the face of an increasingly aggressive Chinese Communist Party.



Chuck Schumer

This is the message with which Schumer, Senate Majority Leader, is leading a powerful bipartisan group of Senators to India next week, the New York Senator told Europeans and the international leaders at the annual Munich Security Conference. "We must work together to ensure the democratic international order does not disintegrate in the face of an increasingly aggressive Chinese Communist Party. And the task does not be-

long to the US and Europe alone: we need nations like India, the world's largest democracy, and the democracies of Asia, to work with us to outcompete China," Schumer said in remarks at the McCain Award Dinner at Munich Security Conference.

"I will travel to India and deliver the same message to them as we seek to counter this looming threat. I urge Europe to do the same. India, with its democratic traditions, can be a very strong partner in outcompeting China. And

India joining the western partnership could serve the purpose of advancing democracy," Schumer said.

Earlier in an op-ed in The Washington Post, Schumer said the democratic international order must stand strong to confront the rise of the Chinese Communist Party. "But the task does not belong to the United States and Europe alone: We need nations such as India, the world's largest democracy, and the other democracies of Asia, to work with us to outcompete China and its aggressions. This week, I will also travel with eight other senators to India and deliver the same message to our friends as we seek to head off this looming threat," the powerful Senator wrote.

In his remarks at the Munich Security Conference, Schumer said

US forces shot down a Chinese surveillance balloon within its borders.

"It was a brazen violation of American sovereignty; an illustration of how China has continuously escalated its aggression against the West."

"The US is hardly alone — Chinese surveillance balloons have targeted more than 40 countries around the world. But it's not just Chinese espionage that threatens the West. China has dedicated hundreds of billions to dominate the global economy and the advanced technologies that will shape this century," Schumer said.

"China's innovations in Artificial Intelligence, for instance, have empowered them to monitor and oppress their citizens in ways once thought unimaginable — a challenge which we must respond to now," he said.

## MAHA SHIVRATRI



Devotees wait in queues to offer prayers at the Pashupatinath temple on the occasion of 'Maha Shivratri' in Kathmandu, Nepal, Saturday, Feb. 18.

## Hindu temple in Australia gets threat calls

• Asked to raise Khalistani slogans

Melbourne, Feb 18 (PTI):

A prominent Hindu temple in Australia has received threatening calls in which it was asked to raise pro-Khalistani slogans if it wanted to observe Maha Shivratri peacefully which falls on February 18, a media report said on Friday.

The threatening call to Gayatri mandir in Brisbane came after three Hindu temples were vandalised in Australia's Victoria state allegedly by "Khalistani supporters" with anti-India graffiti.

Jai Ram, the president and Dharmesh Prasad, the vice president of Gayatri Mandir received separate calls on Friday from a man who identified himself as 'Guruawadesh Singh' seeking the Hindu community to support the "Khalistan Referendum". The Australia Today reported. Claiming that he

was calling from Nankana Sahib in Pakistan, the anti-India supporter asked temple officials to ask the Hindu community to support the 'Khalistan Referendum'.

"I have a message in relation to Khalistan... if you plan to celebrate Maha Shivratri .... then ask the priest to support Khalistan and raise 'Khalistan Zindabad' slogans five times during your event... now show me how you will raise this slogan," the report said, quoting Singh's warning message to the president of the temple.

Talking about the threat call, Prasad said that violence towards religious places is the biggest crime and "we as Hindus should be able to practice our religion without fear", the report said.

Later on, Temple's Public relation officer Neelima also said that received several calls from an American number.

The threatening call to Gayatri mandir came

after recent attacks on three Hindu temples that were vandalised in Australia's Victoria state allegedly by "Khalistani supporters" with anti-India graffiti.

Earlier, a Kali Mata Mandir in Melbourne's northern suburb of Craigieburn also received a threatening call to cancel a bhajan and puja event or face consequences.

The Indian-Australian community is still recovering from the vandalism of three temples by Khalistani extremists.

On Jan 23, the management of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) temple also known as the Hare Krishna Temple in Melbourne's Albert Park found the walls of the revered temple vandalised with graffiti "Hindustan Murdabad".

On January 16, the historic Shri Shiva Vishnu Temple in Carrum Downs, Victoria, was vandalised in a similar manner.

## China representative met with protests on visit to Taiwan

Taipei, Feb 18 (AP):

A visit by a Chinese official at the invitation of the Taiwanese capital's newly elected China-friendly mayor has drawn protests on the self-ruled island.

The head of Shanghai city's Taiwan Affairs Office, Li Xiaodong, arrived Saturday morning for a three-day visit that marks a rare point of contact between the sides.

China deems Taiwan to be a part of its territory to be conquered by force if necessary and has been courted by pro-Chinese media and politicians on the island to further its unification agenda.

The vast majority of Taiwanese back the status quo of de-facto independence while still maintaining close economic and social ties with the mainland. Taiwan's democratic system allows broad leeway for local governments to act without central au-

thority.

Taipei recently elected Chiang Wan-an from the opposition Nationalist Party as mayor.

Dozens of protesters gathered at Sunshan Airport in downtown Taipei, while representatives of pro-China minority parties shouted welcomes.

Neither Li or any members of his delegation issued any arrival statements.

Protesters at the airport chanted to denounce Chinese efforts undermining Taiwan's security, democracy and independent diplomatic relations.

Wang Sing-huan, chair of the Taiwan State Building Party, told protesters that Li had a right to visit but that Taiwan's "way of peace is to prepare for any possibility of war, and to ally other democracies so that China would not dare invade us."

## Jaishankar tears into George Soros over PM remarks

Munich, Feb 18:

Billionaire investor George Soros is old, rich, opinionated, and dangerous and invests resources in shaping narratives, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday said.

The 92-year-old hedge fund tycoon, who has been associated with supporting liberal causes, on Thursday sent shockwaves in the Indian political scene saying Gautam Adani and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's fates are entwined, and alleged that Modi was not a "democrat."

Speaking at the Munich Security conference, he also said the turmoil in Adani's business empire may open the door to a "democratic revival" in the country.

Responding to a question at a session at the Raisina@Sydney Dialogue, Jaishankar said Soros is an "old, rich, opinionated person sitting in New York, who still thinks that his views should determine



how the entire world works."

"Now, if I could only stop at old, rich and opinionated, I would put it away but he is old, rich, opinionated and dangerous," Jaishankar said.

He said that a few years ago at the same conference, Soros had accused India of planning to strip millions of Muslims of their citizenship.

"We know the dangers of what happens when there's outside interference ... if you do this kind of scare-mongering, like millions of people will be deprived of citizenship, it actually does real damage to our societal

fabric," he said. "There are other manifestations of this in different countries, where people like him think an election is good if the person we want to see wins. If the election throws up a different outcome, then we actually will say it's a flawed democracy," he said. Jaishankar said globalisation allows seamless opportunities but also allows narratives to be shaped, money to come in, and organisations to get about their agenda.

"All this is done under the pretence of advocacy of an open society of transparency," he said.

The Adani Group has been under severe pressure since the US short-seller Hindenburg Research on January 24 accused it of accounting fraud and stock manipulation, allegations that the conglomerate has denied as "malicious", "baseless", and a "calculated attack on India."

## Russia to test missile in drills with China and South Africa

Johannesburg, Feb 18 (AP):

Russia, China and South Africa are set to begin naval drills off South Africa's Indian Ocean coast Friday in a demonstration of the three countries' close ties amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine and China's tense relationship with the West. The 10 days of exercises, named Mosi II, will coincide with the first anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24.

A Russian frigate, the Admiral Gorshkov, arrived in Cape Town earlier this week sporting the letters Z and V on its sides, letters that mark Russian weapons on the front lines in Ukraine and are used as a patriotic symbol in

be the first launch of the missile in an international exercise. In addition to the Admiral Gorshkov, other ships participating in the maritime exercises will include a Russian oil tanker for refueling, a South African frigate and three Chinese ships - a destroyer, a frigate and a support vessel, according to a South African military statement.

The warship is set to test-fire a Zircon missile during the joint naval drills, according to Russian state news agency Tass. The test will

## Five Pak Taliban terrorists killed in attack on police chief's office

Karachi, Feb 18 (PTI):

Five heavily-armed militants of the Tehreek-e-Taliban (Pakistan) have been killed after security forces managed to secure back control of the head office building of the Karachi Police Chief which came under a daring attack by the militants in the country's most populous city.

The nearly four-hour-long operation to seize back control of the five-

storey building came to a dramatic end around 10.50 pm with four other people including two police



Policemen inspect a police compound after it was attacked by Taliban fighters in Karachi.

constables, a rangers personnel and a civilian also killed in the heavy exchange of firing that took place between the TTP militants and security forces. A senior security source said five terrorists were killed during the operation. He said three were killed in the long gun

battle while two blew themselves up which also caused some damage to one floor of the building. Sindh government spokesperson Murtaza Wahab said on Twitter he could confirm that the Karachi Police Office (KPO) building has been cleared.

**GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER MAHANADI PROJECT: WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT RAIPUR (CHHATTISGARH)**

**e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>  
(1Ind CALL)

System Tender No.: 124305/NIT No.: 08/SAC/e-procurement/2022-23, Dated: 16.02.2023

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 13.03.2023 at 17:30 Hour (IST)

Name of work: Renovation work of Pikridih Tank and construction of structures and C.C.Lining work of its canal from R.D.0.00M. To 4200M

Probable Amount of Contract: - Rs. 289.64 Lakhs (As per S.O.R. Dated 01.08.2010 and amended up to 01.08.2014)

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 23.02.2023, at 17:31 Hours. (IST) onwards.

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

**Executive Engineer**

MRP Disnet Division No. 3, Tilda-Neora  
For, CHIEF ENGINEER MAHANADI PROJECT  
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, RAIPUR (CG)

G-98631/1

**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>  
(3rd CALL)

System Tender No.: 124823/NIT No.: 17/SAC/2022-23, Gariaband, Dated: 17.02.2023

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 07.03.2023 at 17:30 Hour (IST):-

Name of work: REMODELING AND C.C. LINING FROM RD.0 TO 815 M OF KOMA SUB MINOR NO.1, RD.0 TO 910 M OF KOMA SUB MINOR NO.2, RD.0 TO 1200 M OF RAJIM SUB MINOR, RD.0 TO 1915 M OF SEMHARATARA SUB MINOR, R.D.3210 TO 7650 M OF PITAIBANDH MINOR, R.D.0 TO 600 M OF SUB MINOR NO.1 AND RD.0 TO 750 M OF SUB MINOR NO.2 OF PITAIBANDH MINOR, CONSTRUCTION OF 02 NO.V.R.B. OF PITAIBANDH MINOR OF PAIRI IRRIGATION PROJECT IN BLOCK FINGESHWAR OF GARIABAND DISTRICT.

Probable Amount of Contract: - Rs. 247.35 Lakhs (As per S.O.R. Dated 01.08.2010 (As amended dated 01.08.2014))

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 24.02.2023, at 17:31 Hours. (IST) onwards.

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

**Executive Engineer**

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

G-98632/2

**कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता एवं सदस्य सचिव (जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन) लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड, कबीरधाम (छ.ग.)**

**निविदा निरस्तीकरण सूचना**

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा, निविदा सूचना/सिस्टम क्र. 654, 412/113649, 416/113713, 400/113488, 403/113491, 402/113490, 234, 378/113278, 386/113329, 376/113276, 344/112836, 345/112842, 924, 313/111903, 351/113162, 429/114364, 446/114712 निविदा होने के कारण निविदा निरस्त किया जाता है।

**कार्यपालन अभियंता एवं सदस्य सचिव लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड, कबीरधाम (छ.ग.)**

G-98651/1

**कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता लोक निर्माण विभाग, रायपुर मण्डल क्रमांक 2 (छत्तीसगढ़)**

**ई-प्रोक्चुरमेंट निविदा सूचना (प्रथम आमंत्रण)** दिनांक : 15.02.2023

निम्नांकित निर्माण कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा "ई" श्रेणी एवं अधिक श्रेणी के ठेकेदारों हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। ऑनलाईन निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 02.03.2023 है।

एन.आई.टी. क्र./निविदा क्र.	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)
1	2	3
NIT NO. 333 Tender No. 124864	जिला गरियाबंद के विकासखंड गरियाबंद अंतर्गत छिरीला में हाई स्कूल भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	रु. 67.41 लाख
NIT NO. 334 Tender No. 124865	जिला धमतरी के हटकेखर पहुंच मार्ग किमी. 1/2 से 1/10 - 0.90 किमी. का निर्माण कार्य।	रु. 78.02 लाख
NIT NO. 335 Tender No. 124866	जिला गरियाबंद में पशु चिकित्सालय भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	रु. 22.84 लाख

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य को निविदा को सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्चुरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> अथवा विभागीय वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है। (राशि रु. 100.00 के नान ज्यूडिशियल स्टाम्प पर निर्धारित प्रपत्र में शपथ-पत्र एवं न्यूनतम राशि रु. 10.00 के नान ज्यूडिशियल स्टाम्प पर एनेक्जर-3 का शपथ पत्र बिडकेपेसीटी उपलब्धता बाबत जानकारी एवं अन्य जानकारी एनआईटी के 2.10 में संलग्न संशोधित प्रपत्रानुसार प्रस्तुत करें।) निविदा में होने वाले समस्त संशोधन का प्रकाशन केवल उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर किया जाएगा, पृथक से समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन नहीं किया जाएगा।

**अधीक्षण अभियंता**  
लो.नि.वि., रायपुर मण्डल क्र. 2 छ.ग.)  
G-98623/2  
Credible Chhattisgarh Government e-procurement आपकी थी चाह, हमने बनाई राह



## CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 10 No. 320

### E-pharmacies under radar

The Central government is likely to take strong action against the misuse of drugs by the E-Pharmacies including their closure. e-pharma companies' model is problematic as it can be detrimental to patients' health. The E-Pharmacies are currently following that business model which can be problematic for patients who are ordering medicine online, their data privacy at risk and possibility of misuse of drugs. Offering convenient doorstep delivery, timely service, discounts on product prices and privacy — the e-pharmacies' popularity is understandable. The high rate of Internet penetration is contributing to the market expansion, providing access even in remote locations. Drone delivery is no longer a futuristic idea. It's the possible misuse, particularly through the online sale of illegal, outdated and counterfeit drugs, however, that has given rise to grave concerns. Self-medication and availability of drugs that would otherwise require prescription can be life-threatening. Without the strictest regulatory controls, a health hazard looms for the end-users. The show-cause notice to 20 leading e-pharmacies for the sale and stocking of drugs in contravention of laws is a timely rap on the knuckles that should reset the rules of the game. The All Indian Origin Chemists and Distributors (AIOCD) was constantly alarming Central Government that, Drug Acts, Pharmacy Act, and Other drugs related rules/orders, code of ethics, do not permit the sale of medicines on the internet and promotion of drug sales by advertising with discounts and schemes as it can be hazardous to the health of the public. In spite of all legitimate appeals, requests, meetings, and Hon'ble High Court orders of Delhi, corporate houses were operating illegally with financial power indulging in Predatory Pricing. More dangerous was, since e-pharmacies started operating online sale of drugs crossing borders of states in the country, the sudden rise has been started in duplicate and spurious drugs. The global e-pharmacy market value is anticipated to cross a whopping \$206 billion by 2028. India is emerging as a major driving force. Given the population and socio-economic challenges in India, digital platforms can prove to be transformative. Their increasing use by healthcare professionals as well as patients will propel the e-pharmacy industry. That calls for a collaborative public-private partnership, and organic tie-ups between retailers and e-tailers. The interest of the consumer has to be the determining factor in any policy change.

### Turkey-Syria earthquake: The scandal of not being prepared

David Rothery

The magnitude-7.8 earthquake near Gaziantep that struck southeastern Turkey and neighbouring Syria on February 6, and the large aftershocks that followed, destroyed thousands of buildings and claimed tens of thousands of lives. In response to criticism of the efforts to rescue buried survivors, Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan reportedly said that it was "impossible to prepare for the scale of the disaster". But is he right? I don't think so, and I will explain why. It's true that it's hard to predict when and where an earthquake can happen. Days ahead, there are occasionally warning signs of a major earthquake such as inexplicable night-time glows in the sky or unusual animal behaviour. But these signals are untrustworthy, and poorly understood. In Japan and California, there are warning systems that can give a few tens of seconds warning, setting traffic lights to red and bringing trains to a halt but obviously not long enough for an evacuation of any kind. The Turkish government is well aware the country sits on active fault zones in the Earth's crust, with a long record of earthquake activity. Yet it allowed builders to flout earthquake resilience construction regulations. Even supposing there was a reliable system that would give, say, one day or one month's advanced warning of a big earthquake, how should it be used? If it was up to you, would you try to move millions of people out of the area likely to be affected? Would they be willing to go? Where would they live and work afterwards if they came back to find their homes destroyed? The best way to prepare for an earthquake disaster, and what Erdogan had it within his power to do, is to build homes and infrastructure using earthquake-resilience techniques. That way, people are not killed during the earthquake and they still have their homes afterwards. There are many ways in which buildings can be designed and built to withstand earthquakes, so that they don't collapse. In an area at risk of large earthquakes, a multistorey building should be designed so that when the ground starts to shake, its outer walls on either side sway in unison in the same direction as each other. If, on the contrary, opposite walls are free to sway away from each other, the intervening floors become momentarily unsupported, allowing upper floors to pancake down on to lower floors. This happened to deadly effect in Turkey. Builders can prevent this by structurally tying floors and walls together, without making the framework of the building so rigid that it breaks, rather than bending a little. This may mean more steel and less concrete. Other measures are possible at greater expense. For example, foundations can be made deeper, connecting to bedrock (because this shakes less than soil), or they can be mounted on flexible pads to isolate the building from ground motion. It is a tragedy and a scandal that the Turkish government knew all this. They have introduced a series of progressively more stringent seismic building codes, claiming to have learned lessons from the 1999 earthquake near the city of Izmit, near Istanbul, in which 17,000 people died. But journalists are reporting how these building codes have been widely flouted in Turkey. Building in earthquake resilience adds maybe 20% to costs of a construction project, so the temptation to ignore the regulations is obvious. In this case, the government not only failed to enforce its own building codes, but also encouraged non-compliance by allowing builders to pay a "construction amnesty" in return for officially sanctioned breaches of the codes. Now charities are trying to raise hundreds of millions of pounds to help with the emergency response alone. The Turkish government gambled with its peoples' lives, and lost. The revenue from "construction amnesties" is far too little to pay for the reconstruction that is now needed, though I dare say the building industry will do nicely out of the extra work.

### MAHA SHIVRATRI



Devotees offer prayers at a Lord Shiva temple on the occasion of 'Maha Shivratri', in Bengaluru, Saturday, Feb. 18.

## Why are the cases of dowry death skyrocketing in the country?

DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH



Even though people know that dowry is a crime, this evil still exists in society. Recently a girl committed suicide after complaining of dowry harassment. In her case, there were 102 witnesses, and 53 pieces of evidence, including her voice note, were sent to her husband where she complained of torture at the hands of her in-laws. It is not just her but many other women who face dowry threats and die because their families are not able to meet the dowry demands. The difference is that such incidents do not come to light because the victims decide to remain silent about them. As per research, in the last three years, the conviction rate is very low and the sad part is that hardly anyone is convicted in these cases.

Dowry, a cultural practice deeply rooted in many Indian communities, refers to money, goods, or property given to the groom's family along with the bride. Dowry is a social evil in society, which has given rise to unimaginable atrocities and crimes against women. Evil has taken the lives of women from every stratum of society - be it poor, middle class, or rich. However, it is the poor who are most vulnerable and fall prey to it due to a lack of awareness and education. Even though people know that dowry is a crime, this evil still exists in society. Recently a girl committed suicide after complaining of dowry harassment. In her case, there were 102 witnesses, and 53 pieces of evidence, including her voice note, were sent to her husband where she complained of torture at the hands of her in-laws. It is not just her but many other women who face dowry threats and die because their families are not able to meet the dowry demands. The difference is that such incidents do not come to light because the victims decide to remain silent about them. As per research, in the last

three years, the conviction rate is very low and the sad part is that hardly anyone is convicted in these cases.

In many literate and developed states, a high number of dowry cases. This shows that a high rate of literacy is not able to prevent this menace. For example, Kerala is the most literate state in India, with a literacy rate of 96.2%. As per the 2011 census report, 96.11% of males and 92.07% of females are literate in the state. However, a statistical report published by the Economic and Statistics Department of Kerala has revealed a paradox that cases of dowry-related deaths are skyrocketing in the state. The cause of dowry is deeply entrenched in our society; Due to its patriarchal nature daughters are seen as property. There is a strong preference for boys, which has been blamed for female infanticide over the years. This has left India with a very imbalanced sex ratio. According to the 2011 census, there are 940 females per 1,000 males. There are 37 million more men than women in India, making it difficult for men to find suitable

brides.

Due to societal attitudes, instead of considering dowry as a crime and a cause of shame, it has become a matter of pride. It is discussed over coffee in family gatherings. Sons-in-law are often presented with the price tag that comes with them. Educated grooms demand more dowries. Education has been narrowed down to just one other factor that determines your market rate. Today, the dowry is directly linked to the estimation and treatment of the bride by her husband, forcing their families to ensure that an adequate amount of dowry is provided. Due to greedy expectations of material gain from the bride's family, dowry is demanded, and many times, when the demand is not met, either the marriage is annulled, or the bride is exploited for domestic violence.

With a literacy rate of 74.04% in the country, it is quite valid to consider it as the primary cause of various social ills. The communities who are not aware of the laws and legislation have to face many atrocities due to the dowry exchange practices. Lack of will to follow the laws, primary reason behind its failure is the lack of public participation. People do not pay heed to such laws and promote dowry practices to get material benefits in the guise of a marriage proposal. Due to custom, daughters are not given equal importance to sons. In society, it has been observed many times that they are seen as a liability and are often subjected to subordination and are given second-hand treatment whether it is in education or other facilities. Parents do not put enough emphasis on educating their daughters, as they feel that later husbands will support them. Poor sections of society send their daughters to work outside and earn some money, to help save their dowry. People from regular middle and upper-class backgrounds send their daughters to school but do not emphasize career options. Very wealthy parents support their daughters until they get married.

Measures to stop dowry depend on education and sensitization, so educate the young generation, sons and daughters; encourage them to pursue their careers; teach them to

be independent and responsible; Treat your daughters equally without any discrimination; Do not encourage the practice of giving or taking dowry; Through mass media campaigns, media has the potential to remove the dowry system from the mainstream of Indian society. By publishing relevant news and informing the authorities about any reported case of dowry-related crime, they can effectively control the possibilities. Law on Dowry in India The Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961 deals with a dowry in India. This act prohibits the practice of giving or taking dowry by both parties to the marriage. The law also punishes demanding and advertising dowry. Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005; The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 was passed to provide a civil law remedy for the protection of women from domestic violence in India. The Domestic Violence Act covers all forms of physical, verbal, emotional, economic, and sexual abuse and forms a subset of the anti-dowry laws to an extent one of the causes of domestic violence.

Voluntary organizations should campaign against the dowry system. The workers of these organizations should help the victims of dowry harassment and get them justice. These organizations should make people aware of their addresses through advertisements so that the victims can request help in getting justice. Women's self-help groups should be oriented on systematic violence against women and the existence of local support systems. By actively spreading awareness and showing solidarity, women's self-help groups can play a powerful role in building a more equal society. Dowry has become an institutional and integral part of an Indian marriage. Social and economic realities do little to keep it under control. In such a situation, the need of the hour is to revise the institutional framework related to dowry and do more research on the different forms of dowry and the reasons for its prevalence.

(Writer is a Poet, freelance journalist, and columnist, All India Radio and TV panelist.)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Woes of disabled people

It is a welcome move that the strength of Supreme Court judges is now complete and a common man can expect that decision of Supreme Court will be delivered at faster rate and the privileged classes along with disabled can expect that they will be heard in the highest court of the country. India has the largest democracy in the world and USA has the oldest democracy in the world but India has to go a long way to reach at the way of that country and the difference can be judged from the one point. Parliament passed the first Disability act in 1996 and which is not still properly implemented but such kind of irregularities does not happen in USA. India is a signatory to various international treaties but disabled people are still struggling to get the pension for the non implementation of disability act. Now the disabled people keep their hope alive on CJI to consider the request and do the needful.

Yash Pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

#### Tulsidas Balamram

It is absolutely futile to describe the quality of him as a footballer; Balamram being a living legend, even after his demise. However, as a human being, he used to reside at a much higher level, with his character being in sharp contrast to the state of affairs in society. In his autobiography, another legendary footballer, PK Banerjee, described how Balamram used to come back with his head bowed immediately after scoring an out-of-this-world goal as if he had committed a "great sin"! In contrast often do we witness ugly sight of barbaric celebration of goals by national/international stars with swear words and obscene gestures. When compromise with wrong and injustice has become the norm to prosper in career or to serve personal interests, Balamram had never compromised with his conscience principles values throughout his life. So whenever he noticed any wrongdoing in any committee, he used to promptly quit from that vicious cycle. And we must learn a sense of self-respect from Tulsidas Balamram. When present-day athletes and matinee stars shamelessly express their anger if not bestowed with national awards or publicly lobby to get them, Balamram remains tight-lipped about the indifference meted out to him. Only if he got questioned about it, Balamram used to humbly quip that he might not have possessed quality enough to receive a national award! Yes, a tinge of sentiment might be embedded in such a statement, but it also speaks of the impeccable self-respect and dignity of Balamram. The ever-smiling, humble, civilized, dignified, self-respecting silent artist Tulsidas Balamram used to reside much above any sorts of awards that the state could bestow upon him because, at the end of the day, his place was guaranteed in the hearts of the people for eternity.

Kajal Chatterjee, Kolkata

## Chhatrapati Shivaji: A Great King Who Showed How to Deal With Evil Forces



Er. Rajesh Pathak

As the ruler of Bijapur, Adilshah, saw that Shivaji, the great Maratha King, continued to expand his kingdom, he sent one after other many of his warriors to contain him. But, whoever came to fight him was sent

back defeated. Lastly, getting frustrated, he sent his most powerful, shrewd and truculent of commanders Afzal Khan to bring Shivaji dead or alive. Faithful to the court of Adilshah, Afjal Khan was strong of a fighter in the battlefield, and merciless of a heart to win it. What an able commander he must have been that it was none other than Aurangzeb who had to eat humble pie before him in his campaign of Bidar and Kalyan. Fortunately he managed to escape; otherwise, he would have either been killed or fallen captive in the hands of Afzal Khan. Setting out for the war against Shivaji he ransacked whichever temple fall on his way, savagely slaughtered thousands of cows, set the standing crops on fire and dishonored the women folk. Terror-stricken, people began to approach Shivaji, pleading to save them from these infernal miseries. But, Shivaji remained calm. He knew well that he could not take on Afzal's many times stronger

army in direct fight. And that he would have to overpower him only tactically. Thus, he receded with his soldiers to Pratap fort; and, soon he was joined by Mawalay soldiers led by Kanhoji Jedhay. Now it was before insurmountable high rising mountain of Mahabaleshwar where stood Pratap fort that Afzal Khan stationed his army. Amid this tense moment Shivaji had to bear one more shock on the personal level - her ailing consort, Saibai, passed away. Here, on the other side, mistaking Shivaji's patience for his timidity, Afzal grew evermore brutal. And, he even destroyed the famous Vitoba temple and, more so, Shivaji's patron goddess Tulja Bhavani's temple too. Sense of shock and discomfiture prevailed among the people. So much so that they even began to lose faith on Shivaji. Hurling abuses on him, many of them even began to comment - "Where is the Hindu Rakshak; where is he hidden now; is he scared of Afzal Khan?"

Meanwhile, Afzal sent a message through an emissary, Krsihna ji Bhaskar - "Hand over to us all the forts and territories usurped by you. If you his valor was being challenged, self-respect was being hurt and his integrity to the purpose and Dharma itself was being doubted by his own people, yet Shivaji maintained the patience. For, he knew how he had to move ahead with his own strategy. Pretending to be greatly frightened of him [Afzal Khan], he sent the message to him - 'I am really scared of you and want to surrender to your refuge, but lacks enough courage to come direct before you there where you are. This would be better if sir you yourself come on the foothills of Pratapgarh. There I would surely come to meet you.' Khan accepted the request of Shivaji; and, time and day was fixed for the meeting. Here, the news through the spies reached to Shivaji of the deception to be masterminded by wily Khan. Though, Khan

knew not that his army was actually surrounded by the Mawlays lurking inside the recesses of the woods. They were to fall upon them as per strategy chalked out beforehand. Swelled with the ego soaring at the pretended discomfiture of Shivaji, Khan reached the destined spot before the stipulated time. Meeting was to take place inside the tent erected for the occasion. On the other side, Shivaji also set upon descending the downhill from the Pratapgarh fort for the historical meeting with a Turk commander. Under the muslin kameez, he wore a very thick proof-jacket; while to safeguard the head there was steel-helmet on it. He was well laced with a small sword kept concealed under the kameez. With him at this moment were his ten close confidantes- Kawji Kondakar, Jiva Mahala Sakpal, Yasaji Kank and such others. Whole Pratapgarh grew tearful to see his beloved king heading to meet unknown future.

**BRIEF**

**Industrial projects**



**Bhubaneswar:** Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik unveiled 19 industrial projects that would entail an investment of Rs 1,650 crore, leading to the creation of around 4,500 jobs. Patnaik inaugurated two plastics units in Cuttack through the virtual mode, and took part in the ground-breaking ceremonies for 17 other projects. The two plastics units set up by Supreme Industries and Ashirvad Pipes will create 470 employment opportunities, officials said. The other projects are in manufacturing, tourism, IT, agro and food processing and pharmaceuticals sectors, among others, they said.

**Brand ambassador**



**New Delhi:** Online gaming platform Zubeen said it has roped in Bollywood star Salman Khan as its brand ambassador. With this association, Zubeen aims to expand its presence in the growing skill-based online gaming space and pave the way to establish skill-based gaming as the most preferred form of meaningful entertainment, the company said in a statement. "We are thrilled to have Salman Khan on board as our brand ambassador."

**Foundation stone**



**Srinagar:** Chairman and managing director of JSW group Sajjan Jindal laid the foundation stone of a new steel processing unit in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir. "Proud to announce that we have laid the foundation stone for our New Steel Processing (sic) unit in #Pulwama - the heart of #Kashmir!" Jindal wrote on Twitter. "Contributing to the growth of the beautiful state of #JammuKashmir," he added. Jindal also posted pictures of the foundation laying ceremony. The Jindal group becomes the first major investor to set its footprint in Kashmir after abrogation of article 370 in 2019. The Jammu and Kashmir administration has said it has received investment proposals worth more than Rs 60,000 crore in the past couple of years. The JSW steel processing unit will come up on an area of 3.5 hectares at an estimated cost of Rs 150 crore.

# Humans need to safeguard themselves from risk related to AI: Niti Aayog Member

**New Delhi, Feb 18:**



Reminding the words of physicist Stephen Hawking that the development of full artificial intelligence 'could spell the end of the human race', Niti Aayog member VK Saraswat appealed for caution in the development of the next generation technology. While speaking at International Conference on Artificial Intelligence 2023, Saraswat shared the benefits and value addition that it can do to the economies but at the same time charted out a list of checks and balances that need to be put in place in the development of AI. "We should not forget what Stephen Hawking, the physicist, said. The development of full artificial intelligence could spell the end of the human race."

Once humans develop artificial intelligence it will take off on its own and redesign itself at an ever increasing rate. Humans who are limited by slow biological evolution could not compete and would be superseded.

Now we have to safeguard ourselves against that," Saraswat said. He said that AI is estimated to contribute USD 1 trillion to the Indian econ-

omy by 2035 but it will have a lot of impact on society at the same time. "AI has a potential to add almost about 1 trillion to India's economy in 2035...the augmentation will be highest about USD 597 billion.

The intelligence automation will be another one which will be USD 277 billion and of course, total factor productivity as we improve is about USD 83 billion and all this will happen through Intelligent Automation human-machine interface and productivity improvement," Saraswat said. He said there are risk factors which are associated with AI and many tend to overlook those risk factors. "If you take a societal risk, risk of automation, weapons proliferation is what we are talking of. We have

the risk of intelligence divide. This may happen. Performance risks are in the terms of risk of errors, risk of bias risk of opaqueness," he said. IBM India and South Asia Managing Director Sandeep Patel said that challenge before India at present is towards scaling AI responsibly.

"Continued focus on AI education and skilling is essential to take advantage of our digital infrastructure. This will not only increase employability but also unlock innovation potential," Patel said. He said that data is a very important component that shapes AI. "Humans and machine data are getting generated everyday and AI is the only way to process this enormous amount of data," Patel said.

## Let us set a target to export organic products worth \$1bn by 2030: Goyal

**New Delhi, Feb 17:**

Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal suggested the industry set a target of exporting organic products worth USD 1 billion by 2030. He said this while addressing an interaction programme with Sikkim Chamber of Commerce and Industry representatives at Gangtok. "He urged to set a target to export USD 1 billion organic product by 2030 from existing USD 1 million organic



produce in Sikkim," the ministry said in a statement. He suggested a laboratory for organic testing in the state - farm-to-lab traceability check. Goyal said that Sikkim has the potential to become a sustainable and organic state. He also informed that the Centre is ready to set up National Institute of Design and National Institute of Packaging Campus in Sikkim if lands are provided by the state government.

## Trai chief asks telcos to improve service quality

**Report call drop data at state level too**

**New Delhi, Feb 18:**

Telecom regulator Trai has asked telcos to report call drop and service quality data at state level, as the regulator instructed operators to immediately improve quality of service and connectivity across the country. Trai chief P D Vaghela met representatives of telecom companies, including Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea, on Friday to review service quality



and asked operators to take necessary steps to reduce call drops. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) has made it clear to operators that it will tighten service quality bench-

## India's mineral production rises 9.8 pc in Dec 2022

**New Delhi, Feb 18:**

India's mineral production rose by 9.8 per cent in December 2022, over the same month a year-ago, according to the mines ministry. The index of mineral production of the mining and quarrying sector for the month of December, 2022 stood at 107.4, 9.8 per cent higher as compared to December, 2021, as per the provisional figures of Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM). The cumulative growth for April-December period this fiscal over the corresponding period of the previous financial year was 5.4 per cent, the mines ministry said in a statement. The production level of important minerals in December were -- coal 833 lakh tonnes, lignite 35 lakh tonnes, natural gas (utilised) 2,888 million cu. m, petroleum (crude) 25 lakh tonnes and bauxite 2,272 thousand tonnes. Minerals like gold, phosphorite, iron ore, limestone, manganese ore and coal showed positive growth. "Other important minerals showing negative growth include: petroleum (-1.2 per cent), bauxite (-9 per cent), lignite (-10.7 per cent), chromite (-11.5 per cent), magnesite (-22.5 per cent) and diamond (-38.6 per cent)," the statement said.

## Amit Mitra urges Sitharaman to call GST Council meeting to address cases of overregulation

**Kolkata, Feb 18:**

The West Bengal government on Friday wrote to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman urging her to call a special meeting of the GST Council to address cases of "massive overregulation" and the current state of the MSMEs that have registered under the GST regime. Dr Amit Mitra, the principal chief advisor to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee as well to the finance department, said in a letter to Sitharaman that the "labyrinthine regulatory structures have engulfed MSMEs in particular, dragging them to an abyss." "I urge you to call a special and exclusive meeting of the GST Council to address the case of massive overregulation and the current state of the MSMEs who have dared to register under the GST regime in their quest to become formal," Mitra wrote in the three-page letter. The former state finance



minister's call for the special meeting came a day before the 49th GST Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Saturday in New Delhi. The meeting will be held two months after it was organised on December 17, 2022.

"As we have moved from one GST council meeting to the next, with the 49th meeting to take place soon, at each meeting we have added layers and layers of rules, notifications, forms, amendments to laws etc. These labyrinthine regulatory structures have engulfed MSMEs in particular, dragging them to an abyss," the letter read.

## Bankers highly optimistic about credit demand across sectors: RBI survey

**Mumbai, Feb 18:**

Bankers are "highly optimistic" about credit demand across all the main sectors in the short term, a RBI survey of lenders said. After sagging for the last two years, the non-food credit growth has been hovering above 15 per cent in FY23. "We observe that bankers are highly optimistic of credit demand across all the main sectors in the coming quarters, viz., Q4:2022-23 to Q2:2023-24," a paper based on the survey released in the February bulletin of the

RBI said. The Bank Lending Survey provides sentiments of banks on loan demand, loan terms, and their outlook in the near term across major sectors.

It captures senior loan officers' expectations on future credit demand along with adjustments in its terms and conditions and also seeks feedback on prevailing credit market conditions. The current survey covers a panel of top 30 scheduled commercial banks (SCBs), which account for more than 90 per cent of the total outstanding, it said.

## Eicher inaugurates new dealership

**Mumbai, Feb 19:**

Eicher Trucks & Buses, a business unit of VE Commercial Vehicles, inaugurated a new 2S (Service and Spares) dealership, G K Automotive Pvt Ltd., in Durg.



With an always customer-first philosophy, Eicher offers a compelling ownership experience to help its customers deliver beyond usual norms through a smart combination of highly efficient products and customized services. Yet another addition to Eicher's rapidly-growing dealership network aims to ensure superior uptime and 24x7 hassle-free support to meet the transport demands

across a variety of applications in Central India. Speaking on the occasion, Ramesh Rajagopalan, SVP, Customer Services and Network Strategy, VECV, said, as our widespread service network grows stronger, we ensure seamless experience, superior uptime and profitability to all our customers operating in mining and power generation sectors across Central India."

## India can attract over USD 20 billion investment in renewables in 2023: Industry estimates

**New Delhi, Feb 18:**

India has the potential to attract an investment of over USD 20 billion in renewables in 2023 and requires a strong framework for sustainable power, say industry experts at the renewable energy conference REConIndia 2023. Based on the discussion at REConIndia 2023, a white paper will be prepared on solar power challenges, roadmap to make green hydrogen viable, propelling wind energy and state of green financing in India, a statement said. The conference was organised by Blue Circle on Friday, where experts, stakeholders and industry leaders deliberated on the

key issues, challenges and opportunities in renewable energy in India. Founder and CEO of Blue Circle Siddharth Anand said, "The industry estimates investment in excess of USD 20 billion in 2023". Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh in December 2022 also pegged the investment in renewables at around USD 25 billion in 2023.

Anand also stated that the REConIndia 2023 brought together key decision-makers, thought leaders, and experts from across the industry, creating a platform for collaborative thinking and problem-solving. Alexander Hogeveen Rutter, Private

Sector Specialist, International Solar Alliance, said that with a significant portion of wasteland at its disposal, India has the potential to unlock enormous opportunities by utilising it for setting up solar projects. The development of floating solar fields is another area of exploration, which presents a unique advantage that the land beneath the panels can be used for farming by farmers who may have given up their land, Rutter added.

A strong framework for the development of solar projects on wasteland can help build a sustainable and self-reliant India, Rutter suggested.

## PwC will hire around 30,000 people in India: Moritz

**New Delhi, Feb 18:**

Global consultancy firm PwC will hire around 30,000 people in India in the next couple of years, company Chairman Bob Moritz said on Friday. In a panel discussion at the Global Business Summit organised by the Economic Times, he said India can be a supplier of that talent to the world, thanks to its technology advancements and the use of AI (artificial intelligence), which the rest of the world doesn't have that skill set. "So, today we've got about 31,000 people. Just so we're clear, and some of that's

been reported on this, and our plan is to hire another 30,000 in the next couple of years. "That's the boldness," Moritz said when asked about the company's headcount in India. Schneider Electric Chairman & CEO Jean-Pascal Tricoire also said he was "super optimistic about India."

"There is no other place in the world where we have invested most, more than in India over the past 20 years...India is today our third largest business in the world after the US and China," he said. Further, he said, "We believe in India, we are committed to India now."



## Sony India expands cinema line with new 4K Super 35 camera

**New Delhi, Feb 18:**

Sony India today is pleased to announce the latest addition to the brand's prestigious Cinema Line - the FX30 (LLME-FX30). The new FX30 is a 4K Super 35 compact cinema camera that offers many professional features of the Cinema Line, such as Dual Base ISO, Log shooting modes and user imported LUTs (Look Up Tables) at a price point that appeals to many aspiring filmmakers. Sony has launched the camera in two variants - FX30 (Body + XLR Handle) and FX30B (Body only). "The new FX30 is an excellent choice for anyone wishing to get into filmmaking. It has many of the professional capabilities of our high-end cameras at a price that makes it afford-

able to filmmakers/video-graphers of all levels. This camera is a wonderful entry point into our entire series of Cinema Line Cameras. With a comprehensive selection of Sony's E-mount lenses & high-performance microphones, creators now have an extraordinarily flexible system for a broad range of creative needs," said Mukesh Srivastava, Head Digital Imaging Business Sony India.

The FX30 offers budding filmmakers' cinematic expression with the latest imaging systems. It features a new back-illuminated 20.1 megapixels APS-C Exmor R CMOS sensor (Super 35 format) with a dual base ISO (800/2500) to deliver high sensitivity, low noise, and 14+ stops of latitude.

# Married Women's Property Act, 1874

### An exclusive claim to your wife and child(ren)

Today, we are living in the world of uncertainties. The first priority for every family man is the financial security of his spouse and child(ren) in case of an unforeseen event. However, if a person takes loan or credit from any bank, financial institution or any other creditor, such creditor has a claim over the assets of that married man. Also, in case a married man is living in a joint family, there can be claimants (other than wife and child(ren)) over the assets of that married man. Now, if that married man wants to secure the financial future of his wife and child(ren), without any claim from his creditors or other family members, the solution

is the insurance policy under Section 6 of Married Women's Property Act (MWWPA), 1874. Section 6 of MWWPA states that "a policy of insurance effected by any married man on his own life, and expressed on the face of it to be for the benefit of his wife, or of his wife and children, or any of them, shall endure and be deemed to be a trust for the benefit of his wife, or of his wife and children, or any of them, according to the interest so expressed, and shall not, so long as any object of the trust remains, be subject to the control of the husband, or to his creditors, or form part of his estate". This means that any insurance policy taken by a married man on his own life and endorsed under the MWWPA in favor of his wife or child(ren) or any of them, will always be their property. None of the husband's credi-

tors or relatives will have any right over the policy. Interestingly, the husband himself will also not have rights to benefits of the policy, if any. The life insurance policy purchase under MWWPA will be considered as a trust. Only the trustees will have control over the policy including its servicing and the receipt of the benefit amount. In case of a death claim, the policy proceeds are received by the trust and can only be claimed by trustees. It cannot be claimed by creditors, relatives or form a part of his will. The trust shall be holding the claim proceeds for the benefit of the wife and/or child(ren), as the case may be. The policyholder does not have any control over the policy. Even in the event of divorce, if the policyholder does not want the proceeds to go to his wife

and wants to change the beneficiaries, the beneficiaries will not change. The insurance policy will remain for the benefit of his ex-wife and children. Now the question arises that in case we purchase a life insurance saving plan under MWWPA and we require some urgent funds, can this policy be surrendered with the permission of beneficiary or trustee. There is an interesting judgment of the Gujarat High Court in the case of The Life Insurance Corporation of India vs. SaubhagayandT.Vasa (supra) which deals with the above aspects. The judgement upheld the decree of the trial Court that the trustee is entitled to surrender the policy for the benefit of beneficiary. In a similar case before Delhi High Court, in Harmeetpal Singh Bindra&Ors vs Citibank

&Anr, the wife of the policyholder was appointed as a Special Trustee under the policy and the two children were made the beneficiary. The Court also held that as per Section 8 of the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956, the natural guardian of a Hindu minor has power to do all acts which are necessary or reasonable and proper for the benefit of the minor or for the realization, protection or benefit of the minor's estate. Accordingly, the Special Trustee may surrender the policy for the benefit of beneficiary. **Disclaimer:** The views expressed in this article are personal to the authors. This article is not an insurance advertisement for solicitation of insurance policies by any insurer. **Authors:** Lokesh Sharma and Nikhil Kalra

## Tara is surprised by things happening around her in the 21st century

Dhruv Tara, Sony SAB's upcoming family romance drama, follows the journey of Dhruv (played by Ishaan Dhawan) and Tara (played by Riya Sharma), who are from two different eras. The show is set to break through the clutter with a love story never seen on television before. Tara, a princess from the 17th century, travels against the grain of time and arrives in the present day, where she meets Dhruv. Sony SAB's consistent focus is on creating good content and bringing to life shows which appeal to each family member. With Dhruv Tara, they are set to bring an exciting show, which will captivate audiences with its engaging narrative and unique characters. Dhruv Tara is set to premiere on television on 20th February every Monday to Saturday at 8 PM only on Sony SAB.

**Excerpts of interview:**  
1. What is your take on modern-day love and relationships? And how do you think this is different from the kind of love that was there in the 17th century?

It is true that we have come a long way in terms



of technology and modernization, and this has had an impact on our relationships and the way we communicate as well. Love was simpler in the

past although communication options were limited. In the past, couples accepted each other despite their differences. However, the modern era

allows individuals to choose their partner and allows them to get to know the person before committing. I feel it's a matter of personal preference and it's tough to say love in which era was better, but what's interesting is that how two people with very diverse lives come together in this beautiful journey and our show Dhruv Tara will also showcase one such intense love story between people two divergent worlds.

2. What kind of preparation has gone into making this character come to life on the screen?

Tara is a smart girl who is surprised by things happening around her in the 21st century. Honestly, I haven't undergone a specific kind of training for bringing this character to life. I am going with the flow and improvising as the scene demands. This approach can be effective in creating a believable and authentic character, and you can always adjust your performance based on the feedback you receive from the director and other members of the team. Blending my own characteristics with those of Tara creates a believ-

able and relatable performance. And while continuing to work on the role, I did discover new aspects of the character that I have brought to life on screen.

3. How has been the experience of donning the character of a princess on-screen?

Well, it has been surreal feeling to get into the shoes of a princess and it did take a few workshops for me to get it right. It's very unlikely in our normal lives, but yes, I got an open canvas to experiment with character. The challenging part of the character is the heavy costumes, as the look is filled with layering's and ornaments. Though costumes play a significant role in helping you to bring the character to life on screen, shooting an action sequence can be challenging. The costumes on you look beautiful and they enhance your performance. Costumes can be an important tool for actors in immersing themselves in their roles and can add an extra layer of realism.

Dhruv Tara - Samay Sadi se Pare premieres on Sony SAB on 20th February, Monday - Saturday, 8 PM!

## 'Jehanabad' has earned her respect as an actress: Harshita Gaur

Actress Harshita Gaur, whose show 'Jehanabad - Of Love & War' is gaining momentum on the streaming space, is chuffed with the kind of response the show has garnered. Harshita's earlier show 'Mirzapur' commands a mind-boggling fan following courtesy the countless memes that it has given to the pop-culture. The actress feels that while 'Mirzapur' brought her an unprecedented mass success, 'Jehanabad' has got her respect as an actress. The actress said: "In terms of premise, 'Mirzapur' and 'Jehanabad' may look similar but my characters in both these shows are poles apart. While 'Mirzapur' brought me mass success, I'm humbled with the kind of appreciation and the respect that I have got for my work in 'Jehanabad'. I'm grateful to have both these shows in my filmography." She further spoke about how she approached her character of a college girl in the web-series. For the same, Harshita tapped into her younger self to ignite her creative impulses and craft the character. She said: "I went back in time and worked around the character as to how I behaved during my college. After the narration, I decided to drop all my guards and tap into the vulnerable side of myself as a person because that's how college students are: naive, vulnerable and feel a lot more deeper than an older person. If something affected me, I would let it affect me in a natural way rather than me trying to erect an emotional firewall."



## Urvashi cheers for recuperating Rishabh Pant, calls him 'India's pride'

Actress Urvashi Rautela has called Rishabh Pant "India's pride" and "asset" after learning about his health. Urvashi was pictured at Mumbai airport, where she was asked by paparazzi Viral Bhayani about the condition of cricketer Rishabh Pant, who is undergoing treatment after a car accident a few months ago.

The paparazzi asked her about the cricketer's



post about his recovery. Urvashi, who looked drop-dead-gorgeous in a fiery red colour outfit, seemed awkward and asked: "Kaunsi photo?"

She replied: "He is an asset to our country, India's pride." The cameraperson replied that their good wishes are with him.

To which, Urvashi said: "Hamari bhi (Mine as well)." Urvashi opted for a red outfit for her airport look.

## Rajesh, Anita and Yashoda seek blessings at Lord Shiva's temples

To celebrate one of India's largest and most sacred festivals, Mahashivratri, &TV artists Kamna Pathak (Rajesh), Hattu Ki Ultan Paltan), Vidisha Srivastava (Anita Bhabhi, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai) and Neha Joshi (Yashoda, Doosri Maa), visited the most revered Lord Shiva temples. Vidisha Srivastava (Anita Bhabhi) visited her hometown, Varanasi, to attend the Shiv Mahotsav at the world-famous Kashi Vishwanath temple. Kamna Pathak (Rajesh Singh) visited her hometown Indore and then witnessed the grand celebration at one of the most revered Lord Shiva temples in Ujjain - the



Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga temple. Neha Joshi (Yashoda) sought blessings at Haridwar's famous Shiv temple - Shiv Ki Pauri.

Talking about her visit to the famous Shiv Ki Pauri temple in Haridwar, Neha Joshi, essaying Yashoda in &TV's Doosri Maa, says, "Mahashivratri is cele-

brated with much fervour and enthusiasm in Haridwar. And I consider myself fortunate to have witnessed this magical moment in this holy town. I began my day with Ganga aarti and later sought blessings at Shiva's temple. I also saw the famous Prakasheshwar Mahayatra, in which Shiva's gans (attendants) dressed as ghosts and rakshasas (demons) chanted 'bum-bum bhole,' which was an amazing experience. I had always heard about and seen pictures of the celebration but seeing it in person was surreal. I am grateful and would like to wish everyone a Happy Mahashivratri."

## Shah Rukh feels Hindi cinema is part of every Indians' DNA

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan along with Karan Johar, late actor Rishi Kapoor and Abhishek Bachchan in 'The Romantics' open their hearts about how the Hindi film industry has the power to shape pop culture for India and Indians. Shah Rukh feels Hindi cinema is part of our DNA and they spread joy and love in the world. He says, "Our cinema is as much a part of our lives in India, as much as you wake up in the morning and brush your teeth. It's just an inherent part of us. There's beauty in the cinema that Indian filmmakers have stuck vis-a-vis music or keeping it still like a musical format." Karan Johar says our films try to

depict the country's culture in the most vibrant way possible. He says: "We're an incredible place. We're a country of so many cultures and so many religions. There are the colours of Rajasthan, the beaches of South India, the magnanimity and large-heartedness of North." Rishi Kapoor is proud of how the Hindi film industry has made our nation proud globally. He says, "We're definitely a force to reckon with the world as far as cinema is concerned. We're the largest film-making country in the world. The way the West perceives Indian cinema is not about sadhus, it's not about snake charmers, not about elephants, and cows. We have come a long way." Meanwhile, Abhishek Bachchan feels Hindi films are truly unique.

## 'Rashtra Kavach Om' to premiere on &pictures today



"Rakht rahe ya na rahe, rashtra hamesha rahega," booming with intense patriotism, Rashtra Kavach Om featuring Aditya Roy Kapur as Om Rathore and Sanjana Sanghi as Kavya Sharma in the lead is all set to hit your television screens this Sunday on 19th February only on &pictures.

Directed by debutante director Kapil Verma, the film marks Aditya Roy Kapur's first out-and-out action drama and narrates a story about patriotism, faith, and betrayal. The action adventure, which also features Jackie Shroff, Ashutosh Rana and Prakash Raj in pivotal roles, has a gripping narrative coupled with exciting and powerful mo-

ments and is a must-watch for all action lovers. With power packed action sequences and mysterious secrets, Om will keep you at the edge of your seat. The film traces the journey of para commando Om Rathore who is on a mission to extract the Kavach, nation's defence against nuclear attack. With the enemies constantly creating hurdles on his way, Om proves his valour by risking his life. With a combination of hand-to-hand combat, aerial stunts, pulsating action Rashtra Kavach Om definitely will get your adrenaline pumping. Yeh kavach counter karega har attack with the premiere of Rashtra Kavach Om this Sunday February 19 at 8pm on &pictures.

## CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- Astonished
- Bullring shouts
- Competitor
- Gambling city
- Uninteresting
- Make disappear
- Fabricated
- Foolhardy
- Vapors
- Extra work hours
- Macaroni and spaghetti

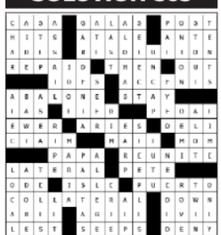
### DOWN

- Knight's suit
- Make cloth
- Came to a close
- Go-getter
- Host Conan
- Peruvian animals
- Relieved
- Quiet!
- Sailboat race
- Levin and Gershwin
- Huge
- Adrift
- Minus
- "Riders of \_\_\_\_ Lost Ark"
- "War and \_\_\_\_"
- Swindle
- Circle segments
- Roller coaster feature
- Informed about
- Main point
- Drain obstruction

- Raw material
- Clothing
- Weird
- Modifies
- Easy chair
- Clothing stand
- Rim
- On cloud \_\_\_\_
- Shaquille \_\_\_\_
- Pasture sounds
- Fling
- Squander
- Large vases
- Dollar bills

- Reside
- Hymn ending
- Red wine
- Damage
- Oozes
- SOS!
- City in Washington
- Portland's state
- School playtime
- House annex
- Zeal
- Scallion
- Compact
- Garb
- Declare openly
- Comedian \_\_\_\_ Carvey
- Pub potables
- Soil enricher
- Division word
- Outback bird

### SOLUTION 565



# Indian stars wilt under pressure from Lyon & Co

**Axar, Ashwin rescued India**

**New Delhi, Feb 18 (PTD):**

Axar Patel and Ravichandran Ashwin added another significant chapter to India's lower-order fightbacks as their priceless 114-run eighth-wicket partnership put the hosts on an even keel against Australia on an engrossing second day of the second Test here on Saturday.

Thanks to Axar's invaluable 74 off 115 balls and Ashwin's 37 off 71 balls, India, who were in complete mess at 139/7, recovered well to end their first innings at 262 in 83.3 overs, just one run behind Australia's 263.

At stumps, Australia were 61/1 in their second innings, taking a handy 62-run lead.

Had the two all-rounders not bailed the hosts out, Australia would have been far more happy than they actually were at stumps on Saturday.

Travis Head (39 batting), David Warner, and Marnus Labuschagne (16 batting) attacked the Indian spinners, knowing that defend-



Indian batter Axar Patel hugs teammate Ravichandran Ashwin after scoring a half century.

## Brief Scores

**Australia:** 263 all out and 61 for 1 in 12 overs (Travis Head 39 not out; Ravindra Jadeja 1/23)  
**India 1st Innings:** 262 all out in 83.3 overs (Axar Patel 74, Virat Kohli 44; Nathan Lyon 5/67).

ing wasn't an option. They picked up a handful of boundaries in the process. As has been the script over the past few years, batter No.6 (Jadeja), No.8 (Ashwin) and No.9 (Axar) were at the forefront of the recovery act after specialist batters were caught in two minds on whether to attack or defend against the Australian spinners led by Nathan Lyon (5/67 in 29 overs), who grabbed his 22nd five-wicket haul.

There were no demons in the track but a few cracks on the good- and short-of-good-length spots on both sides of the strip led the ball to keep low.

Most top-order India batters were adjudged leg-before on the front-foot, barring skipper Rohit

Sharma, who was bowled playing across the line. The worrying trend was India batters playing the Australian spinners with their pads as the first line of defence.

However, Axar and Ashwin applied the strategy to consistently counter-attack the bowlers despite the fall of seven wickets. Instead of plonking the front-foot forward, they used the pace of the deliveries from Todd Murphy (2/53 in 18 overs) and debutant left-arm spinner Matt Kuhnemann (2/72 in 21.3 overs), to score runs.

Axar got his third fifty - and a second consecutive one in the series - with a six over cow corner off Kuhnemann and another over extra cover off Murphy. He also hit a six off Lyon, but his standout shot was a back-foot punch through the covers off Pat Cummins.

Ashwin too was determined at the other end and did not let go of the scoring opportunities as Australia lost the initiative after dominating the better part of the first one-and-a-half sessions on Saturday.

# Renuka's fifer in vain as England beat India by 11 runs

**Gqeberha, Feb 18 (PTD):**

Medium pacer Renuka Singh's five-for in vain as England beat India by 11 runs to post their 3rd win in ICC Women's T20 World Cup match here on Saturday.

Richa Ghosh fought hard for her team till the last over but she failed to get India over the line as England won the match by 11 runs. Excellent captaincy from Heather Knight for using their bowlers well in this game. It was a close match where India had a chance to end their losing streak against England in T20 World Cup but the batters failed to live up to the expectations apart from Smriti Mandhana and Ghosh as India lost by 11 runs. Only Smriti Mandhana the other batter scored 52 for India.

Earlier, Renuka (5/15) did the early damage picking up the first three wickets to peg England back and then returned to take two more wickets towards the fag end of the innings.

India made a perfect start after opting to bowl as Renuka induced a faint outside edge from Danni Wyatt and Richha Ghosh gleefully accepted the chance in the third deliv-



ery of the day. Renuka was on fire as she accounted for two more English batters in her next two overs to hand India the upper hand after skipper Harmanpreet Kaur won the toss and elected to bowl.

Renuka first cleaned up Alice Capsey in the third over and then came back to disturb the woodwork of Sophie Dunkley in her next over as England slumped to 29 for 3 in 4.4 overs. Thereafter, Nat Sciver-Brunton and skipper Heather Knight (28) took the attack to the opposition and played aggressively.

The duo shared a 51-run stand off just 38 balls to give some impetus to England's innings.

But just when the partnership was looking

threatening, Shikha Pandey broke the stand picking up her first wicket since October 2021.

It was a lucky breakthrough for Pandey as Knight picked out Shafali Verma in the covers - the only fielder inside the circle - from a juicy full toss outside off.

Nat Sciver did all the hard work en route her 42-ball 50 but gave away her wicket when England needed her the most, caught by Smriti Mandhana at short third man off Deepti Sharma's bowling as the batter went for a reverse sweep, only to miscue it. In the final over of England's innings, Renuka accounted for Amy Jones (40 off 27) and Katherine Sciver-Brunton to record her best T20I bowling figures.

# Tiwary, Majumdar fifties help Bengal launch fightback

**Kolkata, Feb 18:**

Shahbaz Ahmed and Manoj Tiwary, the man who faced opposition from certain quarters to include this "outsider" in their main squad four years ago, are faced with an uphill battle of keeping Bengal alive in their Ranji Trophy final at Eden Gardens.

At 169 for 4, having fought through a testing last half hour against fading light and reverse swing from Saurashtra's skilful seam attack, Tiwary and Shahbaz have ensured Bengal live to fight another day. They still trail by 61, with Tiwary unbeaten on 57 and Shahbaz 13.

Bengal would've given an arm and a leg to ensure they didn't lose Anustup Majumdar's wicket with stumps looming, but were scuppered by Jaydev Unadkat yet again during the course of a superb spell late on day three.

That Bengal are still in with a chance, however slim, is because their bowlers had a much better outing on Saturday. It all began with Mukesh



Saurashtra's bowler Chetan Sakariya celebrates the wicket of Bengal's batter Abhimanyu Easwaran.

Kumar removing overnight batter Arpit Vasavada with an away-going delivery off the fifth ball for 81. In a relentless first spell where he made the ball talk, he had Jani next with a delivery that left him late to kiss the edge for 60.

# Asia Cup: Broadcast deal could be in jeopardy

**Karachi, Feb 18 (PTD):**

A long-term lucrative media rights deal between the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) and the broadcaster could be in jeopardy if a solution is not found quickly to break the deadlock between India and Pakistan on the issue of hosting of the Asia Cup.

The Asia Cup has been allotted to Pakistan but due to the prevailing political tensions between the neighbours, BCCI has said India will not send its team for the tournament in September and would rather want the continental event be moved to the UAE or Sri Lanka.

However, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has so far not agreed to the demand, leading to a stalemate.

In the event of India withdrawing from the Asia Cup in Pakistan, the tournament will lose its sheen and the broadcaster could incur heavy losses with no riveting India-Pakistan clashes.

A source said that under the long-term agreement between the ACC and the broadcaster, it is mandatory that Pakistan and India play each other at least twice, or thrice, in the regional multi-team event. "It is not possible to have the Asia Cup

without Pakistan and India matches. This is the understanding on which the agreement is based," the source said.

He said the broadcasters have been guaranteed that the arch-rivals will play at least twice before the final as it happened during the Asia Cup in 2022 in the UAE. "Without Pakistan and India matches, the broadcasting agreement goes awry," he warned.

The source added that during the last ACC executive board meeting, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief, Najam Sethi, had made it clear that Pakistan wants to host the tournament, and they were willing to give all security guarantees to the participating teams, including India.

"Sethi has not said that the PCB could consider being hosts and split the matches between venues in Pakistan and UAE to allow India to play in UAE," the source said.

There have been suggestions that while other participating countries can play in Pakistan, the big-ticket India-Pakistan clash could be moved to the UAE. And if India and Pakistan make it to the final, the summit clash should be held in the UAE.

# Indian junior women's hockey team beats South Africa 8-1

**New Delhi, Feb 18 (PTD):**

The Indian junior women's hockey team began its campaign in South Africa with a convincing 8-1 win over the hosts.

The visitors displayed good structure in their attack with successive goals coming their way from the very first minute of the match.

Goals were scored by Deepika Sr. (1', 30'), vice captain Rujata Dadaso Pisal (18'), Hritika Singh (20'), Sunelita Toppo (28'), Deepika Soreng (36') and Annu (44') on Friday.

For South Africa, Mikkela Le Roux (36') was the lone goal scorer.

The Indian junior women's team will play two more matches against the South Africa U-21 team on Saturday and Monday followed by two games against South Africa 'A' team on February 24 and 25 respectively.

# Smriti Mandhana named RCB captain for WPL



**Bengaluru, Feb 18 (PTD):**

Royal Challengers Bangalore have expectedly named senior India batter Smriti Mandhana as their captain for the inaugural Women's Premier League (WPL).

The left-handed India vice-captain was signed in the recent auction held in Mumbai for Rs 3.40 crore, the highest price for a player in the WPL auction.

The announcement was made through a video shared on the franchise's social media handles, which had messages from RCB talisman Virat Kohli and current men's team skipper Faf du Plessis. "Now it's time for another No. 18 to lead a very special RCB team in WPL. Yes, we are talking about Smriti Mandhana. Go on Smriti. You will have the

support of the best team and the best fans in the world," Kohli said. On announcing Mandhana as the captain, RCB chairman Prathmesh Mishra said: "Smriti is central to our play bold philosophy and cricketing plans. We have handed her the leadership role, and we are confident that Smriti will lead RCB into greater heights." On her role as the RCB women's team captain, Mandhana said: "It is such a great feeling to see Virat and Faf speak so much about leading RCB and I would like to thank RCB management for giving me this amazing opportunity. I am looking forward to receiving all the love and support from you fans who I am told are the best in the World. I promise you to give my 100% to lead RCB to success in WPL."

# Broad's magical spell puts England in command

**Mount Maunganui, Feb 18 (AP):**

Stuart Broad and Bazball rolled over New Zealand on the third day of the first day-night cricket test Saturday, leaving England five wickets from its 10th win in 11 test matches.

Rapid half centuries by Joe Root, Harry Brook and Ben Foakes allowed England to speed along at more than five runs per over to 374 in its second innings, an overall lead of 393.

Stuart Broad then clean bowled Devon Conway (12), Kane Williamson (0), Tom Latham (15) and first innings century-maker Tom Blundell (1) to take out the batters who might have been able to anchor New Zealand's highest successful fourth-innings run chase in tests and the sixth highest of all time. When



Blundell was out New Zealand was 28-5 and it had improved a little by stumps when it was 63-5, still 330 behind. Daryl Mitchell, who was 13, and Michael Bracewell, who was 25, saw out the last 10 overs of the day.

Broad's four wickets lifted his tally of test wickets in partnership with James Anderson to 1,004, surpassing the Australian combination of Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne (1,001), who previously were the most prolific wicket-taking pair in tests. "I feel very blessed that I was born in the same era as (Anderson) so that I could bowl at the other end to him," Broad said. "I felt like it was the perfect dryness of pitch today for my kind of bowling. I could slam the ball into the pitch but it was still skidding and hitting the stumps."

# Nagal bows out in Chennai Open semifinals



USA's Nicolas Moreno De Alboran returns to India's Sumit Nagal during their men's singles semifinals match at the Chennai Open 2023 tennis tournament.

**Chennai, Feb 18 (PTD):**

Sumit Nagal lost in straight sets against Nicolas Moreno De Alboran in the semifinals as the Indian challenge ended in the singles draw of the Chennai Open ATP Challenger tournament here on Saturday.

Nagal, who came through the qualifying rounds, went down 4-6 2-6 to his American opponent in a 1 hour and 39 minutes.

The 25-year old Nagal, who had returned very well during his previous matches, was put under pressure by his opponent. For a change, De Alboran returned superbly to put the Indian under pressure.

The power-hitting American secured three service breaks against two for Nagal to snatch the first set. In the second set, De Alboran was dominant, serving well and broke twice to win it, dropping

# Khade and Clarke win doubles title

India's Arjun Khade teamed up with Jay Clarke of Great Britain to beat Sebastian Ofner and Nino Serdarusic 6-0 6-4 in the final to claim the doubles title.

Khade and Clarke were dominant in the opening set, winning it without dropping a game. In the second, the two teams were level at 4-all. Clarke held serve in the ninth game before the duo broke their opponents to secure the victory. Results: Men's singles (Semifinals): Nicolas Moreno De Alboran (USA) beat Sumit Nagal (India) 6-4 6-2; Max Purcell (Australia) beat Dane Sweeny (Australia) 6-4 7-6. Doubles (Final): Arjun Khade (India) and Jay Clarke (Britain) beat Sebastian Ofner (Austria) and Nino Serdarusic (Croatia) 6-0 6-4.



only two games. Meanwhile, Max Purcell beat Dane Sweeny 6-4 7-6 (3) in a battle of Australians to set up a final against De Alboran.

## PRAYERS FOR PEACE AND WELL-BEING



Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais offers prayers at the Siddhivinayak temple in Mumbai, Saturday.

## Yakshagana art form breaking new ground

Reaching wider audiences

Mangaluru, Feb 18 (PTI):

The recent state-level Yakshagana Sammelana established the fact that the folk art is thriving in coastal Karnataka and charting a new course for its future with more participation of women performers apart from reaching out to new audiences. The two-day Sammelana held in Udipi on February 12 and 13 which had exhibitions, seminars and shows related to the traditional art form was successful in its intent. The idea was to create a space

for the art form in the entire state and spread the message of Yakshagana across the globe, with efforts made by the state department of Kannada and Culture and Sammelana president M Prabhakara Joshi. Joshi, a Yakshagana scholar, said at the event that the government should pursue attempts to get UNESCO intangible cultural heritage recognition for the art form, and demanded that a task force be constituted to find a space for performances at national and international level cultural platforms. On reconstructing Yakshagana in its entirety, he said the dance-drama art form should

move from 'noise culture' towards 'voice culture'. A matured theatre does not accept 'loud noise' and bright lighting system used during Yakshagana performances of late, which is not good for performers and the audience, Joshi added. Tulu language and culture should be given due credit to the growth of Yakshagana. The performing troupes should think seriously on maintaining quality in performance and not push Yakshagana into deformity, he asserted during the event. The traditional elements of Yakshagana, if lost, will be a 'permanent cultural loss', the scholar pointed out.

## Amit Shah visits Deekshabhoomi

Dr Hegdegar Smruti Mandir

Nagpur, Feb 18 (PTI):

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday visited Deekshabhoomi monument and Dr Hegdegar Smruti Mandir at Reshimbagh area in Nagpur. Shah visited Deekshabhoomi, where Dr B R Ambedkar converted to Buddhism along with his followers in 1956, and paid tributes to the architect of the Indian Constitution. He paid the visit around 10.30 am. After that, the senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) visited Dr Hegdegar Smruti

## 12 cheetahs from SA released into quarantine enclosures

At Kuno National Park

Sheopur (MP), Feb 18 (PTI):

Hours after 12 cheetahs were brought to Madhya Pradesh from South Africa on Saturday, they were released into the quarantine enclosures at the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Sheopur district of the state. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivrang Singh Chouhan and Union Minister for Environment and Forests Bhopender Yadav released these felines into the quarantine bomas after they were transported to the KNP from Gwalior around noon. An Indian Air Force (IAF) plane carrying them in wooden boxes from



Crates with 12 cheetahs being shifted upon their arrival from South Africa, at Air Force Station, Gwalior, Saturday.

South Africa had arrived at Gwalior airport around 10 am. From there, they were flown to the KNP in IAF helicopters. These cheetahs - seven males and five females - comprise the second set of big cats coming to the state, with the first group

of eight from Namibia having been released into the KNP on September 17 last year at a function by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. With the addition of these 12 members, the count of cheetahs at the KNP has gone up to 20. "The cheetahs from South

Africa have been quarantined," Kuno Divisional Forest Officer P K Verma told PTI from the spot. These animals had embarked on a journey to their new home thousands of miles away aboard an IAF transport aircraft from the O R Tambo International Airport, Gauteng in South Africa shortly before midnight, a project participant and expert said earlier. The intercontinental translocation of these fastest land animals - first from Namibia and now from South Africa - is part of the Indian government's ambitious cheetah reintroduction programme. The country's last cheetah died in Koriya district of present-day Chhattisgarh in 1947 and the species was declared extinct in 1952.

## Fighting all odds, teen girl donates liver to ailing father

Kochi, Feb 18 (PTI): A 17-year-old girl has donated a portion of her liver to save her ailing father, suffering from chronic liver disease with hepatocellular cancer at a hospital here, considered to be the first such case in the country. The surgery was carried out at the Rajagiri Hospital here on February 9, a hospital statement said. Devananda (17), a native of Kolazhy in nearby Thrissur district, recently bagged a favourable order from the Kerala High Court to donate liver to her father as he could not find a suitable donor. According to the Transplantation of Human Organ Act, 1994, the provisions do not permit donation of organs from minors.

## 'Collegium system of appointment of judges near perfect model'



Justice U U Lalit

New Delhi, Feb 18 (PTI):

Former Chief Justice of India Justice U U Lalit said on Saturday the collegium system of appointment of judges is a near perfect model which is "fool proof". Speaking at an event organised by 'Campaign for Judicial Accountability and Reforms' (CJAR) on 'Judicial Appointments and Reforms', Justice Lalit said a rigorous process is involved in recom-

mending names for judgement of constitutional courts. "According to me, we don't have a system better than the collegium system. If we don't have anything qualitatively better than the collegium system, naturally, we must work towards making it possible that this collegium system survives. Today the model as per which we work is a near perfect model," the ex-CJI said. Justice Lalit, who retired in November 2022, said judiciary is in a better position to adjudicate on the merits of the potential candidates as they have seen their work over the years. "When the matter reaches the SC collegium, there is a fully perfect situation, whether the name be accepted or not to be accepted. It's not as if it is a whimsical exercise taken by someone. It's a fool proof arrangement," he said.

## SHAH JAHAN'S URS



People gather at Taj Mahal during Shah Jahan's 368th Urs, in Agra, Saturday.

## 'Show thief sting of honeybees'

UDDHAV TO SUPPORTERS

Mumbai, Feb 18 (PTI):

A day after the Election Commission recognized the rival faction led by Eknath Shinde as the real Shiv Sena, Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday asked his supporters to teach a lesson to the "thief" who stole the party's 'bow and arrow' symbol. Addressing party workers outside the Thackeray residence 'Matoshree' in suburban Bandra from a car with sunroof, he said they should start preparing for elections. The EC decision, which

deprived Uddhav of the control of the party founded by his father late Bal Thackeray in 1966, came at a time when elections to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation are long due. Thackeray said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Prime Minister Narendra Modi should know that they will never be able to finish off the Shiv Sena despite using the state machinery which has become their slave. "Are you scared? I have nothing to give you now," he asked the gathering. His supporters shouted back that they were not, and asked him to give directions for the next move. "We should not rest till we teach the thief a



Former Maha CM Uddhav Thackeray addresses supporters outside Matoshree, at Bandra in Mumbai, Saturday.

lesson in elections. Start preparing for elections immediately," said Thackeray who had to resign as Maharashtra Chief Minister last June

after Eknath Shinde and a majority of Sena MLAs rebelled against his leadership. Maha Shivratri fell on Saturday and Shiv Jayanti or birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was on Sunday, and this time was chosen "to rob the Shiv Sena's name and symbol", Thackeray said. "The thief has hurled a stone at a beehive. But he has not experienced the sting of honeybees," Thackeray said. Chief Minister Shinde would not be able to carry off the "stolen bow and arrow" and will collapse like the mythological demon king Ravana who could not lift the Shiv Dhanush, he said.

Never before the EC had awarded the symbol and party name to one faction in such disputes and the symbol was always put under a freeze in such situations, Thackeray said.

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आर.के.सी.के. सानने, चौथे कालोनी एवं पंचपेटी  
नायक, धमतरी रोड, कलर्स मॉल के पास, रायपुर  
कॉल : 9827143060/8871003060  
Apy 9827144371

## PFI CONSPIRACY CASE NIA carries out searches at 7 locations in Raj

New Delhi, Feb 18 (PTI):

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday conducted searches at seven locations in Rajasthan in connection with a case pertaining to unlawful activities by the banned outfit Popular Front of India (PFI), an official said. The raids were conducted

at three places in Kota and one each in Madhopur, Bhilwara, Bundi and Jaipur districts on residential and commercial premises of suspects, a spokesperson of the federal anti-terror agency said. During the searches, the official said, digital devices, an airgun, sharp weapons and incriminating documents were seized.

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### BRIEF



A sunbird perches on a branch of Orange Silk Cotton Tree (Bombax ceiba), in New Delhi, Saturday.

### Nabbed

**Mumbai:** A 73-year-old man wanted in a case of robbery registered in suburban Borivali 32 years ago was arrested on Saturday, city police said. The accused was arrested from neighbouring Bhayander where he was living, said an official of Borivali police station. He had been declared as an absconding accused by the Dindoshi court in the city and police had been asked to produce him before the court.

### Cremated

**Kolkata:** The mortal remains of eminent classical singer Pandit Vijay Kumar Kichlu was cremated on Saturday at Keoratala crematorium in south Kolkata. Kichlu, a Padma Shri awardee and recipient of the Sangit Natak Akademi award, passed away at a Kolkata hospital on Friday evening at the age of 93.

### Murdered

**Bengaluru:** Two persons were killed in a clash during a cricket match in a village near Doddaballapura in Bengaluru rural district, police said on Saturday. According to police, the incident occurred in village Dodda Belamangala where a second pre-university college student Prateek (17) and BE graduate D S Bharat Kumar (23) were stabbed to death following a clash between two groups during a cricket match.

### Accident

**Sagar:** Seven persons were killed in two accidents in Sagar and Dewas districts in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday, police officials said. In Sagar, four passengers, including a woman, were killed and 20 persons were injured after a speeding bus overturned at Niwar Ghati, some 70 kilometres from the district headquarters, on the road leading to Chhatarpur, Superintendent of Police Tarun Nayak said.

### Leopard cub

**Kanker:** A leopard cub was killed by a speeding vehicle in Kanker district on Saturday, a forest official said. The animal's body was found along the Kanker-Korar road near village Bardeori, said forest ranger Sandeep Singh. Citing autopsy findings, the official said that the 5-month-old cub was hit by a speeding vehicle.

### Panel

**Mumbai:** The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay has formed a panel to conduct a "parallel" probe into the death of a first-year B.Tech student amid allegations of caste bias and has urged its students to come forward if they have "relevant" information.

**Weather**  
High 33 Low 15

### GST COUNCIL MEETING

# 'All GST compensation dues will be cleared'

New Delhi, Feb 18 (PTI):

GST Council, the apex decision-making authority, on Saturday reduced the tax rate on several items, including 'rab' (liquid jagger) and pencil sharpeners, besides rationalising late fee for the delayed filing of annual returns.

Briefing media after the 49th meeting of the GST Council, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also informed that reports of the GoM (Group of Ministers) on checking tax evasion by pan masala and gutkha industry, and on Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunals (GSTATs), have been taken on board.

Headed by Union



Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addresses a press conference after the 49th GST Council meeting, in New Delhi, Saturday.

Finance Minister, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council comprises finance ministers of states and UTs (with legislature). Sitharaman also announced that the central government has decided to clear the entire pending

balance GST compensation of Rs 16,982 crore for June 2022. The Centre has decided to release the amount from its own resources and the same will be recouped from the future compensation cess collection, she said.

With this release, the Centre would clear the entire provisionally admissible compensation dues for five years as envisaged in the GST (Compensation to States) Act 2017, an official release said. The Centre will also clear the admissible final GST Compensation to those states who have provided revenue figures certified by the Accountant General which amounts to Rs 16,524 crore, Sitharaman said.

She said the panel recommended reduction of GST rate on Rab (liquid jaggery) from 18 per cent to nil if sold loose or 5 per cent, if pre-packaged and labelled.

For pencil sharpeners, the duty has been reduced to 12 per cent from the current 18 per cent.

It also decided that if a device like a tag-tracking device or data logger is already affixed on a container, no separate IGST would be levied on the affixed device and the nil IGST treatment available for the containers would also be available to them.

Another important decision includes extending exemption benefit covers on coal rejects supplies to and by coal washery.

# Ramesh Bais takes over as Maha Governor

Mumbai, Feb 18 (PTI):

Ramesh Bais on Saturday took oath as the 20th Governor of Maharashtra, replacing Bhagat Singh Koshyari.

Bais was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Acting Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court S V Gangapurwala at the Raj Bhavan here. Bais took oath in Marathi.

State Chief Minister Eknath Shinde was present at the swearing-in ceremony. Earlier State Chief Secretary Manukumkar Srivastava read out the Warrant of Appointment issued by President Droupadi Murmu appointing Ramesh Bais as the Governor of Maharashtra. The Swearing in Ceremony began and concluded with the National Anthem



Bombay High Court Acting Chief Justice S.V. Gangapurwala administers the oath to BJP leader Ramesh Bais as Maharashtra Governor during a ceremony at Raj Bhavan, in Mumbai, Saturday.

played by the ceremonial police band. A Guard of Honour was presented by the Indian Navy to the Governor soon after the oath taking ceremony.

Spouse of the Governor Mrs Rambai Bais, Union Minister of State Ramdas Athawale, Maharashtra's Minister for Tourism and Women and Child Welfare Mangal Prabhat Lodha,

Speaker of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rahul Narwekar, Lokayukta Justice (retd) Vidyasagar Kanade, Chairman of Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission Justice (retd) K K Tated, people's representatives, Secretaries of various departments, senior police officers and invitees were present.

# BSF recovers drugs, arms after gunfight with smugglers

Along Pak border

Chandigarh, Feb 18 (PTI):

The BSF on Saturday recovered 20 packets of heroin and a cache of arms and ammunition after a gunfight with Pakistani smugglers along the international border of India and Pakistan in Punjab's Gurdaspur, an official said.

The gunfight began when the 113 Battalion of the Border Security Force noticed suspicious movement of smugglers ahead of fencing in the area near Khasawali village in the Gurdaspur district early morning, said the official.



A gun recovered by BSF during a search operation after gunfight with smugglers near the India-Pakistan border, in Punjab, Saturday.

"During patrolling in the dense fog at 5.30 am, BSF constable Hem Ram noticed some suspicious movement. As he challenged them, the smugglers from the Pakistani side opened

fire. Our jawan retaliated with 25 rounds," BSF Deputy Inspector General Prabhakar Joshi told reporters in Gurdaspur.

Joshi said a team led by a patrol commander soon joined them and helped in the gunfight, which went on for a "long time."

Later, in a search operation, the force found a 15-foot-long pipe about 30 metres away from the fencing, with 20 packets of heroin in it, said Joshi. A further search of the area led to the recovery of two pistols (one made in Turkey and the other Made in China), six magazines, and 242 live rounds, said the BSF DIG.

### SURPRISING BUT TRUE

# Man accused in death of Raj men prominent face of cow vigilantism

Gurugram, Feb 18 (PTI):

Mohit Yadav alias Monu Manesar, who is evading arrest in the murder case of two men in Rajasthan, became a prominent face of cow vigilantism in Haryana during the last five years - helped by his presence on social media. A member of the Bajrang Dal, 30-year-old Monu in a video message denied his involvement in the case and claimed he was at a hotel at the time of the incident. He also shared CCTV footage from the hotel on social media.

He joined the Bajrang Dal as a co-coordinator in his home district Manesar in 2011 and was a member of the district

cow protection task force formed by authorities after Haryana's cow protection law came into force in December 2015.

He is now the district president of Bajrang Dal and frequently courts controversy over the actions of his own cow protection group and shares videos of vigilantes chasing, confronting and nabbing alleged

cow smugglers. The videos, mostly live streams, have thousands of views and comments. He has 83,000 followers on Facebook and more than 2 lakh subscribers on YouTube. He received a silver play button from YouTube in October last year as the number of subscribers crossed one lakh.



Monu Manesar

### DEVOTION AND FAITH



Devotees perform a ritual at Rajeshwar Mandir on the occasion of 'Maha Shivratri', in Jammu, Saturday. (inset) Devotees perform 'abhishek' of a 'Shivling' at Shiv temple on the occasion of Mahashivratri festival, in Gurugram.

# EC faces litmus test

New Delhi, Feb 18 (PTI):

The Election Commission has settled internal disputes in several political parties with the test of majority in their legislative and organisational wings. After it recognised the group led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde as the real Shiv Sena, the commission is now expected to deliver its final order on the internal dispute in the Lok Janshakti Party. The LJP split in 2021, months after the demise of its founder Ram Vilas Paswan. Its two factions are now led by the founder's son Chirag Paswan and brother Pashupati Kumar Paras. In an interim order on October 2, 2021, the EC had barred the two factions from using the Lok Janshakti Party name or its symbol "bungalow" till the dispute was settled by it.

# Delhi mayor election on Feb 22

New Delhi, Feb 18 (PTI):

Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) VK Saxena has given his nod to convene the municipal House on February 22 to hold the election for the post of mayor, Raj Niwas officials said on Saturday.

The LG's nod came hours after Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal recommended to him that the mayoral election be held on the said date.

The development comes a day after the Supreme Court ordered the issuance of a notice within 24 hours for convening the first meeting of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to fix the date of elections for the mayor, the deputy mayor and the members of the Standing

### LG tried to influence SC order: Kejriwal

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal accused Lieutenant Governor (LG) VK Saxena on Saturday of trying to "forcibly" prevent the city government from presenting its views before the Supreme Court in the MCD mayoral poll case, a day after the top court said aldermen cannot vote in the election. Addressing a press conference here, Kejriwal alleged that the LG tried to "interfere in the administration of justice" and committed "contempt of court". No reaction was immediately available from the LG's office to the claims and allegations made by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader. Kejriwal said the petitioner in the case, the AAP's mayoral candidate Shelly Oberoi, had added the LG and the Delhi government as separate parties to her petition in the apex court. He said the AAP government and the LG had "contrary viewpoints on all the issues related to the case". The AAP had vociferously opposed the nomination of 10 aldermen by the LG to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the decision of the civic body's presiding officer to give them the right to vote to elect the mayor, the deputy mayor and the standing committee members.

Committee. In a shot in the arm for the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the apex court also held on Friday that the members nominated by the LG to the

MCD cannot vote to elect the mayor. "Recommended MCD mayor elections to be held on 22 Feb," Kejriwal said in a tweet earlier in the day.

# NIKKI YADAV MURDER CASE Sahil Gehlot's father, 4 others arrested

New Delhi, Feb 18 (PTI):

### Sent to police custody

Earlier on Tuesday, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Archana Beniwal had remanded Gehlot (24) in five days' police custody. Those sent to police custody on Friday include Sahil's father Virender Singh, his cousins Naveen and Ashish and friends Lokesh and Amar. Naveen is a police constable. The five were produced at the residence of the duty magistrate, a court source said. Police said the five co-accused were arrested after ascertaining their role in the killing. Gehlot and the five co-accused will be produced in court on Monday on expiry of their police remand.

Delhi Police have arrested five people including 24-year-old Sahil Gehlot's father, his two cousins, and two friends in connection with the killing of his live-in-partner Nikki Yadav, police said on Saturday.

"All five co-accused including the father Virender Singh, two cousins Ashish and Naveen and two friends Amar and Lokesh of Sahil Gehlot were thoroughly interrogated and arrested after verifying and ascertaining their role in connection with the killing," Special Commissioner of Police (Crime) Ravindra Yadav said.

Naveen, a constable in Delhi Police, is a relative of

prime accused Sahil Gehlot, he said. Gehlot, already under police custody, has been in-

terrogated at length.

Since his arrest, he has confessed to murdering his girlfriend, Nikki Yadav, because she had been pressuring him to marry her.

The two, according to police, had already solemnised their marriage in 2020.

She was actually his wife and not a live-in partner, the Special commissioner said.

Therefore, she was pleading with him not to go ahead with the marriage fixed by his family with another woman on February 10, he added.

When Gehlot could not convince Nikki Yadav to make way for his marriage to the woman, he hatched a plan to kill her and roped in others.

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## BJP corners CM over Congress MLA's stir against SP

● Chandrakar seeks intervention from Baghel

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Feb 18:** Senior Congress Legislator from Balrampur-Ramanujanji Brihaspati Singh has given another opportunity to the principal opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to corner the ruling Congress government after he has openly announced demonstration against the District

Superintendent of Police (SP) Mohit Garg. Reacting sharply to the stir launched, the BJP's Chief Spokesperson and senior Legislator Ajay Chandrakar has sought opinion from the Chief Minister if he is going to remove the SP as raised demand by Singh or would act strongly against the MLA who has announced protest against the Congress government in his home constituency. Chandrakar said that while the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has

termed the BJP's demonstration to be against the public sentiments, his own Congress Legislator is leveling allegations against the SP and District Collector from his home district.

He also sought from the CM to clear the scenario in an unprecedented circumstances in which the ruling MLA has launched campaign against the SP. While the Chief Minister is not able to put control on his MLA, he is questioning the protest of opposition, the BJP spokesperson added.

## WORSHIPPING LORD SHIVA



Devotees standing in queue to wait for their turn to worship Lord Shiva on the occasion of Mahashivratri here on Saturday.

## Amidst unrest BJYM chief Bhagat extends executive body

● Several District Unit President announced

**Raipur, Feb 18:** Amidst growing resentment over the new executive body of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), the State Unit President Ravi Bhagat has appointed few more office-bearers and has also announced District Unit Presidents in few more districts after instructions from the State BJP President Arun Sao.

Deepika Shouri from Sukma has been appointed as State Vice President whereas Gauri Gupta from Bilaspur would be the State Secretary. Similarly, Nitesh Sahu from Durg has been entrusted with Co Treasurer whereas Karti Minpal from Dhamtari would be co Media in-

charge. Similarly, Geet Yadav has been appointed Durg BJYM District President whereas Amit Mishra for Bhilai, Sushil Singh for Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur District Unit, Ayesha Singh Boni for Khairagarh-Chuikhadan, Devprakash Netam for Mohla-Manpur, Lokesh Sahu for Shakti District, Ajay Nayak for Sarangarh-Bilaigarh District and Sanjay Sodhi for Sukma District. Few more enthusiastic youth brigade members have been included in the executive body as special invitee to boost the confidence of the party rank and file.

Bhagat said that the Youth brigade is ready to dethrone the ruling Congress government in the upcoming Legislative Assembly polls.

## NABARD conducts state credit seminar

● Total credit potential for Chhattisgarh state during 2023-24 pegged at Rs 46,057 crore

**Raipur, Feb 18:** National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) organised the State Credit Seminar 2023-24 for Chhattisgarh at its Naya Raipur Regional Office on February 17, 2023. Mrs Reeny Ajith, Regional Director, RBI, presided over the programme as Chief Guest and unveiled the State Focus Paper (2023-24).

Dr. Gyanendra Mani, CGM, NABARD, in his address, highlighted the projections for bank credit in the State for Rs 46,057 crore for 2023-24 showing an increase of 23% over



the previous year. He also outlined the importance of the State Focus Paper in the credit planning process and the initiatives taken by NABARD in infrastructure development, promotional and developmental activities in the state.

Mrs. Reeny Ajith in her address, appreciated the role of NABARD in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or '2030 Agenda' through the State Focus Paper. She appealed to all Banks to enhance Ground

level credit flow in the State as per the projection estimated by NABARD.

Bajinath Chandrakar, Chairman, CGStCB, in his address outlined role of NABARD in agriculture and rural livelihood development in Chhattisgarh. He stressed on giving special attention to Kodo Kudki and Ragi for tribal development in the state. Mrs Sheetal Shashwat Verma, IRS, Director, Financial Institution, told that along with credit, availability of credit at the right time is

essential for development, besides pointing out immense possibilities of credit flow in ten aspirational districts and one Utkarsh district in the State. The event was attended by Dr. Tamboli Ayyaz, IAS, Special Secretary, Dharmesh Kumar Sahu, IAS, MD, CSWC, GoCG; DK Upadhyay, Convener, SLBC, I K Gohil, Chairman, Chhattisgarh Rajya Gramin Bank and other officials of various State Government Departments.

## Preparations begin for swearing in of the Governor

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Feb 18:** In connection with the preparations for the swearing-in ceremony of Chhattisgarh State's nominated Governor Vishva Bhushan Harichandan, a meeting was held here at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhavan under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain. The Chief Secretary has instructed the officials to make other arrangements including reception at the airport on the arrival of the Governor. In the meeting, discussions were held with the officials regarding the preparations for the swearing-in ceremony of the Governor, including meeting arrangements, security arrangements.



In the meeting, necessary instructions were given to the officers regarding the minute-to-minute program of the swearing-in ceremony, arrangements for the honorable guests in the swearing-in ceremony and other arrangements. In the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister Mr.

Subrat Sahoo, Principal Secretary Parliamentary Affairs, Dr. Alok Shukla, Secretary to Governor Mr. Amrit Khalkho, Secretary General Administration Mr. D.D. Singh, Secretary Public Health and Family Welfare Mr. Prasanna R., Secretary Revenue Mr. NN Ekka,

Commissioner Raipur Mr. Yashwant Kumar, Collector Raipur Dr. Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure, IG Raipur Mr. Ajay Yadav, Commissioner Municipal Corporation Mr. Mayank Chaturvedi including public relations, Public Works and other department officials participated.

## Millet Carnival: Millet stalls set up by startups from 7 states including Chhattisgarh



● Women presented a doll made of millet to the Chief Minister

**Raipur, Feb 18:** The sale cum exhibition of millet products has been organized by startups from Chhattisgarh as well as 7 states of the country at the Millet Carnival in Raipur. Various products including cake, cookies, soup,

laddoos prepared from millet have been kept in this exhibition organized by the startup. Information regarding these products is being taken enthusiastically by the common people. The carnival was opened to the general public daily from 12 noon to 10 pm. Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel along with Forest Minister Mr. Mohammad

Akbar, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Housing Board Mr. Kuldeep Juneja, Mayor of Municipal Corporation Mr. Aiyaz Dhebar visited the exhibition put up by the startup in the carnival and encouraged them. Chief Minister Mr. Baghel also inaugurated the live food counter on this occasion. Millet bhajiyas, pakoras, cutlets were being prepared in this counter by the women of self-help groups.

The Chief Minister enjoyed 'bhajiyas' and 'pakoras' prepared by the women during the observation. On this occasion, women presented attractive dolls made of millet to the Chief Minister. Appreciating this, the Chief Minister encouraged them.

## Govt working to preserve the rich cultural heritage of state: Umesh Patel

**Raipur, Feb 18:** Higher Education Minister Umesh Patel reached various villages of Raigarh development block for public relations. He visited Sangitrai, Kenapali, Thakurpali and Aurabhantha villages of Raigarh block. During this, along with inaugurating development works, he also announced new works. On this occasion, the Higher Education Minister said that the Chhattisgarh government is working to preserve the rich cultural heritage of the state by promoting traditional Teej festivals and food along with the development of villages and strengthening the rural economy. To connect the coming generations with folk festivals, we have started declaring holidays on festivals and celebrating them



with full customs. During the last 4 years such schemes were prepared and implemented which benefited all sections. Work has been done to make the poor, farmers, labourers and women economically empowered by linking them

with various schemes in the village. As soon as he came into government, he did the work of massive loan waiver. Today, farmers in agriculture-dominated Chhattisgarh are getting fair prices for their crops. Farmers are now getting Rs

2640 per quintal for paddy from input support bonus along with support price. This is the highest in the whole country. Along with paddy, input subsidy bonus is also available for other crops. This has been going on continuously for the last

four years. On the one hand, schemes are being run for the economic progress of the farmers, while the landless laborers are being given an annual assistance of Rs.7,000. Swami Atmanand English Medium Schools have been opened with the aim of strengthening the foundation for the competitive examinations of the children, where children are studying in English medium in government school fees. During this, District Panchayat President Mr. Nirakar Patel, Mr. Dilip Patel, District Vice President Mrs. Chanchala Paras Sao, Former District President Mr. Kanhaiya Charan Patel, Sarpanch Mr. Ravi Shankar Sidar and other public representatives and villagers were present.

## Workshop on Home Automation Technology held



**Raipur, Feb 18:** National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur's Robotix Club organized a 3-in-one workshop on Home Automation Technology on 18th February 2023. The workshop was organized under the guidance of Dr. Rajesh Doriya, Professor In-charge, Robotix, and aimed at enlightening and imparting knowledge on the domains of Internet of Things (IoT), Web Development and Integration of IoT & Web Development.

Participants were taught Home Automation using NodeMCU (ESP8266). By working on the project of the home automation system, students were given invaluable exposure and were able to develop their founda-

tional knowledge in electronics, IoT, and web development. Practical experience utilizing microcontrollers like the ESP8266 as well as front-end and back-end web development was also gained by the students. Programming skills in the ARDUINO IDE to examine the threshold values at which LDR sensors provide intensity of room illumination were also acquired and were put to application in determining if light switches should be turned on. Values for environmental parameters such as temperature and humidity were also obtained using DSI1. Students also benefitted, having procured HTML and CSS programming skills while understanding web

development. Students were also educated on NODEJS and were taught about the back end of administering a website. The students integrated IoT, microcontrollers, and web development using their understanding of how server function in webservers. Microcontroller values were sent to the servers of the websites they created for further processing.

The workshop was triumphant in illuminating the students about the various techniques of home automation and it proved to be quite beneficial for students as they were given invaluable practical exposure. The workshop concluded successfully with active participation of students.



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**NANHE FARISHTE CAMPAIGN**

## 319 children safely handed over to families

**By RPF under SECR**

Raipur, Feb 18: Railway Protection Force, South East Central Railway is discharging its social responsibilities with utmost priority along with the safety of railway passengers and railway property. Along with providing assistance to the needy passengers dutifully, the Railway Protection Force is continuously running a campaign for their convenience and safety, paying special attention to women and children.

In this series, the Railway Protection Force, South East Central Railway, discharging its responsibilities efficiently, till the month of January in the year 2022-23, under 'Operation Nanhe Farishte' safely returned



319 minors who ran away from home. The children, which included 187 boys and 132 girls, were rescued at various stations/trains and handed over to NGOs and their guardians.

South East Central Railway, Security Force personnel are diligently performing their duties round the clock with the aim of vigilance, security and service, discharging their social responsibilities

with service. These works being done by the Railway Protection Force are continuously getting very positive and encouraging response from the public. Along with this, prompt assistance is provided to the passengers through Security Helpline and Women Helpline running round the clock in Railway Protection Force Control Room. Special attention is being paid to the

safety of women passengers by deployment of women RPF staff at railway stations/trains. The vulnerable night running trains are being escorted by RPF personnel to ensure the safety of the passengers. A strict vigil is being kept on the activities of criminals involved in theft of passenger luggage, drug abuse, pick-pocketing and other heinous crimes like theft, dacoity by deployment of decoy task force teams in unsafe trains/sections in sufficient numbers.

The morale of RPF officers and staff of South East Central Railway is very high and they are committed and dedicated towards RPF objectives of ensuring proper security of railway passengers, passenger premises and railway property.

## SECL CMD receives ET Ascent Business Leader of the Year Award

Bilaspur/Mumbai, Feb 18: South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) CMD Dr Prem Sagar Mishra has been honored with the prestigious ET Ascent Business Leader of the Year Award 2022-23. The award was presented at a function held at Hotel Taj Lands End Mumbai on Friday evening. This award is an acknowledgement of Dr. Mishra's forward-thinking leadership under which SECL has been consistently delivering great results.

It may be noted that under the leadership of Dr. Prem Sagar Mishra, SECL is moving towards historic results in the financial year. The company has registered an increase of more than 20 million tons in coal production compared to the same period last year, while with an increase of about 55 million cubic meters in overburden removal (OBR), the company is heading for the highest OB removal in any year since



inception.

In this financial year, SECL dispatched 101.72 million tons of coal to the power sector during April-December 22, which is 10 per cent higher than the previous year and the highest ever dispatch by SECL in the previous period. In calendar year 2022, SECL approved 647 employment in land acquisition cases, which is the highest employment pro-

vided by SECL in a year. Under the leadership of Dr. Prem Sagar Mishra, the company's profit (unaudited) till the second quarter of FY 22-23 is estimated at Rs 1142.23 crore and it is about 40 per cent higher than the same period last year. In the period from January to December, SECL has succeeded in obtaining environmental clearance for six projects from the

Environment Ministry.

Dr. Mishra has launched Mission Nachiketa for skill development of personnel in SECL which emphasizes the need for inculcating the attitude of continuous learning and skill development among officers and employees of SECL. Ratnesh Srivastava, General Manager (CSR/Welfare) and Sanish Chandra (Public Relations Officer) were part of the SECL delegation at the event held in Mumbai. On this momentous occasion, SECL Functional Directors, Chief Vigilance Officer and all the employees at SECL congratulated Dr. Mishra and conveyed their best wishes.

It is worth mentioning that Dr. Prem Sagar Mishra has also been given the CMD Leadership Award for his outstanding contribution at the 9th edition of the prestigious Governance Now PSU Awards held in New Delhi on 16.02.2023.

## Sadbhavna Hospital, Naya Raipur successfully completed two years

**Free knee camp organised got massive response**

Raipur, Feb 18: Sadbhavna Hospital, Naya Raipur, has successfully completed two years with service to health work. Over the years, Sadbhavna Hospital has set a new record in the field of medicine due to modern technology, efficient doctors and better management. Providing better medical treatment to the patients with excellent medical service has resulted that today the fame of the hospital has spread to Chhattisgarh, Bihar,



Orissa, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. Now patients from other states are taking the services of Sadbhavna Hospital for their treatment. So far the hospital has done more than 25000 OPDs, more than 250 All inside ACL Surgeries, more than 300 deliveries, more

than 200 Laparoscopic Surgeries and more than 500 Joint transplants through PPP technique. Sadbhavna Hospital is the first Surgical Speciality hospital of Naya Raipur. Dr. Ankur Gupta is joint replacement and arthroscopy specialist. Dr. Jyotsna Gandhi Gupta is a specialist in

Gynecology and Infertility, who is treating all types of diseases with laparoscopy. She has full mastery in the treatment of all types of normal and high risk pregnancy. The dedication of all these expert doctors and efficient team has instilled a sense of security and trust in the patients along with belongingness.

We want to celebrate this success by serving our suffering patients and needy people. On this occasion, the hospital has organised a free camp for patients suffering from knee pain on February 16 at Sadbhavna Hospital Sector-30, Naya Raipur which got massive response.

## 'Convert challenges into opportunities'

Raipur, Feb 18: "Consider stress as challenges and convert them in to opportunities for sure success in life," said motivational speaker CA Nikesh Agrawal while addressing a session on 'Exam Stress Management' at Shri Gujrati English Medium Higher Secondary School auditorium, Devendra Nagar the other day. Agrawal while addressing about 400 students of Class X and XII along with their parents underlined the importance of time management and advised to break their syllabus into small chunks and prepare a time table as per the time available for examination. Agrawal strongly believed that elements of distraction like mobile phones should be kept away while undertaking studies and fix a particular time totally

**Motivational Speaker Nikesh Agrawal addressing the session.**

dedicated for the use of mobile. In course of his delivery he made the students perform certain activities so as to draw their attention towards him. Later in the programme CA Agrawal was felicitated by the office bearers of Shri Gujrati Shikshan

Sangh which include Ashok Bhai Patel Secretary of Shri Gujrati Shikshan Sangh, Vitthal Das Patel Joint Secretary, Administrator V K Mishra and senior member of GSS Mauji Bhai. At the beginning school principal Dr Shailesh Sharma gave his

welcome speech and secretary Ashok Bhai Patel also spoke on the occasion. Vice Principal S V Chandrasekhar proposed vote of thanks. Academic Coordinator Bhaskar Sharma and faculty members also graced the occasion.

## Ch'garh lifts more than 100 lakh MT paddy for custom milling

Raipur, Feb 18: Under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the skilled management of the state government has resulted in the lifting of more than 100 lakh MT of paddy for custom milling. While DO has been issued for the lifting of about 104 lakh MT of paddy. A successful procurement of 107.53 lakh MT of paddy has been carried out this year at the support price from farmers.

It is worth mentioning that, following the initia-

tion of Chief Minister Bhupesh last year, the lifting of paddy has again been started from procurement centers for custom milling this year, which has resulted in a significant reduction in transportation expenditure for the state government. Along with this, the lengthy process of paddy lifting after procurement of paddy has also been shortened.

Till January 31, 2023, nearly 107.53 lakh MT of paddy has been procured

by the state government from more than 23.82 lakh farmers.

About Rs 22, 067 crores have been released by Markfed to Apex Bank under the bank-linking arrangement for payment to the farmers in lieu of paddy procurement. Out of the total paddy procured so far, DO has been issued for the lifting of more than 104 lakh MT of paddy for custom milling. Against this, more than 100 lakh MT of paddy has been lifted by the millers.

## Villagers, children distributed needy items

**By 50th CRPF Battalion in Elarmadgu, Bodhrajpadar**

Konta, Feb 17: In Konta block of Sukma district, a Civic Action Programme (CAP) was organized among the villagers of Elarmadgu and Bodhrajpadar in highly sensitive Naxalite affected area. It was done under the guidance of 50th Battalion CRPF Elarmadgu, Camp Commandant Narendra Pal Singh (PMG). In which daily use school items like pen, pencil, school bag, sketch pen, register and household items like blanket, mosquito net, rain umbrella, saree etc. were distributed to the children of these villages and along with this fruit plants such



as coconut, guava, banana, papaya, lemon, custard apple and seeds were also distributed to the villagers. The villagers were informed about the various development schemes being run by the Government of India and the State Government and their benefits.

The villagers of Elarmadgu and Bodhrajpadar areas have benefited from the Civic Action Programme organized by 50th CRPF Battalion. Along with this, through medical camps for better health of these villagers, the villagers were awakened to

take precautions to prevent diseases. And medicines were also distributed after treating common diseases like cold, cough, fever, high blood pressure, body pain, joint pain, old wound / wound, sore throat and malaria.

On this occasion, other of-

ficers and subordinate officers of 50th CRPF Battalion were also present in the event. All the nearby villagers took part in this event, which shows that the villagers of this area are increasing their faith in the government and good relations and trust are being established between the common citizens and the security forces. The people of this area are leaving the Naxalite ideology and joining the main stream of development. A new ray of hope has awakened in all the villagers due to the development work done by the 50th CRPF Battalion.

Civic Action Programme 50th CRPF Battalion Commanding Officer R.K. Singh, Assistant Commandant and Pundarik Mishra, Assistant Commandant, were present.

## Aditya Raje welcomes huge number of devotees

**On the occasion of Mahashivratri Mahabhandara**

Raipur, Feb 18: Today, on the occasion of Maha Shivratri, Mahabhandara was organized in Kachna with worship of Bholenath. This event is being organized continuously for 6 years. Aditya Raje Singh's family started Mahabhandara after the completion of temple con-

struction 6 years ago and the series continues. Today, about 2100 devotees took Prasad in this Maha Bhandara from noon. Aditya Raje congratulated the devotees. He also shared that his grandmother holds special belief in this temple and used to offer water at the shivaling. Ishwar Das Bairagi and his family have always been doing service and worship there. After the birth of Aditya Raje, the construction work of the

temple was almost completed and the Shivaling of Bholenath was established inside the temple from the open sky. Day by day the faith of the devotees of Bholenath is increasing towards this temple. This temple is situated behind the Brahmakumari Ashram located at Kachna turning.

The people present in Mahabhandara chanted Lord Shiva, the whole atmosphere became Shivalike. In the evening too, Shiva bhajans were organized and Phal Prasad sweets were distributed. Ishwar Bairagi, Shiva Vaishno Parivar, Sanjeeva Reddy, LN Banchor, K. P. Singh, Chandra Vas Devi, Pawan Thakur, Dharendra Sharma, Akhilesh Singh, Aastha, Namrata Singh Santosh Tiwari had special contributions in this Mahabhandara and whole event of Mahashivratri.

## Villagers getting information through Street Plays

**About major government schemes**

Bijapur, Feb 18: Chhattisgarh Public Relations Department is effectively promoting important ambitious schemes of the Government of Chhattisgarh among the locals. Through Kala Jatha teams conversing in local dialect, citizens from the most remote areas of the district are being connected with the mainstream by providing them benefits from the government schemes. In various panchayats including Cherpalli, Kottapalli, Pampal, Gullapenta, Bijapur block's Gangalur, Itpal, Bhairamgarh block's



Temrubhatha, Tumnar, Kodoli, Pusnar and Mingachal gram panchayats of Bhopalpatnam block of the district, the villagers are being enthusiastically informed about government schemes through street play performances. Villagers are being told

about the Gauthans established under the government's priority scheme Narva, Garva, Gurva, Bari, and the benefits that would accrue from it. Locals are benefiting from this scheme by participating in various activities and gaining financial em-

powerment. Similarly, under the Haat-Bazar Clinic Yojana, people are taught how to examine themselves, as well as how to take preventive measures against diseases. The artists of Kalajathas are inspiring the villagers to take advan-

tage of these schemes. Apart from the schemes such as Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, Godhan Nyay Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhoomiheen Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana, Masahati Survey, Dhanvantari Generic Medical Store Yojana, Dai Didi Clinic Yojana, Mukhyamantri Suposhan Abhiyan, Forest Rights Act Implementation, Swami Atmanand English Medium School Yojana, Vriksha Ropan Protsahan Yojana, Rajiv Yuva Mitran Club Yojana, Half Biji-Bill Yojana, and Mukhyamantri Shehri Slum Swasthya Yojana and various other schemes are being promoted.

# Addl. Comm conducts inspection in govt offices

In Bharatpur block of MCB district

Central Chronicle News

Manendragarh, Chirmiri, Bharatpur (MCB), Feb 18: The Addl. Comm. Commissioner Surguja Division Mahavir Ram conducted inspection of various government offices in Bharatpur block of MCB District and this included, SDM (Revenue), Tehsil Office, Integrated Child & Development Project office; BRC Office and Agriculture depart-



ment and others. During this Mahavir conducted close inspection of different regis-

same time finding the shortcomings in the register and in the documents, he asked to correct the same soon and directed to maintain better management of the documents.

During the inspection he also gave instructions on how to ensure cleanliness, better maintenance and sanitation in the office premises. During this SDM Bharatpur Mulchand Chopda, CEO Janpad Panchayat Anil Agnihotri, Block level officers and employees were present.

# Make declaration in villages for Ayushman card

Central Chronicle News

Sakti, Feb 18: The Collector Sakti directed the departmental officers to make declarations in the villages about making of 'Ayushman card', so that more and more people from villages can get benefited.

Under Ayushman Card, the BPL and ration-card holders can get free of cost treatment facility upto Rs 5 lakh for entire family and the APL card holders can get facility upto Rs 50000 per year.

## Collector holds departmental meeting



Collector Panna holds review of Godhan Nyay Yojana (GNY) and took informa-

tion about the produce and vegetables being produced in the 'Gauthans' and its sale and about establishment of Paint unit in the district and its present condition.

Apart from this he also reviewed about vermicompost, purchase of cow urine, 'Swalambi Yojana', Geo-Tagging, and about 'Narwa-Ghurwa, Garuva and Badi' scheme of the state government and directed for clearing the payments for cow-dung purchase soon.

# Newly constructed road worth lakhs damaged

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Feb 18: A newly constructed road worth lakhs has reportedly got damaged due to poor quality of construction. As per information, the CC road built in the newly constructed vegetable market under the over bridge, was done without strengthening the lower part of the land before construction, therefore leading to it getting damaged, because after construction, neither mudrooms were laid in sufficient quantity on both sides of the road, nor was water sprinkling done regularly.

This road got damaged in just two months even after flying without heavy vehicles and dust starts flying on the road due to the movement of two wheelers too. Similarly, the

condition of the CC road built on the road leading to the CMO quarter (fair ground) is also the same and the construction agency does not consider it necessary to pour water on the side of the road in the mud-room regularly, nor are the officers and engineers considering it necessary to be present at the time of construction. Construction work is given only to those who have high reach and this is the reason why it is not in the control of the engineer and the officer to inspect the construction work or to find the deficiency in the construction work.

What officer says Construction will be investigated before payment CMO - Municipal CMO Pramod Shukla

# Govt schemes to change lives of the people: Pingua

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Feb 18: Principal Secretary of Home and Forest Department and in-charge of the district Manoj Kumar Pingua reviewed the progress of government schemes by holding a meeting of officers here.

Addressing the meeting he said that our aim is not only to achieve the target under various schemes, but to see change in the lives of the people and its positive results should also be visible.

Regarding the implementation of the schemes, feedback must be taken from the beneficiaries and better improvements can be made in the schemes only on



the basis of feedback, he said.

He stressed on the continuity of the redressal process of revenue matters and instructions were given not to keep it limited to the campaign only.

Collector Saurabh kumar, SP Santosh Singh, DFO Kumar Nishant,

pending proposals of various departments at the government level, he assured to resolve them soon.

Collector Saurabh Kumar informed about the major achievements of the state government in the district and urged for approval of separate set-up for traffic policing in Bilaspur city and posting of two deputy collectors for the district office. Due to non-approval of master plan in urban areas like Kota, Masturi, Takhatpur, the problems faced in diversion were informed.

He also informed about the latest progress of airport development, Arpa Bhainsajhar, two barrages built on Arpa River and Jal Jeevan Mission.

# Three in Mazda got seriously injured



One got cut in the leg; two others also injured When Mazda collided with a truck from opposite direction

Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Feb 18: Three persons on Mazda vehicle got seriously injured and the leg of one of the person's got cut and two others were also injured in head-on collision between a Mazda vehicle and truck from Raipur-Patharia turn. Here the Mazda coming from Patharia met with collision with a truck going from Mungeli to Raipur. Since the arrangement of ambulance could not made early, the nearby persons got agitated and the police on reaching there took situation under control and later sent the injured to nearby hospital for

treatment. A Mazda vehicle bearing No. CG 08 L 1578 was of Nihal Saluja of Mungeli and in this three persons were seated. The three passengers in Mazda are from Bada Bazar, Daupara area of Mungeli. The injured were taken to hospital in an ambulance. The police on reaching the site came to rescue of those injured and one Yogesh Yadav tired to help the person with broken leg by wrapping a cloth around in order to reduce blood loss and helped in taking him up to the ambulance and to the hospital. In this SI Mungeli Police and constable Yogesh Yadav calmed the crowd and shifted the injured to the hospital.

# Cultural platform a boon for artists at Rajim Maghi Punni fair

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Feb 18: Rajim Maghi Punni fair which commenced from 5th February is being seen and heard not only in Chhattisgarh but in large numbers in the country and abroad through print media, electronic media, social media or other mediums.

The fair has also eventually turned a boon for artist all over due to the stage presented by the government for displaying their art. Folk singer Mamta Chandrakar even called it the prestigious stage of the world as opportunities are being given to all big and small artists, due to which a lot



of happiness is being seen in them.

Also the texture of the Muktakanshi main festival stage appears to be unique from the point of view of architecture and the speciality of the stage spread over a long and wide square area is ex-

plained by the audience coming here.

On the right side, a balcony has been made by putting red stone on the stairs for the audience to sit and the aura of the background has been enhanced by the LEDs.

A huge gallery for the

audience to sit in front is divided into four different lanes, in which 12 sections give relaxation to both men and women and on the main festival stage, eminent folk artists of the state are taking Chhattisgarhi folk art across seven seas by presenting folk culture on folk tunes.

Ramayana, Pandwani, Lakkala Manch, Jagrata, Raut Nacha, Suga dance, Panthi dance, Mangal Bhajan, Holi Geet, Kavi Sammelan etc. are buzzing and also Bhajans are being sung daily on Mahanadi Aarti, due to which the artists here are getting opportunity to reflect their genre of art forms and its vivacity.

# Gunderdehi's Payal to share screen space with Swara Bhaskar



Central Chronicle News

Balod, Feb 18: Bollywood's famous actress Swara Bhaskar has shot one of her web series at different places in Chhattisgarh, although the name of this web series has been kept secret, but the most important thing in this web series is that more than a dozen artists of Chhattisgarh and Payal Sharma, who lives in Gunderdehi, Balod district of Chhattisgarh, is also part of the series.

Payal is an active leader of Congress and is member of Gunderdehi Janpad Panchayat of Balod district, also Vice President of the State Kisan Congress, who looks after the Durg division, apart from being an artist. Sharma has played two important characters with Bhaskar and soon the web series will be released on OTT platform. Talking about her experience with Swara,

she said that experience was very good and she told that this web series is of 9 episodes, in which Swara Bhaskar will play different characters, out of which she has been given an important role in 2 episodes.

# Workshop organized for forest fire prevention by ITR



Central Chronicle News

Bijapur, Feb 18: Under Indravati Tiger Reserve (ITR), Bijapur, training was organized for prevention of fire among local public representatives, eco development committee members, villagers, forest officer-employees, fire watchers, patrolling guards and students.

The training was given by Dhamsheel Ganveer, Deputy Director, Indravati Tiger Reserve, Bijapur, regarding the types of forest fires, losses due to fire, measures to prevent fire, fire protection strategy in

forest dwellers and requested for public participation for fire safety.

At the end of the program, employees, students, villagers, fire watchers, patrolling guards were given

a resolution not to set fire in the forests, to extinguish the fire seen in the forest, and to cooperate with the forest workers in protecting the forest and protecting wild animals.

**यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया** Union Bank of India

Branch- Priyadarshani Nagar, V plaza, First Floor, Near Pachpedi Naka, Raipur (C.G.)

**POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule - 8 (1)]**

Whereas the Authorized Officers of Union Bank of India under 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 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices to the following borrowers / guarantors/mortgagors calling upon them to repay the amount mentioned in the Notices within 60 days from the date of said Notices.

SI No.	Name of the Borrowers	1)Date of Demand Notice & 2)Date of Possession	Outstanding Amount	Description of Secured Assets
1.	Ms Rubena Khan D/o Yousuf Khan, Add.-: H No. 289, Shaheed Rajiv Pandey Ward Mathpurena Raipur- 492001.	(1) 22.08.2022 (2) 13.02.2023	Rs 5,97,654.73/- + int. since 17/05/22 + Legal & Other charges	House situated at Kh No. 34/1, H. No. 289, Mathpurena, RDA scheme no. 07, Shaheed Rajiv Pandey ward No. 54, P.H. No. 105, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
2.	Mr. Amit Shrivastava S/o Radhe Shyam Srivastava, Add.-: C-44, Madhuban Colony, Amlidih, Raipur- 492001.	(1) 19.10.2022 (2) 13.02.2023	Rs 18,74,586.02 + int. since 13/06/22 + Legal & Other charges	House situated at Kh No. 184 and 249/3-4 C-13-44, Gram Amlidih, ward no. 46, Rajendra Prasad ward, Area of 800 sq ft.
3.	Mr. Ritendra Pandey & Smt Poonam Pandey, Add- F-118 RDA Colony, Boriyakhurd Raipur-492006, Dist- Raipur	(1) 07.12.2022 (2) 13.02.2023	Rs 10,96,588.10 + int. since 30/04/21 + Legal & Other charges	Kh no. - 424/2 (part), Diverted Kh No. 424/22, Ph no. 105, Ward No. 52, Om Nagar, Mathpurena, Raipur, Chhattisgarh

Date: 13.02.2023, Place: Raipur

Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India

**आम सूचना**

न्यायालय नायब तहसीलदार भटावा जिला सारांगद-बिलाईगढ़ (छ.ग.)

// ईशतहार //

रा.प्र.क्र. 2022/111321300005 अ-21 वर्य 2022-23

ग्राम भिनोदा प.ह.नं. 23

एतत् द्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि आवेदक जगमोहन पिता रमेशर निवासी ग्राम भिनोदा तहसील भटावाव के द्वारा शासन से प्राप्त भूमि ग्राम भिनोदा में स्थित ख.नं. 128/1क/50 रकबा 0.4660 हे. भूमि को विक्रय किये जाने बा व त् - न्यायालय क ल व र सारांगद-बिलाईगढ़ के समक्ष आवेदन पेशा किया गया है। जिसके संबंध में दिनांक 20/02/2023 को इस न्यायालय में सुनवाई नियत की गई है।

अतः इस संबंध में जिस किसी व्यक्ति को किसी प्रकार की दावा/आपत्ति हो तो वे स्वतः उपस्थित होकर या अपने अभिभावक के माध्यम से पेशी दिनांक 20/02/2023 तक इस न्यायालय में दावा/आपत्ति पेश कर सकता है। नियत दिनांक के बाद प्राप्त दावा/आपत्ति पर कोई विचार नहीं किया जावेगा।

अतः आज दिनांक 03/02/2023 को मेरे हस्ताक्षर न्यायालय में पद मुद्रा के साथ जारी किया गया।

भवदीय  
आशीष कुमार शर्मा अधिवक्ता  
सी-33 सेक्टर-1 देवेन्द्र  
नगर रायपुर (छ.ग.)

नायब तहसीलदार  
भटावा

सूचनाकर्ता व आवेदक  
मेरस - अम्बिका रियल्टेक  
(पूर्वतन - श्री आशीष अग्रवाल)

**बैंक ऑफ इंडिया** Bank of India

Kawardha Branch, Surjit Singh Khanuja Complex, Infront of Bus Stand Kawardha (C.G.) PIN-491995, Mo.: 72259 06792

**POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)**

Whereas, [Under Rule-8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India, Kawardha Branch under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued Demand Notice on the dates, mentioned against each Account (given below) calling upon the Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgagors to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notices/ (date of receipt of the said notices). The Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgagors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgagors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below.

The Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Bank of India for the amounts and interest thereon.

SI No.	Borrower(s)/Guantor(s)	Description of the Propertie	Demand Notice Dt. Posse. Notice Dt.	Amount Due
1.	M/s. Jai Mata Di Gud Udyog, Prop. Mrs. Sunita Chandravanshi, Address - Vill- Newariguda, Post- Ravelli, Tah- Kawardha, Dist- Kabirdham (C.G.)	Equitable Mortgage of immovable property of leasehold diverted land and building situated at Khasra no. 167/3, PH Ho. 10, situated at Vill- Newariguda, Post- Ravelli, Tah- Kawardha, Dist- Kabirdham, pin- 491995 state C.G. admeasuring area- 26596 sqft belongs to in the name of M/s. Jai Mata Di Gud Udyog, Prop.	14.10.2022 17.02.2023	₹ 17,30,965.35 + further interest as applicable
	Mrs. Sunita Chandravanshi. Boundaries Survey no. 167/3: North- Other's Plot, South- Other's Plot, East-Road, West-Other's Plot.			Symbolic Possession
2.	M/s. Ayush Gud Udyog, Prop. Mr. Ramsharan Chandra Vanshi, Address: Vill- Singhari, Post- Baijalpur, Tah- Bodida, Dist- Kabirdham, pin- 491995 state C.G. admeasuring area- 0.198 sqft belongs to in the name of M/s. Ayush Gud Udyog, Proprietor.	Equitable Mortgage of immovable property of leasehold diverted land and building situated at Khasra no. 161/2, PH Ho. 07, situated at Singhari, Post- Baijalpur, Tah- Bodida, District- Kabirdham, pin- 491995 state C.G. admeasuring area- 0.198 sqft belongs to in the name of M/s. Ayush Gud Udyog, Proprietor.	14.10.2022 17.02.2023	₹ 14,39,804.75 + further interest as applicable
	Mr. Ramsharan Chandravanshi. Boundaries Survey no. 161/2: North- Road, South- Property of Pragya, East- Property of Sohan, West-Property of Laxman.			Symbolic Possession

Date: 18.02.2023 Place : Kawardha (C.G.)

Authorized Officer, Bank of India

# Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Indian Divyang T20 Champion Trophy Cup Unveiled

**Chhattisgarh to host National Divyang Cricket tournament for the first time in 22 years**

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 18:** For the first time in 22 years, a national level cricket tournament for Divyang -the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Indian Divyang Cricket T20 Cup- is being organised in the state by Chhattisgarh Divyang Cricket Association under the aegis of Differently Abled Cricket Council of India from February 20-23, 2023 at BSP Cricket Ground, Indira Palace Civic Centre.

The final match of the tournament will be played at Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium Raipur on February 23 informed Arun Kumar Shrivastava, President, Chhattisgarh Divyang Cricket Association, at a press conference immediately after

the unveiling of the T20 Champion Trophy Cup at the Divyang BSP Cricket Ground.

Indian Sultans, Royal Indians, Indian Fighters, Indian Legends are the teams that would perform in the competition. Based on the performance of the teams in the aforesaid tournament, which is supported and guided by BCCI and Chhattisgarh Cricket Association, team will be selected for the upcoming international cricket tournament, he further informed.

The competition is being organised in association with Shree Chaturbhuj Memorial Foundation and Essel Engineering Works. Dr



Abhishek Pallava, Superintendent of Police, Durg will formally inaugurate the tournament at 11:30 hrs on February 22. The tournament will be played in 20-20 format and two matches will be played daily. The final match of the competition will be played at Shaheed Veer

Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium on February 23, 2023.

It needs a mention that 64 players from all over the country have been selected by the Differently Abled Council of India during the national tournament held last month in

Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Selected players will showcase their sporting skills in the Champions Trophy.

Chhattisgarh para cricket team captain Shrimant Jha and two more players from the state have also been selected for the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Indian Divyang Cricket T20 Cup tournament. Efforts are on to invite former international players for the final.

Abhishek Singh, Vice President of the Association detailed on the achievement of the Divyang cricket team of the state which has been excellent. So far Chhattisgarh Divyang cricket team has become

the winner in 12 national competitions.

Chhattisgarh Wheelchair Cricket Association, Chhattisgarh Blind Cricket Association, Chhattisgarh Deaf Cricket Association are working under the umbrella of Chhattisgarh Disabled Cricket Association. It is expected that soon Chhattisgarh Differently Abled Cricket Committee will come into being under the patronage of Chhattisgarh State Cricket Association.

President Arun Kumar Shrivastava, Vice President Abhishek Singh, Secretary Srimant Jha, Founder of Shri Chaturbhuj Memorial Foundation Seema Shrivastava, Secretary Jasveer Kaur, Member Akash Vaishnav were present at the unveiling.

# Roshan of Sharda Vidyalaya finds place in Fit India Quiz-2022

**Central Chronicle News**

**Bhilai, Feb 18:** Roshan Chandrakar, a student of Class XI (Maths Faculty) at Sharda Vidyalaya, Risali ranked 9th in the state at the in preliminary round of Fit India Quiz-2022. National Testing Agency conducted this competition through online system on December 08-09, 2022. A highly enthusiastic and dedicated student, Roshan, participated in the competition on self-motivation.

Apart from performing brilliantly in the Academic Examinations, Roshan is keen in participating in various competitions. In the CBSE All India Secondary School Examination (AISSE), he secured first position in the school. On this achievement of Roshan,



**Roshan Chandrakar**

the director of Shakuntala Group of Schools, Sanjay Ojha has congratulated and extended him best wishes for future. School Manager Mamta Ojha, Principal Sutapa Sarkar, Headmistress Pushpa Singh, Senior Mistress Renjini MR, Senior Activity Incharge Pooja Babbar also appreciated Roshan for his achievement.

# 25-year-old sentenced to 10 years RI for raping, impregnating minor girl

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 18:** A Fast Track Special Court in Durg sentenced a 25-year-old man to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment for raping and impregnating a minor girl. On Friday, the Additional Sessions Judge (Fourth), FTSC - POCSCO, Sangeeta Naveen Tiwari convicted Harish Chandravanshi (25), son of Late Govind Lal Chandravanshi a resident of village Medha, Durg (Rajnandgaon). The victim girl had lodged a complaint at Padmanabhpur Chowki on June 24, 2019.

Special Prosecutor Santosh Kasar informed that the victim

had come to Durg for studies and resided here as a paying guest in Adarsh Nagar. During her stay in Durg, she got acquainted with the accused. Initially, Harish proposed to marry her. Later, the girl gave birth to a premature baby on May 21, 2019. She lodged an FIR against the accused on June 24, 2019. After trial, the Special Court found the accused guilty for offences of rape, aggravated sexual assault and penetrative sexual assault. He was sentenced to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment and Rs 10000 fine under section 376 (2) (n) of IPC. In case of non-payment of fine, the convict will serve an additional rigorous imprisonment of one year.

When the girl's parents came to know about the incident, they contacted Harish and asked him to marry their daughter. But Harish refused to marry her. Later, the girl gave birth to a premature baby on May 21, 2019. She lodged an FIR against the accused on June 24, 2019.

After trial, the Special Court found the accused guilty for offences of rape, aggravated sexual assault and penetrative sexual assault. He was sentenced to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment and Rs 10000 fine under section 376 (2) (n) of IPC. In case of non-payment of fine, the convict will serve an additional rigorous imprisonment of one year.

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 18:** Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas took an important meeting regarding C-Mart at the auditorium of Bhilai Municipal Corporation the other day. Heads of various department of the district attended the meeting. Representatives from Education Department, Women and Child Development Department, Industry Department, Akshaya Patra, Social Welfare Department, Tribal Department, Home Guard Commandant were among those present.

The meeting deliberated on how to promote the products prepared specially for sale in C-Mart and those made by



women of self-help groups. Thought was given on purchase of materials procured in gov-

# BMC Commissioner takes assessment meeting regarding C-Mart

from various departments.

Discussion was also held on making arrangements to deliver the products of the purchaser department. Heads of various departments would also visit C-Mart regarding the products. Deputy Collector Lavkesh Dhruv, District Education Officer Abhay Jaiswal, DPO Vipin Jain, Tara Devi from Social Welfare Department, Assistant Tribal Commissioner Priyvanda Ramteke, Anand Pathak, DL Dahria, Govind Sao, Prakash Kumar Pandey, Dharendra Kumar, Anjali, Nagendra Kumar, Rajeev, Sohanlal Banjare and representative from Akshay Patra were present.

# Durg University: Examination for PhD course work proposed in March end

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 18:** Hemchand Yadav University (Durg University) is preparing to organise the written examination of PhD course work in the last week of March. In this regard, notification regarding filling of online application form and date of examination for appearing in PhD coursework examination will be issued soon by the examination department of the university.

Giving this information, the Dean, Student Welfare and PhD cell in-charge Dr Prashant Srivastava re-

vealed that the Vice-Chancellor of the University Dr Aruna Palta gave directives at the meeting of the officers. Dr Srivastava informed that more than 60 research scholars of 15 subjects will participate in this course work examination.

According to the data available with the PhD Cell of the University, those eligible to appear in the PhD course work examination include 08 in Hindi subject, 02 in Chemistry, 03 in Physics, 01 in Sociology, 01 in Botany, 01 in Economics, 03 in Microbiology, 07 in Political Science, 13 in

Commerce, 04 in English, 13 in Education, 02 in Mathematics, 03 in History and 01 in Geography.

Detailing on the process, Dr Srivastava explained that this PhD course work exam will be conducted in 02 phases. In the first phase, it will be mandatory for the research scholars to give power point presentation related to their subject in front of the subject experts.

Subject-wise time-table regarding power point presentation will be informed by the university to the research scholars at

the earliest. In the second phase, the examination of theory paper will be conducted through offline mode. In this, 50 objective type questions will be asked, each question will be of 02 marks.

This question paper will have two parts. In the first part, there will be 35 questions related to research methodology, process and application of computer and in the second part, 15 questions related to research and publication ethics will be asked.

According to UGC rules, getting 55 percent marks is mandatory to pass the

written examination of PhD course work. As per University Ordinance No 45 and UGC rules, such research scholars who have passed MPhil examination from a recognized university and have taken Research Methodology as a compulsory paper in the mark sheet of M Phil and those who have been given exemption for course work examination by the Departmental Research Degree Committee keeping in view the rules, only such research scholars will be eligible for exemption from the examination for PhD course.

# Farmer leader Rakesh Tikait visits dharna site at CCM Medical College

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 18:** Bharatiya Kisan Union National Spokesperson and farmer leader Rakesh Tikait visited the dharna site at Chandulal Chandrakar Memorial Government Medical College in Kachandur to meet the retrenched workers of the college. The aggrieved workers have been staging demonstrations for the past several months.

Extending his support to the retrenched workers, he assured to discuss their issue with the top leaders of Indian National Congress. Over the issue of regularization of services of sanitation workers, Tikait asked the office bearers of Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha Mazdoor Karyakarta Samiti and Jan Swasthya Karmachari Union to provide related documents to him.

He expressed ire on coming to know that power and water supply has been cut at the dharna site. Tikait further said that public movements are underway at 22 different places in Chhattisgarh and emphasised on the need of united struggle for ensuring success.

On the matter of Chandulal Medical College, he clearly said



that the first priority should be given to the existing employees. The sanitation workers of the Nagriya Nikay Janwadi Safai Kamgar Union gave a memorandum to Rakesh Tikait regarding the issue of regularization of support to their movement.

He reiterated that the workers and the farmers would be able to achieve success only through joint struggle. When a man lives in the village, he is called a farmer. When he comes to the industry, he is called a labourer. Employees are facing several kinds of problems and it is necessary for everyone to come together to struggle.

He added that everyone should come forward to support the struggle of retrenched workers. Members and office bearers of Pragatisheel Cement Shramik Sangh ACC, Rajnandgaon Kisan Sangh, JP Cement Nagariya Nikay Janwadi

Safai Kamgar Union, industrial labourers, Gondwana, AICTTU, LOIMU, House Lease Samyukt Sangharsh Samiti and others were present.

Rakesh Tikait informed that he was on his four-day visit to Chhattisgarh. He said that there is an issue of land acquisition in Chhattisgarh. He added that their basic issue is the fixation of MSP. On visiting Chhattisgarh, he came to know about the actual condition.

Farmer leaders Rajiv Singh Janaud, Praveen Shyokand, Dhalesh Sahu, Rajendra Parganiha, Shyam Lal Sahu, Surendra Mohanty, Ramakant Banjare, Manoj Kosre, Pushpa Barle, Sumit, Dhanush, Sheela, Anita, Neera, Chandrakala, Taram, Kalyan Patel, Bandhan Soni, Shivendra, Uttara Narayan, Mahesh, Kaladas Dahariya and others were present.

# School in Station Maroda to be repaired, Home Minister performs Bhoomi Pujan

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 18:** The primary and middle school located in the densely populated, labour dominated area of Station Maroda under Risali Municipal limits at an estimated expenses of Rs 41.30 lakh. Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, Risali Mayor Shashi Sinha and Speaker Keshav Banchor performed Bhoomi Pujan for the same and thereafter participated in the annual function of the school.

In his address Home Minister said that all the celebrations and festivals had stopped during the Corona period. As soon as the state government de-



ecided to start the festivals again, efforts were made to bring back the old and traditional form of sports that prevailed earlier such as Madai Mela. He urged

the teachers of the school that apart from school education they should also teach moral and cultural values to the children, which is important in the

present era. School children presented a cultural program where in they performed traditional dances. The Home Minister took the

opportunity to honour the winners of the gold medal in the National Polo Competition. At the end, the school committee honoured the Home Minister with a memento.

State Congress General Secretary Jitendra Sahu, MIC member Chandrabhaskar Thakur, Chandrabhaskar Nigam, Anup Dey, Sonia Dewangan, Ishwari Sahu, Parameshwar Kumar, Councilor Anil Deshmukh, Zaheer Abbas, Rekha Devi, Gajendri Kothari, Block Congress President Mukund Bhau, Alderman Sangeeta Singh, Santudas Manikpuri, School Management Committee members were present.

## US, Europe need India to outdo China: US Senator

Washington, Feb 18:

The US and Europe need countries like India on board to outcompete China, top American Senator Chuck Schumer said on asserting that they all need to work together to ensure the democratic international order does not disintegrate in the face of an increasingly aggressive Chinese Communist Party.



Chuck Schumer

This is the message with which Schumer, Senate Majority Leader, is leading a powerful bipartisan group of Senators to India next week, the New York Senator told Europeans and the international leaders at the annual Munich Security Conference. "We must work together to ensure the democratic international order does not disintegrate in the face of an increasingly aggressive Chinese Communist Party. And the task does not be-

long to the US and Europe alone: we need nations like India, the world's largest democracy, and the democracies of Asia, to work with us to outcompete China," Schumer said in remarks at the McCain Award Dinner at Munich Security Conference.

"I will travel to India and deliver the same message to them as we seek to counter this looming threat. I urge Europe to do the same. India, with its democratic traditions, can be a very strong partner in outcompeting China. And

India joining the western partnership could serve the purpose of advancing democracy," Schumer said.

Earlier in an op-ed in The Washington Post, Schumer said the democratic international order must stand strong to confront the rise of the Chinese Communist Party. "But the task does not belong to the United States and Europe alone: We need nations such as India, the world's largest democracy, and the other democracies of Asia, to work with us to outcompete China and its aggressions. This week, I will also travel with eight other senators to India and deliver the same message to our friends as we seek to head off this looming threat," the powerful Senator wrote.

In his remarks at the Munich Security Conference, Schumer said

US forces shot down a Chinese surveillance balloon within its borders.

"It was a brazen violation of American sovereignty; an illustration of how China has continuously escalated its aggression against the West."

"The US is hardly alone — Chinese surveillance balloons have targeted more than 40 countries around the world. But it's not just Chinese espionage that threatens the West. China has dedicated hundreds of billions to dominate the global economy and the advanced technologies that will shape this century," Schumer said.

"China's innovations in Artificial Intelligence, for instance, have empowered them to monitor and oppress their citizens in ways once thought unimaginable — a challenge which we must respond to now," he said.

## MAHA SHIVRATRI



Devotees wait in queues to offer prayers at the Pashupatinath temple on the occasion of 'Maha Shivratri' in Kathmandu, Nepal, Saturday, Feb. 18.

## Hindu temple in Australia gets threat calls

• Asked to raise Khalistani slogans

Melbourne, Feb 18 (PTT):

A prominent Hindu temple in Australia has received threatening calls in which it was asked to raise pro-Khalistani slogans if it wanted to observe Maha Shivratri peacefully which falls on February 18, a media report said on Friday.

The threatening call to Gayatri mandir in Brisbane came after three Hindu temples were vandalised in Australia's Victoria state allegedly by "Khalistani supporters" with anti-India graffiti.

Jai Ram, the president and Dharmesh Prasad, the vice president of Gayatri Mandir received separate calls on Friday from a man who identified himself as 'Guruawadesh Singh' seeking the Hindu community to support the "Khalistan Referendum". The Australia Today reported. Claiming that he

was calling from Nankana Sahib in Pakistan, the anti-India supporter asked temple officials to ask the Hindu community to support the 'Khalistan Referendum'.

"I have a message in relation to Khalistan... if you plan to celebrate Maha Shivratri .... then ask the priest to support Khalistan and raise 'Khalistan Zindabad' slogans five times during your event... now show me how you will raise this slogan," the report said, quoting Singh's warning message to the president of the temple.

Talking about the threat call, Prasad said that violence towards religious places is the biggest crime and "we as Hindus should be able to practice our religion without fear", the report said.

Later on, Temple's Public relation officer Neelima also said that received several calls from an American number.

The threatening call to Gayatri mandir came

after recent attacks on three Hindu temples that were vandalised in Australia's Victoria state allegedly by "Khalistani supporters" with anti-India graffiti.

Earlier, a Kali Mata Mandir in Melbourne's northern suburb of Craigieburn also received a threatening call to cancel a bhajan and puja event or face consequences.

The Indian-Australian community is still recovering from the vandalism of three temples by Khalistani extremists.

On Jan 23, the management of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) temple also known as the Hare Krishna Temple in Melbourne's Albert Park found the walls of the revered temple vandalised with graffiti "Hindustan Murdabad".

On January 16, the historic Shri Shiva Vishnu Temple in Carrum Downs, Victoria, was vandalised in a similar manner.

## China representative met with protests on visit to Taiwan

Taipei, Feb 18 (AP):

A visit by a Chinese official at the invitation of the Taiwanese capital's newly elected China-friendly mayor has drawn protests on the self-ruled island.

The head of Shanghai city's Taiwan Affairs Office, Li Xiaodong, arrived Saturday morning for a three-day visit that marks a rare point of contact between the sides.

China deems Taiwan a part of its territory to be conquered by force if necessary and has been courted by pro-Chinese media and politicians on the island to further its unification agenda.

The vast majority of Taiwanese back the status quo of de-facto independence while still maintaining close economic and social ties with the mainland. Taiwan's democratic system allows broad leeway for local governments to act without central au-

thority.

Taipei recently elected Chiang Wan-an from the opposition Nationalist Party as mayor.

Dozens of protesters gathered at Sunshan Airport in downtown Taipei, while representatives of pro-China minority parties shouted welcomes.

Neither Li or any members of his delegation issued any arrival statements. Protesters at the airport chanted to denounce Chinese efforts undermining Taiwan's security, democracy and independent diplomatic relations.

Wang Sing-huan, chair of the Taiwan State Building Party, told protesters that Li had a right to visit but that Taiwan's "way of peace is to prepare for any possibility of war, and to ally other democracies so that China would not dare invade us."

## Jaishankar tears into George Soros over PM remarks

Munich, Feb 18:

Billionaire investor George Soros is old, rich, opinionated, and dangerous and invests resources in shaping narratives, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday said.

The 92-year-old hedge fund tycoon, who has been associated with supporting liberal causes, on Thursday sent shockwaves in the Indian political scene saying Gautam Adani and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's fates are entwined, and alleged that Modi was not a "democrat." Speaking at the Munich Security conference, he also said the turmoil in Adani's business empire may open the door to a "democratic revival" in the country.

Responding to a question at a session at the Raisina@Sydney Dialogue, Jaishankar said Soros is an "old, rich, opinionated person sitting in New York, who still thinks that his views should determine



how the entire world works."

"Now, if I could only stop at old, rich and opinionated, I would put it away but he is old, rich, opinionated and dangerous," Jaishankar said.

He said that a few years ago at the same conference, Soros had accused India of planning to strip millions of Muslims of their citizenship.

"We know the dangers of what happens when there's outside interference ... if you do this kind of scare-mongering, like millions of people will be deprived of citizenship, it actually does real damage to our societal

fabric," he said. "There are other manifestations of this in different countries, where people like him think an election is good if the person we want to see wins. If the election throws up a different outcome, then we actually will say it's a flawed democracy," he said. Jaishankar said globalisation allows seamless opportunities but also allows narratives to be shaped, money to come in, and organisations to get about their agenda.

"All this is done under the pretence of advocacy of an open society of transparency," he said.

The Adani Group has been under severe pressure since the US short-seller Hindenburg Research on January 24 accused it of accounting fraud and stock manipulation, allegations that the conglomerate has denied as "malicious", "baseless", and a "calculated attack on India."

## Russia to test missile in drills with China and South Africa

Johannesburg, Feb 18 (AP):

Russia, China and South Africa are set to begin naval drills off South Africa's Indian Ocean coast Friday in a demonstration of the three countries' close ties amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine and China's tense relationship with the West. The 10 days of exercises, named Mosi II, will coincide with the first anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24.

A Russian frigate, the Admiral Gorshkov, arrived in Cape Town earlier this week sporting the letters Z and V on its sides, letters that mark Russian weapons on the front lines in Ukraine and are used as a patriotic symbol in

be the first launch of the missile in an international exercise. In addition to the Admiral Gorshkov, other ships participating in the maritime exercises will include a Russian oil tanker for refueling, a South African frigate and three Chinese ships - a destroyer, a frigate and a support vessel, according to a South African military statement.

The warship is set to test-fire a Zircon missile during the joint naval drills, according to Russian state news agency Tass. The test will

Five heavily-armed militants of the Tehreek-e-Taliban (Pakistan) have been killed after security forces managed to secure back control of the head office building of the Karachi Police Chief which came under a daring attack by the militants in the country's most populous city.

The nearly four-hour-long operation to seize back control of the five-

## Five Pak Taliban terrorists killed in attack on police chief's office

Karachi, Feb 18 (PTT):

storey building came to a dramatic end around 10.50 pm with four other people including two police



Policemen inspect a police compound after it was attacked by Taliban fighters in Karachi.

constables, a rangers personnel and a civilian also killed in the heavy exchange of firing that took place between the TTP militants and security forces. A senior security source said five terrorists were killed during the operation. He said three were killed in the long gun

battle while two blew themselves up which also caused some damage to one floor of the building.

Sindh government spokesperson Murtaza Wahab said on Twitter he could confirm that the Karachi Police Office (KPO) building has been cleared.

**GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER MAHANADI PROJECT: WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT RAIPUR (CHHATTISGARH)**

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

System Tender No.: 124305/NIT No.: 08/SAC/e-procurement/2022-23, Dated: 16.02.2023

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 13.03.2023 at 17:30 Hour (IST)

Name of work: Renovation work of Pikridih Tank and construction of structures and C.C.Lining work of its canal from R.D.0.00M. To 4200M

Probable Amount of Contract: - Rs. 289.64 Lakhs

(As per S.O.R. Dated 01.08.2010 and amended up to 01.08.2014)  
The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 23.02.2023, at 17:31 Hours. (IST) onwards.

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

**Executive Engineer**  
MRP Disnet Division No. 3, Tilda-Neora  
For, CHIEF ENGINEER MAHANADI PROJECT  
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, RAIPUR (CG)

G-98631/1

**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>  
(3rd CALL)

System Tender No.: 124823/NIT No.: 17/SAC/2022-23, Gariaband, Dated: 17.02.2023

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 07.03.2023 at 17:30 Hour (IST):-

Name of work: REMODELING AND C.C. LINING FROM RD.0 TO 815 M OF KOMA SUB MINOR NO.1, RD.0 TO 910 M OF KOMA SUB MINOR NO.2, RD.0 TO 1200 M OF RAJIM SUB MINOR, RD.0 TO 1915 M OF SEMHARATARA SUB MINOR, R.D.3210 TO 7650 M OF PITABANDH MINOR, R.D.0 TO 600 M OF SUB MINOR NO.1 AND RD.0 TO 750 M OF SUB MINOR NO.2 OF PITABANDH MINOR, CONSTRUCTION OF 02 NO.V.R.B. OF PITABANDH MINOR OF PAIRI IRRIGATION PROJECT IN BLOCK FINGESHWAR OF GARIABAND DISTRICT.

Probable Amount of Contract: - Rs. 247.35 Lakhs

(As per S.O.R. Dated 01.08.2010 (As amended dated 01.08.2014))

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 24.02.2023, at 17:31 Hours. (IST) onwards.

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

**Executive Engineer**  
Water Resources Division, Gariaband  
For, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godawari Basin  
Water Resources Department, Raipur (C.G.)

G-98632/2

**कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता लोक निर्माण विभाग, रायपुर मण्डल क्रमांक 2 ( छत्तीसगढ़ )**

**ई-प्रोक्चुरमेंट निविदा सूचना ( प्रथम आमंत्रण )** दिनांक : 15.02.2023

निम्नांकित निर्माण कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा " ई " श्रेणी एवं अधिक श्रेणी के ठेकेदारों हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। ऑनलाईन निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 02.03.2023 है।

एन.आई.टी. क्र./ निविदा क्र.	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)
1	2	3
NIT NO. 333 Tender No. 124864	जिला गरियाबंद के विकासखंड गरियाबंद अंतर्गत छिनीला में हाई स्कूल भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	रु. 67.41 लाख
NIT NO. 334 Tender No. 124865	जिला धमतरी के हटकेडवर पहुँच मार्ग किमी. 1/2 से 1/10 - 0.90 किमी. का निर्माण कार्य।	रु. 78.02 लाख
NIT NO. 335 Tender No. 124866	जिला गरियाबंद में पशु चिकित्सालय भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	रु. 22.84 लाख

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य को निविदा को सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापित, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्चुरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> अथवा विभागीय वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है। ( राशि रु. 100.00 के नान ज्यूडिशियल स्टाम्प पर निर्धारित प्रपत्र में शपथ-पत्र एवं न्यूनतम राशि रु. 10.00 के नान ज्यूडिशियल स्टाम्प पर एनेक्जर-3 का शपथ पत्र बिडकेपेसीटी उपलब्धता बाबत जानकारी एवं अन्य जानकारी एनआईटी के 2.10 में संलग्न संशोधित प्रपत्रानुसार प्रस्तुत करें।)

निविदा में होने वाले समस्त संशोधन का प्रकाशन केवल उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर किया जाएगा, पृथक से समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन नहीं किया जाएगा।

**अधीक्षण अभियंता**  
लो.नि.वि., रायपुर मण्डल क्र. 2 छ.ग.)

G-98623/2

Credible Chhattisgarh Government आपकी थी चाह, हमने बनाई राह

**कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता एवं सदस्य सचिव ( जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन ) लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड, कबीरधाम ( छ.ग. )**

**// निविदा निरस्तीकरण सूचना //**

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा, निविदा सूचना/सिस्टम क्र. 654, 412/113649, 416/113713, 400/113488, 403/113491, 402/113490, 234, 378/113278, 386/113329, 376/113276, 344/112836, 345/112842, 924, 313/111903, 351/113162, 429/114364, 446/114712

निविदा होने के कारण निविदा निरस्त किया जाता है।

**कार्यपालन अभियंता एवं सदस्य सचिव**  
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड,  
कबीरधाम ( छ.ग. )

G-98651/1



## CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 48 No. 137

### E-pharmacies under radar

The Central government is likely to take strong action against the misuse of drugs by the E-Pharmacies including their closure. e-pharma companies' model is problematic as it can be detrimental to patients' health. The E-Pharmacies are currently following that business model which can be problematic for patients who are ordering medicine online, their data privacy at risk and possibility of misuse of drugs. Offering convenient doorstep delivery, timely service, discounts on product prices and privacy — the e-pharmacies' popularity is understandable. The high rate of Internet penetration is contributing to the market expansion, providing access even in remote locations. Drone delivery is no longer a futuristic idea. It's the possible misuse, particularly through the online sale of illegal, outdated and counterfeit drugs, however, that has given rise to grave concerns. Self-medication and availability of drugs that would otherwise require prescription can be life-threatening. Without the strictest regulatory controls, a health hazard looms for the end-users. The show-cause notice to 20 leading e-pharmacies for the sale and stocking of drugs in contravention of laws is a timely rap on the knuckles that should reset the rules of the game. The All Indian Origin Chemists and Distributors (AIOCD) was constantly alarming Central Government that, Drug Acts, Pharmacy Act, and Other drugs related rules/orders, code of ethics, do not permit the sale of medicines on the internet and promotion of drug sales by advertising with discounts and schemes as it can be hazardous to the health of the public. In spite of all legitimate appeals, requests, meetings, and Hon'ble High Court orders of Delhi, corporate houses were operating illegally with financial power indulging in Predatory Pricing. More dangerous was, since e-pharmacies started operating online sale of drugs crossing borders of states in the country, the sudden rise has been started in duplicate and spurious drugs. The global e-pharmacy market value is anticipated to cross a whopping \$206 billion by 2028. India is emerging as a major driving force. Given the population and socio-economic challenges in India, digital platforms can prove to be transformative. Their increasing use by healthcare professionals as well as patients will propel the e-pharmacy industry. That calls for a collaborative public-private partnership, and organic tie-ups between retailers and e-tailers. The interest of the consumer has to be the determining factor in any policy change.

### Turkey-Syria earthquake: The scandal of not being prepared

David Rothery

The magnitude-7.8 earthquake near Gaziantep that struck southeastern Turkey and neighbouring Syria on February 6, and the large aftershocks that followed, destroyed thousands of buildings and claimed tens of thousands of lives. In response to criticism of the efforts to rescue buried survivors, Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan reportedly said that it was "impossible to prepare for the scale of the disaster". But is he right? I don't think so, and I will explain why. It's true that it's hard to predict when and where an earthquake can happen. Days ahead, there are occasionally warning signs of a major earthquake such as inexplicable night-time glows in the sky or unusual animal behaviour. But these signals are untrustworthy, and poorly understood. In Japan and California, there are warning systems that can give a few tens of seconds warning, setting traffic lights to red and bringing trains to a halt but obviously not long enough for an evacuation of any kind. The Turkish government is well aware the country sits on active fault zones in the Earth's crust, with a long record of earthquake activity. Yet it allowed builders to flout earthquake resilience construction regulations. Even supposing there was a reliable system that would give, say, one day or one month's advanced warning of a big earthquake, how should it be used? If it was up to you, would you try to move millions of people out of the area likely to be affected? Would they be willing to go? Where would they live and work afterwards if they came back to find their homes destroyed? The best way to prepare for an earthquake disaster, and what Erdogan had it within his power to do, is to build homes and infrastructure using earthquake-resilience techniques. That way, people are not killed during the earthquake and they still have their homes afterwards. There are many ways in which buildings can be designed and built to withstand earthquakes, so that they don't collapse. In an area at risk of large earthquakes, a multistorey building should be designed so that when the ground starts to shake, its outer walls on either side sway in unison in the same direction as each other. If, on the contrary, opposite walls are free to sway away from each other, the intervening floors become momentarily unsupported, allowing upper floors to pancake down on to lower floors. This happened to deadly effect in Turkey. Builders can prevent this by structurally tying floors and walls together, without making the framework of the building so rigid that it breaks, rather than bending a little. This may mean more steel and less concrete. Other measures are possible at greater expense. For example, foundations can be made deeper, connecting to bedrock (because this shakes less than soil), or they can be mounted on flexible pads to isolate the building from ground motion. It is a tragedy and a scandal that the Turkish government knew all this. They have introduced a series of progressively more stringent seismic building codes, claiming to have learned lessons from the 1999 earthquake near the city of Izmit, near Istanbul, in which 17,000 people died. But journalists are reporting how these building codes have been widely flouted in Turkey. Building in earthquake resilience adds maybe 20% to costs of a construction project, so the temptation to ignore the regulations is obvious. In this case, the government not only failed to enforce its own building codes, but also encouraged non-compliance by allowing builders to pay a "construction amnesty" in return for officially sanctioned breaches of the codes. Now charities are trying to raise hundreds of millions of pounds to help with the emergency response alone. The Turkish government gambled with its peoples' lives, and lost. The revenue from "construction amnesties" is far too little to pay for the reconstruction that is now needed, though I dare say the building industry will do nicely out of the extra work.

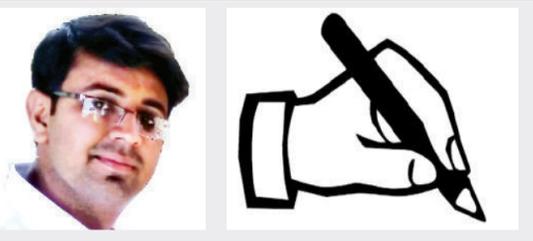
### MAHA SHIVRATRI



Devotees offer prayers at a Lord Shiva temple on the occasion of 'Maha Shivratri', in Bengaluru, Saturday, Feb. 18.

## Why are the cases of dowry death skyrocketing in the country?

DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH



Even though people know that dowry is a crime, this evil still exists in society. Recently a girl committed suicide after complaining of dowry harassment. In her case, there were 102 witnesses, and 53 pieces of evidence, including her voice note, were sent to her husband where she complained of torture at the hands of her in-laws. It is not just her but many other women who face dowry threats and die because their families are not able to meet the dowry demands. The difference is that such incidents do not come to light because the victims decide to remain silent about them. As per research, in the last three years, the conviction rate is very low and the sad part is that hardly anyone is convicted in these cases.

Dowry, a cultural practice deeply rooted in many Indian communities, refers to money, goods, or property given to the groom's family along with the bride. Dowry is a social evil in society, which has given rise to unimaginable atrocities and crimes against women. Evil has taken the lives of women from every stratum of society - be it poor, middle class, or rich. However, it is the poor who are most vulnerable and fall prey to it due to a lack of awareness and education. Even though people know that dowry is a crime, this evil still exists in society. Recently a girl committed suicide after complaining of dowry harassment. In her case, there were 102 witnesses, and 53 pieces of evidence, including her voice note, were sent to her husband where she complained of torture at the hands of her in-laws. It is not just her but many other women who face dowry threats and die because their families are not able to meet the dowry demands. The difference is that such incidents do not come to light because the victims decide to remain silent about them. As per research, in the last

three years, the conviction rate is very low and the sad part is that hardly anyone is convicted in these cases.

In many literate and developed states, a high number of dowry cases. This shows that a high rate of literacy is not able to prevent this menace. For example, Kerala is the most literate state in India, with a literacy rate of 96.2%. As per the 2011 census report, 96.11% of males and 92.07% of females are literate in the state. However, a statistical report published by the Economic and Statistics Department of Kerala has revealed a paradox that cases of dowry-related deaths are skyrocketing in the state. The cause of dowry is deeply entrenched in our society; Due to its patriarchal nature daughters are seen as property. There is a strong preference for boys, which has been blamed for female infanticide over the years. This has left India with a very imbalanced sex ratio. According to the 2011 census, there are 940 females per 1,000 males. There are 37 million more men than women in India, making it difficult for men to find suitable

brides.

Due to societal attitudes, instead of considering dowry as a crime and a cause of shame, it has become a matter of pride. It is discussed over coffee in family gatherings. Sons-in-law are often presented with the price tag that comes with them. Educated grooms demand more dowries. Education has been narrowed down to just one other factor that determines your market rate. Today, the dowry is directly linked to the estimation and treatment of the bride by her husband, forcing their families to ensure that an adequate amount of dowry is provided. Due to greedy expectations of material gain from the bride's family, dowry is demanded, and many times, when the demand is not met, either the marriage is annulled, or the bride is exploited for domestic violence.

With a literacy rate of 74.04% in the country, it is quite valid to consider it as the primary cause of various social ills. The communities who are not aware of the laws and legislation have to face many atrocities due to the dowry exchange practices. Lack of will to follow the laws, primary reason behind its failure is the lack of public participation. People do not pay heed to such laws and promote dowry practices to get material benefits in the guise of a marriage proposal. Due to custom, daughters are not given equal importance to sons. In society, it has been observed many times that they are seen as a liability and are often subjected to subordination and are given second-hand treatment whether it is in education or other facilities. Parents do not put enough emphasis on educating their daughters, as they feel that later husbands will support them. Poor sections of society send their daughters to work outside and earn some money, to help save their dowry. People from regular middle and upper-class backgrounds send their daughters to school but do not emphasize career options. Very wealthy parents support their daughters until they get married.

Measures to stop dowry depend on education and sensitization, so educate the young generation, sons and daughters; encourage them to pursue their careers; teach them to

be independent and responsible; Treat your daughters equally without any discrimination; Do not encourage the practice of giving or taking dowry; Through mass media campaigns, media has the potential to remove the dowry system from the mainstream of Indian society. By publishing relevant news and informing the authorities about any reported case of dowry-related crime, they can effectively control the possibilities. Law on Dowry in India The Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961 deals with a dowry in India. This act prohibits the practice of giving or taking dowry by both parties to the marriage. The law also punishes demanding and advertising dowry. Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005; The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 was passed to provide a civil law remedy for the protection of women from domestic violence in India. The Domestic Violence Act covers all forms of physical, verbal, emotional, economic, and sexual abuse and forms a subset of the anti-dowry laws to an extent one of the causes of domestic violence.

Voluntary organizations should campaign against the dowry system. The workers of these organizations should help the victims of dowry harassment and get them justice. These organizations should make people aware of their addresses through advertisements so that the victims can request help in getting justice. Women's self-help groups should be oriented on systematic violence against women and the existence of local support systems. By actively spreading awareness and showing solidarity, women's self-help groups can play a powerful role in building a more equal society. Dowry has become an institutional and integral part of an Indian marriage. Social and economic realities do little to keep it under control. In such a situation, the need of the hour is to revise the institutional framework related to dowry and do more research on the different forms of dowry and the reasons for its prevalence.

(Writer is a Poet, freelance journalist, and columnist, All India Radio and TV panelist.)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Woes of disabled people

It is a welcome move that the strength of Supreme Court judges is now complete and a common man can expect that decision of Supreme Court will be delivered at faster rate and the privileged classes along with disabled can expect that they will be heard in the highest court of the country. India has the largest democracy in the world and USA has the oldest democracy in the world but India has to go a long way to reach at the way of that country and the difference can be judged from the one point. Parliament passed the first Disability act in 1996 and which is not still properly implemented but such kind of irregularities does not happen in USA. India is a signatory to various international treaties but disabled people are still struggling to get the pension for the non implementation of disability act. Now the disabled people keep their hope alive on CJI to consider the request and do the needful.

Yash Pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

#### Tulsidas Balamram

It is absolutely futile to describe the quality of him as a footballer; Balamram being a living legend, even after his demise. However, as a human being, he used to reside at a much higher level, with his character being in sharp contrast to the state of affairs in society. In his autobiography, another legendary footballer, PK Banerjee, described how Balamram used to come back with his head bowed immediately after scoring an out-of-this-world goal as if he had committed a "great sin"! In contrast often do we witness ugly sight of barbaric celebration of goals by national/international stars with swear words and obscene gestures. When compromise with wrong and injustice has become the norm to prosper in career or to serve personal interests, Balamram had never compromised with his conscience principles values throughout his life. So whenever he noticed any wrongdoing in any committee, he used to promptly quit from that vicious cycle. And we must learn a sense of self-respect from Tulsidas Balamram. When present-day athletes and matinee stars shamelessly express their anger if not bestowed with national awards or publicly lobby to get them, Balamram remains tight-lipped about the indifference meted out to him. Only if he got questioned about it, Balamram used to humbly quip that he might not have possessed quality enough to receive a national award! Yes, a tinge of sentiment might be embedded in such a statement, but it also speaks of the impeccable self-respect and dignity of Balamram. The ever-smiling, humble, civilized, dignified, self-respecting silent artist Tulsidas Balamram used to reside much above any sorts of awards that the state could bestow upon him because, at the end of the day, his place was guaranteed in the hearts of the people for eternity.

Kajal Chatterjee, Kolkata

## Chhatrapati Shivaji: A Great King Who Showed How to Deal With Evil Forces



Er. Rajesh Pathak

As the ruler of Bijapur, Adilshah, saw that Shivaji, the great Maratha King, continued to expand his kingdom, he sent one after other many of his warriors to contain him. But, whoever came to fight him was sent

back defeated. Lastly, getting frustrated, he sent his most powerful, shrewd and truculent of commanders Afzal Khan to bring Shivaji dead or alive. Faithful to the court of Adilshah, Afjal Khan was strong of a fighter in the battlefield, and merciless of a heart to win it. What an able commander he must have been that it was none other than Aurangzeb who had to eat humble pie before him in his campaign of Bidar and Kalyan. Fortunately he managed to escape; otherwise, he would have either been killed or fallen captive in the hands of Afzal Khan. Setting out for the war against Shivaji he ransacked whichever temple fall on his way, savagely slaughtered thousands of cows, set the standing crops on fire and dishonored the women folk. Terror-stricken, people began to approach Shivaji, pleading to save them from these infernal miseries. But, Shivaji remained calm. He knew well that he could not take on Afzal's many times stronger

army in direct fight. And that he would have to overpower him only tactically. Thus, he receded with his soldiers to Pratap fort; and, soon he was joined by Mawalay soldiers led by Kanhoji Jedhay. Now it was before insurmountable high rising mountain of Mahabaleshwar where stood Pratap fort that Afzal Khan stationed his army. Amid this tense moment Shivaji had to bear one more shock on the personal level - her ailing consort, Saibai, passed away. Here, on the other side, mistaking Shivaji's patience for his timidity, Afzal grew evermore brutal. And, he even destroyed the famous Vithoba temple and, more so, Shivaji's patron goddess Tulja Bhavani's temple too. Sense of shock and discomfiture prevailed among the people. So much so that they even began to lose faith on Shivaji. Hurling abuses on him, many of them even began to comment - "Where is the Hindu Rakshak; where is he hidden now; is he scared of Afzal Khan?"

Meanwhile, Afzal sent a message through an emissary, Krsihna ji Bhaskar - "Hand over to us all the forts and territories usurped by you. If you his valor was being challenged, self-respect was being hurt and his integrity to the purpose and Dharma itself was being doubted by his own people, yet Shivaji maintained the patience. For, he knew how he had to move ahead with his own strategy. Pretending to be greatly frightened of him [Afzal Khan], he sent the message to him - 'I am really scared of you and want to surrender to your refuge, but lacks enough courage to come direct before you there where you are. This would be better if sir you yourself come on the foothills of Pratapgarh. There I would surely come to meet you.' Khan accepted the request of Shivaji; and, time and day was fixed for the meeting. Here, the news through the spies reached to Shivaji of the deception to be masterminded by wily Khan. Though, Khan

knew not that his army was actually surrounded by the Mawlays lurking inside the recesses of the woods. They were to fall upon them as per strategy chalked out beforehand. Swelled with the ego soaring at the pretended discomfiture of Shivaji, Khan reached the destined spot before the stipulated time. Meeting was to take place inside the tent erected for the occasion. On the other side, Shivaji also set upon descending the downhill from the Pratapgarh fort for the historical meeting with a Turk commander. Under the muslin kameez, he wore a very thick proof-jacket; while to safeguard the head there was steel-helmet on it. He was well laced with a small sword kept concealed under the kameez. With him at this moment were his ten close confidantes- Kawji Kondakar, Jiva Mahala Sakpal, Yasaji Kank and such others. Whole Pratapgarh grew tearful to see his beloved king heading to meet unknown future.

**BRIEF**

**Industrial projects**



**Bhubaneswar:** Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik unveiled 19 industrial projects that would entail an investment of Rs 1,650 crore, leading to the creation of around 4,500 jobs. Patnaik inaugurated two plastics units in Cuttack through the virtual mode, and took part in the ground-breaking ceremonies for 17 other projects. The two plastics units set up by Supreme Industries and Ashirvad Pipes will create 470 employment opportunities, officials said. The other projects are in manufacturing, tourism, IT, agro and food processing and pharmaceuticals sectors, among others, they said.

**Brand ambassador**



**New Delhi:** Online gaming platform Zubeen said it has roped in Bollywood star Salman Khan as its brand ambassador. With this association, Zubeen aims to expand its presence in the growing skill-based online gaming space and pave the way to establish skill-based gaming as the most preferred form of meaningful entertainment, the company said in a statement. "We are thrilled to have Salman Khan on board as our brand ambassador."

**Foundation stone**



**Srinagar:** Chairman and managing director of JSW group Sajjan Jindal laid the foundation stone of a new steel processing unit in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir. "Proud to announce that we have laid the foundation stone for our New Steel Processing (sic) unit in #Pulwama - the heart of #Kashmir!" Jindal wrote on Twitter. "Contributing to the growth of the beautiful state of #JammuKashmir," he added. Jindal also posted pictures of the foundation laying ceremony. The Jindal group becomes the first major investor to set its footprint in Kashmir after abrogation of article 370 in 2019. The Jammu and Kashmir administration has said it has received investment proposals worth more than Rs 60,000 crore in the past couple of years. The JSW steel processing unit will come up on an area of 3.5 hectares at an estimated cost of Rs 150 crore.

# Humans need to safeguard themselves from risk related to AI: Niti Aayog Member

**New Delhi, Feb 18:**



Reminding the words of physicist Stephen Hawking that the development of full artificial intelligence 'could spell the end of the human race', Niti Aayog member VK Saraswat appealed for caution in the development of the next generation technology. While speaking at International Conference on Artificial Intelligence 2023, Saraswat shared the benefits and value addition that it can do to the economies but at the same time charted out a list of checks and balances that need to be put in place in the development of AI. "We should not forget what Stephen Hawking, the physicist, said. The development of full artificial intelligence could spell the end of the human race."

Once humans develop artificial intelligence it will take off on its own and redesign itself at an ever increasing rate. Humans who are limited by slow biological evolution could not compete and would be superseded.

Now we have to safeguard ourselves against that," Saraswat said. He said that AI is estimated to contribute USD 1 trillion to the Indian economy

by 2035 but it will have a lot of impact on society at the same time. "AI has a potential to add almost about 1 trillion to India's economy in 2035...the augmentation will be highest about USD 597 billion.

The intelligence automation will be another one which will be USD 277 billion and of course, total factor productivity as we improve is about USD 83 billion and all this will happen through Intelligent Automation human-machine interface and productivity improvement," Saraswat said. He said there are risk factors which are associated with AI and many tend to overlook those risk factors. "If you take a societal risk, risk of automation, weapons proliferation is what we are talking of. We have

the risk of intelligence divide. This may happen. Performance risks are in the terms of risk of errors, risk of bias risk of opaqueness," he said. IBM India and South Asia Managing Director Sandeep Patel said that challenge before India at present is towards scaling AI responsibly.

"Continued focus on AI education and skilling is essential to take advantage of our digital infrastructure. This will not only increase employability but also unlock innovation potential," Patel said. He said that data is a very important component that shapes AI. "Humans and machine data are getting generated everyday and AI is the only way to process this enormous amount of data," Patel said.

## Let us set a target to export organic products worth \$1bn by 2030: Goyal

**New Delhi, Feb 17:**

Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal suggested the industry set a target of exporting organic products worth USD 1 billion by 2030. He said this while addressing an interaction programme with Sikkim Chamber of Commerce and Industry representatives at Gangtok. "He urged to set a target to export USD 1 billion organic product by 2030 from existing USD 1 million organic



produce in Sikkim," the ministry said in a statement. He suggested a laboratory for organic testing in the state - farm-to-lab traceability check. Goyal said that Sikkim has the potential to become a sustainable and organic state. He also informed that the Centre is ready to set up National Institute of Design and National Institute of Packaging Campus in Sikkim if lands are provided by the state government.

## Trai chief asks telcos to improve service quality

**Report call drop data at state level too**

**New Delhi, Feb 18:**

Telecom regulator Trai has asked telcos to report call drop and service quality data at state level, as the regulator instructed operators to immediately improve quality of service and connectivity across the country. Trai chief P D Vaghela met representatives of telecom companies, including Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea, on Friday to review service quality



and asked operators to take necessary steps to reduce call drops. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) has made it clear to operators that it will tighten service quality benchmarks, for which a consultation process will be initiated. Vaghela told reporters that Trai will make the service quality standards more stringent. To start with, Trai will monitor call drop data at the state level too, immediately. At present, the data is collected LSA (licensed service area)-wise and averaged quarterly. This makes it difficult to pinpoint problems, and patchy networks in smaller states. The reporting of data at state level, and at some point perhaps, district level too, is bound to improve service quality.

## Eicher inaugurates new dealership

**Mumbai, Feb 19:**

Eicher Trucks & Buses, a business unit of VE Commercial Vehicles, inaugurated a new 2S (Service and Spares) dealership, G K Automotive Pvt Ltd., in Durg.



With an always customer-first philosophy, Eicher offers a compelling ownership experience to help its customers deliver beyond usual norms through a smart combination of highly efficient products and customized services. Yet another addition to Eicher's rapidly-growing dealership network aims to ensure superior uptime and 24x7 hassle-free support to meet the transport demands

across a variety of applications in Central India. Speaking on the occasion, Ramesh Rajagopalan, SVP, Customer Services and Network Strategy, VECV, said, as our widespread service network grows stronger, we ensure seamless experience, superior uptime and profitability to all our customers operating in mining and power generation sectors across Central India."

## India can attract over USD 20 billion investment in renewables in 2023: Industry estimates

**New Delhi, Feb 18:**

India has the potential to attract an investment of over USD 20 billion in renewables in 2023 and requires a strong framework for sustainable power, say industry experts at the renewable energy conference REConIndia 2023. Based on the discussion at REConIndia 2023, a white paper will be prepared on solar power challenges, roadmap to make green hydrogen viable, propelling wind energy and state of green financing in India, a statement said. The conference was organised by Blue Circle on Friday, where experts, stakeholders and industry leaders deliberated on the

key issues, challenges and opportunities in renewable energy in India. Founder and CEO of Blue Circle Siddharth Anand said, "The industry estimates investment in excess of USD 20 billion in 2023". Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh in December 2022 also pegged the investment in renewables at around USD 25 billion in 2023.

Anand also stated that the REConIndia 2023 brought together key decision-makers, thought leaders, and experts from across the industry, creating a platform for collaborative thinking and problem-solving. Alexander Hogeveen Rutter, Private

## India's mineral production rises 9.8 pc in Dec 2022

**New Delhi, Feb 18:**

India's mineral production rose by 9.8 per cent in December 2022, over the same month a year-ago, according to the mines ministry. The index of mineral production of the mining and quarrying sector for the month of December, 2022 stood at 107.4, 9.8 per cent higher as compared to December, 2021, as per the provisional figures of Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM). The cumulative growth for April-December period this fiscal over the corresponding period of the previous financial year was 5.4 per cent, the mines ministry said in a statement. The production level of important minerals in December were -- coal 833 lakh tonnes, lignite 35 lakh tonnes, natural gas (utilised) 2,888 million cu. m, petroleum (crude) 25 lakh tonnes and bauxite 2,272 thousand tonnes. Minerals like gold, phosphorite, iron ore, limestone, manganese ore and coal showed positive growth. "Other important minerals showing negative growth include: petroleum (-1.2 per cent), bauxite (-9 per cent), lignite (-10.7 per cent), chromite (-11.5 per cent), magnesite (-22.5 per cent) and diamond (-38.6 per cent)," the statement said.

## Amit Mitra urges Sitharaman to call GST Council meeting to address cases of overregulation

**Kolkata, Feb 18:**

The West Bengal government on Friday wrote to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman urging her to call a special meeting of the GST Council to address cases of "massive overregulation" and the current state of the MSMEs that have registered under the GST regime. Dr Amit Mitra, the principal chief advisor to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee as well to the finance department, said in a letter to Sitharaman that the "labyrinthine regulatory structures have engulfed MSMEs in particular, dragging them to an abyss". "I urge you to call a special and exclusive meeting of the GST Council to address the case of massive overregulation and the current state of the MSMEs who have dared to register under the GST regime in their quest to become formal," Mitra wrote in the three-page letter. The former state finance



minister's call for the special meeting came a day before the 49th GST Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Saturday in New Delhi. The meeting will be held two months after it was organised on December 17, 2022.

"As we have moved from one GST council meeting to the next, with the 49th meeting to take place soon, at each meeting we have added layers and layers of rules, notifications, forms, amendments to laws etc. These labyrinthine regulatory structures have engulfed MSMEs in particular, dragging them to an abyss," the letter read.

## Bankers highly optimistic about credit demand across sectors: RBI survey

**Mumbai, Feb 18:**

Bankers are "highly optimistic" about credit demand across all the main sectors in the short term, a RBI survey of lenders said. After sagging for the last two years, the non-food credit growth has been hovering above 15 per cent in FY23.

"We observe that bankers are highly optimistic of credit demand across all the main sectors in the coming quarters, viz., Q4:2022-23 to Q2:2023-24," a paper based on the survey released in the February bulletin of the

RBI said. The Bank Lending Survey provides sentiments of banks on loan demand, loan terms, and their outlook in the near term across major sectors.

It captures senior loan officers' expectations on future credit demand along with adjustments in its terms and conditions and also seeks feedback on prevailing credit market conditions. The current survey covers a panel of top 30 scheduled commercial banks (SCBs), which account for more than 90 per cent of the total outstanding, it said.

## PwC will hire around 30,000 people in India: Moritz

**New Delhi, Feb 18:**

Global consultancy firm PwC will hire around 30,000 people in India in the next couple of years, company Chairman Bob Moritz said on Friday. In a panel discussion at the Global Business Summit organised by the



Economic Times, he said India can be a supplier of that talent to the world, thanks to its technology advancements and the use of AI (artificial intelligence), which the rest of the world doesn't have that skill set. "So, today we've got about 31,000 people. Just so we're clear, and some of that's

been reported on this, and our plan is to hire another 30,000 in the next couple of years. "That's the boldness," Moritz said when asked about the company's headcount in India. Schneider Electric Chairman & CEO Jean-Pascal Tricoire also said he was "super optimistic about India".

"There is no other place in the world where we have invested most, more than in India over the past 20 years...India is today our third largest business in the world after the US and China," he said. Further, he said, "We believe in India, we are committed to India now."

# Married Women's Property Act, 1874

**An exclusive claim to your wife and child(ren)**

Today, we are living in the world of uncertainties. The first priority for every family man is the financial security of his spouse and child(ren) in case of an unforeseen event. However, if a person takes loan or credit from any bank, financial institution or any other creditor, such creditor has a claim over the assets of that married man. Also, in case a married man is living in a joint family, there can be claimants (other than wife and child(ren)) over the assets of that married man. Now, if that married man wants to secure the financial future of his wife and child(ren), without any claim from his creditors or other family members, the solution

is the insurance policy under Section 6 of Married Women's Property Act (MWPA), 1874. Section 6 of MWPA states that "a policy of insurance effected by any married man on his own life, and expressed on the face of it to be for the benefit of his wife, or of his wife and children, or any of them, shall endure and be deemed to be a trust for the benefit of his wife, or of his wife and children, or any of them, according to the interest so expressed, and shall not, so long as any object of the trust remains, be subject to the control of the husband, or to his creditors, or form part of his estate". This means that any insurance policy taken by a married man on his own life and endorsed under the MWPA in favor of his wife or child(ren) or any of them, will always be their property. None of the husband's credi-

tors or relatives will have any right over the policy. Interestingly, the husband himself will also not have rights to benefits of the policy, if any. The life insurance policy purchase under MWPA will be considered as a trust. Only the trustees will have control over the policy including its servicing and the receipt of the benefit amount. In case of a death claim, the policy proceeds are received by the trust and can only be claimed by trustees. It cannot be claimed by creditors, relatives or form a part of his will. The trust shall be holding the claim proceeds for the benefit of the wife and/or child(ren), as the case may be. The policyholder does not have any control over the policy. Even in the event of divorce, if the policyholder does not want the proceeds to go to his wife

and wants to change the beneficiaries, the beneficiaries will not change. The insurance policy will remain for the benefit of his ex-wife and children. Now the question arises that in case we purchase a life insurance saving plan under MWPA and we require some urgent funds, can this policy be surrendered with the permission of beneficiary or trustee. There is an interesting judgment of the Gujarat High Court in the case of The Life Insurance Corporation of India vs. SaubhagayandT.Vasa (supra) which deals with the above aspects. The judgement upheld the decree of the trial Court that the trustee is entitled to surrender the policy for the benefit of beneficiary. In a similar case before Delhi High Court, in Harmeetpal Singh Bindra&Ors vs Citibank

&Anr, the wife of the policyholder was appointed as a Special Trustee under the policy and the two children were made the beneficiary. The Court also held that as per Section 8 of the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956, the natural guardian of a Hindu minor has power to do all acts which are necessary or reasonable and proper for the benefit of the minor or for the realization, protection or benefit of the minor's estate. Accordingly, the Special Trustee may surrender the policy for the benefit of beneficiary. **Disclaimer:** The views expressed in this article are personal to the authors. This article is not an insurance advertisement for solicitation of insurance policies by any insurer. **Authors:** Lokesh Sharma and Nikhil Kalra

## Tara is surprised by things happening around her in the 21st century

Dhruv Tara, Sony SAB's upcoming family romance drama, follows the journey of Dhruv (played by Ishaan Dhawan) and Tara (played by Riya Sharma), who are from two different eras. The show is set to break through the clutter with a love story never seen on television before. Tara, a princess from the 17th century, travels against the grain of time and arrives in the present day, where she meets Dhruv. Sony SAB's consistent focus is on creating good content and bringing to life shows which appeal to each family member. With Dhruv Tara, they are set to bring an exciting show, which will captivate audiences with its engaging narrative and unique characters. Dhruv Tara is set to premiere on television on 20th February every Monday to Saturday at 8 PM only on Sony SAB.

**Excerpts of interview:**  
1. What is your take on modern-day love and relationships? And how do you think this is different from the kind of love that was there in the 17th century?

It is true that we have come a long way in terms



of technology and modernization, and this has had an impact on our relationships and the way we communicate as well. Love was simpler in the

past although communication options were limited. In the past, couples accepted each other despite their differences. However, the modern era

allows individuals to choose their partner and allows them to get to know the person before committing. I feel it's a matter of personal preference and it's tough to say love in which era was better, but what's interesting is that how two people with very diverse lives come together in this beautiful journey and our show Dhruv Tara will also showcase one such intense love story between people two divergent worlds.

**2. What kind of preparation has gone into making this character come to life on the screen?**

Tara is a smart girl who is surprised by things happening around her in the 21st century. Honestly, I haven't undergone a specific kind of training for bringing this character to life. I am going with the flow and improvising as the scene demands. This approach can be effective in creating a believable and authentic character, and you can always adjust your performance based on the feedback you receive from the director and other members of the team. Blending my own characteristics with those of Tara creates a believ-

able and relatable performance. And while continuing to work on the role, I did discover new aspects of the character that I have brought to life on screen.

**3. How has been the experience of donning the character of a princess on-screen?**

Well, it has been surreal feeling to get into the shoes of a princess and it did take a few workshops for me to get it right. It's very unlikely in our normal lives, but yes, I got an open canvas to experiment with character. The challenging part of the character is the heavy costumes, as the look is filled with layering's and ornaments. Though costumes play a significant role in helping you to bring the character to life on screen, shooting an action sequence can be challenging. The costumes on you look beautiful and they enhance your performance. Costumes can be an important tool for actors in immersing themselves in their roles and can add an extra layer of realism.

Dhruv Tara - Samay Sadi se Pare premieres on Sony SAB on 20th February, Monday - Saturday, 8 PM!

## 'Jehanabad' has earned her respect as an actress: Harshita Gaur

Actress Harshita Gaur, whose show 'Jehanabad - Of Love & War' is gaining momentum on the streaming space, is chuffed with the kind of response the show has garnered. Harshita's earlier show 'Mirzapur' commands a mind-boggling fan following courtesy the countless memes that it has given to the pop-culture. The actress feels that while 'Mirzapur' brought her an unprecedented mass success, 'Jehanabad' has got her respect as an actress. The actress said: "In terms of premise, 'Mirzapur' and 'Jehanabad' may look similar but my characters in both these shows are poles apart. While 'Mirzapur' brought me mass success, I'm humbled with the kind of appreciation and the respect that I have got for my work in 'Jehanabad'. I'm grateful to have both these shows in my filmography." She further spoke about how she approached her character of a college girl in the web-series. For the same, Harshita tapped into her younger self to ignite her creative impulses and craft the character. She said: "I went back in time and worked around the character as to how I behaved during my college. After the narration, I decided to drop all my guards and tap into the vulnerable side of myself as a person because that's how college students are: naive, vulnerable and feel a lot more deeper than an older person. If something affected me, I would let it affect me in a natural way rather than me trying to erect an emotional firewall."



## Urvashi cheers for recuperating Rishabh Pant, calls him 'India's pride'

Actress Urvashi Rautela has called Rishabh Pant "India's pride" and "asset" after learning about his health. Urvashi was pictured at Mumbai airport, where she was asked by paparazzi Viral Bhayani about the condition of cricketer Rishabh Pant, who is undergoing treatment after a car accident a few months ago.

The paparazzi asked her about the cricketer's



post about his recovery. Urvashi, who looked drop-dead-gorgeous in a fiery red coloured outfit, seemed awkward and asked: "Kaunsi photo?"

She replied: "He is an asset to our country, India's pride." The cameraperson replied that their good wishes are with him.

To which, Urvashi said: "Hamari bhi (Mine as well)." Urvashi opted for a red outfit for her airport look.

## Rajesh, Anita and Yashoda seek blessings at Lord Shiva's temples

To celebrate one of India's largest and most sacred festivals, Mahashivratri, &TV artists Kamna Pathak (Rajesh), Hattu Ki Ultan Paltan), Vidisha Srivastava (Anita Bhabhi, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai) and Neha Joshi (Yashoda, Doosri Maa), visited the most revered Lord Shiva temples. Vidisha Srivastava (Anita Bhabhi) visited her hometown, Varanasi, to attend the Shiv Mahotsav at the world-famous Kashi Vishwanath temple. Kamna Pathak (Rajesh Singh) visited her hometown Indore and then witnessed the grand celebration at one of the most revered Lord Shiva temples in Ujjain - the



Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga temple. Neha Joshi (Yashoda) sought blessings at Haridwar's famous Shiv temple - Shiv Ki Pauri.

Talking about her visit to the famous Shiv Ki Pauri temple in Haridwar, Neha Joshi, essaying Yashoda in &TV's Doosri Maa, says, "Mahashivratri is cele-

brated with much fervour and enthusiasm in Haridwar. And I consider myself fortunate to have witnessed this magical moment in this holy town. I began my day with Ganga aarti and later sought blessings at Shiva's temple. I also saw the famous Prakasheshwar Mahayatra, in which Shiva's gans (attendants) dressed as ghosts and rakshasas (demons) chanted 'bum-bum bhole,' which was an amazing experience. I had always heard about and seen pictures of the celebration but seeing it in person was surreal. I am grateful and would like to wish everyone a Happy Mahashivratri."

## 'Rashtra Kavach Om' to premiere on &pictures today



"Rakht rahe ya na rahe, rashtra hamesha rahega," booming with intense patriotism, Rashtra Kavach Om featuring Aditya Roy Kapur as Om Rathore and Sanjana Sanghi as Kavya Sharma in the lead is all set to hit your television screens this Sunday on 19th February only on &pictures.

Directed by debutante director Kapil Verma, the film marks Aditya Roy Kapur's first out-and-out action drama and narrates a story about patriotism, faith, and betrayal. The action adventure, which also features Jackie Shroff, Ashutosh Rana and Prakash Raj in pivotal roles, has a gripping narrative coupled with exciting and powerful mo-

ments and is a must-watch for all action lovers. With power packed action sequences and mysterious secrets, Om will keep you at the edge of your seat. The film traces the journey of para commando Om Rathore who is on a mission to extract the Kavach, nation's defence against nuclear attack. With the enemies constantly creating hurdles on his way, Om proves his valour by risking his life. With a combination of hand-to-hand combat, aerial stunts, pulsating action Rashtra Kavach Om definitely will get your adrenaline pumping. Yeh kavach counter karega har attack with the premiere of Rashtra Kavach Om this Sunday February 19 at 8pm on &pictures.

## Shah Rukh feels Hindi cinema is part of every Indians' DNA

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan along with Karan Johar, late actor Rishi Kapoor and Abhishek Bachchan in 'The Romantics' open their hearts about how the Hindi film industry has the power to shape pop culture for India and Indians. Shah Rukh feels Hindi cinema is part of our DNA and they spread joy and love in the world. He says, "Our cinema is as much a part of our lives in India, as much as you wake up in the morning and brush your teeth. It's just an inherent part of us. There's beauty in the cinema that Indian filmmakers have stuck vis-a-vis music or keeping it still like a musical format." Karan Johar says our films try to

depict the country's culture in the most vibrant way possible. He says: "We're an incredible place. We're a country of so many cultures and so many religions. There are the colours of Rajasthan, the beaches of South India, the magnanimity and large-heartedness of North." Rishi Kapoor is proud of how the Hindi film industry has made our nation proud globally. He says, "We're definitely a force to reckon with the world as far as cinema is concerned. We're the largest film-making country in the world. The way the West perceives Indian cinema is not about sadhus, it's not about snake charmers, not about elephants, and cows. We have come a long way." Meanwhile, Abhishek Bachchan feels Hindi films are truly unique.

## CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

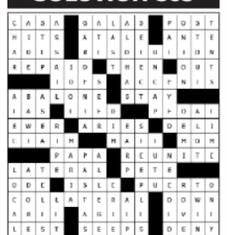
- Astonished
- Bullring shouts
- Competitor
- Gambling city
- Uninteresting
- Make disappear
- Fabricated
- Foolhardy
- Vapors
- Extra work hours
- Macaroni and spaghetti

### DOWN

- Knight's suit
- Make cloth
- Came to a close
- Go-getter
- Host Conan
- Peruvian animals
- Relieved
- Quiet!
- Sailboat race
- Levin and Gershwin
- Huge
- Adrift
- Minus
- Thunder sound
- Pasta
- Chauffeur car
- Dishonor
- Folding beds
- Supervisor
- Blemish
- Refined

- Raw material
- Clothing
- Weird
- Modifies
- Easy chair
- Clothing stand
- Rim
- On cloud
- Shaquille
- Pasture sounds
- Fling
- Squander
- Large vases
- Dollar bills
- Reside
- Hymn ending
- Red wine
- Damage
- Oozes
- SOS!
- City in Washington
- Portland's state
- School playtime
- House annex
- Zeal
- Scallion
- Compact
- Garb
- Declare openly
- Comedian
- Carvey
- Pub potables
- Soil enricher
- Division word
- Outback bird

### SOLUTION 565



# Indian stars wilt under pressure from Lyon & Co

**Axar, Ashwin rescued India**

**New Delhi, Feb 18 (PTD):**

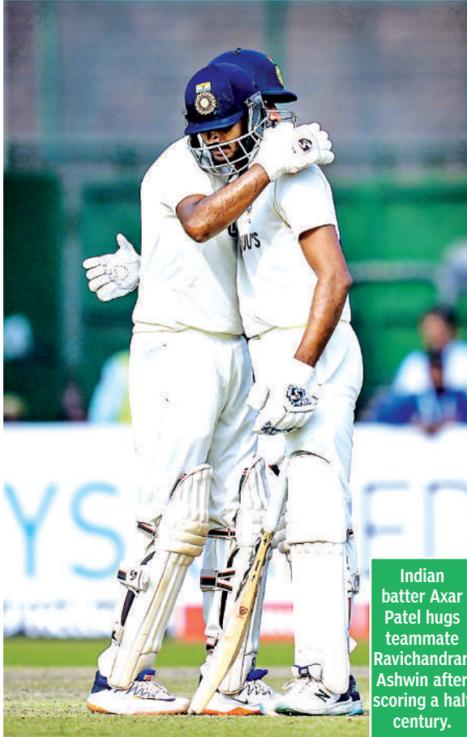
Axar Patel and Ravichandran Ashwin added another significant chapter to India's lower-order fightbacks as their priceless 114-run eighth-wicket partnership put the hosts on an even keel against Australia on an engrossing second day of the second Test here on Saturday.

Thanks to Axar's invaluable 74 off 115 balls and Ashwin's 37 off 71 balls, India, who were in complete mess at 139/7, recovered well to end their first innings at 262 in 83.3 overs, just one run behind Australia's 263.

At stumps, Australia were 61/1 in their second innings, taking a handy 62-run lead.

Had the two all-rounders not bailed the hosts out, Australia would have been far more happy than they actually were at stumps on Saturday.

Travis Head (39 batting), David Warner, and Marnus Labuschagne (16 batting) attacked the Indian spinners, knowing that defend-



Indian batter Axar Patel hugs teammate Ravichandran Ashwin after scoring a half century.

### Brief Scores

**Australia:** 263 all out and 61 for 1 in 12 overs (Travis Head 39 not out; Ravindra Jadeja 1/23)  
**India 1st Innings:** 262 all out in 83.3 overs (Axar Patel 74, Virat Kohli 44; Nathan Lyon 5/67).

ing wasn't an option. They picked up a handful of boundaries in the process. As has been the script over the past few years, batter No.6 (Jadeja), No.8 (Ashwin) and No.9 (Axar) were at the forefront of the recovery act after specialist batters were caught in two minds on whether to attack or defend against the Australian spinners led by Nathan Lyon (5/67 in 29 overs), who grabbed his 22nd five-wicket haul.

There were no demons in the track but a few cracks on the good- and short-of-good-length spots on both sides of the strip led the ball to keep low.

Most top-order India batters were adjudged leg-before on the front-foot, barring skipper Rohit

Sharma, who was bowled playing across the line. The worrying trend was India batters playing the Australian spinners with their pads as the first line of defence.

However, Axar and Ashwin applied the strategy to consistently counter-attack the bowlers despite the fall of seven wickets. Instead of plonking the front-foot forward, they used the pace of the deliveries from Todd Murphy (2/53 in 18 overs) and debutant left-arm spinner Matt Kuhnemann (2/72 in 21.3 overs), to score runs.

Axar got his third fifty - and a second consecutive one in the series - with a six over cow corner off Kuhnemann and another over extra cover off Murphy. He also hit a six off Lyon, but his standout shot was a back-foot punch through the covers off Pat Cummins.

Ashwin too was determined at the other end and did not let go of the scoring opportunities as Australia lost the initiative after dominating the better part of the first one-and-a-half sessions on Saturday.

# Renuka's fifer in vain as England beat India by 11 runs

**Gqeberha, Feb 18 (PTD):**

Medium pacer Renuka Singh's five-for in vain as England beat India by 11 runs to post their 3rd win in ICC Women's T20 World Cup match here on Saturday.

Richa Ghosh fought hard for her team till the last over but she failed to get India over the line as England won the match by 11 runs. Excellent captaincy from Heather Knight for using their bowlers well in this game. It was a close match where India had a chance to end their losing streak against England in T20 World Cup but the batters failed to live up to the expectations apart from Smriti Mandhana and Ghosh as India lost by 11 runs. Only Smriti Mandhana the other batter scored 52 for India.

Earlier, Renuka (5/15) did the early damage picking up the first three wickets to peg England back and then returned to take two more wickets towards the fag end of the innings.

India made a perfect start after opting to bowl as Renuka induced a faint outside edge from Danni Wyatt and Richha Ghosh gleefully accepted the chance in the third deliv-



ery of the day. Renuka was on fire as she accounted for two more English batters in her next two overs to hand India the upper hand after skipper Harmanpreet Kaur won the toss and elected to bowl.

Renuka first cleaned up Alice Capsey in the third over and then came back to disturb the woodwork of Sophie Dunkley in her next over as England slumped to 29 for 3 in 4.4 overs. Thereafter, Nat Sciver-Bruno and skipper Heather Knight (28) took the attack to the opposition and played aggressively.

The duo shared a 51-run stand off just 38 balls to give some impetus to England's innings.

But just when the partnership was looking

threatening, Shikha Pandey broke the stand picking up her first wicket since October 2021.

It was a lucky breakthrough for Pandey as Knight picked out Shafali Verma in the covers - the only fielder inside the circle - from a juicy full toss outside off.

Nat Sciver did all the hard work en route her 42-ball 50 but gave away her wicket when England needed her the most, caught by Smriti Mandhana at short third man off Deepti Sharma's bowling as the batter went for a reverse sweep, only to miscue it. In the final over of England's innings, Renuka accounted for Amy Jones (40 off 27) and Katherine Sciver-Bruno to record her best T20I bowling figures.

# Tiwary, Majumdar fifties help Bengal launch fightback

**Kolkata, Feb 18:**

Shahbaz Ahmed and Manoj Tiwary, the man who faced opposition from certain quarters to include this "outsider" in their main squad four years ago, are faced with an uphill battle of keeping Bengal alive in their Ranji Trophy final at Eden Gardens.

At 169 for 4, having fought through a testing last half hour against fading light and reverse swing from Saurashtra's skilful seam attack, Tiwary and Shahbaz have ensured Bengal live to fight another day. They still trail by 61, with Tiwary unbeaten on 57 and Shahbaz 13.

Bengal would've given an arm and a leg to ensure they didn't lose Anustup Majumdar's wicket with stumps looming, but were scuppered by Jaydev Unadkat yet again during the course of a superb spell late on day three.

That Bengal are still in with a chance, however slim, is because their bowlers had a much better outing on Saturday. It all began with Mukesh



Saurashtra's bowler Chetan Sakariya celebrates the wicket of Bengal's batter Abhimanyu Easwaran.

Kumar removing overnight batter Arpit Vasavada with an away-going delivery off the fifth ball for 81. In a relentless

first spell where he made the ball talk, he had Jani next with a delivery that left him late to kiss the edge for 60.

# Asia Cup: Broadcast deal could be in jeopardy

**Karachi, Feb 18 (PTD):**

A long-term lucrative media rights deal between the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) and the broadcaster could be in jeopardy if a solution is not found quickly to break the deadlock between India and Pakistan on the issue of hosting of the Asia Cup.

The Asia Cup has been allotted to Pakistan but due to the prevailing political tensions between the neighbours, BCCI has said India will not send its team for the tournament in September and would rather want the continental event to be moved to the UAE or Sri Lanka.

However, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has so far not agreed to the demand, leading to a stalemate.

In the event of India withdrawing from the Asia Cup in Pakistan, the tournament will lose its sheen and the broadcaster could incur heavy losses with no riveting India-Pakistan clashes.

A source said that under the long-term agreement between the ACC and the broadcaster, it is mandatory that Pakistan and India play each other at least twice, or thrice, in the regional multi-team event. "It is not possible to have the Asia Cup

without Pakistan and India matches. This is the understanding on which the agreement is based," the source said.

He said the broadcasters have been guaranteed that the arch-rivals will play at least twice before the final as it happened during the Asia Cup in 2022 in the UAE. "Without Pakistan and India matches, the broadcasting agreement goes awry," he warned.

The source added that during the last ACC executive board meeting, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief, Najam Sethi, had made it clear that Pakistan wants to host the tournament, and they were willing to give all security guarantees to the participating teams, including India.

"Sethi has not said that the PCB could consider being hosts and split the matches between venues in Pakistan and UAE to allow India to play in UAE," the source said.

There have been suggestions that while other participating countries can play in Pakistan, the big-ticket India-Pakistan clash could be moved to the UAE. And if India and Pakistan make it to the final, the summit clash should be held in the UAE.

# Indian junior women's hockey team beats South Africa 8-1

**New Delhi, Feb 18 (PTD):**

The Indian junior women's hockey team began its campaign in South Africa with a convincing 8-1 win over the hosts.

The visitors displayed good structure in their attack with successive goals coming their way from the very first minute of the match.

Goals were scored by Deepika Sr. (1', 30'), vice captain Rujata Dadaso Pisal (18'), Hritika Singh (20'), Sunelita Toppo (28'), Deepika Soreng (36') and Annu (44') on Friday.

For South Africa, Mikkela Le Roux (36') was the lone goal scorer.

The Indian junior women's team will play two more matches against the South Africa U-21 team on Saturday and Monday followed by two games against South Africa 'A' team on February 24 and 25 respectively.

# Smriti Mandhana named RCB captain for WPL



**Bengaluru, Feb 18 (PTD):**

Royal Challengers Bangalore have expectedly named senior India batter Smriti Mandhana as their captain for the inaugural Women's Premier League (WPL).

The left-handed India vice-captain was signed in the recent auction held in Mumbai for Rs 3.40 crore, the highest price for a player in the WPL auction.

The announcement was made through a video shared on the franchise's social media handles, which had messages from RCB talisman Virat Kohli and current men's team skipper Faf du Plessis. "Now it's time for another No. 18 to lead a very special RCB team in WPL. Yes, we are talking about Smriti Mandhana. Go on Smriti. You will have the

support of the best team and the best fans in the world," Kohli said. On announcing Mandhana as the captain, RCB chairman Prathmesh Mishra said: "Smriti is central to our play bold philosophy and cricketing plans. We have handed her the leadership role, and we are confident that Smriti will lead RCB into greater heights." On her role as the RCB women's team captain, Mandhana said: "It is such a great feeling to see Virat and Faf speak so much about leading RCB and I would like to thank RCB management for giving me this amazing opportunity. I am looking forward to receiving all the love and support from you fans who I am told are the best in the World. I promise you to give my 100% to lead RCB to success in WPL."

# Broad's magical spell puts England in command

**Mount Maunganui, Feb 18 (AP):**

Stuart Broad and Bazball rolled over New Zealand on the third day of the first day-night cricket test Saturday, leaving England five wickets from its 10th win in 11 test matches.

Rapid half centuries by Joe Root, Harry Brook and Ben Foakes allowed England to speed along at more than five runs per over to 374 in its second innings, an overall lead of 393.

Stuart Broad then clean bowled Devon Conway (12), Kane Williamson (0), Tom Latham (15) and first innings century-maker Tom Blundell (1) to take out the batters who might have been able to anchor New Zealand's highest successful fourth-innings run chase in tests and the sixth highest of all time. When



Blundell was out New Zealand was 28-5 and it had improved a little by stumps when it was 63-5, still 330 behind. Daryl Mitchell, who was 13, and Michael Bracewell, who was 25, saw out the last 10 overs of the day.

Broad's four wickets lifted his tally of test wickets in partnership with James Anderson to 1,004, surpassing the Australian combination of Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne (1,001), who previously were the most prolific wicket-taking pair in tests. "I feel very blessed that I was born in the same era as (Anderson) so that I could draw of the other end to him," Broad said. "I felt like it was the perfect dryness of pitch today for my kind of bowling. I could slam the ball into the pitch but it was still skidding and hitting the stumps."

# Nagal bows out in Chennai Open semifinals



USA's Nicolas Moreno De Alboran returns to India's Sumit Nagal during their men's singles semifinals match at the Chennai Open 2023 tennis tournament.

**Chennai, Feb 18 (PTD):**

Sumit Nagal lost in straight sets against Nicolas Moreno De Alboran in the semifinals as the Indian challenge ended in the singles draw of the Chennai Open ATP Challenger tournament here on Saturday.

Nagal, who came through the qualifying rounds, went down 4-6 2-6 to his American opponent in a 1 hour and 39 minutes.

The 25-year old Nagal, who had returned very well during his previous matches, was put under pressure by his opponent. For a change, De Alboran returned superbly to put the Indian under pressure.

The power-hitting American secured three service breaks against two for Nagal to snatch the first set. In the second set, De Alboran was dominant, serving well and broke twice to win it, dropping

# Khade and Clarke win doubles title

India's Arjun Khade teamed up with Jay Clarke of Great Britain to beat Sebastian Ofner and Nino Serdarusic 6-0 6-4 in the final to claim the doubles title. Khade and Clarke were dominant in the opening set, winning it without dropping a game. In the second, the two teams were level at 4-all. Clarke held serve in the ninth game before the duo broke their opponents to secure the victory. Results: Men's singles (Semifinals): Nicolas Moreno De Alboran (USA) beat Sumit Nagal (India) 6-4 6-2; Max Purcell (Australia) beat Dane Sweeny (Australia) 6-4 7-6. Doubles (Final): Arjun Khade (India) and Jay Clarke (Britain) beat Sebastian Ofner (Austria) and Nino Serdarusic (Croatia) 6-0 6-4.



only two games. Meanwhile, Max Purcell beat Dane Sweeny 6-4 7-6 (3)

in a battle of Australians to set up a final against De Alboran.

## PRAYERS FOR PEACE AND WELL-BEING



Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais offers prayers at the Siddhivinayak temple in Mumbai, Saturday.

## 12 cheetahs from SA released into quarantine enclosures

■ At Kuno National Park

Sheopur (MP), Feb 18 (PTI):

Hours after 12 cheetahs were brought to Madhya Pradesh from South Africa on Saturday, they were released into the quarantine enclosures at the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Sheopur district of the state. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivrang Singh Chouhan and Union Minister for Environment and Forests Bhubender Yadav released these felines into the quarantine bomas after they were transported to the KNP from Gwalior around noon.

An Indian Air Force (IAF) plane carrying them in wooden boxes from



Crates with 12 cheetahs being shifted upon their arrival from South Africa, at Air Force Station, Gwalior, Saturday.

South Africa had arrived at Gwalior airport around 10 am. From there, they were flown to the KNP in IAF helicopters.

These cheetahs - seven males and five females - comprise the second set of big cats coming to the state, with the first group

of eight from Namibia having been released into the KNP on September 17 last year at a function by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. With the addition of these 12 members, the count of cheetahs at the KNP has gone up to 20. "The cheetahs from South

Africa have been quarantined," Kuno Divisional Forest Officer P K Verma told PTI from the spot.

These animals had embarked on a journey to their new home thousands of miles away aboard an IAF transport aircraft from the O R Tambo International Airport, Gauteng in South Africa shortly before midnight, a project participant and expert said earlier.

The intercontinental translocation of these fastest land animals - first from Namibia and now from South Africa - is part of the Indian government's ambitious cheetah reintroduction programme. The country's last cheetah died in Koriya district of present-day Chhattisgarh in 1947 and the species was declared extinct in 1952.

## Yakshagana art form breaking new ground

■ Reaching wider audiences

Mangaluru, Feb 18 (PTI):

The recent state-level Yakshagana Sammelana established the fact that the rich folk art is thriving in coastal Karnataka and charting a new course for its future with more participation of women performers apart from reaching out to new audiences.

The two-day Sammelana held in Udipi on February 12 and 13 which had exhibitions, seminars and shows related to the traditional art form was successful in its intent. The idea was to create a space

for the art form in the entire state and spread the message of Yakshagana across the globe, with efforts made by the state department of Kannada and Culture and Sammelana president M Prabhakara Joshi. Joshi, a Yakshagana scholar, said at the event that the government should pursue attempts to get UNESCO intangible cultural heritage recognition for the art form, and demanded that a task force be constituted to find a space for performances at national and international level cultural platforms. On reconstructing Yakshagana in its entirety, he said the dance-drama art form should

move from 'noise culture' towards 'voice culture'.

A matured theatre does not accept 'loud noise' and bright lighting system used during Yakshagana performances of late, which is not good for performers and the audience, Joshi added. Tulu language and culture should be given due credit to the growth of Yakshagana. The performing troupes should think seriously on maintaining quality in performance and not push Yakshagana into deformity, he asserted during the event. The traditional elements of Yakshagana, if lost, will be a 'permanent cultural loss', the scholar pointed out.

## Amit Shah visits Deekshabhoomi

■ Dr Hedgewar Smruti Mandir

Nagpur, Feb 18 (PTI):

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday visited Deekshabhoomi monument and Dr Hedgewar Smruti Mandir at Reshimbagh area in Nagpur.

Shah visited Deekshabhoomi, where Dr B R Ambedkar converted to Buddhism along with his followers in 1956, and paid tributes to the architect of the Indian Constitution. He paid the visit around 10.30 am.

After that, the senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) visited Dr Hedgewar Smruti



Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis pay tribute to Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) founder Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, at Hedgewar Smruti Mandir in Nagpur, Saturday.

Mandir in Reshimbagh. It is a memorial of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) founder Dr

K B Hedgewar. Shah paid tributes to Dr Hedgewar and RSS ideologue M S Golwalkar.

## Fighting all odds, teen girl donates liver to ailing father

Kochi, Feb 18 (PTI): A 17-year-old girl has donated a portion of her liver to save her ailing father, suffering from chronic liver disease with hepatocellular cancer at a hospital here, considered to be the first such case in the country.

The surgery was carried out at the Rajagiri Hospital here on February 9, a hospital statement said. Devananda (17), a native of Kolazhy in nearby Thrissur district, recently bagged a favourable order from the Kerala High Court to donate liver to her father as he could not find a suitable donor.

According to the Transplantation of Human Organ Act, 1994, the provisions do not permit donation of organs from minors.

## 'Collegium system of appointment of judges near perfect model'



Justice U U Lalit

New Delhi, Feb 18 (PTI):

Former Chief Justice of India Justice U U Lalit said on Saturday the collegium system of appointment of judges is a near perfect model which is "fool proof".

Speaking at an event organised by 'Campaign for Judicial Accountability and Reforms' (CJAR) on 'Judicial Appointments and Reforms', Justice Lalit said a rigorous process is involved in recom-

mending names for judgement of constitutional courts.

"According to me, we don't have a system better than the collegium system. If we don't have anything qualitatively better than the collegium system, naturally, we must work towards making it possible that this collegium system survives.

Today the model as per which we work is a near perfect model," the ex-CJI said. Justice Lalit, who retired in November 2022, said judiciary is in a better position to adjudicate on the merits of the potential candidates as they have seen their work over the years.

"When the matter reaches the SC collegium, there is a fully perfect situation, whether the name be accepted or not to be accepted. It's not as if it is a whimsical exercise taken by someone. It's a fool proof arrangement," he said.

## SHAH JAHAN'S URS



People gather at Taj Mahal during Shah Jahan's 368th Urs, in Agra, Saturday.

## 'Show thief sting of honeybees'

■ UDDHAV TO SUPPORTERS

Mumbai, Feb 18 (PTI):

A day after the Election Commission recognized the rival faction led by Eknath Shinde as the real Shiv Sena, Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday asked his supporters to teach a lesson to the "thief" who stole the party's 'bow and arrow' symbol. Addressing party workers outside the Thackeray residence 'Matoshree' in suburban Bandra from a car with sunroof, he said they should start preparing for elections.

The EC decision, which deprived Uddhav of the control of the party founded by his father late Bal Thackeray in 1966, came at a time when elections to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation are long due. Thackeray said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Prime Minister Narendra Modi should know that they will never be able to finish off the Shiv Sena despite using the state machinery which has become their slave.

"Are you scared? I have nothing to give you now," he asked the gathering. His supporters shouted back that they were not, and asked him to give directions for the next move. "We should not rest till we teach the thief a



Former Maha CM Uddhav Thackeray addresses supporters outside Matoshree, at Bandra in Mumbai, Saturday.

lesson in elections. Start preparing for elections immediately," said

Thackeray who had to resign as Maharashtra Chief Minister last June

after Eknath Shinde and a majority of Sena MLAs rebelled against his leadership.

Maha Shivratri fell on Saturday and Shiv Jayanti or birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was on Sunday, and this time was chosen "to rob the Shiv Sena's name and symbol", Thackeray said. "The thief has hurled a stone at a beehive. But he has not experienced the sting of honeybees," Thackeray said.

Chief Minister Shinde would not be able to carry off the "stolen bow and arrow" and will collapse like the mythological demon king Ravana who could not lift the Shiv Dhanush, he said.

Never before the EC had awarded the symbol and party name to one faction in such disputes and the symbol was always put under a freeze in such situations, Thackeray said.

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## PFI CONSPIRACY CASE NIA carries out searches at 7 locations in Raj

New Delhi, Feb 18 (PTI):

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday conducted searches at seven locations in Rajasthan in connection with a case pertaining to unlawful activities by the banned outfit Popular Front of India (PFI), an official said. The raids were conducted

at three places in Kota and one each in Madhopur, Bhilwara, Bundi and Jaipur districts on residential and commercial premises of suspects, a spokesperson of the federal anti-terror agency said. During the searches, the official said, digital devices, an airgun, sharp weapons and incriminating documents were seized.

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