



### BRIEF



Tribals Bomman and Bellie pose for photographs after meeting TN CM K. Stalin, at the State Secretariat in Chennai, Wednesday.

### Fire

**New Delhi:** A fire broke out at Delhi Police's cyber crime police station in Rohini on Wednesday, officials said. No injury has been reported so far, they said. A call about the blaze on ground floor of the police station was received at 3 pm following which five fire tenders were rushed to the spot, officials said.

### Award

**New Delhi:** Dhanya Rajendran of The News Minute has been declared the winner of the Chameli Devi Jain Award for an Outstanding Woman Mediaperon for 2022, the Media Foundation announced on Wednesday. Bengaluru-based Rajendran is the co-founder and editor-in-chief of digital news platform The News Minute.

### Escape

**New Delhi:** A former employee of the French Embassy here who allegedly perpetrated a massive fraud by issuing visa to hundreds of people, including his parents, on the basis of fake documents without the knowledge and approval of sanctioning authority has escaped from India, officials said. The CBI had booked Shubham Shokeen and another former employee Aarti Mandal in the case on the basis of a complaint from the French Embassy.

### Condole

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday condoled the loss of lives due to Cyclone Freddy in Malawi, Mozambique and Madagascar, and said India stands with them in this tough time. Cyclone Freddy has barreled through Mozambique and Malawi since late last week, killing hundreds and displacing thousands more. It also pummeled the islands of Madagascar and R union last month as it traversed the Indian Ocean, according to media reports.

### Terminate

**Itanagar:** The Arunachal Pradesh government has terminated two Group A officers in connection with the Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) paper leak issue. The two officers were holding the posts of Agriculture Development Officer (ADO) and are currently lodged at Jolly district jail near here, in connection with the case, officials at the agriculture department said.

**Weather**  
High 35 Low 22

**MARKET**  
NIFTY 16,972.15  
SENSEX 57,555.90

**BULLION**  
GOLD 58,270  
SILVER 67,470

### DIN IN STATE ASSLY

## BJP accuses state govt of failing to implement PMAY

Raipur, Mar 15:

The opposition BJP on Wednesday said the Congress government in Chhattisgarh has failed to properly implement the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in the state due to which 16 lakh houses for the poor could not be constructed.

Raising the issue in zero hour during the ongoing budget session, Bharatiya Janata Party MLAs, including Dharamlal Kaushik, Shivratna Sharma and Ajay Chandrakar, sought a discussion on the issue by moving an adjournment motion notice. The BJP legislators said the PMAY was launched by the Centre in 2015, and in other states, houses are being constructed for the



poor "but in Chhattisgarh, the entitled beneficiaries are wandering door to door". "People are staging a protest on Wednesday against the state government on the issue," they said. The demand of the BJP camp for a discussion on the adjournment notice led to an uproar in the House as Congress MLAs countered their charges.

As the chair rejected the demand, BJP MLAs started raising slogans against the state government. Amid the pandemonium, the House proceedings were adjourned for five minutes. The BJP had planned to gherao the state Assembly on Wednesday to protest the state government's "failure" to implement the PMAY.

## CUET to be conducted in 3 shifts

**Merger with JEE, NEET to be announced 2 yrs in advance**

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

The Common University Entrance Test (CUET)-UG will be conducted in three shifts this year instead of two and plans for its merger with crucial entrance exams like JEE and NEET will be announced at least two years in advance, according to UGC chairman M Jagadeesh Kumar.

In an interview to PTI, Kumar said the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the National Testing Agency (NTA) are prepared to ensure that the second edition of CUET-UG is glitch free.

"I agree there were several glitches during the exam last time but this year all issues have been ironed out. Keeping in mind the experience of the students, a plan has been chalked out and we are ready to ensure that the candidates just have to worry about the exam and not any glitches," he said.

"Extra computers and extra centres have been arranged as plan B so that in case there are any glitches, the candidates can be shifted there and the exam for a particular shift will not be cancelled," he added.

Kumar said that in a deviation from the usual pattern, the exam will be conducted in three shifts from this year.

## Five suffocate to death at brick kiln

**One hospitalised**

Mahasamund, Mar 15:

Five workers died of asphyxiation and another took ill after inhaling smoke at a brick kiln in Chhattisgarh's Mahasamund district, officials said on Wednesday.

The district collector has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident that took place at Gadphuljhar village under Basna police station limits, they said.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel expressed grief over the deaths and announced a compensation of Rs 2 lakh to the kin of each of the deceased.

As per preliminary investigation, six workers set

### Jolt to Uddhav

## Ex-minister Sawant joins Shinde camp



Mumbai, Mar 15 (PTI):

In a setback to Uddhav Thackeray, former Maharashtra health minister Deepak Sawant on Wednesday joined the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena. Sawant joined the Sena in the presence of chief minister Shinde.

Sawant was an MLC of then united Shiv Sena and was cabinet minister for public health from 2014 to 2018 in the Devendra Fadnis-led government. He was dropped from the cabinet and denied ticket for legislative council election by Uddhav Thackeray in 2018.

## 'No mandatory age limit for scrapping of vehicles'

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

No mandatory age limit has been prescribed for the scrapping of vehicles under the vehicle scrapping policy, the Road Transport and Highways asserted on Wednesday while terming the reports of discarding of tractors after 10 years as false and baseless.

The ministry clarified that an agriculture tractor is a non-transport vehicle and registered for 15 years initially. Its registration can be renewed for five years at a time, once the initial registration period of 15 years is completed. "Reports circulating in a certain section of media including Twitter and WhatsApp regarding mandatory scrapping of tractors after 10 years is totally false, baseless and without any truth," the ministry said.

Anyone spreading false information to create panic will be proceeded against as per law, it warned.

The Government of India has not fixed the age

### Ministry clarification

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for any vehicle except certain government vehicles as specified in the notification vide G.S.R. 29(E), it added. MoRTH has formulated the Voluntary Vehicle Fleet Modernization Programme or the vehicle scrapping policy for scrapping of Transport and Non-Transport vehicles which are unfit and polluting. There is no mandatory age limit prescribed for the scrapping of vehicles under the policy. A vehicle can ply on road as long as it is found fit after testing through Automated Testing Station.

## Maha reports 2 H3N2 deaths

Mumbai, Mar 15 (PTI):

Maharashtra has reported two fatalities suspected to be caused by influenza. One of them, a 74-year-old man, died of the H3N2 subtype while the other victim was infected by coronavirus as well as the influenza virus, state Health Minister Tanaji Sawant told the Assembly on Wednesday.

An official said one of the two deceased, a 23-year-old MBBS student, died due to a mixed infection caused by coronavirus and H3N2.

Sawant said state health machinery has been put on alert with 361 cases of influenza infections being reported in the state, and guidelines will be issued in the next two days. The minister also advised the use of masks in crowded places and social distancing.

"Two persons have died due to influenza, including a 23-year-old first-year student of MBBS in Ahmednagar. He tested positive for COVID-19 as well as H1N1 and H3N2 viruses. Another victim is a 74-year-old man from Nagpur who died of H3N2," Sawant said.

### Probe ordered...

Mahasamund Collector Nilesh Kumar Kshirsagar has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident, an official statement said. The CM has directed officials to provide financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh to the kin of each of the deceased and medical aid to the hospitalised brick kiln worker.

### What mining officer said...

In-charge Mining Officer (Mahasamund) Umesh Bhargav said his department has also launched a probe in connection with the operation of the kiln. "No official permission was sought by Kunjibihari Pade who was operating the kiln in the village. However, Pade comes from the Kumhar community (that traditionally made pottery) and there are certain relaxations for the community concerned in making bricks. But it is mandatory for everyone to comply with standard safety measures and rules and regulations," Bhargav added.

ed to a local hospital where five of them were declared dead, she said.

The sixth person was later referred to capital Raipur for treatment, she

said. "According to doctors, the five died due to suffocation but the exact cause of the death will be known after their post-mortem", she said. Police have identi-

fied the deceased as Ganga Ram Bisi (55), Dasrath Bisi (30), Sona Chand Bhoi (40), Varun Bariha (24) and Janak Ram Bariha (30).

A case has been registered and further probe is underway, she added.

Meanwhile, the district administration and mining officials have also reached the spot to take stock of the incident.

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### SC ON MAHA CRISIS

## 'Discontent among MLAs not enough for Guv to call trust vote'

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

Calling for a trust vote merely on the ground of differences between MLAs of a ruling party can topple an elected government, the Supreme Court observed on Wednesday, adding the governor of a state cannot lend his office to effectuate a particular result.

"It will be a sad spectacle for democracy," a five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud said while

taking forward the hearing on the events that unfolded during the June 2022 Maharashtra political crisis triggered by a revolt in the then undivided Shiv Sena by MLAs loyal to Eknath Shinde.

The bench made the observations after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Maharashtra governor, narrated the sequence of events and said there were various materials before the governor including a letter signed by 34 Shiv

Sena MLAs, a letter from Independent lawmakers withdrawing support to the Uddhav Thackeray government, and another of the Leader of the Opposition that prompted him to order a trust vote.

B S Koshiyari, who was then the governor of Maharashtra, had asked Thackeray to face a floor test to prove his majority. Thackeray, however, resigned in the face of imminent defeat, paving the way for appointment of Shinde as the new chief minister.

### G-20 MEET: SELFIE SPREE



Delegates click a selfie after attending the 2nd Education Working Group meeting 2023, in Amritsar, Wednesday.

### LAND-FOR-JOB SCAM

## Delhi court gives bail to Lalu, Rabri, Misa

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

A Delhi court on Wednesday gave bail to RJD leader Lalu Prasad Yadav, his wife and former Bihar chief minister Rabri Devi, their daughter Misa Bharti and others in connection with a case related to the alleged land-for-job scam.

Lalu Prasad, 74, who underwent a kidney transplant recently and was in a wheelchair, reached the Rouse Avenue court around 10 am but proceedings were delayed. The family appeared before Special Judge Geetanjali Goel around 11 am. Granting relief to the

accused on a personal bond of Rs 50,000 and one surety of the like amount each, the court posted the matter for further proceedings on March 29.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) did not oppose the bail pleas. The case relates to alleged appointments made in the railways in return for land parcels gifted or sold to Lalu Prasad's family when he was railway minister between 2004 and 2009. The CBI, in its charge sheet, alleged that irregular appointments were made in the railways, violating laid down norms and procedures of Indian Railways for recruitment.

## Another TTE misbehaves with woman passenger, suspended

Bengaluru, Mar 15 (PTI):

Days after a railway travel ticket examiner (TTE) was held for allegedly urinating on a passenger on a train bound from Kolkata to Amritsar, another TTE has been accused of allegedly misbehaving with a female passenger when she was leaving from Krishnarajapuram station here. The TTE has been placed under suspension by the Railway, pending investigation.

According to the Railway, the train had stopped at Krishnarajapuram for crossing with another, during which time the TTE misbehaved with the woman while demanding



that she show him her ticket. Videos of the woman confronting the TTE on the railway station platform, reportedly on Tuesday, have been posted on twitter by a user.

In the videos, a woman can be seen shouting at the TTE, asking him why he pulled her after she showed him her tickets.

As the TTE, who was allegedly drunk, shouts back at the woman, a group of men who were standing nearby and were watching the incident unfold, came to her aid and caught hold of him as he tried to flee from the spot.

They can be heard saying, "He is drunk, call the police".

## ED raids 11 offices of CNI including Nagpur

Nagpur, March 14 (PTI):

The Enforcement Directorate is carrying out searches at 11 locations across India, including the Nagpur office of the Church of North India (CNI), in connection with a case registered in Bhopal, an ED official said on Wednesday.

ED officials said the searches are tied to a cheating case registered against P C Singh, bishop of the CNIs Jabalpur Diocese.

The office of CNI, a Protestant denomination, located in the Sadar area in the city is being searched, an official said.

In September 2022, Singh had been detained at the Nagpur airport in Maharashtra for question-

ing after an offence was registered against him.

Madhya Pradesh police at the time had recovered around Rs 1.6 crore in Indian and foreign currencies from the bishop's residence in Jabalpur. Singh was then in Germany.

The case against Bishop Singh was registered in July 2022 after it was alleged that he had indulged in financial misconduct in running an educational society, of which he was the chairman. ED officials said an investigation showed that Rs 2.7 crore collected as students' fees by the society's various institutions between 2004-05 and 2011-12 was allegedly transferred to religious institutions, misused and spent by the bishop for personal needs.

## BSP seals IOCL's Chopra Petrol Pump

**Bhilai, Mar 15:**

On Wednesday, Bhilai Steel Plant took a major action over a case of non-renewal of lease and sealed a Petrol Pump which was operational in Bhilai Township. Chopra Auto Care (Petrol Pump) located in Sector 10, Forest Avenue, was sealed in the presence of Executive Magistrate Kshama Yadu and Police officers. It needs to be mentioned here that M/s IOCL was allotted land by BSP in 1980 on lease of 33 years. The lease was not renewed by the company even after the completion of the lease period in 2013.

BSP served notices to IOCL several times for lease renewal but the company did not get the lease renewed. The lease was terminated by BSP in 2014 and in the same year, a case was registered in the Estate Court under the PP Act. Thereafter, in the year 2015, a petition was filed by the IOCL seeking a stay from the High Court, Bilaspur. They failed to get relief from the High Court. Thereafter in the year 2017, the Estate Court passed a decree against Indian Oil Corporation Limited Mumbai, Raipur and Regional Distributor, Chopra Auto Centre,



Forest Avenue, Sector-10, Bhilai. Subsequently, the lease rent amounting to Rs 7 crores is pending against M/s IOCL. Several rounds of meetings and talks were conducted by BSP with higher officials but IOCL did not make the payment. Lastly, IOCL assured to deposit the dues in the month of February 2023, but the amount was not deposited. Thereafter, BSP gave time till March 10 and when they did not receive the lease renewal

premium, the Town Services Department of Bhilai Steel Plant moved ahead for compliance with the order of the Estate Court. A team of officers and personnel of the Enforcement Department, Land Department, Revenue Department, private security guards sealed the fuel station in the presence of Executive Magistrate, District Police Force, Traffic Police and handed it over to the Estate Court. The sale of petrol /

diesel was stopped at 09:00 hrs on 15/03/2023. Following all the safety parameters, fuel sales were stopped and by shutting down all the necessary electrical equipment, the control system, etc. The fuel station was closed by the manager himself, the working staff took out all the necessary documents. The entire proceeding was video-graphed, measurements of all the inflammable stock was taken and reported.

## Teacher on All-CG cycle tour for environment conservation

**Bhilai, Mar 15:** A teacher, Santosh Gupta, who is touring across the Chhattisgarh state with the message of prevention of environmental pollution and de-addiction, reached Durg on Tuesday. He said that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is working to promote organic farming and prevention of environmental pollution. Santosh said that his intention is to make more and more people aware through bicycles. He said that cycling prevents pollution and maintains good health. He added that every day he travels 40 kilometers on bicycle to reach his school. Now, he is cycling across Chhattisgarh to spread the message of environment conservation. Gupta informed that he has cycled till Nepal and during holidays he always goes around on cycle to inspire people that our habits create and spoil nature. Cycling also leads to good health. Santosh said that while traveling, he posts his reels on social media to make the people aware of their health. Gupta hails from Mungeli and said that throughout the journey he gets a lot of love from the people. Santosh



covers three districts in a day. He uses a bicycle for all his daily work. His family members are also very happy because he spends his time for a good cause.

## Now permission is required to dig borewell; Tullu pump users to face music

**Collector reviews water supply arrangements****Bhilai, Mar 15:**

Citizens will not be able to dig bore wells in urban bodies without administrative permission. Strict action will be taken by the local civic bodies for use of Tullu pumps during water supply. During the water supply timings, the civic body staff will monitor the localities so that water supply can be ensured to all. SDMs will also constitute their teams to take action in this regard. In view of the summer season, the Collector reviewed the condition of the drinking water supply system. He asked about the works being done in the urban

bodies. Municipal officials said that to increase the water pressure, damaged pipes are being replaced and new valves are also being installed. The Collector asked to prepare an action plan especially for those areas where there is always a possibility of drinking water crisis. He said that along with repairing the pipeline, repair of out of order tube wells should also be done. He said that the system of drinking water supply should be perfect and preparations should be launched immediately. Municipal Commissioner Rohit Vyas and other officers were present in the meet-

ing. The Collector specially reviewed the work being done on malaria eradication. Officials said that a door-to-door survey is being done and extensive work is being done to clean the ponds. Door-to-door outreach is helping in the prevention of mosquitoes. The Collector asked the officers of the urban bodies to continuously monitor the situation and intensify the "fight the bite campaign". A trauma center will be set up in Utai for the treatment of helpless animals. In this regard, the Collector instructed the CMO to mark the land.

The Collector also inquired about the action taken for the rearing of advanced breed cows in Gauthans. Along with this, asked to provide paddy straws to all Gauthans. The collector said that at present more than 60 baadis are producing vegetables with organic manure. All the baadis will be gradually converted into organic farms. He asked the officials to make necessary preparations to make necessary preparations for this work. District Panchayat CEO Ashwini Dewangan said that monocropping is currently being done in the baadis. Training is being given to develop organic baadis. The under construction buildings will also be painted with cow dung paint. The Collector took information from all the construction agencies about their ongoing work and asked about the quantity of cow dung paint for the same. He said that according to the requirement, cow dung paint will be supplied by units.

## SCMF felicitates women achievers on foundation day

**Bhilai, Mar 15:**

Shri Chaturbhuj Memorial Foundation celebrated its 12th foundation day by felicitating empowered women at a sublime function organised the other day. The chief guest of the ceremony was Padmashree Phulbasan Bai Yadav while Gyanesh Sharma, Chairman, Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission presided over. Renowned litterateur Ravi Srivastava was the keynote speaker while Dr Hansa Shukla, Principal, Swami Shri Swaroopnand Saraswati Mahavidyalaya and Arun Srivastava, founder of Shri Chaturbhuj Memorial Foundation were present as special guests. The opportunity was taken to felicitate representatives of various social organisations working for a cause were including Dr Rohini Patankar of Riddhi Siddhi Mahila Mandal for her contribution in the field of art and social welfare, Kulwant Bhatia of Nav Drishti Foundation for encouraging eye donation-body donation, Bunty Sharma of Jansamarpan Foundation for continuously arranging food for the destitute, Dr Sonali Chakravorty of



Swayamsiddha for encouraging homemakers towards social activities, Nidhi Chandrakar of Uddan Nai Disha for promotion of indigenous tradition and environment, Dimple Kaur of Anubhuti Shree Foundation for community social awareness. In her address, Phulbasan Bai Yadav appreciated Shri Chaturbhuj Memorial Foundation for having done a commendable job of felicitating empowered women. She stated that a healthy society can be built only when we work together with the purpose. She shared her own experience on how she her first step towards self reliance with a couple of women and gradually the group has become so big. In his address, Gyanesh Sharma, Chairman, Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission said

that Shri Chaturbhuj Memorial Foundation has over the past done important work in social service. Self-reliance is the mantra on the basis of which we can move forward towards a better future, he added and appreciated the excellent work being done by social organizations in Bhilai and Durg. In his keynote address Ravi Srivastava said that the activities of Shri Chaturbhuj Memorial Foundation are inspiring for all of us. Congratulating the people and organizations who were honoured, he said that these organizations have a big role in the social structure of Bhilai Durg that is visible today. People here have made achievements in many fields like literature, social service, education, sports, production etc. Principal Dr

Hansa Shukla said that our it is the result of the tireless work of social organizations that the society is continuously moving forward. Earlier at the outset, the founder of the Foundation Arun Srivastava said that the only way to improve the society is by serving the needy people. He gave information about the social activities of the organization. In the ceremony, Prof DN Sharma presented a book to Phulbasan Bai in which articles on her social contribution are compiled. The guests also honored Sarita Srivastava, President of Shri Chaturbhuj Memorial Foundation at the ceremony. The program was conducted by Anita Kardekar and vote of thanks was expressed by Seema Srivastava.

## Mayor Neeraj Pal helps elderly citizen get walker



**Bhilai, Mar 15:** Due to the efforts of Mayor Neeraj Pal, an elderly person who was unable to walk has got a walker, and now with the help of it he is able to ambulate. It so happened that when the Mayor was leaving his office, he came across an elderly man named DP Tiwari. The Mayor interacted with the old man and asked about his wellbeing and enquired the reason for his visit to corporation office. The elderly man men-

tioned that he was having trouble walking because his walker had broken and he was facing a lot of difficulties in commuting. As the walker has broken beyond repair, he had come to get another walker to solve his commuting problem. On hearing this, the Mayor immediately instructed the social welfare department of the corporation to help the elderly. Walker was immediately made available to the elderly person by the Social Welfare Department. The elderly man who was earlier looking apprehensive was now overjoyed and thanked the mayor endlessly for his help. Senior counselor Vashishtha Narayan Mishra was also present when walker was provided to the elderly.

## Special awareness camps organised under 'International Women's Week'

**Bhilai, Mar 15:**

Under the joint aegis of National Legal Services Authority, New-Delhi; Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority, Bilaspur and National Commission for Women and Child Development Department, Durg; the District Legal Services Authority Durg organised special awareness camp to spread legal awareness among women living in rural and remote areas in Bhilai-3 and Patan. The events were organised under the guidance of District and Sessions Judge Sanjay Kumar Jaiswal (Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Durg). These camps were organised on the occasion of International Women's Week. About 80 women attended the special awareness program organized at "Mangal Bhavan" of

Bhilai-3. During the program, Pankaj Dixit (Civil Judge Class-1) and Amita Jaiswal (Civil Judge, Class-2); Advocate Rekha Verma and Advocate Rukmani Joshi detailed the women about Hindu Marriage Act, rules for maintenance of wife; rights of women on property, Domestic Violence Act; dowry harassment and dowry death, kidnapping and abduction, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act; Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace; Maternity Benefit Act, Factories Act and Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (MTP Act). About 80 women were present in the special awareness program for women organized on the occasion of International Women's Week in the District Panchayat premises of Patan. Vijender Sonwani (Civil Judge Class-1 Patan), Advocate

Manju Sahu, Advocate Tarani Yadav and DSP Shilpa Sahu (Investigation Unit for Crime Against Women) addressed the women. They covered the topics of Domestic Violence Act, Victim Compensation Scheme, Cyber Crime, POCSO, Acid Attack, Maternity Benefit Act, Equal Remuneration Act, women's right on property etc. Legal information related to women was explained to the women. The experts answered the queries of the women. They got proper answers according to the law and their doubts were cleared. Pamphlets and application forms were also distributed among the women. The main objective of the awareness programs is to create understanding and awareness of the law even in the last person of the society.

## SBI Bhilai celebrates International Women's Day

**Bhilai, Mar 15:**

International Women's Day was celebrated at State Bank of India Main Branch Sector-1 on March 10, 2023, where eminent

Ramdas Manjhi presided over the programme. Chief Manager (Bhilai Main Branch) Swapnil Walde welcomed the guests and delivered the welcome address. The guests

Chandrakar. The cultural presentation by Neelam Thakur, Shruti Thakur, Vinod Jagat and Ayushi enhanced the beauty of the program. Ranga Veni, Assistant General Secretary, Raipur Module of SBI Award Staff, Bhopal Circle gave the vote of thanks and expressed her gratitude to everyone. Along with this, the commendable presence of SBI Award Staff Bhilai Zone 2 Regional Secretary Arun Verma, Organization Secretary Chandrakant Pawar, Organization Secretary Seema Malhotra, Organization Secretary Anand Sahu and all the staff of Bhopal Circle made the program a success informed a press communique.



### Obituary

#### Ramrati Patel

**Bhilai:** Ashish Nagar (West) resident Ramrati Patel, wife of Purnanlal Patel, left for heavenly abode at the age of 65 years on March 14. Last rites of the mortal remains were performed at Risali Muktidham. She was the mother of Savita, Ravi and Shailendra Patel.



## BJP gherao Assembly over Housing Scheme for poor

Several including Sao, Ramvichar Netam, Brijmohan Agrawal arrested



### Agitation's success to dethrone Congress govt: Mathur

Raipur: BJP leader and in-charge of party affairs in Chhattisgarh Om Mathur termed the agitation to be massive success and added that he too was stuck in traffic jam for nearly an hour. He said that he would continue to stay here in Chhattisgarh to dethrone the Congress government in next Legislative Assembly polls.

to gherao. Addressing the gathering, the BJP President Arun Sao said that they are fighting for the

Housing Rights for the people from weaker section of society and added that the BJP Chief Minister would first sign for PM Housing Scheme before entering CM House after victory in next Legislative Assembly polls. Leader of Opposition Narayan Chandel too accused the state government of resorting to dramatics instead of delivering welfare scheme for the poor.

### Liquor syndicate dominating Ch'garh admn: Raghuvar Das

Raipur: Former Chief Minister of Jharkhand Raghuvar Das while addressing the public meet, alleged that the Congress government has failed to provide Housing Scheme for the people from weaker section of society despite central assistance. He further said that Liquor syndicate is dominating in Chhattisgarh whereas people from weaker section of society are denied the benefits of various central schemes. He said that the state government has not been able to implement welfare scheme for the poor.

### Corruption registered new heights under Congress regime: Dr Raman

Raipur: Former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh said that the corruption has registered new heights in Chhattisgarh with several officers in Jail after ED and IT raids. He added that they would provide residential facilities to people from weaker section of society after returning back to power in Chhattisgarh.

## Baghel terms BJP's protest as 'political show'

Raipur, Mar 15: The Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel termed the Vidhan Sabha gherao by BJP as 'political show'. Coming down heavily against BJP prior to their protest, Baghel asked as to whether the BJP leaders and workers support the declaration made by the state government to conduct survey of eligible beneficiaries for housing scheme. He also questioned as to whether the BJP is holding the protest against the govt's decision to conduct survey of beneficiaries?



person who have become eligible should also get benefited from the government's scheme and therefore the state government has decided to carry out survey of eligible beneficiaries.

Speaking to media persons prior to VS gherao by BJP, CM Baghel said that the BJP protestors with slogan 'Mor awas la le lis hein Bhupesh Baghel' (I have been deprived of house by Bhupesh Baghel). On this CM Baghel said that the over the last few days, the government has made a work plan to provide houses to all eligible beneficiaries. Government has so far sanctioned more than 11 lakh houses and which is higher than that of BJP's rule in the state and this year also sufficient allocation has been made in the budget for the same.

Further CM questioned BJP as to on which issue they have gheraoed Vidhan Sabha today and what is their demand? If it is related to providing house, then he asked, whether the state government has refused to provide it? The state government has granted sanction and even made allocation in the budget for the same. The planning in the state is far better compared to other states, CM said, adding that in such conditions, BJP should inform as to why they are staging protest.

Informing about the provision for 'Aawas Yojana' in the state, CM informed that the central government has extended the term of PMAY till March 2024 and therefore it is better that in three last 12 years, all other people

CM said that at least in the Vidhan Sabha, BJP is not just in favour of the above decision of the state government. Making a quick remark, CM said that the members of Opposition are confused as to how many beneficiaries are there, some say there are 16 lakh and others says 12 lakh or 7 lakh and all are saying different figures. CM said that he has already informed the BJP to hand over all the applications to him and that they will be included in the survey too. Only one has to make a missed-call and on this CM asked others to do so! It is without checking the eligibility, they are increasing the number, CM added.

### CM Baghel attended the last rites of mother of Forest Minister

Raipur, Mar 15: The Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel today attended the last rites of Forest and Environment Minister Mohammad Akbar's mother at his resi-

dence in Raipur's Moudhapara. He also shouldered the funeral procession of the Cabinet Minister's mother. The Chief Minister gave his consolation to Akbar

and his family members. He prayed to God for the peace of the departed soul and strength for the bereaved family members to tolerate this grief.

## Bureau of Indian Standards organises 'Manak Mahotsav'

Raipur, Mar 15: On the occasion of World Consumer Rights Day, 'Manak Mahotsav' was organised by Bureau of Indian Standards, Raipur Branch Office at Hotel Courtyard by Marriott. On this occasion, the standards were discussed with the licensees of the Bureau of Indian Standards, consumers, government organizations and other stakeholders. Sumit Kumar, Head Raipur Branch Office in his welcome address explained about the various activities of Bureau of Indian Standards. He informed that on the occasion of World Consumer Rights Day, Bureau of Indian



Standards, Raipur is organizing many programs in the state. In this, under the Quality Connect campaign, a survey will be conducted by more than 500 youth volunteers for quality awareness in more than 10,000 homes. Along with this, many street plays will also be organized. Mr. Prabhunath Yadav, Joint Director, Bureau of Indian Standards, Raipur said that standards of milk powder

and bottled drinking water will be discussed in the 'Manak Mahotsav'. On this occasion, the special guest Mr.V. Rajeshwar, Director, All India Radio, Raipur and S.K. Devhare, Director, Doordarshan, Raipur told about the contribution of Doordarshan and All India Radio in spreading awareness about consumer protection to every nook and corner of the country.

## 19 companies which signed MoU with CG Govt started production

7000 people got employment Industrial groups from other states interested in Ch'garh

Raipur, Mar 15: Along with the local industrial houses in Chhattisgarh, industrial groups from other states have also shown interest in setting up industries in the state. 19 industrial groups which had signed MoU with Chhattisgarh government in between 2019 to 2021 have started production. Companies of Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Maharashtra apart from Chhattisgarh state are also there. About 7000 people are getting employment through these companies.

The companies which have started production in Chhattisgarh include Solar Power, Ready to Eat Frozen Food, Fabricated



Metal Products, Bullet Proof Jacket, Electric Vehicle, Captive Power Plant, Nanooven Interlining, Solar PV Power Plant, Processing of Millets and Tamarind Paste. These industries have also fostered innovation. According to officials of the State Investment Promotion Board, construction of plants on MoUs worth about Rs 50,000 crore is under process in the state. Production has not started here yet, but after the land has been identified, the companies have started construction of infrastructure. According to the in-

formation, production will be started within six months on the MoU worth Rs 20,000 crore. Companies which have not allotted the land to set up industries, their representatives are having discussions with the officials of the Industries Department. Director of the State Investment Promotion Board, Alok Trivedi said, from year 2019 to 2022, the companies which had signed MoU. Out of them industries investing more than 5000 crore have started production. Apart from Chhattisgarh, industrial houses from other states have started work here.

## Weather patterns changes in Ch'garh

Relief from the scorching heat, chances of light rain

Raipur, Mar 15: People have got some relief from the scorching heat on Wednesday. As per the information from Met Department due to the influence of moist winds coming from the Bay of Bengal, the weather patterns in the state have changed. The Meteorological Department said that along with cloudy weather on Thursday, there is a possibility of light rain in different areas of the state. Apart from this, the area of rainfall may also increase in the state from Thursday. Meteorologists said that there is a possibility of good rainfall across the state from March 16 to 20. The weather remained dry across the state on Wednesday. There was no significant change in the maximum temperature, while there was an increase in the minimum



temperature. Raipur recorded a maximum temperature of 36 degree Celsius and a minimum temperature of 21 degree Celsius on Wednesday. Raigarh recorded the highest maximum temperature of 38.5 degree Celsius across the state. Meteorologists said that after change in the weather patterns, people will get some relief from the scorching heat. The phase of decline in maximum temperature will also begin. Meteorologist HP Chandra said that due to the effect of Western Disturbance, a cyclonic cyclone is up to 3.1 km height in and around southwest Rajasthan. Due to its effect, moist air is coming from the Bay of Bengal.

### CM expressed deep sorrow over death of brick kiln workers

Raipur, Mar 15: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has expressed deep grief over the deaths of five workers working in a brick kiln in Garhfuljar village of Basna development block in Mahasamund district. He has instructed the officers of the district administration to provide all possible help to the relatives of the deceased and to provide the best treatment facilities for seriously ill laborers.

## Ch'garh team leaves for National Para Athletics event



Raipur, Mar 15: Chhattisgarh team on Wednesday left for Pune from Raipur Railway station to participate in the 21st National Senior Para Athletics championship to be held from March 16 to 20. Para Sports Association of Chhattisgarh (PSAC) office-bearers Ashok Maloo and Santosh Raghuvanshi provided track suit and sports kit being sponsored by Department of Sports & Youth Welfare to the members of the team. RC Sinha, Suraj Yadav, Prashant

Raghuvanshi, Pramod Tiwari, Neeta Dumre, Narendra Mishra and other office-bearers have extended best wishes to the team for the national championship.

Chooiti Mehra, Ishwari Nishad, Sangeeta Masih, Dushyant Kumar, Sukhmandan Nishad, Kamlesh Kumar Nishad, Rakesh Kumar Podam, Kamal Kumar, Coach Wasim Raja, Team Manager Niranjan Sahu and Secretary PSAC Dikesh Tandon are part of the team for the national event.

## Ch'garh Forest team wins overall champion trophy for 11th time

In the 26th All India Forest Sports Meet held in Panchkula

By winning 164 medals, Ch'garh surpassed its closest competitor Karnataka



Raipur, Mar 15: Chhattisgarh has bagged the overall champion's trophy 26th All India Forest Sports Meet held in Panchkula, Haryana, becoming the overall champion for the 11th time. With a total of 164 medals, Chhattisgarh maintained its first position, surpassing its closest competitor Karnataka.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Forest Minister Mohammad Akbar have congratulated and extended their best wishes to the Forest Department on this significant achievement in the All India Forest Sports Meet. It is worth mentioning that this

event, which lasts for five days, includes various indoor games such as tennis, table tennis, badminton, swimming, karate, chess, weightlifting, powerlifting, kabaddi, as well as events in cricket, football, basketball, hockey, golf, and athletics. Officials from the Forest Department, from PCCF to guards, participate in these sports competitions. The forest department team of Chhattisgarh defeat-

ed Jammu and Kashmir in cricket, winning the gold medal for the seventh time. Similarly, in football, Chhattisgarh claimed first place by defeating Haryana, which had several national players in its team. Chhattisgarh's basketball team won the gold medal by defeating Karnataka. In weightlifting and powerlifting, the team bagged a total of 19 gold medals, in tennis 12 gold and 2 silver medals, in

badminton 4 gold medals, in swimming 6 gold medals, and in athletics 18 gold, 10 silver, and 8 bronze medals. In addition, they won 9 gold and 2 silver medals in tennis.

Thus, in this year's 26th All India Forest Sports Meet, Chhattisgarh won a total of 164 medals, earning a total of 542 points, and maintained its first position by beating their nearest rival Karnataka in tough competition. It is worth mentioning that with the skilled guidance of Chief Minister, Forest Minister along with Principal Secretary (Forest) Shri Manoj Pingua, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief of Forest Force Sanjay Shukla, and the tireless efforts of nodal officer APCCF Sunil Mishra and DFO Vishvesh Kumar, Alok Tiwari, and Sangeeta Rajgopalan, and the constant practice and dedication of the players, Chhattisgarh achieved the first position. They have brought laurels to Chhattisgarh.

### Laxminarayan Das motivated people in educational sector: Sharma



#### Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 15: Noted Social workers including Raipur Rural MLA Satyanarayan Sharma, Chhattisgarh Gausewa Aayog Chairman Mahant Ramsunder Das, Trusty Ajay Tiwari, Mahendra Agrawal and Mahant College Principal Debashish Mukherjee paid rich tributes to freedom fighter, educationist and social reformer late Mahant Laxminarayan Das on his 36th death anniversary at the Mahant College premises here.

Addressing the gathering, the Raipur Rural MLA Satyanarayan Sharma remembered the contributions of late Mahant Laxminarayan Das and termed him to be a motivator who had made several contributions in the field of education. He also administered pledge to the gathering to take up the remaining works of his vision in the field of education. Mahant Ramsunder Das and Ajay Tiwari also addressed the gathering to pay tributes to Mahant Das.

## MoU signed between KTU and Central University of Himachal

To promote research and research work in the field of journalism

Raipur, Mar 15: An MoU was signed between Kushabhau Thakre University of Journalism and Mass Communication and Central University of Himachal Pradesh for exchange of research, and educational activities in the field of journalism, mass communication and new media. Both the universities will jointly promote the works and upgradation of educational activities in the field of mass communication and journalism. On the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two universities, the Vice-Chancellor of Kushabhau Thakre University of Journalism, Prof. Baldev Bhai Sharma and Vice Chancellor of Central University Prof.



Satprakash Bansal signed the MoU. Former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jairam Thakur and Himachal Pradesh Tourism Minister Raghuvver Singh Bali were present on the occasion. As per this MoU, both the institutes will do necessary work to encourage and promote mutual cooperation in the field of research, student development activities, faculty de-

velopment activities and community outreach and extension activities in the field of mass communication and journalism. Under this agreement, both the institutes will organize student and faculty development activities such as seminars, workshops and lecture series etc. There will be faculty and student exchange programs, media literacy camps, public service awareness campaigns

will be organised and will be sharing of research resources. Vice Chancellor of Journalism University Prof. Baldev Bhai Sharma said that there are many possibilities of research in journalism. The agreement with the Central University is an important step in this direction. This agreement will prove to be important for the exchange and promotion of educational activities.

## Placement camp for educated youth on March 17

Raipur, Mar 15: A placement camp is being organised by District Employment and Self-Employment Guidance Center, Raipur to provide employment opportunities to local educated unemployed youth of Chhattisgarh state on March 17 at Extension Counter, Commercial Complex Rakhi, Sector-27 Nava Raipur Atal Nagar from 11 am to 2 pm. Domino's Pizza Raipur will recruit 130 posts of Business / Guest Delight Associates through this placement camp. 8th, 10th passed applicants will be eligible for recruitment for these posts. Selected candidates will be paid Rs 10 to 12 thousand per month. Applicants who are eligible and willing to attend the placement camp can appear on the scheduled date and venue. For more information in this regard, the applicant can also contact the District Employment Office, Raipur.

## Ch'garh model should be adopted by other states: Chandrakar

In the interest of farmers

Raipur, Mar 15: In the meeting of Board of Directors and General Assembly of National State Co-operative Banks Federation (NEFSCAB), Mumbai, President of Apex Bank Chhattisgarh and National Director of NEFSCAB, Baijnath Chandrakar suggested that the Chhattisgarh model should be adopted in other states as well. The Central and State Governments should make available the amount of interest subsidy to the committees in time. The financial condition of the society will be strengthened if the compensation for the losses incurred by the committees under the government schemes is done on time. Apex Bank Chairman Mr. Chandrakar said that the Chhattisgarh government is constantly strengthening the cooper-



ative sector. Necessary steps are being taken for this. Along with the development of infrastructure in primary agricultural credit societies, new societies are being formed. 725 new packs have been formed in the state. He informed that steps have been taken to start new Primary Credit Co-operative Societies (PACS) with necessary facilities in procurement centers and to develop super-infrastructure in these societies to strengthen the system of paddy procurement on support price. This initiative of Chhattisgarh government was appreciated in the meeting. Mr. Chandrakar said that the Chhattisgarh government is continuously providing financial assistance for the strengthen-

ing of primary credit co-operatives. Chhattisgarh government has constructed godown-cum-office buildings, scaffolds and platforms under infrastructure development in packs and procurement centers. Effective implementation of farmer-friendly and beneficiary-oriented schemes is being done through committees. The economic condition of the tribals, farmers, women and agricultural labourers of Chhattisgarh has improved with the purchase of minor forest produce on the support price of the Godhan Nyaya Yojana and Vananchal areas in the state. The meeting held at Mahabaleshwar (Maharashtra) was presided over by Mr. Kondru Ravindra Rao, President, NEFSCAB.

## 18 lakh smart card based registration certificates received

Under 'Tunhar Sarkar, Tunhar Dwar' by people Helpline number 75808-08030 issued by Transport Department

Raipur, Mar 14: According to the intention of Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel, under the guidance of Transport Minister Mr. Mohammad Akbar, the new facility 'Tunhar Sarkar, Tunhar Dwar' is being efficiently operated by the Transport Department in the state. Under this, from June 2021 till now, 17 lakh 93 thousand 435 smart card based registration certificates and driving licenses have

been sent to the applicants' homes. These include 12 lakh 23 thousand 595 smart card based registration certificates and 5 lakh 69 thousand 840 driving licences. Transport Minister Mr. Mohammad Akbar is constantly monitoring the smooth functioning of 'Tunhar Sarkar, Tunhar Dwar'. The 'Tunhar Sarkar, Tunhar Dwar' scheme run by the Transport Department is an important scheme for the convenience of the people. In this, 22 transport related services are being provided to the people by delivering them at their doorstep. Under this people-centric facility, people no longer need to visit the Transport Department again and again. This is saving both

money and time of the applicants. It has been informed by the Transport Department that in order to make 'Tunhar Sarkar, Tunhar Dwar' service more accessible, a helpline number 75808-08030 has been issued by the department, which works from 10 am to 5.30 pm on all working days which provides information. By calling the said helpline number, applicants can get all the information related to dispatch of their driving license and registration certificate. At present, on an average, 100 calls are being received daily in which mainly information related to driving license and registration process, taxes and fees are being received.

Many govt facilities to exporters

Raipur, Mar 15: Exporters and investors openly discussed the preparations to be made to increase exports from Chhattisgarh along with Raipur district at the Export Outreach programme organized at Nava Raipur, today. Collector Dr Sarveshwar Bhure also participated in this programme organized by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Government of India. Information was also given about exportable products from Chhattisgarh and government facilities given to exporters. Exporters and investors raised their problems and gave suggestions to increase exports. Representatives of

## Ch'garh on way to becoming a major exporting hub



TREAC, SHEFEXIL, Industries Department, Minor Forest Produce Federation, APEDA, SIDBI as well as Bank of Baroda participated in the programme. With the objective of developing the districts as export hubs, such programmes are being conducted by the Directorate of Foreign Trade, Government of India, in 75 districts of the country with potential to increase exports. Raipur and Durg districts have been selected for this in

Chhattisgarh. Chhattisgarh is the main exporter of many products including rice in the country, Raipur Collector said, adding that the state government has given many facilities to the exporters. In order to encourage exports from the state, special provisions have also been made for exporters in the industrial policy ranging from exemption of five percent in mandi fee along with formation of promotion committee, said the Collector.

Chhattisgarh is rapidly moving towards developing as an export hub with government facilities and help, he said. According to him there has been an average increase of more than 22 percent in the exports of the state in the last five years because of government policies and facilities. The Collector also informed that special efforts are being made to promote the export of rice, construction machinery and materials and processed spices from Chhattisgarh. He also emphasized on the possibilities of export of wire, rods, bars, coils, TMT bars, crude steel as well as forest produce tamarind, mahua, lac and small grain millets Kodo Kutki Ragi etc. made in Chhattisgarh and

making an action plan for the same. Exporters and investors present in the programme described Chhattisgarh as a state with export potential. The exporters demanded to continue the exemption of 5 per cent in mandi fee issued to increase the export of rice. Presently, Chhattisgarh government is giving 5 percent exemption of market fee to rice exporters for one year and the term is going to end in the next 2 months. The exporting groups also demanded concession for transportation to the exporting units saying that Chhattisgarh is a landlocked state. Some exporter groups demanded government assistance for modernization of processing plants in the programme.

## Program organized on Science Day at CBS

Students move ahead with scientific thinking: Dr Verma

Raipur, Mar 15: A two-day National Science Day was organized at Center for Basic Sciences (CBS). The inauguration ceremony was presided over by the Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Keshari Lal Verma. The chief guest of the program Dr. K. Subramaniam (Member, State Planning Commission, Chhattisgarh) and guests of honour Dr. Dinesh Mishra, Raipur's famous eye specialist and Dr. Joyce Rai, Scientist E, Chhattisgarh Council of

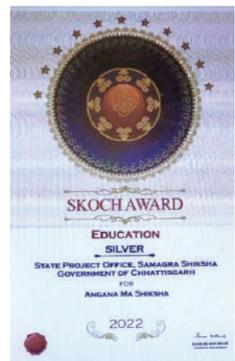
Science and Technology, were present. The program started with the worship of Maa Saraswati and the lighting of lamp. Dr. Kallol K. Ghosh, Director, the Center for Basic Science, welcomed all the guests in his welcome address and explained the importance of Science Day and Sir C.V. Raman's invention to the students. Program coordinator Dr. Bhanushree Gupta informed about various competitions and their topics to be organized in the ceremony. Chief Guest Dr. Subramaniam delivered his lecture on "Basics of Climate Change and its Impact and Some Commendable Steps to

Mitigate its Impact". Special guest Dr. Dinesh Mishra delivered his lecture on "Scientific Thoughts and Superstitions" on the theme of Science Day, "Global Science for Global wellbeing". Dr. Mishra motivated the students to come out and remove various superstitions by adopting a scientific approach. Vice Chancellor of the University Dr. Verma also inspired the students in his speech to adopt scientific thinking and to work towards making their country and state a pioneer in the field of science. Dr. Joyce Rai explained in detail the steps taken by the Chhattisgarh Council

of Science and Technology. In the program, four competitions "debate competition, essay-writing, rangoli making and poster making competitions" were organized. On this occasion, the latest issue of Jarai, the annual magazine of Center for Basic Science was released. In this event, the President of Chhattisgarh Vigyan Sabha, Dr. Vishwas Meshram, Prof. Ashok Kumar Pradhan, Prof. M. L. Nayak participated along with the students, research students and teachers. This program was organized with the help of the Chhattisgarh Council of Science and Technology.

## 'Education in Angana' prog receives SKOCH Award

Raipur, Mar 15: Chhattisgarh School Education Department has once again got the opportunity to get national level award for its excellent work. After a tough competition, the Skoch Award 2022 has been received for the work done in the year 2022 under the "Angana Ma Shiksha" program run by Samagra Shiksha in the state. This entire program is being conducted by a group of women teachers from Chhattisgarh. This year will be the third year of this program and every year some new design is included in it by women leadership. Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel and School Education Minister Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam have congratulated the teachers of the department and the state for this award. The Skoch Award is the coun-



try's highest civilian award conferred by an independent organization, which recognizes people, projects and institutions that go the extra mile to make India a bet-

ter nation. This award was instituted in the year 2003. This award is given for the best efforts in the field of digital, financial and social inclusion. At the time of Corona, when the entire staff of the School Education Department was continuously trying to continue the education of the children and while encouraging the teachers for this work, continuous efforts were being made to continue the education of the children in new ways. At the same time some women teachers of the state proposed their contribution in this statewide program "Padhai Tunhar Dwar". They trained the mothers and started the effort to teach the children while staying at home through them in the form of "Angana Ma Shiksha". Through

the 'Angana Ma Shiksha' programme, it was successful in awakening the interest of the mothers towards the education of their children. Mothers and small children should be taught by organizing fairs in every village, by inviting mothers and children to the fair, using materials available at home like utensils, vegetables, fruits, clothes, etc. Mothers doing better work at the village level were honoured by being selected as smart mothers. Along with keeping other mothers involved in this program and helping them in learning, Smart Mata also does the work of visiting kindergartens and primary schools from time to time, helping children's education and getting information about their children's learning from teachers.

## OBITUARY

**Vidhya Shankar Shukla**  
Raipur: Vidhya Shankar Shukla, 80, Anupam Nagar, Raipur, breathed his last here on March 14. As per his decision, his body was donated to Medical College Raipur.

**Bhaiyya Lal Saharia**  
Raipur: Bhaiyya Lal Saharia, 80, Mangal Bazar, Gudhiyari, breathed his last here on Wednesday. He was 84. The final journey will leave from his residence on March 16 to Kota Crematorium, at 10:00 am. He was father of Kishore, Swatikrishnan Saharia.

## Financial powers of the DFO taken away

In Rs 1.30 cr scam in Bastar Forest Division Three SDOs and nine rangers were also found guilty

Konta/Sukma, Mar 15: A big scam has been exposed in Bastar Forest Division of Chhattisgarh state. This scam has been done under the CAMPA head, where the coffers of the government have been dented by adjusting fake bills worth crores. The whole matter has come to the fore after examining the certificates of Bastar Forest Division from October 2022 and January 2023. It was found in the investigation that the remaining amount of plantation item in the Annual Plan of Operations i.e APO year 2018-19 and 2019-20 has not been included in the current financial year. Serious irregularities have been com-

mitted by spending directly at the level of the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO). Ignoring the guidelines issued by the state CAMPA not to spend the savings amount of the previous years, more than Rs 1.30 cr has been paid in these two months, which comes under the category of serious economic irregularity. This entire payment scam is linked to the Sonrai Multi State Agro Corporation Society Limited. This firm has been told to pay for tree plantation, improvement of degraded forests, chemical fertilizers, growth hormones and Chloropyrifos chemical fertilizers in ANR area. On seeing the impractical and suspicious purchase of these materials in the name of works like 10th year of tree plantation and improvement of degraded forests, the higher officials of the department suspected this payment. Thereafter, the monthly accounts of these



two months were called from the DFO. Many entries made in Form 7 and Form 14 of the monthly accounts were not matching, due to which the suspicion deepened. Preliminary investigation found that the expenditure of such a huge amount without any competent approval was directly related to a large irregularity pointing towards scam. Chhattisgarh State CAMPA's Chief Executive

Officer V Srinivas has prima facie found Bastar Forest Divisional Forest Officer Dileshwar Sahu, three sub-divisional officers, nine range officers and CAMPA in-charge Assistant Grade-2 Divya Kumar Dani guilty in this whole case. Scam done in October and January Considering the expenditure of Rs 66,89,228 in October 2022 and Rs 63,74,961 in January 2023 as

suspicious, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and Forest Force Chief Sanjay Shukla had issued instructions to take disciplinary action against all responsible officers. Chief Executive Officer of V. Srinivasa Rao investigated the matter and after confirming several serious irregularities, DFO Dileshwar Sahu has been stripped of the authority to draw and disburse pay-

ments related to CAMPA works and further action is underway. This is the only case of Forest Department in the state of Chhattisgarh, in which such big and serious allegations of corruption have been leveled against 14 people from the DFO to the clerk of the same forest division. According to the facts that have come to the fore in the preliminary investigation, Rs 1,30,64,189 has been spent directly by the DFO without competent permission in two months out of the savings of the previous years. 98 percent of this entire amount was paid to a single firm for the purchase of materials which were not required at present. In Form-14 of the monthly account, the amount spent on many items was written as nil, whereas in Goshwara Form-7, it has been told to spend on the same items. Store purchase rules have not been followed in materi-

al purchase. Vouchers of Rs.3.00 lakh to Rs.10.00 lakh and above have been made by consolidating several bills of the same date. There is no verification of the Sub Divisional Forest Officer in the bills attached with the vouchers. Only the signatures and seals of the range officers are there. The bills have not been verified and have not been entered in the stores register. All the rangers and all the SDOs were found to be involved in this scam after the signatures of all the rangers and all the SDOs were found in the certificates charged in the monthly accounts and the clerk in charge of the CAMPA branch disobeyed the guidelines of CAMPA. Departmental sources say that in the coming two-four days major action is possible against all of them. Highly placed official sources have also expressed the possibility of registering a criminal case against all of them.

# Women playing vital role in nation's devp: Bohara

### Women of Kawardha felicitated with 'Sushma Swaraj Award'



**Kawardha, Mar 15:**

BJP Mahila Morcha (BJPMM) Kabirdham felicitated with 'Sushma Swaraj Award' to women from different fields for their remarkable works on occasion of Women's International Day here on Tuesday.

It was as per appeal by the BJP Mahila Morcha central leadership and under guidance of BJP Mahila Morcha state President that this programme was organised in the memory of valuable works carried out by Late Smt Sushma Swaraj. On this occasion a Holi Milan programme was also organised and in this by singing 'faag-geet' and playing 'Phulo ki Holi' all celebrated the festival of colours with enthusiasm and exchanged greetings to all. Along with this variety of games were also organised for women coming in the programme and it was enthusiastically participated by one & all.

On this occasion BJP District President Kawardha District Anil

Singh Thakur said that women are playing an important role in development of nation and they are working shoulder-to-shoulder with their male counterparts, apart from serving in the field of politics, administration, social works as mother, daughter and sisters. Women have started working and taking care of family's expenditure and in many fields have move ahead of men.

BJP Mahila Morcha State Secretary and Kabirdham District Panchayat 'Sabhapati' Bhawana Bohara said that late Smt Sushma Swaraj is a role model for all women. Being a simple lady with cordial nature, she was an influential orator and seasoned politician and she worked remarkable for empowerment of women in the country and making them self-reliant and independent. It was just in 25 yrs, she went fulfilled the responsibility of being the youngest Minister in Haryana government. She went on to become MP for seven times and got elected as MLA 3 times. Apart

from this she also had the honour being the first woman Chief Minister of Delhi and it was one of the important achievements in her political career. It is following his morals and ideals and to express condolences for all her fond memories that the 'women power' of Kawardha are being felicitated with 'Sushma Swaraj Award'.

Bhawana Bohara said that there is no dearth of talent among women, girls and daughters from Kawardha district and even after limited resources, they have brought laurels to their family, district and even the state on various fronts.

It is in order to express gratitude towards their feeling of dedication and commitment and to motivate other women to take inspiration from them that this felicitation has been organised, so that they continue to motivate women from Kawardha and nearby district on becoming self-sufficient and self-reliant and independent in their respective fields. Be it the field of

space, science, education, or research, sports or industries, women are exhibiting their talent in all fields and won accolades. It is carrying out development of society and to develop self-reliant India that the women, daughter and sisters o the country are bringing laurels all over the world, she added.

Madhu Tiwari said that women of today have become empowered and the Modi-led BJP government at the Centre has taken positive steps for their empowerment and making them self-reliant. Apart from making women economically stronger and making them lased with skills, that the women of the country are becoming self-reliant and independent, she added.

On this occasion Satvinder Pahuja, Savita Thakur, Vijay Laxmi Tiwari, Sushma Chandravanshi, Tara Devi Markam, Shiv Kumari, Prabha Manikpuri, Sangeeta Jaiswal, Rati Thakur, Pushpa Pandey, Neetu Sharma, Rajkumari Sahu, Suman Gupta, Kala Dhurve, Deepa Dhurve, Savitri Sahu, Gangotri Kaushik, Gauri Sahu Vidya Sriwas, Anju Sharma, Durga Vaishnav, Chandravanshi, Mohini Thakur, Pushpa Soni, Ritu Desi, Shakuntalaji, and all members of BJPMM Kawardha district and office bearers from other cells of BJP were present in large number.

# ASP awarded by CM Baghel



**Mungeli, Mar 15:**

District ASP Pratibha Pandey was honoured by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel for making women aware of the state and for cooperation in the works of the Women's Commission. The comprehensive information given by Pratibha Pandey and her views in the workshop on Human Trafficking organized in Bilaspur Range was appreciated by everyone including the Chairperson of the Women's Commission, Kiranmayi Nayak.

It is noteworthy that along with crimes related to women including kidnapping of girls in the district, various programs including women's awareness flight are being conducted efficiently under his direction. Due to which the district police has a remarkable place in the state in many cases, and recently the IG had also appreciated the work of the district police during his visit to Mungeli. On receiving the honor, Pratibha Pandey said that under the guidance of senior police officers, she is able to do better work. She has thanked the Women's Commission for the honour.

# Name, signature in cheques for registry left blank!

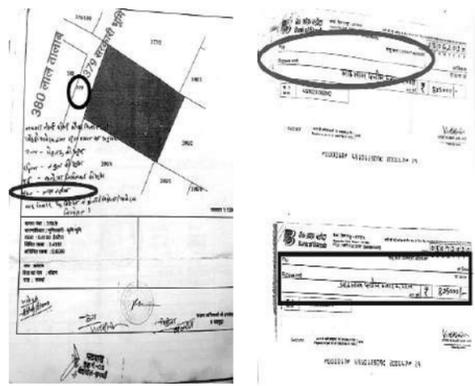
### In the registries carried out by brother of land mafia Vivek Jain

## Raises eyebrows towards likely nexus with Patwari and Registrar office

**Kawardha, Mar 15:**

The disclosure of registries with incomplete documents and false information by the Sarafa trader 'brothers' with nexus of the Patwari and Registrar in the Kawardha district is being reported for last few days. At one place where each and every document of a poor land owner is checked thoroughly and that of the land-mafia and their family members they become silent spectators and surrender completely before them! Even after reports in this regard for last few days, the local administration is not taking any action in this regard so far and the same is now raising eyebrows.

In the last 15-20 years in the registries in the Registrar office, be it the land-mafia, Patwari or the employees of the Registrar office, who have been getting fresh posting and transfer, but it is the Sarafa trader, land mafia, who with nexus of Patwari and Registrar, are reportedly involved in removal of names from government land (nazul) without any signature or name on the cheques. In the land pur-



chase by Vivek Jain, brother of Land Mafia Pankaj Jain, the registry was done in June 2020 for Rs 16.50 lakh and both the cheques in the registry are not bearing the name of purchaser. The registry has been done with help of two blank cheques of Rs 8.25 lakh. What is surprising here is that the Dy. Registrar has not even found it appropriate to check the documents enclosed with the registry papers.

It is notable here that in the boundary of the land purchase by Vivek Jain near the 'Lal Talab', there is mention of 'Lal Talab', but there is no mention of the Nazul land bearing Kh. No. 379 between Lal-Talab and Vivek's land and this is not possible without the help of the then Patwari!

The question here is as to why the Dy. Registrar and the Patwaris are so favourable and blindfolded towards land

mafia and their family members. The chances of registry without proper defining of direction of a particular plot or piece of land can be done without signature or name in one or two cases of registries, but keeping the cheques without signature or names in all the registries of the land mafia or their family members, gives rise to many speculations and wrong-doings or a part of well-defined conspiracy. If the EOW conducts inquiry or check footage on CCTV cameras into the sales and purchase of gold and silver jewellery of these sarafa traders and their relatives and land-mafia, then there are chances of many surprising revelations in it.

**Version:** In this regard, when the Registrar Dhurve was contacted, he refused to comment, saying that it is an old case.

# Collector reviews implementation of govt schemes

**Koriya, Mar 15:**

In the weekly deadline meeting held here under the chairmanship of District Collector Vinay Kumar Langeh, the operation of government schemes in the district was reviewed. In the meeting, the Collector took information from the District Education Officer regarding the implementation of the Chief Minister's School Jatan Yojana, as under this scheme, the school buildings which need renovation, proper improvements have to be made to provide infrastructure for better education to the



children. The Collector has given instructions to the concerned to ensure necessary repairs and improvements while working according to the rules under the scheme. Under the governments ambitious Godhan Nyaya Yojana, purchase of cow dung in Gauthans, manufacture of

vermicompost and review of purchase by agriculture and allied departments and farmers organized in the meeting the Collector has appealed to the general public to take advantage of the camp. He has given necessary instructions to the CEO, District Panchayat, Health

Department, Chief Municipal Officer and all concerned officials. In view of the summer season, he directed the officials of the Public Health Engineering Department present in the meeting to make necessary preparations so that there is no problem of drinking water. He also directed the CEO Janpad Panchayat to present the list of villages which are inaccessible during the rainy season. CEO District Panchayat Namrata Jain, Joint Collector Anil Sidar, all SDMs and district level officers were present in the meeting.

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# NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that, I Anand Wadyalkar son of Balasaheb Wadyalkar, aged 43 years, resident of Shantiniketan Bhawan, Model Town, Street 5, Bhillai, Tehsil and District - Durg, Chhattisgarh, have changed my old name Anand Kumar Balasaheb Wadyalkar to Anand Wadyalkar son of Balasaheb Wadyalkar. My new name is mentioned in my Aadhar Card also. So in future, I should be known / recognised by my new name that is Anand Wadyalkar, in all government and other documents.

**Anand Wadyalkar**  
Shantiniketan Bhawan,  
Model Town, Street 5, Bhillai,  
Tehsil and District - Durg (CG)

# न्यायालय कलेक्टर, दुर्ग जिला-दुर्ग (छत्तीसगढ़)

**व्यक्तिगत उपस्थिति सुन**  
रा.प्र.क्र. 52/ब-121/वर्ष 2022-23

प्राधिकृत अधिकारी, आधार हाऊसिंग फायनेंस लिमिटेड, शाखा - हाल नं. 01, द्वितीय तल, क्रिसेन्ट प्लाजा, गुल्बर्गा रोड, उत्तरव पैलेस के सामने दुर्ग तह. व जिला दुर्ग (छ.ग.) वादी

**प्रेषित**

- लाल मणी वर्मा (मृतक) द्वारा विधिक प्रतिनिधि - (1) श्री राजकुमार वर्मा (2) श्री रमेश कुमार वर्मा
- श्री राजकुमार वर्मा, 3. श्री रमेश कुमार वर्मा
- समी निवासी - म.नं.-376, सड़क नं.-5ए, शांति नगर, वार्ड-11, सुपेला मिलाई गुल्बर्गा के पास, तहसील व जिला दुर्ग

अनावेदकगण

उपरोक्त वादी द्वारा इस न्यायालय में वितीय आस्तियों का प्रतिभूतिकरण और पुनर्गठन और प्रतिभूतिकरण प्रवर्तन अधिनियम, 2002 की धारा 14 के अंतर्गत अनावेदक द्वारा आवेदक बैंक से वितीय सुविधा की सुरक्षा हेतु बैंक के पक्ष में रखी गई बंधक संपत्ति - ख.नं. 329, पी का संपत्ति समस्त भाग जो मौजा-म.नं.-376, सड़क नं.-5ए, शांति नगर, वार्ड-11, सुपेला मिलाई गुल्बर्गा के पास, तहसील व जिला दुर्ग में स्थित रकबा 30.38 वर्गमीटर में स्थित है को बकाया राशि की अदायगी नहीं करने के कारण रिकत मौक्त अधिपत्य में प्राप्त करने हेतु प्रस्तुत आवेदन पत्र पर प्रकरण संस्थित कर प्राकृतिक न्याय सिद्धांत के अन्तर्गत अनावेदक / जमानतदार को इस न्यायालय द्वारा समझ सुनाई किये जाने हेतु सूचना पर जारी कर आहूत किया गया था। जारी नोटिस अवन तालिम वापस प्राप्त।

बुकि अनावेदक को प्रकरण में समझ सुनाई का युक्तिकृत अवसर प्रदान किया जाना है। अलाप इस समन के जरिये अनावेदक को आदेश दिया जाता है कि आप इस मामले की आगामी पेशी दिनांक 20/03/2023 को कलेक्टर, दुर्ग के न्यायालय में व्यक्तिगत रूप से अनिवार्यतः उपस्थित होकर अपना पक्ष प्रस्तुत करें। यदि आप निर्धारित सुनवाई तिथि को अनुपस्थित पाये गये तो मामले की सुनवाई आपकी गैरहजरिती में ही जाकर आपके विरुद्ध एम्पथीय कार्यवाही की जावेगी।

आज दिनांक 28/02/2023 को मेरे हस्ताक्षर एवं न्यायालय की पदमुद्रा से जारी किया गया।  
(कलेक्टर महोदय द्वारा आदेशित)

संयुक्त कलेक्टर  
वारते - कलेक्टर, दुर्ग

# Resident's protest at Byaguda toll plaza

**Bhond, Mar 15:** Under the leadership of district member and youth leader Nila Kashyap, hundreds of residents of Bastar burnt the effigy of Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari protesting against the toll plaza in Byaguda. They have alleged that taxes are being taken in the name of roads and lights in the toll plazas, but neither the road maintenance work is being done nor the lights are on in the national highway. Nilay Kashyap told that tax is collected in the name of arrangement in the toll plaza, but the National Highway has failed to provide facilities on the National Highway, only the work of recovery is being done by them. A memorandum was also submitted to Bastar SDM Om Prakash Verma by hundreds of Bastar residents. Meanwhile the SDM told that the road has to be repaired, high masks etc. have to be repaired, and the general public of Bhanpuri Bastar has been demanding for 9-10 months to repair the lights there, after which we gave notice to NHI three times. After that no action was taken by them, after which the general public gave a memorandum today that toll collection should not be done until we get the facility from the toll plaza. Unpleasant incidents should not

happen and people have been ordered to seal the toll plaza till further orders for the purpose of maintaining peace. No recovery of any kind will happen in the toll plaza till further orders. During this, Dharma Padhi, Mosu Baghel, Bablu Baghel, Sondhar Baghel, Mayur Nayak, Damru Kashyap, Pintu Yadav, Dukaru, Kameshwar, Chhotu Choubey, Manish Kashyap and others were present.

# Hindrance in wage work due to technical fault

**Dongargarh, Mar 15:** Due to a technical fault in the MNREGA app, before the commencement of MNREGA wage work, cases of laborers returning without work has come to the fore. Regarding which the panchayat representatives have submitted a memorandum to the district collector and higher officials through SDM Dongargarh. The matter pertains to MNREGA work going on in Chhindijob, Bagatola, Ramji Tola and Bodra Tola villages under Gram Panchayat Bor Talav, in which earth work is to be done for road construction from Bortlav to Chhindijob, Bagatola to Mata Devala and Ramji Tola to Bodra Tola. Due to



technical fault in the MNREGA app, the attendance of laborers was not recorded after the laborers arrived at the workplace for the work, due to which the work could not be started and in such a situation, the Panchayat representatives are facing the anger of the workers. A situation of dispute is being created by the laborers with the panchayat representatives regarding the payment of wages. In the memorandum given

to the SDM, the sarpanch and panchayat representatives of the gram panchayat at told that the master roll has been issued for the commencement of work from March 9 to March 15, but due to technical fault in online attendance, the work could not be started. In such a situation, the demand has been made by the panchayat representatives to close the MNREGA app and register attendance in the muster roll.

# SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA

**Publication of Notice Regarding Possession of Property u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI Act 2002**

Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules, 2002, a demand notice was issued on the dates mentioned against each account and stated herein after calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Act on the dates mentioned against each account. The Borrower 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 the STATE BANK OF INDIA for an amount and interest thereon.

*The Borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.*

SI No.	Name of the Borrowers	Demand Notice Dt. / Possession Notice Dt.	Outstanding Amount	Properties Details
1	Borrowers:- 1) Mr. Suresh N.T. S/o N.G. Thankappan 2) Mrs. Divya Suresh W/o Mr. Suresh N.T.	(1) 09.01.2023 (2) 09.03.2023	Rs. 47,91,772.00 + Interest & Other Charges	Description of Movable Property: Honda Amaze 1.2 SMT, CG 07 BX 8874, Color-Modern Steel Metal, Petrol.

**Description of Immovable Properties:** Property No. 1) Plot No. 23(part), part of Kh No. 2047/61, Mouja- Kohka, Fard Nagar Ward, Ward No. 08, Inside part of Anandpuram Nagar, PH. No. 14/19, area admeasuring 500 sq.ft., Bhillai, Dist-Durg, C.G. Boundaries: North: Part of Plot No. 23, South: Seller's remaining plot, East: Road, West: Land of Simplex. Property No. 2) Plot No. 24(part), part of Kh No. 2047/24, Mouja- Kohka, Fard Nagar Ward, Ward No. 08, Inside part of Anandpuram Nagar, PH. No. 14/19, area admeasuring 500 sq.ft., Bhillai, Dist-Durg, C.G. Boundaries: North: Part of Plot No. 23, South: Seller's remaining plot, East: Road, West: Land of Simplex.

Date: 16.03.2023, Place: Bhillai Authorized Officer, State Bank of India

**CENTRUM Home Loans**  
Corporate & Registered Office : Unit No. 801, Centrum House, CST Road, Vidyavanagar Marg, Kalina Santacruz (East), Mumbai - 400098, CIN No. U65922MH2016PLC23826  
Branch Office : 1st-Floor/Sky park, Plot No 3/10, Ward no-3, Opp Banthiya Nurshing Home, Rajatala, Raipur, 492001, Chhattisgarh

**APPENDIX-IV-A [See provision to rule 8(6)]**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION CUM SALE**

Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of Centrum Housing Finance Limited, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 for the recovery of amount due from borrower/s, offers are invited by the undersigned in sealed covers for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the physical possession, on 'As Is Where Is Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis', Particulars of which are given below:-

Sr. No.	Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) / Loan Account No./ Branch	Total Outstanding as on date	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price (RP)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) 10%
1	Raushan Aara, Mohammed Rabbani, Mohammed Firoz Aalam & Mohammad Samre Aalam/ RPRR18002360/ Raipur	Rs. 16,66,160/- (Rupees Sixteen Lac Sixty-Six Thousand One Hundred Sixty Only) as on 26-08-2022	In The Rights, Piece and Parcel of Immovable Property Bearing Khasra No.246/3, Admeasuring 566 Sq. Ft., Village - Maatipurena, PH No. 105/61, chandrashekar Azad ward 52, Raipur-492001, Chhattisgarh, Boundaries: East: Plot of Seller; West : House of Rajkumar, North: Plot No. Laxminarayana Singh; South : 20 Ft Road	Rs. 15,00,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Lac Only)	Rs. 1,50,000/- (Rupees One Lac Fifty Thousand Only)

- The Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS" AND "AS IS WHAT IS" basis
  - The detailed terms and conditions of the auction sale are incorporated in the prescribed tender form, available at the above mentioned Branch office
  - Last Date of Submission of Sealed Bid/Offer in the prescribed tender forms along with EMD payable by way of Demand Draft in Favor of "Centrum Housing Finance Limited", along with KYC is on 13-04-2023 till 5:00 PM at the Branch Office address mentioned herein above. Tenders that are not filled up completely or tenders received beyond last date will be considered as invalid tender and shall accordingly be rejected. No interest shall be paid on the EMD.
  - Date of inspection of the Immovable Property is on 12-04-2023 from 11:00 AM To 2:00 PM
  - Date of Opening of the Bid/Offer Auction Date for Property is 17-04-2023 at the above mentioned Branch Office address at 11:00 AM. to 2:00 PM by the Authorized Officer.
  - The purchaser shall bear the applicable stamp duties/additional stamp duty/transfer charges, fee etc. and also all the statutory dues, taxes, rates assessment, Govt & Semi Govt. taxes, TDS and other charges, fees etc. in respect of the auctioned property. The possession of the Mortgage Property mentioned above is with the CHFL, who will hand over peaceful possession to the successful bidder on compliance of above. The intending bidder should make their own independent inquiries regarding the Encumbrances Title of property & also inspect & satisfy themselves.
  - All other expenses for getting the properties transferred on their name and statutory dues, if any shall be borne by the successful purchaser.
  - The Highest bidder shall be subject to approval of Centrum Housing Finance Limited. Authorised Officer shall Reserve the right to accept all any of the offer /Bid so received without assign any reason whatsoever. His decision shall be final and binding.
  - The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) are hereby given 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002 to pay the sum mentioned as above before the date of Auction failing which the immovable property will be auctioned and balance, if any, will be recovered with interest and costs. If the Borrower pays the amount due to Centrum Housing Finance Limited, in full, before the date of sale, auction is liable to be set aside.
- For further details, contact the Authorized Officer, at the above mentioned Office address Contact Person - Mr. Manoj Thodiya 9179020141
- Place: Chattisgarh Date: 16.03.2023
- Sd/-  
Authorized Officer,  
Centrum Housing Finance Limited

## Hindu New Year to be celebrated as 'Srishti Srijan Divas'

**A procession will be taken out on Ram Navami, says Sarva Hindu Samaj**

**Jagdalpur, Mar 15:** Under the leadership of Sarva Hindu Samaj, a meeting was held on Tuesday in the premises of Maa Durga Temple located in Shanti Nagar regarding celebration of New Year festival 'Srishti Srujanotsav' on 'Chaitra Shukla Pratipada' as 'Srishti Srijan Divas'. After holding a meeting with all the society and organization heads, the strategy was decided unanimously. Ashok Arora, President of Sarva Hindu Samaj (SHS), presided over the meeting. In the meeting, it was decided to organize religious events on different days from Hindu New Year 'Chaitra Shukla Pratipada' to Ram Navami. Programmes and religious events ranging from Hindu New Year to Ram Navami were discussed. Representatives of all Hindu society and other societies participat-



ed. The theme of the meeting was to decide the strategy for all the religious events, processions and other religious events to be held from the Hindu New Year, Srishti Creation Day to Ramnavami. SHS Secretary L Eshwar Rao informed that 'Chaitra Shukla Pratipada' 'Vikram Samvat' 2080, on coming March 22, 'Srishti Srujanotsav', New Year festival, according to the glorious Hindu tradition, for the sake of 'loka' all the happiness Bhavantu, followed by a grand Scooty rally of 'Matratva Shakti', lamp decoration. And it has been ensured to welcome the new year with grandeur and divinity

through Mahaarti. He informed that on the first day of this religious festival starting from the day of New Year 'Shukla Pratipada', the programme of grand 'Shobha Yatra', 'Havan Pujan' will be done with grandeur and divinity by the 'Sanatani Hindu Samaj'. Similarly, different events will be organized on each day from the entire 'Navratri' till Ram Navami. The role, participation and accountability of Hindu society has been ensured. All the society and religion lovers involved in 'Sarv Hindu Samaj' Bastar division were urged to attend the New Year program and Ram Navami's grand pro-

cession in maximum numbers to give a grand look to the event. During this D h a r m c h a n d r a Khandelwal, Yogendra Kaushik, Ranjit Pandey, Sunil Khedulkar, JB Singh, Dashrat Kashyap, Rajaram Todenm, Ravi Brahmachari, Pawan Rajput, Anil Agarwal, Shankarlal Chandak, Shivnarayan Chandak, Kailash Rathi, Avinash Singh Chauhan, Kunal Chalisgaonkar, Yogesh Shukla, Sunil Das, Devendra Mohapatra, Srinivasa Mohanty, Harikishan Nishad, Asha Dodiya, Sarita Yadav, Indu Nag, Adya Narayani, and a large number of others was present.

## BJP SC, ST Morcha discuss election strategy

Central Chronicle News

**Kondagaon, Mar 15:** BJP has started formulating strategy for the next VS elections in the state. In view of the upcoming state elections, BJP SC, ST Morcha District Working Committee held a meeting at Atal Sadan in which BJP National Working Committee Member Lata Usendi was present. During this she advised BJP SC, ST Morcha office bearers and workers to strengthen up the booth-level and informed the workers about future work plans in detail. She said that the schemes of the central government are not reaching the common people and the public have understood the failures of the Congress led state government.



Dictatorship and corruption is at its peak in the state and the people have not understood the true face of Congress government in last four years of its rule. So the party workers should

pass on the failures of the state government to the general public. Former MLA Sevakram Netam, BJP District President Dipesh Arora, Sangeeta Poyam, Sanju Poyam,

Harishankar Netam, Sukhlal Markam, Bunt Nag, Santosh Uike, Balsingh Baghel, Bajjoram Netam, Dhanju Markam, Asman Sori and many other workers were present in the meeting.

## Vigilance campaign of women continues in Budeni

**Arang, Mar 15:** After catching an illicit liquor seller red-handed with liquor, the women of village Budeni, active in stopping the sale of illegal liquor in the village, have continued their vigilance campaign. Due to this campaign being run with the help of the villagers, the drunkards are either heading towards the near-

by village Bhadha or Kharora liquor bhathi. It may be noted that after the attention of City Superintendent of Police Udayan Behar and Kharora police station in-charge Brijesh Tiwari, Kharora police station staff has got an illegal liquor seller of village Budeni caught red-handed with 50 quarter bottles of

liquor and was lodged in jail on March 4. After this, angry women, with the help of panchayat and villagers, started a campaign against illegal sale of liquor, and its effects are also visible. According to them, an illegal liquor seller of Bhadha, who was caught selling liquor in the past, is involved in this business

and the villagers of Bhadha have not been able to stop it till date. Asha Pardihi, Sukhmani Pardihi, Shyama Pardihi, Madhuri Verma, Gauri Verma, Lalita Kosle, Janakdulari Jalakshatri, Vimla Verma, Silochana Verma, Chandrika Verma, Inderman Chauhan etc participated in the vigilance campaign.

## 75 couples tie nuptial knot under MKVY

**Parliamentary Secretary blessed the newlyweds**

**Jagdalpur, Mar 15:** On Saturday, 75 couples tie nuptial knots in the mass marriage programme organized under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah Yojana (MKVY) in Babu Semra village of the district. Of these, 66 couples got married according to Sanatan tradition and 9 couples got married according to Christian tradition.



On this occasion, Parliamentary Secretary Rekchhand Jain, while leading the procession reached the wedding venue with 75 grooms dancing and singing to the tune of band instruments. With him on this occasion, Vice President of Indravati Authority Rajeev Sharma, Mayor Safira Sahu, Municipal Corporation Chairman Kavita Sahu, Janpad Panchayat President Anita Poyam, District Program Officer of Women and Child Development Department Manoj Sinha including officers, employees, entry into married life. The couple and their relatives were present.

that the newly married couple should lead a happy life while serving their parents. Vice President of Indravati Development Authority, Rajeev Sharma said that Kanyadan is one of the biggest donations in life. He wished Maa Danteshwari's blessings on all the newly wedded couples. On this occasion, Mayor of Jagdalpur Municipal Corporation Safira Sahu, Chairperson Kavita Sahu and other public representatives also addressed.

## Graduation day of the kindergarten students commemorates 'Susansh'

**Bemetara, Mar 15:** The Graduation day of the kindergarten students was celebrated at Allons on Tuesday. The Programme started with the lighting of a candle in front of the photo of the Goddess Saraswati and garlanding it by Priya Arora, Chairperson, Dr. Satyajit Hota, Principal and the parents. The Graduation Day is the wonderful day when the academic life culminates into an all-important degree. It is a time to celebrate with all those people, teachers, parents and friends who have helped us in the student life and made learning fun.



The programme began with the song and the Bhajan presented by Aishwarya Arora the mother of Hayati Arora and Ganika Devi Pandey which left everybody spellbound as they sang on tunes of some vibrant music displaying breath taking colours with coordinated movements that also set the tone and mood of the atmosphere at an all-time high. The parents presented a

brilliant performance while performing the ramp walk with their little children. The audience was astonished with the magical deed. The Mothers of the students named Prithivi, Shreyansh, Prashika, Shashank, Aditya, Atharva, Aryan, Ariket, Avani Pandey, Tanyaand etc. danced with them. It was a hilarious event. This was followed by the distribution of graduate certificates to the tiny tots in graduation caps and sash along with the felicitation of the little children with the unique titles describing their strengths. The programme culminated with the vote of thanks by the little

children and the parents who expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the Management, Principal and the teachers. It was indeed a memorable experience for the little ones and be blessed as they continue their education in the main stream of the school. The main highlight of the celebration was the walking of the students with their mothers for their convocation. It was a proud moment for the parents of the little angels of kindergarten when their children moved to the dais to receive the scrolls of graduation certificates with smiling faces wearing graduation gowns and

scholar's caps from the Principal. All the mothers remembered the past memories of their childhood due to the involvement in this event. Dr. Satyajit Hota, Principal welcomed everyone and gave a bird's eye view of the achievements of the students. He told the parents that their children have maximum talents. Allons School is always ready to help its students for developing their physical, intelligence, mental, technical, vocational, social, spiritual and adverse quotients. The school develops the anti-adverse skills of the students to survive in odd condition also. On seeing the

mothers courage, creativity, imagination and extra ordinary performance, innovation and ambition, he said that the future of their children will also be bright. He also gave warm congratulations on their graduation and best wishes for their next adventure for today and always by cherishing their efforts. The credit of the graduation day goes to the parents and teachers of Kindergarten named Shital Vaidya, Seema Patel, Shruti Soniwith their coordinator Khushboo Naidu. Pre-Primary coordinator Khushboo Naidu handed over the students to Primary coordinator Simintani Thakur for their further education. She gave the commitment for her service to bring the bright future of the students. A vote of thanks was given by Khushboo Naidu and anchoring was done by Khushboo Naidu & Seema Patel. Aishwarya Arora, Director, Ruchi Arora, Director, Sunil Sharma, Administrator witnessed this memorable event.

## A Biswanath gets IDM 2023 organizer recognition

**From UNESCO and International Mathematical Union**

**Ch'garh's the only one organizer Amujuri Biswanath got support from 20 int'l organizations and committees**

**Int'l Mathematics Fortnight 2023 will be organised from 14 to 28 March on the theme "Mathematics for Everyone"**



Everyone". International Day of Mathematics scheme is being operated by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Mathematical Union (IMU) Berlin Germany, Imaginary Organization and Klaus Tshira Stiftung, Simons Foundation. March 14 is celebrated as International Day of Mathematics and Pi Day to mark the mathematical constant Pi (π) whose value is 3.14. Amujuri Biswanath, PGT lecturer of Astha Vidya Mandir

English Medium School Jawanga, Dantewada of Chhattisgarh and lifetime member expert of the Indian Science Congress Association, Government of India, Department of Science and Technology has got the organiser recognition from UNESCO, International Mathematical Union Berlin Germany and IDM314 for 2023 International Day of Mathematics. This program will be organized globally through online and offline different activities. The only one organizer from Chhattisgarh, Amujuri Biswanath said that mathematical knowledge and skills are very useful and necessary for everyone in human life. International Mathematics Fortnight for the year 2023 will be organized from 14 to 28 March. The role and importance of Mathematics will be shared through various activities. Indian Science

Congress Association, All India Ramanujan Maths Club, Aastha Vidya Mandir English Medium School Jawanga, National Teacher Scientific Council of India, Raman Science & Technology Foundation, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam National Council of Young Scientists and Igniting Dreams of Young Minds Foundation are the key associations to organize IDM in Chhattisgarh, India. Various webinars, competitions, projects and awards are being organized at free of cost for students, mathematics lovers, teachers, professional persons, educators, scientists and general public. This program has received consent from various 20 international establishments, institutions, councils and commissions of the world. Nobel Prize recipient physicist and scientist Albert Einstein was remembered on the occasion of 144th birthday anniversary.

## DLSA creates awareness about women's rights, laws

**Jagdalpur, Mar 15:** Under the guidance of District Judge and Chairman of District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Alok Kumar, in collaboration with National Legal Services Authority (NLSA), New Delhi and National Commission for Women, District Legal Services Authority, Jagdalpur organized Women's Day Week on women's rights and laws in the district. The awareness programme was organized on Sunday at the Gram Panchayat Bhawan of Gram Panchayat Balikota. Advocates Hemlata Nakka and Virendra Bahote were present in this awareness programme as resource persons and officers and employees of Health Department and Women and Child Development Department as participants. The programme was started by the



Resource Person with the resolution song of NLSA, garlanding the picture of Chhattisgarh Mahtari, lighting the lamp. Resource person Hemlata Nakka, advocate, giving information about the purpose of the above program and legal service schemes related to women's rights and free legal aid in relation to crimes against women, said that crime can be controlled only through education. Important legal information related to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act,

Dowry Prohibition Act, maintenance, 'Stridhan', ancestral property, protection of women from domestic violence act and crime against women was provided. Resource person Virendra Bahote, Advocate, provided detailed information regarding the welfare schemes run by the government for women, including their fundamental rights, basic duties, legal aid schemes, to the women present in the program. In the said programme, women's health activist

Neelam Thakur apprised the women present about the rights related to women's health. During this, women self-help groups including advocate Shubham Netam, village sarpanch Fulmati Kashyap, deputy sarpanch Pramila Baghel, women health worker Nilam Thakur, Anganwadi worker, Mitani and Panch Khageshwari Joshi, Jitendra Nakka water collection officer, karate instructor Poonam Netam, Satbati Baghel Members and women health workers were present.

## DEO conducts inspection of examination centre

**In SAGEMS Daupara**

**Mungeli, Mar 15:** District Education Officer (DEO) and in-charge District inspection team Savita Rajpur conducted surprise inspection of Swamy Atmanand Govt English Medium School (SAGEMS) in Daupara, Mungeli, examination centre on Saturday.



During this the exam in Physics and Geography of Higher Secondary School certificate was going on. In the Physics paper, 52 out of 54 students appeared and in 'Geography' 46 out of 46 students appeared in the exam. The DEO found the exam to be conducted peacefully and as per rules. Along with the flying squad, APC Sanjay Sahu was also present.

## Accused of physical exploitation nabbed

**Jagdalpur, Mar 14:** In Bodhghat police station of the district, the matter came to the notice of evasive and evasive refusal to pressurize for marriage. While registering the report by the victim applicant, it was informed that since the year 2018, there was a love affair between the accused Vidhan



Burman alias Bobby and the applicant. Both knew each other very well. Accused Vidhan Burman alias Bobby had been physically abusing the applicant for the last five years by taking her to different places on the pretext of marriage. On the report, the police station in-charge

Bodghaat Dilbag Singh appointed female sub-inspector Guneshwari Nareti as the investigating officer of the case, after registering the crime on the report of the applicant, arrested the said accused Vidhan Burman alias Bobby and sent to jail on judicial remand.

# Kathak dance class 'Nriyangan' inaugurated at Little Bunny School



● Women employees honoured by SECRWWO Bilaspur

**Bilaspur, Mar 15:** SECRWWO Bilaspur Division has always been working for the welfare of railway employees and their families. Along with this, SECRWWO Bilaspur has also played an important role in preserving, promoting and nurturing the culture of India from time to time.

Taking this link forward, in a better effort towards women empowerment, SECRWWO Bilaspur Division has started 'Nriyangan' Kathak practice classes at Little Bunny School from March 14. This Kathak practice class 'Nriyangan' was formally inaugurated with the unveiling of the inscription from the hands of Divisional SECRWWO President Mrs. Shraddha Pandey. Kathak dance

training will be given under 'Guru Shishya Parampara' by 'Ritesh Sharma, Secretary of Shri Kala Manjari Kathak Sansthan'. In this class, along with the family members of railway employees, people from outside the railway will also be able to take admission. As a special arrangement for the family members of railway employees, half the fees of Kathak will be given by SECRWWO.

Along with this, on 14 March 2023, under the International Women's Day, SECRWWO organized a felicitation ceremony in the Little Bunny School premises to honour the women employees of the division. President Mrs. Shraddha Pandey was the chief guest at the function. On this occasion, SECRWWO Vice President Mrs. Meenakshi Raj, Secretary Mrs. Meera Yadav along with other members and women rail-

way workers were present. The function was inaugurated by lighting of lamp by the President of SECRWWO. After this, poetry, song, dance and cultural program were presented for the entertainment of women employees. Along with this, entertainment games were also organized. In the ceremony, 40 women employees of the division, who have done excellent work at their work place, were honoured with lotuses by Divisional SECRWWO President Mrs. Shraddha Pandey.

Chief guest and SECRWWO President Mrs. Shraddha Pandey wished everyone a Happy Women's Day. In her address, she said that the presence of all courageous and incredible women and the work done by you cannot be described in a few words. There is a special quality

in each one of you that is propelling you forward in life.

Women are like water and can fit into any role, personal or professional life, big or small job, Entrepreneur or an employee, the right mix of combination of women is seen in each role. The world is incomplete without women. It is woman who brings life on this earth. She plays an important role in the development of the children and also manages her household efficiently, Pandey maintained.

In today's time, women are not only self-sufficient, but women are progressing in every field. Women have also made a special contribution in the progress of the country in every field. Some people say that a woman has no home, but the truth is that there is no home without a woman, she further mentioned.

# More than 500 women from 14 villages felicitated

**Ambikapur, Mar 15:** On occasion of International Women's Day, Adani Foundation organised women's felicitation programme in Gram Salhi of Udaipur block here on Monday. In this programme organised jointly under the social participation of Rajasthan Raja Viduyt Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL) at Adani Skill Development Centre in Salhi, women from more than 14 villages near Parsa East Kete Basen viz. Gram Parsa, Salhi, Fattepur, Janardhanpur, Ghatbarra, Hariharpur and others took part in the programme. In this more than 500 women from socio-economic, culture and political fields, working women, WSHGs and Women Entrepreneurship Multipurpose Co-op Samiti (MOBS) were felicitated. This year the United Nations have declared the theme of Int'l Women's Day as 'Digital-All: Navachar and Technology for Gender Equality' and its objective is to lay emphasis on importance of technology in highlighting issues of gender equality.

**On occasion of Int'l Women's Day By RRVUNLS, ASDC and AEL in Gram Salhi**



The programme began with Chief Guest Bhojwanti Paikra- Janpad President Udaipur and as special guest- Santi Kariyam- President Block Development Centre (BDC)- Udaipur; Ramuniya Kariyan- Member- BDC Salhi; Shanti Rajwarde- Janpad member; Adani Enterprises Ltd. (AEL) - Suraju Cluster Head Manoj Kumar Shahi, and as special guests were - Amita Singh Tekam- President MOBS; Shiv Kumar Yadav- Dy. Sarpanch- Parsa and Cluster HR Head Ram Dwivedi. Addressing the programme Chief Guest Bhojwanti Paikra said that today also there is need for support and motivation to women of the society for their empowerment and development. She hailed the programme organised by Adani Foundation and ex-

tended greetings of Int'l Women's Day. Cluster Head MK Shahi hailed the contribution being made by girls and women in the field of technology through online education as per UN's theme this year and held the need to increase the digital technology and bring them within their reach.

In this programme, students of Adani Vidya Mandir presented welcome song and the students from Adani Skill Development Centre (ASDC) presented colourful dance. Members of MOBS were also felicitated for their works. To make the Int'l Women's Day successful, on behalf of CSR team, Saurabh Singh, Anil Jaiswal, Amit Rai, Praveen Kujur, from AEL- Priyanka Singh, Ritu, from Gram Udami and MOBS- Sushmita Kumari, Kumari Jahnavi, Savitri Armo, Veena Devi Dewangan, Vedmati Uikye and Bandhan Porte gave valuable contribution. It is notable here that RRVUNL, Para East Kete Basen is carrying out many programmes on infrastructure development and providing high quality education, removal of unemployment. In this under removal of unemployment, MOBS support and funded by Adani Foundation is running many programmes like mid-day meal management in commercial units; masala processing unit; Dairy and milk production centre, sanitary pad production unit and white-phenyl and hand-wash gel production unit and others. This has brought changes in economic conditions of SHGs members, apart from infusing skill development and making them financially independent.

# BALCO champions women's empowerment through Unnati Utsav



**Balconagar, March 14, 2023:** Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO), India's iconic aluminium producer, organized 'Unnati Utsav' to commemorate International Women's Day based on the theme 'Embrace Equity'. In the presence of more than 500 women from different Self-Help Groups (SHGs) established by BALCO under its community development project Unnati, SHG workers were felicitated for their outstanding achievement at the state and national level. These community champions were felicitated for their outstanding achievements in various CSR schemes of BALCO like 'Unnati', 'Nayi Kiran', 'Mor Jal Mor Maati', 'Arogya' and 'Vedanta Skill School'. Stalls by women entrepreneurs, a play performed by the SHGs, and cultural activities centered around project 'Unnati' were the other attractions of the event. The program also featured a 'Walk of Equity', where participants from various backgrounds, such as farmers, adolescent girls and boys, transgender individuals, BALCO employees, and SHG women came together to showcase the strength in diversity and reiterated BALCO's commitment of embracing equity.



in chocolate production. Piyush Kumar was recognized for his contribution to the Nayi Kiran initiative and his efforts in raising funds for the distribution of sanitary napkins among his female batchmates. Rekha Dahariya was acknowledged for her role in training community women in stitching, empowering them to become financially independent through the Unnati Project. Overall, 13 community champions were recognized for their outstanding efforts in entrepreneurship, health awareness, skill development, and more. The awardees expressed their gratitude towards BALCO for its initiatives and the positive impact they have made in their lives. Appreciating the positive

impact of the Project Unnati, Mr. Rajesh Kumar, CEO & Director, BALCO, said, "Project 'Unnati' is aimed at promoting financial empowerment of women which can help them in establishing their individualistic identity in the society and enable them to contribute towards the growth and progress of their families, society, and nation. BALCO is committed to supporting women from local communities in their journey of self-empowerment by enabling them with skills training, financial literacy, market linkage and similar initiatives." Recently, BALCO also launched SHG sanitary pad manufacturing micro-enterprise called 'UnNaree', under which women will be trained to

manufacture and sell sanitary pads. This is a leap towards ensuring good menstrual health in the region and creates additional income streams for SHG members.

Project Unnati focuses on empowering and mobilizing women into SHGs and honing their capacities and skills for entrepreneurship and building sustainable livelihoods.

In this fiscal itself, 90 new SHGs were formed, taking the total number to 470+ SHGs with more than 5,000 women who greatly benefit under the various training modules of the project.

**कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)**  
ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

क्र. 53/न.पा.नि./प्र.2022-23 दिनांक 14/03/2023

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

सिस्टम नंबर	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (₹. लाख में)	निविदा डाउनलोड/सबमिट करने की अंतिम तिथि
127761	Chaupti Development at RHS Arpa River Near Sulabh Complex at Gondpara.	40.24	05-04-2023

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापित, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता  
Green City, Clean City, Dream City. नगर पालिक निगम, बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

**CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER GENERATION COMPANY LIMITED**  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (S&P-Gen) 5th Floor, Vidyalaya Bhawan, Danganiya, Raipur- Pin 492013  
Phone: 0771-2574451/61 Fax: 0771-2574458; e-mail: cesnp.csngcl@csngcl.co.in web site: www.csngcl.co.in

No. 03-03/ TN-621/ 22-23/5782 Raipur Dtd 03/03/2023

**E-TENDER NOTICE NO. TN- 621/22-23**

Online bids are invited by the undersigned through CSPCL e-bidding system (SAP SRM) from Experienced & reputed contractors for the work as mentioned below for HTPS, Korba (West):-

S. No.	Tender Specification No.	Particulars	Last date & time of bid submission
1	03-03/EW-708/22-23 (RFx-S100030221) (With RLA)	AOH of Rotary Air Heaters (Primary APH & Secondary APH) of 1x500 MW HTPS, Korba (West)	Upto 27.03.2023 15:00 Hrs
2	03-03/HW-709/22-23 (RFx-S100030209) (Without RLA)	Deployment of manpower at MCR-1 &2, ECR & Mini Hydel plant at HTPS, Korba (West)	Upto 31.03.2023 15:00 Hrs

For more details, please visit our website at: <http://www.csngcl.co.in/csngcl/>. Any amendment/ corrigendum, if required, will be displayed on our website only.

Executive Director (S&P: Gen) CSPGCL: Raipur

**TRIFED**  
आजादी का अमृत महोत्सव

**TRIBAL COOPERATIVE MARKETING DEVELOPMENT FEDERATION OF INDIA LIMITED (TRIFED)**  
(MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)

HEAD OFFICE : NSIC Business Park, NSIC Estate, Okhla Phase-III Okhla Industrial Area, New Delhi-110020, Tel: 011-71600414/15/418

**VACANCY**

TRIFED, a Government of India Organization invites applications from eligible candidates for appointment in four posts of Deputy Manager with pay at Level-11 of the pay matrix (Rs. 67700 - 208700) on deputation basis for a period of 3 years.

Applications may be forwarded through proper channel to the General Manager, Personnel Division, TRIFED so as to reach on or before 03.04.2023.

For eligibility & details, please visit TRIFED's website <https://trifed.tribal.gov.in> under opportunities - careers section.

CBC 43104/12/0045/2223 General Manager (Personnel) G-99266/2

**कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता लोक निर्माण विभाग, बिलासपुर मंडल, बिलासपुर**  
ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा सूचना  
Portal : <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, लोक निर्माण विभाग, बिलासपुर मण्डल, बिलासपुर में निम्नलिखित कार्य नवीन ई-पंजीयन में पंजीकृत ठेकेदार सरल क्र. 01 से 32 हेतु दिनांक 24.03.2023 तक रायगढ़ संभाग रायगढ़ के लिए प्रथम आमंत्रण की निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

क्र.	नि.आ.सू. क्र./दिनांक	कार्य का नाम	लागत (लाख में)
1	315	जिला रायगढ़ अंतर्गत शास.उ.मा.वि. तेलला में स्वामी आलानंद उत्कृष्ट हिन्दी माध्यम हेतु उन्नयन कार्य।	45.32
2	316	---तदैव--- पतरपाली	45.82
3	317	---तदैव--- पड़गांव	44.19
4	318	---तदैव--- गोडी	42.92
5	319	---तदैव--- नंदेली	43.99
6	320	---तदैव--- टारपाली (पूर्व)	46.58
7	321	---तदैव--- हमीरपुर	37.30
8	322	---तदैव--- तराईमाल	46.64
9	323	---तदैव--- लोईग	46.40
10	324	---तदैव--- महापल्ली	48.29
11	325	---तदैव--- चक्रधरनगर	45.16
12	326	---तदैव--- घोरामांदा	35.53
13	327	---तदैव--- औरदा	47.61
14	328	---तदैव--- किरौडीमलनगर	40.64
15	329	---तदैव--- कुंजेपुरा	42.50
16	330	---तदैव--- बडेभण्डार	32.51
17	331	---तदैव--- राजपुरा	45.29
18	332	---तदैव--- सिसरिया	46.43
19	333	---तदैव--- कापू	40.87
20	334	---तदैव--- छर्राटांगर	46.25
21	335	---तदैव--- घरघोडा	46.29
22	336	---तदैव--- रायकेरा	45.97
23	337	---तदैव--- कटाईपाली-सी	46.37
24	338	---तदैव--- बरतपुर	46.17
25	339	---तदैव--- हाटी	46.32
26	340	---तदैव--- झगरपुर	46.48
27	341	---तदैव--- लारीपानी	49.01
28	342	---तदैव--- चपले में (अंग्रेजी माध्यम)	60.42
29	343	---तदैव--- गोरपार	48.46
30	344	---तदैव--- मुरा	63.18
31	345	---तदैव--- मदनपुर	45.68
32	346	पंजीरी प्लांट रायगढ़ में स्थित चक्रधर की उंचाई बढ़ाने का कार्य।	199.65

निविदा में भाग लेने की प्रक्रिया एवं निविदा के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी विभाग के उपरोक्त वेबसाइट में देखे जा सकते हैं।

अधीक्षण अभियंता  
लो.नि.वि., बिलासपुर मण्डल, बिलासपुर

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

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

(First Call)

System Tender No. : 126810/NIT No. : 16/SAC/22-23,  
Dated : 13.03.2023  
Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 05.04.2023 at 17:30 Hours.

Name of Work: Remodelling, Cement Concrete Lining & Reconstruction of Canal Structures of Distributary No. 19 of Balodabazar Branch Canal under Mahanadi Project.

Probable Amount of Contract: - Rs. 378.45 Lakhs  
(As per S.O.R. dated 01.08.2010 and amended upto dated 22.08.2022).

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 20.03.2023, at 17:31 Hours. (IST) onwards.

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

Executive Engineer  
Water Management Division No. 2, Balodabazar  
For, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Project  
Raipur (C.G.)

G-99280/2

**Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation Limited**  
(A Government of Chhattisgarh Undertaking)  
(ISO 9001 : 2015 Certified)

1st Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Ring Road No, 1, Telibandha, Raipur (C.G.) - 492006  
CIN : U45203CT1981SG001853, PAN: AACB6288N, GST Regn No22AACB6288N5ZY  
Phone : 0771-6621000 Fax : 0771-2583794  
Website : [www.csidc.in](http://www.csidc.in), Email address : [csidc.cg@nic.in](mailto:csidc.cg@nic.in), [csidc\\_raipur@yahoo.com](mailto:csidc_raipur@yahoo.com)

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER (1st Call)**  
(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

NIT No. 11/CSIDC/E.E./Division-IV/2022-23/System No. 127812 Raipur, dated 15/03/2023

Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd., Raipur (CSIDC), a Government of Chhattisgarh Undertaking constituted under the Companies Act, engaged in Industrial Infrastructure Development & Other Related Activities in the State invites online tender for the following works :-

Name of work	Registered Contractor in CGPWD or in appropriate class in other dep't.	Probable Amount of Contract (PAC) (INR Lacs)	Last Date for Submission of Tender
Infrastructure Development Works Including B.T. Road, R.C.C. Drain, R.C.C. Slab Culvert, D.I. Pipeline, Over Head Tank & Sumpwell, Godown, Working Shed and Street Light etc. at Proposed Food Park (Phase-I) Village Chandanu-Raveli, Block-Bemetara, Distt. Bemetara (C.G.)	Class-B & Above	986.00	17/04/2023

The tender document containing detailed terms & conditions, scope of works and other details can be downloaded from the web portal (website) <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> from 15/03/2023 Time 17:01 and shall be submitted online only. Amendment in tender, if any, will only be uploaded on the website and shall not be published in any newspaper.

NOTE: 1) The interested tenderers for online submission of tender may contact CG e-Proc Helpdesk. Operated by Mjunction Services Limited, they may reach Helpdesk using 1800 4199140 (from 9AM to 11 PM) (therein press 2 for CG e-Proc) or you can email them at [Helpdesk.eproc@cgswan.gov.in](mailto:Helpdesk.eproc@cgswan.gov.in).

Executive Engineer  
S-35952/1  
कार्यालय एवं दूकान हेतु स्थान उपलब्ध वेबसाइट देखें [www.csidc.in](http://www.csidc.in)

**कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता, मनियारी जल संसाधन संभाग मुंगेली, जिला-मुंगेली (छ.ग.)**

**// निविदा निरस्तीकरण आदेश //**

पत्र क्रमांक...../व.ले.स./2022-23 मुंगेली, दिनांक .....

प्रमुख अभियंता, जल संसाधन विभाग, शिवनाथ भवन, सेक्टर-19 नार्थ ब्लॉक, अटल नगर नवा रायपुर के पत्र क्रं. 4262399/निविदा प्रकोष्ठ/2022/6842(Tc) रायपुर दिनांक 31.01.2023 द्वारा दिये गये निर्देश के परिपालन में इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा सूचना क्रं. 19/व.ले.स./2022-23 दिनांक 29.12.2022, (यु.पं. 02) सिस्टम नं. 118339 (द्वितीय आमंत्रण) "टेसुवा नाला में ग्राम घुटेरी के पास एनीकट निर्माण कार्य" (लागत रु. 274.84 लाख) की द्वितीय आमंत्रण निविदा में एकल निविदाकार अयोग्य पाये जाने के कारण उक्त निविदा को "निरस्त" किया जाता है।

जी.नं. - 97174, दिनांक 31.12.2022

कार्यपालन अभियंता  
मनियारी जल संसाधन संभाग,  
मुंगेली, जिला-मुंगेली (छ.ग.)

G-99261/1



## CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 48 No. 159

### Engaging with Taliban

**A Pragmatic Approach for India's Interests in Afghanistan**

As the Taliban continues to hold power in Afghanistan after seizing control of the country in August 2021, India's relationship with the new regime remains a critical concern for the nation's foreign policy. While India has not officially endorsed the Taliban's legitimacy, it has recognized the reality of their rule and the need to engage with them. The participation of Taliban officials in an online training course, conducted under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program, is a significant step towards rebuilding the Delhi-Kabul relationship. The four-day course, entitled 'Immersing with Indian Thoughts,' aims to provide delegates from various countries, including Afghanistan, with a deeper understanding of India's business environment, cultural heritage, and regulatory ecosystem. The Institute of Diplomacy, which falls under Afghanistan's foreign ministry, promptly shared the ITEC invite, indicating the Taliban's eagerness to reach out to India. The Taliban sees India as a major stakeholder in facilitating long-term peace and stability in Afghanistan. India has a strong interest in safeguarding its investments in Afghanistan, having invested billions of dollars in 500-odd projects after the US invasion of 2001. The Taliban's willingness to engage with India is crucial for India to resume financial and technical assistance for these development ventures. India's tough stance on cross-border terrorism also puts the Taliban under pressure to rein in Pakistan-based terror groups that use Afghan territory to foment trouble in the region. While India's decision to reopen its embassy in Kabul last year was seen as a positive step towards strengthening the Delhi-Kabul relationship, India must adopt a pragmatic and proactive approach to engage with the Taliban. A constructive engagement with the Taliban is necessary to safeguard India's interests in Afghanistan and play a key role in facilitating long-term peace and stability in the region. India's recent decision to send wheat to the crisis-hit country through Iran's Chabahar port instead of taking the road route via Pakistan shows its continued commitment to providing humanitarian aid to Afghanistan. This approach not only circumvents Pakistan but also strengthens India's strategic ties with Iran. Engaging with the Taliban is critical for India to protect its interests in Afghanistan. While it may be challenging to find common ground with the new regime, India's pragmatic and proactive approach could pave the way for future collaborations and a long-term solution to the Afghanistan crisis.

### Inflation Concerns: RBI's Dilemma

Is the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) falling behind in its efforts to combat inflation? This is the question that has resurfaced as inflation rates in India hit a three-month high of 6.52% in January. Despite a hawkish stance from the RBI in its last Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting, fixed-income markets have already ruled out the possibility of rate hikes, and analysts have concluded that the RBI's rate-hike cycle has come to an end. However, the current situation in India suggests that there is a discrepancy between wholesale prices and consumer prices, which raises concerns about whether inflation will rise or fall. While businesses have experienced a significant reduction in inflation expectations aided by decreasing input costs, consumers face a different scenario. The rise in food prices, such as cereals and milk, is expected to outweigh the declines in prices of vegetables, cooking oil, and eggs, at least in terms of the general perception of an increase in food prices. The higher-than-expected January inflation, along with a more hawkish tone from members of the MPC, tilts the risk balance for the MPC going forward. Therefore, the probability of a rate hike in April has increased, given the higher inflation in January and the more hawkish stance of some members of the Monetary Policy Committee. It is important to note that if there is a degree of pricing power in the economy, it is likely a reflection of strong growth momentum. However, this momentum may weaken in the coming months as the combination of high-interest rates, tight liquidity in the banking sector, and a loss of global GDP momentum causes growth to decline somewhat. As a result, the fading of pricing power is likely to become more apparent. Therefore, the RBI must balance the need to combat inflation with the need to maintain growth momentum in the economy. The central bank cannot afford to delay action, as doing so could lead to a situation where the momentum of the economy is lost, resulting in a hard landing. Ultimately, the RBI must take decisive action to maintain stability in the Indian economy.

Central Chronicle invites articles, write-ups, and comments on a wide range of issues for our editorial page. Submissions should be between 800-900 words in length. In addition, we welcome letters to the editor for this page. While letters may be edited for clarity, we aim to preserve the integrity of the original message, and ask that they be kept to around 50-60 words. Submissions can be sent via [email@editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com](mailto:email@editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com).

### TRAFFIC JAM

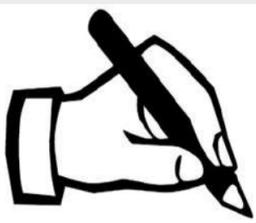


Noida: Vehicles stuck in a traffic jam near Film City, in Noida, Wednesday, March 15.

## India's unique energy pathways



**HARDEEP S PURI**



As the world's fastest-growing major economy with rising energy needs, India will account for approximately 25% of global energy demand growth between 2020-2040, as per BP energy outlook and IEA estimates. Ensuring energy access, availability and affordability for our large population is an imperative. This makes our case 'sui generis' and has driven our energy strategy, now acknowledged the world over as being pragmatic and balanced. **How has India managed to do this?** When petrol and diesel prices went up by 35-40% in U.S., Canada, Spain and UK, and despite importing over 85% of its crude oil requirements and 55% of its natural gas requirements, prices of diesel in India have actually gone down in the last 1 year. When several countries in our neighbourhood have had dry outs and power cuts to manage demand, there has been no shortage of fuel anywhere in India, even during flood and natural calamity situations. This was made possible due to the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi ji for ensuring energy justice to our citizens. The Centre and many BJP ruled States announced massive cuts in excise duty and VAT rates, twice. Oil PSUs, being good corporate citizens, absorbed huge losses to ensure that the massive hikes in the prices of crude oil and natural gas in the

international market were not passed on to Indian consumers. Subsidised APM Gas for city gas distribution sector was drastically increased even at the cost of cutting down the captive use of domestic gas by our own PSUs. We even imposed an export cess on petrol, diesel and ATF and windfall tax on domestically produced petroleum products to prevent refiners and producers from profiteering at the cost of domestic consumers. Over the years, India has expanded its network of crude oil suppliers from 27 nations to 39 nations. India has also further strengthened its ties with countries like the United States (energy trade has gone up 13 times in last 4 years) and Russia to ensure reliable supply of crude oil. This strategic market card, as the world's 3rd largest importer, not only ensured affordable energy for Indian consumers but also had a calming effect on global petroleum markets. What is inescapable is that India's purchase of petroleum products from certain nations has actually kept the global demand and supply of around 98-100 million barrels/day balanced, thereby keeping oil prices in check for the global value chain. Had this not been done, global prices would have shot to 300\$/barrel! We are working on both the traditional fuels exploration as well as energy transition.

Our reforms in making India an attractive E&P destination are reflected in the consulting firm Wood Mackenzie noting that India could be the licensing wildcard of 2023. By 2025, India wants to boost its net geographic area under exploration from 8% (0.25 million sq km) to 15% (0.5 million sq km) and has reduced the prohibited/no-go areas in our Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) by 99%, releasing nearly 1 million sq. km. for exploration. However, as demonstrated by Modi Ji at Glasgow, we remain steadfast in our Climate Change commitments - becoming net-zero in emissions by 2070 and cutting down emission by 1 billion tons by the end of 2030. We are also rapidly expanding our petrochemical production, in line with the massive increase in living standards and rapid urbanisation. India is a global exporter of petroleum products and its refining capacity is the fourth largest in the world after the United States, China, and Russia. Efforts are underway to further enhance this capacity to 450 MMT by 2040. The refining capacity expansion was also one of the major factors in ensuring fuel price stability during the international oil price volatilities seen in the last year. India is also accelerating its efforts to move towards a gas-based economy by increasing the share of gas from the current 6.3% to 15% by 2030. India has connected more than 9.5 crore families with clean cooking fuel in the past nine years. PNG connections have increased from 22.28 lakh in 2014 to over 1 crore in 2023. The number of CNG stations in India has gone up from 938 in 2014 to 4900 in 2023. Since 2014, India has increased the length of its gas pipeline network from 14,700 kms to 22,000 kms in 2023. At the recently concluded India Energy Week 2023, India took a giant stride in her biofuel revolution

by launching E20, i.e., 20% ethanol blended gasoline by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, which will be rolled out in 15 cities and expanded across the country in the next two years. India's ethanol blending gasoline has grown from just 1.53% in 2013-14 to 10.17% in 2023, and now India is also setting up five 2nd generation ethanol which can convert agricultural waste into Biofuel, further reducing pollution due to stubble burning and generating income for farmers. National Green Hydrogen Mission has been launched with an outlay of Rs. 19,744 crores to develop the entire green hydrogen ecosystem in the country & accelerate India's efforts towards 4 MT of annual Green Hydrogen production & Rs. 1 lakh crore of cumulative fossil fuel import savings by 2030. India is poised to realize its full potential to create Green Hydrogen ecosystem by 2030. Just like our energy strategy, we are also taking an integrated path for transitioning India's future mobility pathways. Therefore, along with Green Hydrogen and Biofuels, India is also supporting Electric Vehicles through a Production Linked Incentive scheme to make advanced chemistry cells of 50 Gigawatt hours and have announced Viability Gap Funding and customs duty exemptions for the sector. We are targeting the installation of Alternate Fuel Stations (EV charging/ CNG/ LPG/ LNG/ CBG etc.) at 22,000 Retail Outlets by May 2024. As we grow to become a USD 26 trillion economy by our Amrit Kaal target of 2047, we are implementing a unique strategy for ensuring energy security and achieving energy independence, inspired by the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi Ji. **(The author is Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing & Urban Affairs.)**

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Disruptions in House

Rowdy disruptions and walk-outs by MPs have become routine, leading to a complete washout of a session, at times. This is not what citizens expect from their elected representatives. As citizens, we expect serious discussions from elected members leading to the framing of laws that are for the welfare of the public and the country as a whole. The role of opposition parties is as important as that of the party in power. A strong Opposition is the cornerstone of a thriving democracy. It should question the government on any flaws in Bills to be passed and implementation of policies. The Opposition is the watchdog appointed by the people. Members from both benches should engage in serious discussions, rising above personal animosity and not resorting to name-calling. Members from the ruling party are expected to lend an ear to issues raised by Opposition parties and work out ways to settle and compromise. Neutrality of the Speaker should be clearly evident. It is high time that our elected representatives prioritize the welfare of the public and the country, rather than engaging in disruptive behavior. Let us all strive towards a healthy democracy.

Manoj Kumar, Raipur

#### Chip agreement

India can become a semiconductor manufacturing hub and has the potential to excel in this field, but it would require significant investment in building research and development capabilities. Furthermore, such an investment could not only benefit India but could also boost its role in the global supply chain. While the United States currently leads the world in semiconductor design India has a considerable talent pool in this field. Therefore, I believe that cooperation between both nations could be mutually beneficial.

Kuldip Thakur, Zirakpur

#### Missing deadline

It is concerning that India continues to be the world's top arms importer. The fact that 23 DRDO projects have missed their deadlines should be alarming for those in charge. However, the recent display of India's war machines has shown that our indigenous technology is second to none. It is time for India to invest its time, energy, and foreign exchange in developing indigenous technology. Doing so would yield more dependable results and put India at the forefront of technological advancement. We must reduce our reliance on imported weapons and focus on becoming self-sufficient in this field.

RS Kishtwaria, Palampur

## Truth doesn't depend upon number of Votes/Likes

**Kajal Chatterjee**

Perhaps the critics of Rahul Gandhi are not aware of the saying "people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones". Else they wouldn't have accused that Rahul has "showcased India's partisan politics in a foreign land". And before accusing Rahul of engaging in "partisan politics in a foreign land"; the "nationalist" critics should look inwards and find out exactly which person regularly comes up with dialogues of "Nothing Happened prior to 2014" in foreign lands. Who has often boasted abroad that before he took over the reins of the country; India was nothing but "Scam India" with citizens feeling ashamed to call themselves "Indian" and that "India was begging earlier and would

not beg more". Even the whole Gandhi family (including the "son-in-law") have been repeatedly character-assassinated on foreign tours. By consigning all norms of neutrality to oblivion, the biased prejudiced "pundits" are also zealously seen to "prove" the "greatness" of a particular regime/ party /leader by invoking electoral success being registered in various states and in two successive general polls. Have they heard that Mahatma Gandhi saying --- "Even if you are a minority of one, the truth is the truth"! Of course mocking of Gandhian philosophies have been turned into "in-thing" in "New India"; but that does not alter the hard truth. Yes, truth is neither a "TV reality-show" nor social-media post that it's worth would depend upon the number of votes/likes

garnered. So "popular votes" can never function as the yardstick to "prove" the "great" governance of any regime party or leader! So the critics may please lay stress on facts and realities on the ground instead of trying to "justify" all issues through numerical muscle or "mainstream". However, in the context of the 2021 West Bengal Assembly results, this very biased lot cleverly deviate from their own "majoritarian" script. So instead of acknowledging the massive defeat of their favourite party despite the whole State machinery led by the Who's Who of the dominant regime at play; the "pundits" shamelessly put forward flimsy excuses of "rigging" and "threats" behind that electoral defeat in 2021. If mere votes act as the "litmus test" for "quality of governance"; then why

don't they award due credit to the governance of Mamata Banerjee in West Bengal, that too by securing incremental votes in successive terms. Instead of mocking Rahul, all people should congratulate him for laying stress on India's political identity being a "Union of states". The very first point of Article 1, Draft Constitution, 1948 specifically mentions "India shall be a Union of States". So it is getting proved that either the critics are unaware of the basic Idea of India itself or intentionally assault the inherent spirit and foundation of the Constitution! And of course Rahul has committed a "great sin" of sorts by stressing paramount importance of divergent identities and the need to negotiate a rainbow coalition! How can members of such an outfit toler-

ate the fact of heterogeneity which forms the ultimate essence of India. Won't the mission of narrow parochial imperialist concept of "Hindi-Hindu-Hindustan" get thwarted if linguistic and religious diversity are allowed to enjoy its rightful place under the "New Indian" sun. Whether Rahul Gandhi's rarefied views have few takers or billion takers is inconsequential; rather it must be seen whether Rahul is uttering the truth or not and in this parameter he has passed with flying colours. Only a true Hindu with a national vision can declare --- "There is absolutely nothing Hindu about wanting to murder people and beat people up". All true Hindus and Indians feel utmost pride for having the humanitarian Rahul Gandhi in their midst.

**BRIEF**

**Ceased operations**



**New Delhi:** The government on Tuesday said that 559 foreign companies ceased operations in the country since 2018. Meanwhile, as many as 469 foreign companies started operations in the country, according to a written reply by Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh in the Rajya Sabha. These figures are from 2018 till March 9 this year. So far this year, two foreign companies have stopped operations. The number stood at 78 in 2022, 115 (in 2021) and 120 (in 2020).

**FTP release**



**New Delhi:** The government is expected to release the new five-year foreign trade policy (FTP) by the end of this month, with a view to promoting the country's outbound shipments of goods and services, a top official said on Wednesday. The current foreign trade policy (2015-20) is in force till March 31, 2022. Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said that the ministry has looked at various aspects of that FTP as the policy is basically the collection of various incentive schemes.

**Budget presentation**



**Gairsain:** Uttarakhand finance minister Prem Chand Aggarwal on Wednesday presented the annual budget for the financial year 2023-24 in the state assembly here, announcing an increase in capital expenditure. Aggarwal presented the budget on the third day of the state assembly's ongoing budget session in Uttarakhand's summer capital Gairsain.

**Recognised startups**

**New Delhi:** As many as 92,683 entities have been recognised as startups by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry as on February 28 this year, Parliament was informed on Wednesday. These startups are eligible for availing tax and non-tax benefits under the Startup India initiative.

## Exports dip for 3rd consecutive month in Feb

**Trade deficit narrows to USD 17.43 bn**

**New Delhi, Mar 15:**

Contracting for the third month in a row, India's exports declined by 8.8 per cent to USD 33.88 billion in February due to slowdown in global demand, even as the trade deficit touched about a year low of USD 17.43 billion during the month, according to official data released on Wednesday. Imports also declined by 8.21 per cent to USD 51.31 billion as against USD 55.9 billion recorded in the corresponding month last year. Cumulatively, however during April-February

this fiscal, the country's overall merchandise exports rose by 7.5 per cent to USD 405.94 billion. Imports during the period increased by 18.82 per cent to USD 653.47 billion. The merchandise trade deficit for the April-February this fiscal stood at about USD 247.53 billion. The country's exports had contracted by 6.58 per cent to USD 32.91 billion in December 2022. In February 2022, the trade deficit was USD 18.75 billion. Last time, it was in January 2022 when the trade deficit touched USD 17.42 billion. Commerce secretary Sunil Barthwal said that going by the trend, India's goods and services exports will cross USD 750 billion in 2022-23.

"We have kept the momentum despite the global headwinds. Exporters have kept the momentum. Services exports are doing extremely well. Trade deficit has really come down. Hopefully we will be doing better," Barthwal told reporters here. He added that the ministry has started exercise to fix the target for the next fiscal also. Export sectors that recorded negative growth during the 11-month period of this fiscal included engineering goods, gems and jewellery, cotton yarn/fabrics/made-ups, and plastic and linoleum.

Engineering exports dipped to USD 98.86 billion during April-February

2022-23 from USD 101.15 billion in the same period last fiscal. In the same period, gems and jewellery shipments declined to USD 35.21 billion from USD 35.32 billion during April-February 2022-23. Sectors which recorded positive growth included petroleum products, chemicals, pharma, electronic goods, rice, ready-made garments of textiles.

Gold imports during April-February this fiscal contracted to USD 31.72, as against USD 45.12 billion in the same period last year. In the 11 months of the current fiscal, crude oil imports rose to USD 193.47 billion as against USD 140.67 billion in the same period of 2021-22.

## Banks from 18 nations open 30 special vostro accounts for trade in rupee

**New Delhi, Mar 15:**

Several banks, including HDFC Bank and UCO Bank, have opened as many as 30 special vostro accounts as of date to facilitate overseas trade in the rupee, a top government official said on Wednesday. Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Kumar Sarangi said as of date, some 18 countries have already opened special vostro accounts with Indian banks. "About 30 banks from overseas countries have signed up with 30 banks on our side, so 30 accounts...The transaction has started in bits and pieces," he told reporters here.

Sberbank and VTB Bank - the largest and second-largest banks of Russia, respectively - are the first foreign lenders to

receive the approval after the RBI announced the guidelines on overseas trade in the rupee in July last year. Another Russian bank Gazprom, which does not have its unit in India, has also opened this account with Kolkata-based UCO Bank.

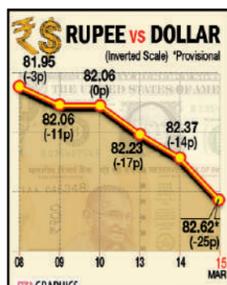
The move to open the special vostro account clears the deck for settlement of payments in rupee for trade between India and Russia, enabling cross-border trade in the Indian currency, which the RBI is keen to promote. The RBI has allowed the special vostro accounts to invest the surplus balance in Indian government securities to help popularise the new arrangement. Last year, the RBI and finance ministry asked the top management of banks and representatives of trade

bodies to push export and import transactions in the rupee. They want banks in India to connect with their foreign counterparts for opening special rupee vostro accounts to facilitate cross-border trade in the Indian currency rather than the popular mode of the US dollar. When asked about the international currency in which India is paying Russia for oil, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said as energy trade is not under sanctions, energy trade from Russia is not impacted and normal banking channels are being used for payments.

Sarangi said that payments happen in different currencies, including euro, dollar, and dirham, and could be in yuan. "It would be in any convertible currency," Barthwal said.

## Rupee falls 25 paise to 82.62 against US dollar

**Mumbai, Mar 15:**



The rupee declined by 25 paise to 82.62 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday amid a strong greenback against major currencies overseas and unabated foreign fund outflows. Traders said negative sentiment in the domestic equity market also hit the domestic currency. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened strong at 82.32 against the dollar and traded in a range of 82.30 and 82.62. It finally settled at 82.62 (provisional) against the American currency, a fall of 25 paise against its previous close. This is the third consecutive day of decline in the rupee. On Tuesday, the rupee settled at 82.37 against the US dollar. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.43 per cent to 104.04. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures rose 0.46 per cent to USD 77.81 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell

344.29 points or 0.59 per cent to 57,555.90 points while the broader NSE Nifty declined 71.15 points or 0.42 per cent to 16,972.15 points. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) remained net sellers in the capital markets on Tuesday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 3,086.96 crore, according to exchange data.

Unlike domestic market benchmark indices, global markets were mostly upbeat on expectations of a slower interest rate hike by the US Federal Reserve on the back of lower inflation. In February, the US consumer price index came in largely in line with expectations at 6 per cent.

## HMSI launches 100-cc Shine, looks to sell 3 lakh units in a year

**Mumbai, Mar 15:**



Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India on Wednesday launched its 100-cc Shine 100 motorcycle at an introductory price of Rs 64,900 (ex-showroom Maharashtra) and said it targets to sell 3 lakh units in a year of mass market category bike with plans to ramp up the volumes to 6 lakh units over a period of the next three years.

The 100-cc segment accounts for almost one-third of the total two-wheeler market in the country. The Indian arm of the Japanese two-wheeler maker Honda also said it is looking at utilising its total capacity next fiscal. HMSI's capacity stands at 5.2 million units per annum and it is currently operating at almost 100 per cent capacity. "Shine 100 is Honda's next big leap to make mobility more accessible and affordable for people across India. We continue to prioritise the needs and aspirations of our customers," said Atsushi Ogata, Managing Director, President and CEO of Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India at the launch. The production of Shine 100 will commence next month while its deliveries will begin in May, the company said. Shine is the highest-selling motorcycle in the HMSI portfolio. "Internal target (for Shine 100) is 3-lakh units," Ogata said and added that the target for the next three years is to attain 6-lakh units. According to the company's operating officer, sales and marketing Yogesh Mathur, the industry has shown green shoots with business back to normal and the two-wheeler industry has bounced back with 16 per cent growth. "As far as an overall portfolio is concerned, we are confident that with this kind of product along with price, we will be able to touch the 3-lakh unit sales target," he said. "HMSI is growing faster than the industry," he said and added that it has consolidated its position further with a 1.3 per cent market share gain in retail sales and 1 per cent in wholesales. Amid the two-wheeler demand gradually bouncing back, it is looking to start a new manufacturing line at its Gujarat facility, Ogata said. "The demand is coming back and with the introduction of Shine 100, for the first time I expect that next year we will be operating close to our total capacity," he said.

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## Sensex falls for 5th day, Nifty slides below 17,000

**On FII selling, rate hike fears**

**Mumbai, Mar 15:**



Benchmark BSE Sensex pared its early gains to close down by 344 points at a five-month low while Nifty slid below the 17,000 level on Wednesday due to selling in banking, financial and telecom stocks. Persistent foreign capital drain from the domestic market and lingering concerns over banks' health and high inflation dented market sentiment, traders said. Falling for the fifth straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed lower by 344.29 points or 0.59 per cent at 57,555.90 with 21 of its stocks ending in the red. After a gap up opening, the index surged over 570 points to touch a high of 58,473.63 amid positive Asian markets in early trade.

The stock markets, however, lost steam after a weak opening of European stocks which retreated on fears that the

European Central Bank may hike rates by 25 basis points. The Sensex tanked more than 1,000 points from the day's high to hit a low of 57,455.67. Marking its fifth straight day of losses, the broader NSE Nifty declined 71.15 points or 0.42 per cent to end at 16,972.15, with 28 of its stocks ending with losses.

IndusInd Bank was the biggest loser in the Sensex pack, shedding nearly 2 per cent, followed by Bharti Airtel, Reliance Industries, HDFC twins, SBI, HUL, Tata Motors, Nestle India and Axis Bank. On the other hand, Asian Paints, Tata Steel, Titan and L&T were among the gainers, rising up to 3.03 per cent.

## CII PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT



Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya addresses on 'One Health: Integrated, Collaborative and Multisectoral Approach to Optimal Health' at Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) Partnership Summit 2023, in New Delhi, Wednesday, March 15.

## CAG wants Rajasthan govt not to abandon treasury system of accounting

**Guwahati, Mar 15:**



Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Girish Chandra Murmu on Wednesday expressed hope that the Rajasthan government will not do away with the well established treasury system of accounting as changes can disrupt preparation and authentication of accounts and also transfer of funds by the Centre to the state. Moreover, he added, as per the provisions of the Constitution, the accounting format can only be prescribed by the President in consultation with the CAG. The Rajasthan government has been contemplating to

dispense with the current treasury system of accounting and introduce a Pay and Accounts Office independently. "Accounting standards and accounting format, as per the Constitution, is to be prescribed by the President of India in consultation with the CAG...I think the state government will take note of this constitutional provision.

## Prevent highly intoxicated travellers from boarding aircraft

**Install CCTV cameras: DCW tells DGCA**

**New Delhi, Mar 15:**

Prevent highly intoxicated travellers from boarding the aircraft, limit alcohol intake, instal CCTV cameras and sensitise staff about sexual harassment are part of the detailed guidelines given by DCW to the aviation regulator amid rising incidents of unruly passengers on flights.

In a letter to the DGCA, the Delhi Commission for Women said it has observed increasing incidents of disruptive and unruly passengers on flights in recent months, adding such inci-

## Hero Electric set to roll out over 10 lakh vehicles annually in next two-three years

**New Delhi, Mar 15:**

Hero Electric on Wednesday said it is set to roll out over 10 lakh vehicles annually in the next two to three years from its manufacturing units in India. The company, which launched new versions of its three electric scooter models priced between Rs 85,000 and Rs 1.3 lakh, plans to set up a greenfield plant at Rajasthan with an annual production capacity of 20 lakh units with an investment of around Rs 1,200 crore. "We have worked closely with our partners to cater to the surging demand for EVs in the country.

## Long way to go for India is to benchmark itself with Singapore, Hong Kong: USISPF chief

**Washington, Mar 15:**



India needs to remove impediments to the ease of doing business, the head of a top Indian-American business advocacy group has said, asserting that the country has made some progress but has a long way to go to match Singapore or Hong Kong.

Mukesh Aghi, the president of the US India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF), said the India-US relationship is strong and is growing positively in every aspect. "When you look at geopolitically, the Quad seems to move forward. You look at

I2U2 moving forward," he told PTI. Noting that a booming Indian economy is helping the US, he said the Boeing order by Air India created over a million high-paying jobs in America. "We're expecting Indigo also to place an

order. India is pulling the economic engine of growth for the United States," Aghi said.

In one of the largest aircraft orders by an airline, Tata Group-owned Air India last month announced it will buy 470 narrow-body and wide-body planes from Airbus and Boeing, with the total deal value estimated to be worth USD 80 billion (over Rs 6.40 lakh crore). Air India will buy 250 aircraft, including 40 wide-body A350 planes, from European aviation major Airbus, and 220 planes from US aircraft maker Boeing under separate deals.

## World Sleep Day sale at Amazon.in

**Mumbai, Mar 15:**

Sleep is a crucial element of everyone's overall health and wellbeing. So, let's gift ourselves quality sleep and a sound mind as Amazon.in brings exciting deals and offers this World Sleep Day with its sale planned from 15th - 19th March. Customers can avail up to 75% discount on Mattresses, beds, pillows, bedsheets, and all your sleep essentials on Amazon.in's one-stop destination and convert their home into a happy world. Get access to 1000+ deals across 50+ top brands and get your sleep solution this World Sleep Day. Customers can get up to 10% instant discount on

ICICI bank credit cards and EMI offers while shopping for your everyday sleep essentials. Customers can also avail benefits like scheduled delivery, quality-verified\* selection, and no-cost EMI for upto 24 months\* across popular brands such as the Sleep Company, Livpure, Amazon brand Solimo, Duroflex and Sleephead among others.

## Classifieds

अम्लीय मेन रोड एक्सिस बैंक ATM के ठीक बाजू में दुकान किराए से देना है, दुकान की साईज 550 वर्ग फुट और 500fit mazine floor संपर्क 9977635500

## Sara Ali Khan walks ramp at Lakme Fashion Week for designer Punit Balana

**B**ollywood actress Sara Ali Khan walked the ramp at the Lakme Fashion Week in Mumbai for Punit Balana - a fashion designer from Rajasthan who launched his latest collection which reflected the desert state's folklore, culture and joy.

Walking the ramp for Punit for Lakme Fashion Week in partnership with FDCI, Sara said: "The collection highlights textures inspired by the Kalbelia community of Rajasthan, their folklore, literature and the culture that not only binds the Indian state of Rajasthan but one that also acts as a bridge between this state and Indian culture in a larger context."

"I am thrilled to be walking for Punit Balana and showcasing his stunning collection, which stays true to its meaning of celebration of a joyous occasion," she added. Punit, who hails from Jaipur, says that he draws inspiration from "our rich heritage, the philosophies of culture and the voices from history".

The audience was treated to an exhilarating live performance by Kalbelia dancers, which beautifully captured the essence of

the 'Utsav' collection.

With block prints inspired by Rajasthani history, particularly that of the Kalbelia community, and bandhani, the latest collection represented craftsmanship in terms of silhouettes, ranging from classic collection outfits to new, contemporary ones - reimagined lehengas and peplum sets, heavily embellished kurtas for men and many more to suit the effortless sartorial sensibilities of the modern-day woman and man.

Speaking about the collection and his show at Lakme Fashion week, designer Punit Balana says: "For me, what's most important while designing a new collection are my roots, my surroundings. I never have to look beyond Jaipur and Rajasthan for inspiration. There's so much about our history that remains untapped and I really hope that one collection after another, I can show people how contemporary our culture can truly be."

The designs showcased on the ramp were styled along with stunning jewellery pieces from JKJ Jewellers in Jaipur, which complemented each ensemble from the 'Utsav' collection perfectly.

## 'Ajooni' and 'Na Umra Ki Seema Ho' reach a major milestone of 200 episodes

**S**tar Bharat has consistently worked to produce content that engages and captivates its viewers using tried-and-true techniques. Since these shows first aired, viewers have showered them with praise. While "Na Umra Ki Seema Ho" defies a patriarchal society rule that views a significant age gap between two people in love as forbidden, "Ajooni" is a timeless love story with a blend of drama, entertainment, and romance. The show has entertained the audiences with its beautiful and intriguing plot since its start and now has completed its 200 episodes which arrays how far it has come completing a milestone.

Ajooni stars Shoaib Ibrahim as Rajveer and Ayushi Khurana as Ajooni, who makes her debut on the show. They've been fantastic in highlighting their parts and bringing forth the spirit of their personalities, proving their versatility. In the show, their love-hate relationship adds to the entertainment factor.

The attractive and affable Iqbal Khan and Rachana Mistry play the key roles in Na Umra Ki Seema Ho. The viewers



have been riveted to their seats by their chemistry. Since its debut, the show has topped the charts and delighted viewers.

"Ajooni" and "Na Umra Ki Seema Ho" has now completed its 150 episodes since its release and is now gearing up to celebrate this milestone. The actors express their happiness and share their thoughts getting candid enthusiastically

says:

Shoaib aka Rajveer from Ajooni says, "Another milestone of 200 episodes crossed today and it's all because of all the love we have received from the viewers that we are able to cross all these milestones. A big thank from me ki aap Sabhi ne Rajveer Bagga ko itna pyaar diya hai and with every day I can see the love growing! bass yahi wada hai sabhi viewers se isi tarah aapko entertain karte rahenge. aaplog bass yuhi saath bane rahiyega."

Rachana Mistry aka Vidhi from 'Na Umra Ki Seema Ho' says, "Rachana Mistry who plays the role of Vidhi in the show say, "I'm very happy that we've marked a journey of completing 200 episodes of the show 'Na Umra Ki Seema Ho' Star Bharat. Although it's just a start of reaching more milestones we are hoping for many more to come but I believe we should celebrate every little thing throughout the journey. I hope the audience will keep showering their love on our show and on us".

Stay tuned to watch 'Ajooni' and 'Na Umra Ki Seema Ho' every Monday-Saturday only on Star Bharat.

## Suvarna Bagul serves Dabbawallas, a full Maharashtrian Thali!



**S**ony Entertainment Television and SonyLIV's culinary-based reality show 'MasterChef India' will bring to the viewers an interesting challenge where they will be making thali for the lifeline of Mumbai - The Dabbawallas. Along with the judges, Chefs Vikas Khanna, Garima Arora and Ranveer Brar, adding to the judges' panel will be the renowned, Chef Prateek Sadhu, who would be making sure that these Top 6 home cooks present the best dishes! Our Maharashtrian "Thecha Queen" Suvarna Bagul will be seen leading the

team as a Captain for the first time in the MasterChef Kitchen, leading team members Sachin Khatwani and Santa Sarmah. They will be seen preparing a special Maharashtrian thali for the special guests, the Dabbawallas, and serving food to those who serve Mumbai, food.

Chef Prateek Sadhu shared his excitement for the episode saying, "Today's episode for me personally was extremely emotional because we could feed the people who are the heartbeat of Mumbai. I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to feed them right through

food and I feel all six contestants were brilliant! The approach was brilliant food was amazing, definitely, as it's a competition there were few criteria for judging, but overall it was a wonderful experience and it's always great to hang out with Chef Garima, Chef Ranveer and Chef Vikas. Thus, I had a wonderful time at MasterChef India." To watch home-cook Suvarna Bagul prepare a Maharashtrian Thali for the Dabbawallas tune in to watch MasterChef India, every Monday to Friday at 9 pm only on Sony Entertainment Television and SonyLIV.

## Kiara Advani adds her elegant touch to Slice's new ad

**B**ollywood's girl Kiara Advani is one Superstar who is ticking all the right boxes on the rise of her Superstardom. From consecutive streak of successful films to peaking with popularity on the internet, and signing a long list of brands, the girl with a golden touch is leaving no stone unturned. Adding to the soaring superstardom, the actor has been roped in as the new face of Slice, an iconic brand that resonates with the masses for its wide popularity across the nation.



Bringing in her person-

al touch of elegance and poise to the newly launched TVC for the brand, Kiara Advani looks every bit of gorgeous and stunning offering a perfect mix of hot and cute in the advertisement.

Rising upwards with every step, Kiara Advani has dove deep into work soon after her dreamy wedding with Sidharth Malhotra. Her wedding post on social media was touted to be the most liked wedding picture of any celebrity wedding in India. Looking forward to a packed schedule yet

again, filled with films shoots and back-to-back brand announcements, all this amidst a winning spree of awards and accolades, where Kiara was adjudged the 'Star Of The Year' and 'Performer Of The Year' at various awards shows recently. She has undoubtedly spread her magic all around.

Considered among the most impactful performers of 2022, the versatile actress has won immense appreciation for her consecutive hits, right from Shershaah in 2021 to Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 and

Jugg Jugg Jeeyo, which was followed by Govinda Naam Mera last year. The actress is also in high demand to be signed on as the face of a range of reputed national and international brands. Her popularity among the masses has resulted in her being the ambassador of a variety of brands - from beverages to female hygiene products.

Kiara now resumes her busy routine by rejoining the set of S Shankar's upcoming film RC-15 co-starring Ram Charan and also Satyaprem Ki Katha opposite Kartik Aaryan.

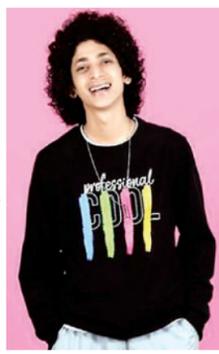
## Nupur Sanon's role in 'Pop Kaun' reflects her 'own value system'

**S**inger-actress Nupur Sanon, who is the sister of actress Kriti Sanon, will be seen making her debut on OTT with 'Pop Kaun'. She said that her character in the comedy show is a feminist, and it reflects her own value system. Putting in every ounce in fleshing out her character, Sanon said that the character of Pihu was the real driving force. "The show has a quirky name and the premise is about finding Kunal's character's dad in the film. My character is Pihu. I am playing Kunal's love interest. Their relationship is beautifully etched out." "They go through all the hurdles to eventually reach the point of marriage. I loved the character from the second I heard the script. She is someone who finds logic in everything. She is a feminist which is an aspect that reflects my own value system. She is straight and no-nonsense, asks a lot of questions and never holds back from having her own opinions."



## Monu Kanojia plays a stylish, funky character in 'Woh Toh Hai Albelaa'

**A**ctor Monu Kanojia, who has been seen in many web series such as 'Jamtara S1', 'Abhay 2', 'Criminal Justice 1' and is also part of the upcoming web series 'Hunter' with Suniel Shetty, has now joined the cast of Rajan Shahi's 'Woh Toh Hai Albelaa'. Recently, talking about his association with the show, Monu said he loves being part of it. He said: "The casting director and team called me for the character of Tingu. I said okay and, after many discussions, I auditioned for the role and bagged the part. I love my role."



## Riya Sharma: My character in 'Dhruv Tara' faces every challenge with courage

**T**V actress Riya Sharma, who is currently seen playing the role of a 17th-century princess, Tara in the show 'Dhruv Tara - Samay Sadi Se Pare', shared that she is enjoying playing her character and the way it is evolving in the show and facing every situation courageously.

Tara, in the fantasy drama, will soon be shown going beyond the time to meet a neurosurgeon Dhruv, played by Ishaan Dhawan. She wants Dhruv to travel along with her for her brother's treatment, and in the meantime, undergoes emotional turmoil.



The actress explained what her on-screen character is going through in the show and what all new audiences can expect in the coming episodes of the show.

She said: "I am enjoying portraying the character of Tarapriya, and I am loving the way Tara's journey is shaping up in the 21st century. She faces every challenge with so much courage and positivity, which is commendable."

In the upcoming episodes, Tara, who travelled through time to meet Dhruv and wants to take him for the treatment of her brother will be forced to kidnap him.

## CROSSWORD

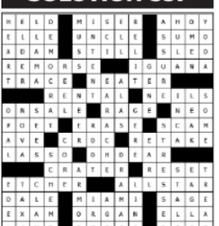
588



- ACROSS**
- If not
  - Not wild
  - Dickens title beginning (2 wds.)
  - Charged atoms
  - High cards
  - Fathered
  - Small pest
  - On a \_\_\_\_\_ (with little money)
  - Feminine pronoun
  - Fret
  - Formal agreement
  - Gave medical aid to
  - Oahu wreaths
  - "Viva \_\_\_\_\_ Vegas"
  - Foray
  - Nile viper
  - Dapper
  - Healing plant
  - Nashville's state
  - Robert and Clapton
  - Isn't, incorrectly
  - Support for an institution
  - Fret
  - Formal agreement
  - Knife feature

- DOWN**
- Black pool ball
  - Recluse
  - Type of drum
  - NH time zone
  - Samples food
  - Was sore
  - Cat's cry
  - Compass point (abbr.)
  - With a leg on each side
  - Becomes weary
  - Diva's solo
  - Fasting season
  - Jumpy
  - Beer mugs
  - Don't go
  - Tailor
  - Cyclist \_\_\_\_\_ Armstrong
  - Royal rule
  - Vietnam's continent
  - Broadcast
  - Singer \_\_\_\_\_ Seeger
  - Neck area
  - Oh, dear!
  - Toddlers
  - Distinguishing quality
  - Tax
  - Makes into law
  - Supervise
  - Not straight
  - Religious beliefs
  - Prophets
  - Oklahoma metropolis
  - Preface
  - Certain woodwinds
  - Monks
  - Punctuation mark
  - Repeat
  - Blemish
  - Adjoin
  - Naughty child
  - Sternward

## SOLUTION 587



## Sindhu crashes out of All England Ch'ship

**Falls at first hurdle for third time this season**

**Birmingham, Mar 15 (PTD):**

There was no end to PV Sindhu's poor run as the star Indian shuttler made a first round exit from the All England Championships after losing to Zhang Yi Man of China in straight games here on Wednesday.

The world number nine Sindhu, a double Olympic medallist, lost 17-21 11-21 in the 39-minute women's singles contest. This is the third time that Sindhu has lost her first round match this year.

She had lost to Carolina Marin of Spain in Malaysia Open in January before exiting the Indian Open at the same stage in the same month. She had recently parted ways with her coach Park Tae-sang of Korea, under whose guidance she won a bronze at the Tokyo Olympics.

Sindhu was rusty and subdued throughout the



Zhang Yi Man of China in action against Pusarla V. Sindhu of India in the Women's Singles match of the Yonex All England Open Badminton Championships 2023 at Utilita Arena Birmingham on March 15 in Birmingham, England.

match with her world number 17 opponent showing more agility and attacking intent.

There was not much to differentiate initially between the two who had 1-1 head-to-head record before Wednesday's match.

Sindhu led 6-5 and then made it 16-13. But the Chinese shuttler won seven straight points to lead 20-16 before taking the first game

in 21 minutes. In the second game, the two players were tied 5-5 but Sindhu committed a few unforced errors and was soon down 5-10.

Sindhu recovered a bit to trail 7-11 but was soon down 9-16 before losing the second game and the match.

Earlier during the day, India's women's doubles pair of Tressa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand Pullela

stunned seventh seeded Thailand duo of Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Rawinda Prajongjai 21-18 21-14 in a 46-minute first round match.

The Indian duo will meet the Japanese pair of Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota in the pre-quarterfinals. On Tuesday, Lakshya Sen and HS Prannoy had won their respective men's singles first round matches.

## Shreyas Iyer ruled out of ODI series against Australia

**Mumbai, Mar 15 (PTD):**

India fielding coach T Dilip, on Wednesday officially confirmed that middle-order batsman Shreyas Iyer has been ruled out of the upcoming three-match ODI series against Australia, starting Friday, due to recurrence of lower-back injury.

That Iyer has been ruled out of ODIs, was first reported by PTI on March 11. It is learnt that there is almost negligible chance of the stylish Mumbaiaiker taking any part in cash-rich IPL for KKR. Iyer leads KKR in IPL.

He is currently back in NCA for extensive rehabilitation but it couldn't be confirmed whether he would also require surgery like Jasprit Bumrah and Prasadh Krishna.

"Injuries are a part and parcel of the game. We have the best medical facilities and they are well-equipped. We are in co-ordination (with NCA). Shreyas ruled out of this series. (We will be able to provide) further update as and when we know," told India's fielding coach T Dilip told media in his debut press conference.

## Kul-Cha under focus

**The spin twins Kuldeep and Chahal will have important six months ahead of them**

**Mumbai, Mar 15 (PTD):**

They were the toast of the nation going into the 2019 World Cup in England but in last four years, Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal have seen more downs than ups.

Kuldeep had a career-threatening knee surgery in 2021 while Chahal, has been repeatedly ignored for important T20 games and global meets. They would want to change their wheels of fortune.

However with India's ODI World Cup preparations starting with the three-match series against Australia, starting Friday, the famed 'Kul-Cha' would love to serve a platter of googlies, leg-breaks and flippers which their fans would like to savour.

Several members of the Indian cricket team including the stand-in captain Hardik Pandya on Wednesday began training here at the Wankhede Stadium on Friday but all eyes were on the two wrist spinners as they need to battle it out with Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar, two multi-skilled cricketers, who are also



part of this squad. Both Kuldeep and Chahal, aren't the most accomplished of batters, although the UP left-arm wrist spinner has had some degree of success at the Test level.

However both Washington and Jadeja come as a package but purely on twaker's skills, the two wrist spinners are ahead compared to finger spinners.

India's regular captain Rohit Sharma will miss

the first ODI in Mumbai due to family commitments and the stand-in captain for the match, Pandya, was among those who trained for more than two hours with the white ball. Among the other players who were in attendance were fast bowlers Mohammed Siraj, Jaydev Unadkat, Umran Malik, Shardul Thakur and among batters, Suryakumar Yadav and wicketkeeper-batsman Ishan Kishan.

## Ashwin regains No 1 spot in ICC Test bowlers rankings



**Dubai, Mar 15 (PTD):**

Senior India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin's superlative show in the fourth Test against Australia has helped him regain the top spot among bowlers in the latest ICC Rankings issued on Wednesday.

Ashwin, who grabbed a haul of six for 91 in the drawn fourth Test and was the leading wicket-taker in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy with 25 scalps, is 10 rating points ahead of England seamer James Anderson.

Fellow Indian left-arm spinner Axar Patel climbed six places to 28 among bowlers. He also rose to the fourth spot in the all-rounder's list led by Ashwin and Jadeja. While pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who is recovering from a recurring back injury, dropped to number seven among bowlers. Talismanic Indian batter Virat Kohli moved seven places to 13th position after his Player of the Match performance against Australia in the fourth Test.

The high-scoring match at Ahmedabad also saw opener Shubman Gill, who smashed a fine century, jump 17 places to 46th. The injured Rishabh Pant (9th) and skipper Rohit Sharma (10th) are the Indian batters in the top 10. Australia opener Usman Khawaja and New Zealand batter Daryl Mitchell have also made notable gains in the list. Khawaja's score of 180 in the drawn fourth Test against India in Ahmedabad has lifted him two spots to seventh position and to a career-best 815 rating points while Mitchell's knocks of 102 and 81 in the epic victory over Sri Lanka in Christchurch has helped him reach a career-best eighth position as he touches the 800-point mark for the first time. In the latest weekly update that also considers performances in the second Test between South Africa and the West Indies in Johannesburg, Temba Bavuma's match-winning 172 for the home side has lifted him 14 slots to a career best 15th position.

## Gauff, Fritz advance to quarterfinals at Indian Wells

**Indian Wells, Mar 15 (AP):**

Coco Gauff rallied from a break down in the third set to beat Swedish qualifier Rebecca Peterson, 6-3, 1-6, 6-4 and reach the quarterfinals of the BNP Paribas Open.

Down 2-4, Gauff fought her way back and saved three break points while serving at 4-all before closing out the match in the next game. Four years ago, Peterson routed a then-14-year-old Gauff at a Challenger tournament in Michigan. "She whopped me really bad," Gauff said on court. "I think today was really a mental thing, just staying in the match. I wasn't playing my best in some moments and I wasn't serving as well as I'd like to, but I think that my mentality kept me in."

The sixth-seeded American next plays No. 2 seed Aryna Sabalenka, who beat 16th-seeded Barbora Krejickova, 6-3, 2-6, 6-4. In other fourth-round matches, No. 7 Maria Sakkari beat 17th-seeded Karolina Pliskova, 6-4, 5-7, 6-3.

## Harmanpreet Kaur has been unstoppable in WPL, admits Sushma Verma

**Mumbai, Mar 15 (PTD):**

Gujarat Giants wicket-keeper-batter Sushma Verma has conceded that India and Mumbai Indians captain Harmanpreet Kaur is unstoppable with the bat at the moment, after she scored a quick-fire 51 in their Women's Premier League (WPL) game.

Kaur hit seven fours and two sixes to turn around the game in the favour of Mumbai Indians, taking them to a competitive 162/8 in 20 overs. In reply, Gujarat Giants could manage just 107/9 in their quota of 20 overs, losing by 55 runs here at the Brabourne Stadium on Tuesday.

Verma said even though Gujarat Giants executed their plans well against Kaur; it is difficult to stop batters like her when they are in form.

"It is difficult to stop batters like Harman when they are in such good form," Verma told the



media after the match.

"We had planned on how to bowl at her and I do not think she would have found run-making that easy. From behind the wickets I could see that the bowlers hit the right spot against Harman but she used the shorter part of the ground very well,"

Verma added. "Harman is unstoppable right now, but it also matters how well you are able to execute your plans, which I thought was better in our case today," she said.

Verma said Gujarat Giants failed to build partnerships at the top which resulted in their second

defeat against Mumbai in as many games.

"It was a chaseable target and it would not have been so difficult towards the end had we got partnerships in the top four. Our execution was good in order to stop Mumbai Indians (from getting a big total).

## Women's Boxing World C'ships: India eye strong show at home



**Nikhata Zareen and Lovlina Borgohain**

**New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTD):**

Nikhata Zareen and Lovlina Borgohain will be at the forefront as India eye a show befitting their growing stature in women's boxing when the World Championship, whose build-up was marred by controversies, begins here from Thursday.

In the absence of the iconic six-time champion MC Mary Kom, who is recovering from an ACL tear in her left knee, world champion Nikhat and Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina will spearhead the 12-member Indian team. Both boxers will look to find their footing in new weight

categories with the Paris Olympics approaching. World No. 4 Nikhat cut down her weight from 52kg -- the weight category in which she found glory last year in Turkey -- to 50kg.

Lovina, on the other hand, has bulked up from the 69kg welterweight class to the 75kg middleweight division after both their preferred weight categories were scrapped for the 2024 Paris Olympics. This will be Nikhat's second international tournament after dropping down to 50kg. She won the Commonwealth Games gold in the light fly weight division but the field wasn't that strong in Birmingham.

## Chhetri may be playing his last season: Stimac



**Kolkata, Mar 15 (PTD):**

Talismanic striker Sunil Chhetri "may be playing the last season" of his illustrious career, feels Indian football team head coach Igor Stimac, who is hoping that his star player would be saving his best for the last in the coming months.

India's next big assignment is the AFC Asian Cup in Qatar from January 12 to February 10 next year. The 38-year-old Chhetri is set to play in his third continental showpiece, the most by an Indian, after playing a pivotal role in the qualification tournament here last year. "At his age, this will probably be his farewell from football. Obviously, Sunil may be playing his last season, and definitely his last

Asian Cup," Stimac said. "I'm quite sure that the upcoming months will be the best for Sunil Chhetri," he was quoted as saying in the official All India Football Federation (AIFF) website.

The national team is currently having a five-day camp here ahead of the Tri-Nation Football Tournament in Imphal from March 22.

Chhetri, the third most prolific international goal scorer among active players with 84 strikes behind Cristiano Ronaldo (118) and Lionel Messi (98), was part of the Indian teams that featured in the 2011 and 2019 Asian Cup.

The 38-year-old Chhetri, who made his international debut in 2005, played a key role in Bengaluru FC making to Indian Super League final to be played on Saturday.

"Sunil Chhetri was nowhere to be seen this season. He was on the bench, waiting, preparing himself, working to take his weight down a few kilos, which is very difficult to handle at this age," said Stimac who has been given the target of reaching Asian Cup quarterfinals if he wants to continue at the helm beyond that tournament.

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## 'Democracy not in peril, Cong brought to political perish'

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

India's democracy is not in peril but the Congress party has been brought to "political perish" by the people for the kind of behaviour its leader Rahul Gandhi exhibited overseas, Union minister Smriti Irani said on Wednesday as the BJP stepped up the ante against the opposition leader over his recent remarks in the UK.

Gandhi's grudge with Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken the shape of a grudge with India, she charged, demanding that the Wayanad MP of the Congress apologise to Parliament for his remarks. During his inter-



Union Minister Smriti Irani addresses the media in New Delhi, Wednesday.

actions in the UK recently, Gandhi alleged that the structures of Indian democracy are under attack and there is a "full-scale assault" on the country's institutions. His re-

marks triggered a massive political row, with the BJP accusing him of maligning India on foreign soil and seeking foreign interventions and the Congress hitting back, citing in-

stances of Prime Minister Modi raising internal politics abroad. Addressing a press conference, Irani alleged that "at the feet of India's colonial past" Gandhi lamented the "lack of foreign intervention" in India's democracy. This is to bring to a halt India's resilient growth story under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, she said.

She said the "lies that became a foundation of the Congress leader's conversation in England" were many.

The minister said Gandhi claimed that he does not have access to conversations in Indian universities and that for him was an indication of the death of democracy.

### STRAY DOG ATTACKS

## 'Ensure canines are sterilised, vaccinated to keep their population under control'

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

Animal right activists have urged authorities to set up community kitchens to feed stray dogs and ensure that they are sterilised and vaccinated to keep their population under control, days after two children were mauled to death by canines in Vasant Kunj here.

The minor brothers were found dead over the span of two days.

The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) said that "assumptions" must not be made as dogs "do not normally attack unprovoked." "The incident is very tragic and bizarre, and the authorities need to

thoroughly investigate what exactly happened.

"Assumptions must not be made especially as dogs do not normally attack unprovoked. If the Animal Birth Control Dog Rules 2001 would have been implemented, there would be no dog packs," PETA India told PTI in a statement.

"We urge the local authorities to ensure dogs in the area are sterilised and vaccinated immediately to keep their population under control," they added.

Delhi Mayor Shelly Oberoi on Tuesday held an emergency meeting and instructed officials to prepare an action plan within a week to control the menace of stray dogs.

After the Vasant Kunj incident, 50 dogs have been picked up, of which 90 per cent were found sterilised, the mayor was informed during the meeting. Animal activist and founder of Noida-based NGO House of Stray animals, Sanjay Mohapatra said the administration should consider having monitoring committees to effectively implement animal birth control rules and community kitchen should also be set up in different areas to feed the stray dogs.

"There is huge amount of corruption when it comes to effectively implementing animal birth control rules. Monitoring committees should be set

up to end corruption and effectively implement the birth control rules. "Community kitchen should also be set up in different localities to feed the stray dogs and coexist peacefully with them," Mohapatra told PTI.

He further suggested that awareness campaigns should also be conducted to understand animal behaviour to avoid incidents of stray dog attacks in the future.

The Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001 provides for sterilisation and vaccination of stray dogs to control their population. It was introduced to keep population of stray dogs under control, prevent dog attacks

and reduce the conflict between people and dogs. Animal activist and trustee at People For Animals (PFA), Ambika Shukla said they would like to meet the mayor and present their suggestions to help resolve the stray dog menace.

Speaking to PTI, Shukla said, "When you build a house, you consult an architect. When you deal with an animal-related issue, you refer to activists who work on the ground."

"We would be glad to meet the mayor and present our suggestions to her. We would also like to have a clear and impartial hearing with the mayor so that she can evaluate the suggestions."

## SARAS MELA



Girls serve traditional Kashmiri wazwan among shoppers during the first of its kind women-led national level SARAS mela (Sale of Articles and Rural Artisan Society mela) organised by Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission, on the Banks of Dal Lake in Srinagar, Wednesday.

### HUMAN ERROR

## Assam Minister on controversy over playback singer winner in state awards

GUWAHATI, MAR 15 (PTI): As a controversy erupted over an artist being presented with the best playback singer in the state film awards recently purportedly for a song she had not lent her voice to, Assam Cultural Affairs Minister Bimal Borah on Wednesday claimed that the award was given to the correct singer.

He maintained that the name of the song for which the award was given was "wrongly" written in the certificate, seeking to downplay it as a "human error".

Nahid Afrin was given the best playback singer (female) award at the 8th Assam State Film Awards on Monday for the film 'Nijaanor Gaan'. Afrin, who had sung one of the songs in the film, had received the award from the State Legislative Assembly Speaker Biswajit Daimary at a ceremo-

ny here. However, the controversy started when it was displayed on screen at the ceremony, as she received the felicitation, that the award was for a song which was not sung by Afrin. Claiming that it was a "human error", Borah said, "The Award was meant for Nahid Afrin. There is no confusion over it." "The lyrics of the song were wrongly mentioned in the citation displayed. It was a human error," he said. Borah said the makers of the film have to mention details while applying for any award and it was not mentioned in the application the song for which Afrin's name was recommended. "Since Afrin had sung a song in that same film, our jury decided to give her the award," the minister said. When the confusion was brought to light on Tuesday, Afrin, in a social media post, maintained that

she was not aware that the lyrics of another song were displayed as she was receiving the award. "The details were displayed behind me. It is not possible for any awardee to read what is being written behind them as we are concentrating on the audience in front of us. "If the jury says the award was actually meant for the singer of the other song, I will happily return it," Afrin who had shot to fame by winning the junior segment of a television singing reality show added. Afrin maintained that she was informed by a jury member over phone that she had won the award soon after the names were made official and she had also received a list circulated through WhatsApp which had her name as the winner, along with the film's name but with no mention of the song.

## PRAYERS FOR DALAI LAMA



Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama arrives for a prayer in the Tsugla Khang Temple for his long life, at Mcleodganj in Dharamshala, Wednesday.

## Odisha MLAs cutting across party lines demand salary hike

Bhubaneswar, Mar 15 (PTI):

Amid rising prices of commodities, legislators of the Odisha Assembly, cutting across party lines, on Wednesday urged Speaker B K Arukha to give a ruling to the government to introduce a Bill in the House for raising the salary and pension of sitting members and ex-MLAs.

The issue was raised during the Zero Hour by Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Narasingha Mishra, which was supported by Opposition Chief Whip Mohan Majhi of the BJP and two BJD members-Amar Prasad Satpathy and Padmanabha Behera.

A committee headed by BJD MLA Amar Prasad Satpathy has already submitted a report on a proposal to hike the salary

and pension of MLAs and ex-legislators, Mishra said, adding that the state government should consider it and table a Bill so that the House can pass it. He cited the high inflation rate, particularly the increasing price of petrol and diesel, which added to the "hardships of members to perform their responsibilities".

The travelling allowance of the members should also be raised in view of the price rise of fuel, Mishra said.

According to the existing salary structure, only Rs 5,000 is being provided to appoint an assistant, which is grossly inadequate, he claimed.

"On behalf of all the members, I urge the Speaker to give a ruling to the government to table a Bill in this regard," Mishra said.

Congress whip Taraprasad Bahinipati also made a similar demand.

Opposition Chief Whip Mohan Majhi supported the proposal to introduce a Bill at the earliest as the members and ex-MLAs face difficulties for their day-to-day expenses.

Satpathy said, "I have submitted the report and the Parliamentary Affairs Minister will take a call on the issue as members feel that an increase in salaries is needed."

The Odisha government had raised the salaries of MLAs and ministers by over 50 per cent in 2017.

Meanwhile, sources said that the committee has sent a proposal to the Speaker recommending that an MLA's salary should be hiked from Rs 1

lakh a month to Rs 2.5 lakh. Currently, each MLA gets a package of Rs 1 lakh, which includes Rs 35,000 as salary and Rs 65,000 as allowances.

This excludes a daily allowance of Rs 1,500 per day while the House is in session, besides the travel reimbursement for attending the sessions.

Notably, retail inflation dipped marginally to 6.44 per cent in February, mainly on account of a slight easing in prices of food and fuel items though it remained above the Reserve Bank's comfort level of 6 per cent for the second month in a row.

As per the government data released on Monday, the Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation was at 6.52 per cent in January and 6.07 per cent in February 2022.

## 'Home department fixes physical test criteria to recruit transpersons'

In police force

Nagpur, March 15 (PTI):

The Maharashtra home department has fixed physical test criteria for recruitment of transpersons into the police force, days after the state government told the Bombay High Court that it will create a new window for such candidates, an official order said.

Under the transgender category, the candidates will need to self-identify themselves as male or female and can accordingly appear for the physical test, the order said.

The Maharashtra police recently undertook an exercise to fill 18,331 posts, mostly constables, in the force. As part of the fitness

test, male candidates had to cover 1,600 metres within a time frame, while women aspirants were asked to run 800 metres. The jobseekers also had to take part in a shot put throw.

As per the new norms for transpersons, for a self-identified female candidate, the height should not be less than 158 cm, while it has to be a minimum of 165 cm for a self-identified male, the home department order said.

As part of the physical tests, self-identified male candidates will have to take part in the 1,600-metre and 100-metre runs. The shot put weight is 8 kg for such candidates, said an official.

## 'It is time India takes lead in realising 'one earth, one health' vision'

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

It is time India takes the lead in realising the "one earth, one health" vision with a holistic policy-making environment and align it with the philosophy of "vasudhaiva kutumbakam", Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Wednesday.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has a strong political will to lead in innovative research and technology supported solutions which are commercially viable with universal acceptability, he said at the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit 2023.

The summit has been themed "One Health: Integrated, Collaborative



Mansukh Mandaviya

and Multisectoral Approach to Optimal Health".

"The 'one earth, one health' vision can become a reality only with active global collaboration where countries don't think of only themselves but of collective global outcomes," the minister said.

Mandaviya highlighted that the health sector can-

not be limited to one country as the health and wellbeing of one country impacts the other.

"We live in an inter-dependent world, wherein not just countries but the health of human population is equally affected and influenced by the health of surrounding environment and animals," he stated.

The global pandemic

has demonstrated that no country is immune from adverse developments in any country, and also that our actions impact the health and wellbeing of our eco-system.

"It is therefore our collective responsibility as a human race to not only protect ourselves but also ensure that our actions result in protecting the environment we co-exist in," he stressed. The vision of "one earth, one health" brings in sharp focus the importance of our actions and eco-friendly policies, he elaborated.

Applauding India's leading role in indigenous research and wealth of traditional therapies, Mandaviya highlighted that each country can have its own model of achieving the vision.

## Food festival satiates cravings of seafood lovers

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI): Serving everything from mussels to crabs and squids to oysters, an ongoing festival in the Delhi-NCR promises to satiate the craving of true-blue seafood enthusiasts.

The ten-day festival, 'Seafood Symphony', is currently underway at Hotel Crowne Plaza, Greater Noida.

It offers a sea of dishes for the visitors to choose from, including 'Calamari rings served with garlic aioli', 'Thai green curry with prawn' and 'Spaghetti aragosta' (Spaghetti served With Lobster), in Asian and Italian style.

"We are known for curating exotic and unique experiences for our guests. With Seafood Symphony we try to bring on ocean culinary

delights and I believe many of these dishes would be a new introduction to the food lovers in Delhi/NCR. We look forward to welcoming you to Chao Bella," said Sharad K Upadhyay, general manager at Crowne Plaza, Greater Noida.

**कालड़ा बर्न एवं**

**प्लास्टिक कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी सेंटर**

**कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी**

जुरियां, झांड, दाग, तिल, अनचाहे बाल आदि (आधुनिक लेजर द्वारा), मुहांसे, दाग, नाक, होट, टोडी, वझ, पेट आदि (प्लास्टिक सर्जरी द्वारा) तथा अंग कटने-जलने की अति विशेष चिकित्सा.

आर.के.सी.के.सामने, चौबे कालोनी एवं पंचवटी नाका, धर्मपुरी रोड, कलसं मॉल के पास, रायपुर कॉल: 9827143060/8871003060

Ajay Advt.



### BRIEF



Tribals Bomman and Bellie pose for photographs after meeting TN CM M.K. Stalin, at the State Secretariat in Chennai, Wednesday.

### Fire

**New Delhi:** A fire broke out at Delhi Police's cyber crime police station in Rohini on Wednesday, officials said. No injury has been reported so far, they said. A call about the blaze on ground floor of the police station was received at 3 pm following which five fire tenders were rushed to the spot, officials said.

### Award

**New Delhi:** Dhanya Rajendran of The News Minute has been declared the winner of the Chameli Devi Jain Award for an Outstanding Woman Mediaperperson for 2022, the Media Foundation announced on Wednesday. Bengaluru-based Rajendran is the co-founder and editor-in-chief of digital news platform The News Minute.

### Escape

**New Delhi:** A former employee of the French Embassy here who allegedly perpetrated a massive fraud by issuing visa to hundreds of people, including his parents, on the basis of fake documents without the knowledge and approval of sanctioning authority has escaped from India, officials said. The CBI had booked Shubham Shokeen and another former employee Aarti Mandal in the case on the basis of a complaint from the French Embassy.

### Condole

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday condoled the loss of lives due to Cyclone Freddy in Malawi, Mozambique and Madagascar, and said India stands with them in this tough time. Cyclone Freddy has barreled through Mozambique and Malawi since late last week, killing hundreds and displacing thousands more. It also pummeled the islands of Madagascar and R union last month as it traversed the Indian Ocean, according to media reports.

### Terminate

**Itanagar:** The Arunachal Pradesh government has terminated two Group A officers in connection with the Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) paper leak issue. The two officers were holding the posts of Agriculture Development Officer (ADO) and are currently lodged at Jolly district jail near here, in connection with the case, officials at the agriculture department said.

**Weather**  
High 35 Low 22

**MARKET**  
NIFTY 16,972.15  
SENSEX 57,555.90

**BULLION**  
GOLD 58,270  
SILVER 67,470

### DIN IN STATE ASSLY

## BJP accuses state govt of failing to implement PMAY

Raipur, Mar 15:

The opposition BJP on Wednesday said the Congress government in Chhattisgarh has failed to properly implement the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in the state due to which 16 lakh houses for the poor could not be constructed.

Raising the issue in zero hour during the ongoing budget session, Bharatiya Janata Party MLAs, including Dharamlal Kaushik, Shivratna Sharma and Ajay Chandrakar, sought a discussion on the issue by moving an adjournment motion notice. The BJP legislators said the PMAY was launched by the Centre in 2015, and in other states, houses are being constructed for the



poor "but in Chhattisgarh, the entitled beneficiaries are wandering door to door". "People are staging a protest on Wednesday against the state government on the issue," they said. The demand of the BJP camp for a discussion on the adjournment notice led to an uproar in the House as Congress MLAs countered their charges.

As the chair rejected the demand, BJP MLAs started raising slogans against the state government. Amid the pandemonium, the House proceedings were adjourned for five minutes. The BJP had planned to gherao the state Assembly on Wednesday to protest the state government's "failure" to implement the PMAY.

### Jolt to Uddhav

## Ex-minister Sawant joins Shinde camp



Mumbai, Mar 15 (PTI):

In a setback to Uddhav Thackeray, former Maharashtra health minister Deepak Sawant on Wednesday joined the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena. Sawant joined the Sena in the presence of chief minister Shinde.

Sawant was an MLC of then united Shiv Sena and was cabinet minister for public health from 2014 to 2018 in the Devendra Fadnis-led government. He was dropped from the cabinet and denied ticket for legislative council election by Uddhav Thackeray in 2018.

## 'No mandatory age limit for scrapping of vehicles'

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

No mandatory age limit has been prescribed for the scrapping of vehicles under the vehicle scrapping policy, the Road Transport and Highways asserted on Wednesday while terming the reports of discarding of tractors after 10 years as false and baseless.

The ministry clarified that an agriculture tractor is a non-transport vehicle and registered for 15 years initially. Its registration can be renewed for five years at a time, once the initial registration period of 15 years is completed. "Reports circulating in a certain section of media including Twitter and WhatsApp regarding mandatory scrapping of tractors after 10 years is totally false, baseless and without any truth," the ministry said.

Anyone spreading false information to create panic will be proceeded against as per law, it warned. The Government of India has not fixed the age

### Ministry clarification

The ministry clarified that an agriculture tractor is a non-transport vehicle and registered for 15 years initially. Its registration can be renewed for five years at a time, once the initial registration period of 15 years is completed. "Reports circulating in a certain section of media including Twitter and WhatsApp regarding mandatory scrapping of tractors after 10 years is totally false, baseless and without any truth," the ministry said.

for any vehicle except certain government vehicles as specified in the notification vide G.S.R. 29(E), it added. MoRTH has formulated the Voluntary Vehicle Fleet Modernization Programme or the vehicle scrapping policy for scrapping of Transport and Non-Transport vehicles which are unfit and polluting. There is no mandatory age limit prescribed for the scrapping of vehicles under the policy. A vehicle can ply on road as long as it is found fit after testing through Automated Testing Station.

## Maha reports 2 H3N2 deaths

Mumbai, Mar 15 (PTI):

Maharashtra has reported two fatalities suspected to be caused by influenza. One of them, a 74-year-old man, died of the H3N2 subtype while the other victim was infected by coronavirus as well as the influenza virus, state Health Minister Tanaji Sawant told the Assembly on Wednesday.

An official said one of the two deceased, a 23-year-old MBBS student, died due to a mixed infection caused by coronavirus and H3N2.

Sawant said state health machinery has been put on alert with 361 cases of influenza infections being reported in the state, and guidelines will be issued in the next two days. The minister also advised the use of masks in crowded places and social distancing.

"Two persons have died due to influenza, including a 23-year-old first-year student of MBBS in Ahmednagar. He tested positive for COVID-19 as well as H1N1 and H3N2 viruses. Another victim is a 74-year-old man from Nagpur who died of H3N2," Sawant said.

## CUET to be conducted in 3 shifts

Merger with JEE, NEET to be announced 2 yrs in advance

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

The Common University Entrance Test (CUET)-UG will be conducted in three shifts this year instead of two and plans for its merger with crucial entrance exams like JEE and NEET will be announced at least two years in advance, according to UGC chairman M Jagadeesh Kumar.

In an interview to PTI, Kumar said the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the National Testing Agency (NTA) are prepared to ensure that the second edition of CUET-UG is glitch free.

"I agree there were several glitches during the exam last time but this year all issues have been ironed out. Keeping in mind the experience of the students, a plan has been chalked out and we are ready to ensure that the candidates just have to worry about the exam and not any glitches," he said.

"Extra computers and extra centres have been arranged as plan B so that in case there are any glitches, the candidates can be shifted there and the exam for a particular shift will not be cancelled," he added.

Kumar said that in a deviation from the usual pattern, the exam will be conducted in three shifts from this year.

## Five suffocate to death at brick kiln

One hospitalised

Mahasamund, Mar 15:

Five workers died of asphyxiation and another took ill after inhaling smoke at a brick kiln in Chhattisgarh's Mahasamund district, officials said on Wednesday.

The district collector has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident that took place at Gadhpuljhar village under Basna police station limits, they said.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel expressed grief over the deaths and announced a compensation of Rs 2 lakh to the kin of each of the deceased.

As per preliminary investigation, six workers set



One of the injured worker Manohar Bisi referred to Raipur for better treatment.

an assembled pile of dried mud bricks for heating on Tuesday night and slept atop it, said Kumari Chandrakar, station house officer (SHO) of Basna police station. When other workers reached the spot this morning and found them unconscious, they alerted the police, she said. The six workers were shift-

### Probe ordered...

Mahasamund Collector Nilesh Kumar Kshirsagar has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident, an official statement said. The CM has directed officials to provide financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh to the kin of each of the deceased and medical aid to the hospitalised brick kiln worker.

### What mining officer said...

In-charge Mining Officer (Mahasamund) Umesh Bhargav said his department has also launched a probe in connection with the operation of the kiln. "No official permission was sought by Kunjibihari Pade who was operating the kiln in the village. However, Pade comes from the Kumhar community (that traditionally made pottery) and there are certain relaxations for the community concerned in making bricks. But it is mandatory for everyone to comply with standard safety measures and rules and regulations," Bhargav added.

ed to a local hospital where five of them were declared dead, she said.

The sixth person was later referred to capital Raipur for treatment, she

said. "According to doctors, the five died due to suffocation but the exact cause of the death will be known after their post-mortem", she said. Police have identi-

fied the deceased as Ganga Ram Bisi (55), Dasrath Bisi (30), Sona Chand Bhoi (40), Varun Bariha (24) and Janak Ram Bariha (30).

A case has been registered and further probe is underway, she added.

Meanwhile, the district administration and mining officials have also reached the spot to take stock of the incident.

Mahasamund Collector Nilesh Kumar Kshirsagar has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident, an official statement said.

The CM has directed officials to provide financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh to the kin of each of the deceased and medical aid to the hospitalised brick kiln worker, it said.

### SC ON MAHA CRISIS

## 'Discontent among MLAs not enough for Guv to call trust vote'

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

Calling for a trust vote merely on the ground of differences between MLAs of a ruling party can topple an elected government, the Supreme Court observed on Wednesday, adding the governor of a state cannot lend his office to effectuate a particular result.

"It will be a sad spectacle for democracy," a five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud said while

taking forward the hearing on the events that unfolded during the June 2022 Maharashtra political crisis triggered by a revolt in the then undivided Shiv Sena by MLAs loyal to Eknath Shinde.

The bench made the observations after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Maharashtra governor, narrated the sequence of events and said there were various materials before the governor including a letter signed by 34 Shiv

Sena MLAs, a letter from Independent lawmakers withdrawing support to the Uddhav Thackeray government, and another of the Leader of the Opposition that prompted him to order a trust vote.

B S Koshiyari, who was then the governor of Maharashtra, had asked Thackeray to face a floor test to prove his majority. Thackeray, however, resigned in the face of imminent defeat, paving the way for appointment of Shinde as the new chief minister.

### G-20 MEET: SELFIE SPREE



Delegates click a selfie after attending the 2nd Education Working Group meeting 2023, in Amritsar, Wednesday.

### LAND-FOR-JOB SCAM

## Delhi court gives bail to Lalu, Rabri, Misa

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

A Delhi court on Wednesday gave bail to RJD leader Lalu Prasad Yadav, his wife and former Bihar chief minister Rabri Devi, their daughter Misa Bharti and others in connection with a case related to the alleged land-for-job scam.

Lalu Prasad, 74, who underwent a kidney transplant recently and was in a wheelchair, reached the Rouse Avenue court around 10 am but proceedings were delayed. The family appeared before Special Judge Geetanjali Goel around 11 am. Granting relief to the

accused on a personal bond of Rs 50,000 and one surety of the like amount each, the court posted the matter for further proceedings on March 29.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) did not oppose the bail pleas. The case relates to alleged appointments made in the railways in return for land parcels gifted or sold to Lalu Prasad's family when he was railway minister between 2004 and 2009. The CBI, in its charge sheet, alleged that irregular appointments were made in the railways, violating laid down norms and procedures of Indian Railways for recruitment.

## Another TTE misbehaves with woman passenger, suspended

Bengaluru, Mar 15 (PTI):

Days after a railway travel ticket examiner (TTE) was held for allegedly urinating on a passenger on a train bound from Kolkata to Amritsar, another TTE has been accused of allegedly misbehaving with a female passenger when she was leaving from Krishnarajapuram station here. The TTE has been placed under suspension by the Railway, pending investigation.

According to the Railway, the train had stopped at Krishnarajapuram for crossing with another, during which time the TTE misbehaved with the woman while demanding



that she show him her ticket. Videos of the woman confronting the TTE on the railway station platform, reportedly on Tuesday, have been posted on twitter by a user.

In the videos, a woman can be seen shouting at the TTE, asking him why he pulled her after she showed him her tickets.

As the TTE, who was allegedly drunk, shouts back at the woman, a group of men who were standing nearby and were watching the incident unfold, came to her aid and caught hold of him as he tried to flee from the spot.

They can be heard saying, "He is drunk, call the police".

## ED raids 11 offices of CNI including Nagpur

Nagpur, March 14 (PTI):

The Enforcement Directorate is carrying out searches at 11 locations across India, including the Nagpur office of the Church of North India (CNI), in connection with a case registered in Bhopal, an ED official said on Wednesday.

ED officials said the searches are tied to a cheating case registered against P C Singh, bishop of the CNI's Jabalpur Diocese.

The office of CNI, a Protestant denomination, located in the Sadar area in the city is being searched, an official said.

In September 2022, Singh had been detained at the Nagpur airport in Maharashtra for question-

ing after an offence was registered against him.

Madhya Pradesh police at the time had recovered around Rs 1.6 crore in Indian and foreign currencies from the bishop's residence in Jabalpur. Singh was then in Germany.

The case against Bishop Singh was registered in July 2022 after it was alleged that he had indulged in financial misconduct in running an educational society, of which he was the chairman. ED officials said an investigation showed that Rs 2.7 crore collected as students' fees by the society's various institutions between 2004-05 and 2011-12 was allegedly transferred to religious institutions, misused and spent by the bishop for personal needs.

## BSP seals IOCL's Chopra Petrol Pump

**Bhilai, Mar 15:**

On Wednesday, Bhilai Steel Plant took a major action over a case of non-renewal of lease and sealed a Petrol Pump which was operational in Bhilai Township. Chopra Auto Care (Petrol Pump) located in Sector 10, Forest Avenue, was sealed in the presence of Executive Magistrate Kshama Yadu and Police officers. It needs to be mentioned here that M/s IOCL was allotted land by BSP in 1980 on lease of 33 years. The lease was not renewed by the company even after the completion of the lease period in 2013.

BSP served notices to IOCL several times for lease renewal but the company did not get the lease renewed. The lease was terminated by BSP in 2014 and in the same year, a case was registered in the Estate Court under the PP Act. Thereafter, in the year 2015, a petition was filed by the IOCL seeking a stay from the High Court, Bilaspur. They failed to get relief from the High Court. Thereafter in the year 2017, the Estate Court passed a decree against Indian Oil Corporation Limited Mumbai, Raipur and Regional Distributor, Chopra Auto Centre,



Forest Avenue, Sector-10, Bhilai. Subsequently, the lease rent amounting to Rs 7 crores is pending against M/s IOCL. Several rounds of meetings and talks were conducted by BSP with higher officials but IOCL did not make the payment. Lastly, IOCL assured to deposit the dues in the month of February 2023, but the amount was not deposited. Thereafter, BSP gave time till March 10 and when they did not receive the lease renewal

premium, the Town Services Department of Bhilai Steel Plant moved ahead for compliance with the order of the Estate Court. A team of officers and personnel of the Enforcement Department, Land Department, Revenue Department, private security guards sealed the fuel station in the presence of Executive Magistrate, District Police Force, Traffic Police and handed it over to the Estate Court. The sale of petrol /

diesel was stopped at 09:00 hrs on 15/03/2023. Following all the safety parameters, fuel sales were stopped and by shutting down all the necessary electrical equipment, the control system, etc. The fuel station was closed by the manager himself, the working staff took out all the necessary documents. The entire proceeding was video-graphed, measurements of all the inflammable stock was taken and reported.

## Teacher on All-CG cycle tour for environment conservation

**Bhilai, Mar 15:** A teacher, Santosh Gupta, who is touring across the Chhattisgarh state with the message of prevention of environmental pollution and de-addiction, reached Durg on Tuesday. He said that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is working to promote organic farming and prevention of environmental pollution. Santosh said that his intention is to make more and more people aware through bicycles. He said that cycling prevents pollution and maintains good health. He added that every day he travels 40 kilometers on bicycle to reach his school. Now, he is cycling across Chhattisgarh to spread the message of environment conservation. Gupta informed that he has cycled till Nepal and during holidays he always goes around on cycle to inspire people that our habits create and spoil nature. Cycling also leads to good health. Santosh said that while traveling, he posts his reels on social media to make the people aware of their health. Gupta hails from Mungeli and said that throughout the journey he gets a lot of love from the people. Santosh



covers three districts in a day. He uses a bicycle for all his daily work. His family members are also very happy because he spends his time for a good cause.

## Now permission is required to dig borewell; Tullu pump users to face music

**Collector reviews water supply arrangements****Bhilai, Mar 15:**

Citizens will not be able to dig bore wells in urban bodies without administrative permission. Strict action will be taken by the local civic bodies for use of Tullu pumps during water supply. During the water supply timings, the civic body staff will monitor the localities so that water supply can be ensured to all. SDMs will also constitute their teams to take action in this regard. In view of the summer season, the Collector reviewed the condition of the drinking water supply system. He asked about the works being done in the urban

bodies. Municipal officials said that to increase the water pressure, damaged pipes are being replaced and new valves are also being installed. The Collector asked to prepare an action plan especially for those areas where there is always a possibility of drinking water crisis. He said that along with repairing the pipeline, repair of out of order tube wells should also be done. He said that the system of drinking water supply should be perfect and preparations should be launched immediately. Municipal Commissioner Rohit Vyas and other officers were present in the meet-

ing. The Collector specially reviewed the work being done on malaria eradication. Officials said that a door-to-door survey is being done and extensive work is being done to clean the ponds. Door-to-door outreach is helping in the prevention of mosquitoes. The Collector asked the officers of the urban bodies to continuously monitor the situation and intensify the "fight the bite campaign". A trauma center will be set up in Utai for the treatment of helpless animals. In this regard, the Collector instructed the CMO to mark the land.

The Collector also inquired about the action taken for the rearing of advanced breed cows in Gauthans. Along with this, asked to provide paddy straws to all Gauthans. The collector said that at present more than 60 baadis are producing vegetables with organic manure. All the baadis will be gradually converted into organic farms. He asked the officials to make necessary preparations to make necessary preparations for this work. District Panchayat CEO Ashwini Dewangan said that monocropping is currently being done in the baadis. Training is being given to develop organic baadis. The under construction buildings will also be painted with cow dung paint. The Collector took information from all the construction agencies about their ongoing work and asked about the quantity of cow dung paint for the same. He said that according to the requirement, cow dung paint will be supplied by units.

## SCMF felicitates women achievers on foundation day

**Bhilai, Mar 15:**

Shri Chaturbhuj Memorial Foundation celebrated its 12th foundation day by felicitating empowered women at a sublime function organised the other day. The chief guest of the ceremony was Padmashree Phulbasan Bai Yadav while Gyanesh Sharma, Chairman, Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission presided over. Renowned litterateur Ravi Srivastava was the keynote speaker while Dr Hansa Shukla, Principal, Swami Shri Swaroopnand Saraswati Mahavidyalaya and Arun Srivastava, founder of Shri Chaturbhuj Memorial Foundation were present as special guests. The opportunity was taken to felicitate representatives of various social organisations working for a cause were including Dr Rohini Patankar of Riddhi Siddhi Mahila Mandal for her contribution in the field of art and social welfare, Kulwant Bhatia of Nav Drishti Foundation for encouraging eye donation-body donation, Bunty Sharma of Jansamarpan Foundation for continuously arranging food for the destitute, Dr Sonali Chakravorty of



Swayamsiddha for encouraging homemakers towards social activities, Nidhi Chandrakar of Uddan Nai Disha for promotion of indigenous tradition and environment, Dimple Kaur of Anubhuti Shree Foundation for community social awareness. In her address, Phulbasan Bai Yadav appreciated Shri Chaturbhuj Memorial Foundation for having done a commendable job of felicitating empowered women. She stated that a healthy society can be built only when we work together with the purpose. She shared her own experience on how she her first step towards self reliance with a couple of women and gradually the group has become so big. In his address, Gyanesh Sharma, Chairman, Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission said

that Shri Chaturbhuj Memorial Foundation has over the past done important work in social service. Self-reliance is the mantra on the basis of which we can move forward towards a better future, he added and appreciated the excellent work being done by social organizations in Bhilai and Durg. In his keynote address Ravi Srivastava said that the activities of Shri Chaturbhuj Memorial Foundation are inspiring for all of us. Congratulating the people and organizations who were honoured, he said that these organizations have a big role in the social structure of Bhilai Durg that is visible today. People here have made achievements in many fields like literature, social service, education, sports, production etc. Principal Dr

Hansa Shukla said that our it is the result of the tireless work of social organizations that the society is continuously moving forward. Earlier at the outset, the founder of the Foundation Arun Srivastava said that the only way to improve the society is by serving the needy people. He gave information about the social activities of the organization. In the ceremony, Prof DN Sharma presented a book to Phulbasan Bai in which articles on her social contribution are compiled. The guests also honored Sarita Srivastava, President of Shri Chaturbhuj Memorial Foundation at the ceremony. The program was conducted by Anita Kardekar and vote of thanks was expressed by Seema Srivastava.

## Mayor Neeraj Pal helps elderly citizen get walker



**Bhilai, Mar 15:** Due to the efforts of Mayor Neeraj Pal, an elderly person who was unable to walk has got a walker, and now with the help of it he is able to ambulate. It so happened that when the Mayor was leaving his office, he came across an elderly man named DP Tiwari. The Mayor interacted with the old man and asked about his wellbeing and enquired the reason for his visit to corporation office. The elderly man men-

tioned that he was having trouble walking because his walker had broken and he was facing a lot of difficulties in commuting. As the walker has broken beyond repair, he had come to get another walker to solve his commuting problem. On hearing this, the Mayor immediately instructed the social welfare department of the corporation to help the elderly. Walker was immediately made available to the elderly person by the Social Welfare Department. The elderly man who was earlier looking apprehensive was now overjoyed and thanked the mayor endlessly for his help. Senior counselor Vashishtha Narayan Mishra was also present when walker was provided to the elderly.

## Special awareness camps organised under 'International Women's Week'

**Bhilai, Mar 15:**

Under the joint aegis of National Legal Services Authority, New-Delhi; Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority, Bilaspur and National Commission for Women and Child Development, Durg; the District Legal Services Authority Durg organised special awareness camp to spread legal awareness among women living in rural and remote areas in Bhilai-3 and Patan. The events were organised under the guidance of District and Sessions Judge Sanjay Kumar Jaiswal (Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Durg). These camps were organised on the occasion of International Women's Week. About 60 women attended the special awareness program organized at "Mangal Bhavan" of

Bhilai-3. During the program, Pankaj Dixit (Civil Judge Class-1) and Amita Jaiswal (Civil Judge, Class-2); Advocate Rekha Verma and Advocate Rukmani Joshi detailed the women about Hindu Marriage Act, rules for maintenance of wife; rights of women on property, Domestic Violence Act; dowry harassment and dowry death, kidnapping and abduction, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act; Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace; Maternity Benefit Act, Factories Act and Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (MTP Act). About 80 women were present in the special awareness program for women organized on the occasion of International Women's Week in the District Panchayat premises of Patan. Vijender Sonwani (Civil Judge Class-1 Patan), Advocate

Manju Sahu, Advocate Tarani Yadav and DSP Shilpa Sahu (Investigation Unit for Crime Against Women) addressed the women. They covered the topics of Domestic Violence Act, Victim Compensation Scheme, Cyber Crime, POCSO, Acid Attack, Maternity Benefit Act, Equal Remuneration Act, women's right on property etc. Legal information related to women was explained to the women. The experts answered the queries of the women. They got proper answers according to the law and their doubts were cleared. Pamphlets and application forms were also distributed among the women. The main objective of the awareness programs is to create understanding and awareness of the law even in the last person of the society.

## SBI Bhilai celebrates International Women's Day

**Bhilai, Mar 15:**

International Women's Day was celebrated at State Bank of India Main Branch Sector-1 on March 10, 2023, where eminent

Ramdas Manjhi presided over the programme. Chief Manager (Bhilai Main Branch) Swapnil Walde welcomed the guests and delivered the welcome address. The guests

Chandrakar. The cultural presentation by Neelam Thakur, Shruti Thakur, Vinod Jagat and Ayushi enhanced the beauty of the program. Ranga Veni, Assistant General Secretary, Raipur Module of SBI Award Staff, Bhopal Circle gave the vote of thanks and expressed her gratitude to everyone. Along with this, the commendable presence of SBI Award Staff Bhilai Zone 2 Regional Secretary Arun Verma, Organization Secretary Chandrakant Pawar, Organization Secretary Seema Malhotra, Organization Secretary Anand Sahu and all the staff of Bhopal Circle made the program a success informed a press communique.



### Obituary

#### Ramrati Patel

**Bhilai:** Ashish Nagar (West) resident Ramrati Patel, wife of Purnanlal Patel, left for heavenly abode at the age of 65 years on March 14. Last rites of the mortal remains were performed at Risali Muktidham. She was the mother of Savita, Ravi and Shailendra Patel.



## BJP gherao Assembly over Housing Scheme for poor

Several including Sao, Ramvichar Netam, Brijmohan Agrawal arrested



### Agitation's success to dethrone Congress govt: Mathur

**Raipur:** BJP leader and in-charge of party affairs in Chhattisgarh Om Mathur termed the agitation to be massive success and added that he too was stuck in traffic jam for nearly an hour. He said that he would continue to stay here in Chhattisgarh to dethrone the Congress government in next Legislative Assembly polls.

to gherao. Addressing the gathering, the BJP President Arun Sao said that they are fighting for the

Housing Rights for the people from weaker section of society and added that the BJP Chief Minister would first sign for PM Housing Scheme before entering CM House after victory in next Legislative Assembly polls. Leader of Opposition Narayan Chandel too accused the state government of resorting to dramatics instead of delivering welfare scheme for the poor.

### Liquor syndicate dominating Ch'garh admn: Raghuvar Das

**Raipur:** Former Chief Minister of Jharkhand Raghuvar Das while addressing the public meet, alleged that the Congress government has failed to provide Housing Scheme for the people from weaker section of society despite central assistance. He further said that Liquor syndicate is dominating in Chhattisgarh whereas people from weaker section of society are denied the benefits of various central schemes. He said that the state government has not been able to implement welfare scheme for the poor.

### Corruption registered new heights under Congress regime: Dr Raman

**Raipur:** Former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh said that the corruption has registered new heights in Chhattisgarh with several officers in Jail after ED and IT raids. He added that they would provide residential facilities to people from weaker section of society after returning back to power in Chhattisgarh.

## Baghel terms BJP's protest as 'political show'

**Raipur, Mar 15:** The Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel termed the Vidhan Sabha gherao by BJP as 'political show'. Coming down heavily against BJP prior to their protest, Baghel asked as to whether the BJP leaders and workers support the declaration made by the state government to conduct survey of eligible beneficiaries for housing scheme. He also questioned as to whether the BJP is holding the protest against the govt's decision to conduct survey of beneficiaries?

Speaking to media persons prior to VS gherao by BJP, CM Baghel said that the BJP protestors with slogan 'Mor awas la le lis hein Bhupesh Baghel' (I have been deprived of house by Bhupesh Baghel). On this CM Baghel said that the over the last few days, the government has made a work plan to provide houses to all eligible beneficiaries. Government has so far sanctioned more than 11 lakh houses and which is higher than that of BJP's rule in the state and this year also sufficient allocation has been made in the budget for the same.

Informing about the provision for 'Aawas Yojana' in the state, CM informed that the central government has extended the term of PMAY till March 2024 and therefore it is better that in three last 12 years, all other peo-



ple who have become eligible should also get benefited from the government's scheme and therefore the state government has decided to carry out survey of eligible beneficiaries.

Further CM questioned BJP as to on which issue they have gheraoed Vidhan Sabha today and what is their demand? If it is related to providing house, then he asked, whether the state government has refused to provide it? The state government has granted sanction and even made allocation in the budget for the same. The planning in the state is far better compared to other states, CM said, adding that in such conditions, BJP should inform as to why they are staging protest.

CM Baghel questioned BJP as to whether they are staging protest, going against the state government's decision to get the survey done for eligible beneficiaries? First they should clarify as to whether they are in support or against it.

### CM Baghel attended the last rites of mother of Forest Minister

**Raipur, Mar 15:** The Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel today attended the last rites of Forest and Environment Minister Mohammad Akbar's mother at his resi-

dence in Raipur's Moudhapara. He also shouldered the funeral procession of the Cabinet Minister's mother. The Chief Minister gave his consolation to Akbar and his family members. He prayed to God for the peace of the departed soul and strength for the bereaved family members to tolerate this grief.

## Bureau of Indian Standards organises 'Manak Mahotsav'

**Raipur, Mar 15:** On the occasion of World Consumer Rights Day, 'Manak Mahotsav' was organised by Bureau of Indian Standards, Raipur Branch Office at Hotel Courtyard by Marriott. On this occasion, the standards were discussed with the licensees of the Bureau of Indian Standards, consumers, government organizations and other stakeholders. Sumit Kumar, Head Raipur Branch Office in his welcome address explained about the various activities of Bureau of Indian Standards. He informed that on the occasion of World Consumer Rights Day, Bureau of Indian



Standards, Raipur is organizing many programs in the state. In this, under the Quality Connect campaign, a survey will be conducted by more than 500 youth volunteers for quality awareness in more than 10,000 homes. Along with this, many street plays will also be organized. Mr. Prabhunath Yadav, Joint Director, Bureau of Indian Standards, Raipur said that standards of milk powder

and bottled drinking water will be discussed in the 'Manak Mahotsav'. On this occasion, the special guest Mr.V. Rajeshwar, Director, All India Radio, Raipur and S.K. Devhare, Director, Doordarshan, Raipur told about the contribution of Doordarshan and All India Radio in spreading awareness about consumer protection to every nook and corner of the country.

## 19 companies which signed MoU with CG Govt started production

7000 people got employment Industrial groups from other states interested in Ch'garh

**Raipur, Mar 15:** Along with the local industrial houses in Chhattisgarh, industrial groups from other states have also shown interest in setting up industries in the state. 19 industrial groups which had signed MoU with Chhattisgarh government in between 2019 to 2021 have started production. Companies of Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Maharashtra apart from Chhattisgarh state are also there. About 7000 people are getting employment through these companies.

The companies which have started production in Chhattisgarh include Solar Power, Ready to Eat Frozen Food, Fabricated



Metal Products, Bullet Proof Jacket, Electric Vehicle, Captive Power Plant, Nanooven Interlining, Solar PV Power Plant, Processing of Millets and Tamarind Paste. These industries have also fostered innovation. According to officials of the State Investment Promotion Board, construction of plants on MoUs worth about Rs 50,000 crore is under process in the state. Production has not started here yet, but after the land has been identified, the companies have started construction of infrastructure. According to the in-

formation, production will be started within six months on the MoU worth Rs 20,000 crore. Companies which have not allotted the land to set up industries, their representatives are having discussions with the officials of the Industries Department. Director of the State Investment Promotion Board, Alok Trivedi said, from year 2019 to 2022, the companies which had signed MoU. Out of them industries investing more than 5000 crore have started production. Apart from Chhattisgarh, industrial houses from other states have started work here.

## Weather patterns changes in Ch'garh

Relief from the scorching heat, chances of light rain

**Raipur, Mar 15:** People have got some relief from the scorching heat on Wednesday. As per the information from Met Department due to the influence of moist winds coming from the Bay of Bengal, the weather patterns in the state have changed. The Meteorological Department said that along with cloudy weather on Thursday, there is a possibility of light rain in different areas of the state. Apart from this, the area of rainfall may also increase in the state from Thursday. Meteorologists said that there is a possibility of good rainfall across the state from March 16 to 20. The weather remained dry across the state on Wednesday. There was no significant change in the maximum temperature, while there was an increase in the minimum



temperature. Raipur recorded a maximum temperature of 36 degree Celsius and a minimum temperature of 21 degree Celsius on Wednesday. Raigarh recorded the highest maximum temperature of 38.5 degree Celsius across the state. Meteorologists said that after change in the weather patterns, people will get some relief from the scorching heat. The phase of decline in maximum temperature will also begin. Meteorologist HP Chandra said that due to the effect of Western Disturbance, a cyclonic cyclone is up to 3.1 km height in and around southwest Rajasthan. Due to its effect, moist air is coming from the Bay of Bengal.

## Ch'garh team leaves for National Para Athletics event



**Raipur, Mar 15:** Chhattisgarh team on Wednesday left for Pune from Raipur Railway station to participate in the 21st National Senior Para Athletics championship to be held from March 16 to 20. Para Sports Association of Chhattisgarh (PSAC) office-bearers Ashok Maloo and Santosh Raghuvanshi provided track suit and sports kit being sponsored by Department of Sports & Youth Welfare to the members of the team. RC Sinha, Suraj Yadav, Prashant

Raghuvanshi, Pramod Tiwari, Neeta Dumre, Narendra Mishra and other office-bearers have extended best wishes to the team for the national championship.

Chooti Mehra, Ishwari Nishad, Sangeeta Masih, Dushyant Kumar, Sukhmandan Nishad, Kamlesh Kumar Nishad, Rakesh Kumar Podam, Kamal Kumar, Coach Wasim Raja, Team Manager Niranjana Sahu and Secretary PSAC Dikesh Tandon are part of the team for the national event.

## Ch'garh Forest team wins overall champion trophy for 11th time

In the 26th All India Forest Sports Meet held in Panchkula By winning 164 medals, Ch'garh surpassed its closest competitor Karnataka

**Raipur, Mar 15:** Chhattisgarh has bagged the overall champion's trophy 26th All India Forest Sports Meet held in Panchkula, Haryana, becoming the overall champion for the 11th time. With a total of 164 medals, Chhattisgarh maintained its first position, surpassing its closest competitor Karnataka. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Forest Minister Mohammad Akbar have congratulated and extended their best wishes to the Forest Department on this significant achievement in the All India Forest Sports Meet. It is worth mentioning that this



event, which lasts for five days, includes various indoor games such as tennis, table tennis, badminton, swimming, karate, chess, weightlifting, powerlifting, kabaddi, as well as events in cricket, football, basketball, hockey, golf, and athletics. Officials from the Forest Department, from PCCF to guards, participate in these sports competitions. The forest department team of Chhattisgarh defeat-

ed Jammu and Kashmir in cricket, winning the gold medal for the seventh time. Similarly, in football, Chhattisgarh claimed first place by defeating Haryana, which had several national players in its team. Chhattisgarh's basketball team won the gold medal by defeating Karnataka. In weightlifting and powerlifting, the team bagged a total of 19 gold medals, in tennis 12 gold and 2 silver medals, in

badminton 4 gold medals, in swimming 6 gold medals, and in athletics 18 gold, 10 silver, and 8 bronze medals. In addition, they won 9 gold and 2 silver medals in tennis.

Thus, in this year's 26th All India Forest Sports Meet, Chhattisgarh won a total of 164 medals, earning a total of 542 points, and maintained its first position by beating their nearest rival Karnataka in tough competition. It is worth mentioning that with the skilled guidance of Chief Minister, Forest Minister along with Principal Secretary (Forest) Shri Manoj Pingua, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief of Forest Force Sanjay Shukla, and the tireless efforts of nodal officer APCCF Sunil Mishra and DFO Vishvesh Kumar, Alok Tiwari, and Sangeeta Rajgopalan, and the constant practice and dedication of the players, Chhattisgarh achieved the first position. They have brought laurels to Chhattisgarh.

## Laxminarayan Das motivated people in educational sector: Sharma



**Raipur, Mar 15:** Noted Social workers including Raipur Rural MLA Satyanarayan Sharma, Chhattisgarh Gausewa Aayog Chairman Mahant Ramsunder Das, Trusty Ajay Tiwari, Mahendra Agrawal and Mahant College Principal Debashish Mukherjee paid rich tributes to freedom fighter, educationist and social reformer late Mahant Laxminarayan Das on his 36th death anniversary at the Mahant College premises here.

Addressing the gathering, the Raipur Rural MLA Satyanarayan Sharma remembered the contributions of late Mahant Laxminarayan Das and termed him to be a motivator who had made several contributions in the field of education. He also administered pledge to the gathering to take up the remaining works of his vision in the field of education. Mahant Ramsunder Das and Ajay Tiwari also addressed the gathering to pay tributes to Mahant Das.

## MoU signed between KTU and Central University of Himachal

To promote research and research work in the field of journalism

Raipur, Mar 15: An MoU was signed between Kushabhau Thakre University of Journalism and Mass Communication and Central University of Himachal Pradesh for exchange of research, and educational activities in the field of journalism, mass communication and new media. Both the universities will jointly promote the works and upgradation of educational activities in the field of mass communication and journalism. On the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two universities, the Vice-Chancellor of Kushabhau Thakre University of Journalism, Prof. Baldev Bhai Sharma and Vice Chancellor of Central University Prof.



Satprakash Bansal signed the MoU. Former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur and Himachal Pradesh Tourism Minister Raghuvver Singh Bali were present on the occasion.

As per this MoU, both the institutes will do necessary work to encourage and promote mutual cooperation in the field of research, student development activities, faculty de-

velopment activities and community outreach and extension activities in the field of mass communication and journalism. Under this agreement, both the institutes will organize student and faculty development activities such as seminars, workshops and lecture series etc. There will be faculty and student exchange programs, media literacy camps, public service awareness campaigns

will be organised and will be sharing of research resources. Vice Chancellor of Journalism University Prof. Baldev Bhai Sharma said that there are many possibilities of research in journalism. The agreement with the Central University is an important step in this direction. This agreement will prove to be important for the exchange and promotion of educational activities.

## Placement camp for educated youth on March 17

Raipur, Mar 15: A placement camp is being organised by District Employment and Self-Employment Guidance Center, Raipur to provide employment opportunities to local educated unemployed youth of Chhattisgarh state on March 17 at Extension Counter, Commercial Complex Rakhi, Sector-27 Nava Raipur Atal Nagar from 11 am to 2 pm. Domino's Pizza Raipur will recruit 130 posts of Business / Guest Delight Associates through this placement camp. 8th, 10th passed applicants will be eligible for recruitment for these posts. Selected candidates will be paid Rs 10 to 12 thousand per month. Applicants who are eligible and willing to attend the placement camp can appear on the scheduled date and venue. For more information in this regard, the applicant can also contact the District Employment Office, Raipur.

## Ch'garh model should be adopted by other states: Chandrakar

In the interest of farmers

Raipur, Mar 15: In the meeting of Board of Directors and General Assembly of National State Co-operative Banks Federation (NEFSCAB), Mumbai, President of Apex Bank Chhattisgarh and National Director of NEFSCAB, Baijnath Chandrakar suggested that the Chhattisgarh model should be adopted in other states as well. The Central and State Governments should make available the amount of interest subsidy to the committees in time. The financial condition of the society will be strengthened if the compensation for the losses incurred by the committees under the government schemes is done on time. Apex Bank Chairman Mr. Chandrakar said that the Chhattisgarh government is constantly strengthening the cooper-



ative sector. Necessary steps are being taken for this. Along with the development of infrastructure in primary agricultural credit societies, new societies are being formed. 725 new packs have been formed in the state. He informed that steps have been taken to start new Primary Credit Co-operative Societies (PACS) with necessary facilities in procurement centers and to develop super-infrastructure in these societies to strengthen the system of paddy procurement on support price. This initiative of Chhattisgarh government was appreciated in the meeting. Mr. Chandrakar said that the Chhattisgarh government is continuously providing financial assistance for the strengthen-

ing of primary credit co-operatives. Chhattisgarh government has constructed godown-cum-office buildings, scaffolds and platforms under infrastructure development in packs and procurement centers. Effective implementation of farmer-friendly and beneficiary-oriented schemes is being done through committees. The economic condition of the tribals, farmers, women and agricultural labourers of Chhattisgarh has improved with the purchase of minor forest produce on the support price of the Godhan Nyaya Yojana and Vananchal areas in the state. The meeting held at Mahabaleshwar (Maharashtra) was presided over by Mr. Kondru Ravindra Rao, President, NEFSCAB.

## 18 lakh smart card based registration certificates received

Under 'Tunhar Sarkar, Tunhar Dwar' by people Helpline number 75808-08030 issued by Transport Department

Raipur, Mar 14: According to the intention of Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel, under the guidance of Transport Minister Mr. Mohammad Akbar, the new facility 'Tunhar Sarkar, Tunhar Dwar' is being efficiently operated by the Transport Department in the state. Under this, from June 2021 till now, 17 lakh 93 thousand 435 smart card based registration certificates and driving licenses have

been sent to the applicants' homes. These include 12 lakh 23 thousand 595 smart card based registration certificates and 5 lakh 69 thousand 840 driving licences. Transport Minister Mr. Mohammad Akbar is constantly monitoring the smooth functioning of 'Tunhar Sarkar, Tunhar Dwar'. The 'Tunhar Sarkar, Tunhar Dwar' scheme run by the Transport Department is an important scheme for the convenience of the people. In this, 22 transport related services are being provided to the people by delivering them at their doorstep. Under this people-centric facility, people no longer need to visit the Transport Department again and again. This is saving both

money and time of the applicants. It has been informed by the Transport Department that in order to make 'Tunhar Sarkar, Tunhar Dwar' service more accessible, a helpline number 75808-08030 has been issued by the department, which works from 10 am to 5.30 pm on all working days which provides information. By calling the said helpline number, applicants can get all the information related to dispatch of their driving license and registration certificate. At present, on an average, 100 calls are being received daily in which mainly information related to driving license and registration process, taxes and fees are being received.

Many govt facilities to exporters

Raipur, Mar 15: Exporters and investors openly discussed the preparations to be made to increase exports from Chhattisgarh along with Raipur district at the Export Outreach programme organized at Nava Raipur, today. Collector Dr Sarveshwar Bhure also participated in this programme organized by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Government of India. Information was also given about exportable products from Chhattisgarh and government facilities given to exporters. Exporters and investors raised their problems and gave suggestions to increase exports. Representatives of



TREAC, SHEFEXIL, Industries Department, Minor Forest Produce Federation, APEDA, SIDBI as well as Bank of Baroda participated in the programme. With the objective of developing the districts as export hubs, such programmes are being conducted by the Directorate of Foreign Trade, Government of India, in 75 districts of the country with potential to increase exports. Raipur and Durg districts have been selected for this in

Chhattisgarh. Chhattisgarh is the main exporter of many products including rice in the country, Raipur Collector said, adding that the state government has given many facilities to the exporters. In order to encourage exports from the state, special provisions have also been made for exporters in the industrial policy ranging from exemption of five percent in mandi fee along with formation of promotion committee, said the Collector.

Chhattisgarh is rapidly moving towards developing as an export hub with government facilities and help, he said.

According to him there has been an average increase of more than 22 percent in the exports of the state in the last five years because of government policies and facilities. The Collector also informed that special efforts are being made to promote the export of rice, construction machinery and materials and processed spices from Chhattisgarh.

He also emphasized on the possibilities of export of wire, rods, bars, coils, TMT bars, crude steel as well as forest produce tamarind, mahua, lac and small grain millets Kodo Kutki Ragi etc. made in Chhattisgarh and

making an action plan for the same.

Exporters and investors present in the programme described Chhattisgarh as a state with export potential. The exporters demanded to continue the exemption of 5 per cent in mandi fee issued to increase the export of rice.

Presently, Chhattisgarh government is giving 5 percent exemption of market fee to rice exporters for one year and the term is going to end in the next 2 months. The exporting groups also demanded concession for transportation to the exporting units saying that Chhattisgarh is a landlocked state. Some exporter groups demanded government assistance for modernization of processing plants in the programme.

## Program organized on Science Day at CBS

Students move ahead with scientific thinking: Dr Verma

Raipur, Mar 15: A two-day National Science Day was organized at Center for Basic Sciences (CBS). The inauguration ceremony was presided over by the Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Keshari Lal Verma. The chief guest of the program Dr. K. Subramaniam (Member, State Planning Commission, Chhattisgarh) and guests of honour Dr. Dinesh Mishra, Raipur's famous eye specialist and Dr. Joyce Rai, Scientist E, Chhattisgarh Council of

Science and Technology, were present. The program started with the worship of Maa Saraswati and the lighting of lamp. Dr. Kallol K. Ghosh, Director, the Center for Basic Science, welcomed all the guests in his welcome address and explained the importance of Science Day and Sir C.V. Raman's invention to the students. Program coordinator Dr. Bhanushree Gupta informed about various competitions and their topics to be organized in the ceremony. Chief Guest Dr. Subramaniam delivered his lecture on "Basics of Climate Change and its Impact and Some Commendable Steps to

Mitigate its Impact". Special guest Dr. Dinesh Mishra delivered his lecture on "Scientific Thoughts and Superstitions" on the theme of Science Day, "Global Science for Global wellbeing". Dr. Mishra motivated the students to come out and remove various superstitions by adopting a scientific approach. Vice Chancellor of the University Dr. Verma also inspired the students in his speech to adopt scientific thinking and to work towards making their country and state a pioneer in the field of science. Dr. Joyce Rai explained in detail the steps taken by the Chhattisgarh Council

of Science and Technology. In the program, four competitions "debate competition, essay-writing, rangoli making and poster making competitions" were organized. On this occasion, the latest issue of Jarai, the annual magazine of Center for Basic Science was released. In this event, the President of Chhattisgarh Vigyan Sabha, Dr. Vishwas Meshram, Prof. Ashok Kumar Pradhan, Prof. M. L. Nayak participated along with the students, research students and teachers. This program was organized with the help of the Chhattisgarh Council of Science and Technology.

## 'Education in Angana' prog receives SKOCH Award

Raipur, Mar 15: Chhattisgarh School Education Department has once again got the opportunity to get national level award for its excellent work. After a tough competition, the Skoch Award 2022 has been received for the work done in the year 2022 under the "Angana Ma Shiksha" program run by Samagra Shiksha in the state. This entire program is being conducted by a group of women teachers from Chhattisgarh. This year will be the third year of this program and every year some new design is included in it by women leadership. Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel and School Education Minister Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam have congratulated the teachers of the department and the state for this award. The Skoch Award is the coun-



try's highest civilian award conferred by an independent organization, which recognizes people, projects and institutions that go the extra mile to make India a bet-

ter nation. This award was instituted in the year 2003. This award is given for the best efforts in the field of digital, financial and social inclusion.

At the time of Corona, when the entire staff of the School Education Department was continuously trying to continue the education of the children and while encouraging the teachers for this work, continuous efforts were being made to continue the education of the children in new ways. At the same time some women teachers of the state proposed their contribution in this statewide program "Padhai Tunhar Dwar". They trained the mothers and started the effort to teach the children while staying at home through them in the form of "Angana Ma Shiksha". Through

the 'Angana Ma Shiksha' programme, it was successful in awakening the interest of the mothers towards the education of their children. Mothers and small children should be taught by organizing fairs in every village, by inviting mothers and children to the fair, using materials available at home like utensils, vegetables, fruits, clothes, etc. Mothers doing better work at the village level were honoured by being selected as smart mothers. Along with keeping other mothers involved in this program and helping them in learning, Smart Mata also does the work of visiting kindergartens and primary schools from time to time, helping children's education and getting information about their children's learning from teachers.

## OBITUARY

Vidhya Shankar Shukla

Raipur: Vidhya Shankar Shukla, 80, of Anupam Nagar, Raipur, breathed his last here on March 14. As per his decision, his body was donated to Medical College Raipur.

Bhaiyya Lal Saharia

Raipur: Bhaiyya Lal Saharia, 84, of Mangal Bazar, Gudhiyari, breathed his last here on Wednesday. He was 84. The final journey will leave from his residence on March 16 to Kota Crematorium, at 10:00 am. He was father of Kishore, Swatikrishnan Saharia.

## Financial powers of the DFO taken away

In Rs 1.30 cr scam in Bastar Forest Division

Three SDOs and nine rangers were also found guilty

Konta/Sukma, Mar 15: A big scam has been exposed in Bastar Forest Division of Chhattisgarh state. This scam has been done under the CAMPA head, where the coffers of the government have been dented by adjusting fake bills worth crores. The whole matter has come to the fore after examining the certificates of Bastar Forest Division from October 2022 and January 2023. It was found in the investigation that the remaining amount of plantation item in the Annual Plan of Operations i.e APO year 2018-19 and 2019-20 has not been included in the current financial year. Serious irregularities have been com-

mitted by spending directly at the level of the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO). Ignoring the guidelines issued by the state CAMPA not to spend the savings amount of the previous years, more than Rs 1.30 cr has been paid in these two months, which comes under the category of serious economic irregularity.

This entire payment scam is linked to the Sontrai Multi State Agro Corporation Society Limited. This firm has been told to pay for tree plantation, improvement of degraded forests, chemical fertilizers, growth hormones and Chloropyrifos chemical fertilizers in ANR area. On seeing the impractical and suspicious purchase of these materials in the name of works like 10th year of tree plantation and improvement of degraded forests, the higher officials of the department suspected this payment. Thereafter, the monthly accounts of these



two months were called from the DFO. Many entries made in Form 7 and Form 14 of the monthly accounts were not matching, due to which the suspicion deepened. Preliminary investigation found that the expenditure of such a huge amount without any competent approval was directly related to a large irregularity pointing towards scam. Chhattisgarh State CAMPA's Chief Executive

Officer V Srinivas has prima facie found Bastar Forest Divisional Forest Officer Dileshwar Sahu, three sub-divisional officers, nine range officers and CAMPA in-charge Assistant Grade-2 Divya Kumar Dani guilty in this whole case. Scam done in October and January Considering the expenditure of Rs 66,89,228 in October 2022 and Rs 63,74,961 in January 2023 as

suspicious, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and Forest Force Chief Sanjay Shukla had issued instructions to take disciplinary action against all responsible officers. Chief Executive Officer of V. Srinivasa Rao investigated the matter and after confirming several serious irregularities, DFO Dileshwar Sahu has been stripped of the authority to draw and disburse pay-

ments related to CAMPA works and further action is underway.

This is the only case of Forest Department in the state of Chhattisgarh, in which such big and serious allegations of corruption have been leveled against 14 people from the DFO to the clerk of the same forest division.

According to the facts that have come to the fore in the preliminary investigation, Rs 1,30,64,189 has been spent directly by the DFO without competent permission in two months out of the savings of the previous years. 98 percent of this entire amount was paid to a single firm for the purchase of materials which were not required at present. In Form-14 of the monthly account, the amount spent on many items was written as nil, whereas in Goshwara Form-7, it has been told to spend on the same items. Store purchase rules have not been followed in materi-

al purchase. Vouchers of Rs.3.00 lakh to Rs.10.00 lakh and above have been made by consolidating several bills of the same date.

There is no verification of the Sub Divisional Forest Officer in the bills attached with the vouchers. Only the signatures and seals of the range officers are there. The bills have not been verified and have not been entered in the stores register. All the rangers and all the SDOs were found to be involved in this scam after the signatures of all the rangers and all the SDOs were found in the certificates charged in the monthly accounts and the clerk in charge of the CAMPA branch disobeyed the guidelines of CAMPA. Departmental sources say that in the coming two-four days major action is possible against all of them. Highly placed official sources have also expressed the possibility of registering a criminal case against all of them.

# Name, signature in cheques for registry left blank!

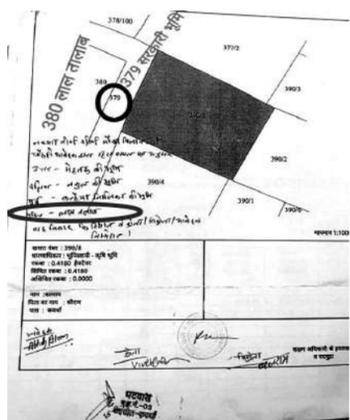
In the registries carried out by brother of land mafia Vivek Jain

**Raises eyebrows towards likely nexus with Patwari and Registrar office**

**Kawardha, Mar 15:**

The disclosure of registries with incomplete documents and false information by the Sarafa trader brothers' with nexus of the Patwari and Registrar in the Kawardha district is being reported for last few days.

At one place where each and every document of a poor land owner is checked thoroughly and that of the land-mafia and their family members they become silent spectators and surrender completely before them! Even after reports in this regard for last few days, the local administration is not taking any action in this regard so far and the same is now raising eyebrows.



In the last 15-20 years in the registries in the Registrar office, be it the land-mafia, Patwari or the employees of the Registrar office, who have been getting fresh posting and transfer, but it is the Sarafa trader, land mafia, who with nexus of Patwari and Registrar, are reportedly involved in removal of names from government land (nazul) without any signature or name on the

cheques. In the land purchase by Vivek Jain, brother of Land Mafia Pankaj Jain, the registry was done in June 2020 for Rs 16.50 lakh and both the cheques in the registry are not bearing the name of purchaser. The registry has been done with help of two blank cheques of Rs 8.25 lakh. What is surprising here is that the Dy. Registrar has not even found it appropriate to check the

documents enclosed with the registry papers. It is notable here that in the boundary of the land purchase by Vivek Jain near the 'Lal Talab', there is mention of 'Lal Talab', but there is no mention of the Nazul land bearing Kh. No. 379 between Lal-Talab and Vivek's land and this is not possible without the help of the then Patwari! The question here is as to why the Dy. Registrar

and the Patwaris are so favourable and blindfolded towards land mafia and their family members. The chances of registry without proper defining of direction of a particular plot or piece of land can be done without signature or name in one or two cases of registries, but keeping the cheques without signature or names in all the registries of the land mafia or their family members, gives rise to many speculations and wrong-doings or a part of well-defined conspiracy. If the EOW conducts inquiry or check footage on CCTV cameras into the sales and purchase of gold and silver jewellery of these sarafa traders and their relatives and land-mafia, then there are chances of many surprising revelations in it.

**Version:** In this regard, when the Registrar Dhurv was contacted, he refused to comment, saying that it is an old case.

# ASP awarded by CM Baghel



**Mungeli, Mar 15:** District ASP Pratibha Pandey was honoured by Chief Minister Bhopesh Baghel for making women aware of the state and for cooperation in the works of the Women's Commission. The comprehensive information given by Pratibha Pandey and her views in the workshop on Human Trafficking organized in Bilaspur Range was appreciated by everyone including the Chairperson of the Women's Commission, Kiranmayi Nayak. It is noteworthy that along with crimes related to women including kidnapping of girls in the district, various programs including women's awareness flight are being conducted efficiently under his direction. Due to which the district police has a remarkable place in the state in many cases, and recently the IG had also appreciated the work of the district police during his visit to Mungeli. On receiving the honor, Pratibha Pandey said that under the guidance of senior police officers, she is able to do better work. She has thanked the Women's Commission for the honour.

# Uslapur railway station given a facelift as another suburban station

**Some trains from Durg will run via Uslapur instead of Bilaspur**



**Bilaspur/Raipur, Mar 15:** In the last year, the development of Bilaspur city has taken place at a fast pace, new residential areas have also been added to the geographical structure of this city. A large number of workplaces and residences have also started in Uslapur. In such a situation, the work of developing Uslapur station as a new suburban station is being done in a phased manner. The work of developing Uslapur station as a new suburban station of Bilaspur city has been started and the facilities for railway passengers are being developed gradually, the railway passengers will now be able to travel in many trains from Uslapur only. Keeping in view the demand and convenience of railway passengers, stoppage of some express trains is being given by the Railway Board at Uslapur

station from April 24, 2023. As per the instructions of the Railway Board, some trains coming and going via Durg and Katni routes will be operated via Dadhapara-Uslapur. Accordingly (1) 15159/15160 Chhapra-Durg-Chhapra Sarnath Express, (2) 12853/ 2854 Durg-Bhopal-Durg Amarkantak Express (3) 12823/12824 Durg-Nizamuddin-Durg Sampark Kranti Express and (4) 12549/ 12550 Durg-Jammu Tawi-Durg Express will run via Uslapur instead of Bilaspur. The above trains will leave for their destination via Dadhapara via Uslapur on their diverted route. Some partial changes have been made in the time table of Uslapur station and other stations.

राजिस्ट्री सं.डी.एल.-33004/99 REGD.NO. D.L.-33004/99

**भारत का राजपत्र**  
The Gazette of India

सो.जी.-डी.एल.अ.-11032023-244315  
CG-DL-E-11032023-244315

असाधारण  
**EXTRAORDINARY**  
भाग II-खण्ड 3-उप-खण्ड (ii)  
PART-II-Section 3-Sub-section (ii)  
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित  
**PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY**

सं. 1086] नई दिल्ली, शुक्रवार, मार्च 10, 2023/फाल्गुन 19,1944  
No. 1086] NEW DELHI, FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2023/PHALGUN 19,1944

**MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**  
**NOTIFICATION**  
New Delhi, the 10th March, 2023

S.O. 1133(E).—Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, S.O. 4487(E) dated 23 September 2022, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH-130 on the stretch of land from Km. 53.300 to Km. 94.000 (Bilaspur-Katghora Section) in District of Korba in the State of Chhattisgarh.

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in "Navbharat" and "Central Chronicle" both dated 29.09.2022; under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act.

And whereas objections have been received and the same have been considered and disallowed by the Competent Authority.

And whereas in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Competent Authority has submitted its report to the Central Government.

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the Competent Authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose.

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

**SCHEDULE**

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the stretch of land from Km. 53.300 to Km. 94.000 (Bilaspur-Katghora Section) of the National Highway No. 130 in District Korba in the State of Chhattisgarh.

State: CHHATTISGARH		District: KORBA			
Sl. No.	Survey Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area in Hectare	Name of the Land Owner/ Interested Person Part Survey No.
<b>Taluk: Pali</b>					
<b>Village: Madanpur</b>					
1	577/15	Private	Agriculture	0.046	Ashok Kumar S/o Dhanesh Prasad 577/15
2	577/25	Private	Agriculture	0.017	Moolchand S/o Sojiram 577/25
3	683/3, 684/9	Private	Agriculture	0.041	Tulsi 683/3, 684/9
4	708/1	Private	Agriculture	0.009	Parmeshwar Singh S/o Shiv Singh 708/1
<b>Village: Rahadih</b>					
5	110, 111/6, 111/7, 111/8, 111/10	Private	Agriculture	0.086	Gangaram, Salikram, Malkram, Jotkunwar S/o Shivnandam, Tatu ur Shivprasad, Chaitram S/o Saroti, Jagannath, Santosh Kumar S/o Punuram 110, 111/6, 111/7, 111/8, 111/10
6	111/9	Private	Agriculture	0.029	Yasmin Parveen W/o Mo. Ehsaan 111/9
<b>Taluk: Pundi-Uproda</b>					
<b>Village: Kapubahra</b>					
1	211/1	Government	Agriculture	0.202	Veersingh S/o Lt.Jugalsingh Chandrabhawan S/o Makunder Singh (Govt. Patta) 211/1
2	211/1k	Government	Agriculture	0.044	Krishnabai W/o Ratansingh (Govt.Patta) 211/1k
3	344/1/Gh, 357/1Th	Private	Agriculture	0.109	Sahodara S/o Punau 344/1/Gha, 357/1Tha
4	344/1/kh, 357/1/Gh	Private	Agriculture	0.332	Amol Bai W/o Punau 344/1/Kh, 357/1/Gha
5	349/2	Private	Agriculture	0.097	Harvansh S/o Bisahu 349/2
6	353/2Chh, 354/1Da, 355/1Da, 361/13, 361/15	Private	Agriculture	0.028	Bireswar Singh S/o Jugul Singh 353/2 Chh, 354/1 D, 355/1 D, 361/13, 361/15
7	353/2dh, 354/1Iya, 355/1Iya, 361/10, 367/L	Private	Agriculture	0.074	Dileshwar Singh S/o Jugul Singh 353/2 Dh, 354/4 Iya, 355/1 Iya, 361/10, 367/1 L
8	353/2g, 354/1g, 355/1g, 361/3, 367/1g	Private	Agriculture	0.016	Bir Singh S/o Jugul Singh, Dileshwari Bai W/o Jugul Singh 353/2 Ga, 354/1 Ga, 355/1 Ga, 361/3, 367/1 Ga
9	353/2gh, 355/11, 361/11, 367/1t	Private	Agriculture	0.044	Amarsingh S/o Jugul Singh 353/2 Gh, 355/1T, 361/11, 367/1T
10	354, 355, 367, 322/4, 327/5, 367/4, 362/2	Private	Agriculture	0.15	Itwar S/o Shivnathsingh 354, 355, 367, 322/4, 327/5, 367/4, 362/2

11	354/1th,355/th, 361/12,367/1th	Private	Agriculture	0.02	Rameswar Singh S/o Jugul Singh 354/1Tha, 355/Tha, 361/12, 367/1Tha
12	357/1	Government	Agriculture	0.036	Surrital S/o Lalji Sumritlal Patel S/o Lalji (Govt. Patta) 357/1
13	357/1k/19	Private	Agriculture	0.04	Lalji S/o Santram 357/1K/19
14	357/1chh/11	Private	Agriculture	0.032	Laxmiprasad, Phulia Bai S/o Kartikram 357/1Chh/11
15	357/1k	Private	Agriculture	0.81	Jaypal Singh S/o Jodhiram 357/1K
16	357/1k/2	Private	Agriculture	0.016	Baharan S/o Aghanu 357/1K/2
17	358/1	Private	Agriculture	0.04	Pardeshi Lal, Desilal, Ramkalyan S/o Sakharam 358/1
18	358/kh	Private	Agriculture	0.036	Puniram S/o Bhukhkan 358/Kh
19	363/4kh, 363/2kh, 366/2kh	Private	Agriculture	0.016	Santosh S/o Jhaglu 363/4Kh, 363/2Kh, 366/2Kh
20	365/1Ch, 368/1Ch	Private	Agriculture	0.048	Prahalad S/o Devlal 365/1 Ch, 368/1 Ch
21	365/1j, 368/1j	Private	Agriculture	0.04	Ransay S/o Shaharsingh 365/1 J, 368/1 J
22	365/1jh, 368/1jh	Private	Agriculture	0.048	Dhansay S/o Shaharsingh 365/1 Jh, 368/1 Jha
23	372/1	Government	Agriculture	0.591	Dineswar Patel S/o Sinhali Dilharan Lalji S/o Sinhali, Kripashanker S/o Ratel Singh Ghasiya S/o Chaitram Ramsingh S/o Kripal Singh Mahettaram S/o Ganesh Phulsay S/o Samalsay Parasram S/o Lt. Kholbahra Sammarsingh S/o Sinhali Bahuransingh S/o Jethuram Janakram S/o Santram Maheturam S/o Ganeshram Ramcharan S/o Ransay Pardeshiram S/o Lt. Gyanikram Rajkumar S/o Kejram Hetram S/o Nihal (Govt. Patta) 372/1
24	372/1/bh	Private	Agriculture	0.038	Panchram S/o Gyanikram 372/1 Bh
25	372/1/k	Government	Agriculture	0.256	Manharan Lal S/o Sinhali Veer Singh S/o Jugul Singh Ramlal S/o Parasram Sunilkumar Jayprakash Malitabai S/o Mangalsingh Sonaaya S/o Itwar Amritlal S/o Jaha Laxminarayan S/o Mahettaram Jhanlal S/o Itwar Satyapal S/o Radhelal Budharam S/o Bisambher (Govt. Patta) 372/1K
26	372/1k/2	Government	Agriculture	0.016	Baharu S/o Adhar (Govt. Patta) 372/1K/2
27	372/10	Government	Agriculture	0.044	Dukalaram S/o Dasuram (Govt. Patta) 372/10
28	372/1chh/5	Private	Agriculture	0.024	Ganga Prasad S/o Manharan 372/1Chh/5
29	372/1d	Private	Agriculture	0.029	Faguram S/o Gyanikram 372/1D
30	372/1n	Private	Agriculture	0.045	Chaitram S/o Bisambher 371/1N
31	372/1t	Private	Agriculture	0.044	Harvansh, Durga Prasad, Girijn, Teejan Bai D/o Bisahu 372/1T
32	372/1Ya	Private	Agriculture	0.81	Chandrika S/o Adhin 372/1Ya
33	379/2	Private	Agriculture	0.02	Dukalaram S/o Dasuram 379/2
<b>Village: Suttra</b>					
34	100/4	Private	Agriculture	0.051	Baldevsingh s/o bodhansingh 100/4
35	100/5	Private	Agriculture	0.016	Lalita D/o ramnath 100/5
36	100/7	Private	Agriculture	0.012	Ramnath S/o Karmu 100/7
37	101/16	Private	Agriculture	0.049	Ramayan S/o Sitaram 101/16
38	117/1	Private	Agriculture	0.361	Ashok S/o Shyamsunder, Nikhil Agrawal S/o Ashok Agrawal, Jyoti Agrawal W/o Ashok Kumar Agrawal, Dimple Agrawal W/o Anu & Others, Anurag Agrawal S/o Kamta, Virendra S/o Satyanarayan, Vikas S/o Satyanarayan, Minor Anay S/o Anurag 117/1, 117/3, 117/4, 117/5, 117/6, 117/8, 117/9, 117/10
39	122	Private	Agriculture	0.243	Firanta S/o Dayaram Firanta, Kashiram S/o Firanta, Kirti S/o Firanta, Kamini S/o Firanta, Triveni/S/o Firanta 122/1, 122/2, 122/3, 122/4, 122/5
40	139/1	Private	Agriculture	0.117	Baldevsingh s/o bodhansingh, Balwansingh S/o Bodhan Singh, Vikramsingh S/o Bodhansingh 139/1, 139/5, 139/6
41	139/4	Private	Agriculture	0.036	Umendram, Santram, Jantram, Antram, Parneshwar S/o Lt. Jagatram, Panwarabai W/o Lt. Jagatram 139/4
42	202	Private	Agriculture	0.051	Tiharuram, Itwarsingh Shukrawarabai, Budhwarabai, Mangalibai D/o Dalkhuram, Hirabai W/o Dalkhuram, Narmadabai S/o Anjorsingh 202/1, 202/2
43	204	Private	Agriculture	0.162	Tiharuram, Itwarsingh Shukrawarabai, Budhwarabai, Mangalibai D/o Dalkhuram, Hirabai W/o Dalkhuram, Narmadabai S/o Anjorsingh, Dulansingh S/o Gohdul, Sampatsingh S/o Gohdul, Ganpatsingh S/o Gohdul 204/1, 204/2, 204/3, 204/4, 204/5
44	211/1	Private	Agriculture	0.055	Kaushtiyabai W/o Chatursingh 211/1
45	211/14	Private	Agriculture	0.414	Usha Agrawal W/o Santosh Agrawal, Santosh Agrawal S/o Chhotelal Agrawal, Sweta Agrawal W/o Prajay Agrawal, Ashok S/o Shyamsunder 211/14, 211/20, 211/21, 211/22
46	211/17	Private	Agriculture	0.057	Darshansingh, Sudarshansingh, Shyambai W/o Bachansingh 211/17
47	211/6	Private	Agriculture	0.08	Minor Annusingh D/o Ghurau, Kailashin W/o Ghurau, Dhankunwar D/o Sanandram, Bifobai W/o Sanandram 211/6
48	31/1	Private	Agriculture	0.077	Baldevsingh s/o Bodhansingh, Balwansingh S/o Bodhansingh, Vikramsingh S/o Bodhansingh 31/1, 31/3, 31/4
49	33/1	Private	Agriculture	0.223	Ashok S/o Shyamsunder 33/1K, 33/1Kh
50	36/1	Private	Agriculture	0.357	Sukdev S/o Budga, Panchram S/o Budga, Santram S/o Budga, Sukrutabai S/o Budga, Shantibai S/o Budga, Jankibai S/o Budga, Kamlabai S/o Budga, Jotkunwar S/o Budga 36/1, 36/9, 36/10, 36/11, 36/12, 36/13, 36/14, 36/15
51	36/3	Private	Agriculture	0.04	Manohar Singh S/o Bihari 36/3

52	36/7	Private	Agriculture	0.051	Manohar Singh S/o Bihari 36/7
53	44/1	Private	Agriculture	0.093	Darshansingh, Sudarshansingh, Shyambai W/o Bachansingh 44/1, 44/3
54	49/6	Private	Agriculture	0.04	Manmohan S/o Biharisingh 49/6
55	49/7	Private	Agriculture	0.02	Darshansingh, Sudarshansingh, Shyambai W/o Bachansingh 49/7
56	53/1	Private	Agriculture	0.101	Ashok S/o Shyamsunder 53/1
57	53/3Kh	Private	Agriculture	0.0464	Parvati S/o Rambhau 53/3Kh
58	54/4	Private	Agriculture	0.051	Umendra Singh S/o Mohar Singh 54/4
59	70/1 Iya	Private	Agriculture	0.068	Akshaykumar S/o Chandersingh, Anilakumari D/o Chandersingh, Gouribai W/o Chandersingh 70/1 Iya
60	70/1/Ch	Private	Agriculture	0.016	Ramdudd S/o Karmu 70/1/Ch
61	70/1Gh	Private	Agriculture	0.22	Triloksingh S/o Dharamsingh, Anju D/o Triloksingh, Anjali D/o Triloksingh, Akshaykumar S/o Chandersingh, Anilakumari D/o Chandersingh, Gouribai W/o Chandersingh 70/1Gh, 70/4, 70/7, 70/8, 70/9
62	70/1Jha	Private	Agriculture	0.162	Ramnath S/o Karmu, Ranjit Singh S/o Ramnath, Vimal W/o Chhatrapal, Birendra S/o Balram Shyam 70/1 Jh, 70/3, 70/5, 70/6
63	71/1	Private	Agriculture	0.06	Sunibai S/o Rameshar, Gangabai S/o Rameshar, Kunvariabai S/o Rameshar 71/1, 71/20, 71/21
64	71/2	Private	Agriculture	0.047	Thandaram S/o Maheshram 71/2
65	71/3	Private	Agriculture	0.279	Sonkunwar D/o Ramesar, Balramsingh S/o Chandansingh, Jaysingh Neti S/o Baisakhu, Anuragsingh S/o Balram, Minor Chandrika Neti D/o Baisakhu, Milansingh S/o Chamru, Minor Sandeep Kumar S/o Samaru Singh 71/3, 71/12, 71/13, 71/15, 71/16, 71/17, 71/18
66	71/4	Private	Agriculture	0.051	Phulibai D/o Rameshar 71/4
67	71/5	Private	Agriculture	0.178	Sapuransingh S/o Charansingh, Monica D/o Shobhan, Sushila Porte D/o Itwarsingh, Ashish S/o Triloksingh 71/5, 71/8, 71/10, 71/11
68	71/6	Private	Agriculture	0.157	Sapuransingh S/o Charansingh, Abhishek S/o Shukpalsingh, Shobhan S/o Atalsingh, Sandeep S/o Sapuransingh 71/6, 71/7, 71/9, 71/14
69	77/1K	Private	Agriculture	0.051	Hardul S/o Anandram 77/1K
70	79/1	Private	Agriculture	0.0525	Malikram Yadav S/o Mukhbiram Yadav 79/1
71	79/10	Private	Agriculture	0.18	Duhansingh S/o Birsingh, Chandrapratap S/o Jamunasingh, Navratansingh S/o Duhansingh, Sangeeta Devi W/o Navneetkumar, Navneetsingh S/o Duhansingh 79/10, 79/21, 79/22, 79/25, 79/26, 79/27
72	79/11	Private	Agriculture	0.057	Gajrajsingh S/o Tiharu, Minor Suksagar, Minor Sanjana, Minor Sapna D/o Pratapsingh, Sandhyabai W/o Pratapsingh, Babusingh S/o Tiharu, Budhwara W/o Tiharu 79/11
73	79/13G	Private	Agriculture	0.045	Jeevanrakan S/o Khijhu 79/13 Ga
74	79/13Kh	Private	Agriculture	0.12	Mayaram, Siyaram, Tikaram Shriram Prahalad, S/o Mangatram, Ramhalabai D/o Mangatram, Neelu W/o Pramodkumar, Krishna Yadav S/o Siyaram, Kumari Puja D/o Shriram, Amit Kumar S/o Praladram, Kanchan Yadav D/o Tikaram Shivnandanprasad S/o Mayaram 79/13 Kh, 79/29, 79/30
75	79/15	Private	Agriculture	0.016	Anandram S/o Itwar 79/15
76	79/16	Private	Agriculture	0.052	Raghnath, Preetram, Tirthram S/o Devnath 79/16
77	79/19	Private	Agriculture	0.053	Sudarshansingh S/o Bachansingh, Shyambai W/o Bachansingh, Manmohan S/o Biharisingh, Shantibai W/o Bihari 79/19, 79/23, 79/24, 79/28
78	79/20	Private	Agriculture	0.053	Darshansingh, Sudarshansingh, Shyambai W/o Bachansingh 79/20
79	79/5/G	Private	Agriculture	0.044	Jyoti Agrawal W/o Ashok Kumar Agrawal 79/5/Ga
80	79/5K	Private	Agriculture	0.053	Vishram, Malkram S/o Suklal, Anandram S/o Mahesh 79/5K
81	79/5Kh	Private	Agriculture	0.051	Kamladevi W/o Khilshwar 79/5 kh
82	79/6K	Private	Agriculture	0.06	Chaitram, Koushalprasad S/o Ramayansingh, Mankunwar W/o Ramayansingh 79/6 K
83	83	Private	Agriculture	0.051	Santosh Kumar S/o Bechuram 83
84	87	Private	Agriculture	0.06	Chaitram, Koushalprasad S/o Ramayansingh, Mankunwar W/o Ramayansingh 87
85	9				

## Hindu New Year to be celebrated as 'Srishti Srijan Divas'

● A procession will be taken out on Ram Navami, says Sarva Hindu Samaj

**Jagdalpur, Mar 15:** Under the leadership of Sarva Hindu Samaj, a meeting was held on Tuesday in the premises of Maa Durga Temple located in Shanti Nagar regarding celebration of New Year festival 'Srishti Srujanotsav' on 'Chaitra Shukla Pratipada' as 'Srishti Srijan Divas'. After holding a meeting with all the society and organization heads, the strategy was decided unanimously. Ashok Arora, President of Sarv Hindu Samaj (SHS), presided over the meeting. In the meeting, it was decided to organize religious events on different days from Hindu New Year 'Chaitra Shukla Pratipada' to Ram Navami. Programmes and religious events ranging from Hindu New Year to Ram Navami were discussed. Representatives of all Hindu society and other societies participat-



ed. The theme of the meeting was to decide the strategy for all the religious events, processions and other religious events to be held from the Hindu New Year, Srishti Creation Day to Ramnavami. SHS Secretary L Eshwar Rao informed that 'Chaitra Shukla Pratipada', 'Vikram Samvat' 2080, on coming March 22, 'Srishti Srujanotsav', New Year festival, according to the glorious Hindu tradition, for the sake of 'loka' all the happiness Bhavantu, followed by a grand Scooty rally of 'Matratva Shakti', lamp decoration. And it has been ensured to welcome the new year with grandeur and divinity

through Mahaarti. He informed that on the first day of this religious festival starting from the day of New Year 'Shukla Pratipada', the programme of grand 'Shobha Yatra', 'Havan Pujan' will be done with grandeur and divinity by the 'Sanatani Hindu Samaj'. Similarly, different events will be organized on each day from the entire 'Navratri' till Ram Navami. The role, participation and accountability of Hindu society has been ensured. All the society and religion lovers involved in 'Sarv Hindu Samaj' Bastar division were urged to attend the New Year program and Ram Navami's grand pro-

cession in maximum numbers to give a grand look to the event. During this D h a r m c h a n d r a Khandelwal, Yogendra Kaushik, Ranjit Pandey, Sunil Khedulkar, JB Singh, Dashrat Kashyap, Rajaram Todenm, Ravi Brahmachari, Pawan Rajput, Anil Agarwal, Shankarlal Chandak, Shivnarayan Chandak, Kailash Rathi, Avinash Singh Chauhan, Kunal Chalisgaonkar, Yogesh Shukla, Sunil Das, Devendra Mohapatra, Srinivas Mohanty, Harikishan Nishad, Asha Dodiya, Sarita Yadav, Indu Nag, Adya Narayani, and a large number of others was present.

## BJP SC, ST Morcha discuss election strategy

Central Chronicle News

**Kondagaon, Mar 15:** BJP has started formulating strategy for the next VS elections in the state. In view of the upcoming state elections, BJP SC, ST Morcha District Working Committee held a meeting at Atal Sadan in which BJP National Working Committee Member Lata Usendi was present. During this she advised BJP SC, ST Morcha office bearers and workers to strengthen up the booth-level and informed the workers about future work plans in detail. She said that the schemes of the central government are not reaching the common people and the public have understood the failures of the Congress led state government.



Dictatorship and corruption is at its peak in the state and the people have not understood the true face of Congress government in last four years of its rule. So the party workers should

pass on the failures of the state government to the general public. Former MLA Sevakram Netam, BJP District President Dipesh Arora, Sangeeta Poyam, Sanju Poyam,

Harishankar Netam, Sukhlal Markam, Bunt Nag, Santosh Uike, Balsingh Baghel, Bajjoram Netam, Dhanju Markam, Asman Sori and many other workers were present in the meeting.

## Vigilance campaign of women continues in Budeni

**Arang, Mar 15:** After catching an illicit liquor seller red-handed with liquor, the women of village Budeni, active in stopping the sale of illegal liquor in the village, have continued their vigilance campaign. Due to this campaign being run with the help of the villagers, the drunkards are either heading towards the near-

by village Bhadha or Kharora liquor bhatti. It may be noted that after the attention of City Superintendent of Police Udayan Behar and Kharora police station in-charge Brijesh Tiwari, Kharora police station staff has got an illegal liquor seller of village Budeni caught red-handed with 50 quarter bottles of

liquor and was lodged in jail on March 4. After this, angry women, with the help of panchayat and villagers, started a campaign against illegal sale of liquor, and its effects are also visible. According to them, an illegal liquor seller of Bhadha, who was caught selling liquor in the past, is involved in this business

and the villagers of Bhadha have not been able to stop it till date. Asha Pardhi, Sukhmani Pardhi, Shyama Pardhi, Madhuri Verma, Gauri Verma, Lalita Kosle, Janakdulari Jalakshatri, Vimla Verma, Silochana Verma, Chandrika Verma, Inderman Chauhan etc participated in the vigilance campaign.

## 75 couples tie nuptial knot under MKVY

● Parliamentary Secretary blessed the newlyweds

**Jagdalpur, Mar 15:** On Saturday, 75 couples tie nuptial knots in the mass marriage programme organized under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah Yojana (MKVY) in Babu Semra village of the district. Of these, 66 couples got married according to Sanatan tradition and 9 couples got married according to Christian tradition.



On this occasion, Parliamentary Secretary Rekhhchand Jain, while leading the procession reached the wedding venue with 75 grooms dancing and singing to the tune of band instruments. With him on this occasion, Vice President of Indravati Authority Rajeev Sharma, Mayor Safira Sahu, Municipal Corporation Chairman Kavita Sahu, Janpad Panchayat President Anita Poyam, District Program Officer of Women and Child Development Department Manoj Sinha including officers, employees, entry into married life. The couple and their relatives were present.

that the newly married couple should lead a happy life while serving their parents. Vice President of Indravati Development Authority, Rajeev Sharma said that Kanyadan is one of the biggest donations in life. He wished Maa Danteshwari's blessings on all the newly wedded couples. On this occasion, Mayor of Jagdalpur Municipal Corporation Safira Sahu, Chairperson Kavita Sahu and other public representatives also addressed.

## Graduation day of the kindergarten students commemorates 'Susansh'

**Bemetara, Mar 15:** The Graduation day of the kindergarten students was celebrated at Allons on Tuesday. The Programme started with the lighting of a candle in front of the photo of the Goddess Saraswati and garlanding it by Priya Arora, Chairperson, Dr. Satyajit Hota, Principal and the parents. The Graduation Day is the wonderful day when the academic life culminates into an all-important degree. It is a time to celebrate with all those people, teachers, parents and friends who have helped us in the student life and made learning fun.



The programme began with the song and the Bhajan presented by Aishwarya Arora the mother of Hayati Arora and Ganika Devi Pandey which left everybody spellbound as they sang on tunes of some vibrant music displaying breath taking colours with coordinated movements that also set the tone and mood of the atmosphere at an all-time high. The parents presented a

brilliant performance while performing the ramp walk with their little children. The audience was astonished with the magical deed. The Mothers of the students named Prithivi, Shreyansh, Prashika, Shashank, Aditya, Atharva, Aryan, Ariket, Avani Pandey, Tanyaand etc. danced with them. It was a hilarious event. This was followed by the distribution of graduate certificates to the tiny tots in graduation caps and sash along with the felicitation of the little children with the unique titles describing their strengths. The programme culminated with the vote of thanks by the little

children and the parents who expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the Management, Principal and the teachers. It was indeed a memorable experience for the little ones and be blessed as they continue their education in the main stream of the school. The main highlight of the celebration was the walking of the students with their mothers for their convocation. It was a proud moment for the parents of the little angels of kindergarten when their children moved to the dais to receive the scrolls of graduation certificates with smiling faces wearing graduation gowns and

scholar's caps from the Principal. All the mothers remembered the past memories of their childhood due to the involvement in this event. Dr. Satyajit Hota, Principal welcomed everyone and gave a bird's eye view of the achievements of the students. He told the parents that their children have maximum talents. Allons School is always ready to help its students for developing their physical, intelligence, mental, technical, vocational, social, spiritual and adverse quotients. The school develops the anti-adverse skills of the students to survive in odd condition also. On seeing the

mothers courage, creativity, imagination and extra ordinary performance, innovation and ambition, he said that the future of their children will also be bright. He also gave warm congratulations on their graduation and best wishes for their next adventure for today and always by cherishing their efforts. The credit of the graduation day goes to the parents and teachers of Kindergarten named Shital Vaidya, Seema Patel, Shruti Soniwith their coordinator Khushboo Naidu.

Pre-Primary coordinator Khushboo Naidu handed over the students to Primary coordinator Simintani Thakur for their further education. She gave the commitment for her service to bring the bright future of the students. A vote of thanks was given by Khushboo Naidu and anchoring was done by Khushboo Naidu & Seema Patel. Aishwarya Arora, Director, Ruchi Arora, Director, Sunil Sharma, Administrator witnessed this memorable event.

## A Biswanath gets IDM 2023 organizer recognition



Everyone". International Day of Mathematics scheme is being operated by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Mathematical Union (IMU) Berlin Germany, Imaginary Organization and Klaus Tshira Stiftung, Simons Foundation. March 14 is celebrated as International Day of Mathematics and Pi Day to mark the mathematical constant Pi (π) whose value is 3.14. Amujuri Biswanath, PGT lecturer of Astha Vidya Mandir

English Medium School Jawanga, Dantewada of Chhattisgarh and lifetime member expert of the Indian Science Congress Association, Government of India, Department of Science and Technology has got the organiser recognition from UNESCO, International Mathematical Union Berlin Germany and IDM314 for 2023 International Day of Mathematics. This program will be organized globally through online and offline different activities. The only one organizer from Chhattisgarh, Amujuri Biswanath said that mathematical knowledge and skills are very useful and necessary for everyone in human life. International Mathematics Fortnight for the year 2023 will be organized from 14 to 28 March. The role and importance of Mathematics will be shared through various activities. Indian Science

Congress Association, All India Ramanujan Maths Club, Aastha Vidya Mandir English Medium School Jawanga, National Teacher Scientific Council of India, Raman Science & Technology Foundation, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam National Council of Young Scientists and Igniting Dreams of Young Minds Foundation are the key associations to organize IDM in Chhattisgarh, India. Various webinars, competitions, projects and awards are being organized at free of cost for students, mathematics lovers, teachers, professional persons, educators, scientists and general public. This program has received consent from various 20 international establishments, institutions, councils and commissions of the world. Nobel Prize recipient physicist and scientist Albert Einstein was remembered on the occasion of 144th birthday anniversary.

## DLSA creates awareness about women's rights, laws

**Jagdalpur, Mar 15:** Under the guidance of District Judge and Chairman of District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Alok Kumar, in collaboration with National Legal Services Authority (NLSA), New Delhi and National Commission for Women, District Legal Services Authority, Jagdalpur organized Women's Day Week on women's rights and laws in the district. The awareness programme was organized on Sunday at the Gram Panchayat Bhawan of Gram Panchayat Balikota. Advocates Hemlata Nakka and Virendra Bahote were present in this awareness programme as resource persons and officers and employees of Health Department and Women and Child Development Department as participants. The programme was started by the



Resource Person with the resolution song of NLSA, garlanding the picture of Chhattisgarh Mahtari, lighting the lamp. Resource person Hemlata Nakka, advocate, giving information about the purpose of the above program and legal service schemes related to women's rights and free legal aid in relation to crimes against women, said that crime can be controlled only through education. Important legal information related to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act,

Dowry Prohibition Act, maintenance, 'Stridhan', ancestral property, protection of women from domestic violence act and crime against women was provided. Resource person Virendra Bahote, Advocate, provided detailed information regarding the welfare schemes run by the government for women, including their fundamental rights, basic duties, legal aid schemes, to the women present in the program. In the said programme, women's health activist

Neelam Thakur apprised the women present about the rights related to women's health. During this, women self-help groups including advocate Shubham Netam, village sarpanch Fulmati Kashyap, deputy sarpanch Pramila Baghel, women health worker Nilam Thakur, Anganwadi worker, Mitani and Panch Khageshwari Joshi, Jitendra Nakka water collection officer, karate instructor Poonam Netam, Satbati Baghel Members and women health workers were present.

## DEO conducts inspection of examination centre

● In SAGEMS Daupara

**Mungeli, Mar 15:** District Education Officer (DEO) and in-charge District inspection team Savita Rajpur conducted surprise inspection of Swamy Atmanand Govt English Medium School (SAGEMS) in Daupara, Mungeli, examination centre on Saturday.



During this the exam in Physics and Geography of Higher Secondary School certificate was going on. In the Physics paper, 52 out of 54 students appeared and in 'Geography' 46 out of 46 students appeared in the exam. The DEO found the exam to be conducted peacefully and as per rules. Along with the flying squad, APC Sanjay Sahu was also present.

## Accused of physical exploitation nabbed

**Jagdalpur, Mar 14:** In Bodhghat police station of the district, the matter came to the notice of evasive and evasive refusal to pressurize for marriage. While registering the report by the victim applicant, it was informed that since the year 2018, there was a love affair between the accused Vidhan



Burman alias Bobby and the applicant. Both knew each other very well. Accused Vidhan Burman alias Bobby had been physically abusing the applicant for the last five years by taking her to different places on the pretext of marriage. On the report, the police station in-charge

Bodghaat Dilbag Singh appointed female sub-inspector Guneshwari Nareti as the investigating officer of the case, after registering the crime on the report of the applicant, arrested the said accused Vidhan Burman alias Bobby and sent to jail on judicial remand.

# Kathak dance class 'Nriyangan' inaugurated at Little Bunny School



## Women employees honoured by SECRWVO Bilaspur

**Bilaspur, Mar 15:** SECRWVO Bilaspur Division has always been working for the welfare of railway employees and their families. Along with this, SECRWVO Bilaspur has also played an important role in preserving, promoting and nurturing the culture of India from time to time.

Taking this link forward, in a better effort towards women empowerment, SECRWVO Bilaspur Division has started 'Nriyangan' Kathak practice classes at Little Bunny School from March 14. This Kathak

practice class 'Nriyangan' was formally inaugurated with the unveiling of the inscription from the hands of Divisional SECRWVO President Mrs. Shradha Pandey. Kathak dance training will be given under 'Guru Shishya Parampara' by Ritesh Sharma, Secretary of Shri Kala Manjari Kathak Sansthan. In this class, along with the family members of railway employees, people from outside the railway will also be able to take admission. As a special arrangement for the family members of railway employees, half the fees of Kathak will be given by SECRWVO.

Along with this, on 14 March 2023, under the International Women's



Day, SECRWVO organized a felicitation ceremony in the Little Bunny School premises to honour the women employees of the division. President Mrs. Shradha Pandey was the chief guest at the function. On this occasion, SECRWVO Vice President Mrs. Meenakshi Raj, Secretary Mrs. Meera Yadav along with other members and women railway workers were present.

The function was inaugurated by lighting of lamp by the President of SECRWVO. After this, poetry, song, dance and cultural program were presented for the entertainment of women employees. Along with this, entertainment games were also organized. In the ceremony,

40 women employees of the division, who have done excellent work at their work place, were honoured with lotuses by Divisional SECRWVO President Mrs. Shradha Pandey.

Chief guest and SECRWVO President Mrs. Shradha Pandey wished everyone a Happy Women's Day. In her address, she said that the presence of all courageous and incredible women and the work done by you cannot be described in a few words. There is a special quality in each one of you that is propelling you forward in life.

Women are like water and can fit into any role, personal or professional life, big or small job,

Entrepreneur or an employee, the right mix of combination of women is seen in each role. The world is incomplete without women. It is woman who brings life on this earth. She plays an important role in the development of the children and also manages her household efficiently, Pandey maintained.

In today's time, women are not only self-sufficient, but women are progressing in every field. Women have also made a special contribution in the progress of the country in every field. Some people say that a woman has no home, but the truth is that there is no home without a woman, she further mentioned.

The programme began with Chief Guest Bhojwanti Paikra - Janpad

# More than 500 women from 14 villages felicitated

**On occasion of Int'l Women's Day**  
**By RRVUNLS, ASDC and AEL in Gram Salhi**



**Ambikapur, Mar 15:** On occasion of International Women's Day, Adani Foundation organised women's felicitation programme in Gram Salhi of Udaipur block here on Monday. In this programme organised jointly under the social participation of Rajasthan Raja Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL) at Adani Skill Development Centre in Salhi, women from more than 14 villages near Parsa East Kete Basen viz. Gram Parsa, Salhi, Fattepur, Janardhanpur, Ghatbarra, Hariharpur and others took part in the programme. In this more than 500 women from socio-economic, culture and political fields, working women, WSHGs and Women Entrepreneurship Multipurpose Co-op Samiti (MOBS) were felicitated. This year the United Nations have declared the theme of Int'l Women's Day as 'Digital-All: Navachar and Technology for Gender Equality' and its objective is to lay emphasis on importance of technology in highlighting issues of gender equality.

The programme began with Chief Guest Bhojwanti Paikra - Janpad

President Udaipur and as special guest - Santi Kariyam - President Block Development Centre (BDC) Udaipur; Ramuniya Kariyan - Member- BDC Salhi; Shanti Rajwarde - Janpad member; Adani Enterprises Ltd. (AEL) - Surguja Cluster Head Manoj Kumar Shahi, and as special guests were - Amita Singh Tekam - President MOBS; Shiv Kumar Yadav - Sarpanch - Parsa and Cluster HR Head Ram Dwivedi.

Addressing the programme Chief Guest Bhojwanti Paikra said that today also there is need for support and motivation to women of the society for their empowerment and development. She hailed the programme organised by Adani Foundation and extended greetings of Int'l Women's Day. Cluster Head MK Shahi hailed the contribution being made by girls and women in the field of technology through online education as per UN's theme this year and held the need to increase the digital technology and bring them within their reach.

In this programme, students of Adani Vidya Mandir presented welcome song and the students from Adani Skill Development

Centre (ASDC) presented colourful dance. Members of MOBS were also felicitated for their works. To make the Int'l Women's Day successful, on behalf of CSR team, Saurabh Singh, Anil Jaiswal, Amit Rai, Praveen Kujur, from AEL- Priyanka Singh, Ritu, from Gram Udami and MOBS- Sushmita Kumari, Kumari Jahnavi, Savitri Armo, Veena Devi Dewangan, Vedmati Uikey and Bandhan Porte gave valuable contribution.

It is notable here that RRVNUL, Para East Kete Basen is carrying out many programmes on infrastructure development and providing high quality education, removal of unemployment. In this under removal of unemployment, MOBS support and funded by Adani Foundation is running many programmes like mid-day meal management in commercial units; masala processing unit; Dairy and milk production centre, sanitary pad production unit and white-phenyl and hand-wash gel production unit and others. This has brought changes in economic conditions of SHGs members, apart from infusing skill development and making them financially independent.

# BALCO champions women's empowerment through Unnati Utsav



**Balconagar, March 14, 2023:** Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO), India's iconic aluminium producer, organized 'Unnati Utsav' to commemorate International Women's Day based on the theme 'Embrace Equity'. In the presence of more than 500 women from different Self-Help Groups (SHGs) established by BALCO under its community development project Unnati, SHG workers were felicitated for their outstanding achievement at the state and national level. These community champions were felicitated for their outstanding achievements in various CSR schemes of BALCO like 'Unnati', 'Nayi Kiran', 'Mor Jal Mor Maati', 'Arogya' and 'Vedanta Skill School'. Stalls by women entrepreneurs, a play performed by the SHGs, and cultural activities centered around project 'Unnati' were the other attractions of the event. The program also featured a 'Walk of Equity', where participants from various backgrounds, such as farmers, adolescent girls and boys, transgender individuals,



BALCO employees, and SHG women came together to showcase the strength in diversity and reiterated BALCO's commitment of embracing equity.

During the program, BALCO applauded community champions who have actively participated in various training programs and have made a significant impact in their communities with their learnings. Dhaneshwari Goswami was one of the champions applauded for becoming a master trainer in chocolate production. Piyush Kumar was recognized for his contribution to the Nayi Kiran initiative and his efforts in raising funds for the distribution of sanitary napkins among his female batchmates. Rekha Dahariya was acknowledged for her role in training community women in stitching, empowering them to become financially independent through the Unnati Project. Overall, 13 community champions were recognized for their out-

standing efforts in entrepreneurship, health awareness, skill development, and more. The awardees expressed their gratitude towards BALCO for its initiatives and the positive impact they have made in their lives.

Appreciating the positive impact of the Project Unnati, Mr. Rajesh Kumar, CEO & Director, BALCO, said, "Project 'Unnati' is aimed at promoting financial empowerment of women which can help them in establishing their individualistic identity in the society and enable them to contribute towards the growth and progress of their families, society, and nation. BALCO is committed to supporting women from local communities in their journey of self-empowerment by enabling them with skills training, finan-

cial literacy, market linkage and similar initiatives."

Recently, BALCO also launched SHG sanitary pad manufacturing micro-enterprise called 'UnNaree', under which women will be trained to manufacture and sell sanitary pads. This is a leap towards ensuring good menstrual health in the region and creates additional income streams for SHG members.

Project Unnati focuses on empowering and mobilizing women into SHGs and honing their capacities and skills for entrepreneurship and building sustainable livelihoods. In this fiscal itself, 90 new SHGs were formed, taking the total number to 470+ SHGs with more than 5,000 women who greatly benefit under the various training modules of the project.

# Hindalco's Hariyali project helps tribal farmers grow 3 crops a year

**Raigarh, Mar 15:** Jalal Rathiya from Noondarha village is earning a profit by selling bitter gourd grown on his land. Hiralal from Gare village is very happy to see the groundnut crop flourishing on his 6 acres of land. Dushyant from Urba village, who owns five acres of land, is also happy after selling his brinjal crop. These farmers are feeling a sense of relief that their lands, which used to lie barren after one crop because of the lack of seed support or water, will now grow three crops through the year. Jalal, Hiralal and Dushyant are among the 1,500 small farmers from 11 villages of Tamnar block, Raigarh district, who are reaping the benefits of the Hariyali Wadi project, a joint initiative of Hindalco and NABARD.

Aditya Birla Group's metal flagship Hindalco



Industries Limited has collaborated with NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) to implement Hariyali (WADI) project as part of its Sustainable Mining initiative. The main objective of the project is to augment the income of tribal households in 11 villages through farm based and non-farm based livelihood initiatives within a span of 6 years.

The scheme, launched in August 2022, began to show positive results within 7 months. Using the benefits provided by this scheme, farmers can now grow three crops a year on their land.

Additionally, farmers are being given access to borewells for irrigation, provided seeds at affordable rates and trained through the Krishi Vigyan Kendra to help them get better yields per season.

Explaining the objective of the project, Hindalco Coal Vertical Head Vivek Mishra said that Hindalco is constantly striving for the all-round development of the community in areas around its coal projects. So far, farmers of 11 villages have been linked with this scheme and the plan is to scale it up in the next 6 years.

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**कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता, मनियारी जल संसाधन संभाग मुंगेली, जिला-मुंगेली (छ.ग.)**

**//निविदा निरस्तीकरण आदेश//**

पत्र क्रमांक...../व.ले.स./2022-23 मुंगेली, दिनांक.....

प्रमुख अभियंता, जल संसाधन विभाग, शिवनाथ भवन, सेक्टर-19 नार्थ ब्लॉक, अटल नगर नवा रायपुर के पत्र क्रं. 4262399/निविदा प्रकोष्ठ/2022/6842(TC) रायपुर दिनांक 31.01.2023 द्वारा दिये गये निर्देश के परिपालन में इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा सूचना क्रं. 19/व.ले.नि./2022-23 दिनांक 29.12.2022, (सुप नं. 02) सिरस्ट नं. 118339 (द्वितीय आमंत्रण) "टेसुवा नाला में ग्राम घुटेली के पास एनीकट निर्माण कार्य" (लागत रु. 274.84 लाख) की द्वितीय आमंत्रण निविदा में एकल निविदाकार अयोग्य पाये जाने के कारण उक्त निविदा को "निरस्त" किया जाता है।

जी.नं. - 91774, दिनांक 31.12.2022

**कार्यपालन अभियंता मनियारी जल संसाधन संभाग, मुंगेली, जिला-मुंगेली (छ.ग.)**

G-99261/1

**कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)**  
**ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा आसंत्रण सूचना**

क्र. 53/न.पा.नि./यो.प्र./2022-23 दिनांक 14/03/2023  
एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

सिरस्ट नं.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रु.लाख में)	निविदा डाउनलोड/सबमिट करने की अंतिम तिथि
127761	Chauptati Development at RHS Arpa River Near Sulabh Complex at Gondpara.	40.24	05-04-2023

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, चरोंहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापन, निविदा बकायेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता  
Green City, Clean City, Dream City. नगर पालिक निगम, बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

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

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

System Tender No. : 126810/NIT No. : 16/SAC/22-23,  
Dated : 13.03.2023  
Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 05.04.2023 at 17:30 Hours.

Name of Work : Remodelling, Cement Concrete Lining & Reconstruction of Canal Structures of Distributary No. 19 of Balodabazar Branch Canal under Mahanadi Project.

Probable Amount of Contract: - Rs. 378.45 Lakhs  
(As per S.O.R. dated 01.08.2010 and amended upto dated 22.08.2022).

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 20.03.2023, at 17:31 Hours, (IST) onwards.

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

**Executive Engineer**  
Water Management Division No. 2, Balodabazar  
For, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Project  
Raipur (C.G.)

G-99280/2

**कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता लोक निर्माण विभाग, बिलासपुर मंडल, बिलासपुर**

**ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा सूचना**  
Portal : <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, लोक निर्माण विभाग, बिलासपुर मण्डल, बिलासपुर में निम्नलिखित कार्य नवीन ई-पंजीयन में पंजीकृत ठेकेदार सरल क्र. 01 से 32 हेतु दिनांक 24.03.2023 तक रायगढ़ संभाग रायगढ़ के लिए प्रथम आमंत्रण की निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

क्र.	नि.आ.सू. क्र./दिनांक	कार्य का नाम	लागत (लाख में)
1	315	जिला रायगढ़ अंतर्गत शास.उ.मा.वि. तेतला में स्वामी आत्मानंद उल्कृष्ट हिन्दी माध्यम हेतु उन्नयन कार्य।	45.32
2	316	---तदैव--- पयरापाली	45.82
3	317	---तदैव--- पड़िगांव	44.19
4	318	---तदैव--- गोडी	42.92
5	319	---तदैव--- नंदेली	43.99
6	320	---तदैव--- टारपाली (पूर्व)	46.58
7	321	---तदैव--- हरीरपुर	37.30
8	322	---तदैव--- तराईमाल	46.64
9	323	---तदैव--- लोईग	46.40
10	324	---तदैव--- महापल्ली	48.29
11	325	---तदैव--- चक्रधरनगर	45.16
12	326	---तदैव--- घौरामांला	35.53
13	327	---तदैव--- औरदा	47.61
14	328	---तदैव--- किरौडीमलनगर	40.64
15	329	---तदैव--- कुंजेपुरा	42.50
16	330	---तदैव--- बडेमण्डार	32.51
17	331	---तदैव--- राजपुर	45.29
18	332	---तदैव--- सिसरिया	46.43
19	333	---तदैव--- कापू	40.87
20	334	---तदैव--- छरटांगर	46.25
21	335	---तदैव--- घरघोड़ा	46.29
22	336	---तदैव--- रायकरा	45.97
23	337	---तदैव--- कटाईपाली-सी	46.37
24	338	---तदैव--- बसंतपुर	46.17
25	339	---तदैव--- हाटी	46.32
26	340	---तदैव--- झगरपुर	46.48
27	341	---तदैव--- लारीपानी	49.01
28	342	---तदैव--- चपले में (अंग्रेजी माध्यम)	60.42
29	343	---तदैव--- गोरपार	48.46
30	344	---तदैव--- मुदा	63.18
31	345	---तदैव--- मदनपुर	45.68
32	346	पंजीरी खात रायगढ़ में स्थित चक्रधर की उंचाई बढ़ाने का कार्य।	199.65

निविदा में भाग लेने की प्रक्रिया एवं निविदा के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी विभाग के उपरोक्त वेबसाइट में देखे जा सकते हैं।

**अधीक्षण अभियंता**  
लो.नि.वि., बिलासपुर मण्डल, बिलासपुर

G-99262/2



## CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 10 No. 342

### Engaging with Taliban

**A Pragmatic Approach for India's Interests in Afghanistan**

As the Taliban continues to hold power in Afghanistan after seizing control of the country in August 2021, India's relationship with the new regime remains a critical concern for the nation's foreign policy. While India has not officially endorsed the Taliban's legitimacy, it has recognized the reality of their rule and the need to engage with them. The participation of Taliban officials in an online training course, conducted under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program, is a significant step towards rebuilding the Delhi-Kabul relationship. The four-day course, entitled 'Immersing with Indian Thoughts,' aims to provide delegates from various countries, including Afghanistan, with a deeper understanding of India's business environment, cultural heritage, and regulatory ecosystem. The Institute of Diplomacy, which falls under Afghanistan's foreign ministry, promptly shared the ITEC invite, indicating the Taliban's eagerness to reach out to India. The Taliban sees India as a major stakeholder in facilitating long-term peace and stability in Afghanistan. India has a strong interest in safeguarding its investments in Afghanistan, having invested billions of dollars in 500-odd projects after the US invasion of 2001. The Taliban's willingness to engage with India is crucial for India to resume financial and technical assistance for these development ventures. India's tough stance on cross-border terrorism also puts the Taliban under pressure to rein in Pakistan-based terror groups that use Afghan territory to foment trouble in the region. While India's decision to reopen its embassy in Kabul last year was seen as a positive step towards strengthening the Delhi-Kabul relationship, India must adopt a pragmatic and proactive approach to engage with the Taliban. A constructive engagement with the Taliban is necessary to safeguard India's interests in Afghanistan and play a key role in facilitating long-term peace and stability in the region. India's recent decision to send wheat to the crisis-hit country through Iran's Chabahar port instead of taking the road route via Pakistan shows its continued commitment to providing humanitarian aid to Afghanistan. This approach not only circumvents Pakistan but also strengthens India's strategic ties with Iran. Engaging with the Taliban is critical for India to protect its interests in Afghanistan. While it may be challenging to find common ground with the new regime, India's pragmatic and proactive approach could pave the way for future collaborations and a long-term solution to the Afghanistan crisis.

### Inflation Concerns: RBI's Dilemma

Is the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) falling behind in its efforts to combat inflation? This is the question that has resurfaced as inflation rates in India hit a three-month high of 6.52% in January. Despite a hawkish stance from the RBI in its last Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting, fixed-income markets have already ruled out the possibility of rate hikes, and analysts have concluded that the RBI's rate-hike cycle has come to an end. However, the current situation in India suggests that there is a discrepancy between wholesale prices and consumer prices, which raises concerns about whether inflation will rise or fall. While businesses have experienced a significant reduction in inflation expectations aided by decreasing input costs, consumers face a different scenario. The rise in food prices, such as cereals and milk, is expected to outweigh the declines in prices of vegetables, cooking oil, and eggs, at least in terms of the general perception of an increase in food prices. The higher-than-expected January inflation, along with a more hawkish tone from members of the MPC, tilts the risk balance for the MPC going forward. Therefore, the probability of a rate hike in April has increased, given the higher inflation in January and the more hawkish stance of some members of the Monetary Policy Committee. It is important to note that if there is a degree of pricing power in the economy, it is likely a reflection of strong growth momentum. However, this momentum may weaken in the coming months as the combination of high-interest rates, tight liquidity in the banking sector, and a loss of global GDP momentum causes growth to decline somewhat. As a result, the fading of pricing power is likely to become more apparent. Therefore, the RBI must balance the need to combat inflation with the need to maintain growth momentum in the economy. The central bank cannot afford to delay action, as doing so could lead to a situation where the momentum of the economy is lost, resulting in a hard landing. Ultimately, the RBI must take decisive action to maintain stability in the Indian economy.

Central Chronicle invites articles, write-ups, and comments on a wide range of issues for our editorial page. Submissions should be between 800-900 words in length. In addition, we welcome letters to the editor for this page. While letters may be edited for clarity, we aim to preserve the integrity of the original message, and ask that they be kept to around 50-60 words. Submissions can be sent via email to editor@centralchronicle@gmail.com.

### TRAFFIC JAM

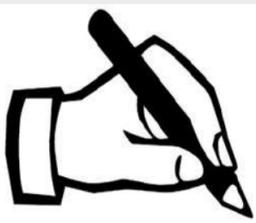


Noida: Vehicles stuck in a traffic jam near Film City, in Noida, Wednesday, March 15.

## India's unique energy pathways



**HARDEEP S PURI**



As the world's fastest-growing major economy with rising energy needs, India will account for approximately 25% of global energy demand growth between 2020-2040, as per BP energy outlook and IEA estimates. Ensuring energy access, availability and affordability for our large population is an imperative. This makes our case 'sui generis' and has driven our energy strategy, now acknowledged the world over as being pragmatic and balanced.

**How has India managed to do this?**

When petrol and diesel prices went up by 35-40% in U.S., Canada, Spain and UK, and despite importing over 85% of its crude oil requirements and 55% of its natural gas requirements, prices of diesel in India have actually gone down in the last 1 year. When several countries in our neighbourhood have had dry outs and power cuts to manage demand, there has been no shortage of fuel anywhere in India, even during flood and natural calamity situations. This was made possible due to the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi ji for ensuring energy justice to our citizens. The Centre and many BJP ruled States announced massive cuts in excise duty and VAT rates, twice. Oil PSUs, being good corporate citizens, absorbed huge losses to ensure that the massive hikes in the prices of crude oil and natural gas in the

international market were not passed on to Indian consumers. Subsidised APM Gas for city gas distribution sector was drastically increased even at the cost of cutting down the captive use of domestic gas by our own PSUs. We even imposed an export cess on petrol, diesel and ATF and windfall tax on domestically produced petroleum products to prevent refiners and producers from profiteering at the cost of domestic consumers.

Over the years, India has expanded its network of crude oil suppliers from 27 nations to 39 nations. India has also further strengthened its ties with countries like the United States (energy trade has gone up 13 times in last 4 years) and Russia to ensure reliable supply of crude oil. This strategic market card, as the world's 3rd largest importer, not only ensured affordable energy for Indian consumers but also had a calming effect on global petroleum markets.

What is inescapable is that India's purchase of petroleum products from certain nations has actually kept the global demand and supply of around 98-100 million barrels/day balanced, thereby keeping oil prices in check for the global value chain. Had this not been done, global prices would have shot to 300\$/barrel! We are working on both the traditional fuels exploration as well as energy transition.

Our reforms in making India an attractive E&P destination are reflected in the consulting firm Wood Mackenzie noting that India could be the licensing wildcard of 2023. By 2025, India wants to boost its net geographic area under exploration from 8% (0.25 million sq km) to 15% (0.5 million sq km) and has reduced the prohibited/no-go areas in our Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) by 99%, releasing nearly 1 million sq. km. for exploration.

However, as demonstrated by Modi Ji at Glasgow, we remain steadfast in our Climate Change commitments - becoming net-zero in emissions by 2070 and cutting down emission by 1 billion tons by the end of 2030.

We are also rapidly expanding our petrochemical production, in line with the massive increase in living standards and rapid urbanisation. India is a global exporter of petroleum products and its refining capacity is the fourth largest in the world after the United States, China, and Russia. Efforts are underway to further enhance this capacity to 450 MMT by 2040. The refining capacity expansion was also one of the major factors in ensuring fuel price stability during the international oil price volatilities seen in the last year.

India is also accelerating its efforts to move towards a gas-based economy by increasing the share of gas from the current 6.3% to 15% by 2030. India has connected more than 9.5 crore families with clean cooking fuel in the past nine years. PNG connections have increased from 22.28 lakh in 2014 to over 1 crore in 2023. The number of CNG stations in India has gone up from 938 in 2014 to 4900 in 2023. Since 2014, India has increased the length of its gas pipeline network from 14,700 kms to 22,000 kms in 2023. At the recently concluded India Energy Week 2023, India took a giant stride in her biofuel revolution

by launching E20, i.e., 20% ethanol blended gasoline by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, which will be rolled out in 15 cities and expanded across the country in the next two years. India's ethanol blending gasoline has grown from just 1.53% in 2013-14 to 10.17% in 2023, and now India is also setting up five 2nd generation ethanol which can convert agricultural waste into Biofuel, further reducing pollution due to stubble burning and generating income for farmers.

National Green Hydrogen Mission has been launched with an outlay of Rs. 19,744 crores to develop the entire green hydrogen ecosystem in the country & accelerate India's efforts towards 4 MT of annual Green Hydrogen production & Rs. 1 lakh crore of cumulative fossil fuel import savings by 2030. India is poised to realize its full potential to create Green Hydrogen ecosystem by 2030. Just like our energy strategy, we are also taking an integrated path for transitioning India's future mobility pathways. Therefore, along with Green Hydrogen and Biofuels, India is also supporting Electric Vehicles through a Production Linked Incentive scheme to make advanced chemistry cells of 50 Gigawatt hours and have announced Viability Gap Funding and customs duty exemptions for the sector. We are targeting the installation of Alternate Fuel Stations (EV charging/ CNG/ LPG/ LNG/ CBG etc.) at 22,000 Retail Outlets by May 2024. As we grow to become a USD 26 trillion economy by our Amrit Kaal target of 2047, we are implementing a unique strategy for ensuring energy security and achieving energy independence, inspired by the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi Ji.

**(The author is Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing & Urban Affairs.)**

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Disruptions in House

Rowdy disruptions and walk-outs by MPs have become routine, leading to a complete washout of a session, at times. This is not what citizens expect from their elected representatives. As citizens, we expect serious discussions from elected members leading to the framing of laws that are for the welfare of the public and the country as a whole. The role of opposition parties is as important as that of the party in power. A strong Opposition is the cornerstone of a thriving democracy. It should question the government on any flaws in Bills to be passed and implementation of policies. The Opposition is the watchdog appointed by the people. Members from both benches should engage in serious discussions, rising above personal animosity and not resorting to name-calling. Members from the ruling party are expected to lend an ear to issues raised by Opposition parties and work out ways to settle and compromise. Neutrality of the Speaker should be clearly evident. It is high time that our elected representatives prioritize the welfare of the public and the country, rather than engaging in disruptive behavior. Let us all strive towards a healthy democracy.

Manoj Kumar, Raipur

#### Chip agreement

India can become a semiconductor manufacturing hub and has the potential to excel in this field, but it would require significant investment in building research and development capabilities. Furthermore, such an investment could not only benefit India but could also boost its role in the global supply chain. While the United States currently leads the world in semiconductor design India has a considerable talent pool in this field. Therefore, I believe that cooperation between both nations could be mutually beneficial.

Kuldip Thakur, Zirakpur

#### Missing deadline

It is concerning that India continues to be the world's top arms importer. The fact that 23 DRDO projects have missed their deadlines should be alarming for those in charge. However, the recent display of India's war machines has shown that our indigenous technology is second to none. It is time for India to invest its time, energy, and foreign exchange in developing indigenous technology. Doing so would yield more dependable results and put India at the forefront of technological advancement. We must reduce our reliance on imported weapons and focus on becoming self-sufficient in this field.

RS Kishtwaria, Palampur

## Truth doesn't depend upon number of Votes/Likes

**Kajal Chatterjee**

Perhaps the critics of Rahul Gandhi are not aware of the saying "people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones". Else they wouldn't have accused that Rahul has "showcased India's partisan politics in a foreign land".

And before accusing Rahul of engaging in "partisan politics in a foreign land"; the "nationalist" critics should look inwards and find out exactly which person regularly comes up with dialogues of "Nothing Happened prior to 2014" in foreign lands. Who has often boasted abroad that before he took over the reins of the country; India was nothing but "Scam India" with citizens feeling ashamed to call themselves "Indian" and that "India was begging earlier and would

not beg more". Even the whole Gandhi family (including the "son-in-law") have been repeatedly character-assassinated on foreign tours. By consigning all norms of neutrality to oblivion, the biased prejudiced "pundits" are also zealously seen to "prove" the "greatness" of a particular regime/ party /leader by invoking electoral success being registered in various states and in two successive general polls. Have they heard that Mahatma Gandhi saying --- "Even if you are a minority of one, the truth is the truth"! Of course mocking of Gandhian philosophies have been turned into "in-thing" in "New India"; but that does not alter the hard truth. Yes, truth is neither a "TV reality-show" nor social-media post that it's worth would depend upon the number of votes/likes

garnered. So "popular votes" can never function as the yardstick to "prove" the "great" governance of any regime party or leader! So the critics may please lay stress on facts and realities on the ground instead of trying to "justify" all issues through numerical muscle or "mainstream". However, in the context of the 2021 West Bengal Assembly results, this very biased lot cleverly deviate from their own "majoritarian" script. So instead of acknowledging the massive defeat of their favourite party despite the whole State machinery led by the Who's Who of the dominant regime at play; the "pundits" shamelessly put forward flimsy excuses of "rigging" and "threats" behind that electoral defeat in 2021. If mere votes act as the "litmus test" for "quality of governance"; then why

don't they award due credit to the governance of Mamata Banerjee in West Bengal, that too by securing incremental votes in successive terms. Instead of mocking Rahul, all people should congratulate him for laying stress on India's political identity being a "Union of states". The very first point of Article 1, Draft Constitution, 1948 specifically mentions "India shall be a Union of States". So it is getting proved that either the critics are unaware of the basic Idea of India itself or intentionally assault the inherent spirit and foundation of the Constitution! And of course Rahul has committed a "great sin" of sorts by stressing paramount importance of divergent identities and the need to negotiate a rainbow coalition! How can members of such an outfit toler-

ate the fact of heterogeneity which forms the ultimate essence of India. Won't the mission of narrow parochial imperialist concept of "Hindi-Hindu-Hindustan" get thwarted if linguistic and religious diversity are allowed to enjoy its rightful place under the "New Indian" sun. Whether Rahul Gandhi's rarefied views have few takers or billion takers is inconsequential; rather it must be seen whether Rahul is uttering the truth or not and in this parameter he has passed with flying colours. Only a true Hindu with a national vision can declare --- "There is absolutely nothing Hindu about wanting to murder people and beat people up". All true Hindus and Indians feel utmost pride for having the humanitarian Rahul Gandhi in their midst.

**BRIEF**

**Ceased operations**



**New Delhi:** The government on Tuesday said that 559 foreign companies ceased operations in the country since 2018. Meanwhile, as many as 469 foreign companies started operations in the country, according to a written reply by Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh in the Rajya Sabha. These figures are from 2018 till March 9 this year. So far this year, two foreign companies have stopped operations. The number stood at 78 in 2022, 115 (in 2021) and 120 (in 2020).

**FTP release**



**New Delhi:** The government is expected to release the new five-year foreign trade policy (FTP) by the end of this month, with a view to promoting the country's outbound shipments of goods and services, a top official said on Wednesday. The current foreign trade policy (2015-20) is in force till March 31, 2022. Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said that the ministry has looked at various aspects of that FTP as the policy is basically the collection of various incentive schemes.

**Budget presentation**



**Gairsain:** Uttarakhand finance minister Prem Chand Aggarwal on Wednesday presented the annual budget for the financial year 2023-24 in the state assembly here, announcing an increase in capital expenditure. Aggarwal presented the budget on the third day of the state assembly's ongoing budget session in Uttarakhand's summer capital Gairsain.

**Recognised startups**

**New Delhi:** As many as 92,683 entities have been recognised as startups by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry as on February 28 this year, Parliament was informed on Wednesday. These startups are eligible for availing tax and non-tax benefits under the Startup India initiative.

## Exports dip for 3rd consecutive month in Feb

**Trade deficit narrows to USD 17.43 bn**

**New Delhi, Mar 15:**

Contracting for the third month in a row, India's exports declined by 8.8 per cent to USD 33.88 billion in February due to slowdown in global demand, even as the trade deficit touched about a year low of USD 17.43 billion during the month, according to official data released on Wednesday. Imports also declined by 8.21 per cent to USD 51.31 billion as against USD 55.9 billion recorded in the corresponding month last year. Cumulatively, however during April-February

this fiscal, the country's overall merchandise exports rose by 7.5 per cent to USD 405.94 billion. Imports during the period increased by 18.82 per cent to USD 653.47 billion. The merchandise trade deficit for the April-February this fiscal stood at about USD 247.53 billion. The country's exports had contracted by 6.58 per cent to USD 32.91 billion in December 2022. In February 2022, the trade deficit was USD 18.75 billion. Last time, it was in January 2022 when the trade deficit touched USD 17.42 billion. Commerce secretary Sunil Barthwal said that going by the trend, India's goods and services exports will cross USD 750 billion in 2022-23.

"We have kept the momentum despite the global headwinds. Exporters have kept the momentum. Services exports are doing extremely well. Trade deficit has really come down. Hopefully we will be doing better," Barthwal told reporters here. He added that the ministry has started exercise to fix the target for the next fiscal also. Export sectors that recorded negative growth during the 11-month period of this fiscal included engineering goods, gems and jewellery, cotton yarn/fabrics/made-ups, and plastic and linoleum.

Engineering exports dipped to USD 98.86 billion during April-February

2022-23 from USD 101.15 billion in the same period last fiscal. In the same period, gems and jewellery shipments declined to USD 35.21 billion from USD 35.32 billion during April-February 2022-23. Sectors which recorded positive growth included petroleum products, chemicals, pharma, electronic goods, rice, ready-made garments of textiles.

Gold imports during April-February this fiscal contracted to USD 31.72, as against USD 45.12 billion in the same period last year. In the 11 months of the current fiscal, crude oil imports rose to USD 193.47 billion as against USD 140.67 billion in the same period of 2021-22.

## Banks from 18 nations open 30 special vostro accounts for trade in rupee

**New Delhi, Mar 15:**

Several banks, including HDFC Bank and UCO Bank, have opened as many as 30 special vostro accounts as of date to facilitate overseas trade in the rupee, a top government official said on Wednesday. Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Kumar Sarangi said as of date, some 18 countries have already opened special vostro accounts with Indian banks. "About 30 banks from overseas countries have signed up with 30 banks on our side, so 30 accounts...The transaction has started in bits and pieces," he told reporters here.

Sberbank and VTB Bank - the largest and second-largest banks of Russia, respectively - are the first foreign lenders to

receive the approval after the RBI announced the guidelines on overseas trade in the rupee in July last year. Another Russian bank Gazprom, which does not have its unit in India, has also opened this account with Kolkata-based UCO Bank.

The move to open the special vostro account clears the deck for settlement of payments in rupee for trade between India and Russia, enabling cross-border trade in the Indian currency, which the RBI is keen to promote. The RBI has allowed the special vostro accounts to invest the surplus balance in Indian government securities to help popularise the new arrangement. Last year, the RBI and finance ministry asked the top management of banks and representatives of trade

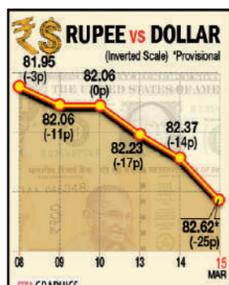
bodies to push export and import transactions in the rupee. They want banks in India to connect with their foreign counterparts for opening special rupee vostro accounts to facilitate cross-border trade in the Indian currency rather than the popular mode of the US dollar. When asked about the international currency in which India is paying Russia for oil, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said as energy trade is not under sanctions, energy trade from Russia is not impacted and normal banking channels are being used for payments.

Sarangi said that payments happen in different currencies, including euro, dollar, and dirham, and could be in yuan. "It would be in any convertible currency," Barthwal said.

## Rupee falls 25 paise to 82.62 against US dollar

**Mumbai, Mar 15:**

The rupee declined by 25 paise to 82.62 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday amid a strong greenback against major currencies overseas and unabated foreign fund outflows. Traders said negative sentiment in the domestic equity market also hit the domestic currency. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened strong at 82.32 against the dollar and traded in a range of 82.30 and 82.62. It finally settled at 82.62 (provisional) against the American currency, a fall of 25 paise against its previous close. This is the third consecutive day of decline in the rupee. On Tuesday, the rupee settled at 82.37 against the US dollar. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.43 per cent to 104.04. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures rose 0.46 per cent to USD 77.81 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell



344.29 points or 0.59 per cent to 57,555.90 points while the broader NSE Nifty declined 71.15 points or 0.42 per cent to 16,972.15 points. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) remained net sellers in the capital markets on Tuesday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 3,086.96 crore, according to exchange data.

Unlike domestic market benchmark indices, global markets were mostly upbeat on expectations of a slower interest rate hike by the US Federal Reserve on the back of lower inflation. In February, the US consumer price index came in largely in line with expectations at 6 per cent.

## HMSI launches 100-cc Shine, looks to sell 3 lakh units in a year

**Mumbai, Mar 15:**

Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India on Wednesday launched its 100-cc Shine 100 motorcycle at an introductory price of Rs 64,900 (ex-showroom Maharashtra) and said it targets to sell 3 lakh units in a year of mass market category bike with plans to ramp up the volumes to 6 lakh units over a period of the next three years.

The 100-cc segment accounts for almost one-third of the total two-wheeler market in the country. The Indian arm of the Japanese two-wheeler maker Honda also said it is looking at utilising its total capacity next fiscal. HMSI's capacity stands at 5.2 million units per annum and it is currently operating at almost 100 per cent capacity. "Shine 100 is Honda's next big leap to make mobility more accessible and affordable for people across India. We continue to prioritise the needs and aspirations of our customers," said Atsushi Ogata, Managing Director, President and CEO of Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India at the launch. The production of Shine 100 will commence next month while its deliveries will begin in May, the company said. Shine is the highest-selling motorcycle in the HMSI portfolio. "Internal target (for Shine 100) is 3-lakh units," Ogata said and added that the target for the next three years is to attain 6-lakh units. According to the company's operating officer, sales and marketing Yogesh Mathur, the industry has shown green shoots with business back to normal and the two-wheeler industry has bounced back with 16 per cent growth. "As far as an overall portfolio is concerned, we are confident that with this kind of product along with price, we will be able to touch the 3-lakh unit sales target," he said. "HMSI is growing faster than the industry," he said and added that it has consolidated its position further with a 1.3 per cent market share gain in retail sales and 1 per cent in wholesales. Amid the two-wheeler demand gradually bouncing back, it is looking to start a new manufacturing line at its Gujarat facility, Ogata said. "The demand is coming back and with the introduction of Shine 100, for the first time I expect that next year we will be operating close to our total capacity," he said.



European Central Bank may hike rates by 25 basis points. The Sensex tanked more than 1,000 points from the day's high to hit a low of 57,455.67. Marking its fifth straight day of losses, the broader NSE Nifty declined 71.15 points or 0.42 per cent to end at 16,972.15, with 28 of its stocks ending with losses.

**On FII selling, rate hike fears**

**Mumbai, Mar 15:**

Benchmark BSE Sensex pared its early gains to close down by 344 points at a five-month low while Nifty slid below the 17,000 level on Wednesday due to selling in banking, financial and telecom stocks. Persistent foreign capital drain from the domestic market and lingering concerns over banks' health and high inflation dented market sentiment, traders said. Falling for the fifth straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed lower by 344.29 points or 0.59 per cent at 57,555.90 with 21 of its stocks ending in the red. After a gap up opening, the index surged over 570 points to touch a high of 58,473.63 amid positive Asian markets in early trade. The stock markets, however, lost steam after a weak opening of European stocks which retreated on fears that the

## Sensex falls for 5th day, Nifty slides below 17,000

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order. India is pulling the economic engine of growth for the United States," Aghi said. In one of the largest aircraft orders by an airline, Tata Group-owned Air India last month announced it will buy 470 narrow-body and wide-body planes from Airbus and Boeing, with the total deal value estimated to be worth USD 80 billion (over Rs 6.40 lakh crore). Air India will buy 250 aircraft, including 40 wide-body A350 planes, from European aviation major Airbus, and 220 planes from US aircraft maker Boeing under separate deals.

## CII PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT



Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya addresses on 'One Health: Integrated, Collaborative and Multisectoral Approach to Optimal Health' at Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) Partnership Summit 2023, in New Delhi, Wednesday, March 15.

## CAG wants Rajasthan govt not to abandon treasury system of accounting

**Guwahati, Mar 15:**

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Girish Chandra Murmu on Wednesday expressed hope that the Rajasthan government will not do away with the well established treasury system of accounting as changes can disrupt preparation and authentication of accounts and also transfer of funds by the Centre to the state. Moreover, he added, as per the provisions of the Constitution, the accounting format can only be prescribed by the President in consultation with the CAG. The Rajasthan government has been contemplating to



dispense with the current treasury system of accounting and introduce a Pay and Accounts Office independently. "Accounting standards and accounting format, as per the Constitution, is to be prescribed by the President of India in consultation with the CAG...I think the state government will take note of this constitutional provision.

## Prevent highly intoxicated travellers from boarding aircraft

**Install CCTV cameras: DCW tells DGCA**

**New Delhi, Mar 15:**

Prevent highly intoxicated travellers from boarding the aircraft, limit alcohol intake, instal CCTV cameras and sensitise staff about sexual harassment are part of the detailed guidelines given by DCW to the aviation regulator amid rising incidents of unruly passengers on flights. In a letter to the DGCA, the Delhi Commission for Women said it has observed increasing incidents of disruptive and unruly passengers on flights in recent months, adding such inci-

## Hero Electric set to roll out over 10 lakh vehicles annually in next two-three years

**New Delhi, Mar 15:**

Hero Electric on Wednesday said it is set to roll out over 10 lakh vehicles annually in the next two to three years from its manufacturing units in India. The company, which launched new versions of its three electric scooter models priced between Rs 85,000 and Rs 1.3 lakh, plans to set up a greenfield plant at Rajasthan with an annual production capacity of 20 lakh units with an investment of around Rs 1,200 crore. "We have worked closely with our partners to cater to the surging demand for EVs in the country.

## Long way to go for India is to benchmark itself with Singapore, Hong Kong: USISPF chief

**Washington, Mar 15:**

India needs to remove impediments to the ease of doing business, the head of a top Indian-American business advocacy group has said, asserting that the country has made some progress but has a long way to go to match Singapore or Hong Kong. Mukesh Aghi, the president of the US India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF), said the India-US relationship is strong and is growing positively in every aspect. "When you look at geopolitically, the Quad seems to move forward. You look at



I2U2 moving forward," he told PTI. Noting that a booming Indian economy is helping the US, he said the Boeing order by Air India created over a million high-paying jobs in America. "We're expecting Indigo also to place an

## World Sleep Day sale at Amazon.in

**Mumbai, Mar 15:**

Sleep is a crucial element of everyone's overall health and wellbeing. So, let's gift ourselves quality sleep and a sound mind as Amazon.in brings exciting deals and offers this World Sleep Day with its sale planned from 15th - 19th March. Customers can avail up to 75% discount on Mattresses, beds, pillows, bedsheets, and all your sleep essentials on Amazon.in's one-stop destination and convert their home into a happy world. Get access to 1000+ deals across 50+ top brands and get your sleep solution this World Sleep Day. Customers can get up to 10% instant discount on

ICICI bank credit cards and EMI offers while shopping for your everyday sleep essentials. Customers can also avail benefits like scheduled delivery, quality-verified\* selection, and no-cost EMI for upto 24 months\* across popular brands such as the Sleep Company, Livpure, Amazon brand Solimo, Duroflex and Sleephead among others.

## Classifieds

अम्लीय मेन रोड एक्सिस बैंक ATM के ठीक बाजू में दुकान किराए से देना है, दुकान की साईज 550 वर्ग फुट और 500fit mazine floor संपर्क 9977635500

## Sara Ali Khan walks ramp at Lakme Fashion Week for designer Punit Balana

**B**ollywood actress Sara Ali Khan walked the ramp at the Lakme Fashion Week in Mumbai for Punit Balana - a fashion designer from Rajasthan who launched his latest collection which reflected the desert state's folklore, culture and joy.

Walking the ramp for Punit for Lakme Fashion Week in partnership with FDCI, Sara said: "The collection highlights textures inspired by the Kalbelia community of Rajasthan, their folklore, literature and the culture that not only binds the Indian state of Rajasthan but one that also acts as a bridge between this state and Indian culture in a larger context."

"I am thrilled to be walking for Punit Balana and showcasing his stunning collection, which stays true to its meaning of celebration of a joyous occasion," she added. Punit, who hails from Jaipur, says that he draws inspiration from "our rich heritage, the philosophies of culture and the voices from history".

The audience was treated to an exhilarating live performance by Kalbelia dancers, which beautifully captured the essence of

the 'Utsav' collection.

With block prints inspired by Rajasthani history, particularly that of the Kalbelia community, and bandhani, the latest collection represented craftsmanship in terms of silhouettes, ranging from classic collection outfits to new, contemporary ones - reimagined lehengas and peplum sets, heavily embellished kurtas for men and many more to suit the effortless sartorial sensibilities of the modern-day woman and man.

Speaking about the collection and his show at Lakme Fashion week, designer Punit Balana says: "For me, what's most important while designing a new collection are my roots, my surroundings. I never have to look beyond Jaipur and Rajasthan for inspiration. There's so much about our history that remains untapped and I really hope that one collection after another, I can show people how contemporary our culture can truly be."

The designs showcased on the ramp were styled along with stunning jewellery pieces from JKJ Jewellers in Jaipur, which complemented each ensemble from the 'Utsav' collection perfectly.

## 'Ajooni' and 'Na Umra Ki Seema Ho' reach a major milestone of 200 episodes

**S**tar Bharat has consistently worked to produce content that engages and captivates its viewers using tried-and-true techniques. Since these shows first aired, viewers have showered them with praise. While "Na Umra Ki Seema Ho" defies a patriarchal society rule that views a significant age gap between two people in love as forbidden, "Ajooni" is a timeless love story with a blend of drama, entertainment, and romance. The show has entertained the audiences with its beautiful and intriguing plot since its start and now has completed its 200 episodes which arrays how far it has come completing a milestone.

Ajooni stars Shoaib Ibrahim as Rajveer and Ayushi Khurana as Ajooni, who makes her debut on the show. They've been fantastic in highlighting their parts and bringing forth the spirit of their personalities, proving their versatility. In the show, their love-hate relationship adds to the entertainment factor.

The attractive and affable Iqbal Khan and Rachana Mistry play the key roles in Na Umra Ki Seema Ho. The viewers



have been riveted to their seats by their chemistry. Since its debut, the show has topped the charts and delighted viewers.

"Ajooni" and "Na Umra Ki Seema Ho" has now completed its 150 episodes since its release and is now gearing up to celebrate this milestone. The actors express their happiness and share their thoughts getting candid enthusiastically

says:

Shoaib aka Rajveer from Ajooni says, "Another milestone of 200 episodes crossed today and it's all because of all the love we have received from the viewers that we are able to cross all these milestones. A big thank from me ki aap Sabhi ne Rajveer Bagga ko itna pyaar diya hai and with every day I can see the love growing! bass yahi wada hai sabhi viewers se isi tarah aapko entertain karte rahenge. aaplog bass yuhi saath bane rahiyege."

Rachana Mistry aka Vidhi from 'Na Umra Ki Seema Ho' says, "Rachana Mistry who plays the role of Vidhi in the show say, "I'm very happy that we've marked a journey of completing 200 episodes of the show 'Na Umra Ki Seema Ho' Star Bharat. Although it's just a start of reaching more milestones we are hoping for many more to come but I believe we should celebrate every little thing throughout the journey. I hope the audience will keep showering their love on our show and on us".

Stay tuned to watch 'Ajooni' and 'Na Umra Ki Seema Ho' every Monday-Saturday only on Star Bharat.

## Suvarna Bagul serves Dabbawallas, a full Maharashtrian Thali!



**S**ony Entertainment Television and SonyLIV's culinary-based reality show 'MasterChef India' will bring to the viewers an interesting challenge where they will be making thali for the lifeline of Mumbai - The Dabbawalas. Along with the judges, Chefs Vikas Khanna, Garima Arora and Ranveer Brar, adding to the judges' panel will be the renowned, Chef Prateek Sadhu, who would be making sure that these Top 6 home cooks present the best dishes! Our Maharashtrian "Thecha Queen" Suvarna Bagul will be seen leading the

team as a Captain for the first time in the MasterChef Kitchen, leading team members Sachin Khatwani and Santa Sarmah. They will be seen preparing a special Maharashtrian thali for the special guests, the Dabbawalas, and serving food to those who serve Mumbai, food.

Chef Prateek Sadhu shared his excitement for the episode saying, "Today's episode for me personally was extremely emotional because we could feed the people who are the heartbeat of Mumbai. I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to feed them right through

food and I feel all six contestants were brilliant! The approach was brilliant food was amazing, definitely, as it's a competition there were few criteria for judging, but overall it was a wonderful experience and it's always great to hang out with Chef Garima, Chef Ranveer and Chef Vikas. Thus, I had a wonderful time at MasterChef India." To watch home-cook Suvarna Bagul prepare a Maharashtrian Thali for the Dabbawalas tune in to watch MasterChef India, every Monday to Friday at 9 pm only on Sony Entertainment Television and SonyLIV.

## Kiara Advani adds her elegant touch to Slice's new ad

**B**ollywood's girl Kiara Advani is one Superstar who is ticking all the right boxes on the rise of her Superstardom. From consecutive streak of successful films to peaking with popularity on the internet, and signing a long list of brands, the girl with a golden touch is leaving no stone unturned. Adding to the soaring superstardom, the actor has been roped in as the new face of Slice, an iconic brand that resonates with the masses for its wide popularity across the nation.



Bringing in her person-

al touch of elegance and poise to the newly launched TVC for the brand, Kiara Advani looks every bit of gorgeous and stunning offering a perfect mix of hot and cute in the advertisement.

Rising upwards with every step, Kiara Advani has dove deep into work soon after her dreamy wedding with Sidharth Malhotra. Her wedding post on social media was touted to be the most liked wedding picture of any celebrity wedding in India. Looking forward to a packed schedule yet

again, filled with films shoots and back-to-back brand announcements, all this amidst a winning spree of awards and accolades, where Kiara was adjudged the 'Star Of The Year' and 'Performer Of The Year' at various awards shows recently. She has undoubtedly spread her magic all around.

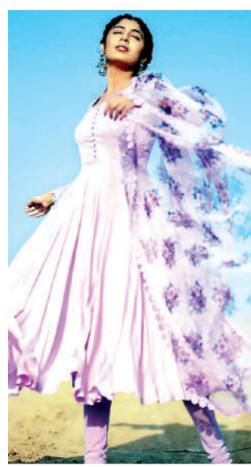
Considered among the most impactful performers of 2022, the versatile actress has won immense appreciation for her consecutive hits, right from Shershaah in 2021 to Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 and

Jugg Jugg Jeeyo, which was followed by Govinda Naam Mera last year. The actress is also in high demand to be signed on as the face of a range of reputed national and international brands. Her popularity among the masses has resulted in her being the ambassador of a variety of brands - from beverages to female hygiene products.

Kiara now resumes her busy routine by rejoining the set of S Shankar's upcoming film RC-15 co-starring Ram Charan and also Satyaprem Ki Katha opposite Kartik Aaryan.

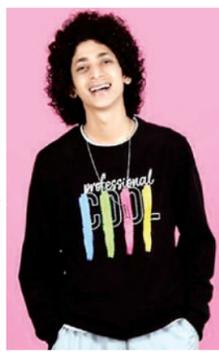
## Nupur Sanon's role in 'Pop Kaun' reflects her 'own value system'

**S**inger-actress Nupur Sanon, who is the sister of actress Kriti Sanon, will be seen making her debut on OTT with 'Pop Kaun'. She said that her character in the comedy show is a feminist, and it reflects her own value system. Putting in every ounce in fleshing out her character, Sanon said that the character of Pihu was the real driving force. "The show has a quirky name and the premise is about finding Kunal's character's dad in the film. My character is Pihu. I am playing Kunal's love interest. Their relationship is beautifully etched out." "They go through all the hurdles to eventually reach the point of marriage. I loved the character from the second I heard the script. She is someone who finds logic in everything. She is a feminist which is an aspect that reflects my own value system. She is straight and no-nonsense, asks a lot of questions and never holds back from having her own opinions."



## Monu Kanojiya plays a stylish, funky character in 'Woh Toh Hai Albelaa'

**A**ctor Monu Kanojiya, who has been seen in many web series such as 'Jamtara S1', 'Abhay 2', 'Criminal Justice 1' and is also part of the upcoming web series 'Hunter' with Suniel Shetty, has now joined the cast of Rajan Shahi's 'Woh Toh Hai Albelaa'. Recently, talking about his association with the show, Monu said he loves being part of it. He said: "The casting director and team called me for the character of Tingu. I said okay and, after many discussions, I auditioned for the role and bagged the part. I love my role."



## Riya Sharma: My character in 'Dhruv Tara' faces every challenge with courage

**T**V actress Riya Sharma, who is currently seen playing the role of a 17th-century princess, Tara in the show 'Dhruv Tara - Samay Sadi Se Pare', shared that she is enjoying playing her character and the way it is evolving in the show and facing every situation courageously.

Tara, in the fantasy drama, will soon be shown going beyond the time to meet a neurosurgeon Dhruv, played by Ishaan Dhawan. She wants Dhruv to travel along with her for her brother's treatment, and in the meantime, undergoes emotional turmoil.



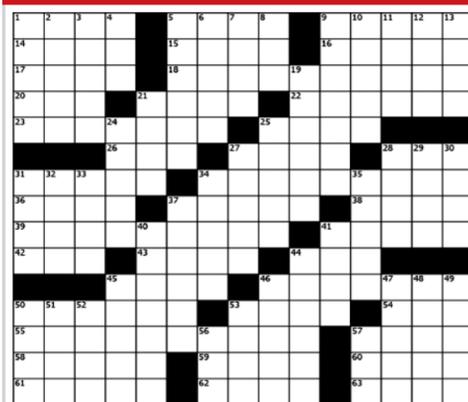
The actress explained what her on-screen character is going through in the show and what all new audiences can expect in the coming episodes of the show.

She said: "I am enjoying portraying the character of Tarapriya, and I am loving the way Tara's journey is shaping up in the 21st century. She faces every challenge with so much courage and positivity, which is commendable."

In the upcoming episodes, Tara, who travelled through time to meet Dhruv and wants to take him for the treatment of her brother will be forced to kidnap him.

## CROSSWORD

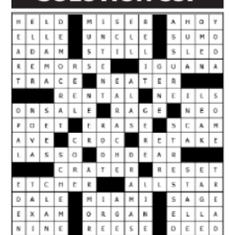
588



- ACROSS**
- If not
  - Not wild
  - Dickens title beginning (2 wds.)
  - Charged atoms
  - High cards
  - Fathered
  - Small pest
  - On a \_\_\_\_\_ (with little money)
  - Feminine pronoun
  - Fret
  - Formal agreement
  - Gave medical aid to
  - Oahu wreaths
  - "Viva \_\_\_\_\_ Vegas"
  - Foray
  - Nile viper
  - Dapper
  - Healer plant
  - Nashville's state
  - Healing plant
  - Roberts and Clapton
  - Isn't, incorrectly
  - Support for an institution
  - Fret
  - Formal agreement

- DOWN**
- Black pool ball
  - Recluse
  - Type of drum
  - NH time zone
  - Samples food
  - Was sore
  - Cat's cry
  - Compass point (abbr.)
  - With a leg on each side
  - Becomes weary
  - Diva's solo
  - Fasting season
  - Jumpy
  - Beer mugs
  - Don't go
  - Tailor
  - Cyclist \_\_\_\_\_ Armstrong
  - Royal rule
  - Vietnam's continent
  - Broadcast
  - Singer \_\_\_\_\_ Seeger
  - Neck area
  - Oh, dear!
  - Toddlers
  - Distinguishing quality
  - Tax
  - Makes into law
  - Supervise
  - Not straight
  - Religious beliefs
  - Prophets
  - Oklahoma metropolis
  - Preface
  - Certain woodwinds
  - Monikers
  - Punctuation mark
  - Repeat
  - Blemish
  - Adjoin
  - Naughty child
  - Sternward

## SOLUTION 587



## Sindhu crashes out of All England Ch'ship

**Falls at first hurdle for third time this season**

**Birmingham, Mar 15 (PTD):**

There was no end to PV Sindhu's poor run as the star Indian shuttler made a first round exit from the All England Championships after losing to Zhang Yi Man of China in straight games here on Wednesday.

The world number nine Sindhu, a double Olympic medallist, lost 17-21 11-21 in the 39-minute women's singles contest. This is the third time that Sindhu has lost her first round match this year.

She had lost to Carolina Marin of Spain in Malaysia Open in January before exiting the Indian Open at the same stage in the same month. She had recently parted ways with her coach Park Tae-sang of Korea, under whose guidance she won a bronze at the Tokyo Olympics.

Sindhu was rusty and subdued throughout the



Zhang Yi Man of China in action against Pusarla V. Sindhu of India in the Women's Singles match of the Yonex All England Open Badminton Championships 2023 at Utilita Arena Birmingham on March 15 in Birmingham, England.

match with her world number 17 opponent showing more agility and attacking intent.

There was not much to differentiate initially between the two who had 1-1 head-to-head record before Wednesday's match.

Sindhu led 6-5 and then made it 16-13. But the Chinese shuttler won seven straight points to lead 20-16 before taking the first game

in 21 minutes. In the second game, the two players were tied 5-5 but Sindhu committed a few unforced errors and was soon down 5-10.

Sindhu recovered a bit to trail 7-11 but was soon down 9-16 before losing the second game and the match.

Earlier during the day, India's women's doubles pair of Tressa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand Pullela

stunned seventh seeded Thailand duo of Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Rawinda Prajongjai 21-18 21-14 in a 46-minute first round match.

The Indian duo will meet the Japanese pair of Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota in the pre-quarterfinals. On Tuesday, Lakshya Sen and HS Prannoy had won their respective men's singles first round matches.

## Shreyas Iyer ruled out of ODI series against Australia

**Mumbai, Mar 15 (PTD):**

India fielding coach T Dilip, on Wednesday officially confirmed that middle-order batsman Shreyas Iyer has been ruled out of the upcoming three-match ODI series against Australia, starting Friday, due to recurrence of lower-back injury.

That Iyer has been ruled out of ODIs, was first reported by PTI on March 11. It is learnt that there is almost negligible chance of the stylish Mumbaiaiker taking any part in cash-rich IPL for KKR. Iyer leads KKR in IPL.

He is currently back in NCA for extensive rehabilitation but it couldn't be confirmed whether he would also require surgery like Jasprit Bumrah and Prasadh Krishna.

"Injuries are a part and parcel of the game. We have the best medical facilities and they are well-equipped. We are in co-ordination (with NCA). Shreyas ruled out of this series. (We will be able to provide) further update as and when we know," told India's fielding coach T Dilip told media in his debut press conference.

## Kul-Cha under focus

**The spin twins Kuldeep and Chahal will have important six months ahead of them**

**Mumbai, Mar 15 (PTD):**

They were the toast of the nation going into the 2019 World Cup in England but in last four years, Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal have seen more downs than ups.

Kuldeep had a career-threatening knee surgery in 2021 while Chahal, has been repeatedly ignored for important T20 games and global meets. They would want to change their wheels of fortune.

However with India's ODI World Cup preparations starting with the three-match series against Australia, starting Friday, the famed 'Kul-Cha' would love to serve a platter of googlies, leg-breaks and flippers which their fans would like to savour.

Several members of the Indian cricket team including the stand-in captain Hardik Pandya on Wednesday began training here at the Wankhede Stadium on Friday but all eyes were on the two wrist spinners as they need to battle it out with Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar, two multi-skilled cricketers, who are also



part of this squad. Both Kuldeep and Chahal, aren't the most accomplished of batters, although the UP left-arm wrist spinner has had some degree of success at the Test level.

However both Washington and Jadeja come as a package but purely on twaker's skills, the two wrist spinners are ahead compared to finger spinners.

India's regular captain Rohit Sharma will miss

the first ODI in Mumbai due to family commitments and the stand-in captain for the match, Pandya, was among those who trained for more than two hours with the white ball. Among the other players who were in attendance were fast bowlers Mohammed Siraj, Jaydev Unadkat, Umran Malik, Shardul Thakur and among batters, Suryakumar Yadav and wicketkeeper-batsman Ishan Kishan.

## Ashwin regains No 1 spot in ICC Test bowlers rankings



**Dubai, Mar 15 (PTD):**

Senior India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin's superlative show in the fourth Test against Australia has helped him regain the top spot among bowlers in the latest ICC Rankings issued on Wednesday.

Ashwin, who grabbed a haul of six for 91 in the drawn fourth Test and was the leading wicket-taker in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy with 25 scalps, is 10 rating points ahead of England seamer James Anderson.

Fellow Indian left-arm spinner Axar Patel climbed six places to 28 among bowlers. He also rose to the fourth spot in the all-rounder's list led by Ashwin and Jadeja. While pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who is recovering from a recurring back injury, dropped to number seven among bowlers. Talismanic Indian batter Virat Kohli moved seven places to 13th position after his Player of the Match performance against Australia in the fourth Test.

The high-scoring match at Ahmedabad also saw opener Shubman Gill, who smashed a fine century, jump 17 places to 46th. The injured Rishabh Pant (9th) and skipper Rohit Sharma (10th) are the Indian batters in the top 10. Australia opener Usman Khawaja and New Zealand batter Daryl Mitchell have also made notable gains in the list. Khawaja's score of 180 in the drawn fourth Test against India in Ahmedabad has lifted him two spots to seventh position and to a career-best 815 rating points while Mitchell's knocks of 102 and 81 in the epic victory over Sri Lanka in Christchurch has helped him reach a career-best eighth position as he touches the 800-point mark for the first time. In the latest weekly update that also considers performances in the second Test between South Africa and the West Indies in Johannesburg, Temba Bavuma's match-winning 172 for the home side has lifted him 14 slots to a career best 15th position.

## Gauff, Fritz advance to quarterfinals at Indian Wells

**Indian Wells, Mar 15 (AP):**

Coco Gauff rallied from a break down in the third set to beat Swedish qualifier Rebecca Peterson, 6-3, 1-6, 6-4 and reach the quarterfinals of the BNP Paribas Open.

Down 2-4, Gauff fought her way back and saved three break points while serving at 4-all before closing out the match in the next game. Four years ago, Peterson routed a then-14-year-old Gauff at a Challenger tournament in Michigan. "She whopped me really bad," Gauff said on court. "I think today was really a mental thing, just staying in the match. I wasn't playing my best in some moments and I wasn't serving as well as I'd like to, but I think that my mentality kept me in."

The sixth-seeded American next plays No. 2 seed Aryna Sabalenka, who beat 16th-seeded Barbora Krejickova, 6-3, 2-6, 6-4. In other fourth-round matches, No. 7 Maria Sakkari beat 17th-seeded Karolina Pliskova, 6-4, 5-7, 6-3.

## Harmanpreet Kaur has been unstoppable in WPL, admits Sushma Verma

**Mumbai, Mar 15 (PTD):**

Gujarat Giants wicket-keeper-batter Sushma Verma has conceded that India and Mumbai Indians captain Harmanpreet Kaur is unstoppable with the bat at the moment, after she scored a quick-fire 51 in their Women's Premier League (WPL) game.

Kaur hit seven fours and two sixes to turn around the game in the favour of Mumbai Indians, taking them to a competitive 162/8 in 20 overs. In reply, Gujarat Giants could manage just 107/9 in their quota of 20 overs, losing by 55 runs here at the Brabourne Stadium on Tuesday.

Verma said even though Gujarat Giants executed their plans well against Kaur; it is difficult to stop batters like her when they are in form.

"It is difficult to stop batters like Harman when they are in such good form," Verma told the



media after the match.

"We had planned on how to bowl at her and I do not think she would have found run-making that easy. From behind the wickets I could see that the bowlers hit the right spot against Harman but she used the shorter part of the ground very well,"

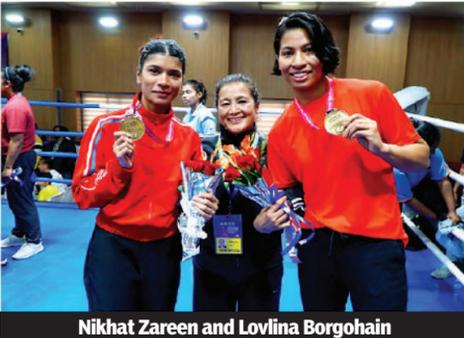
Verma added. "Harman is unstoppable right now, but it also matters how well you are able to execute your plans, which I thought was better in our case today," she said.

Verma said Gujarat Giants failed to build partnerships at the top which resulted in their second

defeat against Mumbai in as many games.

"It was a chaseable target and it would not have been so difficult towards the end had we got partnerships in the top four. Our execution was good in order to stop Mumbai Indians (from getting a big total).

## Women's Boxing World C'ships: India eye strong show at home



**Nikhata Zareen and Lovlina Borgohain**

**New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTD):**

Nikhata Zareen and Lovlina Borgohain will be at the forefront as India eye a show befitting their growing stature in women's boxing when the World Championship, whose build-up was marred by controversies, begins here from Thursday.

In the absence of the iconic six-time champion MC Mary Kom, who is recovering from an ACL tear in her left knee, world champion Nikhat and Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina will spearhead the 12-member Indian team. Both boxers will look to find their footing in new weight

categories with the Paris Olympics approaching. World No. 4 Nikhat cut down her weight from 52kg -- the weight category in which she found glory last year in Turkey -- to 50kg.

Lovina, on the other hand, has bulked up from the 69kg welterweight class to the 75kg middleweight division after both their preferred weight categories were scrapped for the 2024 Paris Olympics. This will be Nikhat's second international tournament after dropping down to 50kg. She won the Commonwealth Games gold in the light fly weight division but the field wasn't that strong in Birmingham.

## Chhetri may be playing his last season: Stimac



**Kolkata, Mar 15 (PTD):**

Talismanic striker Sunil Chhetri "may be playing the last season" of his illustrious career, feels Indian football team head coach Igor Stimac, who is hoping that his star player would be saving his best for the last in the coming months.

India's next big assignment is the AFC Asian Cup in Qatar from January 12 to February 10 next year. The 38-year-old Chhetri is set to play in his third continental showpiece, the most by an Indian, after playing a pivotal role in the qualification tournament here last year. "At his age, this will probably be his farewell from football. Obviously, Sunil may be playing his last season, and definitely his last

Asian Cup," Stimac said. "I'm quite sure that the upcoming months will be the best for Sunil Chhetri," he was quoted as saying in the official All India Football Federation (AIFF) website.

The national team is currently having a five-day camp here ahead of the Tri-Nation Football Tournament in Imphal from March 22.

Chhetri, the third most prolific international goal scorer among active players with 84 strikes behind Cristiano Ronaldo (118) and Lionel Messi (98), was part of the Indian teams that featured in the 2011 and 2019 Asian Cup.

The 38-year-old Chhetri, who made his international debut in 2005, played a key role in Bengaluru FC making to Indian Super League final to be played on Saturday.

"Sunil Chhetri was nowhere to be seen this season. He was on the bench, waiting, preparing himself, working to take his weight down a few kilos, which is very difficult to handle at this age," said Stimac who has been given the target of reaching Asian Cup quarterfinals if he wants to continue at the helm beyond that tournament.

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## 'Democracy not in peril, Cong brought to political perish'

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

India's democracy is not in peril but the Congress party has been brought to "political perish" by the people for the kind of behaviour its leader Rahul Gandhi exhibited overseas, Union minister Smriti Irani said on Wednesday as the BJP stepped up the ante against the opposition leader over his recent remarks in the UK.

Gandhi's grudge with Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken the shape of a grudge with India, she charged, demanding that the Wayanad MP of the Congress apologise to Parliament for his remarks. During his inter-



Union Minister Smriti Irani addresses the media in New Delhi, Wednesday.

tions in the UK recently, Gandhi alleged that the structures of Indian democracy are under attack and there is a "full-scale assault" on the country's institutions. His re-

marks triggered a massive political row, with the BJP accusing him of maligning India on foreign soil and seeking foreign interventions and the Congress hitting back, citing in-

stances of Prime Minister Modi raising internal politics abroad. Addressing a press conference, Irani alleged that "at the feet of India's colonial past" Gandhi lamented the "lack of foreign intervention" in India's democracy. This is to bring to a halt India's resilient growth story under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, she said.

She said the "lies that became a foundation of the Congress leader's conversation in England" were many.

The minister said Gandhi claimed that he does not have access to conversations in Indian universities and that for him was an indication of the death of democracy.

### STRAY DOG ATTACKS

## 'Ensure canines are sterilised, vaccinated to keep their population under control'

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

Animal right activists have urged authorities to set up community kitchens to feed stray dogs and ensure that they are sterilised and vaccinated to keep their population under control, days after two children were mauled to death by canines in Vasant Kunj here.

The minor brothers were found dead over the span of two days.

The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) said that "assumptions" must not be made as dogs "do not normally attack unprovoked." "The incident is very tragic and bizarre, and the authorities need to

thoroughly investigate what exactly happened.

"Assumptions must not be made especially as dogs do not normally attack unprovoked. If the Animal Birth Control Dog Rules 2001 would have been implemented, there would be no dog packs," PETA India told PTI in a statement.

"We urge the local authorities to ensure dogs in the area are sterilised and vaccinated immediately to keep their population under control," they added.

Delhi Mayor Shelly Oberoi on Tuesday held an emergency meeting and instructed officials to prepare an action plan within a week to control the menace of stray dogs.

After the Vasant Kunj incident, 50 dogs have been picked up, of which 90 per cent were found sterilised, the mayor was informed during the meeting. Animal activist and founder of Noida-based NGO House of Stray animals, Sanjay Mohapatra said the administration should consider having monitoring committees to effectively implement animal birth control rules and community kitchen should also be set up in different areas to feed the stray dogs.

"There is huge amount of corruption when it comes to effectively implementing animal birth control rules. Monitoring committees should be set

up to end corruption and effectively implement the birth control rules. "Community kitchen should also be set up in different localities to feed the stray dogs and coexist peacefully with them," Mohapatra told PTI.

He further suggested that awareness campaigns should also be conducted to understand animal behaviour to avoid incidents of stray dog attacks in the future.

The Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001 provides for sterilisation and vaccination of stray dogs to control their population. It was introduced to keep population of stray dogs under control, prevent dog attacks

and reduce the conflict between people and dogs. Animal activist and trustee at People For Animals (PFA), Ambika Shukla said they would like to meet the mayor and present their suggestions to help resolve the stray dog menace.

Speaking to PTI, Shukla said, "When you build a house, you consult an architect. When you deal with an animal-related issue, you refer to activists who work on the ground."

"We would be glad to meet the mayor and present our suggestions to her. We would also like to have a clear and impartial hearing with the mayor so that she can evaluate the suggestions."

## SARAS MELA



Girls serve traditional Kashmiri wazwan among shoppers during the first of its kind women-led national level SARAS mela (Sale of Articles and Rural Artisan Society mela) organised by Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission, on the Banks of Dal Lake in Srinagar, Wednesday.

### HUMAN ERROR

## Assam Minister on controversy over playback singer winner in state awards

GUWAHATI, MAR 15 (PTI): As a controversy erupted over an artist being presented with the best playback singer in the state film awards recently purportedly for a song she had not lent her voice to, Assam Cultural Affairs Minister Bimal Borah on Wednesday claimed that the award was given to the correct singer.

He maintained that the name of the song for which the award was given was "wrongly" written in the certificate, seeking to downplay it as a "human error".

Nahid Afrin was given the best playback singer (female) award at the 8th Assam State Film Awards on Monday for the film 'Nijaanor Gaan'. Afrin, who had sung one of the songs in the film, had received the award from the State Legislative Assembly Speaker Biswajit Daimary at a ceremo-

ny here. However, the controversy started when it was displayed on screen at the ceremony, as she received the felicitation, that the award was for a song which was not sung by Afrin. Claiming that it was a "human error", Borah said, "The Award was meant for Nahid Afrin. There is no confusion over it." "The lyrics of the song were wrongly mentioned in the citation displayed. It was a human error," he said. Borah said the makers of the film have to mention details while applying for any award and it was not mentioned in the application the song for which Afrin's name was recommended. "Since Afrin had sung a song in that same film, our jury decided to give her the award," the minister said. When the confusion was brought to light on Tuesday, Afrin, in a social media post, maintained that

she was not aware that the lyrics of another song were displayed as she was receiving the award. "The details were displayed behind me. It is not possible for any awardee to read what is being written behind them as we are concentrating on the audience in front of us. "If the jury says the award was actually meant for the singer of the other song, I will happily return it," Afrin who had shot to fame by winning the junior segment of a television singing reality show added. Afrin maintained that she was informed by a jury member over phone that she had won the award soon after the names were made official and she had also received a list circulated through WhatsApp which had her name as the winner, along with the film's name but with no mention of the song.

## PRAYERS FOR DALAI LAMA



Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama arrives for a prayer in the Tsugla Khang Temple for his long life, at Mcleodganj in Dharamshala, Wednesday.

## Odisha MLAs cutting across party lines demand salary hike

Bhubaneswar, Mar 15 (PTI):

Amid rising prices of commodities, legislators of the Odisha Assembly, cutting across party lines, on Wednesday urged Speaker B K Arukha to give a ruling to the government to introduce a Bill in the House for raising the salary and pension of sitting members and ex-MLAs.

The issue was raised during the Zero Hour by Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Narasingha Mishra, which was supported by Opposition Chief Whip Mohan Majhi of the BJP and two BJD members-Amar Prasad Satpathy and Padmanabha Behera.

A committee headed by BJD MLA Amar Prasad Satpathy has already submitted a report on a proposal to hike the salary

and pension of MLAs and ex-legislators, Mishra said, adding that the state government should consider it and table a Bill so that the House can pass it. He cited the high inflation rate, particularly the increasing price of petrol and diesel, which added to the "hardships of members to perform their responsibilities".

The travelling allowance of the members should also be raised in view of the price rise of fuel, Mishra said.

According to the existing salary structure, only Rs 5,000 is being provided to appoint an assistant, which is grossly inadequate, he claimed.

"On behalf of all the members, I urge the Speaker to give a ruling to the government to table a Bill in this regard," Mishra said.

Congress whip Taraprasad Bahinipati also made a similar demand.

Opposition Chief Whip Mohan Majhi supported the proposal to introduce a Bill at the earliest as the members and ex-MLAs face difficulties for their day-to-day expenses.

Satpathy said, "I have submitted the report and the Parliamentary Affairs Minister will take a call on the issue as members feel that an increase in salaries is needed."

The Odisha government had raised the salaries of MLAs and ministers by over 50 per cent in 2017.

Meanwhile, sources said that the committee has sent a proposal to the Speaker recommending that an MLA's salary should be hiked from Rs 1

lakh a month to Rs 2.5 lakh. Currently, each MLA gets a package of Rs 1 lakh, which includes Rs 35,000 as salary and Rs 65,000 as allowances.

This excludes a daily allowance of Rs 1,500 per day while the House is in session, besides the travel reimbursement for attending the sessions.

Notably, retail inflation dipped marginally to 6.44 per cent in February, mainly on account of a slight easing in prices of food and fuel items though it remained above the Reserve Bank's comfort level of 6 per cent for the second month in a row.

As per the government data released on Monday, the Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation was at 6.52 per cent in January and 6.07 per cent in February 2022.

## 'Home department fixes physical test criteria to recruit transpersons'

In police force

Nagpur, March 15 (PTI):

The Maharashtra home department has fixed physical test criteria for recruitment of transpersons into the police force, days after the state government told the Bombay High Court that it will create a new window for such candidates, an official order said.

Under the transgender category, the candidates will need to self-identify themselves as male or female and can accordingly appear for the physical test, the order said.

The Maharashtra police recently undertook an exercise to fill 18,331 posts, mostly constables, in the force. As part of the fitness

test, male candidates had to cover 1,600 metres within a time frame, while women aspirants were asked to run 800 metres. The jobseekers also had to take part in a shot put throw.

As per the new norms for transpersons, for a self-identified female candidate, the height should not be less than 158 cm, while it has to be a minimum of 165 cm for a self-identified male, the home department order said.

As part of the physical tests, self-identified male candidates will have to take part in the 1,600-metre and 100-metre runs. The shot put weight is 8 kg for such candidates, said an official.

## 'It is time India takes lead in realising 'one earth, one health' vision'

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI):

It is time India takes the lead in realising the "one earth, one health" vision with a holistic policy-making environment and align it with the philosophy of "vasudhaiva kutumbakam", Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Wednesday.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has a strong political will to lead in innovative research and technology supported solutions which are commercially viable with universal acceptability, he said at the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit 2023.

The summit has been themed "One Health: Integrated, Collaborative



Mansukh Mandaviya

and Multisectoral Approach to Optimal Health".

"The 'one earth, one health' vision can become a reality only with active global collaboration where countries don't think of only themselves but of collective global outcomes," the minister said.

Mandaviya highlighted that the health sector can-

not be limited to one country as the health and wellbeing of one country impacts the other.

"We live in an inter-dependent world, wherein not just countries but the health of human population is equally affected and influenced by the health of surrounding environment and animals," he stated.

The global pandemic

has demonstrated that no country is immune from adverse developments in any country, and also that our actions impact the health and wellbeing of our eco-system.

"It is therefore our collective responsibility as a human race to not only protect ourselves but also ensure that our actions result in protecting the environment we co-exist in," he stressed. The vision of "one earth, one health" brings in sharp focus the importance of our actions and eco-friendly policies, he elaborated.

Applauding India's leading role in indigenous research and wealth of traditional therapies, Mandaviya highlighted that each country can have its own model of achieving the vision.

## Food festival satiates cravings of seafood lovers

New Delhi, Mar 15 (PTI): Serving everything from mussels to crabs and squids to oysters, an ongoing festival in the Delhi-NCR promises to satiate the craving of true-blue seafood enthusiasts.

The ten-day festival, 'Seafood Symphony', is currently underway at Hotel Crowne Plaza, Greater Noida.

It offers a sea of dishes for the visitors to choose from, including 'Calamari rings served with garlic aioli', 'Thai green curry with prawn' and 'Spaghetti aragosta' (Spaghetti served With Lobster), in Asian and Italian style.

"We are known for curating exotic and unique experiences for our guests. With Seafood Symphony we try to bring on ocean culinary

delights and I believe many of these dishes would be a new introduction to the food lovers in Delhi/NCR. We look forward to welcoming you at Chao Bella," said Sharad K Upadhyay, general manager at Crowne Plaza, Greater Noida.

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