



### BRIEF



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates in New Delhi, Saturday.

### Tourism DG

**New Delhi:** Senior bureaucrat Manisha Saxena has been appointed as director general of tourism in the tourism ministry, a personnel ministry order issued on Saturday said. Saxena is a 1996 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Arunachal Pradesh-Mizoram-Goa-Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre. Meenakshi Negi, a 1989 batch Indian Forest Service officer of Karnataka cadre, has been named as member secretary, National Commission for Women (NCW). Khilli Ram Meena, a 1993 batch IAS officer of AGMUT cadre, will be the additional secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs.

### Guard held

**Palghar:** A forest guard was arrested on Saturday for allegedly accepting a bribe to permit purchase and construction on tribal land in Maharashtra's Palghar district, an official from the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) said. The guard attached to the Mandvi forest circle in Vasai had allegedly demanded a bribe of Rs 50,000 from the complainant, who sought a permit to purchase land earmarked for tribals, deputy Superintendent of Police (ACB, Palghar) Navnath Jagtap said. An offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act has been registered against the guard, who was caught accepting a bribe installment of Rs 20,000, he said.

### Card fraud

**Hisar:** A 26-year-old man was arrested for allegedly defrauding a local resident to the tune of nearly Rs 3 lakh, police here said on Saturday. Balwan Singh, a resident of Adarsh Nagar in Hisar, lodged a complaint at Cyber police station regarding a fraud of Rs 2,96,940 at a public sector bank, sub-inspector Gurminder Singh said. The victim said in his complaint that the accused, who identified himself as Abhishek, called him on February 14, 2022. Posing as an employee of the bank's credit card department, Abhishek told Balwan Singh that he could increase his credit limit without any charge and sought his card number and other details, the victim alleged.

### Buffer zone

**New Delhi:** The National Green Tribunal has restrained the Jannayak Chandrashekhar University in Uttar Pradesh's Ballia district from carrying out further construction on any part of land within the ecologically sensitive zone area of Jai Prakash Narayan (Surha Tal) Bird Sanctuary.

**Weather**  
High 37 Low 20

# NIA attaches properties of Hizbul Mujahideen militant

Srinagar, Mar 04 (PTI):

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday attached properties of a Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) militant, who was killed last month in Pakistan, in the Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. The properties of Bashir Ahmad Pir, a resi-



dent of the Babarpore area of Kralpora in the north Kashmir district, was attached by the agency as part of the action against the militants operating from Pakistan, they said. The officials said Pir, a self-styled commander of the outfit, was shot dead in Rawalpindi on February 21. The NIA attached two land plots at Baghpore and Panzgam

areas, measuring over three kanals belonging to Pir alias Imtiaz Alam, they said. Pir, who was reportedly in charge of launching terrorists into Jammu and Kashmir through Line of Control, was designated a terrorist by the Centre on October 4 last year under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for his role in terror activities.

# Railways to launch Bharat Gaurav train to northeast on March 21

New Delhi, Mar 04 (PTI):

The Indian Railways is set to launch its first Bharat Gaurav train to the northeast on March 21 which will offer passengers a tour of the region, the Ministry of Railways said in a statement on Saturday. The 15-day tour will cover Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Tripura and Meghalaya. "The much sought-after train tour 'North East Discovery: Beyond Guwahati' is ready to depart on March 21, 2023 from Delhi Sadfarjung Railway Station on a 14 nights/15 days itinerary. "State-of-the-art Deluxe AC Tourist Train with AC I & AC II class will accom-

modate total 156 tourists," the statement said. The places which will be covered as part of the tour are Guwahati, Sivasagar, Jorhat and Kaziranga in Assam; Unakoti, Agartala and Udaipur in Tripura; Dimapur and Kohima in Nagaland; and Shillong and Cherapunji in Meghalaya. Tourists can also board or deboard at Delhi, Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Tundla, Itawah, Kanpur, Lucknow and Varanasi railway stations. The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has also tied up with payment gateways Paytm and Razorpay for providing EMI payment option to the customers.

# Court extends Manish Sisodia's CBI custody till March 6

**AAP leader alleges 'mental harassment'**

New Delhi, Mar 04 (PTI)



AAP leader Manish Sisodia after being produced in the Rouse Avenue Court in connection with the Delhi liquor scam, in New Delhi, Saturday.

A Delhi court on Saturday extended by two days the CBI custody of former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, arrested in a corruption case related to the now-scrapped excise policy, and directed the central probe agency to produce him on Monday. Special judge M K Nagpal also directed the CBI not to ask him the same questions repeatedly after Sisodia termed it as "mental harassment". "They are not using third-degree. But sitting for eight to nine hours and

answering the same questions again and again, that too is mental harassment," Sisodia said. To which the judge, who had on the last hearing directed the CBI not to use the third degree on the accused, told the probe agency not ask the "same questions again and

again. If you have something new, ask him." During the arguments, Sisodia's counsel also told the court that his wife's health was very poor and that she was basically in a "vegetative state". "While considering all things, my wife's medical condition has been brushed aside.

# Union Minister Shekhawat files defamation complaint against Gehlot

New Delhi, Mar 04 (PTI):

Union Minister Singh Shekhawat on Saturday filed a criminal complaint before a Delhi court accusing Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot of defaming him with remarks on the Sanjivani scam. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Harpreet Singh took cognisance of the matter and listed it for Monday to record the statement of witnesses in support of Shekhawat's complaint. The complaint alleged that Gehlot defamed the BJP leader by alleging his role in the Sanjivani Credit Cooperative Society scam.

"There is irreparable damage caused to his (Shekhawat) reputation," the complaint claimed. The complaint alleged that Gehlot has been making defamatory remarks, trying to tarnish Shekhawat's image and affect his political career. Meanwhile, Gehlot said that Union Jalshakti Minister Shekhawat's move will bring the scam into national focus. "I will welcome it (defamation case). This would expedite the case and help the victims who have lost money to the scam," the chief minister told reporters in Jaipur when asked about the defamation case against him in Delhi. "This man (Shekhawat) should be

ashamed of himself. Being a Union minister, he should have called the victims and helped them get justice," the Congress leader said. Gehlot said the Rajasthan government is ready to cooperate in the investigation into the case. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah should take note of the scam. The senior Congress leader added that his government has written to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to probe the matter but in vain. He said the right to confiscate property is with the ED and the Special Operations Group of the state police cannot seize the property of the accused.

# HC orders Centre to pay Rs 50k 'costs' to DU student for denying scholarship

New Delhi, Mar 04 (PTI)

The Delhi High Court has directed the Centre to pay within eight weeks Rs 50,000 as "costs" to a DU student for denying him the third installment of an annual scholarship offered to him by the Department of Science and Technology under its INSPIRE scheme. The court also ordered the Centre to release the third installment of Rs 60,000 to the student along with an interest of 6 per cent per annum. The department, functioning under the Ministry of Science and Technology, had offered the Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) scholarship to the student in January 2017. To be eligible for it, students ought to be in the top 1 per cent of their respective boards, in Class XII. In this case, the student, who belonged to an economically weaker section, was disbursed the scholar-

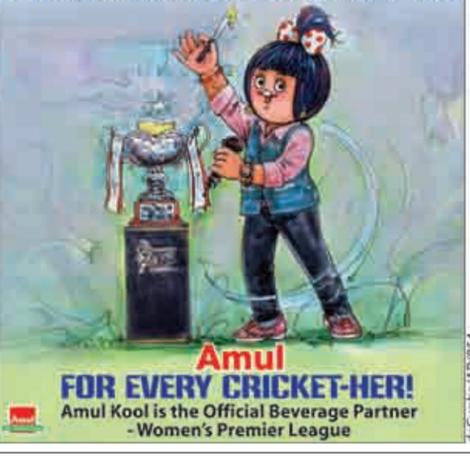
ship amount for the first two years but for the third year, his scholarship was withheld. The Centre claimed that to remain eligible under the scheme, the student's CGPA should be at least 6.0 in the core subjects. The court rejected the Centre's stand and observed that the guidelines left no doubt that the requirement of 6.0 CGPA was in the aggregate and not in the core subjects. The transcripts of the student show that his CGPA for the first and the second semester was 7.45 and for the third and fourth semesters was 6.32, which was above the required threshold, it added. "There is no mention in the Post Offer Implementation Guidelines for Scholars or in the INSPIRE Scheme that 6.0 CGPA is being required in the core subjects. Thus, the rejection/non-grant of scholarship to the petitioner (the student) is completely untenable," the court said.

# 60 held for clash over tribal place of worship

Raipur, Mar 04 (PTI):

At least 60 people were arrested on Saturday in connection with the clash between a mob and the police during a rally by the Gondwana Ganatantra Party (GGP) in Chhattisgarh's Kabirdham district, an official said. As many as 21 policemen, among them Kabirdham Superintendent of Police Lal Umed Singh and Additional Superintendent of Police Manisha Thakur, were injured in the clash that took place in Harmo village under Bhoramdeo police station limits on Friday, the official said. Apart from this, 17 protestors also sustained injuries, he said. "A total of 200 people were taken into custody in connection with Friday's violence in Harmo village and of them, 160 were released after being served notices. The remaining 60 people, including the GGP's district unit chief J Lingo, were arrested," SP Lal Umed Singh told PTI.

# YEH TOH MASKA SHURUAT HAI



# SC seeks Centre's response on reported deaths of tigers

New Delhi, Mar 04 (PTI):

The Supreme Court has directed the Centre to inform it about reported deaths of tigers in the country. A bench of justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna sought the information after taking note of newspaper reports about tiger deaths. The apex court was hearing a petition filed by advocate Anupam Tripathi in 2017 seeking to save endangered tigers whose numbers are dwindling across the country. "Though the petitioner is not present, respondents will ascertain about reported deaths of the tigers in India. List the matter after three weeks," the bench said. According to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), India lost

1,059 tigers since 2012 with Madhya Pradesh, which is known as the 'tiger state' of the country, recording the highest number of deaths (270). On January 27, the Centre had told the top court that there are 2,967 tigers in the country spread across 53 tiger reserves, according to a 2018 report. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati had told the bench that lot of work has been done for the conservation of tigers and increasing their population. The top court in 2017 had issued notice to the Ministry of Environment, the National Board for Wildlife and the National Tiger Conservation Authority on the plea which had also sought relocation of people living near tiger reserves.

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# Nikshay Mitra Yojana inaugurated at JLN Hospital & RC



Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 04:** Nikshay-Mitra Yojana, under National Tuberculosis elimination programme was inaugurated by MM Gadre, ED (P & A) at JLN Hospital and RC on March 04, 2023. Dr Anil Shukla, District Tuberculosis Officer, Dr M Ravindranath, CMO I/c (M & HS), JY Sapkale, CGM (TSD), SV Nandanwar, CGM (TSD), Dr Vineeta Dwivedi, Dr Rajeev Pal, CMO (M & HS), Dr K Thakur, CMO (M & HS), Shivrajan, GM (CSR),

Shahid Ahmed GM (M&S), Doctors, Nurses and other senior officials were present on the occasion.

Nikshay-Mitra yojana is being observed as part of Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan. The scheme was launched in India on September 09, 2022. The scheme aims to provide high protein nutritious packets to TB patients for a period of 6 months. Nikshay-Mitras can adopt TB patients for a period of six months and support them with their nutritional requirements and medicines.



The programme began with lighting of the lamp by Chief Guest (P & A) and other dignitaries. MM Gadre in his address stated that we are committed to the Nikshay-Mitra yojana. We need to gear up to meet the challenging target of eliminating TB by 2025. It is our social responsibility to work together and play a pivotal role in the Nikshay-Mitra yojana, he said. Dr Anil Shukla, District Tuberculosis Officer said that collective team work by people's representatives with the support of the community will help in the

making the district, state and country TB free. He appreciated the contribution of BSP in this journey and added that this will motivate others to take up the scheme in a big way. Dr M Ravindranath, CMO I/c (M & HS) said that we must take care of TB patients and augment their treatment by providing them with nutritious supplements. He said that this participation was possible due to support of Director-in-charge BSP, Personnel, Finance, Medical and Health Services and CSR

# Embroidery Workshop for women from Village near Hirri Mines inaugurated



Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 04:** A training workshop to train 25 women from Village Chatauna in the skills of embroidery being organised by SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Hirri Mines as a CSR activity with the support of Chhattisgarh Hasthshilp Vikas Board, Bilaspur was inaugurated on March 02, 2023.

Chhatradhari, DGM (CSR) at Hirri and SL

Vatti, GM of Chhattisgarh Hasthshilp Vikas Board, Bilaspur were present at the inauguration. Also present along with the women being trained were Sarpanch of Village Chatauna, CSR committee members, Partha Chatterji and Rakesh Pandey.

General Manager of Chhattisgarh Hasthshilp Vikas Board, Bilaspur in his address stated that the workshop will enable those getting trained to get

employment opportunities. Chhatradhari, DGM (CSR) stated that SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's CSR activities in to uplift the lives of people residing in peripheral villages would continue and more such workshops would be organised in future. Sarpanch of the village appealed for other women who had shown interest in the training to be included in the next session of workshop.

# DSCET students excel in BEd and PGDCA exams

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 04:** Like previous years, Dev Sanskriti College of Education and Technology (DSCET), Khapri, Durg achieved cent percent results in BEd third semester and PGDCA First Semester.

In BEd (3rd Sem), Teema Sahu secured first position with 86% marks, Yamini Sahu secured second position with 85% marks while Mamta Thakur stood at third position with 84% marks.

In PGDCA, Dikeshwari Sahu stood at first position with 68.8% marks; Tikeshwari stood second with 64.8% marks and Dhananjay stood at third



position with 64.4% marks. College Chairman Vasudev Sharma and Director Jyoti Sharma congratulated all the successful students and encouraged them to work harder for achieving success in life. All the teachers also extended best wishes to the successful students.

# Universal Rail Mill & Iron Ore Mines set new Records

**Bhilai, Mar 04:** SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Universal Rail Mill that rolls out the world's longest 130 metre rail in single piece has set new day records on March 03, 2023. The Mill produced 3328 Tonnes of finished rail surpassing previous best of 3201 Tonnes on January 31, 2023. Production of 3194 Tonnes of prime rails was also the highest in a day, surpassing previous best of 3042 Tonnes on January 31, 2023. Visual inspection of 426 numbers of rails was also the best as against previous best of 410 numbers of rails visually inspected on January 31, 2023. SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Dalli-Rajhara Iron Ore Complex too set a new record in daily production on March 03, 2023. The IOC mines together produced 35,663 T of iron ore surpassing previous best of 34,065 Tonnes on February 21, 2023.

# Various programmes mark IWD celebration in Bhilai Maitri College

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 04:** Bhilai Maitri College organised various programmes to mark the celebration of International Women's Day. Women empowerment is an important thing that needs to be accomplished. There are various ways in which women empowerment can happen in the country.

Keeping in view the above mentioned fact, Bhilai Maitri College organised several program which enables the women to take their own decision. The series of such program started from March 01 and will end on March 08, 2023.

On first day, Lileshwari,



President, "Self Help Group" and her team graced the occasion and gave training to the students about how to make badges from whole grain (dhan), herbal colours,

Plant budding and bonsai.

On 2nd day, Narendra Singh Patel was invited to the institution to conduct a value added course on Yoga. In this course students learned how to perform various Pranayam and asanas which will help them to enhance their physical, mental, and spiritual development.

On 3rd day, Shilpa Sahu DSP, Sangeeta Mishra SI, Head of Raksha Team and other members of Raksha team were invited to the program "Self Defence for girls students". Shilpa and

Sangeta gave a fabulous training and fantastic tips to the students regarding Self Defence.

On 4th day, an exhibition on different pakwan or food items was organised. In this exhibition students exhibited various other item made from waste material. Badges from Dhan along with different delicious pakwan. This exhibition was inaugurated by Rajam Sudhakaran, President (MECA).

Such valuable series was appreciated by Rajam Sudhakaran, President, MECA, Dr Sajitha Thambi, S Sajeev and S Sajan, Directors MECA and Dr Surekha Vinod Patil, Principal Bhilai Maitri College.

# Durg Police launches week long campaign on IWD

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 04:** On Friday, Durg Police launched a special awareness week on the occasion of International Women's Day. Through this campaign, the idea of gender equality will be promoted.

People will be encouraged to provide equal status to the women at workplace and society. They will be explained that due to gender inequality, women have to struggle more to achieve success in any sector. The women will also be made aware about their rights.

On the first day of Abhivyaakti Women's Awareness Week, a program was organized at Bhilai Maitri College, Risali. As per the inten-



tions of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Durg Police is organising this event under the directions of Superintendent of Police Dr Abhishek Pallava and supervision of Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Sanjay Kumar Dhruv, Additional Superintendent of Police (IUCAW) Meeta Pawar and Deputy Superintendent of

Police (IUCAW) Shilpa Sahu.

In this campaign, Deputy Superintendent of Police (IUCAW) Shilpa Sahu detailed the students and teachers about legal rights, protection from sexual exploitation, cyber-crime and social media crime.

Children and teachers were informed about the

Abhivyaakti App by SI Sangeeta Mishra. They were guided to download and use the Abhivyaakti App on their mobile phones. Self-defense tricks were taught to girl students. They learned to protect themselves by using the common objects. The cops answered the queries on self defense, cyber crime, etc.

# Pink Marathon today

**Bhilai, Mar 04:** On the eve of Internal Women's Day, a Pink Marathon has been organised by "Hunar Nari Shakti" on March 05. The marathon will be flagged off from BSNL Chowk at 07:00 hrs.

The participants will reach "I Love Bhilai Chowk" at Sector 5 and then return back to BSNL Chowk. T-shirts will be provided free of cost by the organizers to all the participants.

The first 50 participants will be honored with medals. Later, Holi of flowers will be played at the prize distribution venue.

# Four houses gutted in fire at village Daimar

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 04:** Four houses were destroyed in fire at village Daimar of Patan Block on Saturday. The incident occurred in the middle of this village. Fire Tenders and Police rescue team reached the spot and fire fighting operations were launched.

They managed to douse the flames after about three hours. Fortunately there were no casualties. However, a calf was charred to death in this incident.

According to information, the incident was the outcome of a domestic quarrel between one Jagannath Thakur and his wife Kaushalya Thakur. The man allegedly set his own house on fire after



quarrelling with the wife. Soon the entire house was engulfed in flames.

A LPG cylinder burst in his house after which the fire spread to the three neighbouring houses also. The residents rushed to the safe places and the fire brigade was called in. Fire Fighting continued for about three hours to douse the flames completely.

According to information, a calf at the residence of Jagannath Thakur was

killed in this arson. Houses of Tara Sahu, Madan Thakur, Bali Sahu, Kashi Thakur and Nagesh Thakur were also destroyed in fire.

Madan Sahu stated that a large quantity of paddy kept in his house was destroyed in the fire. He added that Rs 50000 cash was also burnt in the fire. CM's OSD Ashish Verma and SDOP Devansh Rathore also reached the mishap site.

# Sarpanch of Patora honored with Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman in Delhi

Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat honours Anjita Sahu

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 04:** Sarpanch of village Patora, Anjita Gopesh Sahu has brought laurels to Durg district. She has been awarded with the Swachh Sujal Samman for Waste Water Management. This honour was given by Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

President Draupadi Murmu was also present in the programme. It needs to be mentioned here that Anjita has done an appreciable job for sludge water treatment in her village. Soak pits have been



made in the village and work has been done to inspire people towards cleanliness.

A faecal sludge treatment plant has also been set up in the area. Through this plant, arrangements have been made for sludge treatment in 50 villages. The panchayat

has also generated a good income from this plant. Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena and District Panchayat CEO Ashwini Dewangan have also congratulated Anjita Sahu on this achievement.

Anjita is the only Sarpanch

from the entire Chhattisgarh who was selected for this honour. Anjita said that she is very happy to receive the award. This award is the honour of the villagers of Patora as all of them have made significant contributions in making the project successful.

# Indu Ambade opens Women-Only Gym

● Gets aid under Chief Minister Youth Self-Employment Scheme

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Mar 04:** Regular exercise and workout are very essential for good health and staying fit for a long time. Exercising also prevents many diseases. Indu Ambade, a resident of village Kasaridih in Durg, has explored self employment in this sector.

She has opened Women-Only Gym after receiving aid under a government scheme. Along with gym workouts, she is also giv-



ing yoga training. Starting from a small job, today she is running her own Ladies Gym. Earlier, Indu used to earn her living by working

in a private organization and was facing difficulties in getting any permanent employment. On contacting the District Trade and Industry Center, she got information about the Chief Minister's Youth Self-Employment Scheme.

Inspired by the Chief Minister's Youth Self-Employment Scheme, she decided to start his own business. She received a grant of Rs 1.50 lakh from Mukhyamantri

Youva Swarozgar Yojana and took a loan of Rs 10 lakh. With this amount, she started her own gym.

Taking advantage of the Chief Minister's Youth Self-Employment Scheme, she is earning an income of Rs 4.80 lakh annually. About 50 to 70 women and children are regularly visiting her gym. She has given employment to two women at her gym.

She also sends yoga and exercise trainers for elderly women and men at their homes. Apart from this, she also runs online classes and has managed to improve the standard of living of her family. She is also regularly repaying the bank loan.

## Strict action to be taken against hoodlums during Holi

**Raipur Collector, SSP hold peace committee meeting**

**Raipur, Mar 04:** Collector-SP has appealed to the citizens of the society to celebrate the festival but maintain peace as well. According to the administration, the security arrangements of the police will be tight regarding Holi and Shab-e-Barat festival.

Raipur Collector Dr. Sarveshwar Bhure and SSP Prashant Agarwal took a meeting of community leaders in the meeting of peace committee for security at the Red Cross building on Saturday.

Birgaon Municipal Corporation Speaker Nandlal Dewangan, Additional Collector NR Sahu and officers of the concerned department were also present. Collector congratulated the peace committee members for a peaceful and harmonious Holi and Shab-e-Barat festival and gave necessary suggestions and instructions for peaceful celebrations. Police will keep an eye on every activity to maintain peace during celebrations.



### Use, display of weapons banned

With a view to ensure peaceful celebration of Holi festival the district administration has banned use and display of weapons. Keeping in mind the examinations, the sound amplifier can be used in a low tone only till 10 pm. Moreover wearing masks will not be allowed. There will be a complete ban on donations and strict action was discussed against those who forcefully collect donations. Similarly, the fix points will be increased by the police. Bike patrolling will be arranged and special water

Senior Superintendent of Police Raipur Prashant Agarwal has given necessary guidelines to all the Additional SPs, CSPs and station in-charges of the district keeping in view the coming festivals for better security arrangements and peaceful festi-

arrangements will be made by Raipur Municipal Corporation, and Birgaon Municipal Corporation from March 7 to 9. After burning Holika, the work of pouring sand will be done. Electricity arrangement and cleanliness at public places will be done by Municipal Corporation Raipur. Holika Dahan should be done on the side of the road. Arrangement for emergency medical care would be made by Superintendent of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital Raipur, Chief Medical and Health

Instructions were given to get better cooperation and coordination from the Peace Committee and the local citizens.

Keeping in mind the peace and security on March 08, more than 40 patrolling vehicles will be on patrol. There will be de-

Officer Raipur and Civil Surgeon Raipur.

Doctors would be put on special duty for emergency medical care.

On the occasion of Holi, the use of colors that have side effects on health will be prohibited. Liquor shops will remain closed during Holi as per the policy of the government. Holi will be played with gula and colours. Paint, mud, varnish and such elements will not be used which are harmful to the body. Color will not be forced on anyone.

ployment of additional force in all the square-intersections. Sufficient number of forces will be deployed at all places. The police will keep a special eye on the hoodlums. At the same time, people will also be monitored through cameras.

## Poor deprived of houses in Congress rule: BJP

**Raipur, Mar 04:** Bharatiya Janata Party today charged the Bhupesh Government in Chhattisgarh with snatching the houses of the poor. Will the state government not give the benefit of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana just because the word Pradhan Mantri is attached to it? asked BJP state president Arun Sao while addressing a press conference at party's Ekatma Parisar office here today. Bhupesh Baghel government of Chhattisgarh, which has an image of making baseless statements, is not allowing the biggest dream of the poor to be fulfilled, he alleged.

Sao said that on June 25, 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana to provide houses to every homeless person in the country, with the aim that by 2022 every person in the country should have a house of his own. The target was extended to 2024 due to COVID pandemic, he said. Houses were to be built according to the 2011 survey list in Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and again in 2016 the central government brought a scheme called Awas Plus. A survey list was made with inclusion of names that were left out in survey list of 2011 and also the applications that



were cancelled in 2011 due to any reason, said Sao, adding that a total of 16 lakh beneficiaries in Chhattisgarh were found in the survey list.

In the initial years of the launch of the scheme, Bharatiya Janata Party was in power in Chhattisgarh and during this time 7.50 lakh houses were built, he said. He said that before 2018, Chhattisgarh was at the top position in the construction of Pradhan Mantri Awas in the country but after the formation of the Congress government in Chhattisgarh in 2018, the construction of houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana came to standstill. Bhupesh government also stopped paying the installments for the houses that were being constructed earlier, he said.

Those who broke their huts in the hope of Pradhan Mantri Awas during the last four years

of Congress government, are forced to live in rented houses and are facing trouble, Sao said. He criticized Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's argument that Prime Minister should release entire amount for the scheme on the ground that the word Pradhan Mantri is attached to the scheme. Years after independence, many schemes, roads and buildings in the country were named after the

Gandhi family, he said. Sao said that Bharatiya Janata Party launched 'Mor Awas Mor Adhikar Abhiyan' with a resolve to give the homeless people their rights. State general secretary and convener of Mor Awas Mor Adhikar Abhiyan Vijay Sharma, state media cum in-charge Anurag Agrawal, Sanjay Shrivastav and state secretary Ramo Rohra were present in the press conference.

### BJP workers to gherao Assembly on 15th

Bharatiya Janata Party workers across the state will gherao the Chhattisgarh Assembly along with the beneficiaries who were deprived of houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. BJP state president Arun Sao said that party workers gherao Assembly with determination to give the home-

less people their rights. Sao also promised houses on behalf of BJP to 48 lakh people of 16 lakh homeless families of the state, whose names are included in Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Awas Plus Yojana according to the survey list of 2016 after formation of BJP government in the state.

## BoB, Circle Office, Bhopal awarded



**Raipur, Mar 04:** Bank of Baroda, Circle Office, Bhopal bagged the third prize from the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India for the excellent implementation of Official Language during the financial year 2021-22. Ajay Kumar Mishra, Minister of State for Home, Government of India was the Chief Guest of the Joint Regional Official Language

Conference and Prize Distribution Ceremony held in Raipur on March 03, 2023.

On behalf of the bank, Mr. Girish C. Dalakoti, Zonal Pramukh (General Manager) of Bank of Baroda, Bhopal Zone, received the said award. Mr. Anmay Mishra, Deputy General Manager, Chhattisgarh Network, Mr. Amit Banerjee, Regional Head (Raipur Region) and Mr. Abhishek

Bharti, Deputy Regional Head, Raipur Region were present during the said program. Mrs. Anshuli Arya, Secretary, Department of Official Language and Mrs. Meenakshi Jolly, Joint Secretary, Department of Official Language were also present on the occasion Chandan Kumar Verma, Chief Manager (Official Language), Bhopal Zone also received a citation on this occasion.

## NHMMI Narayana Superspeciality Hospital emerged as the winner in Quiz competition

**Organised at NHMMI Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Raipur**  
**On the occasion of World Kidney Day**

**Raipur, Mar 04:** As part of their non-stop attempts to spread awareness about health, on the occasion of world kidney day, NHMMI Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Raipur, organized a quiz competition. Within the medical fraternity, this quiz competition has been a flagship of NHMMI Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, known for its remarkable way to connect



the young doctors in town and adore their deep knowledge about the kidney.

This year the event was supported by five hospi-

tals - Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Medical College, Ram Krishna Care Hospital, NHMMI Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, AIIMS, Shri

Balaji Institute of Medical Science. Mains who came to participate in this competition were: Dr. Shashank Rathor and Dr. Utkarsh Tripathi from Pt.

Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College, Dr. Sudarshan Patidhar and Dr. Himsagar from Ram Krishna Care Hospital, Dr. Vighneshwar from NHMMI Narayana Superspeciality Hospital and Dr. Mrinali Nakde, Dr. Abhishek Agarwal and Dr. Srihari from AIIMS, Dr. Rinkle Doshi and Dr. Om Bapat from Shri Balaji Institute of Medical Science.

The winning team in this five rounds quiz was NHMMI Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, with a close competition from AIIMS. All the participants were awarded certificates for their participation.

## Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated the state level women's conference by lighting the lamp

**Raipur, Mar 04:** Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated the state level women's conference by lighting the lamp. Chief Minister Mr. Baghel encouraged them by visiting the stalls set up in Mahila Madai organized for the sale of goods manufactured by self-help groups in the BTI Ground premises. The state level women's conference was inaugurated with Rajgeet. Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel and the guests were welcomed by giving the official pot and a plant symbolizing life. On this occasion, Women and Child Development Minister Mrs. Anila Bhedia,



Parliamentary Secretary Mrs. Rashmi Ashish Singh, MLA Dharsiwa Mrs. Anita Yogendra Sharma, MLA Pandariya Mrs. Mamta Chandrakar, MLA Raipur North Mr. Kuldeep Juneja, President of Chhattisgarh State Commission for Women Dr. Kiranmayi Nayak, Mrs. Tejgunwar Netam, Chairperson of Chhattisgarh Child Rights Protection Commission,

people's representatives including former MP Mrs. Chhaya Verma, President of District Panchayat Raipur Mrs. Domeswari Verma, Mayor of Municipal Corporation Raipur Mr. Aiyaz Dhebar, members of Chhattisgarh Child Rights Protection Commission and State Women's Commission are present. Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel felicitated

Sakhi One Stop Centers of Bilaspur, Balod and Narayanpur for their excellent performance. He also honored the women protection officers and supervisors of Nava Bihan Yojana for their excellent work. Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel distributed cheque of loan amount of Rs. 4 lakh to women self-help groups for economic activities at the rate of 3% interest. This is the first time when, following the announcement of Chief Minister Baghel, loan amount up to four lakh was disbursed to women self-help groups for various economic activities.

## Important role of educational institutions in developing scientific thinking: Prof. S.K. Pandey

**Raipur, Mar 04:** Addressing the Chhattisgarh Vigyan Sabha, Professor of Astro Physics and former Vice Chancellor of Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Dr. SK Pandey said that today there is a need to propagate the scientific approach. Institutions have an important role in developing scientific temper among the students. Prof. Pandey was addressing a seminar organised by Chhattisgarh Vigyan Sabha and Anthropology Department of Pt Ravi Shankar Shukla University on National Science Day. Prof. Pandey said in the seminar that soon after independence,



the country's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru built world-class institutions to promote education and science in the country. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had said that only that country can develop which will take Science along with it. In this direction, along with the establishment of five IITs in the country, they also formed

departments like National Physics Lab, National Chemistry Lab, Regional Research Laboratory, high-level scientific institutions like ISRO and Department of Science and Technology. Every year Mr. Nehru participated in the inaugural session of the National Science Congress and encouraged scientists to make better discoveries.

Prof. Pandey remembered the famous scientists Aryabhata, Charaka, Newton, Copernicus, Galilean, Einstein and scientists like Jagdish Chandra Bose, Satyendra Nath Bose, Meghnath Saha, CV Raman in the development of science and recalled their works. He said that this year is being celebrated as 'International Year for Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development'. While presiding over the program, Vice Chancellor of Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Prof. KL Verma said that there is no dearth of opportunities in our country.

## Dr Krishnakant Sahu's method of operation appreciated

**At the National Conference of Heart Surgery**  
**Complex surgery Abstein's Anomaly, End Arterectomy and Femoro femoral cross over bypass appreciated in video presentation**

Heart, Chest and Vascular Surgeons in Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) recently. Dr Krishna Kant Sahu is the Head of the Department of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery in Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital, affiliated to Pt Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College Raipur. He was the only heart surgeon from Chhattisgarh whose paper was selected for this conference.

A surgeon had to present only one paper; that too after being selected by the conference committee in this conference, but Dr Shahu's three papers were



selected for video presentation because the people of the committee liked the technique of operation described in all the three papers. Dr Sahu presented three video presentations in which a video about the operation of Abstein's Anomaly, a congenital

heart disease, was presented in detail in front of other surgeons. It is a congenital heart disease in which half of the children die of heart failure at birth or shortly after birth and the few who survive have an average age of 20 to 25 years.

If the right operation is done for such patients at the right time, then the patient can lead a normal life.

The second paper was about operation of blood veins. It was told that blood flow can be started again by operating completely closed blood veins with a special method

called end arterectomy. This can save the feet from gangrene.

The third paper was explained in detail to other surgeons through a video about the new method of blood vein operation called Femoro Femoral Cross Over Bypass. In this operation, the blood vein of one leg is connected to the closed blood vein of the other leg, so that circulation of blood starts even in the closed veins and the leg can be saved from being cut. About 1500 heart, chest and vascular surgeons from India and abroad participated in this conference.

## RBL Bank distributes 100 bicycles and school-kits to underprivileged girls in Raipur

**Raipur, Mar 04:** To mark the occasion of International Women's Day, RBL Bank, under its CSR initiative - UMEED 1000, has donated 100 bicycles to the underprivileged girl children in Raipur. The Bank held the donation drive in the presence of Aijaz Dhebar, Hon Mayor, Raipur Municipal Corporation, Pramod Dubey, Chairman, Raipur Municipal Corporation, Aakash Tiwari, MIC-Education, Raipur Municipal Corporation and senior representatives from RBL Bank. The girls showed high enthusiasm as they assembled at Mayaram Surjan Government Girls Higher Secondary School Ground to receive the bicycles. The beneficiaries were identified by the Bank directly with the support of the Municipal Corporation in Raipur. One of the major



reasons for children dropping out of School is distance. This initiative will provide the much-needed means of transport to increase access to education. The bicycles will help the girl-children go to school in a way that is both energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable. The Bank is distributing over 1000 bicycles and school-kits across India, including Raipur, Chennai, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Guwahati, Kolkata, Siliguri and Goa. Commenting on the

initiative, R Subramania Kumar, Managing Director and CEO, RBL Bank, said, "True to our mission of 'Community as the Cause', we stand fully committed to help the marginalized communities with our unique CSR outreach programmes. The world over, education is the key to unlocking a brighter future for girls. By facilitating access to education, we can break down barriers that prevent young girls from achieving their dreams."

## Minor, small-scale industries not getting grants: Renu Jogi

**Under Fixed capital investment as per provisions in the state's industrial policy 2019-24**

**Alleges that development of industries getting badly affected**



which grants worth Rs 114 cr is yet to be distributed. At the same time, there are industries in some districts viz. Mahasamund, Balod, Balodabazar, Gourela-Pendra-Marwahi, which have not distributed a single rupee as grants till date. On this the Industry Minister replied that the reason behind it is lack of budgetary allocation for it.

This entire issue was raised by MLA Kota and JCC (J) supremo Dr Renu Jogi in the Vidhan Sabha during question-hour session here on Friday. Prior to this in the winter session 2022 of the Assembly also, Renu Jogi had asked the Industry Minister about the grants being

paid to the minor, small and medium-scale industries right from the day of start to six and then 12 months time? At that time the Industry Minister giving reply in affirmation and it was in the same context, Renu Jogi sought the list of industries which have been given grants from the day of production. Kawasi Lakhma was so much perplexed over the supplementary questions raised by Renu Jogi that he asked Mohammed Akbar to present the reply. On this the members of the Opposition raised questions that when the Industry Minister present in the House, then why other Minister should give

reply. It is notable here that the Industry department in its industrial policy has made a provision to sanction grants under Fixed Capital investment for the new industries being established, expansion of old industries or its diversification. Dr Renu Jogi charged that citing wrong rules, the officers of the Industry department are depriving such industries of grants right from the day of start of their production. Dr Renu Jogi informed the House that the state government in its industrial policy 2019-24 released in Oct 2019, a Chhattisgarh Rajya Sthayi Punji Nivesh Niyam was formed and in the notification issued on 22 Oct 2020, amendment into the definition of fixed capital investment was made in the industrial policy 2019-24. According to which, it was finalised to sanction grants to minor and small-scale industries for six months from the start of production; 12 months for medium scale industries and 18 months

for mega and ultra-mega industries. Dr Renu Jogi said that in reality, the Commerce & Industry Department, specially the District Trade and Industry Centre Raipur is giving the fact that since there is no amendment in the above 'Ch'garh Rajya....-2019', therefore the industries will get the grants under Fixed capital investment only till the day start of their production and not for 6, 12 or 18 months of start of production as mentioned above. Jogi charged that the working of Industry department is just against the provisions made in the state's industrial policy 2019-24 and it is only if the eligible industries get grants that the industrial development in Chhattisgarh will get impetus. Dissatisfied with the reply of Industry Minister, Dr Renu Jogi urged the Vidhan Sabha Speaker Dr Charandas Mahant through a letter to send her question under rule 234DD of Vidhan Sabha to 'reference committee'.

## STTP on Quantum Computing and its Applications in NIT

● **Modern Approaches and Practices**

**Raipur, Mar 04:** National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur's Department of Information Technology organized a five-day online Short Term Training Programme (STTP) on 'Quantum Computing and its Applications: Modern Approaches and Practices' from Feb 27 to March 3. Dr. A. B. Soni, Director (I/C), NIT Raipur was the Chief Patron of the program. Dr. Prabhat Diwan, Dean (Research & Consultancy) was the Patron. Dr. Rakesh Tripathi, HoD, Dept of IT was the Chairperson for the same. The program was coordinated under the supervision of Dr. Rakesh Tripathi, HoD, Dept of IT, and Dr. Chandrashekar Jatoh, Assistant Professor, Dept of IT. The main aim of this STTP was to provide up-gradation of knowledge and skills for students/research scholars/faculties/scientists involved in active research in the area of Quantum Computing

and its Applications: Modern Approaches and Practices.

Prof. Prasanta K. Panigrahi, Director, IISER Kolkata, Prof. R. K. Shyamundar, JC Bose National Fellow & Distinguished Professor, CSE, IIT Bombay and Prof. Virendra Singh, Professor, EE & CSE, IIT Indore, Dr. Adam Glos, Assistant Professor, Quantum Systems of Informatics Group, Poland, Dr. Vignesh Sivaraman, Assistant Professor, CSE, IIT BHU, Dr. Sudeep Satheesan, Associate Vice President, Technology, First Source Solutions Limited, Hyderabad, Dr. Suvendu Rup, Associate Professor, Dept of IT, NIT Raipur, Dr. Rakesh Tripathi, HoD, Dept of IT, NIT Raipur, were the speakers of this STTP. Crucial topics such as 'A Modern Journey of Quantum Mechanics to Quantum Computing', 'Quantum Information and Applications', 'Quantum Computer and Quantum Algorithms', 'Quantum Secure

Cryptography', 'IBM Qiskit, UI Tools and Open Quantum Assembly Language', 'Quantum Programming Languages, Frameworks', 'Quantum Search, Quantum Subroutines, Grover's Algorithm', 'Quantum Fourier Transforms, Discrete Logarithms, Shor's Algorithm, BB84', 'Quantum Cryptography & Key Distribution', 'Quantum Machine Learning, Opportunities & Applications', and 'Quantum and Blockchain Applications' was covered in this STTP.

The STTP concluded with a Valedictory session on 3rd Feb 2023. Dr. S. Verma, Dean (Academics), and Dr. S. Ghosh, Chairman, of Continuing Education Cell (CEC) served as the Chief Guests for the valedictory session. Dr. Dilip Singh Sisodia, HoD, CSE, Dr. Sudhakar Pandey, Associate Professor, Dept of IT, faculty members, students and participants were present at the valedictory session. E-certificate were distributed to the participants.

## Mahila Madai: signs of women's self-reliance



**Raipur, Mar 04:** Women's economic progress can be seen in the Mahila Madai. Women's groups from all over the state have brought their goods for sale here. Among these, the famous Kosa of Janjgir, various artefacts of Bastaria Art, delicious millet food products, handicrafts, and other decorative items drew the most attention. The women organised a sale and exhibition of materials in their group's products through 64 stalls in this shanty. District President of Korea Federation, Mrs. Neelima Chaturvedi, stated that the federation works with 15,000

women self-help groups. The Federation has over 1.50 lakh women members. Every group earns between 50,000 and 1 lakh rupees per month.

She stated that the group's pickles, papad, chips, poha, murra, laddu, chutney, cookies, namkeen, and biscuit are served in women's hostels, and mid-day meals. Her Federation has received the President and Minimita awards. Expressing gratitude to Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel, she stated that she is confident in the sale of the group's products because all of them are easily available in the market through C-Mart

and sell quickly. Meanwhile, Mrs. Bhagbai Banjare of Sanyam self-help group of Kathrimal village of Korba district says that the women of the group make four to five hundred bulbs in a day. They make 9 volt and 12 volt bulbs. The women of the group have been doing the work of making bulbs for the last 2 years. Every member earns four to five thousand rupees per month from this. Prior to this, Gourela-Pendra-Marwahi district's Nek women self-help group manufactures decorative items and Manihari items and sells them by setting up stalls in various locations. The group is unique in that there are 20 members who are all differently abled. The group's women earn more than Rs.30,000 per month. According to Jashmita Bakhala of the Roshni Samridhi Sarguja Co-Committee Ambikapur, 9 people work together to make phenyl and washing powder. Every member earns between Rs. 2 and Rs. 2.5 thousand rupees per month.

## Students present Rs 27,000 cheque for Sainik Welfare



● **Amount handed to District Collector at his office**

**Raipur, Mar 04:** In a heartwarming display of generosity, the students of NH Goel World School contributed the amount of Rs 27 thousand in the Sainik Welfare Fund through collection from the students as part of the Flag Day event.

According to SK Tomar, Director Administration of the school, the students had been given a target of collecting Rs 25,000 by the Sainik welfare fund, but their efforts paid off as they managed to surpass their goal. The cheque for the collected amount was presented to the District

Collector of Raipur, Dr. Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure, IAS in his office here. It is notable that India observes Flag Day which is celebrated by various organizations and institutions, including NCC cadets, school students, and staff who come together to raise funds for the welfare of our armed forces. The funds collected on Flag Day are used for the welfare of the armed forces in various ways. They are used to provide financial assistance to servicemen and their families, including widows and disabled soldiers.

## Urban health facilities will be expanded: Singhdeo

**Raipur, Mar 04:** After Hamar Hospital and Hamar Lab, the Health Department will now expand Raipur citizens' access to health care through Hamar Clinic. The National Health Mission is assisting in the transformation of 52 Raipur urban health clinics into Hamar Clinics. Health Minister T.S. Singhdeo visited five Hamar clinics in the city and observed the preparations.

He directed that the infrastructure construction work be expedited and that all arrangements be made as quickly as possible. Together with marketing the resources offered at Hamar Clinic, he recommended the installation of visibility and guideboards to make it simpler for visitors to go there.

Health Minister, Singhdeo, visited the Hamar Clinics of Rajendra Nagar, Chhattisgarh Nagar, Rathore Chowk, Kabir Nagar, and Mangal Bazar Gudhiyari in Raipur yesterday, inspecting the work and issuing appropriate orders. Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. Mithlesh Chowdhary, and State Program Manager of Urban Health in the National Health Mission, Dr. Pradeep Tandon, were also present during this time. During the visit of Kabir Nagar Hamar Clinic, Singhdeo also had his blood pressure checked. Urban health centers are being turned into Hamar clinics in order to give better health services to the people. Additional facilities are being built in urban health centers along the lines of the health and wellness centers that have been constructed in rural areas. In the state, 182 Hamar clinics are being established in various urban authorities like as Municipal Corporations, Municipalities, and Nagar Panchayats.



Previously, ANMs in urban health centers provided vaccination and check-up services for children and pregnant women.

A complete treatment center is being constructed now, with solid infrastructure, by appointing a medical officer, a staff nurse, a multi-purpose health worker, a data entry operator, and a class four employee. In these clinics, 70 different types of medications are available to patients. The capability of testing will also be supplied to patients who require testing with the assistance of Hamar Lab.

## NIT Raipur to organise TEDx event on Sunday

**Raipur, Mar 04:** National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur's "TEDxNITRaipur" club will conduct its annual event on the first Sunday of March 2023. The event will be coordinated at DDU Auditorium. The main theme of TED is "Ideas Worth Spreading" and the program aims to focus on creating a unique community that will unleash new ideas, inspire and inform.

TEDxNITRaipur 6.0 comes forward introducing the theme of DARE, DEFY, DIFFER, bringing forth seven brilliant keynote speakers with thought-provoking and mind-blowing conversations to be a part of this event. Various eminent guests from across Chhattisgarh like IAS, IPS & Brigadier, and some of the senior faculties have been invited for the event's



inauguration. Deepak Pareek, Entrepreneur, Aarzoo Khurana, Wildlife Photographer, Ocean Sharma, e-sports Analyst, Rajat Sood, Comedian, IPS Anand Jain, Director, Anti-corruption Bureau, J&K, Prakhari Kotadia, Climate Activist, and Y Shrinivas, Veteran, Indian Air Force will be present as Guest Speakers.

Deepak Pareek has delivered 100+ sessions on Content Creation, Entrepreneurship, Personal Branding, Public

Speaking, and much more in colleges and organizations. Aarzoo Khurana is an advocate by profession and a much followed Nature and wildlife photographer by passion. Ocean Sharma is one of the most popular esports casters in India who has been involved in the gaming scene for a very long time. Rajat Sood is an Indian stand-up comedian, poetry artist, host, and the winner of India's Laughter Champion. Anand Jain is an alumnus of NIT RAIPUR, an Indian

Police Services (IPS) officer from the 1999 batch, currently posted in Jammu and Kashmir. Prakhari Kotadia is an environmentalist and one of the founding members of the Rookesarivatika charitable foundation, which has planted more than 6000 saplings in the state of Chhattisgarh. Y. Shrinivas is an army veteran, engineer and Neuro-Linguistic Programming master practitioner and helps to coach the subconscious mind of a person.

## CII Ch'garh celebrates its annual day

**Raipur, Mar 04:** The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Chhattisgarh State Council, celebrated its Annual Day on March 3, 2023. The event was marked by a public session on "Leadership Next: Sharing the Vision, Together Towards Tomorrow," which saw the participation of several distinguished guests and business leaders from across the country.

During the event, Siddharth Agarwal, Director Godawari Power & Ispat Ltd took over as the Chairman of CII Chhattisgarh, while Mr. Ashish Saraf, Managing Director, Manorama Industries Ltd assumed the role of Vice-Chairman. Agarwal and Saraf bring a wealth of experience and expertise to their new roles and are poised to drive CII Chhattisgarh's growth and development in the coming years.



Speaking at the event, Agarwal said, "I am honored to take on the role of Chairman of CII Chhattisgarh, and I am committed to working closely with all stakeholders to drive sustainable growth and development in the state." He further added, "We will continue to focus on promoting the state's business-friendly environment and creating opportunities for businesses to thrive." Saraf, in his address, said, "I am excited to take on the role of Vice-Chairman of CII Chhattisgarh, and I look forward to working closely with the Chairman and the entire team to drive growth

and development in the state." He added, "Together, we will focus on building a robust ecosystem for businesses to grow and prosper."

The public session on "Leadership Next: Sharing the Vision, Together Towards Tomorrow" saw an engaging discussion on various topics, including the role of leadership in driving sustainable growth, the importance of collaboration and innovation, and the challenges and opportunities facing businesses in Chhattisgarh. Capt Raghu Raman, Leadership Consultant, Adani Group, the speaker while addressing he said Leadership is all about seeing and creating a

brighter and better future. It's about inventing, creating, building, improving, and transforming education, healthcare, business, government, technology, and every aspect of our lives and the world we live in. Some times when leaders share bold ideas, imaginative goals, and seemingly impossible dreams, but ideas, imagination, and dreams are the fabric positive leaders weave together to create the future and change the world. He further added that Leaders has to show the path along with the practical examples. He himself must get into the shoes for showing path to young generation.

The CII Chhattisgarh Annual Day celebrations and the public session were a resounding success, and the council looks forward to continued growth and development in the years to come.

## Holi festival sale expected to cross Rs 25000 cr this year: Parwani

● **No Chinese goods are visible in the markets**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 04:** CAIT National Senior Vice President Amar Parwani, chairman Mangal Maloo, Amar Gidwani, State President, Jitendra Doshi States Working President Vikram Singh Deo, Parmanand Jain,

Vashu Makhija, State General Secretary, Suriender Singh, State Working General Secretary, Bharat Jain, State Treasurer Ajay Agrawal and state media incharge Sanjay Choubey informed that this year there is bumper sale of goods pertaining to Holi festival sales as markets across the state & country are deeply thronged by the consumers who are excited to celebrate

Holi festivity resulting into an estimate of 25% increase in the sales as compared to last year. According to an estimate on Holi, business worth about Rs. 25,000 crore is expected all over the state & country the best part is that there is no sale of Chinese goods. Earlier, China exports to India Holi festival material worth about Rs.10 thousand crore every year primarily of colors, toys,

balloons etc.-said the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) on Friday. The traders across the country did not import any goods pertaining to Holi this year from China.

CAIT National Senior Vice President Mr. Amar Parwani & State President Mr. Jitendra Doshi said that country made items like herbal colors and gular, water gun, balloons, Chandan,

dress material etc. are favorites' goods for purchase on the Holi festival registered a huge sale while on the other hand, sweets, dry fruits, gift items, textiles, flowers and fruits, toys, furnishing fabric, Kirana, FMCG products, consumer durables, pooja material etc. also having tremendous sales giving an indication of better days for the trade in the future.

Both Mr. Parwani &

Mr. Doshi further said that the practice of celebrating Holi through congregational meetings, Holi Milan celebrations and street hangings has been going on for centuries and providing a big advantage of business to small businesses. Large number of such events are being organised daily all over the state & country including by trade bodies and social organisations. As the Holi festi-

val is approaching, the markets in state & country upcountry have fully geared up to meet the expected huge rush of consumers particularly tomorrow and day after tomorrow Holidays. Mr. Parwani and Mr. Doshi said that the Holi will be burnt on 7th March whereas the colorful Holi will be celebrated on 8th March. In both wholesale and retail markets, the shops are visible with

abundant stocks of Gular, Abeer and colours of herbal ingredients instead of chemical based products. What to say of selling chinese goods by the traders, even the customers are not interested in buying chinese goods which is a major purchasing behavioral change being seen in the consumers. The markets are dumped with Indian goods and having a robust sale all over the country.

Teachers play important role in developing individual's character: Collector

Three-day BTI-level regional competition begins



Central Chronicle News



Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi, Mar 04: Collector Priyanka Rishi Mahobia inaugurated three-day literary, cultural, sports and educational competition of District Institute for Education & Training (DIET) by lighting traditional lamp opposite Goddess Sarda's photo. At the inauguration, the state's song 'Aarpa Pairi ke dhar...' was also presented.

Rakesh Jalan chaired the programme. Principal DIET expressed gratitude towards all the guests and during this noted citizens and officers and employees from School Education Department and DIET were present in large number.

Addressing the programme, Collector Priyanka Mahobia extended greetings to DIET Pendra for hosting BTI-level Regional Competition for the second consecutive time. She said that performance of DIET Pendra is good and

therefore it is getting chance to host this year. A teacher plays an important role in determining the character of a person, after the mother and father. All the competitors have got the responsibilities and hope they would all fulfilled it to their level best. These opportunities will develop leadership qualities in all. Nagar Panchayat President

The participants of DIET from Ambikapur, Bilaspur, Janjgir, Jashpur, Korba, Koriya, Pendra and BTI Dharmanjyagarh jointly took out a march-past. Collector on this occasion administered oath to all the participants. In this programme, the students from DIET Pendra performed a duet dance on 'Karma Kuhuki Gabo Mandhar ke taal ma...'. After this a Volleyball match was organised and this competition would conclude on March 5.

School activity organized for prevention, treatment of TB

Bemetara, Mar 04: Under the National Tuberculosis Eradication Program, Block Team under the guidance of Dr. JK Kunjam, Block Medical Officer, Berla, organized TB prevention activity among the students and school staff at Swami Atmanand English Medium Higher Secondary School (SAGEMS), Berla, in which TB prevention activities were conducted. Symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, TB-free Chhattisgarh were explained in detail by NTEP/TB Block Senior Supervisor Dinesh Gangber from Health Department Berla. During this, ICTC counsellor Moushumi Tandon from Health Department/Team Berla, Sector Su. Urwash, as well as Swami Atmanand English Medium School Berla Principal SP Koshale, Archana Saav, lecturer Kiran Sahu, Divya Sahu, Neetu Kaushik and Manoj Sharma were present.

Bank of Maharashtra advertisement for an E-Auction of immovable properties. Includes details of the property, terms of sale, and contact information for the authorized officer.

UCO Bank advertisement for an E-Auction of immovable properties. Includes details of the property, terms of sale, and contact information for the zonal office.

Public Notice

Public Notice: Loss of ID card. This is to bring to the notice of the general public that one ID Card of Mr. Devendra Kumar Sinha issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. having ID card no. 2341545 has been found missing and/or lost on 02/03/2023. Anyone who finds the said ID card, is requested to return the said ID card to the Manager Debt Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Limited, Public.

Canara Bank advertisement for an E-Auction of movable and immovable properties. Includes details of the property, terms of sale, and contact information for the authorized officer.

Bank of Baroda advertisement for an E-Auction of immovable properties. Includes details of the property, terms of sale, and contact information for the regional office.

STATE BANK OF INDIA

Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, Raipur (10009) Mob: 73544627006, 9425591546, 9826164402, 9926303750

State Bank of India advertisement for an E-Auction of immovable properties. Includes details of the property, terms of sale, and contact information for the stressed assets recovery branch.

Bandhan Bank

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

Bandhan Bank advertisement for an E-Auction of immovable properties. Includes details of the property, terms of sale, and contact information for the regional office.

BRIEF



Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde at the inauguration of the water front in Thane, Saturday.

Conductor killed

Sant Kabir Nagar: A woman conductor was killed and six passengers were injured after a Uttar Pradesh roadways' pink service bus collided with a stationary truck here on Saturday, police said. The accident occurred at around 3 am near Magher Nagar area, killing conductor Neha Yadav (30), SHO (Khailabad Kotwali) Sarvesh Kumar said. The bus with 40 passengers on board was on its way to Gorakhpur from Lucknow, he said.

Body exhumed

Morigaon: A body, believed to be that of a man kidnapped from Guwahati six months ago, was exhumed on Saturday in Assam's Morigaon district, police said. Biswajit Hazarika was kidnapped in October last year, and the kidnappers demanded Rs 40 lakh from his family. However, they did not come to take the money, and Hazarika remained missing, a police officer said.

Man nabbed

Thane: A 48-year-old man wanted in a case of dacoity in Maharashtra's Thane was arrested from neighbouring Madhya Pradesh after being on the run for six years, police said on Saturday. Based on a tip-off, the police on Friday nabbed the accused from Bind district of Madhya Pradesh and brought him to Palghar district, an official said. The arrested accused was part of a gang that waylaid a truck on Mumbai-Ahmedabad Highway in September, 2018, assistant police inspector Datta Sarak said.

Dowry harassment

Hamirpur: A case of harassment for dowry has been registered against the husband and in-laws of a newly married woman in Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur district on Saturday, police said. In a complaint filed by the victim's father Harjit Singh, a resident of Jalari village, he alleged that his daughter was tortured for dowry by her husband Ravi and her in-laws.

Man shot dead

Meerut (UP): A 75-year-old man was shot dead at his home here on Saturday by an unidentified person, police said. Brahm Singh used to lived with his daughter in the Kankarkhera police station area of the district but was alone at the time of the incident. Station House Officer (SHO) Uttam Singh Rathore said. He said the body was found lying on a cot with a gunshot wound to the temple. "The daughter had gone to fetch milk from a nearby dairy in the morning. When she returned, she found her father dead," said the SHO.

Corruption doubles in 'double-engine' govt, need for 'new engine': Kejriwal

Davangere (Karnataka), Mar 4 (PTI): Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday appealed to the people of poll-bound Karnataka to give his Aam Aadmi Party a chance to give a corruption-free government for five years. He also promised to give free electricity, quality education in government schools and good healthcare for the state's people. Addressing his maiden election public meeting in Karnataka, the AAP supremo said the party has zero tolerance for corruption as a minister and an MLA in party-ruled Punjab were jailed. "We are staunch honest. We will give a corruption-free government. We will give free electricity, build good government schools and provide quality education," Kejriwal said. Assembly elections are due in Karnataka by May. The AAP chief alleged that corruption in the state doubled since the last assembly polls in 2018 and urged the people to vote in a 'new engine' government by throwing



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal with Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann on their arrival in Hubballi, Saturday.

out the 'double-engine' regime of the BJP. Taking a dig at the ruling BJP in Karnataka, Kejriwal alleged that there is a 40 per cent commission government running in the state. "The people of Karnataka are good but

the leaders are not. They defamed and destroyed the state before the world. There is a 40 per cent commission government here in which 40 per cent cut is taken in every public work," Kejriwal alleged. In this context, he mentioned the recovery of Rs 8.23 crore unaccounted cash from Channagiri BJP MLA Madal Virupakshappa's son Prashanth Kumar M V. "Recently, Union Home Minister Amit Shah came to Karnataka and appealed to the people to give absolute majority in the upcoming assembly election so that a corruption-free government can be established in the state. Then, someone reminded him that already there is a BJP government in the state.

Congress leader Kaustav, arrested for comments on Mamata

Kolkata, Mar 4 (PTI) West Bengal Congress spokesperson Kaustav Bagchi was granted bail by a court in Kolkata on Saturday evening, hours after being arrested for his alleged comments against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. A huge team of the Burtolla police station in Kolkata raided Bagchi's residence in Barrackpore in North 24 Parganas district around 3.30 am, and arrested him after a few hours. Bagchi, also a lawyer, was granted bail on a personal bail bond of Rs 1,000 by the additional chief metropolitan magistrate at Bankshall court. The court directed him to meet the investigating officer once a week.

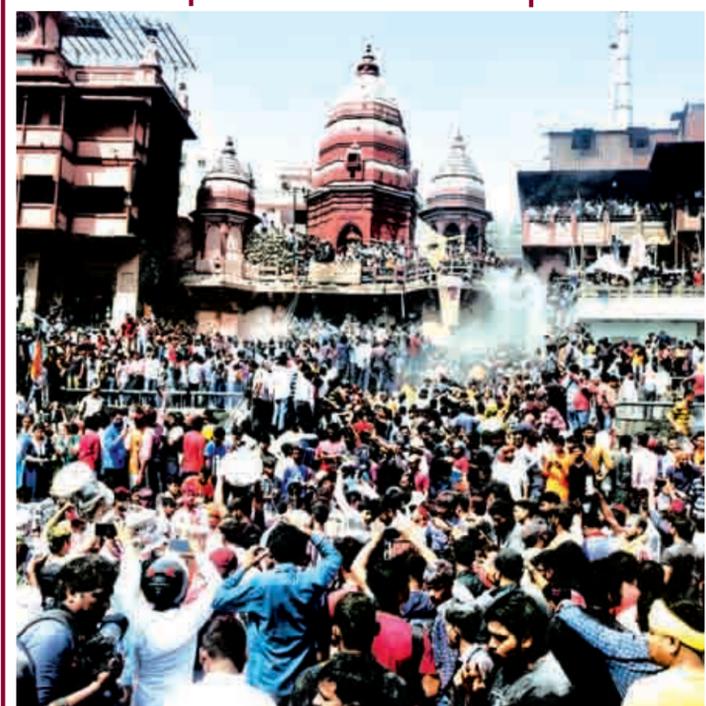
The prosecution prayed for Bagchi's police custody till March 10 for questioning him, alleging he was involved in a conspiracy. Praying for bail, Bagchi's lawyers questioned why a lawyer was arrested by the police early in the morning from his residence, instead of serving him a notice. The arrest was not necessary since the charges against him in the FIR do not entail a sentence of over seven years, his lawyers told the court. Bagchi was arrested on the basis of a complaint filed at the Burtolla police station on Friday night by one Sumit Singh, who claimed to be a TMC supporter, for his alleged comments against the chief minister.

Court grants pre-arrest bail to MLA Jitendra Awhad in case of attack on civic official

Thane, Mar 4 (PTI) A court in Maharashtra's Thane has granted pre-arrest bail to NCP leader and former minister Jitendra Awhad in a case of attack on a civic official. Additional sessions judge A S Bhagwat on Friday granted a pre-arrest bail to Awhad in a case registered against him and some NCP workers for assaulting Assistant Municipal Commissioner Mahesh Aher of the Thane Municipal Corporation. Aher was allegedly beaten up by NCP workers on February 15 after an audio clip of him purportedly is-

suing threats went viral. The Naupada police had booked the MLA and six others under sections 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 307 (attempt to murder) and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code and Arms Act. Awhad, in his application, stated that he has been falsely implicated in the case and there was no prima facie case made out against him. Opposing the plea, the prosecution argued that if the applicant is granted bail, the investigation will be hampered, and his custodial interrogation is required for due investiga-

MANIKARNIKA HOLI



People celebrate Holi at the Manikarnika Ghat, in Varanasi, Saturday.

Assembly adjourned twice after ruckus over new employment policy

Ranchi, Mar 4 (PTI) The Jharkhand Assembly was on Saturday adjourned twice after the BJP-led opposition members created a ruckus on the issue of the new employment policy. The opposition legislators and a ruling party MLA alleged that the draft of a new employment policy was passed in the state cabinet without taking the House into confidence. They demanded that government should clarify it. A new employment policy had earlier been unanimously passed in the House but was scrapped by the High Court of Jharkhand last

year. The treasury bench tried to pacify the opposition MLAs assuring them that it would give a reply on the issue on March 13 but BJP MLAs came to the well of the House in protest. The House was first adjourned till noon and then till 2 pm. After functioning of the House for about 40 minutes amid uproar in the second half, it was adjourned till March 13. At the beginning of the day's proceedings, senior JMM leader Lobin Hembram said that there is confusion in the state after the cabinet reportedly approved a new recruitment policy.

Oppn trying to get political benefits by fanning communal sentiments: Mann

Chandigarh, Mar 4 (PTI) Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday slammed opposition parties in Punjab, alleging they were trying to fan communal sentiments to get political benefits, and asserted that no one will be allowed to disturb the state's "hard earned" peace. His remarks come in the backdrop of opposition parties, including the BJP, targeting his government over the last month ajnala incident in which self-styled Sikh preacher and Khalistani sympathiser amritpal Singh and his supporters, carrying swords and guns, clashed

with police for the release of one of his aide. In a statement, Mann said he had information of every moment as his government was keeping a strict vigil over "everything" unfolding in the state. "It is shameful that in the dearth of any issue against the state government, these political parties are stooping too low by indulging in cheap tantrums," the chief minister said. The opposition is "playing with fire by trying to get political benefits by fanning communal sentiments in the state", he alleged. However, Mann said the

nefarious designs of these parties will never succeed. "Punjab is a land of great gurus, saints, seers and prophets who have shown us the way of communal harmony, peace and brotherhood," Mann said and asserted that Punjabis always practice the ethos of peace and brotherhood for progress and prosperity of the state. The chief minister reiterated that his government is committed to preserving the "hard earned" peace of the state and assured the people that no one will be allowed to cast a "malicious eye" on the peace, progress and prosperity of Punjab.

Centre setting up Civil Aviation Research Organisation in Hyderabad: Kishan Reddy

Hyderabad, Mar 4 (PTI) The Centre is setting up a Civil Aviation Research Organisation (CARO) at the Begumpet airport here with an estimated expenditure of Rs 400 crore, Union Tourism and Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy has said. The facility, being set up under the auspices of

Airports Authority of India, would carry out advanced research in the aviation sector, he said in a release issued on Friday. The target is to kick off research at the institution from July this year, he said. Research in various areas, including airports, air navigation services, air traffic management communications,

domain simulators, visualisation and analysis labs, surveillance labs, cyber security and threat analysis labs, would be undertaken at the facility. Reddy, Lok Sabha member from Secunderabad here, thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the decision to set up the facility with international standards at the Begumpet airport.

After repeated requests to authorities go unheard, Villagers join hands to build road

Hamirpur, Mar 4 (PTI) After waiting for years for authorities to heed their requests to build a road, residents of three villages here donated their lands and arranged funds for the construction of a 500-metre road. The road will connect three villages — Lambloo, Ghumarin and Gumar — of the Lambloo gram panchay-

at. According to villagers, they decided to take matters into their own hands after waiting for years for the authorities to act on their requests to build a road. Gram panchayat pradhan Kartar Singh Chauhan said on Saturday that he appealed to villagers to come forward for the cause, following which Vishal Kanungo, Vishal Bhardwaj and Ashok Kumar from the three vil-

lages offered their lands for building the road and provided funds for it. They also arranged a JCB machine to complete the task. Chauhan described the three land donors as a source of inspiration. After this, he claimed, the concerned department has prepared a proposal for building a road for the villages which will be included in the coming budget.

Advertisement for MATRIMONIAL featuring various matrimonial listings with details of bride and groom profiles, including names, ages, professions, and contact information. Includes a section for 'आवश्यक सूचना' (Important Notice) and 'नवभारत वैवाहिकी' (Navabharat Matrimonial) with a rate card.

## Hindu temple in Brisbane vandalised by pro-Khalistan supporters

Melbourne, Mar 04 (PTI):

A prominent Hindu temple in Brisbane was attacked by pro-Khalistan supporters on Saturday, in the latest incident of vandalism against Hindu temples in Australia. The incident took place at the Shree Laxmi Narayan Temple in Brisbane.

"Temple priest and devotees called this morning and notified me about the vandalism on the boundary wall of our temple," Temple president Satinder Shukla was quoted as saying by The Australia Today website.

"We have informed the Queensland police officers, and they assured to ensure the safety of Temple and devotees."

Sarah Gates, director of Hindu Human Rights, said that the latest hate crime is an attempt to terrorise Australian Hindus.

"This latest hate crime is a pattern of Sikhs For



Justice globally, clearly attempting to terrorise Australian Hindus. With a barrage of propaganda, illegal signs and cyberbullying, the organisation intends to present all-pervasive threats, fear and intimidation," Gates said.

Gates later tweeted an image of the Hindu community fighting back after the attack on the temple. Community members with the temple committee cleaned anti-Hindu hate-filled graffiti.

"Hindustan Zindabad," she tweeted with a picture.

"Khalistan supporters are terrorising the Australian Hindu community and making it a very traumatising experience to practice our religion and visit temples," a long-time resident of the suburb said.

This is the fourth incident of vandalism against Hindu temples in two months in Australia.

On January 23, the walls of the revered ISCKON temple in Melbourne's Albert Park were vandalised with graffiti "Hindustan Murdabad",

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

On January 12, the Swaminarayan temple in Melbourne was defaced by anti-social elements' with anti-India graffiti.

India has repeatedly condemned the vandalism against the Hindu temples in Australia and has raised the issue with the Australian government.

During his visit to Australia last month, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met his Australian counterpart Penny Wong and emphasised the need for vigilance against "radical activities" targeting the Indian community in Australia in the wake of vandalism of Hindu temples in the country by Khalistani supporters.

"Noted the forward movement on our bilateral agenda.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS



This undated photo provided by Micha, Podsiad, shows an overview of the archaeological excavations in Malomirovo, Bulgaria. Archaeologists have identified the earliest direct evidence for horseback riding an innovation that would transform human history in 5,000 year old skeletons in central Europe.

## Pak PM Shehbaz to attend UN conference on LDCs in Qatar

Islamabad, Mar 04 (PTI):

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will travel to Qatar on a two-day visit beginning on Sunday to participate in the 5th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the Foreign Office here announced on Saturday.

The conference, being held from March 5-9, will consider steps for accelerating sustainable development in the Least Developed Countries, helping them make progress on the road to prosperity, it said in a statement.

Shehbaz has been invited by Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani.

At the conference, the leaders will mobilise additional international support measures and action in favour of the Least Developed Countries



(LDCs) and agree on a renewed partnership between LDCs and their development partners.

In Doha, the prime minister will hold bilateral meetings and interactions with participating leaders and heads of delegation on the sidelines of the conference.

Pakistan has been playing a leading role at UN platforms to amplify the collective voice of the Global South to promote sustainable development worldwide, the statement said.

Prime minister Shehbaz's participation in the conference will signify Pakistan's support and solidarity with the Least Developed Countries, in their quest for social progress and economic prosperity, it said.

Pakistan supports reinvigorated global partnerships based on effective means of implementation, including within the framework of South-South Cooperation, to pursue the UN 2030 Development Agenda and the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it added.

There are currently 46 economies designated by the United Nations as the least developed countries (LDCs), entitling them to preferential market access, aid, special technical assistance, and capacity-building on technology among other concessions.

## UN report: Modern weapons being smuggled to Haiti from US

United Nations, Mar 04 (AP):

Increasingly sophisticated weapons are being trafficked into Haiti mainly from the United States and especially from Florida amid worsening lawlessness in the impoverished Caribbean nation, according to a U.N. report released Friday.

The report by the Vienna-based Office on Drugs and Crime said a network of criminal actors including members of the Haitian diaspora "often source firearms from across the US" and smuggle them into Haiti illegally by land from the neighbouring Dominican Republic, by air including to clandestine airstrips, but most frequently by sea.

"Popular handguns selling for 400-500 at federally licensed firearms outlets or private gun shows in the U.S. can be resold for as much as 10,000 in Haiti," the report said. "Higher-powered rifles such as AK47s, AR15s and Galils are typically in higher demand from gangs, commanding correspondingly higher prices."

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's investigations unit reported "a surge in firearms trafficking from Florida to Haiti between 2021 and 2022" and a spokesman described the recovery of increasingly sophisticated weapons destined for Haitian ports "including .50 caliber sniper rifles, .308 rifles, and even belt-fed machine guns," according to the report.

"Weapons are frequently procured through straw man purchases in U.S. states with looser gun laws and fewer purchasing restrictions" and then transported to Florida where they are concealed inside consumer products, electronic equipment, garment linings, frozen food items and even the hull of freighters, it said.

## Haley warns China is US' strongest and most disciplined enemy

Washington, Mar 04 (PTI):

China is the strongest and the most disciplined "enemy" that the US has ever faced, Republican presidential aspirant Nikki Haley has warned.

In an impressive speech addressing the Conservative Political Action Conference — the top annual event of the Republican Party and its support base — the Indian-American politician continued with her focus on America's foreign policy, wherein she asserted that the US should not give aid to countries that hate it.

"Never in my life did I think Americans would look at the sky and see a Chinese spy balloon looking back at us. It was a national embarrassment," she said on Friday referring to the recent spy balloon incident.

The balloon, which



Beijing denies was a government spy vessel, spent a week flying over the United States and Canada before being shot down off the Atlantic Coast last month.

"Make no mistake: Communist China is the strongest and most disciplined enemy we have ever faced. We need to hold China accountable. Let us start with Covid," she said. The US accuses China of spreading the virus.

The Huanan market in central China's Wuhan

city was the epicentre of the pandemic. From its origin there, the SARS-CoV-2 virus rapidly spread to other locations in Wuhan in late 2019 and then to the rest of the world.

"And before we even talk about the cartels, we need to confront the fact that China is the one sending the fentanyl across our border," Haley said.

The Huanan market in central China's Wuhan city was the epicentre of the pandemic. From its origin there, the SARS-CoV-2 virus rapidly spread to other locations in Wuhan in late 2019 and then to the rest of the world.

The 51-year-old two-term Governor of South Carolina and the former US Ambassador to the United Nations formally launched her 2024 presidential bid last month.

## India's positive contribution to ASEAN acknowledged by members, says Envoy

Singapore, Mar 04 (PTI):

India's active and positive contribution to numerous ASEAN-led mechanisms over the years has been repeatedly acknowledged by the Southeast Asian member nations and other countries, High Commissioner P Kumaran has said.

"India has deep cultural linkages with ASEAN countries which has been strengthened in recent years with vibrant economic engagement and a growing sense of shared future," he said on Friday at a reception held on board the ICGS Samudra



Paheredar, which paid a three-day visit to Singapore's Changi Naval Base. India's active and positive contribution to numerous ASEAN-led mechanisms over the years has been repeatedly acknowledged by the Southeast Asian member

nations and other countries, he said. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional grouping that aims to promote economic and security cooperation among its ten members: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. During the ICGS Samudra Paheredar's stay here, the 123 crew members of the pollution control vessel have had "very constructive engagement with the experts and professionals in the sea who themselves have been at the forefront of spearhead-

ing the clean and green initiatives of Singapore", noted Kumaran.

"We believe that such professional engagements have exposure and help improve cooperation and understanding for joint missions in coastal patrolling and responses to maritime incidents," he said. The High Commissioner also welcomed 10 National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets on board who travelled as mascots of Puneet Sagar Abhiyaan aimed at promoting the clean waterway environment and spreading the message to future generations.

Washington, Mar 04 (PTI):

Indian Americans from across the US have raised more than USD 300,000 for earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria.

A fundraiser organised by several eminent Indian Americans led by Dr Hemant Patel, the former president of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI), the community raised more than USD 230,000.

The fund raised over the weekend in New Jersey was attended by Turkish Ambassador to the US Murat Mercan, along with Turkish Consul General in New York Reyhan Zgr, wherein they profusely thanked the Indian American community for the generous support for the earthquake-hit people of their country.

"They (the ambassador and the consul general) spoke very highly of what is being done and what the Indian community is doing for the Turkish people," Patel, a recipient of the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honour, told PTI.

Sewa International Houston's AmeriCorps team recently organised a donation drive in support of the victims of the earthquake in Syria and Turkey. People from different communities all over Houston came together to donate hundreds of items, including food, clothes, winter coats, hygiene items, outdoor supplies, tents, hand warmers, shoes and baby necessities.

More than 200 boxes were taken to the warehouse, filling over three pickup trucks, a trailer, an SUV and a big U-Haul truck.

The BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Robbinsville, New

Jersey organised a special prayer assembly this week for those affected by the humanitarian crisis. The community members at BAPS offered support for the people of Turkey through prayer and a generous donation of USD 25,000 through its humanitarian relief arm, BAPS Charities, to the Embrace Relief Foundation.

South East Central Railway E-TENDER NOTICE No. COM/CGR/CASH COLLECTION/23

Name of Work: Lifting of station cash and instruments from 32 stations of Raipur Division For a period of 3 years. Reserve Price: ₹ 1,20,06,144/- Eligible bidders: Public Sector Bank/ Nationalized Banks and banks which are eligible for Govt. business for lifting cash. Tender closing date & time: 22.03.2023, 12:00. Other details on website: www.ireps.gov.in.

Assistant Comm. Manager PR/Sr:DC/MAN/237 S.E.C.R., Raipur

South East Central Railway @secrail

कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता लो.नि.वि. राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग परिक्षेत्र, रायपुर (छ.ग.) दिनांक 28.02.2023

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

क्र.	नि.आ.सू.क्र. दिनांक	सिस्टम आईडी क्र.	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत
1	2023 MoRTH 742937_1	42/CE/NH/TC/44-02/2022	Construction High Level bridge from km 22.850 to km 23.313 on the Sankra Nala (km 23.000) section of National Highway No-930 in the state of Chhattisgarh	Rs. 10.99 Crore
2	2023 MoRTH 742939_1	42/CE/NH/TC/44-03/2022	Construction High Level bridge from km 5.885 to km 6.145 on the Devranji-Jhansi Nalah (km 5.800) section of National Highway No. 930 in the state of Chhattisgarh	Rs. 14.55 Crore
3	2023 MoRTH 742940_1	42/CE/NH/TC/44-04/2022	Construction High Level bridge across Mallin Nala in km 90.460 of NH-130B in the state of Chhattisgarh	Rs. 7.54 Crore

निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 17.04.2023 समय सुबह 11.00 बजे तक।

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

मुख्य अभियंता लो.नि.वि., राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग परिक्षेत्र रायपुर (छ.ग.)

## Biden, Scholz huddle on Ukraine war at White House

Washington, Mar 04 (AP):

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said Western allies would support Ukraine for "as long as it takes" as he visited the White House on Friday for a private meeting with US President Joe Biden.

The two leaders are huddling as the war enters a difficult next phase, with fresh concerns about softening political resolve behind maintaining billions of dollars in military assistance for Kyiv.

"This is a very, very important year because of the dangerous threat to peace that comes from Russia invading Ukraine," Scholz said. Both leaders said they



would continue working "in lockstep", and Biden thanked Scholz for helping to "maintain the pressure" on Russian President Vladimir Putin.

China is Germany's top trading partner and European nations have generally been more cautious than the United

States in taking a hard line with Beijing. However, there are signs that may be shifting as global rivalries grow more tense. In a speech to the German parliament on Thursday, Scholz called on China to "use your influence in Moscow to press for the withdrawal of Russian troops and do not supply weapons to the aggressor Russia".

The US and Germany have worked closely together to supply Ukraine with military and humanitarian assistance. But there has also been friction over issues such as providing tanks and Washington has occasionally grown frustrated with Berlin's hesitance.

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कार्यालय कलेक्टर ( जिला निर्माण समिति ) जिला बस्तर जगदलपुर

अल्प निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना प्रथम आमंत्रण

निविदा विज्ञापन क्रमांक: 16/नि.नि.स./2022-23 जगदलपुर, दिनांक 01.03.2023

क्र.	कार्य का नाम	टेंडर की अनुमानित लागत ( लाख में )	निविदा प्रथम विक्रय की अंतिम तिथि
1	Renovation of Jyoti Kishan Hall Darshanah Mandir Jagdalpur	36.75	09.03.2023

टीप:- अन्य विवरण एवं शर्तें कार्यालय दिवस में लोक निर्माण विभाग उत्तर बस्तर संभाग क्र. 1 जगदलपुर के कार्यालय में देखी जा सकती है।

( नोडल अधिकारी ) जिला निर्माण समिति कार्यालय आंध्रप्रदेश, लो.नि.वि. उत्तर बस्तर संभाग क्र. 1 जगदलपुर G-99055/1

कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता लो.नि.वि. राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग परिक्षेत्र, रायपुर (छ.ग.) दिनांक 28.02.2023

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# CENTRAL Chronicle

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## RBI's Dilemma: Balancing Inflation and Growth Amidst Global Instability

The latest GDP figures have shown that the Indian economy is slowing down, with the last quarterly figures indicating that national income grew by only 4.4%, lower than in the preceding two quarters. This slowdown has been attributed to the hikes in interest rates by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for almost a year, by as much as 2.50%. However, some have argued that the central bank should evaluate the impact of its stance of stricter monetary policy regime to control runaway prices. Inflation control is a primary objective of the central bank, but the argument runs that the RBI should weigh the costs of its inflation control stance. A harsh monetary policy resulting in the secular slowdown of the economy could create more hardship for the people and damage the economic prospects. So why not tolerate a little more inflation than introducing a lower growth trajectory? Lower growth means ultimately creating fewer new employment opportunities and thus adding to incomes. In the worst situation, lower growth, leading to a recession, could even mean a loss of employment. That could be the last bargain. The continuing Russian war in Ukraine has been held to have directly pushed up prices all over the world. The Ukraine war has particularly hurt the balance in the global energy markets, and the trends and instability in energy prices are fuelling prices all around. While the world had gotten used to a low inflation regime for over a decade, now it is facing stiffening prices. Fuel price hikes, along with the real scarcity and rising prices of food, are proving to be a lethal combination for ushering in an era of miserable existence for millions across the world. A good part of current Indian inflation is being driven by these international trends. Fuel prices, which are basically determined in the global markets, cannot really be controlled by domestic Indian authorities. Earlier, the fuel price hikes were cushioned with an administrative mechanism, but it had turned out to be impossible to run when prices were running haywire. In case of food, India is far better off now than in the past when it was dependent on food imports. Now, thanks to the successful turnaround in the farm economy, India is often the supplier of vital food items to the world. Indian inflation has thus changed in nature. Our inflation is no longer driven by food grains prices, as previously. Instead, these are driven by the prices of fruits and vegetables, and of course, protein prices like those of eggs or fish and meat. Another typical feature of Indian inflation is that the prices of pulses are a critical determinant in the food basket. Central banks invariably have highly sophisticated bands of economists and econometricians developing models of the state of play, predicting possible courses of growth and price behavior. However, beyond these, there are realms that need to be taken into account to formulate policy responses in given situations. Apart from looking into various data on financial markets, economic variables, fiscal trends, and global developments, the bank makes conscious efforts to meet people's groups to ascertain what problems they are facing. In a speech before the Brunswick Group's Cost of Living Conference in London, Bank of England governor, Andrew Bailey, has made a lucid statement on how the British central bank seeks to formulate its monetary policy keeping in mind the hardships the general public is facing over rising prices. Bailey gave a glimpse of what length he would go himself to ascertain the hardships ordinary folks were facing in their daily grinds. He underlined the importance of such ground level feedback in formulation of monetary policies. Maybe there could be some justification in making economic policy formulations more grounded in social feedback from people than merely mere number crunching and abstract formulations. After all, economics is common sense and judgement calls rather than trying to frame it like an exact science.

## India's strategy of absurd pitches leads to emphatic defeat to Australia

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee

Despite playing on a pitch heavily favoring India's spinners, the home side suffered an emphatic nine-wicket defeat at the hands of Australia. The defeat has raised questions about India's strategy of dishing out absolutely absurd pitches for the test match, which may ultimately lead to them digging their own grave. In the match, India batted like a team that had already won the trophy, with loose shots and impatience across both innings. The result was an easy victory for Australia, who secured their place in the World Test Championship final with their 11th win in 18 matches in the 2021-23 cycle of the Championship. It is a rare victory for Australia in India as well. The biggest architect of the Australian win was seasoned off-spinner Nathan Lyon, who grabbed eight wickets in the Indian second innings on day two of the match. India's defeat is only their third loss in Tests at home in the last 10 years. Bowled out for 109 in their first innings, India did well to limit Australia to 197 in their first innings, conceding an 88-run lead. However, their batters failed to put up a fight in their second essay, as Lyon spun a web around them to return excellent figures of 8-64. Although India is leading the four-match series 2-1 after having won in Nagpur and New Delhi, their points percentage (PCT) dipped from 64.06 to 60.29 with their fifth defeat in 17 matches in the 2021-23 WTC cycle. As a result, India now needs to win their final match in the series at Ahmedabad to qualify for the final without relying on Sri Lanka's results. In conclusion, it is high time that India rethinks its strategy of dishing out absurd pitches for the test match. They must realize that such tactics may ultimately backfire, and it is crucial for them to focus on their strengths to succeed in the game of cricket.

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

## CHHADIMAR HOLI



Mathura: Devotees celebrate 'Chhadimar Holi', in Gokul town near Mathura, Saturday, March 4.

## Embracing Time: A Key to Success and Leaving a Legacy



PRIYANKA SAURABH



We cannot ignore the passage of time, as it does not wait for anyone and is not necessarily on our side. Rather, we must learn to make time our ally and walk in step with its ceaseless march. With each passing day and night, time moves forward at its own steady pace, and it is through our wisdom that we can achieve our dreams and aspirations. By recognizing the true value of time, we can seize every opportunity to climb the staircase of success without any hindrances. Although fear of failure may sometimes loom over us, we possess the strength and power to overcome it and leave a meaningful legacy on the sands of time for future generations to follow.

No one has ever got and will never get more than time and luck. But we cannot rely only on luck, a person has to make efforts in his life. If a person without effort wants to get everything that is in his destiny, it is never possible. Because in the dynamic journey of life, human desires are infinite. Without effort, one cannot get food and without effort, the farmer cannot even do farming. Yes sir. This is what I believe. Work as hard as you can and even after that you don't get the destination, what would you call it? If it is written in your destiny, then you will reach your destination even after running and if it is not in

your destiny, then no matter how hard you try, you will not reach your destination. But this does not mean that you sit with your hand on your hand that if it is in your destiny then you will get it, it is not like that automatically. It is said that God and luck also favor those who work hard with full devotion and dedication.

Why is it believed that no one can achieve anything before time and more than luck? This human life is full of diversities where a person chooses a goal according to his wish. He performs his duties and struggles to achieve that goal. Since society judges a person by his success, it is natural for a person to feel disappointed

at times when the goal is not achieved. In such situations, positive sentences work as motivational. Like 'You don't get more than time and luck'. This sentence gives a lot of encouragement. Stops getting distracted and communicate hope. Must have seen many of our people that even after hard work they are not able to succeed and a time comes when they get disappointed, at that time they should not lose courage and think that they will not get anything before the time, it is their turn now. Only do your work with patience because it may not happen that good times may come for you, luck may also be good, but till then you have stopped working hard, and you have left hope.

That's why it is said, to keep doing your work, and don't worry about the result. And never be disappointed because even a bad watch shows the correct time twice a day. Every work is done on its own time. No matter how hard we try, no matter how much courage we have, we can never change this universal truth. This entire creation was also not created in a day. It also developed gradually. We see in this material life of ours that the farmer prepares the land by digging and sows the seeds in it. The seed sprouts according to time and till then it takes the form of a small plant, with time the plant becomes a huge tree. A huge tree is made from a seed, it is the result of a farmer's tireless hard work day and night and giving fertilizers and water. But trees bear fruit in their own time. No matter how much you irrigate the tree, make beds, or make efforts, the tree bears fruit only when the time comes. A child is born not a youth.

For years parents watch him. It takes time for him to become literate, a child passing through this nature becomes a young man of 20-25 years.

Firstly the child enters the school in nursery class, he does not pass the 12th standard in the same year. The child passes school after working hard for 14 years and then enters college, which does not happen overnight, similarly, if the work is done at the right time, it can be fruitful. If done, it is fruitful that people understand the importance of time and make their plans accordingly. He always sees the face of success in life. Time makes a big difference in life, it makes a king a rank and a rank makes a king. In other words, time makes the strong weak and the weak strong in the blink of an eye. How many civilizations have been destroyed by time, what is a man in front of it?

We cannot turn away from time that time is not our friend. Time has to be made a friend, time never waits for us. We have to walk in step with him. Time moves at its pace day and night without rest. It is our wisdom that we can achieve everything we wish for in life only with the help of him. If a man recognizes the value of time, then no one can stop him from climbing the stairs to success. There is a fear of failure at every step in life, but with our strength and power, we can leave this world leaving our marks on the sands of time and becoming an example for the generations to come.

(Writer is a Research Scholar in Political Science, Poetess, freelance journalist, and columnist.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Indicator of N-E Results

Every election has its own significance, and it indicates the future trends for upcoming elections. The present results in the North East show the strong grip of BJP, as the party has won the assembly elections in Nagaland and Tripura. In Meghalaya, there will be a coalition government with BJP. The Congress party had a very poor performance in all three states, and it's time for introspection for the party. Rahul Gandhi is abroad, whereas Modi will address the workers in the BJP office in New Delhi, which shows the difference in the working styles of both leaders. Congress will fight the elections based on the Adani issue, and how much support the party will receive will become clear after the Karnataka assembly elections. Opposition parties are making their own strategies against BJP, but they are not united, even in the North East states. TMC contested the elections separately and won a few seats. It is expected that opposition parties will fight the elections together to face the challenge of the ruling party. A strong opposition is a must in a democratic country, and opposition parties must learn from the results in the North East states; otherwise, they will have to regret not getting enough seats when there is a leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha.

Yash Pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

### Saffronisation of news

The argument of opposition parties over the renewal of the contract between Prasar Bharti and Hindustan Samachar, a RSS-backed news service, is valid. The ruling party is infamous for manipulating the flow of information to aggressively promote its Hindutva ideology. In a scenario where raids have been conducted on prominent media houses like the BBC and journalists are being arrested for shedding light on issues, it is judicious to be sceptical about such a development. The government should address the legitimate concerns over saffronisation of news. It should unveil the criterion on the basis of which the PTI, the largest news agency in India, has been replaced with Hindustan Samachar. Is it rational to replace a highly credible and proficient agency like the PTI with a less experienced one?

Rishika Kriti, Ludhiana

### Rescue mokes

Donkeys are sensitive, intelligent creatures with strong bonds with their families, these gentle animals under threat across the country now. According to reports in the country, there is a lot of illegal donkey trafficking, slaughtering, and selling of donkey flesh taking place. Many young and adult donkeys have their throats slit when they are still conscious. Some are also slaughtered by children across many states. According to reports, most donkeys are slaughtered in various locations across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Donkeys are smuggled into Andhra Pradesh and Telangana from other states under the cover of darkness to avoid police interception. It's high time to save these. Concerned parties should conduct immediate investigations and raids to rescue donkeys. There is a widespread belief in the country that donkey flesh and blood can cure diseases. As a result, illegal slaughtering operations are taking place. According to reports, the donkey population dropped by 50% in last five years. Donkeys are entitled to better treatment than this.

Vijay Kumar H K, Raichur, Karnataka

## Poor sleep linked to increased heart disease risk

Poor sleep is associated with up to seven years worth of increased heart disease risk and even premature death, according to a study.

The research, published in the journal BMC Medicine, analysed data from more than 300,000 middle-aged adults from the UK Biobank.

Researchers from the University of Sydney in collaboration with Southern Denmark University found that different disturbances to sleep are associated with different durations of compromised cardiovascular health later in life compared to healthy sleepers.

In particular, men with clinical sleep-related breathing disorders lost nearly seven years of cardiovascular disease-free life compared to those without these conditions, and women lost over seven years, they said.

The study found that even general poor sleep, such as insufficient sleep, insomnia, snoring, going to bed late, and daytime sleepiness is associated with a loss of around two years of normal heart health in men and women.

"Our research shows that, over time, regular poor sleep can lead to significantly compromised cardiovascular health in middle and old age," said Professor Emmanuel Stamatakis from the University of Sydney, and senior author of the study.

"Sleep apnea is well known to increase the risk of cardiovascular disease and other chronic conditions, but these findings are a wake-up call that poor sleep in general can pose significant risk to heart health," Stamatakis said in a statement.

The team came up with three sleep categories: poor, intermediate, and healthy at age 40, and compared this with their overall cardiovascular disease-free health expectancy.

By combining the study participants' self-reported data with clinical data from their doctors in the two years preceding the study, the researchers were able to compare health outcomes for self-reported sleep patterns and clinically diagnosed conditions such as sleep-related breathing disorders.

The team categorised participants as poor, intermediate, and healthy sleepers at age 40, and compared their health outcomes at old age.

Women with poor sleep were likely to experience two years more of compromised cardiovascular health compared to healthy sleepers, while men experienced more than two years.

Intermediate sleepers lost almost one year of heart disease-free life among women, and men lost slightly more.

This means that snoring and trouble falling asleep or staying asleep can be a warning sign of potential health issues in the future.

"While the average life expectancy of the UK study participants is around 80 years, people with clinically diagnosed sleep-related breathing disorders like sleep apnea lost over seven years of cardiovascular-disease free life," said the study's lead author Bo-Huei Huang, an epidemiologist recently graduating from the University of Sydney.

**BRIEF**

**Investors' summit**



**Vishakhapatnam:** Andhra Pradesh has garnered investment pledges worth Rs 13,05,663 lakh crore with a potential to create 6,03,223 jobs during the two-day Global Investors Summit (GIS), said Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Saturday. Speaking at the valedictory ceremony, he said 352 agreements were signed in 20 sectors, out of which the energy sector stood out through 40 deals and pledges worth Rs 8.84 lakh crore with a job creation potential of 1.9 lakh, he said.

**Sensex-30 derivatives**



**Kolkata:** The BSE is planning to reintroduce its Sensex-30 derivatives and is in the process of collecting feedback from members, the MD and CEO of the premier bourse, Sundararaman Ramamurthy, said. The Sensex-30 derivatives products (options and futures), which were launched in 2000, had failed to generate much interest among investors compared to the rival exchange's Nifty-50 derivatives. "We are trying to reintroduce Sensex-30 derivatives, and have started the consultation process by taking the feedback of market participants," Ramamurthy said at an Assocham-organised event here.

**Bio-energy production**



**Shimla:** Himachal Pradesh will start a pilot project for bio-energy production from pine needles and bamboo as the state is blessed with an enormous wealth of coniferous forest and has a high potential for bamboo production, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said. The project would involve the local community and increase their income. The state government is all set to partner with the Indian School of Business (ISB) to provide policy inputs and research support for the emerging bio-energy sector, he said in a statement issued here on Saturday. "Many sectors like thermal power, cement and steel were exploring fossil fuel substitutes to reduce emissions. The scope can be expanded to include fuel briquettes made from pine needles as potential substitutes, which has the advantage of much higher calorific value and this would also pave the way for strengthening the rural economy," said Sukhu.

## Infra development needs to move in top gear: PM

New Delhi, Mar 04:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that India's infrastructure development which is the driving force of the economy needs to move in "top gear" to help the country become a developed nation by 2047. Addressing a post-budget webinar, Modi said that by focussing on infrastructure development, which is the driving force of the economy, India will achieve the target of becoming a developed nation by 2047. "Infrastructure development is the driving force of the country's economy... Now we have to improve our speed and move in top gear," he said while recalling the initiatives taken by his govern-



ment to improve the health of the country's infrastructure. The subject of the webinar was 'Infrastructure and Investment: Improving logistic efficiency with PM Gatishakti National Master Plan'. Modi is holding a series of webinar to delve upon various aspects of the Union Budget 2023-24 presented by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha on February 1. He

said that the latest Budget will give new energy to infrastructure. He said India's capital expenditure or capex has increased five times compared to 2013-14 and the government is moving with a target of investing Rs 110 lakh crore under the National Infrastructure Pipeline. "This is a time of new responsibilities, new possibilities and bold decisions for every stakeholder," he emphasised. The prime minister told the gathering that his government is working to create modern infrastructure in all areas such as roads, railways, ports and airports. It would help in enhancing competitiveness of businesses and reduce logistics cost. "Infrastructure has always been important in the de-

velopment of any country. Those who study the history related to infrastructure know this very well." Modi said as he cited several examples from India. Modi further said that for decades a thinking dominated in India that poverty is a virtue and as a result earlier governments faced difficulty in investing in the country's infrastructure. "Our government has not only pulled the country out of this thinking, but it is also making record investments on modern infrastructure," he said. As a result, he said, average annual construction of national highways has nearly doubled since 2014, and electrification of railway lines has increased to 4,000 route kilometers from 600 route kilometers.

## Govt okays launch of nano liquid DAP fertilisers; will benefit farmers: Mandaviya

New Delhi, Mar 04:

Union Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Saturday said the government has approved the launch of nano liquid DAP (di-ammonium phosphate) fertiliser for the benefits of farmers and making the country self-reliant. Fertiliser cooperative IFFCO, which introduced nano liquid urea in 2021, on Friday announced that the government has approved the launch of its nano DAP fertiliser in the market.

"After nano urea, the government has now given approval to nano DAP as well," Mandaviya said in a tweet. He tweeted that this is one more achievement towards achieving self-sufficiency in fertilisers. This



is going to benefit farmers, Mandaviya said. On Friday, IFFCO managing director U S Awasthi tweeted that the IFFCO Nano DAP has been approved by the ministry of agriculture and notified in the Fertiliser Control Order (FCO) based on its encouraging results. "IFFCO will manufacture #NanoDAP; a game changer for Indian agriculture & economy," he tweeted.

## Work hard to set up industry, make India 3rd biggest global economy: Narayan Rane

Kota, Mar 04:

Union Minister for Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSME) Narayan Rane urged the youth to work hard to establish industry and turn into reality Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of India being the third biggest global economy by 2030. Rane, who is also the former chief minister of Maharashtra, was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of MSME Fair cum Exhibition, organized jointly by the Small Scale Industry Association, a local unit of Laghu Udyog Bharti and Ministry of MSME, at Dushshera Ground in Kota on Saturday. Lok Sabha speaker and Kota Bundi MP Om Birla was also present on this occasion. At least 400 stalls of various MSME



products from various industrial and Startup units of the country were displayed in the fair cum exhibition. The MSME fair aimed at bringing economic progress and industrial revolution in Kota, already known as the coaching hub, Rane said and called upon the local entrepreneurs to raise the number of existing 36,000 MSMEs in Kota to around 60,000 in the next years while pointing out that there were 6.30 crore MSMEs in the country. The union minister also mentioned that the per

## India's goods, services exports may cross USD 750 bn this fiscal: Goyal

New Delhi, Mar 04:

India's goods and services exports are expected to cross USD 750 billion this fiscal despite the global economic uncertainties, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Saturday. In 2021-22, the country's goods and services exports touched an all-time high of USD 422 billion and USD 254 billion respectively, taking the total shipments to USD 676 billion. "Last year we crossed a record USD 650 billion of goods and services (exports). This year, we are aiming for an even bigger record. We have crossed last year's figure already. We will hopefully cross USD 750 billion (this year)," he said while speaking at the Raisina Dialogue here. Due to the global demand slowdown, India's exports contracted for the second consecutive



month in January, dipping by 6.6 per cent to USD 32.91 billion.

During April-January this fiscal, goods shipments rose by 8.5 per cent to USD 369.25 billion, while services exports were estimated at USD 272 billion in the period.

The minister said that sectors which would help in promoting exports include manufactured goods, agri products, labour intensive items, and high quality products. He expressed confidence

that by 2030, India's goods and services exports would touch USD 2 trillion. Replying to a question about widening trade deficit with China, he said the government is taking steps to boost domestic manufacturing of quality goods which would help in containing imports. He added that until 2000-01, Indo-China total trade was about USD one billion and even till 2004, the trade was "probably" in the range of USD 4 billion and the trade deficit was about USD 1 billion.

"After 2004, almost an outreach was done to engage more with China, to attract Chinese goods into the country in a big way. I do not want to politicise this subject. But between 2004 and 2014, we saw trade grow very rapidly and the trade deficit went up by nearly 35 times," Goyal said.

## Windfall tax on diesel slashed to Rs 0.50 per litre, nil on ATF

New Delhi, Mar 04:

The government slashed windfall profit tax on export of diesel to its lowest of Rs 0.50 per litre and nil on jet fuel (ATF) while the levy on domestically produced crude oil was marginally increased, according to an official order. The levy on crude oil produced by companies such as Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has hiked to Rs 4,400 per tonne from Rs 4,350 per tonne, the order dated March 3 said. Crude oil pumped out of the ground and from below the seabed is refined and converted into fuels like petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF). The government has also cut the tax on export of diesel to Rs 0.5 per litre from Rs 2.5, and the same on overseas shipments of ATF was cut to nil

from Rs 1.50 a litre. The new tax rates come into effect from March 4, the order said. This is the second reduction in rates in a fortnight. Rates were cut on February 16. The export levy on diesel and ATF is the lowest since the tax was introduced in July last year.

The tax rates are reviewed every fortnight based on average oil prices in the previous two weeks. India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1, joining a growing number of nations that tax super normal profits of energy companies. At that time, export duties of Rs 6 per litre (USD 12 per barrel) each were levied on petrol and ATF and Rs 13 a litre (USD 26 a barrel) on diesel. A Rs 23,250 per tonne (USD 40 per barrel) windfall profit tax on domestic crude production was also levied.

### VINTAGE GEMS AND JEWELLERY COLLECTION



A model showcases vintage gems and jewellery collection and antique art of Sunit Snimal Jewellers, at NOUVEAAU platform in Kolkata, Saturday, March 4.

### Poultry industry to grow 8-10 pc in FY24: Report

Mumbai, Mar 04:

The domestic poultry industry is expected to grow 8-10 per cent in 2023-24, driven by volumes and realisations following stable demand and higher penetration of processed chicken as well as value-added products, a report said on Friday. However, earnings are expected to be volatile owing to fluctuations in the raw material prices particularly maize and limited ability of players to fully pass on cost increases, it said. In the report, Iera said it expects the domestic poultry industry's revenues to grow at a steady pace of 8-10 per cent in FY24 due to growth in both volumes and realisations. In addition to stable demand, the revenues will be supported by increased penetration of processed chicken and value-added products, which are growing consistently, it added.

## 4-lane highways to connect all AP ports at Rs 20,000 cr: Nitin Gadkari

Visakhapatnam, Mar 04:

All ports in Andhra Pradesh will be connected with four-lane highways at a cost of Rs 20,000 crore, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said here. Speaking at the Global Investors Summit (GIS), Gadkari declared that these port connectivity enhancing roads will be built irrespective of a port being a minor, major port, private or state port. The passing of three industrial corridors, Visakhapatnam - Chennai, Chennai - Bengaluru and Hyderabad - Bengaluru, through the state has been crucial for this decision. Noting that road infrastructure in AP is very impor-



tant, he said, "I always tell people about the famous statement of American President John Kennedy that American roads are not good because America rich but America is rich because Americans roads are good." Recalling his days as a shipping minister, Gadkari observed that transporting goods between

Chhattisgarh and Visakhapatnam used to be a difficult task, and decided to construct Raipur - Visakhapatnam expressway corridor, which will slash travel time to five-and-half hours after. Moreover, Gadkari said a 430 km project connecting Nagpur and Vijayawada will also be commenced. According to the Road Transport and Highway Minister, the cost of logistics at 16 percent is a big problem in India, which he vowed to bring down. He noted that it was 10 percent in China and 12 percent each in the United States of America and the European Union (EU). Gadkari assured that the cost of logistics will be reduced in five years' time.

## Gold Bond issue price fixed at Rs 5,611 per gram; subscription opens Monday

Mumbai, Mar 04:

The issue price for the next tranche of Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2022-23, which will open for subscription for five days from Monday, has been fixed at Rs 5,611 per gram of gold, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday. The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2022-23 - Series IV will be open for subscription during March 06 10, 2023. "The nominal value of the bond... works out to Rs 5,611 per gram of gold, the central bank said in a statement. Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, has decided to offer a discount of Rs 50 per gram less than the nominal value to those investors applying online and the payment against the appli-

cation is made through digital mode. "For such investors, the issue price of gold bond will be Rs 5,561 (Rupees Five thousand five hundred and sixty one only) per gram of gold," RBI said.

The RBI issues the Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) on behalf of the government of India. The bonds will be sold through banks Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), designated post offices, and recognised stock exchanges -- National Stock Exchange of India Limited and Bombay Stock Exchange Limited. The tenor of the SGB will be for a period of eight years with an option of premature redemption after 5th year to be exercised on the date on which interest is payable.

The scheme was launched in November 2015 with an objective to reduce the demand for physical gold and shift a part of the domestic savings -- used for the purchase of gold -- into financial savings.

Price of bond is fixed in Indian rupees on the basis of simple average of closing price of gold of 999 purity, published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association Limited for the last 3 working days of the week preceding the subscription period. The bonds are denominated in multiples of gram (s) of gold with a basic unit of 1 gram. The tenor of the bond will be for a period of 8 years with exit option after 5th year to be exercised on the next interest payment dates.

## Seagram unveils new music property for New India

Mumbai, Mar 04:

Celebrating the spirit of 'Living it Large', Seagram's Royal Stag presents Royal Stag Boombox, a first-of-its-kind musical experience. It is the sound of a young generation, a tribe that tends to make rather than follow trends; a tribe that is in constant search of soul-touching experiences. In an exclusive preview in Mumbai on Monday, February 27, 2023, the brand revealed a glimpse of what's in store. Royal Stag Boombox audaciously brings together polar opposites of the music industry, the melody of Bollywood and the gully vibe of Hip-Hop, to make original music, to create a new soundscape. For many years, music has been a key consumer engagement pillar for the brand. Today, the youth



tilts towards exploring exciting new forms of music. Contemporary genres such as hip-hop are becoming increasingly popular among the youth of the country, while Bollywood melodies remain integral to their cultural milieu. Royal Stag Boombox intends to stir the imagination of this generation, blending music they have

inherited, Bollywood scores, with the genre that speaks to them, Hip Hop. This mix will have the swag and emotional heft of Hindi cinema's best compositions and the throbbing vibe and vigor of hip-hop. Commenting on the unveiling of Royal Stag Boombox, Kartik Mohindra, CMO,

Pernod Ricard India, said: "Music and experience bring people together like nothing else and are natural enablers of connectivity. Royal Stag has always strived to pulse with the passion points of the youth of this country and Royal Stag Boombox is the perfect platform for the brand to connect with tomorrow's India."

## Lady Gaga hints at quitting spotlight after 15 years

Singer-actress Lady Gaga has indicated that she might disappear from the spotlight. She explained that she prefers life away from the red carpet at home, reports Mirror.co.uk.

The 36-year-old pop sensation exploded onto the global stage back in 2008 with the release of her chart-topping single 'Just Dance'.

She then grabbed attention on red carpets around the globe by dressing in bizarre outfits - from dresses made from Kermit the Frog puppets to clothes made of meat.

All the while she continued to release pop tunes that sold millions of copies and segwayed into the world of acting by nabbing starring roles in movies and TV shows including 'A Star is Born' and 'House of Gucci'.

Mirror.co.uk further stated that Gaga said she prefers a slower pace of life these days - and wishes she knew that she didn't have to be jumping for attention all the time like she was in her younger days.

She told 'Wallpaper' magazine: 'I'm interested in living more of a life of solitude. It's really nice to just have time to be alone, and be expansive, and know that you're enough. I wish I could tell my younger self that.'

## Raghav Chaitanya: 'Subah Ko' is a beautiful, light-hearted love song



Singer Raghav Chaitanya is known for his numerous melodious compositions such as 'Ek Tukda Dhoop', 'Lamhe', 'Dooriyan', 'Dil', and many more. The singer has released another romantic track 'Subah Ko', featuring him along with model and actress Aarushi Gambhir.

Talking about the song, Raghav expressed his excitement and said that music lovers are surely going to like the song.

He said: 'I'm super excited for 'Subah Ko'. This is a beautiful light-hearted love song that instantly makes you happy. It describes the cute puppy love moments between a couple and I think young listeners are going to enjoy it. It was nice working with Aarushi, she's a sweet girl and we had a great time shooting.' On the other hand, Aarushi shared her experience

working in her first music video along with Raghav. She added: 'Being a part of 'Subah Ko' has been an incredible experience. Raghav's voice is simply magical, and it was a pleasure working with him. It's a great song that everyone can connect with.'

Furthermore, Rashmi Singh and Virag Mishra, popularly known as Rashmi-Virag, the lyricist duo, have penned the lyrics of the song. Rashmi said that through the lyrics of this song, they have tried to portray the meaning of modern love and relationship. 'With this song, we are trying to convey how love is in this age. We want the current generation to connect with its message of love. It was great working with an amazing artist like Raghav and we are looking forward to creating more music like this,' said Rashmi.

## Yashoda & Krishna reach Haridwar-Rishikesh in search of Ashok



&TV's family drama 'Doosri Maa' never fails to entertain its viewers with interesting plot twists and turns. In the show, Ashok (Mohit Dagga) goes missing after his wife, Yashoda (Neha Joshi), learns that Krishna (Aayudh Bhanushali) is his and Mala's (Nidhi Uttam) child. While everyone is looking for him, Yashoda and Krishna set out on a journey to find Ashok. This journey takes them through the lanes and ghats of the holy towns of Haridwar and Rishikesh, Uttarakhand. They learn he was last seen here, and in his grief, he has decided to become a hermit and leave everything behind to repent.

Neha Joshi essaying Yashoda, says, "Yashoda is living through the most difficult time of her life after discovering that Krishna is her husband's illegitimate child. And as she struggles to accept the truth, Ashok, her biggest supporter, goes missing. Viewers will see Yashoda embark on a journey with Krishna to find him. The journey may be emotional on-screen, but I had a lot of fun shooting off-screen. Shooting in holy cities like Haridwar and Rishikesh was a blissful experience. Our mornings would be waking up to the sounds of bells on the banks of the Ganga Ghats—a beautiful way to begin our day that would bring a positive vibe.

People around us instantly recognized us and would approach us to take selfies and compliment us on our show and characters. It truly made our day interacting in person with our audience, who would gather around our sets, watch the shoot and get us homemade food at times to taste. These small gestures made a huge difference to us. We thoroughly enjoyed these beautiful moments. Even though it was my visit to Uttarakhand, I must say, their people's warmth and affection made us feel special, and we hope to keep coming back for more."

Watch Doosri Maa at 8:00 pm, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!

## Christina Aguilera feels 'bad' for younger generations of social media era

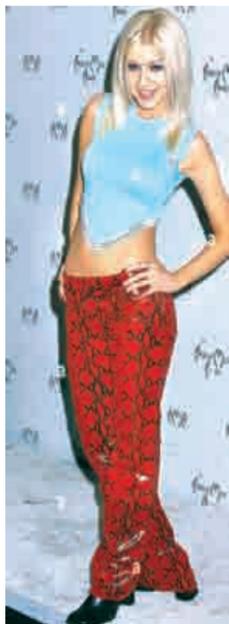
Singer Christina Aguilera is a "very sensitive person." She's learned how to deal with the scrutiny that's come her way.

She told Allure magazine: "I've grown up in this business. I started performing at six or seven and then I broke when I was a teenager. No matter what you do, you're going to have people that hate on you."

"The bigger you are and the more successful, unfortunately, that comes with more hate or more scrutiny. And I'm a very sensitive person, but I'm also very tough at the end of the day."

Aguilera said that social media has changed the landscape for up-and-coming stars. The 'Genie in a Bottle' hitmaker is also conscious of how it might influence her own children.

The pop singer, who has Max, 15, and Summer, eight, explained: "Social media wasn't around when I was coming up, and now I feel bad for people that don't want to be in



the business and just look at comments. My daughter's not there yet with looking or posting yet, but I'm very conscious of the day when these things happen."

## &TV artists play Holi with a twist



In &TV's show Doosri Maa, Yashoda and Krishna embark on a new journey during Holi, and the characters in Happu Ki Ultan Paltan and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai will play Holi with a twist that will have viewers rolling on the floor with laughter. About &TV's Doosri Maa, Yashoda shares, "During Holi week, the audience will witness a major high point in Doosri Maa. Krishna (Aayudh Bhanushali) and Yashoda (Neha Joshi) learn that Ashok (Mohit Dagga) is

in Haridwar and decide to travel there to find him. Meanwhile, Ashok, who is bereaved, decides to become a hermit, and abandon the materialistic world out of remorse."

About &TV's Happu Ki Ultan Paltan Holi track, Daroga Happu Singh shares, "While returning from their friend Batuk's Holi party, Happu (Yogesh Tripathi) and Beni (Vishwanath Chatterjee) fight with an unknown man. Hritik (Aryan Prajapati) informs them that water is not flowing

from the tap while they are playing Holi at their house, prompting Happu and Beni to rush to Jal Vibhag to complain. However, they discover that the Jal Vibhag officer with whom they fought the night before is the same person. He also turned off the water supply to Happu's house to teach him a lesson."

Tune in to watch Holi Special in Doosri Maa at 8:00 pm, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 pm and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 pm airing every!

## Ankit Gupta goes the extra mile for his role in 'Junooniyatt'

Former 'Bigg Boss 16' contestant and 'Udaariyaan' actor Ankit Gupta, who is currently seen playing the role of a singer in the show 'Junooniyatt', is putting all his efforts to get into the skin of his character and thus learning to play guitar for his role. Although it is not so easy for him, and because of continuous practice, his fingers have swollen.

He shared: "I am learning the basics of guitar strumming so that I can do justice to the character of Jahaan, who is a passionate and aspiring singer. I've never really played an instrument in my life, and this is the second time when I am holding a guitar. It's a new experience and I will keep practicing till the guitar looks like an extension of my body. Some shots require me to strum the guitar at a fast pace, leaving my fingers swollen and bruised." The 34-year-old actor has acted in several TV shows such as 'Sadda Haq', 'Begusara', 'Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi', 'Kundali Bhagya', and many more. He was also part of web series such as 'Illegal - Justice, Out of Order', 'Bekaboo 2', among others. Before joining the fictional drama 'Junooniyatt', he was seen as a contestant on the popular reality show 'Bigg Boss 16'.

Ankit said he believes in perfection and thus even continued his practice despite of all the pain as he wants to look natural and real while playing guitar on-screen. He added: "That's all right because no pain, no gain. These scenes are crucial, and I don't want to spare any effort in looking natural as Jahaan. I want to thank the audience for the love they showered on the show and their support makes me feel that going the extra mile is worth it. 'Junooniyatt' airs on Colors.



## Anupam Kher and Alia Bhatt bag top honours

The year 2022 was a mixed bag for Hindi cinema. With the actresses just opening up after being shut down for over a year due to the Covid pandemic, there was a lot of learning and unlearning that happened. Many surprise hits emerged at the box office while many expected biggies failed to perform. But however it was, 2022 was indeed a special year, and it was all celebrated at the Zee Cine Awards 2023 on February 26.

It was a star-studded night that saw the who's who of Bollywood in attendance. In the end, it was Anupam Kher and Alia Bhatt who bagged the top honours of the night. While Kher was adjudged Best Actor Male for The Kashmir Files, Alia won Best Actor Female for her performance in Gangubai Kathiawadi. The Kashmir Files emerged as one of the biggest

blockbusters in Indian cinema last year. The film's success became a case study. Its story told the plight of the Kashmiri Hindus during their exodus in the 90s. The film found a deep connection with audiences and Kher received widespread acclaim for his role. He even received many awards for it and the Zee Cine Awards trophy adds to the list. As for Alia, the actress delivered one of her career-best performances in Gangubai Kathiawadi. In a year of uncertainty, the actress delivered 4 successes. Gangubai Kathiawadi was one of the first films to come in theatres after the reopening of cinemas. At the time of its release, most theatres were working at 50% occupancy, still the film emerged a commercial success. It also quashed the myth around female-led films being audience pullers.



## CROSSWORD

580



### ACROSS

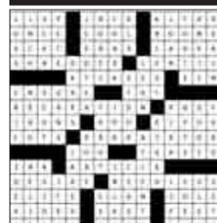
- ZIP \_\_\_\_\_
- Talk \_\_\_\_\_
- Termite, e.g. \_\_\_\_\_
- Rhino feature \_\_\_\_\_
- Healthy \_\_\_\_\_
- Home \_\_\_\_\_
- Give off \_\_\_\_\_
- Shakespeare's river \_\_\_\_\_
- Colorado resort \_\_\_\_\_
- Mimic \_\_\_\_\_
- Mister (Sp.) \_\_\_\_\_
- Lincoln's coin \_\_\_\_\_
- Menace \_\_\_\_\_
- Vine fruit \_\_\_\_\_
- Wide street (abbr.) \_\_\_\_\_
- Toronto's country \_\_\_\_\_
- Ham it up \_\_\_\_\_
- Constant companions (2 wds.) \_\_\_\_\_
- London's Big \_\_\_\_\_
- Set free \_\_\_\_\_
- Forest animal \_\_\_\_\_
- Large army unit \_\_\_\_\_
- Lymph \_\_\_\_\_

- Curly or Moe \_\_\_\_\_
- List abbr. \_\_\_\_\_
- Happen again \_\_\_\_\_
- Fall flowers \_\_\_\_\_
- Long-necked bird \_\_\_\_\_
- Ringlet \_\_\_\_\_
- Actor \_\_\_\_\_ Guinness \_\_\_\_\_
- Flower part \_\_\_\_\_
- Sticky stuff \_\_\_\_\_
- Departed \_\_\_\_\_
- Eat away \_\_\_\_\_
- James \_\_\_\_\_ Jones \_\_\_\_\_
- Ajar \_\_\_\_\_
- Railroad station \_\_\_\_\_
- Stains \_\_\_\_\_
- Politician \_\_\_\_\_ Gingham \_\_\_\_\_

### DOWN

- Swindle \_\_\_\_\_
- Spirited vigor \_\_\_\_\_
- More parched \_\_\_\_\_
- Plead with \_\_\_\_\_
- Morally pure \_\_\_\_\_
- Possess \_\_\_\_\_
- Beside \_\_\_\_\_
- Choir voice \_\_\_\_\_
- Sheep's comment \_\_\_\_\_
- Indecent \_\_\_\_\_
- Heavy twine \_\_\_\_\_
- Genesis location \_\_\_\_\_
- Tenant's monthly bill \_\_\_\_\_
- Marathon, e.g. \_\_\_\_\_
- Normal \_\_\_\_\_
- Mom and dad \_\_\_\_\_
- Ancient \_\_\_\_\_
- Distribute \_\_\_\_\_
- Queries \_\_\_\_\_
- Declines \_\_\_\_\_
- Pork or beef \_\_\_\_\_
- On top of \_\_\_\_\_
- Famed boxer \_\_\_\_\_
- Zodiac sign \_\_\_\_\_
- Summer hue \_\_\_\_\_
- Choose by ballot \_\_\_\_\_
- Twister \_\_\_\_\_
- Eight-sided figure \_\_\_\_\_
- Painters' stands \_\_\_\_\_
- Encouraged \_\_\_\_\_
- Pass along \_\_\_\_\_
- Wed on the run \_\_\_\_\_
- Extend a subscription \_\_\_\_\_
- Fragrance \_\_\_\_\_
- Made haste \_\_\_\_\_
- "Wish You \_\_\_\_\_ Here" \_\_\_\_\_
- On \_\_\_\_\_
- Positive \_\_\_\_\_
- Lease \_\_\_\_\_

### SOLUTION 579



## WPL OFF TO A COLOURFUL START

# Kiara Advani, Kriti Sanon, AP Dhillon set stage on fire

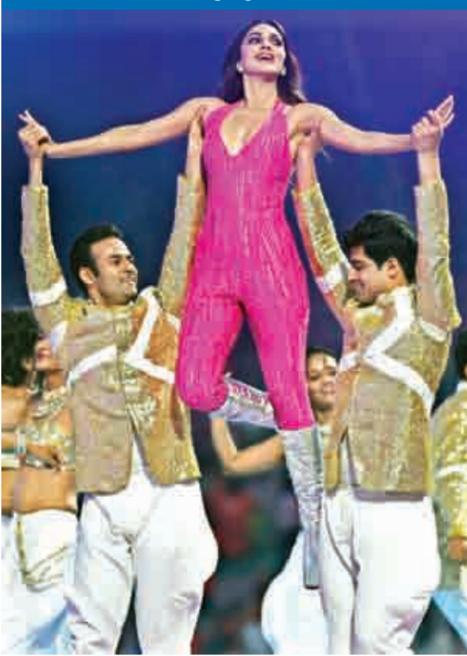
Mumbai, Mar 05:

Bollywood actors Kiara Advani, Kriti Sanon and Punjabi singer and rapper AP Dhillon owned the stage with their performances as the Women's Premier League got off to a star-studded start.

Kiara Advani took the centre stage with her impactful dance performance at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai, before Kriti Sanon put up another superb dance show.

AP Dhillon then performed on his hit songs before all the three stars together took to stage to end the grand show on a high. After this, all the five captains of the teams were called on stage and the WPL trophy was unveiled. In the first match of the tournament, Mumbai Indians face Gujarat Giants.

Bollywood actors Kiara Advani, Kriti Sanon and Punjabi singer and rapper AP Dhillon owned the stage with their performances as the Women's Premier League got off to a star-studded start.



## Jaiswal scores second ton of match as ROI inch closer to victory

Gwalior, Mar 04 (PTI):

Yashasvi Jaiswal mauled a hapless Madhya Pradesh attack into submission with another near flawless hundred as Rest of India remained favourites to retain the Irani Cup at the end of fourth day's proceedings here on Saturday.

Jaiswal, who struck a sublime 213 in the first innings, scored a magnificent 144 out of his team's second innings total of 246, setting a tough target of 437 for the hosts.

At stumps on the penultimate day, MP were 81 for 2, needing another 356 on the last day to win their maiden one-match championship. However with the kind of bowling resources at Rest of India's disposal, it will be a miracle if Madhya Pradesh team gets a chance to lay its hands on the prestigious trophy. The day once again belonged to Jaiswal, who now has nine hundreds in 15 first-class games. Such was his dominance that the next best score was 30 by all-rounder Atit Sheth. The left-hander's 157 ball knock had 16 fours and three sixes.

# DC hold slight edge over RCB with better domestic talent

Mumbai, Mar 04 (PTI):

Smriti Mandhana's languid grace will meet its match in Shafali Verma's brute power when Royal Challengers Bangalore take on Delhi Capitals in a WPL here on Sunday.

RCB have prepared a fantastic roster in terms of international recruits, including skipper Mandhana, who is the highest paid player of the league at Rs 3.40 crore. With Ellyse Perry, Heather Knight, Sophie Devine and the marauding Richa Ghosh in their ranks, the team does have a formidable look.

But on paper, the multiple World Cup-winning legendary Australian Meg Lanning's Delhi team will have a slight edge over their opponents in terms of pure Indian talent.

While Lanning along with Jess Jonassen, Marizanne Kapp and Alice Capsey are likely to be the four overseas players, DC's Indian line-up is both formidable and scary at the same time. Shafali, Jemimah Rodrigues,



Royal Challengers Bangalore cricket team captain Smriti Mandhana attends a press conference ahead of the inaugural edition of the Women's Premier League (WPL), in Mumbai on March 4.

Shikha Pandey, Poonam Yadav, Arundhati Reddy, Taniya Bhatia, Radha Yadav are all seasoned India players.

In U-19 World Cup-winning seamer Titas Sadhu, hard-hitting Kashmir woman Jasia Akhtar and keeper Aparna Mondal in the mix, Delhi Capitals have procured the best possible Indian talent on offer. "I have had a few chats

with the players and I'm just getting to know their strengths, what they like to do and how they think about things. Hopefully, I can learn something from the girls and give them a little bit of knowledge as well," Lanning was quoted as saying in a DC release.

For Lanning's South African teammate Kapp, the match will see her battling it out with Dane Van

Match Starts: 7:30 pm.

Niekerk, who is in the RCB team.

"We've got a wonderful group of girls and let's see what everyone brings to the table. It'll be challenging to go against some of my fellow South Africans in the league as they know me very well. But it's also exciting and I am happy that there are a few players from our nation in India this year," Kapp said.

For Mandhana, it is easy to choose her four foreign players -- Kapp, Knight, Perry and fast bowler Megan Schutt. But her problem will be to fix the slot for at least four quality Indian players with three, including the skipper herself, Richa and seamer Renuka Thakur being automatic choices.

Which four among Komal Zanzad, Shobhana Asha, Indrani Roy (toured England with Indian team in 2021), Poonam Khemnar, Kanika Ahuja and Preeti Bose, Sahana Pawar fit the bill as per team combination will determine RCB's run in the event.

## 4th Test: Shami set to return; turning pitch unlikely



New Delhi, Mar 04 (PTI):

India's senior-most speedster Mohammed Shami is expected to feature in the playing XI for the final Test against Australia in Ahmedabad, starting March 9 after being rested for workload management during the Indore game.

The Indian team management, in consultation with medical staff, has decided to space out the pace

bowlers, who are also going to play IPL regularly and are part of the ODI World Cup plan.

Hence, Shami, who had played the first two Tests and is also a part of the ODI squad, was rested for the third game. In his place Umesh Yadav was drafted in as the second pacer after Mohammed Siraj.

With Siraj only needed for 24 overs in the first three games and is likely to feature in all three ODIs between March 17 to 22, he is likely to get some time off during the final game at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Motera.

Shami, who has been the best pacer on view across both teams with seven scalps from 30 odd overs that he has bowled, will be needed on a dry Motera surface, which might be conducive for reverse swing. India are currently leading the four-Test series 2-1 but need to win the last game in order to nullify the result of Sri Lanka's away series against New Zealand.

# Kohli and wife visit Mahakaleshwar Temple



Actor Anushka Sharma and cricketer Virat Kohli visit the Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain, Saturday morning, March 4.

Ujjain, Mar 04:

With the Test match ending inside two-and-a-half-days, star batter Virat Kohli and wife

Anushka Sharma visited Shree Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain on Saturday morning to offer prayers. While some of the players have

stayed back in Indore, a few including skipper Rohit Sharma have returned to Mumbai and will join the team in Ahmedabad on March 6.

## Pitches for Ind-Aus series have been poor: Taylor



Melbourne, Mar 04 (PTI):

Former Australian captain Mark Taylor has come down hard on the three pitches used for the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy, alleging that some amount of "skulduggery" must have been involved in preparation of such tracks. India are currently leading 2-1 with a Test match left in Ahmedabad. While pitches in Nagpur and New Delhi were rated "average" by the ICC, the pitch for the Indore Test was rated "poor" by match referee Chris Broad.

Leading 2-0 going into the third Test, the Indian batters were undone by the Indore pitch as Australia recorded a thumping nine-wicket win in the third match to register a big win, which was Rohit Sharma-led side's only third loss at home in 45 Tests in the past decade. "I agree with that," Taylor said of the ICC rating the Indore pitch as poor.

## Indian players should have been captains in WPL: Anjum Chopra

Mumbai, Mar 04 (PTI):

Former India captain Anjum Chopra is a bit disappointed that most franchises have opted for foreign players in leadership roles in the inaugural WPL, saying capable Indian players should have been handed the responsibility.

The Women's Premier League begins on Saturday with a clash between Gujarat Giants and Mumbai Indians in the opening match at the Dr DY Patil Sports Academy here.

"I didn't like that most of the teams have opted for foreign players as captains because it's an Indian league and will be played in Indian conditions, so Indian players should have been captains if they have capabilities," she said. Mumbai Indians and Royal Challengers Bangalore opted for Indian captains in Harmanpreet Kaur and Smriti Mandhana respectively, while the other teams went with Australian players -- Meg Lanning (Delhi Capitals), Beth Mooney (Gujarat Giants) and



Alyssa Healy (UP Warriorz) in leadership roles.

"I thought Deepti Sharma should have been made the captain as she led in the last Women's T20 Challenge," Chopra said in a virtual interaction.

Chopra, however, agreed that six-time T20 World Cup winners Australia have more experienced players compared to India.

"Australian players are world champions and they have the experience of leading sides back home.

# Mentor Sania wants to help RCB's young players

Mumbai, Mar 04 (PTI):

Tennis legend Sania Mirza doesn't know much about cricket but as an elite athlete for the last two decades, she feels she can help Royal Challengers Bangalore women cricketers to deal with the mental aspect of things in the inaugural Women's Premier League.

Sania has been roped in as mentor by RCB for the WPL, starting here on Saturday with the opener between Gujarat Giants and Mumbai Indians.

RCB, led by India opener Smriti Mandhana, will open their campaign against Delhi Capitals on Sunday.

"I know nothing about cricket. I thought (when I was made mentor) what I am going to do, what am I going to talk to the girls. I am recently retired, last week actually. So I was thinking what's my next step in life. So my next step was try and help women athletes around and in India," Sania was seen speaking to RCB contingent, video of which has been posted on franchise's official twitter han-



Tennis player Sania Mirza (R) with Bethanie Mattek-Sands during her farewell, at Sania Mirza Tennis Academy in Hyderabad, Saturday, March 4.

dle. "In any sport, to help with the mental aspect of things which I have been through for the last 20 years," Sania said.

Asked by a player how hard it was for her was to retire, Sania said: "I was actually ready. I have a son who is 4 and honestly the last one year has been a struggle. I had three surgeries. I just thought it was good to go out on top. I just wanted to stop." Sania said as mentor

her role will be to help RCB in their journey towards maiden WPL title.

"I was in individual sport, so photo shoot, media attention everything I handled on my own, so I thought ok I can actually give something to the girls," she said.

"It's normal to feel the pressure but you just have to know how to deal with it, block the noise a little bit and Indian media is tough."

## ICC rates Indore track as 'poor', venue gets 3 demerit points

Indore, Mar 03 (PTI):

The ICC on Friday rated the pitch used for the third Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test match at the Holkar Stadium as "poor" after Australia beat India by nine wickets in a little over two days. The poor rating also earned Indore, three demerit points and will remain active for five years rolling period. India were all out for 109 and 163 in their two innings while Australia managed 197 in their first essay before knocking off the required 76 runs for a win on the third morning. ICC Match Referee Chris Broad submitted his report to the ICC expressing the concerns of the match officials and after consulting with captains of both teams. Following the assessment, the venue has received three demerit points," the release issued by the global body stated. The consultation with the two captains Rohit Sharma and Steve Smith meant that both concurred with Broad's assessment that it couldn't be termed a pitch which is good advertisement for international cricket.

# Dortmund beats Leipzig 2-1 to retake Bundesliga lead

Berlin, Mar 04 (AP):

Captain Marco Reus scored again in a 2-1 win over Leipzig that lifted Borussia Dortmund three points clear at the top of the Bundesliga and preserved its winning start to 2023.

Reus converted a penalty in the 21st minute on Friday and Emre Can got the second goal in the 39th for Dortmund's 10th win from 10 games across all competitions this year. It's the best record for any team across Europe's top five leagues in 2023.

Bayern Munich, which was leading on goal difference from Dortmund, can reclaim top spot on Saturday with a win at relegation-threatened Stuttgart.

Reus' 159th goal for Dortmund altogether matched Michael Zorc's record for the club. Only Adi Prei ler, who scored 177 for Dortmund in two stints from 1946 to 1959, has more.

But Dortmund needed



Dortmund's German goalkeeper Alexander Meyer (2R) celebrates with (L to R) Dortmund's German defender Niklas Suele, Dortmund's Norwegian defender Julian Ryerson and Dortmund's German defender Mats Hummels after the German first division Bundesliga football match between Borussia Dortmund and RB Leipzig in Dortmund.

reserve goalkeeper Alexander Meyer to preserve Friday's win with a stoppage-time save from Emil Forsberg, just after

Nico Schlotterbeck denied Timo Werner an equalizer with his shoulder.

"In the end, naturally,

I'd rather win than play well and lose," Reus said, referring to the Dortmund of previous seasons.

## We are looking at regional solutions to regional problems: Navy chief

New Delhi, Mar 04 (PTI):

Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar on Saturday stressed that contemporary challenges in the maritime domain could be best addressed by "issue-based convergences" among like-minded countries, while highlighting the advantages of "regional solutions to regional problems". The Chief of Navy Staff, citing India's experience, said working in smaller groups and regional frameworks is helpful in building trust, interoperability and overall outcome.

Admiral R Hari Kumar was speaking at the Raisina Dialogue alongside Commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command Admiral John Aquilino, the UK's chief of Naval

Staff Admiral Ben Key and Chief of Staff of Japan's defence ministry Gen Koji Yamazaki. Admiral Kumar said India's policy in the region is based on the principles of respect, dialogue, peace and prosperity and it is guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of SAGAR or security and growth for all in the region.

To a question on the Indian perspective on working with partner countries to deal with challenges in the maritime domain, Kumar said they are both "non-traditional and trans-national" and cannot be addressed by any individual nation. "There is a need for cooperation.. that is something we in the maritime domain always look forward to - to find how to cooperate, how to

work together," he said.

"While doing this, I would say today we are looking at issue-based convergences. We may not agree on certain things, but we will agree on many other issues. Therefore, we come together on those matters," he added. "We are looking at regional solutions to regional problems," he said. Admiral Kumar also referred to the US Navy back in 2015 talking about a thousand-ship Navy including all the friendly partner navies coming together.

The Navy chief also cited the advantages of regional groupings like the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), which has 25 partner countries, the Colombo Security Conclave and the Goa Maritime Conclave. "When

we work in smaller groups, it serves a lot of purposes. For example, it generates a lot of trust among the partner countries; you work towards building capacity and it results in increasing interoperability, domain awareness and regular engagements. And all this finally leads to maritime security," he said.

"There is a saying that rising tide lifts all boats. So therefore we look at prospering together. India is a country that looks at everybody in the region prospering together," he said. The Navy chief said technological innovations including space-based surveillance, artificial intelligence and electronic intelligence are helping maritime commanders to have better maritime domain awareness.

## BASANT UTSAV



Specially-abled children (blind) play with colours during Basant Utsav (Holi) celebrations, at Maidan, in Kolkata, Saturday.

## SC issues notice on Tamil Nadu govt's plea against Madras HC order

New Delhi, Mar 04 (PTI):

The Supreme Court has sought a response to a plea challenging an order of the Madras High Court quashing a May 2018 notification prohibiting the sale, manufacture and transport of gutkha and other tobacco-based products.

A bench of justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna issued notice to Food Safety Commissioner, Jayavilas Tobacco Traders and others on a plea filed by the Tamil Nadu government. "Issue notice in the special leave petition. Issue notice in the prayer for interim

relief also" the bench said.

Additional Advocate General Anand Tiwari, appearing for the state, argued that orders of the Food Safety Commissioner banning the sale, storage, manufacture, etc. of gutkha and other tobacco products are backed by Regulation 2.3.4 of the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations, 2011.

The high court had set aside a notification issued by the Food Safety Commissioner on May 23, 2018, banning the manufacture, storage, transport, distribution and sale of gutkha, pan masala and other chewable food prod-

ucts containing tobacco/nicotine as ingredients.

It had held that allowing the Food Safety Commissioner to impose a permanent ban on tobacco products by issuing successive notifications year after year would amount to conferring a power that was not provided in the law.

Holding that tobacco, with or without additives, is a food product, the high court had held that notifications banning gutkha and pan masala in Tamil Nadu issued by the Commissioner of Food Safety are not within his powers and quashed the same.

## Kapil Sibal announces new platform 'Insaaf' to fight 'injustice' in India

New Delhi, Mar 04 (PTI):

Alleging that a government working against the citizens is at the helm, Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Saturday announced a new platform 'Insaaf to fight "injustice" prevailing in the country and called on everyone, including Opposition parties' chief ministers and leaders, to support him in his endeavour.

Sibal said he would hold a public meeting of the new platform at Jantar Mantar on March 11 and will put forward a new vision of India there. He said it was an open invitation for everyone, including opposition leaders and

common people, to join him at the event.

"Will give a new vision of India, a positive agenda. Main koi Modi ji ko criticise nahi karne baitha, main unko sudhaar doonga (I am not here to criticise Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but will reform him)," he said at a press conference at his residence.

Sibal alleged that injustice is prevailing in every nook and corner of India.

Injustice is being done to citizens, institutions, political Opposition, journalists, teachers, and medium and small businesses, he claimed.

"We have started a website 'Insaaf ke Sipahi'

where anyone can register. This will be a national level platform where lawyers will be at the forefront," the former Congress leader said.

"It is with great deliberation that I have decided that people need to be awakened and asked to become our 'Insaaf ke Sipahi' and wherever injustice is happening, they should fight it.

I want all Opposition chief ministers and leaders to support me in this endeavour and we start a national movement to free ourselves from this slavery," he said.

Sibal said efforts will be made to bring Opposition leaders and parties to

jointly fight injustice in the country, but asserted that his motives were not political but to fight for constitutional values.

The initiative by Sibal, an Independent Rajya Sabha MP who is considered an important voice of the Opposition, and his talk of bringing parties and leaders together for the "fight against injustice" comes amid a crack in Opposition ranks with the Congress and Trinamool Congress (TMC) trading barbs repeatedly.

"Through you (media) I am requesting everyone to be part of this, then we will take this forward," he said.

## Ayodhya Development Authority gives final nod to construction of Dhannipur mosque

Ayodhya (UP), Mar 04 (PTI):

The Ayodhya Development Authority has given the final clearance for the construction of Dhannipur mosque here as mandated by the Supreme Court in the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi verdict.

A mosque, a hospital, a research institute, a community kitchen and a library are to be constructed by the Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation (IICF) trust on five acres of land given by the Uttar Pradesh government. The construction was delayed for over two years due to pending clearance and matters of change of land use by the Ayodhya Development Authority (ADA).

"We have approved the project of Ayodhya mosque in the board meeting held on Friday. The sanctioned maps will be handed over to the Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation (IICF) after a few departmental formalities which are to be completed within a couple of days," Gaurav Dayal, Ayodhya Divisional Commissioner, told PTI.

IICF secretary Athar Hussain said the trust will hold a meeting after all the clearances are made and finalise the plan for the construction of the mosque. "The meeting of the trust will be held after Ramzan that ends on April 21. The date to begin the construction work of the mosque will be finalised in that meeting," he said.

"We laid the foundation of the mosque on January 26, 2021. We chose that day because on this day, India's Constitution came into effect more than seven decades ago," he said. "The Dhannipur mosque will be bigger than the Babri Masjid.

It will not be modelled on the structure which once stood in Ayodhya," Hussain told PTI. The Dhannipur mosque site is about 22 km away from the venue of the Ram temple in the pilgrim town.

## SANSKRITI MAHOTSAV



Folk artists Gulabo Sapera performs during the 14th Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav in Bikaner.

## Tunisha Sharma suicide case

### Court grants bail to TV actor Sheezan Khan accused of abetment

Palghar, Mar 04 (PTI): A court at Vasai in Maharashtra's Palghar district on Saturday granted bail to television actor Sheezan Khan, arrested for allegedly abetting the suicide of co-actor Tunisha Sharma last year.

Sharma allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself on December 24, 2022, on the sets of a TV serial near Valiv in Palghar. Khan (28) was arrested the next day on a complaint lodged by Sharma's mother. He is currently lodged in a jail. Additional sessions court judge R D Deshpande ordered that Khan be released on a surety of Rs 1,00,000. The court also ordered the actor to surrender his passport and asked him not to leave the country without prior permission of the court.

## DU School of Open Learning cancels exams for Saturday, Sunday

### Officials cite admin 'goof-up'

New Delhi, Mar 04 (PTI):

The Delhi University's School of Open Learning abruptly announced the cancellation of Saturday's examination for the first-year BA and B.Com programmes while students were writing the paper and asked them to hand in their answer sheets.

The SOL examination scheduled for Sunday has been cancelled as well but the rest of the date-sheet remains the same, university officials said, adding the dates for these two subjects would be notified soon.

Saturday was the first day of the examination for

the students of the two programmes and it was supposed to be conducted in two shifts morning and evening. A senior university official said due to an "error", all students had been assigned the morning shift, which is why the examination had to be cancelled. Soon after the examination was cancelled, a notice of cancellation was put up outside the gates of the centres.

Sangeeta, a first-year BA student, said she reached her designated centre on time and the examination began normally, but a few minutes later, students were informed about the cancellation.

"My examination centre was Miranda House. I reached on time, checked my seat and sat down. We filled up our details and

question papers were distributed. We were given the allotted time to read the question paper," she said. "The answer sheets were distributed and as I picked up my pen, the invigilator told us that the exam has been cancelled. We were not given any reason," she claimed.

Sangeeta said hundreds of students had gathered outside the centre, demanding answers. They found a notice pasted on the main gate of the college which read, "As per information received from the Examination Branch today SOL papers for morning and evening sessions have been cancelled. Next date of examination will be informed later on."

The university official said the examination for both Saturday and Sunday

have been cancelled. "The students will be issued new roll numbers. It was a goof-up by SOL. We are looking into it. We are determining whether it was a human error or that of a computer," Registrar Vikas Gupta told PTI.

"We will notify the next date for the examination of these two subjects. The rest of the date-sheet is the same," he added.

In a message issued by the Delhi University, its assistant registrar said the exam was cancelled "due to unavoidable circumstances". "The next date of these examinations will be announced later," it read. Shivani, whose examination centre was DU's Atma Ram Sanatan College, accused the administration of negligence.

## Experts favour compensation for victims

New Delhi, Mar 04 (PTI):

The Supreme Court judgement acquitting a West Bengal native of the charge of killing his wife 40 years ago has once again shone a spotlight on the need for compensating a victim of wrongful prosecution for priceless years lost behind bars.

The top court on Friday acquitted Nikhil Chandra Mondal, who was booked for allegedly killing his wife four decades ago, ruling his conviction on the basis of extra-judicial confession cannot be sustained as it is a weak

piece of evidence. The murder was alleged to have taken place on March 11, 1983 in Burdwan district of West Bengal. The trial court decided the case on March 31, 1987 in favour of Mondal, who was acquitted.

The state government's appeal against the verdict remained pending in Calcutta High Court till December 15, 2008, the day he was convicted and awarded life sentence. Mondal oscillated between hope and despair for over 20 seemingly endless years before landing in a dark and dank prison barrack once again.

Mondal, now aged about 64, was 24 years old

at the time of his arrest for allegedly killing his wife, according to his lawyer Rukhsana Chowdhury. Since his arrest after the murder of his wife and following his conviction by the high court in 2008, he has spent more than 14 years behind bars, she said. Mondal preferred an appeal before the top court in 2010 against his conviction and sentence, which was decided on Friday.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sanjay Karol refused to believe the prosecution's contention, saying its case rests basically on the extra-judicial confession Mondal allegedly made before his three fellow villagers who

were made prosecution witnesses by police.

The bench said the trial court observed while acquitting Mondal that where the prosecution case is entirely based on extra-judicial confession and the prosecution seeks conviction of the accused on that confession, the evidence of the witnesses before whom the alleged confessional statement was made requires greater scrutiny to pass the test of credibility.

It found the trial court's approach was in accordance with law and set aside the high court's verdict. Mondal's ordeal is not an isolated instance of the prosecution's case going horribly wrong. In a

number of judgments, the top court has recognised the need for compensation for violation of fundamental rights, including wrongful arrest and incarceration. It has, however, desisted from issuing direction to the Union government to frame guidelines for compensating the victims of unwarranted prosecution.

The apex court had granted a compensation of Rs 50 lakh in 2018 to former ISRO scientist Nambi Narayanan, 24 years after he was falsely implicated in a 1994 espionage case. In an earlier verdict in 2015, the Supreme Court granted a Rs 10 lakh compensation to forest officer Ram

Lakhan Singh who was falsely implicated in vigilance cases.

In the case of Rudal Shah Vs State of Bihar, the apex court had awarded Rs 30,000 as compensation to him and held the scope of article 32 is sufficiently broad to include the power to grant compensation for infringing the fundamental rights.

Article 32 gives the right to individuals to move the Supreme Court to seek justice when they feel they have been unduly deprived of their fundamental rights. Shah was arrested for his wife's murder in 1953. He was in jail for 14 years before being acquitted and released in 1982.

Reacting to the apex court's judgement acquitting Mondal after long years of incarceration, senior lawyer and Constitution expert Rakesh Dwivedi said there should be a law against wrongful prosecution.

"The law has to be made by Parliament and possibly the Supreme Court can push the government to introduce a bill of that kind. That (wrongful prosecution and conviction) impacts personal liberty. Even if some compensation is given, it will not fully reimburse the loss of valuable time in jail. But still something can be done to mitigate (the victim's suffering) at

चोट एवं जलने के बाद घाव की प्लास्टिक सर्जरी

कालडा बर्न एंड प्लास्टिक कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी सेंटर  
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नामक, प्रभतरी रोड, कलन मॉल के पास, रायपुर  
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