



### BRIEF

#### Vaidik dies



**New Delhi:** Senior journalist and renowned expert on international affairs Ved Pratap Vaidik died on Tuesday morning. He was 78. "The senior journalist fainted in the bathroom at his Gurugram house in the morning and was taken to a nearby hospital where he was declared dead," his private assistant Mohan told PTI. He added that Vaidik was healthy in general and had even gone to Delhi on Monday.

#### Militant arrested

**Srinagar:** Security forces arrested a militant in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district and seized arms and ammunition from his possession, police said on Tuesday. Based on a specific input regarding the presence of a militant at Madina Bagh Moh, in Sopore, a cordon and search operation was launched there, they said. While laying the initial cordon, a militant was spotted who was trying to escape by taking cover of the narrow lanes, by-lanes and congested area, police said.

#### New state

**New Delhi:** There is no proposal under the central government's consideration for creation of any new state, Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday. Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said this while replying to a written question on whether the government has received any proposal for the constitution of Bundelkhand state.

#### INS Dronacharya

**New Delhi:** INS Dronacharya, the premier gunnery school of the Indian Navy, will receive the prestigious President's Colour on Thursday in recognition of its commendable services. President Droupadi Murmu will confer the award, according to the defence ministry. The award is considered the highest honour that the President, who is also the Supreme Commander of the three services, bestows on a unit for its exceptional service to the nation.

#### CBI's questioning

**New Delhi:** Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav skipped CBI's questioning in the land-for-jobs scam for the third time on Tuesday, officials said. Yadav was given notice to appear for questioning on Tuesday after he did not do so on March 4 and March 11, they said. He did not appear for questioning on the third notice for Tuesday as well, they said. The federal agency recently questioned Yadav's father and RJD supreme leader Lalu Prasad and his wife Rabri Devi in Delhi and Patna respectively.

**Weather**  
High 36 Low 19

**MARKET**  
NIFTY 17,043.30  
SENSEX 57,900.19

**BULLION**  
GOLD 57,431  
SILVER 66,582

### FINMIN ON OPS

## 'No provision in PFRDA to refund accumulated NPS corpus to states'

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

The central government on Tuesday said there is no provision in the PFRDA Act for a refund of the accumulated NPS corpus being sought by the five non-BJP states that want to restart the Old Pension Scheme.

The state governments of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh,

Jharkhand, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh have informed the Centre about their decision to revert to the OPS and have requested a refund of corpus accumulated under the National Pension System (NPS).

"There is no provision under Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 2013 ... vide which the accumulated corpus

of the subscribers viz Government contribution, Employees' contribution towards NPS along with accruals, can be refunded and deposited back to the State Government," Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

The minister further said that the central government is not consider-

ing any proposal to restore the OPS in respect of the central government employees recruited after January 1, 2004.

The NPS was introduced by the central government in December 2003 to replace the defined benefit pension system with defined contribution pension scheme in order to provide old age income security in a fiscally sustainable manner

and also channelise small savings into productive sectors of the economy through prudential investments.

It was made mandatory for all new recruits to the Government service (except armed forces) with effect from January 1, 2004, and has also been rolled out for all citizens with effect from May 1, 2009, on voluntary basis.

## Off-duty TTE urinates on woman passenger in train

### Sacked by railways

Lucknow, Mar 14 (PTI):

An off-duty railway ticket checker allegedly urinated on a passenger on Kolkata-Amritsar Akal Takht Express, prompting the Indian Railways to sack him and declaring it has "zero tolerance" for such behaviour.

Munna Kumar, said to be under the influence of alcohol, was arrested after the incident past midnight on March 13 following a complaint by the passenger's husband at Charbagh station, a GRP official said.

"Zero tolerance. Removal from service with immediate effect," Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw tweeted. The incident has come close on the heels of similar incidents reported on board air-lanes in recent months.

A resident of Begusarai in Bihar, Kumar was posted as a travel ticket examiner (TTE) in

Saharanpur. The woman and her husband were travelling from Kuli in Bihar to Amritsar in Punjab, GRP inspector Navratna Gautam told PTI in Lucknow. Gautam said a probe will be conducted to ascertain if Kumar was drunk at the time of the incident.

In a notice to Kumar, the Northern Railway said, "Your above conduct showing disrespect to women construes a serious misconduct, in the process bringing disrepute not only to your own self but entire railways as an organisation. It is also seen that you are in judicial custody.

"Taking cognisance of this grave matter, I consider it to be a fit case to adopt the provision of Rule 14(ii). Thus, I hereby deem it fit to impose the punishment of 'removal from service with immediate effect' for behaviour unbecoming of a railway servant," the notice signed by the divisional commercial manager said.

## Court required to separate chaff from grain in cases where evidence is partly reliable & partly unreliable: SC

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

The Supreme Court said on Tuesday a court is required to be circumspect, separate the chaff from the grain and seek further corroboration from reliable testimony, direct or circumstantial, in cases where evidence is partly reliable and partly unreliable.

The apex court, which acquitted four people convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment in a murder case of 2006, observed that immediate lodging of FIR provides credence to the prosecution's case when the parties involved are at loggerheads.

A bench headed by Justice B R Gavai allowed the appeals filed by the accused challenging the

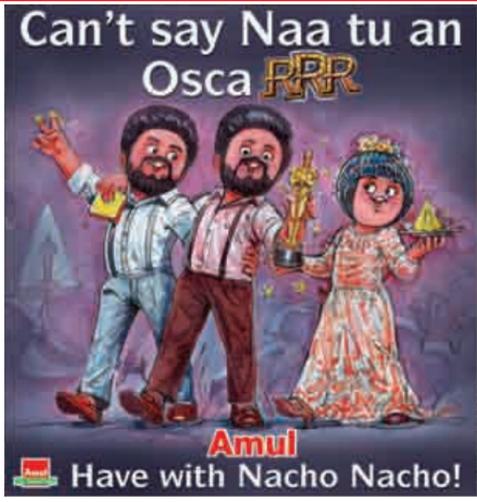
November 2014 judgement of the Chhattisgarh High Court which had dismissed their appeals and confirmed the May 2008 verdict of the trial court convicting them and others in the case.

The bench, also comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Sanjay Karol, said in the category of "wholly reliable" witness, there is no difficulty for the prosecution to press for conviction on the basis of testimony of such a witness. "In case of 'wholly unreliable' witness, again, there is no difficulty, inasmuch as no conviction could be made on the basis of oral testimony provided by a 'wholly unreliable' witness. The real difficulty comes in case of the third category of evidence which is partly reliable

and partly unreliable," the bench said. "In such cases, the court is required to be circumspect and separate the chaff from the grain, and seek further corroboration from reliable testimony, direct or circumstantial," it said.

According to the prosecution, the incident had taken place in November 2006 when one of the accused, Naresh Kumar, had allegedly assaulted one Atmaram who later went to police station for lodging a complaint.

The police had claimed that thereafter, Kumar, along with other accused, formed an unlawful assembly and entered the house of Atmaram where they assaulted some people as a result of which Kartikram died on the spot.



## Pensioners under Employees' Pension Scheme 1995 to begin nationwide protest

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

Pensioners under the Employees' Pension Scheme 1995 (EPS-95) have decided to go on a nationwide protest in 200 cities, including the national capital, from Wednesday to press for a higher pension of Rs 7,500 per month along with dearness allowance (DA).

"Beneficiaries of the EPS-95 have decided to go on a nationwide protest in 200 cities, including the national capital, from March 15 to press for their four-point demands, which include hiked pension of Rs 7,500 per month along with dearness allowance and medical facility to self and spouses," according to a statement.

A delegation of the beneficiaries had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi

in the past and their protest is continuing since 2018 in Buldhana in Maharashtra.

National Action Committee convenor Ashok Raut said in the statement, "Our struggle is for justice to the beneficiaries of EPS-95 and it is continuing for the past seven years. Under the leadership of BJP MP Hema Malini, we met the Prime Minister twice and he had given assurance, but still, the matter is lingering". He alleged that the government is running various schemes for the benefit of the people, but despite being beneficiaries of government-run pension funds, they are being pushed to the periphery. He added that Rs 1,171 is not enough, but if they get 7,500 plus DA they can live with self-respect.

### TRADITIONAL WELCOME



College students wearing traditional dresses welcome G20 delegates who arrived to attend the G20 meeting, in Amritsar, Tuesday.

## Rahul Gandhi's remarks hit LS proceedings for second consecutive day

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

The row over Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks in Britain seeking intervention of the US and European nations over "disappearing" democracy in India disrupted the Lok Sabha for the second consecutive day on Tuesday.

Soon after the house assembled, BJP members raised slogans seeking an apology from Rahul Gandhi, while the Congress-led opposition waved placards with quotes from speeches of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visits abroad.

"Rahul Gandhi maafi mango (Rahul Gandhi apologise)," BJP members shouted repeatedly from



their seats. Some ministers, too, were on their feet.

Opposition members raised slogans from the aisles and avoided trooping into the well of the house.

"BRICS ka T ludak raha hai (The T in BRICS is tottering)," read one placard referring to the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa grouping.

"Pata nahi pehle janam main kya paap kiya tha,

Hindustan main paida hua (Don't know what sin I had committed that I was born in India)," read another placard waved by a Congress member quoting the prime minister's speech in Seoul in May 2015.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla tried to take up the Question Hour and appealed to the members to uphold the dignity of the house. Asking the Congress members, who were on their feet, to maintain decorum of the house and not show placards, Birla said they should let the Lok Sabha function.

"I will give the opportunity to raise issues after Question Hour. Question Hour is an important part of parliamentary proceed-

ings. I will give you adequate opportunities, but after Question Hour I urge you to return to your seats. I will allow every topic to be raised as per the rules," Birla said. However, Congress members continued their protest following which the speaker adjourned the house till 2 pm. After resumption of the house, papers and standing committee reports were presented in the amid the ruckus.

The house was adjourned for the day within 10 minutes. Gandhi recently alleged in London that the structures of Indian democracy are under brutal attack and there is a full-scale assault on the institutions of the country.

## PM security breach Punjab govt to soon send action taken report to Centre

Chandigarh, Mar 14 (PTI):

The Punjab government will soon send an action taken report to the Centre over a security breach during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the state in January last year, a top official here said on Tuesday.

The action being contemplated is based on the findings submitted by a Supreme Court-appointed committee which probed the security breach during Modi's visit.

The Centre had recently sent a missive to the state regarding the matter.

"We have received the report of the committee (court-appointed), which has held some officers responsible for the lapses in security. We will soon send the action taken report (to the Centre) in this regard," Chief Secretary V K Janjua

## Woman dies of flu-like symptoms Reports awaited on cause amid H3N2 scare

Vadodara, Mar 14 (PTI)

A 58-year-old woman died due to flu-like symptoms at a state-run hospital in Vadodara city of Gujarat, an official said on Tuesday. When asked if the H3N2 influenza virus was the cause, the official said samples have been sent for testing and a review committee will determine the exact cause of the woman's death.

The patient was shifted to Sir Sayajirao General (SSG) Hospital on March 11 from a private facility. She died on March 13, said Resident Medical Officer (RMO), SSG Hospital, D K Helaya. "We have taken all the samples and sent them for testing. The review committee will determine the cause of the woman's death," the RMO told reporters.

To another question, he said punishments to the erring officials can include stopping increments, demotion and in worse case dismissal if they are still in service.

However, he said everyone will be given a hearing to defend themselves.

## India emerged as first responder in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief: CDS

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI)

HADR in the region and beyond," Gen Chauhan said, citing India's HADR operations in the region and beyond. He said the timely launch of 'Operation Dost' following the recent earthquake in Turkey is a testimony to India's willingness to extend help to all possible corners of the globe.

The CDS added that collective approach is essential to mitigate the consequences of disasters and with this objective India has been holding multilateral exercises with various countries and multilateral organisations such as the HADR exercise PANEX 21 for BIMSTEC members at Pune in 2021, SMANVAY 22 for ASEAN members in Agra in 2022.

"By strengthening multilateral partnerships through engagement via regional mechanisms, improved interoperability, and faster response, we have played our role as the first

## India emerged as first responder in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief: CDS

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI)

responder in the region," Gen Chauhan said.

The CDS further said that armed forces along with dedicated organisational structure are often the first responders in the event of any disaster.

Air Marshal BR Krishna, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee inaugurated the workshop.

He urged the member states to develop capability and capacities of their national organizations to make them capable of mitigating loss of life and property during natural calamities.

The objective of the workshop is to exchange information and share the best practices on risk reduction and resilience, integration of Armed Forces in a regional response and disaster infrastructure and for promoting global collaboration among SCO members.

## Woman hit and drag case Court extends judicial custody of five accused

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI)

A Delhi court on Tuesday extended the judicial custody of the five accused in the hit-and-run case in which a 20-year-old woman was dragged to death while trapped under a car in the national capital by 14 days.

Police had arrested the five accused Deepak Khanna (26), Amit Khanna (25), Krishna (27), Mithun (26), and Manoj Mittal in the case on January 2.

The link court of Metropolitan Magistrate Ajay Singh Parihar extended the accused's judicial custody till March 28 upon their physical production in the court.

Two other co-accused, Ashutosh Bhardwaj and Anshuk were earlier granted bail by the court, while the bail plea of accused Deepak Khanna was rejected by a sessions court.



## Uproar in Ch'garh assembly, BJP says workers being framed in false cases

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 14:** Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party on Tuesday alleged in the Chhattisgarh assembly that the Congress-ruled government in the state is implicating its party leaders in false cases to suppress the voice of political opponents. The charges led to an uproar in the House, stalling the proceedings thrice in quick succession.

Senior BJP members, including Leader of Opposition Narayan Chandel and legislator Shivratna Sharma, raised the issue during the Zero Hour and said false police cases with non-bailable charges have been foisted



on BJP. Targeting ruling Congress MLAs, Sharma said, their (Congress) leader had tried to crush the opposition during the Emergency (1975-77) and "everyone knows what happened to them".

Referring to a case, BJP legislators said, some party workers were issued Zila Badar' (a kind of externment order is-

Deputy Speaker Santram Netam to adjourn the proceedings for five minutes.

However, after the proceedings resumed, Opposition members again raised the issue and said that during the 15-year rule of the BJP, no Congress worker was declared a Zila Badar'.

Justifying the police action in the Kabirdham case cited by the BJP, state's Law Minister Mohammad Akbar said they (BJP workers) had attacked police personnel. Akbar said action will be taken against the offenders. But BJP leaders continued to create noise, resulting in the proceedings getting adjourned two more times.

## Salary discrepancy issue raised in assembly

**Raipur, Mar 14:** The issue pertaining to salary discrepancy was raised during question hour of budget session of Chhattisgarh assembly on Tuesday. BJP MLA Shivratna Sharma sought information on action taken by the government to sort out salary discrepancy. Shivratna Sharma asked whether the committee constituted by the state government regarding salary discrepancy has submitted its report. In response, the Education Minister said that the committee did not submit its report yet. Meanwhile on the issue of giving promotion to assistant teachers, Minister Premsai Singh bluntly said that

Shikshakarmi Grade 3 cannot be promoted due to the merger of Shikshakarmi Grade 3 as assistant teacher in the education department.

A three-member committee was formed on the instructions of the state government to examine the discrepancy in the pay scale of assistant teachers of the state. The Principal Secretary of the School Education Department is the chairman. Secretary of the General Administration Department, Joint Secretary of the Finance Department are also in the committee. The committee was instructed to submit the report within three months.

## 'Efforts underway to promote technical education'

● **Branches which high on demand are being introduced in new polytechnic institutions: Umesh Patel**

**Raipur, Mar 14:** Admitting that there has been a decrease in admission in polytechnic colleges the Minister for Higher Education, Skill Development and Technical Education Umesh Patel said in Chhattisgarh Assembly today

that only 22.26% seats were filled this year. Government colleges registered 29.9% admission and expenditure of around Rs 65 crore is estimated for proposed five new colleges, he said in his reply to question raised by MLA Sourabh Singh through call attention motion. According to him the status of admission of girls in Chhattisgarh is better compared to that of entire country as their fees have been waived off in government polytechnic colleges in Chhattisgarh. While percentage of girls admission in Chhattisgarh is 21.85 the percentage

of girls admission in entire country is only 18.13 as per the information available on All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), he said. He said that efforts were being made to promote technical education in the state. Branches which high on demand are being introduced in new colleges, he said, adding that adequate seats have been made available for all branches. He said that students studying in polytechnic colleges across the state were getting employment not only in the state but also in other parts. Therefore it was improper

to state that lack of employment opportunities in the state led to widespread resentment among youth and their parents, said Patel. Earlier MLA Sourabh Singh said in calling attention motion that employment opportunities were not available in the state and no new industries were set up. The number of seats on the branches which have high employment potential have not been increased he said and added that availability of limited seats and lack of employment opportunities caused resentment among youth and parents.

## Issue of dilapidated schools echoes in assembly

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Mar 14:** The issue of dilapidated schools came up for discussion in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly on Tuesday.

MLA Bhubaneswar Shobharam Baghel and MLA Chandan Kashyap raised the issue while referring to Dongargarh and Narayanpur Assembly Constituencies in the House. School Education Minister Premsai Singh Tekam

said, the dilapidated buildings of all the schools in all the assembly constituencies of the state will be repaired before the next academic session. Taking a jibe BJP MLA Ajay Chandrakar said, the entire school education department became dilapidated. In reply School Education Minister Premsai Singh Tekam said that steps were being taken to improve school education which was ruined in 15 years.



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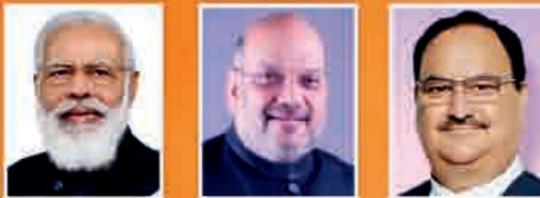
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राजा पाठक



संदीप कुमार अग्रवाल



परमजीत (टोनी) सिंह



रामकुमार घनकर

## CM Baghel, Speaker Dr. Mahant attend 'Sneh Milan Samaroh'

Organized at Shanti Sarovar

Raipur, Mar 14: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Speaker of the State Assembly Dr. Charandas Mahant, Leader of the Opposition Narayan Chandel, and many other ministers, parliamentary secretaries, and legislators attended the 'Sneh Milan Samaroh' held at Shanti Sarovar in Raipur by Prajapita Brahmakumari Ishwariya Vishwavidyalaya (PBIV). On this occasion, all those present, including the Chief Minister and Speaker of the Vidhan Sabha, paid tribute to Shanti Sarovar's previous regional director by placing flowers at the tomb of Late Kamla Didi.

Assembly Speaker Dr. Charandas Mahant stated on this occasion that people today require spiritual calm. He mentioned that many of



our friends want to visit Mount Abu and we shall be able to serve the people better if we have mental tranquility. He stated that a confused mind cannot connect to God and we are all his children who aspire to be like him.

Welcoming all ministers to the three-day Rajyoga camp being held in Mount Abu, Regional Director Brahmakumari Hemlata Didi stated that Chhattisgarh is rich in cultural traditions. Individuals today must advance in terms of ethics and spirituality. Meanwhile, Brahmakumari

Manorama Didi, National President of the Religious Services Division, who came from Prayagraj, stated that this area is filled with emotions. This land is related with to Ayodhyapati Shri Ram. The holy land of Mount Abu is the place where one can find their spiritual peace. In addition to this, Health Minister T.S. Singhdeo, Agriculture and Water Resources Minister Ravindra Choubey, Education Minister Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam, Parliamentary Secretary Shishupal Singh Sori, Former Assembly Speaker

Dharamlal Kaushik, Former Minister Brijmohan Agrawal, Dr. Krishnamurthy Bandhi, Punnulal Mohle, MLA Nanki Ram Kanwar, Kuldeep Juneja, Arun Vora, Shivratna Sharma, Dharamjeet Singh, Pramod Sharma, Daleshwar Sahu, Dr. Pritam Ram, Rajneesh Singh, Dr. Laxmi Dhruv, Savitri Manoj Mandavi, Anita Yogendra Sharma, Sangeeta Sinha, Uttari Jangde were present.

In the Sneh Milan Samaroh, the guests were honored by providing shawls and mementos. Aside, child artists of Raipur enthralled everyone by presenting a dance the state song 'Arpa Pairi ke Dhar'. In the end, Director of Bhilai Seva Kendra, Brahmakumari Asha didi expressed gratitude. The program was held under the guidance of Brahmakumari Sarita Didi, Director of Dhamtari Seva Kendra.

## CSFDC hand over a cheque of Rs 3.51 cr to CM

Towards dividend and lease rent

Raipur, Mar 14: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel was given the dividend of Chhattisgarh State Forest Development Corporation (CSFDC) for the year 2021-22 by Forest Minister Mohammad Akbar and Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Forest Development Corporation Devendra Bahadur Singh in his office room located in the Vidhan Sabha Complex today. A cheque of Rs 3.51 cr was handed over to the Chief Minister. On this occasion, Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey, Advisor to Chief Minister Rajesh Tiwari, Principal Secretary Forest Department Manoj Kumar Pingua, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief of Forest Force Sanjay Shukla and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Managing Director, Chhattisgarh State Forest Development Corporation A.K. Bhatt were present.



Chairman of the Chhattisgarh State Forest Corporation, Devendra Bahadur Singh, stated that because of the work done by the Forest Development Corporation, forest dwellers living in the state's forest areas and villagers belonging to economically backward classes have been provided with continuous employment to improve their social and economic conditions. Opportunities are being generated. The corporation has not obtained a loan from a bank or other financial institution, nor has it received a grant from the state government. Forest Development

Company is dedicated to promoting greenery and environmental development throughout the state.

Managing Director of Forest Development Corporation, A.K. Bhat, informed the Chief Minister that in the financial year 2021-22, an income of Rs 69 crore 11 lakh was generated from the sale of forest produce and other income received from the thinning of teak plantations planted by the Forest Development Corporation under the work plan approved by the Government of India, and various works worth Rs 31 crore 79 lakh were spent on it. The Corporation

achieved a net profit after tax of Rs.36 crore 48 lakh during the financial year.

In the financial year 2021-22, the corporation planted 35 lakh teak trees in an area of 1982 hectares and 7 lakh 47 thousand mixed species plants with funds obtained from various public undertakings through the Deposit Planting Scheme for environmental improvement in the state of Chhattisgarh. He stated that 13,504 cubic meters of timber, 7,845 pieces of firewood, and 86 notional tonnes of bamboo were produced during the financial year 2021-22.

## Take strict action against contractors negligent in construction work: Collector

Necessary guidelines given for beautification from Loha Dongri to Bus Stand

Collector holds review meeting of Time-Limit

Bijapur, Mar 14: Collector Rajendra Kumar Katara reviewed the development works in the district in the weekly time-limit review meeting and gave necessary guidelines, under which strict action will be taken against the contractors who are negligent in the construction works. He directed to complete all the construction works well on time, ensuring quality in all the works done.

Collector in the meeting gave necessary guidelines for beautification of bus stand from Loha Dongri. On the other hand, he asked to ensure the imple-



mentation of the announcements made in the budget session by the Chief Minister and in Janchoupal, including the meeting, under the ambitious schemes of the state government, regular purchase of cow dung, production of vermicompost, development works in Gouthans.

Under the ambitious schemes Narva, Garuva,

Ghurva and Bari, he asked to carry out regular operation, inspection of cleanliness in urban areas, submission of inspection report, supply of drinking water in schools, Anganwadi, POTA Cabin ashrams, availability of handpumps in all villages. He also took information about defective hand-pumps, necessary basic facilities in newly operated

health centers without buildings and about health centers. At the same time, instructions were given to provide better health facilities. He asked to speed up the repair works in Swami Atmanand English Medium Schools; take action on illegal sand transportation; provide ration to the villagers in their native panchayat. Apart from this he also directed to ensure regular operation of buses operated by the district administration, free bus service to the villagers from Bechupal to Etepal. Collector instructed to regularly review the development works, including expansion of banking facilities, installation of ATM machines in Kutru and Madded.

CEO District Panchayat Ravi Kumar Sahu, SDM Bijapur Pawan Kumar Premi, Joint Collector Suman Raj, Manoj Banjare and senior district level officials were present in the meeting.

## Doctors continue protest against assault on the doctor on-duty



In the emergency ward of District Hospital

Konta/Sukma, Mar 14: There was an incident of fight with the doctor on-duty in the emergency ward of Surajpur district hospital. In protest against the incident of assault on the doctor on-duty in the emergency ward and demanding the arrest of other accused in the case, doctors in Sukma district hospital, CHC, PHC protested by wearing black bands. Along with this, the Chhattisgarh

In Service Doctors Association (CISDA) has submitted a memorandum to CA Anil Jagat to CM Bhupesh Baghel, State Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, Health Minister TS Singhdev, demanding the arrest of the accused soon.

Dr. Anil Patel informed that on the evening of Holi, Dr. Anish Kumar was on emergency duty at District Hospital Surajpur. At 4 pm, two constables of Kotwali police had taken a young man Pradeep Vishwakarma to Mulahija for investigation and treatment. Dr. Anish was treating him

when 10 to 12 people including Saurabh Jindia, Neeraj Jindia reached his cabin and started pressurizing him to treat in their own way. On this, Dr. Anish refused, so those people started fighting while abusing him. During this the policemen were also present there. Somehow, the people in the link against the staff accused pacified the matter by intervening. Later, the injured Dr. Anish complained to the police about the assault on him. The police arrested both of them by registering an FIR against the two accused under the Medical Protection Act while against them and the ST SC Act. But this action is proving to be only a formality, the arrest of the other accused is being demanded by registering a case against them. The doctors performed duty by tying a black band in their arms in the district hospital and CHC, PHC of the entire Sukma district.

## Youth hurting with knife nabbed

Bemetara Mar 14: A complainant Sadar, living under Police Station City Kotwali Bemetara area, filed a report on Friday last in Police Station Bemetara that the accused Harsh Yadav, S/o Shiv, (29) R/o Ward 03 Kachari Para Pade Talab Bemetara hurled obscene abuses and injured him on night of March 9 by a knife. He was stabbed in the thigh with a knife for not giving money for drinking alcohol near Sthal Pade Talab, Bemetara. During the investigation in the case, the accused Harsh Yadav was taken into arrest on Tuesday.

City Kotwali Bemetara Inspector-in-Charge Ambarsingh Bhardwaj, Sauni Jitendra Kashyap, Head Constable Devnarayan Tiwari, Constable Ravi Sahu, Shiv Kumar Sen and other police station staff played an important role in the said action on the direction and guidance of senior officers.

## Trainee IPS officers pay courtesy call on CM



Raipur, Mar 14: A delegation of trainer officers of Indian Police Services, led by Director of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose State Police Academy Chandkhuri, paid courtesy call on Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel

at his office in the Vidhan Sabha premise. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel congratulated the trainee Officers and advised them to stay alert and updated about the current challenges, crimes and cyber crimes, and motivated

them to perform their duties as police officers with diligence and dedication.

On the occasion, Akash Kumar Shukla, Aman Kumar Jha, Ravindra Kumar Meena, Rohit Kumar Jha, Ravindra Kumar Meena, Rohit Kumar Shah, and Udit Pushkar from IPS Batch 2021, and Chirag Jain and Umesh Prakash Gupta of IPS Batch 2020 were also present.

## Illegal 50 quarter bottles of country liquor seized

Bemetara, Mar 14: Under the direction and guidance of senior police officers, continuous action is being taken by the Bemetara police on illegal sale of liquor; gambling, sale of drugs and others. In view of this on Monday 1 case of illegal sale of liquor was registered in police station Kotwali Bemetara against 1 accused. Action has been taken under 34 (2) Excise Act. Total liquor seized are 50 quarter bottles of country plain liquor worth Rs.4,000/ and the accused has been sent to jail.

Jagdalpur, Mar 14: The incident took place near the new bus stand under Bodhghat police station area of ??the district. Five villagers had come from Kodanar for shopping. Posing as fake policemen, two miscreants looted Rs 5000 from the villagers in the name of investigation and ran away. The police had already



arrested one of the accused, Sawan Singh, involved in the case. During interrogation, he accepted his involvement in the incident

along with his another accomplice Ashish Singh. On his tip, another accused Ashish was also arrested on Sunday. The Scooty used in the incident and Rs 3500 looted have been recovered from him. He spent the rest of the money on alcohol. After the proceedings, today he has been sent to the court on judicial remand. According to information

received from the Bodhghat police, on March 9, five villagers from Kodanar had come to Jagdalpur for shopping. In the afternoon, they were going to the market from the new bus stand. Meanwhile, two people arrived near the liquor shop on a Scooty and started investigating the villagers claiming themselves as policemen.

## Amit of JNV obtains national Grade-A

In Camp NASTA Bemetara, Mar 14: Camp NASTA (Knowledge and Awareness Mapping Platform) National Assessment for Scientific Temperament and Aptitude which started in 2019. In its examination 15 students from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Bemetara Chhattisgarh participated. Out of which Amit Singh Rajput brought laurels to the school by securing first position in the district. Amit Singh Rajput has obtained National Grade A. On which the Principal of the school Laxmi Singh wished Amit Singh Rajput all the best and a bright future. She informed that after passing this exam, Amit Singh Rajput will be honored by Camp NASTA. He said that there will be an opportunity to visit and learn in the best institutes like DRDO, ISRO etc.

## One-day training on child protection organized



Kondagaon, Mar 14: District Level Child Protection Committee organized a one-day development block level training on Child Rights and their protection at the District Panchayat Makdi Assembly Hall in Development Block Makdi. This training was inaugurated by Janpad President Moti Bai and Vice President Gautam Sahu. In this training they

made villagers aware by providing information regarding child marriage and protection of child rights. District Child Protection Officer Narendra Soni gave information about amendments in the act related to Child Protection, Rehabilitation Process, Employment, Migration. Member Child Development Samiti Rita Chalaki gave information in detailed about

POCSO Act, Child Marriage. Jaideep Nath gave information about adoption process; Nutrition, Monitoring, after and pastor care. Detailed information was also given regarding the rehabilitation of children living in street-like conditions. Chief Executive Officer Anilkar Sahu, Nayab Tehsilkar Pose, BRC Tahir Khan, Project Officer Makdi Sanjay Potai, Patron Gajendra Patel, Jaideep Nath, Umesh Kumar Marapi, Ved Prakash Mahavir, Rakesh Chakradhari of Child Line, Police Department, Education Department, Officials and staff of Health Department, Women and Child Development were present.

## Mathematics is applicable everywhere: Prof Verma

National Mathematics Day observed

Raipur, Mar 14: Vice Chancellor Prof K L Verma said, "Mathematics plays an important role in our life. From waking up to sleeping, we are always connected with mathematics. Today in this age of information technology its importance has increased further. Students need to adopt it and make their lives successful and beautiful." The above comments were made by him while speaking at the inaugural session of two day National Mathematics Day organised by the Centre for Basic Sciences here. Chief Guest Professor Vishnu Narayan Mishra, Head of Department of Mathematics, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak while addressing the students said, "From ancient the importance of mathematics has been proved. India has had produced many mathematicians who have done world class work. Mathematics is the 'Queen of Science' and



through many examples illustrated many interesting thoughts on the application of mathematics." Prof BS Thakur, Head of the Department, Department of Mathematics outlined mathematics in the Indian tradition knowledge tradition and elaborated on the works of Bhaskaracharya, Aryabhata and many other institutions He highlighted the dimensions of Algebra and Trigonometry in India. Registrar Dr Shailendra Kumar Patel said in his address, "For the development of mental capacity Mathematics is required. We use Mathematics daily but are not aware about its theoretical concept. We can increase our reasoning power and mental capacity by solving one or two questions per day."

Prof. Kallol K Ghosh, Director, CBS encouraged students and motivated them to learn from this program. In the second session Prof Dr Asrifa Sultana, Assistant Professor from IIT Bhilai gave a lecture to the students on 'Fixed Point Theorem and Applications to Nash Equilibrium Problem'. Many competitions were held in the two-day event in which Rahul Singh Tomar and Bhavi Kesharwani of CBS won first place in Rangoli, and second place was bagged by Dr. Pujali Patle of Radhabai Naveen Girls College. First place in poster competition was bagged by Sweta Yadav, Department of Psychology, Pt Ravi Shankar Shukla

University and second place went to Rahul Singh Tomar of CBS. In the maths quiz competition, the team of Megha, Sandhya, Malaika, Mahendra and Udit of CBS got the first place and the team of Dibyanchal, Srikanth, Chinmayi, Maniram and Sandeep from Electronic and Photonics Department received the second spot. In the essay writing competition, Diksha Verma of CBS got first place and Dibyanchal Sahu of Department of Electronics and Photonics got second place. The program was organized with the support of Chhattisgarh Council of Science & Technology, Chhattisgarh Science and Technology. Dr Govind Prasad Sahu, Assistant Professor, Mathematics CBS coordinated the program. In this two-day program students and researchers from Dr. Radhabai Navin Girls College, Government Nagarjuna Post Graduate College, Government J Yoganandam Chhattisgarh College and Pt RSU ensured their participation.

# Advocates Assoc burns effigy of district admn

Central Chronicle News

**Rajim, Mar 14:** The Advocates Association has geared up to remove the Tehsildar posted in Rajim and the effigy of District Administration and Tehsildar Rajim was burnt at Pandit Sunderlal Sharma Chowk here this week.

Two mannequins were prepared by the Advocates Association, which were burnt one by one while raising slogans at 12:00 noon on Sunday and at that time many union organizations and farmers were also present in support of the advocates.

Slogans were raised against the district administration and



Tehsildar Rajim. Lalchand Meghwani, Pawan Gupta, Rakesh Gupta, farmer leader Sanjeev Chandrakar, BJP leader Lala Sahu, Nagar Panchayat Rajim president representative Jitendra Sonkar, AAP

party leader Raja Thakur, and NCP leader Harish Sahu were present on the occasion. A large number of farmers, including BJP Mandal President Kamal Sinha, extended their support. It is worth mentioning

that the Advocates Association has been agitating since February 22 due to Tehsildar Rajim's misbehavior with farmers and advocates. Union President Mahesh Yadav said that farmers, are

suffering due to Tehsildar's working style in this regard, District Magistrate Prabhat Malik has been given detailed information and a demand has been made to remove him from Rajim.

Giving information, Himanshu Dubey, Vice President of the Advocates Association said that till now they were protesting peacefully, but the protest will intensify further. Ramakant Dewan, Santosh Puri Goswami, Anand Thakur, Arvind Sharma, Mahendra Soni, DR Sahu, Kamal and a large number of advocates including Narayan Sahu, Daneshwar Singh Thakur were present.

Central Chronicle News

**Korba, Mar 14:** District Collector Sanjeev Jha took a review meeting of public undertakings regarding CSR in the Collectorate hall and directed the public institutions to faithfully discharge their social responsibilities in the development of the district.

The Collector expressed deep displeasure over the slow progress in CSR participation and public industrial institutions not showing seriousness in CSR works.

Instead of using the resources of the district, he instructed the institutions to ensure participation in the development of the



district and the residents of the district and to show proactivity on the proposals under CSR.

In the meeting, the Collector instructed the officials of SECL that the job, compensation, rehabilitation and other problems of the land oustees should be resolved seriously. He also instructed the officials to ensure reg-

ular water supply through water tankers in the mine-affected areas where there is water problem in view of the heat.

Officers of SECL, NTPC, CSEB, LANCO, IOCL, BALCO and other industrial institutions were present in the review meeting along with Additional Collector Vijendra Patle.

# Villagers demand appointment of notary in LB Nagar tehsil

Central Chronicle News

**Dongargarh, Mar 14:** The tehsil office was started in the midst of great inconvenience, but due to lack of complete arrangements in the tehsil office, the villagers are wandering for the tehsil level work.

Farmer leader Hemlal Verma, while mentioning the problems of the villagers, has accused the local MLA that the lack of mention of LB Nagar in the last budget of the Congress government shows the inaction of the MLA.

Verma further accused that for LB Nagar Tehsil, due to the pressure of the movement made by the people of the area and the BJP workers, the Tehsil office was started by the administration in a hurry, but till now enough employees have not been appointed.



Half incomplete work is being done by attaching only four-five temporary employees and due to non-appointment of deputy registrar, stamp vendor and notary, the people of the area are wandering for tehsil level work.

Mr. Verma has further said that we talked to the officers many times regarding the shortage of

staff, absence of patwaris and revenue inspectors, handed over the memorandum but we only got assurances.

The way the people of the area and the BJP workers organized a movement to start the Tehsil office, the same way agitation will be organized for this in future also he said.

# 338 children safely handed over to their families in this financial year

Under 'Nanhe Farishte' campaign by RPF SECR

Central Chronicle News

**Bilaspur, Mar 14:** Railway Protection Force, South East Central Railway is discharging its social responsibilities with utmost priority along with the safety of railway passengers, railway property.

Along with providing assistance to the needy passengers dutifully, the Railway Protection Force is continuously running a campaign for their convenience and safety, paying special attention to women and children.

In this series, the Railway Protection Force, South East Central Railway, efficiently discharging its responsibilities, till the



month of February in this financial year, under the jurisdiction of South East Central Railway, under "Operation Nanhe Farishte", 338 minor children (193 boys and 145 girls) who had run away from home and were separated from parents were rescued at various

stations/trains and handed over to NGOs and their guardians.

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

bilities with service. These works being done by the Railway Protection Force are continuously getting very positive and encouraging response from the public.

Along with this, prompt assistance is provided to the passengers through Security Helpline and Women Helpline running round the clock in Railway Protection Force Control Room. Special attention is being paid to the safety of women passengers by deployment of women RPF staff at railway stations/trains.

The vulnerable night running trains are being escorted by RPF personnel to ensure the safety of the passengers. A strict vigil is being kept on the activities of criminals in-

olved in theft of passenger luggage, drug abuse, pickpocketing and other heinous crimes like theft, dacoity by deployment of decoy task force teams in unsafe trains/sections in sufficient numbers.

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

# DCP team succeeds in cancelling child marriage

## MISSING



**B C DAS**  
60 KG | 73 YEARS OLD | 5.5 FEET  
Last seen 13 March 2023  
near Smriti Nagar, Kali Badi, Bhalai wearing a blue t-shirt and white jeans pant.  
For any information that can help us to find him, Please call his family at:  
**88003 94837**  
**86027 07937**

That of girl below her eligible age-limit

Central Chronicle News

**Rajim, Mar 14:** Preparations for marriage were going on in Gram Jenjara near Rajim and the District Child Protection (DCP) Unit team and Child Line visited the venue and on checking the documents of the girl for her date of birth, her age was found to

be 17.8 yrs and this application for marriage was stopped. The marriage of the girl was due on 13 March 2023.

The officers from District Child Protection Team informed that as per the eligible age as per Child Marriage 'Parishedh' Abhiniyam 2006, the girl's age should be minimum 18 yrs and that of boy it should be 21 yrs..

In case of marriage of male or female person below the minimum permissible age limit is crime not only for the two, but for others also who were

attending the marriage and assisting them and it comes under punishable crime and if found guilty, they are liable for 2 yrs of RI and Rs 1 lakh as penalty or both.

The District Child Protection Unit taking prompt action save the girl from getting marriage and explained it to the parents of the girl and other family members that it is only upon completion of 18 yrs of age that marriage of a boy and girl can be carried out. On this occasion all the persons present expressed consent for prevention of the marriage.

The team also explained it to villagers that it is only after attaining required age for marriage that a man and woman can tie nuptial knot and by doing so they can contribute in better education, health, family planning and other issues of the two getting married.

In this drive, District Child Protection officer An Dwidvedi

along with outreach worker Ajit Shukla, Child Line 1098 team member, Project Co-ordinator Pokhan Dhruv and Rajim police personnel were present.

Registered Office: 601 & 602, Peninsula Business Park, 6th Floor, Tower A, Senapati Bagat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400 013

**DCB BANK**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**JEWELLERY AUCTION CUM INVITATION NOTICE**

The below mentioned Borrowers have been issued notices to pay the entire dues in the facilities availed by them from DCB Bank Ltd. against Jewellery pledged with DCB Bank Ltd. (DCB Bank). We are constrained to conduct auction of the pledged Jewellery as they have failed to pay the entire dues. DCB Bank Ltd. has the authority to remove account(s) / change the auction date(s) without any prior notice. The auction will be conducted online through https://gold.Sami.in on 23.03.2023 & 24.03.2023 from 12:00 pm to 03:00 pm

Sr. No.	Customer ID	Customer Name	Location / Place
1	102043093	Sunil Kumar Ghritshahre	Baloda Bazar
2	101556002	Cheman Kumar Verma	Bemetara
3	102846463	Manju Jain	Berla
4	104266419	Chandrashekar Chandrika	Kawardha
5	102226194	Sagar Singh Rajpoot	Kharora
6	102727463	Wazid Khan	Kharora
7	102868163	Bhupendra Pradhari	Kharora
8	103056185	Deepak Kumar Yadav	Kharora
9	102801842	Sunil Lakhwani	Kumhar
10	102834613	Urvashi Shukla	Parsada
11	102865327	Pawan Kumar Gandharva	Parsada
12	102911910	Ashok Kumar	Parsada
13	101852783	Mukesh Dewangan	Rajpur
14	102753944	Abhishek Sarda	Rajpur
15	103193424	Umesh Kumar Gupta	Rajpur
16	104511692	Pankaj Kumar	Ranchi
17	104626239	Shanta Raman	Ranchi

By way of this publication, the concerned Borrowers / Pledgers are hereby given final notice and last opportunity to pay the facility recalled amount in full, with all interest and charges forthwith or anyhow before the scheduled auction date failing which the Jewellery will be auctioned. Items not auctioned to the highest bidder on the scheduled auctioned date shall be auctioned in any other day(s) without further notice. Participation in the auction and acceptance of bids shall be at the sole discretion of DCB Bank.

Please note that the auction shall be on an "as is where is basis", "as is what is basis", "whatever there is basis" and "no recourse basis" and DCB Bank shall not be responsible and liable in any manner for any claims, disputes, objections related to the Jewellery or the auction thereof. Bidders may kindly visit https://gold.Sami.in for detailed terms & conditions for participation in the auctions.

Date: 15.03.2023  
Authorised Officer  
DCB Bank Limited

**OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL JABALPUR**  
797/2, Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur-482001

**DEMAND NOTICE/DoA**

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.

RC/232/2020 13-03-2023

**UCO BANK Versus SANTOSH SAHU**

**(CD 1) SANTOSH SAHU, MENKA SAHU**  
NEAR GANGOTRI SCHOOL, GANGA NAGAR, CHARODA, BHILAI, DURG, C.G. - 490025 Durg, 0

**(CD 2) MENKA SAHU**  
NEAR GANGOTRI SCHOOL, GANGA NAGAR, CHARODA, BHILAI, DURG, C.G. Durg, -CHHATTISGARH-0

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL JABALPUR in OA/1347/2019 an amount of Rs 2262760.65 (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Sixty Two Thousands Seven Hundred Sixty And Paise Fifty Five Only) along with pendentelitte and future interest @ 9% Simple Interest Yearly w.e.f. 06/08/2019 till realization and costs of Rs 25000 (Rupees Twenty Five Thousands Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/Limited).

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.

3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of your assets on or before the next date of hearing.

4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 02/05/2023 at 10:30 a.m. for further proceedings.

5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay: (a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.

(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: 13/03/2023  
(Vaatsalya Kumar)  
Recovery Officer  
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL  
JABALPUR (M.P.)

**MOTILAL OSWAL HOME FINANCE LIMITED**  
Regd. Office: Motilal Oswal Tower, RahimTullah Sayani Road, Opp. Parel ST Depot, Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400 025, Tel: (022) 47189999 Website: www.motilaloswal.com Email: hfquery@motilaloswal.com

**DEMAND NOTICE**

**NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002**

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act) read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (the said Rules) in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of said Rules, the authorized officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Co-borrowers, Guarantors to repay the loan amount mentioned in the respective demand notices issued to them. In connection with above notice is hereby given once again to all the parties to pay within 60 days from the publication of this notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest from the date(s) of Demand Notice till the date of payment. The detail of the Borrower(s) amount dues on date of Demand Notice and Security offered towards repayment of loan amount are as under -

Sr. No.	Loan Agreement No./ Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Co-Applicant Name/ Guarantor Name	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of secured asset(s) (Immovable Property/ies)
1	LXDU00418-190071111/ PankajKumar Maheshwari Savi/ Soni Devi Pankajsaav	09-Feb-23/Rs.1022718/- (Rupees Ten Lac Twenty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Eighteen Only)	KH No. 5378/02(P), P.H.No.19, Ram Nagar, Baba Deep Singh Nagar, Vard No.12, Bhalai, Dist - Durg (C.G.) Durg, Chhattisgarh 490023

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to MOHFL as aforesaid MOHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets Under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risk of the said Borrowers as to the cost and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of MOHFL. Any person who contravenes or abates contravention of the provision of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and / or penalty as provided under the Act.

Place : Chhattisgarh Date : 15.03.2023  
Sd/-  
Authorized Officer,  
(Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited)

**यूको बैंक UCO BANK**  
Branch: Kasdol, Distt- Baloda Bazar (C.G.)

**POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)**

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

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

The Borrower's / Guarantors' / Mortgages' attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

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

Sl. No.	Name of Borrower/ Guarantors & Mortgagor	Description of the Property	Date of Demand Notice	Amount outstanding as on the date of demand notice
			Possession Notice affixed on	
1.	New Chhattisgarh Collection & Matching Center Prop Mr. Pawan Kumar Ajgale, Sirpur Road Kasdol, Distt- Baloda Bazar (C.G.)	Mr. Pawan Kumar Ajgale, LIG 245 G Housing Board Colony, Situated at Deen Dayal Awasth Yojna, Galapur, Abhanpur Boundaries of the property: North-Road, South- Other Plot, East-LIG 246, West-LIG 244.	27.06.2022 & 16.10.2022	₹ 3,74,198.00/- + Interest & Other Charges.
			10.03.2023	

Date : 14.03.2023 Place : Kasdol (C.G.) Chief Manager, Authorised Officer / UCO BANK

## BRIEF



**ABVP activists being detained by police personnel during their protest over the fire at Brahmapuram Waste Treatment Plant, in Kochi, Tuesday.**

## Worship

**Nagapattinam:** Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma on Tuesday offered prayers at the famous Velankanni shrine here, praying for peace and prosperity of his State. Sangma, accompanied by his wife, visited the Basilica of our Lady of health.

## Mishap

**Shimla:** Two people were killed when their motorcycle collided with a car here, police said on Tuesday. The accident took place near Rampur College gate on Monday night, they said. The deceased were identified as Satpal (23) a resident of Rampur and Aaryan (18) who hails from Kumarsein, police said.

## Fest

**New Delhi:** Historian William Dalrymple, film maker and designer Muzaffar Ali, singer Hans Raj Hans, and writer Anand Ranganathan are among the well-known names attending the 11th edition of the Delhi Literature Festival (DLF) starting here on March 17. The three-day festival will be held at the India Habitat Centre (IHC) and DLF Avenue, Saket. It will be inaugurated by Union Minister Bhupender Yadav.

## Fire

**Kolkata:** A fire broke out in a BSNL godown in Sector V of Salt Lake area here on Tuesday afternoon, a fire official said. Nobody was injured in the blaze which initially broke out at the open space adjacent to the godown at around 1.40 pm before spreading to the store, he said.

## Expansion

**New Delhi:** Lok Janshakti Party (Ramvilas) president Chirag Paswan on Tuesday chaired a national council meeting here and said his party will be planning a nationwide expansion strategy. Addressing a press conference, Paswan said that party leaders and workers presented their suggestions and ways to strengthen the party nationally were discussed at the meeting.

## Arrested

**Coimbatore:** Four Nigerian nationals were arrested in Tirupur on Tuesday for staying without valid documents, police said. Being a knitwear capital, many Nigerians, staying in Rayapuram area, are engaged in ready-made garments business and export to their country.

# 'Govt using ED, CBI to harass Oppn leaders'

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

CPI-M general secretary Sitaram Yechury on Tuesday accused the government of using the Enforcement Directorate and the CBI to harass opposition leaders and challenged it to reveal the conviction rate in such cases in the last nine years.

Speaking at a meet here, he also denied any rift among the opposition parties. "We are nothing against probe by investigative agencies. But in the last nine years, all ED cases that you have started what is the conviction rate in those cases? 0.5 per cent? If you are saying that you are catching only



Sitaram Yechury

those that have broken laws, then why aren't convictions happening?" he said.

"This only proves that ED and CBI are being used to harass opposition leaders, to disorient them and to ensure that their unity breaks down. This agenda

is very clear," he added. Yechury also questioned how the cases of those opposition leaders who have been named in probes and joined the BJP thereafter "disappear".

"The people on whom cases have been started have left their parties and joined the BJP. Their cases have disappeared. How?" he said. He also said that historically alliances of political parties in India have occurred post poll.

"All mahagathbandhans have been made post polls historically. Be it the United Front government, both the UPA governments we formed after the election," Yechury said, responding to a query on op-

position unity. Replying to another query, he said democracy has lost maturity in the last nine years, because it is limited only to voting and elections without any accountability to people.

Giving an example, the CPI-M leader asked why the government is "not constituting a JPC on Adani-Hindenburg issue, which clearly means that the government is staying away from accepting responsibility".

When democracy was in danger during Emergency, the Opposition united and today when democracy is again in danger, the opposition is getting united again, he further said.

## Maha govt employees on strike

● For Old Pension Scheme

Mumbai, Mar 14 (PTI):

Lakhs of employees of the Maharashtra government went on strike on Tuesday seeking restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), a move that could hamper the functioning of the state administration and affect many services. Paramedics working in hospitals run by the state government and civic bodies, sanitation workers, and teachers have also joined the strike at a time when examinations for classes 10 and 12 are underway. The employees resorted to the strike after the talks between the

unions and the state government failed on Monday.

On Tuesday, employees raised slogans like "Only one mission, Restore Old Pension" outside government offices and hospitals.

The state had witnessed unseasonal rains last week resulting in large-scale damage to standing crops. The panchnama or loss assessment process, a crucial step to fix the compensation for farmers, could also be affected due to the strike.

A day before, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had announced a panel comprising senior bureaucrats to look into the demand of state government employees to revert to the Old Pension Scheme.

## AP Govt hails inclusive govt in maiden address to Legislature

Amaravati, March 14 (PTI):

Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer on Tuesday hailed the YSRC government for ensuring inclusive and transparent governance, in his maiden address to a joint session of the State Legislature.

In his speech ahead of the Budget session of fiscal 2023-24, Nazeer said almost four years had passed by since the journey to fulfill the hopes of five crore people of the state had begun under Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy.

"It is indeed heartening to share the way aspirations of the underprivileged, marginalized and

vulnerable groups have been fulfilled through the implementation of several pro-poor initiatives," said Nazeer.

The Governor noted that since this government was formed in 2019, it has embarked on an inclusive governance model under the broad welfare umbrella of Navaratnalu, a slew of welfare schemes.

According to Nazeer, a former Supreme Court judge, the southern state has carved out a well-knit development and welfare framework under Navaratnalu. He said the government had adopted the concept of leaving no one behind, which is also in consonance with the global development agen-

da of sustainable development goals (SDGs).

He observed that Rs 1.97 lakh crore of financial assistance under the Navaratnalu initiative had been provided to people of all castes, creeds, religions, genders and political affiliations through various programmes in the past 45 months.

Commenting on economic growth, Nazeer said advanced estimates for fiscal 2022-23 indicate overall growth of 16.2 percent at current prices, as all three sectors of the economy, namely agriculture and allied activities, industries and the service sector, are projected to perform well.

Further, he noted that the per capita income of

the state had risen from Rs 1,92,517 in 2021-22 to Rs 2,19,518 at a growth rate of 14 percent, including logging a GSDP growth rate of 11.3 percent in 2021-22, the highest among all states".

He termed the Village/Ward Secretariat and Volunteer System' as an innovative one aimed at facilitating transparency and decentralisation of governance. There are 15,004 in Village/Ward Secretariats functioning in the state.

Moreover, Nazeer listed the southern state's achievements in the education sector through Mana Badi Nadu, Nedu, Jagananna Ammavodi, Jagananna Vidya Kanuka, Jagananna Godumudda,

Jagananna Vidya Deevana and others.

Similarly, he listed achievements in the health sector naming schemes such as Dr. YSR Arogyasri, Dr. YSR Telemedicine, Dr. YSR Kanti Velugu and several others encompassing agriculture and women among others, including the investments won through the Global Investors' Summit in Visakhapatnam recently.

Later, Assembly Speaker Tammineni Sitaram presided over a business advisory committee meeting, which was attended by the Chief Minister, followed by a meeting with the Council of Ministers in the Secretariat, led by Reddy.

## OFFICIALS TO DELHI LG

### 'Desilting of 200 km of sewer lines biggest challenge in cleaning Yamuna'

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

Proper desilting of around 200 kilometres of Delhi's sewer line network is the biggest challenge being faced in the cleaning of the Yamuna, officials told Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena at a high-level committee meeting on Tuesday. Saxena chaired the third meeting of the high-level committee for the rejuvenation of Yamuna, formed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT), at Asita East along the riverbank.

While work on various fronts has been undertaken in a time-bound manner with the goal of concrete achievements by June 30, when the NGT will take

stock of the progress, the biggest "road block and challenge" being faced is the desilting of approximately 200 kilometres of trunk and peripheral sewer lines, according to an official statement.

"Gross inaction and neglect on the part of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), which had not undertaken any desilting work for the past 8-10 years, had resulted in the sewer lines getting choked. The sewer lines were choked up to 80-90 per cent with not only sewage but also boulders and municipal solid waste," the statement said.

While 90.34 kilometres of sewer lines were projected to be cleaned by June, the remaining 110 kilometres

were expected to be cleaned by September. The LG directed officials to take up the desilting work on a mission mode and complete it within the stipulated time frame, the statement said.

It was pointed out at the meeting that the level of pollution in the Yamuna on various perimeters has gone down in the last two-three months, especially due to interventions in the Najafgarh Drain, the statement added. The LG asked the DJB to expedite the desilting of the entire 200-km length of the sewer lines. He also directed for trapping all 242 drains on the records of agencies and another 238 that are not on the records of any agency.

Kolkata, Mar 14 (PTI):

TMC and BJP locked horns on Tuesday as both parties sought to appropriate the legacy of the anti-land acquisition movement at Nandigram on its 16th anniversary.

The BJP, led by the Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari, organised rallies in Nandigram area of Purba Medinipur district to commemorate the day which saw 14 anti-land acquisition protesters killed in police firing in 2007.

"The Nandigram movement was not a movement of any particular party but of the locals. It is a heroic tale of resilience and struggle of the poor people of Nandigram, who fought against the then

mighty Left Front. But unfortunately one political party derived benefits from this people's movement," he said in an oblique reference to TMC while offering floral tributes at Gokulnagar to those who died in the police action on that fateful day. Adhikari, the Nandigram lawmaker who had defected from TMC to the saffron camp ahead of the 2021 assembly polls, took a dig at the Mamata Banerjee government for promoting IPS officers who were responsible for the incident despite being, what he called, the "biggest beneficiary of the political movement".

"I come here every year since 2008 to pay tribute to the sacrifices made by the people of Nandigram. Ironically, those who have given promotions to police officers responsible for Nandigram massacre are now celebrating Nandigram Diwas," he said.

Senior TMC leader and minister Chandrima Bhattacharya visited Nandigram Tuesday morning, paid floral tributes to the martyrs and met their families.

TMC observes March 14 as 'Nandigram Diwas' since it came to power in West Bengal in 2011 to pay its respect to the 14 who were killed in the police firing during the anti-land acquisition stir in the area in 2007. She hit back at Adhikari's innuendo saying "We don't need lessons on Nandigram or the movement from traitors.

The Nandigram movement would not have happened had Mamata Banerjee not been there. So those trying to appropriate the legacy of Nandigram are insulting the people's movement," she said. Bhattacharya said the BJP leader and his family were the "biggest beneficiary" of the movement which was led by Banerjee, the TMC supremo.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee tweeted "March 14 marks a black day in Bengal's history. It is a grim reminder of the barbaric attacks on hapless farmers of Bengal, of the 14 martyrs of Nandigram and the countless villagers who were subjected to state-sponsored violence".

## JHANDA MELA



Devotees take out a procession during the annual 'Jhanda Mela', in Dehradun, Tuesday.

## TMC, BJP lock horns on 16th anniversary of Nandigram police firing

## UP govt to hold special religious, cultural events during Chaitra Navratri

Lucknow, Mar 14 (PTI):

The Uttar Pradesh government has asked the local administration across the state to organise special religious and cultural events, including recitation of Durga Saptashati and Akhand Ramayan, in temples during the nine-day Chaitra Navratri and Ram Navami festivals. The Chaitra Navratri begins on March 22 and Ram Navami will be celebrated on March 30.

In an order dated March 10, the principal secretary of culture department, Mukesh Meshram, said Chaitra Navratri has a special significance during which the nine "swaroop" of Goddess Durga are worshipped to end negative energy. So organising religious and cultural events during this period is proposed, he said.

pay as honorarium to artists chosen to perform at these events.

While Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya welcomed the government decision, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav sarcastically termed the amount inadequate and said the government should give more to districts to allow the celebration of all religious festivals.

"The proposal to give Rs 1 lakh to district magistrates of UP to celebrate Ram Navami is welcomed but what will happen with such a small amount. At least Rs 10 crore should be given so that festivals of all religions can be celebrated," Yadav said, adding the BJP government should give free cylinders on festivals and it should start from this Ram Navami. Congress spokesperson Anshu Awasthi said, "It's good to organise religious events but what about the issues on which people had voted for BJP?"

Awasthi asked where were the jobs promised by the party. "There is no day spent without news of atrocities on Brahmins and Dalits in UP. The BJP has failed on issues and promises that were made to people of the state."

However, Maurya dismissed the questions raised by the opposition. "If any religious event related to Lord Shri Ram and Ramcharitmanas is being organised then it should be welcomed. There should be no questions or answers on it. All I want to say is Jai Shri Ram and Jai Mata Di."

Meanwhile, Meshram told PTI there's nothing new in the culture department order as similar programmes have been held earlier too. "Such programmes have been held earlier too and this is not the first time they are being held in the state. Holding these programmes will provide a platform to the artists at the local level to showcase their talent," he added.

## LAST MINUTE PREPARATIONS



Students revise before appearing for the West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education (WBCHSE) XIIth standard exam, outside an examination centre at Bolpur, in Birbhum district, Tuesday.





## CENTRAL Chronicle

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### Terror Drones: A Growing Threat to India's National Security

The use of unmanned aerial vehicles, commonly known as drones, has become increasingly popular in recent years. However, the use of drones for nefarious purposes, such as espionage and terrorism, poses a significant threat to national security. In India, the use of terror drones has become a growing concern, particularly across the border from Pakistan. The use of drones for criminal activities, including smuggling, espionage, and terrorism, is not a new phenomenon. However, the sophistication and range of drones have increased dramatically in recent years, making them an even more significant threat. The latest incident of an unmanned infiltrating Chinese-made DJI Matrice 300 RTK quadcopter recovered by Indian security forces highlights the increasing use of advanced aerial technology by nefarious actors across borders. The sordid reality of Pakistan's involvement in narco-terrorism is well known, with the country's support for organised crime and terrorism being acknowledged by international organisations such as the UNODC, INTERPOL, EUROPOL, FATF, and the EU's GSP+. The use of terror drones by Pakistan to destabilise India and weaken its youth is just another example of the country's obstinate commitment to pursue this perilous path, endangering not only regional but also global peace and security. Given the current threat of terror drones being used by Pakistan from across the border, India urgently needs to develop a national, comprehensive cross-border drone monitoring and interception capability to counter the increasing threat of these terror drones and safeguard its national security. This approach should encompass a range of advanced technologies, such as artificial intelligence, radar systems, and satellite imaging, to detect and intercept drones in real-time. Combining these technological measures with information sharing and close coordination among intelligence agencies and security forces across nations can effectively combat the trade of small arms and narcotics, which may also pose a threat to countries worldwide. In addition to technological measures, diplomatic and international pressure must be applied to discourage countries from supporting the use of terror drones. This could include implementing technology restrictions and other measures against nations that provide safe havens to terror groups using drones for terrorism purposes. A holistic approach that combines technological and diplomatic efforts is the need of the hour to address the growing threat of terror drones. The use of terror drones poses a significant threat to India's national security, and urgent action is required to develop a comprehensive cross-border drone monitoring and interception capability. This approach should encompass a range of advanced technologies, information sharing, and close coordination among intelligence agencies and security forces across nations, as well as diplomatic and international pressure to discourage countries from supporting the use of terror drones. The threat of terror drones must be taken seriously, and a collaborative effort is necessary to combat this growing menace.

### The Boon of 5G Technology

Vijaykumar H.K, Raichur

The introduction of 5G technology has created a ripple effect, transforming the way we interact with each other, businesses, and industries. One of the most significant advantages of 5G technology is the ability to dedicate exclusive networks to a specific enterprise or operation by utilizing the benefits of LTE systems. This innovation can lead to the granulation of the telecommunications request and potentially revolutionize the entire industry. Te integration of Artificial Intelligence with both the 5G network and the device has made wireless dispatches more efficient, improved battery life, and enhanced user experience. With the implementation of technologies like pall and edge computing, as well as IoT, 5G has become a super technology that plays an integral part in Industry 4.0. The use of 5G in the fintech industry has the potential to revise the banking sector, providing openings for both banking organizations and guests. In addition to the benefits for industries, the advantages of 5G technology can significantly impact various aspects of our lives, such as healthcare, pastoral frugality, and even space and defense fabrics. With IoT-enabled services, 5G technology is highly recommended for health operations, improving critical factors of healthcare. In rural areas, 5G technology can enhance pastoral frugality and bring better connectivity to remote areas. The advancements in technology have also led to the development of a largely insulated two-port MIMO operations antenna for 5G WI-FI-5. Moreover, the network and service conditions for 6G have already been defined, aiming to enhance perfection in network configuration, machine-type communication, stoked intelligence, rich-media services, and security and trust ability of the network. 5G technology also has the potential to create a dynamic and highly competitive business environment, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises. It can produce a tremendous impact on logical instruments' design, development, deployment, and remote conservation, leading to various advantages for businesses. The introduction of 5G technology has brought forth numerous advantages and has the potential to revolutionize many industries and improve various aspects of our lives. It is crucial to continue exploring the possibilities of this technology and its potential impact on industries and societies worldwide.

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

### TOURISTS' PARADISE



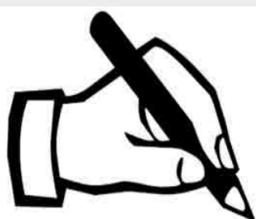
Tourists take a 'shikara' ride across the Dal Lake, in Srinagar, Tuesday.

## Indian Millets to make the world a healthier place

Millets Bajra, Ragi, Canary, Jawar, and Buckwheat to go global



DR. M MANGAMUTHU



Keeping in sync with the G-20 theme of 'Recover Together, Recover Stronger' in International Year of Millets (IYoM) 2023, India is set to make the world a healthier place with an increased emphasis on its export of nutritional millets. Traditionally grown healthy nutraceutical cereal is fast becoming the new identity of India as it is a sustainable commodity. Bajra, Ragi, Canary, Jawar, and Buckwheat are going to be now globally enjoyed cereals. The Covid-19, climate change, awareness of calorie intakes are the catastrophic changes that drifted the globe towards this smart food and its nutritional benefits. India, the largest producer of millets with 19 per cent of share, had taken up the sole responsibility of shouldering the millet revolution and bringing about a revolutionary change in India's exports targeting global millet imports with APEDA's marketing strategy. As a part of Millets Export Promotion Strategy, concerned body organized a Millet Conclave take India ahead and creating awareness amongst the top trading 100 nations displaying a wide range of value-added innovative products of millets with different nutritional values, inviting buyers to show them the unique prod-

ucts that India has to offer and to ultimately secure a space for Indian millets in every diet and every meal across the globe. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), which works under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, has plans to achieve USD 100 million target by 2025. A comprehensive global marketing campaign is being prepared, assessing India's potential. Accordingly an e-catalogue of 30 importing countries and 21 millet producing states has been prepared and a virtual trade fair platform was launched to give impetus for the export of millets as well as its value-added products. As the world is moving towards nutritional security, there is a decadal rise in international imports of millets, 5.4 per cent in terms of value and 14 per cent in terms of quantity. Millets have grabbed global attention due to its extreme exceptional and excellent quality attributes as they are gluten-free, high protein, high fibre. Being a substitute of rice and wheat, millets are potentially beneficial in diabetic management, low GI aid in weight management, help in anemia, blood pressure and cardiovascular disorders. In all as-

pects millets are considered superior than wheat, rice and maize and if India moves ahead with the agenda of disease eradication with nutritional millets, these can replace one-third of recommended cereal diet of diabetic patient and anemic women, yielding an opportunity for 100 grams of millet intake per capita per day making India achieve the target of "Millets, a staple food in every diet" in the In The Year of Millets (IYoM).

In the export promotion of Indian millets, Centre is in the process of facilitating participation of exporters, FPOs/ FPCs, traders in various international events by organizing Buyer-Seller Meets in more than 16 International Trade Fairs. India has already promoted millet and its value-added products at an event to celebrate IYoM, 2023 was organized by FAO at its HQ in Rome, Italy. Buyer Seller Meets in Jakarta and Medan, Indonesia in association with Indian Embassies. Plans in place to facilitate participation in the International Trade Fairs such as Gulfood 2023, Dubai, UAE, Foodex, Japan, Fine Food, Australia, Anuga Food Fair, Germany, etc and promoting with the theme "Millets". Leading importers/departmental store/Super market/hyper market chain would be roped in through the Embassy of India to promote millets and food sampling and tasting campaigns will be organised. There would be branding/publicity of Indian Millets in the targeted countries and market in association with IBEF, promotion campaigns through social media.

India's top five millet producing states are Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. There are

16 major varieties of millet, which are produced and exported, including Sorghum (Jowar), Pearl Millet (Bajra), Finger Millet (Ragi) Minor Millets (Kangani), Proso Millet (Cheena), Kodo Millet (Kodo), Barnyard Millet (Sawa/Sanwa/Jhangora), Little Millet (Kutki), Two Pseudo Millets (Buckwheat/ Kuttu), Ameranthus (Chaulai) and Brown Top Millet. Exports of millets from India include mainly whole grain and the export of value-added products of millets from India is negligible. The Government is also mobilizing start-ups for export promotion of value-added products in the Ready-to-Eat (RTE) and Ready-to-Serve (RTS) category such as noodles, pasta, breakfast cereals mix, biscuits, cookies, snacks, sweets etc.

India's major millet exporting countries are U.A.E, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Oman, Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, U.K and U.S.A. The varieties of millets exported by India include Bajra, Ragi, Canary, Jawar, and Buckwheat. The USA stands at the top among the price realization for unit export in sorghum, canary, bajra and ragi whereas Saudi Arabia gave better returns on buckwheat and other millet exports. In general, buckwheat fetched far higher prices compared to sorghum and other millets. The major millet importing countries in the world are Indonesia, Belgium, Japan, Germany, Mexico, Italy, the U.S.A, United Kingdom, Brazil and Netherlands. India is moving ahead in promoting millets across the world with the objective of reforming millet as part of staple food in every diet.

(Writer is Chairman, APEDA, views are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Maintain sanctity of parliament

Disruptions during the first day of parliament have raised concerns about the sanctity of our democracy. The ruckus created by ruling party members in both houses is a cause for worry, and indicates that the assembly elections in Karnataka have had a direct impact on the functioning of our parliament. India is known for having the largest democracy in the world, and many countries look up to our parliamentary procedures as an example to follow. However, such disturbances can tarnish the image of our country and send adverse messages outside our borders. This is especially concerning given that the G20 conference is being held in India at present. As citizens, we can only hope that wisdom prevails upon the members of parliament so that our democracy can be strengthened. It is important to remember that every parliament member, irrespective of party affiliation, has a responsibility to maintain the dignity of our parliament. Former Prime Minister Vajpayee once stated this in parliament, and his words still ring true today. Let us remember that every Prime Minister of India has played a major role in strengthening our democracy, and it is our duty as citizens to support this process. We urge our parliamentarians to maintain the sanctity of parliament, and ensure that the democratic process is not derailed by political posturing.

Yash pal raihan, Jalandhar

#### Poor comparison

I am writing to express my disappointment over the recent statement made by Rahul Gandhi, where he equated India with Ukraine and Russia with China. As a member of the Gandhi family, Rahul Gandhi holds the stature of a national leader, and such comparisons are not only baseless but also an insult to the pride and might of our nation. India is a country that has a rich history and diverse culture, and comparing it with Ukraine is not only poor judgment but also an attempt to downplay India's status in the global arena. Furthermore, Rahul Gandhi's statement about Russia and China is equally offensive, and such remarks only fuel tensions between nations. As a citizen of India, I strongly believe that our country deserves more respect and recognition, and such careless statements by public figures like Rahul Gandhi only downgrade India's image internationally. I urge him to refrain from making such comments in the future and instead focus on constructive criticism and building a better future for our nation.

MKN, Raipur

## Has History indeed been created!

Kajal Chatterjee

Hearing the zealous shouts of the saffron brigade and Bhakts among the public and Godi-media, following the results in recent Assembly elections; any political layman or person of foreign vintage would think that BJP has created "history" in "minority-dominated" North-East. But at the end of the day, the ultimate facts reflect a far different story. Firstly, far from being "minority-dominated"; Tripura is a full-fledged Hindu-majority state where BJP might have formed Government on its own numerical might (simple majority), but has lost 4 seats in comparison to 2018 Assembly elections.

Secondly, in Nagaland the seats won by BJP is merely 12 out of 60! That they are part of the Government is another matter by aligning with NDDP as the minority-partner, but still the result is not "conquer of Nagaland" (as if they have won at least 50 seats on its own strength). Thirdly, what is the score of BJP in Meghalaya. Even the much-taunted TMC has also bagged 5 seats out of 60 in contrast to BJP's mere 2. But just

because it has tagged itself with NPP (despite opposing it to the full and fighting separately, that too by remaining in coalition with it in the earlier Meghalaya dispensation), BJP has again got taste of power in the state.

If these sorts of "electoral victories" get projected with shrill trumpet that BJP has "created history" in "minority dominated North East", it is indeed hard to resist bouts of laughter. Moreover, would the BJP dare to invoke its signature tune of Hindutva, Gomata, beef or "conversions" in Meghalaya Nagaland or Mizoram. Would BJP dare to speak of "One Nation One Law" (as zealously chanted revolving Kashmir) in Nagaland Manipur Mizoram or Arunachal Pradesh where the exclusionary "Inner Line Permit" is in vogue. Instead of taunting Left-Congress coalition ("wrestling in Kerala, friendship in Tripura") on lines of "Double-speak", would the BJP dare to speak "straight" in North-East about "religious" (Hindutva) and "nationalism" (One Nation One Law) matters.

Now if we cross into the "mainland" (highly derogatory term as if our "Eight Sisters"

form the "fringe"), what is the actual state of affairs of much-overhyped BJP. Despite constant rhetoric of "BJP has won the hearts of all Indians"; the facts on the ground reflect that BJP is not in power in Himachal Pradesh Punjab Rajasthan Kerala Tamil Nadu Andhra Pradesh Telengana Chattisgarh Bihar Jharkhand Orissa West Bengal Mizoram and not even in the Union Territory of Delhi. In Haryana Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim, BJP is not enjoying power in its sole strength. Yes, though BJP is in governance in Maharashtra Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh; but as far as mode of attaining power in those 3 states are concerned, perhaps less said about it the better.

At the end of the day, the hard reality remains that as far as governance in its own strength by virtue of "majority seats won following Assembly polls"; BJP is in power in only Gujarat, Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam, Manipur and Tripura. That means in only 7 states out of 28. If this forms the specimen of BJP's "command over India", perhaps dictionary needs to be urgently amended. Even in 2019 General

polls, hardly 38% of votes cast in "New India" were in favour of the lotus. "Improvement" certainly in contrast to that "historic national mandate" to bring in "Good Days" where merely 31% of legitimate votes went for saffron; still 55% of common Indians (ie those who actually cared to exercise their franchise) hadn't voted for the current regime (NDA) in New Delhi.

However in any electoral democracy where number of seats won have the final say (single-handedly or through pre/post coalition partners) to form the Government in Centre or states; BJP holds every legal and Constitutional right to enjoy power and carry out its party agenda and also hold moral right to make an attempt to form Governments in Opposition-dominated states in free and fair way through the path of elections. But no way can the party and its promoters-cum-blind admirers claim that BJP has won the "hearts of all Indians" as it is akin to the cleverly generated myth of "Hindu and India are synonymous" or "Ram Temple forms the dream of all Hindus/Indians". BJP has every authority to think and

act as it likes, but the party should stop imposing its belief upon all Indians along with Hindutva.

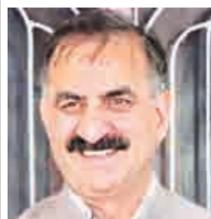
Last but not the least. If mere "electoral victory" forms the ultimate hallmark of "brilliant governance"; why don't the BJP leaders accept the same theory when TMC Congress DMK wins popular polls in West Bengal Chattisgarh Tamil Nadu respectively. Why pursuance of this hypocrite "Head I Win, Tail You Lose" policy. And the saffronites (from the very top to the bottom) who have already made the ultimate declaration - - - "2024 has been won". When they have already got enlightened of the Lok Sabha result of the upcoming general polls of next year by exercising their "impeccable foresight"; hope they would at least refrain from going into "electoral mode" from months before the first vote is cast. Why waste of precious monetary resources, time and energy on campaigning when the BJP is "sure" to "vanquish" the "whole Opposition" (even if they get united). Let BJP remain in "governance mode" till the last vote of 2024 general poll is cast so as to serve the country till the last date of its present term.

**BRIEF**

**Tyre export**

**New Delhi:** Export of tyres from India is expected to rise by 15 per cent in the ongoing fiscal. Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association Chairman Satish Sharma said on Tuesday. Fast integration with global supply chains helped by the globally aligned regulatory environment in the country has led to an increase in the addressable market for Indian manufactured tyres, he said. "Tyre exports from India went up by 50 per cent last year and we are likely to close the ongoing financial year with nearly 15 per cent growth." Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA) said in a statement quoting Sharma.

**Supplementary budget**



**Shimla:** Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvir Singh Sukhu on Tuesday sought approval for an additional Rs 13,141.07 crore expenditure as he presented the first and final instalment of Supplementary demands for grants in Vidhan Sabha for 2022-23. The supplementary demands include a provision of Rs 6,004.63 crore for repayment of Ways and Means - Advance / Overdraft and Rs 1,260.65 crore for pensions and other retirement benefits.

**Appointment**



**New Delhi:** Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) on Tuesday said it has elevated Tablesh Pandey, executive director of the company as its managing director. His appointment is effective from April 1, 2023, according to a regulatory filing. Pandey will replace present managing director BC Patnaik, it said.

## Wholesale inflation eases to over 2-year low of 3.85 pc in February

**Food items remain costly**

New Delhi, Mar 14:

The wholesale price-based inflation declined to over two-year low of 3.85 per cent in January on easing prices of manufactured items, fuel and power, even though food articles remained expensive. This is the ninth straight month of decline in the rate of wholesale price-index (WPI) based inflation. The WPI inflation was 4.73 per cent in January and 13.43 per cent in February, last year. "Decline in the rate of

inflation in February 2023 is primarily contributed by fall in prices of crude petroleum & natural gas, non-food articles, food products, minerals, computer, electronic & optical products, chemicals & chemical products, electrical equipment and motor vehicles, trailers & semi-trailers," the commerce and industry ministry said on Tuesday. The 3.85 per cent WPI inflation is the lowest since January 2021, when the rate of price rise on wholesale basis was 2.51 per cent. The decline in the rate of price rise was mainly due to a favourable base effect, economists said, adding

that going forward, softening commodity prices would help ease WPI inflation further. However, the future course of food inflation would depend on weather related conditions and timely monsoon. Although inflation in manufactured items softened, in the case of food articles it rose to 3.81 per cent in February, from 2.38 per cent in January. Inflation in pulses was 2.59 per cent, while in vegetables was (-)21.53 per cent. Inflation in oil seeds was (-)7.38 per cent in February 2023. Fuel and power basket inflation eased to 14.82 per cent, from 15.15 per cent in the preced-

ing month. In manufactured products it was 1.94 per cent, against 2.99 per cent in January. The deceleration in WPI comes in line with the dip in retail inflation, data of which was released on Monday. Consumer price index based retail inflation declined to 6.44 per cent in February from 6.52 per cent in January. In its monetary policy review last month, the RBI had hiked the key interest rate by 25 basis points to 6.50 per cent, saying core inflation still remains sticky. Economists have predicted RBI to raise interest rates by another 25 basis points in the policy review next month.

## Honda Cars pegs sales of new City to help customers embrace electric journey

Chennai, Mar 14:



Premium car maker Honda Cars India banks on boosting sales of its latest upper sedan City which is equipped with a host of features including self-charging facility and Honda SENSING technology, a top official said. The Tokyo-headquartered automaker said the company would keep its option open on resuming operations at its facility in Greater Noida which has suspended production since 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic. "In the case of City, we are focusing on two important technologies. One technology is about the hybrid engine which offers

unique self-charging and highly efficient two-motor electric hybrid system connected to a smooth 1.5 litre petrol engine," Honda Cars India Ltd vice president marketing and sales Kunal Behl said after unveiling the latest generation of City here. "We believe hybrid is a very good solution which could really help customers to step into electrification journey...we have launched electrification into lower grade which is a lakh (rupees) cheaper

compared to the earlier ZX variant," he told PTI on Tuesday. Referring to the Honda SENSING technology used in its cars, he said: "It is a very powerful concept of safety. The car automatically follows the preceding car in case of huge traffic." On increasing its share in the Tamil Nadu market, he said Honda has been witnessing a strong contribution from the region accounting for 10 per cent of the overall sales volume. "Tamil Nadu contributes about 10 per cent to Honda Cars and City has the strongest market share of about 37 per cent while Amaze has 26 per cent in the lower sedan segment," he said.

## India Post Payment Bank wants to convert itself to universal bank: CEO

New Delhi, Mar 14:

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) wants to convert itself to a universal bank as the vast network of post office branches would help in achieving financial inclusion, its MD and CEO J Venkatramu said on Tuesday. He said when the IPPB started operations in 2018, 80 per cent of the transactions would happen in cash. However, with technology adoption, presently only 20 per cent of the transaction happens in cash and 80 per cent digitally. "Given the network of post offices, probably we fit the bill in terms of being the institution which can reach every nook and corner. If we get a full fledged banking licence, especially for financial inclusion, that will help us serve larger goals," Venkatramu said at a CII event here. He was re-



plying to a question on the bank approaching the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for universal bank licence. He said credit is an important facet of financial inclusion as well as social upliftment, the vast network of post offices could help in financial inclusion and extending credit. As a payment bank under the RBI, IPPB can extend services of deposits, remittances, internet banking and other specified services, but they cannot give loans or issue credit cards.

## NMDC celebrates Int'n'l Year of Millets

**At Business Women Expo 2023**

Hyderabad, Mar 14:



At the forefront of popularizing Millets, NMDC distributed the Superfood at the Business Women Expo 2023 in Hyderabad. In the backdrop of the International Year of Millets, NMDC inspired women entrepreneurs to build Millet businesses and contribute to the food security of the nation. On behalf of the company, K Praveen Kumar, ED (Personnel and Law) and K Mohan, CGM (Personnel) distributed the Millets and interacted with the participants on its benefits for a healthier future.

The United Nations, at the behest of the Government of India, declared 2023 the International Year of Millets. In its effort to increase the consumption of Millets, NMDC recently invited IIMR recognised Ahoobalam Foods of Hyderabad to conduct a Session on - Millets as Smart Food. The session was followed by a Millet Lunch. The CPSE is also engaging with stakeholders on its Social Media platforms to create awareness and is distributing Millets at platforms of public importance.

On this International Women's Day, NMDC encouraged women to support the Millet economy. NMDC operates in deep hamlets of India. The company has built the infrastructure for quality education and healthcare

## SVB resolution reassuring, will bring relief to startups: IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

New Delhi, Mar 14:



Amid US administration's move to protect depositors of Silicon Valley Bank, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the SVB resolution is "reassuring" and will bring relief to startups. The Biden administration has announced that depositors of the failed Silicon Valley Bank will have access to their money from Monday. "SVB resolution is reassuring. (It) will bring relief to startups," Vaishnaw told PTI. US President Joe Biden on Monday sought to reassure Americans that they can have confidence that the US banking system is "safe" and vowed stricter bank regulation after a string of bank failures raised concerns about the nation's financial stability. Federal regulators have stepped to back all Silicon Valley Bank deposits. The failure of Silicon Valley Bank, last week, left many startups, tech companies, entrepreneurs and

VC funds nervous and jittery. California-based Silicon Valley Bank (SVB), the 16th largest bank in the United States, was closed on Friday by the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation which later appointed the FDIC as its receiver. SVB was deeply entrenched in the tech startup ecosystem and the default bank for many high-flying startups; its abrupt fall marked one of the largest bank failures since the 2008 global financial crisis.

## Sensex, Nifty fall for 4th day on the trot on concerns over fallout of US bank failures

Mumbai, Mar 14:



Benchmark BSE Sensex declined nearly 338 points to close below the 58,000 level on Tuesday, marking its fourth straight day of losses as auto, IT and financial stocks wilted amid concerns over interest rate hikes and the fallout of failure of two US-based banks. The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 337.66 points or 0.58 per cent to settle at a new five month low of 57,900.19. During the session, it touched a high of 58,490.98 and a low of 57,721.16. The broader NSE Nifty declined 111 points or 0.65 per cent to end at a five-month low of 17,043.30, with 38 of its scrips ending in the red.

Sensex tumbled 2,447 points or 4.1 per cent while Nifty tanked 711 points or 4.6 per cent in the four days to Tuesday. Analysts said relentless foreign capital outflows, investors junking riskier assets ahead of the US Fed policy decision and fears of interest rate hikes to stifle global economic recovery have hit the market sentiment.

## Average interest rate paid by manufacturers in Jan-Mar rises to 9.38 pc: Ficci Survey

New Delhi, Mar 14:

The average interest rate per annum paid by manufacturers has risen to 9.38 per cent in January-March as against 8.37 per cent in the previous quarter, with a majority of firms reporting that their cost of borrowing has risen, said a Ficci survey released on Monday. The survey assessed the sentiments of manufacturers for Q4 (January-March) for 11 major sectors and responses were drawn from 400 manufacturing units across large and SME segments with a combined annual turnover of over Rs 10 lakh crore. It revealed that after experiencing revival of Indian economy in the FY 2021-22, momentum of growth has

continued for the subsequent quarters of FY 2022-23 with some temporary effect of global slowdown on Indian manufacturing.

There are signs that the cost pressure witnessed in the last many months seems to be softening a bit for the sector, notes the latest Ficci Manufacturing Survey. Moreover, hiring outlook though positive, remains below potential as only 32 per cent of the respondents were looking at hiring additional workforce in the next three months. Average interest rate paid by the manufacturers has increased to 9.38 per cent per annum against 8.37 per cent per annum during last quarter and the highest rate at which loan has been

## Rupee falls 26 paise to 82.49 against US dollar

Mumbai, Mar 14:



The rupee declined by 26 paise to 82.49 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday amid stronger dollar, negative sentiment in the domestic equity market and unabated foreign fund outflows.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened lower at 82.27 against the dollar and traded between the range of 82.24 and 82.50 during intraday. It finally settled at 82.49 (provisional) against the American currency. This is the second consecutive day of decline in the Indian currency. On Monday, the rupee settled at 82.23 against the US dollar. Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst at LKP Securities, attributed the

## OPPO launches Find N2 Flip in India

New Delhi, Mar 14:



OPPO, the leading global smart devices brand, announces the availability of its flagship Find N2 Flip in India at INR 89,999. It will be available—March 17, 12AM onwards—atOPPO Stores, Flipkart, and mainline retail outlets. Customers can get it for as low as INR 79,999 through cashbacks and incentives. Regarding the device, Damyant Singh Khanoria, Chief Marketing Officer, OPPO India, said, "We are proud to carry on the OPPO legacy of introducing purposeful advancements and are excited to announce the launch of our latest innovation, the Find N2 Flip. This sleek device boasts a large vertical cover screen, an invisible crease, powerful cameras, and the best-in-class

battery life, making it the perfect choice for anyone who values style, functionality, and durability. We are confident that this flip smartphone will revolutionise the foldable smartphone category, not only in India but around the world." OPPO's debut flip phone sets a benchmark for the category with its

all-new Flexion Hinge design that creates a water drop fold to result in a significantly shallower, narrower crease on the main display than any other foldable smartphone. This crease is invisible in most lighting conditions for an uncompromised flat-screen experience. The best-in-class hinge does not sacrifice durability either; the OPPO Find N2 Flip is certified by third-party TÜV Rheinland to withstand 4,00,000-fold and unfolds—theequivalent of opening and closing the phone 100 times every day for over ten years. The smartphone has also been tested for over 1,00,000-fold and unfold cycles under extreme conditions ranging from -20 degrees C to 50 degrees C, with 95 per cent humidity.

## Motorola disrupts the 5G market with moto g73 5G

New Delhi, Mar 14:



Today, Motorola announced the launch of its brand-new 5G smartphone in the 'g' series franchise, moto g73 5G. Never compromise on camera with the new moto g73 5G that features advanced, flagship grade 50MP camera with Ultra Pixel technology. Now, capture pictures for your gram using 1.5xlarger pixels than the previous generation, letting in more light for sharper and brighter results. Get ready to capture what your eyes see with the ultra-wide-angle which fits4x more of the scene in yourframe than a standard lens. Moreover, to boost the performance and extend a

seamless experience, the moto g73 5G is powered by India's 1st Media Tek Dimensity 930, fastest and most powerful octa-core processor in the segment offering frequencies upto 2.2GHz. Play games on-the-go without glitches, get smooth videos, and much more.

## Anuradha Aggarwal showcases sustainable Interior Design with Biophilic Elements

Mumbai, Mar 14:



In the world of interior design, sustainable practices are gaining increasing importance as people become more environmentally conscious. Founder of Studio Olives Cre, Anuradha Aggarwal, has been championing sustainable interior design for many years now, and her latest project in Chattisgarh is a testament to her commitment to creating eco-friendly, luxury spaces. Aggarwal spoke about the importance of incorporating sustainable elements into interior design, especially in the luxury segment, during an exclusive interview. "As designers, we have a responsibility to create spaces that are not only

beautiful but also environmentally friendly. It's crucial that we embrace sustainable design practices and incorporate them into every project we undertake," she said. The Chattisgarh project is a stunning example of biophilic design, which incorporates elements of nature into indoor spaces. The

project features green walls that not only appeal to the eyes but also have numerous health benefits, including improved air quality and reduced stress levels. In addition to the biophilic elements, the project also highlights homegrown art and craft, which Aggarwal believes is an essential aspect of sustainable interior design. "We need to be mindful of the impact our choices have on local communities and the environment. By using local art and craft in our designs, we not only support these communities but also promote sustainable practices," she explained. Luxury interior design in India is a growing industry, with more people willing to invest in creating high-end, bespoke spaces.

## Celebrating 8 years of 'Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai'

It is a double celebration for &TV's cult-comedy show Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai – a journey of laughter and joy as the show completes 8 years and 2000 episodes. The cult comedy show continues to entertain its audience with its rib-tickling characters and tracks, and these two milestones are a testament to the show's immense popularity. On the show's success, producer Sanjay Kohli from Edit II Productions said, "It is a proud moment for all of us as we complete eight successful years and 2000+ episodes. The journey has been quite fulfilling and rewarding. The show has won millions of hearts and enjoys the status of a cult-comedy show on television. For a show that brings happiness and smiles to everyone's lives with amazing comedy content, every day is a celebration. But moments like these are extremely special as they reaffirm our belief in doing the right thing while entertaining our



audience like no other. It has been quite a journey of fun and laughter. I feel proud and credit the entire cast and crew of Edit II and &TV—my heartiest congratulations to everyone for their hard work and success. And most importantly, our audience for their relentless love, support and appreciation." Aasif Sheikh essaying Vibhuti Narayan Mishra, said, "2000

episodes and eight long years is a big milestone for all of us. We are extremely proud and happy to see this amazing journey filled with learning, laughter and joy. I am glad to be a part of this wonderful team and grateful to the producers and channel for allowing me to be a part of this show and entertain the audience as Vibhuti Narayan Mishra. Each

funny character I played these eight years has been greatly appreciated by the audience and struck a chord with them. Each of them stands out, and the audience has its favourites. It was not easy to play so many different characters, but I feel great achievement when I look back today. We have done so much and still have much to do. Kudos to the

team for this milestone. The audience gave us immense love and recognition. I am lucky to play 30-year-old Vibhuti in my 50s and be a part of such a stellar cast." Shubhangi Atre, essaying Angoori Bhabi, says, "It is a special moment for all of us. The show has given me recognition, love, fame, and memories to cherish forever. I feel extremely blessed and equally proud to be a part of the Bhabiji team. It is the team's sheer dedication to work that has reaped results. Kudos to our producers, the entire cast and crew, and loyal fans and audience. I am grateful to the channel and our producers, Sanjay Kohli and Binaifer Kohli, for believing in me and giving me this opportunity. Lastly, I congratulate my lovely audience and fans for their constant love and support in making this show a huge success."

Tune in to Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 PM, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!

## Sony SAB ropes in Aditi Sanwal as Kaashvi'

Baalveer, India's most loved superhero series is set to make its comeback on Sony SAB after capturing the hearts of its audience in the last two seasons. The new chapter in Baalveer's life promises to be bigger and includes tonnes of action accompanied by a brand-new storyline and exciting characters. Joining Dev Joshi, as a companion on this journey, is Aditi Sanwal who will essay the role of Kaashvi, a young girl who adores her parents and craves her mother's love while she stays away for long durations. Kaashvi finds herself crossing paths with Baalveer and she proves to be a friend, companion, and partner. Together they will tackle the many evils of different worlds.

In the upcoming season, Baalveer is stripped of his powers and will go through multiple ups and downs as he finds his



own path. A simple boy from Mumbai, he is unaware of the fact that he is a superhero and the protector of the universe.

In their mission to conquer the universe, the dark forces rob Baalveer of his powers and memory, relegating him to live like a commoner. On this journey of self-realisation, he meets Kaashvi, a young girl he saves from an accident, and she proves integral to his story.

Aditi Sanwal, who is set to take on the role of Kaashvi, said, "Baalveer is one of the most loved superhero franchises on television and the fandom for the show is unbelievable. While I'm extremely happy to be joining the cast, I'm a little nervous as well. My character Kaashvi's presence in Baalveer's life is that of a friend, comrade and supporter and she will play an important role in his journey. The bond they create is going to be supremely special."

Stay tuned to Sony SAB every Saturday and Sunday at 7 PM for Baalveer 3.

## 'Wagle Ki Duniya' to see Radhika trapped in a dangerous fire situation



Sony SAB's Wagle Ki Duniya – Nayi Peedhi Naye Kissey is a slice of life family drama that revolves around the lives of a middle-class family. The show follows a thought-provoking narrative along with relatable characters that leave the viewers with a heart-warming sensation. After Atharva's kidnapping, things finally seemed to have settled down for the Wagle family, but this incidence with Radhika Wagle (Bharti Achrekar) is going to send the Wagle family into a state of worry.

The upcoming track will follow Sakhi Wagle (Chinmayee Salvi) as she accidentally leaves the stove top on and locks Radhika inside the house. With Radhika asleep and no one having the keys to

the house, the Wagle family gathers outside in panic. Will the gas leak put Radhika's life in danger? Or will the Wagle family save the day?

Will Sakhi's mistake cost a life?

Playing the role of Sakhi Wagle, Chinmayee Salvi said, "Sakhi is extremely fond of her grandmother and looks after her constantly. However, she tends to get carried away sometimes like a regular teenage girl, especially when talking on the phone. In a state of absent-mindedness and sheer innocence, she leaves the stove top on and accidentally locks herself out and her grandmother inside. What ensues is complete chaos. The viewers are going to witness intense drama as the Wagle family find a way to save Dadi."

## &TV spreading happiness into audiences' life

International Day of Happiness is celebrated every year on March 20th to make people worldwide realize the importance of happiness in their lives. Spreading this very happiness into audiences' life &TV has these two popular comedy shows Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai and Happu Ki Ultan Paltan. The lead artists from these shows talk about the importance of happiness and how these shows have spread joy and laughter into people's lives. These include Yogesh Tripathi (Daroga Happu Singh) and Kamna Pathak (Rajesh) from Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, Vidisha Srivastava (Anita Bhabi), and Aasif Sheikh (Vibhuti Narayan Mishra) from Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai. Kamna Pathak, essaying Rajesh in Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, shares, "There is a saying that 'If You Want to Be Happy, Try to Make Someone Else Happy'. The truth is, making someone happy takes a lot of effort and is not easy. It's not just about making funny faces or expressions or cracking jokes. It is about creating relatable moments or dialogues that strike a chord. Our show, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, has achieved this successfully. Each character's personality and catchphrases caught up beautifully with the audience and entertained them. And we feel blessed to have been that medium in spreading so much joy and laughter



into their lives. As we celebrate International Day of Happiness, let us remind ourselves to appreciate the little things that make us happy and to express our gratitude for the people who make our lives more enjoyable. Happiness is all around you, so busk yourself in these moments and smile." Aasif Sheikh, aka Vibhuti Narayan Mishra of Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai, shares, "Bringing happiness into someone's life is one of the greatest gifts anyone can give. Every actor dreams of playing a character that makes a difference in someone's life. I

feel fortunate that our audience has appreciated and enjoyed each of these characters, bringing smiles to their faces. My character, Vibhuti Narayan Mishra, in Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai, allows me to accomplish the task of making the audience laugh and get entertained. It gives me tremendous satisfaction and happiness. It's a blessing for me to be a source of joy for others. And as an artist, I think relieving the audience of their stress for a while is an excellent way to help them feel happy and healthy. There are lots of big and worrying issues in our

world right now. We can't always change what is happening but we can choose how we respond. So let us choose to create a happier and kinder world. Count the good things in your life and give yourself reasons to be cheery on this joyful occasion of International Happiness Day."

Yogesh Tripathi, aka Daroga Happu Singh from Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, shares, "The best way to live a happy life is to find humour in everyday problems. It not only makes the situation more enjoyable, but it also lessens tension. Whenever I am on set practising my lines, I ask myself, "Will this entertain my audience? Is it funny enough?"

After a hard day at work, everyone wants to unwind and have a moment of happiness. So, it is more of a responsibility for us to deliver this happiness to them daily! And it makes us happy to see our audience smiling through our show. I feel so proud that people expect me to get them to laugh in my Happu tone wherever I go, and I love to say, "Aree dada". I feel fortunate to give our audience such fun moments. Our show has already completed its four years, and I wish it to continue forever so that we can spread happiness in their lives forever. International Happiness Day inspires us to spread joy and happiness to live happier, more fulfilling lives."

## Aayush shares shirtless pictures from the sets of 'AS04'

Treating the internet with his dashboard abs and toned muscles, Aayush Sharma shared shirtless BTS pictures from an action sequence shot in Baku, Azerbaijan for his upcoming film AS04.

Emerging as the new action hero of Bollywood, Aayush Sharma is leaving no stone unturned to pack a punch for his upcoming action entertainer A S O 4 . From rigorous training in gym to skilled assistance to perform hardcore action stunts, Aayush is doing it all! Offering regular insights into the prep and shoot of his action entertainer, Aayush Sharma keeps teasing his fans and followers adding to their excitement and anticipation.

With BTS pictures from the last schedule of AS04, Aayush served a glimpse into a heavy action sequence shoot of the film. The actor flaunted his chiseled body in the pictures updating his fans, "Khoon Nakli magar Paseena asli hai #AS04".

Announcing his fourth film on his birthday last year, Aayush dropped the teaser of AS04 presenting his suave and swag character performing stylised action. Not only the exciting teaser but also the untitled name with initials and



number of the film caught everyone's attention as Aayush employs the prevailing tradition of untitled films announcement in Hindi market for the first time.

Launching debutante Sushrii Mishra as AS04, Aayush Sharma also roped in veteran South Indian actor Jagapathi Babu for the film.

Produced by KK Radhamohan, under the banner of Srisathyasaai Arts, the yet untitled action entertainer AS04 stars Aayush Sharma as the lead, co-starring debutante Sushrii Mishra. Directed by Katyayaa Shivpuri, the film is slated for release in 2023.

## Greening the IIFA'S since 2007: The IIFA story and origins of the green carpet

At the dawn of the new millennium in the year 2000 in the heart of London at the iconic Millenium Dome, one of the greatest and biggest entertainment IP's of the 21st century was born – IIFA.

Dedicated to building bridges across cinemas, businesses, communities and nations, creating everyone's dream: "One People. One World", 21 years ago, the dream to take Indian cinema to the world had come true and a celebration was bought to life that connected people, countries, cultures and nations with the platform of cinema.



cal and unforgettable memories from over the years as IIFA journeyed the world.

Proud to be leaders of the Industry, IIFA has always put the environmental agenda at the realm of IIFA Weekend & Awards in 2007 when they launched the concept 'Greening The IIFAs' and came up with the idea of symbolizing this idea with Bright Green Carpets instead of traditional red ones.

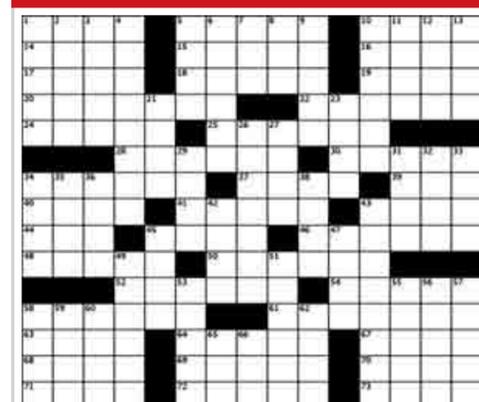
With stars from Sienna Miller, Colin Firth, Amitabh Bachchan to Priyanka Chopra IIFA has done proud to make a difference and continue to thrive doing so in advocat-

ing that we can all make a difference to our home, our world. IIFA has always helped create clever messaging on the environment that the stars and celebrities involved would convey to the audiences and fans globally and today with the power of celebrity following, it's worked.

The awards reflect the commitment of fashion houses to sustainability... The countdown to the biggest celebration of Indian cinema has begun. With the International Indian Film Academy and Awards (IIFA) scheduled to take place at Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, on May 26th and 27th, 2023.

## CROSSWORD

587



### ACROSS

- Retained
- Tightwad
- Sailor's call
- Model \_\_\_\_\_ Macpherson
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sam
- Japanese wrestling
- Eve's partner
- Calm
- Arctic transport
- Regret
- Large lizard

### DOWN

- Purple \_\_\_\_\_
- Senior
- Andean animal
- Republican's opponent
- Touise
- Purpose
- Biol., e.g.
- Building wing
- Ignited again
- Promise
- Mauai dance
- Future sign
- "Star Wars" character
- Rod and \_\_\_\_\_
- Kelly or Autry
- Pain in a hearing organ
- Woe is me!
- Poetic contraction

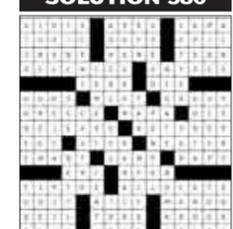
### 46. Capture back

- Lariat
- Distress cry (2 wds.)
- Moon feature
- Adjust again
- Engraver
- Sports VIP (hyp.)
- Valley
- Florida metropolis
- Wise
- Quiz
- Keyboard instrument
- Jazz singer \_\_\_\_\_ Fitzgerald
- On cloud
- \_\_\_\_\_ Witherspoon of "Sweet Home Alabama"
- Act

### 31. Peruvian Indian

- Roof problem
- Indefinite number
- October birthstone
- \_\_\_\_\_ Scotia
- Visualizes
- Richard \_\_\_\_\_ of "Chicago"
- Source
- Underscored
- Apple's center
- British nobleman
- Plot
- Serious plays
- Protective gear
- Like old bread
- National bird
- Staircase part
- Genesis locale
- City transportation
- Scottish group
- Queue
- Wrath
- Mature

### SOLUTION 586



## 'Not scoring big was eating me up' Cummins to stay back in Australia, Smith to lead side in ODI series

Ahmedabad, Mar 14 (PTI):

India's star batter Virat Kohli has admitted that not being able to make any substantial contribution to team India's cause for a long time was "eating him up" and he let the expectations overwhelm him a bit because he was desperate to score a big Test hundred.

Kohli hit a splendid 186 against Australia in the drawn fourth Test, ending a three-year wait to get his 28th Test century.

In a conversation with head coach Rahul Dravid, the 34-year old Kohli revealed that the weight of expectations became a bit tough to handle for him.

"Honestly, I've let the complications grow on me a bit because of my shortcomings," Kohli told Dravid in the chat, the video of which was posted by the BCCI on its website.

"The desperation to get to the three-figure mark is something that can grow on you as a batsman. I let that happen to me to a certain extent. But a flip side to it is,



I'm not a guy who is happy with 40-45. I take a lot of pride in performing for the team.

"It's not like when Virat Kohli should stand out. When I'm batting on 40, I know I can get a 150. That

was eating me up a lot.

"Why am I not able to get that big score for the team? Because I took pride in the fact that when the team needed me, I stood up, scoring in difficult conditions. The fact that I wasn't able to

do that, was bothering me," he added.

Asked by Dravid how tough it was, Kohli said, "If I've to be brutally honest, it does become a little difficult as the moment you step out of the hotel room, right from the gym outside, to the guy in the lift, the bus driver everyone is saying 'we want a hundred'."

"So, it does play on your mind all the time but that's also the beauty of playing for so long to have these complications come up and overcome these challenges," Kohli said.

Kohli dished out an uncharacteristic 364-ball innings, spanning more than eight hours and 30 minutes. It was his 75th international century across formats.

Dravid said he was also desperate to see former skipper score that big hundred but it was worth in the end since Kohli delivered a master class.

"I've seen him as a player, seen a lot of hundreds of him on TV and after I took over the coach about 15-16 months ago, was a bit des-

perate to see him score a Test hundred and really enjoy it from the comfort of the dressing room

"To be able to enjoy and relax a Test hundred. It was a beauty. You made me wait a long time but it was an absolute privilege to watch an innings and the way you constructed it," said Dravid.

Before this match, Kohli's last Test century had come in India's maiden Day/Night Test against Bangladesh in November 2019. Kohli insisted that he never "about the milestones".

"A lot of people ask me, 'how do you keep scoring those hundreds'. And I always say a hundred is something that happens along the way within my goal, which is to bat as long as possible for my team."

Kohli credited his fitness to be able to bat in different ways which help him excel in all formats.

"I can bat four sessions, I can bat five sessions, that's where the fitness and physical preparation comes into play for me.

Ahmedabad, Mar 14 (PTI):

Senior batter Steve Smith will lead Australia against India in the upcoming three-match ODI series as regular captain Pat Cummins, who lost his mother recently, will not return to the country for the white-ball contest.

Cummins had left for home after the second Test in Delhi to take care of his mother Maria, who died of breast cancer last week.

The first game of the three-match series will be played in Mumbai on Friday.

"Pat won't be coming back, he's still taking care of what's happened back home," Australia coach Andrew McDonald said.

"Our thoughts are with Pat and his family as they go through that grieving process," Donald was quoted as saying by cricket.com.au.

Cricket Australia has not named any replacement for Cummins in the 15-man squad. Smith had captained Australia in the



last two Tests of the four-match series that India won 2-1 to retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

India won the first two Tests while Australia emerged victorious in the third match in Indore. The Ahmedabad game ended in a dull draw.

Nathan Ellis was recently recalled to the ODI squad after Jhye Richardson made a late withdrawal having been forced to undergo a hamstring surgery.

A struggling David Warner, who has not been among the ODI squad members training in Ahmedabad in recent days, is set to return to the side after missing the final two Tests due to an elbow

injury. On the pace front, Josh Hazlewood, who also captained the ODI team during the England series when Cummins missed a match, is absent due to an injury.

Ashton Agar was returned after being sent home midway through the Test series and is likely to form a spin partnership with Adam Zampa.

The series will also mark the returns of Glenn Maxwell (broken leg) and Mitchell Marsh (ankle surgery) from serious injuries.

"We've got a couple conversations around the balance of the team we want to play, we've gone in with a structure with eight batters to bat a little bit deeper, we've tried that," said McDonald.

"So there'll be a mix of combinations as we lead into the World Cup.

"(There is) a lot of all-rounders picked in the squad and can they all play in the one team? So we've got to answer a few of those questions."

## Hardik can be India captain post 2023 WC if he wins 1st ODI vs Australia: Gavaskar

Mumbai, Mar 14 (PTI):

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar reckons Hardik Pandya can stake claim for leadership role in one-dayers too after the World Cup this year, provided his side emerges victorious against Australia in the first ODI here on Friday.

With regular skipper Rohit Sharma set to miss the first ODI at the Wankhede Stadium due to family commitments, Pandya has been named the stand-in captain for the contest.

The 29-year-old all-rounder, who captained Gujarat Titans to title win in their maiden appearance in the Indian Premier League 2022 season, is already the incumbent leader for India in the shortest format.

Gavaskar told Star Sports, "I have been very impressed with his captaincy at the T20 level for the Gujarat Titans and for India when he is captaining the T20 side. I do believe that if he wins the first game in Mumbai,



then you can almost stamp him as the India captain once the World Cup is over in 2023."

Gavaskar said Pandya's presence in the middle-order is essential for India.

"He can be an impact player as well as a game changer in the middle-order. Even for the Gujarat team, he was promoting himself up the order knowing that this is the time when the team need-

ed some momentum and push, and he would do that," Gavaskar said.

"So, someone who is prepared to take on responsibility, lead from the front, and who will not ask the players to do something that he wants to do himself, is highly crucial," he said.

Gavaskar added that Pandya's captaincy style also makes him a favourite among the players.

## Prannoy makes winning start at All England Championships

Birmingham, Mar 14 (PTI):

India's HS Prannoy survived some anxious moments before advancing to the second round of the All England Championships after registering a straight-game win over Chinese Taipei's Tzu Wei Wang in the men's singles competition here on Tuesday.

The World No. 9 Indian eked out a 21-19 22-20 win over Wang in the 49-minute opening round clash to take his overall tally to 5-3 over the Taiwanese.

The 30-year-old from Kerala will meet either third seeded Indonesian Anthony Sinisuka Ginting or Thailand's Kantaphon Wangchaeroen next.

Prannoy looked in good touch as he reeled off five points on the trot to zoom to a comfortable 11-4 lead. However, the Indian was guilty of missing the lines twice and also found the net, allowing Wang to cut down the deficit to three points at 11-14.

Prannoy managed to pull away to 18-12 with four straight points before Wang broke the run of points with an aggressive



return after a fast-paced rally Wang then punished Prannoy for his weak returns and moved to 16-19 with a deceptive net return. A backhand going wide and then another one going long from Prannoy brought Wang to 19-19.

Prannoy then unleashed a cross court smash to move to game point and then sent down another straight smash to close the game.

The second game was a tightly fought battle from the word go as Wang opened up a 7-2 lead.

Prannoy levelled the scores, only to miss the lines at his opponent's forehand corner twice.

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday refused to interfere with the non-selection of three national champions Manju Rani, Shiksha Narwal and Poonam Poonam for the upcoming Women's World Boxing Championships.

Justice Prathiba M Singh said in view of the medal tally and evaluation forms of the players, no case for interference with the list of boxers selected to represent the country in the sporting event was made out and the petitioners shall continue to remain in the reserve list for the championship.

"The court notices that scope of interference in a writ petition is limited. The evaluation form has been perused by the court as also the medal tally. The present is not a case for interference under Article 226. The team which has been selected is permitted to go ahead and represent India," the judge said.

The championship is set to take place from March 15 to 31 in Delhi.

Earlier, the counsel for the petitioners had said

during 2018 to 2022, the performance of the petitioners was better than the selected players who hardly owned any medals.

On Tuesday, the counsel for Boxing Federation of India (BFI) said the petitioners' assertion was misleading as the selected players represented the country in recent events and won medals, including a gold medal Nitu Ghangas clinched in the Commonwealth Games last year. The court perused the medal tally prepared by the BFI and refused to grant any interim relief to the petitioners.

"I have seen the chart. They (selected players) are equally competent," the court stated.

The petitioners also contended that the one of the coaches who evaluated the players in the selection process was not even present during the camp for certain durations.

The court granted time to the BFI to file a response to the petition which has prayed for constitution of a committee for fair selection of players. The petitioners had approached the high court earlier this

month over their non-inclusion and asserted the selection ought to happen on the basis of meritorious performances in the past.

The petitioners had told the court they had defeated all those who have been selected at the national championships held in December 2022 in Bhopal.

The BFI earlier submitted that winning a gold medal was only one of the qualifying criteria and the players were evaluated at the national camp on the basis of selection criteria for national camps and world championship 2023.

According to the BFI, the new selection policy for the men's and women's World Championships and the Asian Games was followed to pick the national team and Manju (48 kg), Shiksha (54 kg) and Poonam (60 kg) could not make it to the 12-member side. According to the new policy, drafted in consultation with High Performance Director (HPD) Bernard Dunne, the boxers underwent an evaluation process for three weeks where they were judged on various parameters.

## Fritz, Wawrinka win; Murray, Badosa out at Indian Wells

Indian Wells (US), Mar 14 (AP):

Defending champion Taylor Fritz routed Sebastian Baez 6-1, 6-2 in the third round of the BNP Paribas Open.

The fourth-seeded Fritz served four aces and won 88% of his first-serve points against the 30th-seeded Baez from Argentina on Monday.

Andy Murray's run ended in a 7-6 (6), 6-2 loss to 21-year-old Jack Draper.

"I've looked up to Andy since I was so young," Draper said. "I watched him win Wimbledon for the first



time in 2013 and then I've had the opportunity to get to know him and practice with him often since 2019. He's a really special person, a great champion and a great human being, and it was a privilege to play against him on this court."

Murray has not won three consecutive matches at a Masters 1000 event since he won the title in Paris in 2016.

Also advancing was Stan Wawrinka, who defeated No. 7 seed Holger Rune, 2-6, 7-6 (5), 7-5. American Tommy Paul beat ninth-seeded Hubert Hurkacz, 4-6,

6-2, 6-4. Rune saved a match point and rallied from 2-5 down to win the second-set tiebreaker. But Wawrinka recovered in the third to send his 19-year-old opponent packing.

"The last 45 minutes was tough," Wawrinka said.

"I had the match in control and was playing well. I was putting a lot of pressure, I should have won the match way before."

Wawrinka reached the fourth round in the Southern California desert for the first time since 2017, when he lost in the final. He turns 38 next month.

## Manika loses both women's doubles and mixed doubles in Singapore Smash

Singapore, Mar 14 (PTI)

Indian campaign ended at the Singapore Smash table tennis tournament after Manika Batra lost both her women's doubles and mixed doubles matches with her respective partners here on Tuesday.

Manika and Sathiyan Gnanasekaran lost to Japan's world champions silver medallists duo of Hina Hayata and Tomokazu Harimoto in the mixed doubles quarterfinals to end their fine run in the tournament.



## Ahead of Tri-Nation event, Stimac announces provisional squad for camp

Kolkata, Mar 14 (PTI):

Indian football team coach Igor Stimac has announced a provisional 23-man squad for a camp that begins here on Wednesday, with Sunil Chhetri and Manvir Singh forming a potent duo upfront. The Indian team will undergo a five-day camp in Kolkata, before travelling to Imphal, where they will play the Tri-Nation International Football Tournament, at the Khuman Lampak Stadium from March 22 to 28, with Myanmar and Krygyz Republic being the two opponents.

### Provisional squad

**Goalkeepers:** Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Phurba Lachenpa Tempa, Amrinder Singh.  
**Defenders:** Sandesh Jhingan, Roshan Singh, Anwar Ali, Akash Mishra, Chinglensana Konsham, Rahul Bheke, Mehtab Singh, Gian Martins.  
**Midfielders:** Suresh Wangjam, Rohit Kumar, Anirudh Thapa, Brandon Fernandes, Yasir Mohammad, Ritwik Das, Jaekson Singh, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Bipin Singh.  
**Forwards:** Manvir Singh, Sunil Chhetri, Sivasakthi Narayanan.

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## Govt tells Lok Sabha

# 'Naxal violence down by 77 pc'

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

The Naxal violence in India has decreased by 77 per cent over the past 12 years and the number of deaths in related incidents has also reduced by 90 per cent during the same period, the government said in Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said the geographical spread of LWE-related violence has significantly reduced and only 176 police stations of 45 districts reported related violence in 2022.

In 2010, at least 465 police stations of 96 dis-

tricts had reported LWE-related violence.

Replying to a written question, Rai said the number of LWE-related deaths (security forces and civilians) has reduced from an all-time high of 1005 in 2010 to just 98 in 2022.

The minister said the decline in geographical spread of violence is also reflected in the reduced number of districts covered under the security related expenditure (SRE) scheme.

He said 126 districts were covered under the SRE scheme in 2010 but that number came down to 90 in April 2018 and further to 70 in July

2021. Rai said the security situation in Jharkhand has improved considerably and the existing security vacuum in the state has been almost filled.

Places like Burha Pahar, tri-junction of West Singhbhum, Saraikela-Kharsawan and Khunti, and Parasnath Hills have been freed from Maoists through establishment of camps and sustained operations by security forces, he said.

The number of violent incidents in Jharkhand reduced by 82 per cent from a high of 742 in 2009 to 132 in 2022, Rai added.

## MHA seeks suggestions from stakeholders on comprehensive amendments in criminal laws

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

The Ministry of Home Affairs has sought suggestions from all stakeholders, including chief ministers, judges of the Supreme Court and high courts, and MPs for the comprehensive amendments in criminal laws.

Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Kumar Mishra said in Lok Sabha that a committee had been constituted under the chairpersonship of the vice-chancellor of National Law University, Delhi to suggest reforms in the criminal laws - the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has also sought suggestions from governors, chief ministers of states, lieutenant governors and administrators

of Union territories, Chief Justice of India, chief justices of various high courts, Bar Council of India, Bar Council of various states, various universities, law institutes and all MPs regarding comprehensive amendments in criminal laws, he said in reply to a written question.

Rai said the government is committed to bring out a comprehensive legislation taking into account the recommendations of the committee and the suggestions received from all the stakeholders.

The legislation of such laws is a complex and lengthy exercise given the spectrum of divergent views of stakeholders and the entire procedure is a long drawn out one and no time limit can be fixed or given for this legislative process, he said.

## KNOW YOUR ARMY CAMPAIGN



A child during a 'know your army campaign' displaying weapons and artillery, at Showkat Ali Stadium in Baramulla, Tuesday.

## HC seeks Centre's stand on challenge to dismissal of Air Force officer over Brahmos misfire

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought the Centre's stand on a petition by a former Air Force officer against his dismissal over the accidental firing of Brahmos missile into Pakistan during a simulation exercise last year.

A bench of Justices Suresh Kumar Kait and Neena Bansal Krishna issued notice on the petition by the former wing commander, who was posted as Engineering Officer at the relevant time, and granted the Centre six weeks to file its response.

The petitioner contended

the decision of the Ministry of Defence to terminate him in August 2022 was "grossly mala fide, discriminatory, illegal, and unjust" as he had acted in "complete obedience of the SOP".

Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma opposed his plea and said the termination cannot be challenged in the present proceedings.

In his plea, the sacked officer has submitted he was trained for duties which were purely of "maintenance nature" and never on conduct of operations. He asserted he was "not trained against the counts of blame apportioned to him in the Court

of Inquiry".

"The Petitioner performed all his duties as per the SOP dated 15.03.2021. A perusal of the said SOP, which governed the operations on the fateful day would demonstrate that the Impugned Termination Order is mala fide and the counts of blame levelled against the Petitioner bear no nexus with his responsibility as per his role prescribed by the SOP. The cause of the unfortunate incident was solely operational in nature," the petition said.

"Although the Petitioner was an Engineering Officer, the Court of Inquiry appor-

tioned him blame for failure to perform external checks of the combat connectors of combat missiles, which continued to remain connected to FCS Junction Box 1 & 3, while the same was not the role and duty of the Petitioner," added the plea.

The petition said on the date of the unfortunate incident, there was no specific regulation or prohibition on the use of live weapons during simulated exercises despite the authorities being aware of the inherent risks associated with such processes and the revised SOP was issued only after the accident.

## CAG Murmu pitches for collaboration to strengthen accountability frameworks in blue eco, AI

Guwahati, Mar 14 (PTI):

CAG Girish Chandra Murmu on Tuesday stressed the need for collaboration to develop and strengthen accountability frameworks in the blue economy and artificial intelligence.

Under the Indian Presidency of the G20, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) as the chair for SAI20-the engagement group of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI) is organising the senior official meeting of the Engagement Group (EG).

Talking to reporters, CAG Murmu said the participants provided sugges-

tions to bring out an inclusive, decisive and action-oriented Communique in the SAI20 summit scheduled in June 2023.

The delegates while broadly agreeing to the Zero draft of the Communique provided their valuable thoughts and suggestions to bring out an inclusive, decisive and action-oriented communique in the SAI20 summit scheduled in Goa in June, he added.

"In this meeting today, they (participants) also had some suggestions. Whatever suggestions were made, we had finally come out with some kind of an agreement that will prepare some kind of a

draft on few outcomes of deliberations so that those outcomes can be submitted before the main conference, which is scheduled in Goa," he said.

He also highlighted that though each nation has its own unique challenges in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a good widely replicable knowledge system drawing upon collective wisdom was achievable.

The experiences and inputs of the delegates provided a concrete pathway towards tangible outcomes in the form of auditing guidelines and toolkits for effective audits, as well as the SAI20 Communique,

an official release said.

In his valedictory address, Murmu appreciated the wealth of knowledge gained during the deliberations on the priority areas of the Blue Economy and Responsible artificial intelligence (AI).

He also stressed the need for collaboration in developing and strengthening accountability frameworks in the two priority areas.

Thirty-eight delegates from different countries and the World Bank are participating in the meeting. The CAG said several countries wanted to participate in the meeting virtually but the format of the meeting does not allow so.

## Congress blames govt for impasse in Parliament

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

The Congress on Tuesday said the Modi government's refusal to allow the Opposition to raise its demand for a JPC probe into the Adani issue was to be blamed for the impasse in Parliament.

Amidst stepped up opposition demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the Adani issue, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi levelled a slew of allegations against the Modi government on its foreign policy and claimed that it was aimed at benefiting the Adani Group.

"Is the objective of India's foreign policy to make Adani richer? In the last nine years, Modi ji has kept India in 'bhrum (mised)' and Adani in 'vishwa bhruman (global travel)' along with him," Gandhi alleged in a

video in Hindi.

Asked about Congress' allegations, Union minister Giriraj Singh said, "Adani had made it clear that the first break was given to him was given by (Congress CM) Chimanbhai Patel...the second break was given by Rajiv Gandhi. (They believe that) if Adani does development for the country then it should be only under their rule not in any other's rule."

Terming it as a non-issue, he said, "Adani-Ambani is just an excuse, they just want to abuse Modi". "Their (the Congress) 10 years in government was marred by controversies, while Modi's government has been of hope, it has been about houses, toilets, Ujjwala, water, so now they want to finish all this thinking that then only the government will be finished," the BJP leader told reporters outside Parliament.

## OLD PENSION SCHEME



Maharashtra Government employees raise slogans during a protest to demand restoration of the old pension scheme, in Thane, Tuesday.

## Drug developed using DRDO technology gets DCGI approval

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

A critical drug developed on a DRDO technology for radiological and nuclear emergencies has received approval from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), the defence ministry said on Tuesday.

The drug -- prussian blue insoluble formulations -- was developed under the Technology Development Fund (TDF). The TDF was launched primarily for creating an ecosystem for promoting self-reliance by building indigenous state-of-the-art systems for defence application.

In a statement, the defence ministry said the drug has been developed by the industry based on the technology of Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), Delhi. The INMAS is a laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

"The manufacturing and marketing licenses for the commercial use of Prussian blue insoluble formulations, developed under the Technology Development Fund (TDF)

scheme, have been granted to Scott-Edil Pharmacia Ltd, Baddi, Himachal Pradesh and Skantr Lifescience LLP, Ahmedabad, Gujarat by Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)," the ministry said. It said the drug will be available under the trade name of Pru-Decorp™ and PruDecorp-MG.

## Indian author Perumal Murugan's Tamil novel 'Pyre' longlisted for International Booker Prize 2023

London/Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

Indian author Perumal Murugan's Tamil novel 'Pyre' is among 13 books from across Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America to make it to the longlist of the International Booker Prize 2023, announced by the Booker Prize Foundation here on Tuesday.

Murugan, 56, makes it to the prestigious list with his 2016 book 'Pyre', translated from Tamil by Aniruddhan Vasudevan, becoming the first Tamil writer to

make it to the longlist of 13 works. "Pyre", tells the tale of an intercaste couple who elope, setting in motion a story of terrifying foreboding.

The coveted literary prize, won last year by Geetanjali Shree and translator Daisy Rockwell for the first-ever Hindi novel 'Tomb of Sand', is awarded annually for a work of fiction written originally in any language, translated into English and published in the UK or Ireland.

The GBP 50,000 prize money is shared between the writer and translator of the win-

ning work, which will be declared this year on May 23. Murugan, based in Salem in Tamil Nadu, described "Pyre" as a very important book of his.

"Just a few minutes back someone broke the news to me. I am very happy, and this is a great acceptance of my writing... 'Pyre' deals with honour killing. Honour killing is a very

big problem in our country. I hope more people get to know about this issue after this recognition."

The Tamil Nadu-born author, scholar and poet has written 10 novels, five collections of short stories and four anthologies of poetry. He won the Sahitya Akademi's Translation Prize for his

novel 'Madhorubhagan', translated by Vasudevan as 'One Part Woman'.

"Perumal Murugan is a great anatomist of power and, in particular, of the deep, deforming rot of caste hatred and violence. With flashes of fable, his novel tells a story specific and universal: how flammable are fear and the distrust of others," Booker's prize judging panel noted.

In 2015, Murugan declared himself "dead" and announced his retirement from writing following protests, litigation and the burning of this later award-winning work.

At a court case in 2016 centred on the book, the judge ruled, "Let the author be resurrected to what he is best at. Write." For Murugan, the statement was both "a command and a benediction" to resume writing, the Booker Prize judges note.

The 13 Booker longlisted works originate in 12 countries and are translated from 11 languages. The subject matter covered includes the elements of Indian melodrama, Korean fairy tale, French horror, Caribbean gospel and Scandinavian saga.



Perumal Murugan