



Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee

Vanchiton ko Variyata
Assistance of ₹ 11,700 crore to over 25 lakh beneficiaries to promote entrepreneurship among Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes and Sanitation workers

Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat

BRIEF



Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami with others during a roadshow at Gopeshwar, in Chamoli district.

Seat sharing

■ **New Delhi:** LJP (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan on Wednesday said his party has finalised a seat-sharing formula with the BJP for the Lok Sabha polls. Paswan announced this after a meeting with BJP chief J P Nadda here. "All my concerns have been addressed by the BJP. I am satisfied," he told reporters.

Mishap

■ **Patna:** One person was killed and two others were injured when a power transformer exploded inside a court premises in Patna on Wednesday, police said. According to Deputy Superintendent of Police (Town), Ashok Kumar Singh, the blast took place at the civil court in the afternoon, killing a notary on the spot.

Stone

■ **Guwahati:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually laid the foundation stone for a Rs 27,000-crore semiconductor assembly and test facility in Assam's Morigaon district on Wednesday. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who was present at the event organised at the site of the facility in Jagiroad, said today is a landmark day for Assam and the North East.

Approve

■ **Mumbai:** The Maharashtra cabinet on Wednesday approved a new Marathi language policy, which aims to establish it as a language of knowledge acquisition and employment in the next 25 years. It also aims to devise steps for the conservation and promotion of various dialects of Marathi using modern technology like ChatGPT. The cabinet was chaired by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

Weather

High 37 Low 21

MARKET

NIFTY 21,997.70
SENSEX 72,761.89

BULLION

GOLD 65,750
SILVER 74,502

'People from disadvantaged sections biggest beneficiaries'

■ **Of govt schemes**
New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday that people from disadvantaged sections like SCs, STs and OBCs are the biggest beneficiaries of his government's welfare schemes as he accused the previous Congress dispensations of neglecting them and never appreciating their role in the country's progress. Speaking at the launch of the PM-SURAJ national portal, he cited the election of Ram Nath Kovind and Droupadi Murumu, who come from Dalit and tribal communities respectively, as president to assert that the BJP's efforts to ensure that those from deprived sections reach top positions will continue. The opposi-



PM Modi virtually launches PM-SURAJ national portal in the presence of Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and others, in Lucknow, Wednesday.

tion made every effort to ensure their defeat, he said. "Taking a swipe at the Opposition, Prime Minister Modi asked the gathering that consisted of people from disadvantaged groups,

One lakh beneficiaries given Rs 720 cr ...

This initiative is set to facilitate financial empowerment and enable entrepreneurship opportunities for the most disadvantaged sections of society. PM Modi said one lakh beneficiaries from deprived sections have been given Rs 720 crore assistance till now.

deprived sections of society. "SCs, STs, OBCs are the biggest beneficiaries of government welfare schemes for the poor," he added. The Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan and Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan (PM-SURAJ) national portal aims to provide credit support to eligible individuals across the country, including Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, and sanitation workers.

Will disclose electoral bonds details in time: CEC

■ **Jammu, Mar 13 (PTI):**
The Election Commission has received details from the State Bank of India (SBI) related to the electoral bonds and will share all relevant information in time, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said here on Wednesday. The assertion comes in the wake of the Supreme Court directing the SBI to submit the details of the electoral bonds purchased since April 12, 2019 to the EC. SBI is the authorised financial institution to issue the electoral bonds. "The SBI was supposed to sub-

mit the data by March 12. They have given to us the details in time. I will go back and look at the data (and) would definitely disclose it in time," Kumar told reporters here. Kumar reached here on Wednesday to review preparations for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. "We are ready for the 2024 Lok Sabha election. We will ensure free and fair elections across the country. We request voters across the country including Jammu and Kashmir to enthusiastically take part in the 'festival of democracy,'" the CEC said.

Nayab Saini wins trust vote in Haryana Assly

■ **Chandigarh, Mar 13 (PTI):**
Nayab Singh Saini-led BJP government in Haryana on Wednesday won the trust vote by voice vote in the state assembly here, a day after he took oath as the new chief minister.

Former state home minister and senior BJP leader Anil Vij was present in the House. During the voice vote, besides JJP's 10 MLAs, lone legislator of the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) was also not present in the House. Congress members asked Speaker Gupta to conduct voting through secret ballot but he refused saying there was no provision in the rules for the same.

'22,217 electoral bonds purchased, 22,030 redeemed'

■ **SBI to SC**
New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):
The State Bank of India (SBI) on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that a total of 22,217 electoral bonds were purchased by political parties between April 1, 2019 and February 15 this year; out of which 22,030 were redeemed.

business hours on March 12. It said details, including date of purchase of each electoral bond, names of the purchaser and the denomination of the bonds purchased have been furnished. The affidavit, filed by SBI's chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara, said the bank has also furnished to the EC details like date of encashment of the electoral bonds, the names of political parties which received the contributions and the denominations of the bonds. "A total number of 22,217 bonds were purchased during the period April 1, 2019 till February 15, 2024. At the time of collating the information for the EC, the details were segregated as below," it said. The affidavit said between April 1, 2019 to April 11, 2019, a total of 3,346 electoral bonds were purchased and 1,609 redeemed. It further said from April 12, 2019 to February 15 this year, a total of 18,871 electoral bonds were purchased and 20,421 were redeemed. "The State Bank of India

IIT-BHU graduate held in fake cancer drug racket

■ **New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):**
An IIT-BHU graduate was arrested for his alleged involvement in a fake cancer drug racket on Wednesday, a day after the Delhi Police nabbed seven people in connection with the case. Aditya Krishna (23), who was arrested from Bihar's Muzaffarpur district, worked as a supplier of spurious cancer drugs in Pune and the NCR region, police said. The Delhi Police on Tuesday arrested seven people, including Neeraj Chauhan (38), from several locations in the national capital for allegedly manufacturing and supplying spurious 'life-saving' cancer chemotherapy drugs. According to police, Krishna operated a chemist shop in Muzaffarpur and used to purchase the fake cancer drugs from Chauhan. A Class 12 student in Bijapur district has given birth to a baby, prompting authorities to suspend the superintendent of a hostel where she was staying for alleged negligence and being unaware of her condition, officials said. The student, aged around 20 and student of a school located near the government-run hostel facility, was in relationship with a boy for the last two-three years and their families were aware of it, they said. Porta cabins are pre-fabricated structures for school infrastructure in Naxal-affected areas. They include school and residential facilities at some places and only hostel facility at other places in Bastar region. At places where the porta cabins have only residential facility, students go to nearby schools for education. The student, who was staying at the government-run residential porta cabin for girls in Gangloor area, complained of

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SHOCKING TRUTH

Class 12 student gives birth to baby

■ **Hostel superintendent suspended**
Bijapur, Mar 13:

What Hostel Supdt said.....

A Class 12 student in Bijapur district has given birth to a baby, prompting authorities to suspend the superintendent of a hostel where she was staying for alleged negligence and being unaware of her condition, officials said. The student, aged around 20 and student of a school located near the government-run hostel facility, was in relationship with a boy for the last two-three years and their families were aware of it, they said. Porta cabins are pre-fabricated structures for school infrastructure in Naxal-affected areas. They include school and residential facilities at some places and only hostel facility at other places in Bastar region. At places where the porta cabins have only residential facility, students go to nearby schools for education. The student, who was staying at the government-run residential porta cabin for girls in Gangloor area, complained of

Talking to reporters, Minj said the health department recently held a sickle cell anaemia test camp in the porta cabin as a part of its routine exercise, but no symptom of pregnancy was reported by them in any student. "I learnt today that the student was in relationship with a boy and their families were aware of it. She had eloped with the boy three years ago," she claimed. headache and uneasiness on Tuesday night following which she was admitted to a local hospital where she delivered a baby, Bijapur District Education Officer (DEO) Baliram Baghel said. After getting information on Wednesday morning, Baghel and other officials went to the residential facility and hospital to enquire about the matter. The student has appeared in three papers of Class 12 board examinations, he said. The DEO said he later learnt that the student was in relationship with a boy for the last three years. Baghel also said he met parents of the duo in the hospital.

Khattar, Gadkari, Goyal in BJP's 2nd LS list

■ **Party names 72 more candidates**
New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):

The BJP on Wednesday named 72 more candidates for the Lok Sabha elections, including Union ministers Nitin Gadkari, Piyush Goyal and Anurag Singh Thakur, and former chief ministers Manohar Lal Khattar, Trivendra Singh Rawat and Basavaraj Bommai. BJP chief spokesperson and Rajya Sabha member Anil Baluni has been fielded from Garhwal in Uttarakhand. In Delhi, it has fielded two new candidates -- Harsh Malhotra from East Delhi and Yogendra Chandolia from North West Delhi. In Karnataka, Yaduveer

Union minister Pralhad Joshi will fight from Dharwad while former chief minister B S Yediyurappa's son B Y Raghavendra will contest from Shimoga. Tejasvi Surya, the BJP's youth wing chief, will seek reelection from Bengaluru South. Krishnadatta Wadiyar of the erstwhile Mysore royal family replaces Pratap Simha as the BJP candidate in the Mysore seat. Earlier this month, the BJP had announced its first list of more than 190 candidates for the Lok Sabha polls, due in April-May.

Lifer to Mukhtar Ansari

■ **Over ticket distribution in Howrah**
Kolkata, Mar 13 (PTI):
A special Varanasi court on Wednesday sentenced gangster-politician Mukhtar Ansari to life imprisonment in a three-decade-old fake gun licence case. The MP-MLA court of judge Awanish Gautam also slapped a fine totalling Rs 2 lakh on Ansari under various penal provisions, district government counsel Vinay Singh said.

Mamata disowns brother after he expressed displeasure

■ **Over ticket distribution in Howrah**
Kolkata, Mar 13 (PTI):
TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday disowned her younger brother Babun Banerjee after he expressed displeasure over the party renominating Prasun Banerjee from Howrah Lok Sabha seat in West Bengal. She made the remark while speaking to reporters in Jalpaiguri. Hitting out at her younger brother for speaking out against the party's selection of candidates, Banerjee said, "Before every election, he creates a problem. I don't like greedy people. I don't believe in dynasty politics that I will give him ticket in elections. I have decided to disown him and cut off all relationship with him." Asked about media reports that he might join the BJP, the West Bengal CM said, "He can do whatever he wants to. The party stands by its official candidate Prasun Banerjee."

'Don't believe in dynasty politics'

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Nepal PM wins vote of confidence

■ **Kathmandu, Mar 13 (PTI):**
Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda on Wednesday secured a vote of confidence in Parliament, as the Himalayan country struggled to maintain political stability due to the frequent shifting of alliances. Prachanda, 69, a former guerilla leader belonging to the Communist Party of Nepal (Maolist Centre) -- the third largest party in the House of Representatives (HoR) -- received 157 votes in the 275-member lower house. Altogether 268 MPs were present during the voting. A total of 110 votes were cast against him while one lawmaker abstained from voting. Prachanda needed 138 votes to win the trust vote, his third since assuming charge in December 2022. "The Prime Minister has won the vote of confidence," announced Speaker Dev Raj Ghimire, amidst cheers from the ruling coalition members. The vote comes days after the Maoist leader dumped the Nepali Congress and forged a new alliance with the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist).





भारत सरकार



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- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

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For enrollment in the scheme, Vishwakarma brothers and sisters may visit their nearest **Common Service Centre**

Sai advises Collectors and SPs to act with sensitivity and accountability

Image of the security camp in Bastar should be that of a convenience camp
CM reviews the works being conducted in public interest

Raipur, Mar 13: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai addressed the 'Collector-SP Conference' today from his residence office and gave necessary instructions regarding the implementation of government schemes and maintenance of the law and order in the state. Chief Minister Shri Sai said that many schemes of the state government and the Government of India are being implemented in the state. These schemes should be made accessible to even the last person of the state. Collectors were directed to ensure that the district administration delivers the schemes to the people without any negligence or irregularities. Following the footsteps of Prime Minister who considers himself a public servant, we should also make serving public a priority. From Collector to Patwari and from SP to constable, we all have to be ready to serve the public.

Revenue officers should change their tendency to postpone work

CM Sai said that several complaints of negligence, delay and irregularities have been received against the Patwaris and Revenue Inspectors in rural areas. Chief Minister said that the old system of postponing



work should be changed immediately. All the Collectors should ensure that complaints are resolved at the earliest and public convenience should be the priority.

Ensure timely attendance of officers and employees

CM Sai said that officials and employees should give their best effort and focus every day in their 5-day work week. Timely attendance of the officials should be ensured. The district administration should pay attention to ensure that the schemes of the state government and the Government of India reach the people with complete transparency.

The image of the government is shaped by the way Collectors and Superintendents of Police work. Our farmers are food providers the 'Annadaata'. The district administration should ensure that farmers do not have to visit offices. It should be ensured that the work of the farmers is completed within the prescribed time period.

DMF funds should not be misused

In the tenure of the previous government, there was a huge corruption in the use of DMF fund. DMF fund is meant for the development of mining affected

areas. This amount should be spent to provide health, education, drinking water, roads and means of livelihood. Government of India has laid down rules to ensure optimal utilization of the DMF amount. These rules should be strictly followed to avoid any kind of misuse.

Monitor work agency and contractor

CM said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set the goal of providing tap water connection to every household through Jal Jeevan Mission. These works should be completed in a systematic and strategic manner. First of all, water sources should be identified, after which the work of building a tank and laying pipelines should be done. The work agency and contractor should be monitored so that the work is done properly.

Pay remuneration to tendupatta collectors on time

As the time of tendupatta procurement has arrived, the procurement rate has been fixed at Rs 5500 per standard bag by the government. Tendupatta collectors should be provided timely payment of wages along with the benefits of various schemes. MNREGA works should run smoothly in rural areas and payments should be made on time.

Workers should not have to wander for wages. Approved works should be started and completed on time, directed Chief Minister.

Expedite Implementation of PMAY

Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), our government has decided to build 18 lakh houses. The eligible beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, who were deprived of the benefits for past 5 years, should get the housing facility under the scheme at the earliest. All the houses approved under the scheme should be completed in an expedited manner. This scheme should be continuously reviewed at the district level.

The work of renewal of ration cards should be completed soon and timely distribution of food grains to ration card holders should be ensured.

People should not face difficulty in withdrawing money from banks

Under Mahtari Vandan Yojana, the first installment of the scheme has been transferred to the bank accounts of more than 70 lakh eligible women.

Similarly, the amount under Krishak Unnati Yojana has also transferred to the bank accounts of farmers. Necessary arrangements should be ensured in the banks to ensure that the beneficiaries do not face any difficulty in withdrawing the above amount.

Even after transfer of funds by the government in Direct Benefit Schemes, there have been complaints of funds not being deposited in their their accounts. Such complaints should be immediately addressed and resolved.

Cong blames BJP govt for rise in robbery, stabbing, kidnapping incidents

Raipur, Mar 13: Targeting BJP government for rising crime in Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee today said that incidents robbery, stabbing, kidnapping etc. were on the rise under BJP government. Minor girls are being kidnapped and raped, PCC Spokesman Sushil Anand Shukla said. Chhattisgarh government has become unpopular in just three months, he said.

According to him BJP government seemed to be a union government as PMO takes even the smallest decisions of this government. The Chief Minister of the government is not able to take any decision, Shukla said.

BJP government in Chhattisgarh is a remote control government and Chief Minister is just a puppet, he said. He said that children were burnt to death in the POTA



cabin and the girl child became a mother in the POTA cabin itself.

Shukla also attacked Home Minister Vijay Sharma over Naxalite incident. On one hand the Home Minister sometimes says that he will kill Naxalites by entering their houses but on the other he said that Naxalites will be talked to through video conferencing, Shukla said. It is an unfortunate situation that farmers are committing suicide every day, he said.

The money for paddy may have been given, but the BJP government is not procuring maize, he

said, adding that the government is not even procuring wheat and other food items. Businessmen are being threatened and extortion money is being collected from them, he said.

According to Shukla the BJP, which accused Congress of taking loans, has taken a loan of Rs 13 thousand crores in 3 months.

Cow dung procurement was also stopped, he said, adding that the sisters of the self-help group were rendered unemployed. Cow smuggling vehicles are being caught continuously in Chhattisgarh, he said. The BJP government, which promised LPG at Rs 500, is not ready to say anything for the last three months, he said, adding that none of the BJP leaders who talk about Modi's guarantee talk about loan waiver for farmers.

Shagun exhibition 'Padharo Rangeelo Rajasthan' from today

Raipur, Mar 13: Central India's famous 'Shagun' exhibition presented "Padharo Rangeelo Rajasthan" exhibition in which shopping, Rajasthan folk music and "cultural programs" are being organized by various women organizations of Raipur city on the occasion of World Women's Day from March 14th. In this exhibition organized till March 17, 2024, various stalls of lifestyle products, clothes, jewellery, footwear, Khadi handloom, handicraft, gift articles, health products, furniture, home decor, food products are being kept.

There will also be various food stalls in the exhibition. Excellent programs of Rajasthan dance, Kalabariyam, Ghumar etc. have also been organized,



which will be presented mainly by folk artists from Rajasthan. On the first day i.e. March 14th, "surprise gifts" will be given to the women visitors coming to the exhibition. Daily 'lucky draws' will also be held. The facility of stage has also been kept in the exhibition where locals can present their talents. The exhibition will be inaugurated by distinguished guests on March 14 at 5 pm. This exhibition will be organized at "Hotel Wood Castle" near Magneto Mall, V.I.P. Road,

Raipur. The timing of the exhibition will be from 12 noon to 10 pm. 'parking' will be free, for the first two days (March 14th and 15th) Entry into the exhibition will be free. Coordinator Ms. Trupti Govind Rathi urged that more Raipur residents should visit this exhibition and take advantage of shopping and cultural programs. Local women are getting great support in making the exhibition successful. The exhibition will remain from March 14th to 17th, 2024.

Youth selected in Agniveer Army will be felicitated today

Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma to honor fire warriors

Raipur, Mar 13: 1304 youth from Chhattisgarh have been selected as Indian Army Agniveer. Youth from different districts of Chhattisgarh worked hard to become Agniveer; passed written and physical efficiency test, now they are going to make Chhattisgarh proud by serving the country. In the year 2022, 434 youth of the state and in the year 2023, 870 youth have been selected for the Agniveer Army. In honor of all these selected fire brave youth of the state, a felicitation ceremony is being organized on March 14 at 9 am at the Shaheed Smarak Building, Raipur. The chief guest of this felicitation ceremony will be Deputy Chief Minister, Vijay Sharma.

CM to present awards to talented players today

Raipur, Mar 14: Chief Minister Vishnudeo Sai will reward the talented players of the state in the State Sports Investiture Ceremony on March 14. Assembly Speaker Dr. Raman Singh will preside over the program. The special guests of the program will be Deputy Chief Ministers Mr. Arun Sao and Mr. Vijay Sharma and Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Tankaram Verma. The State Sports Investiture Ceremony will be organized by the Sports and Youth Welfare Department at Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Auditorium from 11 am. Education Minister Brijmohan Agarwal, Agriculture Minister Ramvihar Netam, Forest Minister Kedar Kashyap, Food Minister Dayal Das Baghel, Finance Minister O.P. Chaudhary were present as special guests in the program. Health Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal, Industries Minister Lakhanlal Dewangan, Women and Child Development Minister Lakshmi Rajwade, MLAs Rajesh

Munat, Purandar Mishra, Motilal Sahu, Anuj Sharma, Inder Kumar Sahu, Guru Khushwant Saheb will also be present.

In the program, the state government gave 6 Martyr Rajeev Pandey Award, 06 Martyr Kaushal Yadav Award, 02 Veer Hanuman Singh Award, 27 Martyr Pankaj Vikram Award, 05 Martyr Vinod Choubey Award and 25 players will be honored with Chief Minister trophy for the year 2019-20. Similarly, for the year 2020-21, 11 Martyr Rajiv Pandey Award, 03 Martyr Kaushal Yadav Award, 01 Veer Hanuman Singh Award, 16 Martyr Pankaj Vikram Award, 05 Martyr Vinod Choubey Award and 26 Chief Minister Trophy award will be given to the selected players. In the programme, players who won medals in the national competition will be honored with decorations and 269 players will be given a prize money of Rs 30.36 lakh for the year 2019-20 and 142 players will be given a prize money of Rs 19.32 lakh for the year 2020-21.

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Go to Services > Registration > Application to Opt for Composition Levy

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* Type of Suppliers		# Aggregate Annual Turnover during FY 2023-24
Supplier of Goods	Taxpayers registered in 08 Specified States	upto ₹ 75 Lakh
	Taxpayers registered in other States	upto ₹ 150 Lakh
Supplier of Services		upto ₹ 50 Lakh

For more details, please refer to Section 10 of CGST Act, Rule 3-7 of CGST Rules and Notification No. 14/2019- Central Tax dated 07.03.2019

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WATER CRISIS



Locals collect free water from a government water supply tanker amid the ongoing water crisis, in Hyderabad, Wednesday.

Contractual ex-employee of PPA dies in a road accident



Paradip, Mar 13:

Rabi Narayana Nayak, ex-employee and present engaged on contractual basis as attendant to Chairman PPA has died in a road accident in front of

the PPA administrative building on 6th march evening. He met with an accident he was immediately shifted into a private hospital Contractual employee of PPA dies in a road accident bhubaneswar for the better treatment but unfortunately he breathed his last on 10th march afternoon, after listening to this shocking news the staff of PPA also spread their condolence message for his bereaved family. His body had been taken to swargadwar in puri for cremation. He was the most punctual, cheerful, outstanding and passionate personality in his office.

RKM holds screening of 'Bastar: The Naxalite Story' on JNU campus

Poll body says no permission

New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):

The Rashtriya Kala Manch(RKM) unit of the Jawaharlal Nehru University on Wednesday held a pre-release screening of a movie on the campus based on Naxalite insurgency with the varsity's poll body stating that no permission was granted for the event.

A pre-release screening of 'Bastar: The Naxalite Story' was organised at the Convention Centre auditorium here which faced several electricity cuts by the miscreants, the students al-

leged. The event was attended by the film's director Sudipto Sen and main star cast Adah Sharma.

The varsity's Election Committee said that the film's screening was in violation of the partial code of conduct effective on the campus amid the ongoing JNUSU election process.

"It has come to the notice of the Election Committee that a movie titled 'Bastar: The Naxalite Story' was held at the Convention Centre on March 13, 2024. The Election Committee clarifies that no information was given or no permission was obtained for the event," Election Committee chairperson Shailendra Kumar said in a

statement. "The EC had informed the competent authority prior to the event that this event is in violation of the partial code of conduct for the JNUSU elections 2023-24," he added.

The screening met objections from the Left students groups who called it an attempt to promote propaganda ahead of the JNUSU elections. "We stand against the screening of propaganda movie-Bastar: Shame on ABVP-admin nexus for promoting such propaganda movies," Left affiliated Democratic Students Federation (DSF) said in a statement.

"These are the same ABVP members who will

CJI, top court judges felicitate cook's daughter

Set to pursue masters in law in US

New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):

In a heart-warming gesture, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and other Supreme Court judges on Wednesday felicitated Pragya, a law researcher and daughter of a cook, who scaled a mountain of challenges to bag scholarships to pursue masters in law at either the University of California or the University of Michigan in the US.

They all assembled at the judges' lounge before the start of the day's work and gave a standing ovation to Pragya, daughter of an obscure cook at the top court Ajay Kumar Samal. Pragya, whose appetite for



CJI DY Chandrachud felicitates Pragya, at the Supreme Court of India in New Delhi, Wednesday.

pursuing a masters in law probably got whetted after seeing her father work on the hallowed premises of the Supreme Court, smiled a broad smile and folded her hands in gratitude as Justice Chandrachud gifted her three books on the Indian Constitution

signed by all the judges of the apex court.

"We know Pragya has managed something on her own, but we will ensure she manages to get whatever is required... We expect that she should come back to serve the country," Chandrachud

said after felicitating the young lawyer. Other judges wished her luck in her future endeavours.

Chandrachud offered shawls to a beaming Samal and his wife, their eyes glinting with pride and hands folded in gratefulness. Touched by the endearing gesture of the chief justice and other judges of the court, the 25-year-old lawyer said Chandrachud was an inspiration for her.

"With the live streaming of court hearings, everyone can watch him (Justice Chandrachud) speaking. He encourages young lawyers and his words are like gems. He is my inspiration," she told PTL. Dreaming big might not have come easily to Pragya, herself a diamond in the rough. But now her dreams have taken wings.

Congress leader Nirupam meets Ashok Chavan

Mumbai, Mar 13 (PTI):

Congress leader Sanjay Nirupam called on newly-elected BJP Rajya Sabha member and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Ashok Chavan in Mumbai, days after the latter switched sides.

Nirupam, a former MP from Mumbai who is seeking a Congress ticket for the ensuing Lok Sabha polls, called on Chavan at his residence in south Mumbai on Tuesday night, and said there was no political angle to the meeting though they discussed general politics.

Chavan quit the Congress and joined the BJP late last month and

was later elected to the Rajya Sabha.

Nirupam recently criticised Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray, a Congress ally, after the latter declared Amol Kirtikar as his party's candidate for the Mumbai North-West Lok Sabha seat.

Nirupam, who is vying for the seat which he lost in 2019, was critical of Thackeray for unilaterally announcing Kirtikar's candidature when seat-sharing talks for the Lok Sabha polls between Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) were yet to conclude. The MVA consists of the Congress, the Shiv Sena (UBT) and the NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar).

Commemoration of Int'l Women's Day at PPA

Paradip, Mar 13:

Paradip Port Authority in association Paraeep Ladies Club commemorated International Women's Day. A function was organized at Officers' Club. Gracing the occasion, L. Haranadh, Chairman, PPA said that as the Port is slated to become India's No.1 Major Port in cargo throughput in current fiscal, the working women of Team PPA have significantly contributed in this regard.

In downtrodden Indian society, imparting quality education to young girls is most important for its upliftment. Working Women Cell of PPA has been actively addressing the women related issues. Stressing on the health of women employees, he emphasized on a special camp for cancer screening and to avail the facilities of newly launched Mobile Medical



Unit. Guest of Honour, Nilabhra Dasgupta, Dy. Chairman, PPA said that mother being the building block of every human being, now a days women folk are leading in various spheres of life. PPA has been achieving success because of significant contribution of its working women employees. Dr. Shilpa Vinayak Gadade, eminent

Cardiologist, gave discourse on the Cardiac Health and Ms. Swati Mohapatra, Dietician explained Nutrition therapy for Stress management. They were felicitated on the occasion for their outstanding contribution in their respective fields.

Chairman and Dy. Chairman, PPA, also felicitated women officers and employees of PPA who have excelled in their re-

spective fields in the current fiscal. A major attraction of the event was dance performance by Specially able Girl children of Jagruti school. They were also felicitated on the occasion. Mrs Sumita Samal, Chairperson, Working Women Cell, PPA offered Welcome speech. Dr. Runu Singh of PPA compeered the programme, Mrs Itishree Mohanty offered vote of thanks.

Kishan Reddy hails Centre's decision to celebrate Sep 17

Hyderabad, Mar 13 (PTI):

Union Minister and Telangana BJP president G Kishan Reddy and former Maharashtra Governor Ch Vidyasagar Rao on Wednesday hailed the Union Home Ministry for issuing a notification to celebrate September 17 every year as 'Hyderabad Liberation Day'. They thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for the decision.

The erstwhile princely state of Hyderabad under Nizam's rule was merged with the Indian Union on September 17, 1948. In a statement, Kishan Reddy said the Centre's decision to celebrate September 17 as 'Hyderabad Liberation

Day' is a respect given to those who made sacrifices for Telangana's freedom. The decision would

make the future generations aware of the significance of September 17 and about the struggle for the

liberation of the erstwhile princely state of Hyderabad under Nizam's rule, he said.

Odisha bars entry of visitors to mass nesting sites of Olive Ridley turtles

Bhubaneswar, Mar 13 (PTI):

The Odisha forest department on Wednesday said the mass nesting sites of Olive Ridley turtles in the state will remain out of bounds for visitors till the hatchlings are born.

The mass nesting of the turtles is likely to begin in the next few days, three months after the mating season in deep sea, which usually takes place in November-December.

"All the mass nesting sites of Olive Ridley sea turtles shall be closed for visitors from the beginning of the nesting peri-

od till the birth of the hatchlings," an order by the forest department said.

The nesting sites are located at Gahirmatha beach in Kendrapara district, Devi river mouth in Puri and Rushikulya river mouth in Ganjam district.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Sushanta Nanda, in an order said, "It is seen that visitors going to mass nesting sites of Olive Ridley sea turtles for the purpose of observing the phenomena of nesting and hatchling emergence are using bright lights for

observation and for photographs/videography of the turtles.

"In some cases, inappropriate behaviour of visitors are observed. These activities together with crowding of the nesting sites would be disturbing the normal process of turtle nesting and hatchling emergence to great extent," he said.

The order pointed out that the Olive Ridley sea turtles are protected under Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and these activities come under the definition of 'hunting' as per provisions of the

Act. Every year, lakhs of Olive Ridley turtles come to the banks of the mouths of rivers Dhamara, Devi and Ruskulya in Odisha to lay eggs.

The state government had clamped a seven-month-long (November to May) prohibition on sea fishing activities within 20km off the coast to ensure the safety of marine animals such as Olive Ridley turtles during their mating and breeding season.

The state government pays compensation of Rs 15,000 to each fisherman during the ban period.

Change of Name

It is Informed to the General Public that I Manju Kumari Bhakta W/o Anand Kumar Bhakta Resident of House No D-301 Harsh Kingdom, Ashok Nagar, DLS College Road, Sarkanda, Bilaspur (C.G.) 495001 Have Changed My old Name Manju Kumari Bhakta W/o Anand Kumar Bhakta, So in Future I Should be Recognized by my New Name Manju Bhakta W/o Anand Kumar Bhakta in all Government and other Documents.

Manju Bhakta House No D-301 Harsh Kingdom, Ashok Nagar, DLS College Road, Sarkanda, Bilaspur (C.G.) 495001

Bank of Maharashtra Appendix IV Possession Notice (For Immoveable Properties) {RULE 8(1)}: A detailed legal notice from the Bank of Maharashtra regarding the possession of immovable properties. It lists three properties with their respective owners, claim amounts, and dates of possession notices. The notice is signed by the Authorized Officer/Chief Manager, Bank of Maharashtra, Raipur.

CAA And Its Implications

As the BJP marks another milestone with the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) rollout, it casts a significant shadow over the political landscape. Following the sanctification of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya and the enactment of the Uniform Civil Code in Uttarakhand, this move aligns with the party's pre-election agenda. Enacted over four years ago, the CAA now sees its implementation through the notification of rules aimed at expediting citizenship for non-Muslim migrants from neighboring countries.

Renewing Kidney Wellness

Dr Krishna Kumar Vepakomma



World Kidney Day, marked annually on the second Thursday of March, serves as a poignant reminder of the critical importance of kidney health. As we approach the observance of this significant day on March 14, 2024, it is imperative to underscore the pressing need for renewed focus and concerted action to combat the global burden of kidney diseases.

(Writer is Professor & Principal (Rtd) and newspaper columnist.)

CONFIDENCE BUILDING MARCH



Children salute armed forces personnel during a confidence building march ahead of Lok Sabha polls, in Nadia, Wednesday, March 13.

Glittering Gold May Spoil the Wedding Ceremony Budget



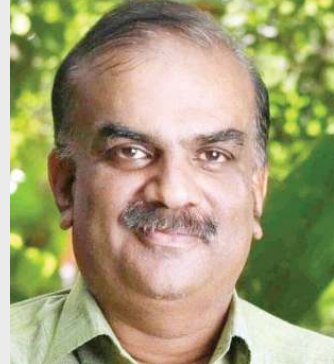
SATISH SINGH



Due to increase in the price of gold in the international market, there has been a significant increase in the price of gold in India also. On March 5, the price of 24 carat gold crossed the level of Rs.66,000 per 10 grams, which is the highest price of gold till date. Further, the price of 10 grams of 24 carat gold was Rs 66,051 on 10th March 2024. The price of gold continues to rise in the international market.

Indications show that the Federal Reserve Bank of USA may cut interest rates in May. This may lead to reduce loan and deposit rates and people will invest in gold in the hope of higher returns, which will increase the demand for gold and increase its price. There is also Akshaya Tritiya in May, in which gold is purchased in large quantities, as doing so is considered auspicious.

Reforming the Indian Electoral System



Dr. Vasisht M.C.

The Indian electoral system stands at a crossroads, grappling with fundamental flaws that undermine the essence of democracy. As we dissect the intricacies of our electoral process, it becomes evident that substantial reforms are imperative to uphold the principles of fairness, representation, and accountability.

such constraints, perpetuating dynastic politics and stymieing the emergence of fresh talent. Establishing a retirement age, coupled with robust mechanisms for succession planning, would rejuvenate our political landscape and foster intergenerational dialogue and leadership.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Biomass exploitation

An essential resource for maintaining human civilization is biomass. However, humans are using it at a startling rate—26% of the global plant population's yearly production—that is. As a result, not much is left for the species, endangering our biosphere in the process.

Arka Goswami, Durgapur

Egoistic Mamata

Fueled by triumphs, Mamata Banerjee, TMC leader, prioritizes personal power. History shows the Left's decline after dominance. To halt BJP's advance, Mamata must prioritize nation and alliance.

Ragesh Gupta, Korba

Unity Essential: INDIA Coalition

CM Mamata Banerjee's focus solely on West Bengal overlooks broader strategic implications. The TMC's decision to go it alone in the state undermines the unity of the INDIA bloc, creating an advantage for the BJP through opposition vote division.

Shiv Kumar Mishra, Raipur

Democracy's Echo

The sudden resignation of election commissioner Arun Goel in a nation deeply devoted to democracy reverberates ominously. With the impending announcement of the General Election, Goel's departure leaves behind a void of uncertainty.

MK Nair, Raipur

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.



BRIEF**Foundation stone**

Dholera (Gujarat): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said when India commits, it delivers, referring to his government's commitment to make the country a semiconductor manufacturing hub. Modi was virtually addressing people after laying the foundation stone of three semiconductor facilities of about Rs 1.25 lakh crore, which include two in Gujarat and one in Assam. "This is a historic day as we are taking a strong step towards a bright future," Modi said.

IPO launch

New Delhi: Rungta Greentech Ltd, a manufacturer of recycled and virgin plastic products, on Wednesday said it has filed its draft papers to raise funds through an initial public offering. The initial public offer (IPO) is only a fresh issuance of 38 lakh equity shares, each with a face value of Rs 10 and the company shares will be listed on NSE Emerge, it said in a statement.

Groundbreaking ceremony

Dholera: Tata Electronics plants will gradually serve all sectors in a phased manner by supplying chips and generate around 72,000 jobs over the years, Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran said here. While speaking on the sidelines of the groundbreaking ceremony of Tata Electronics' Rs 91,000 crore chip manufacturing plant and Rs 27,000 crore chip assembly facility in Assam, Chandrasekaran said there will be the expansion of projects but only after the company cross the early milestones.

Indian markets not in serious bubble territory: Uday Kotak

Mumbai, Mar 13:

Amid widespread concerns over high stock valuations, including from the regulators, financial services industry veteran Uday Kotak on Wednesday said Indian markets are not in a bubble. There may be some "early froth", and it may be a "little bubbly" but the markets are not out of control, Kotak said, speaking in the presence of top officials from Sebi in a conference organised by the capital markets watchdog. The statement from Kotak, the founder and non-executive director of private sector lender Kotak Mahindra Bank, comes two days after Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch had said that there are pockets of froth in the small and mid-cap stocks and the regulator is looking into the same to come out with a possible consultation paper. "It may not be appropriate to allow the bubble to keep building, because when it

bursts, they impact the investors adversely. That is not a good thing," Buch had said. Reacting to it, Kotak quoted economist John Meynard Keynes who spoke about speculation to be not a bad activity per se and also mentioned about the bubble in Japanese stocks between 1980 and 1989, saying the benchmark Nikkei has been able to regain its peak, only 35 years later after the bubble burst. "I believe at this stage, we are nowhere near that risk and there are enough checks and balances in our sys-

tem today to compare ourselves in serious bubble territory," Kotak said. There may be "early froth" in the market and it may be a "little bubbly", Kotak said, pointing to Buch who was seated close by, but added that things are not out of control. "As long as we keep watch and manage it well, we can create sustained capital formation going forward," he said. Meanwhile, Kotak also pitched for greater quality on the taxation front between equity and debt, as asset classes to give more clarity for investors and incentivise the right set as per priorities. "In the context of the equity culture, I do believe that there has to be some streamlining of taxation across different classes, including double taxation on dividends," he said, pointing out that the highest marginal tax on debt is 39 per cent while the same on dividends effectively is 57 per cent.

Finmin asks PSU banks for comprehensive review of their gold loan portfolio

New Delhi, Mar 13: The finance ministry has directed all state-owned banks to review their gold loan portfolio as instances of non-compliance with regulatory norms have been noticed by the government. The Department of Financial Services (DFS) in a communication addressed to heads of public sector banks has asked them to look at their system and processes related to gold loan. "We have asked banks to undertake comprehensive review of the gold loan business," Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi told PTI. A directive in this regard was issued last month advising them to fix anomalies relating to collection of fees and in-

terest and closure of gold loan accounts. The letter flagged various concerns, including disbursement of gold loans without requisite gold collateral, anomalies regarding collection of fees and repayment in cash. The DFS urged banks to undertake a thorough review of the last two-year period from January 1, 2022 to January 31, 2024 so as to ensure that all gold loans were disbursed in compliance with regulatory requirements and internal policies of banks. It is to be noted that the price of the yellow metal has surged to a record level. Price of 10 gm gold in the last one month has jumped from Rs 63,365 to Rs 67,605.

Found gross negligence by Byju's auditors: ICAI president

Mumbai, Mar 13:

Chartered accountants' apex body ICAI has "found gross negligence on the part of the auditors" of the now-crippled edutech firm Byju's, said its president Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal on Wednesday. Besides, the top official also said the accounting body is also planning to inspect the books of payments major Paytm. "Our inspection has found gross negligence on accounting practices by individual auditors of Byju's and accordingly we have recommended to the Financial Reporting Review Board (FRRB) to take punitive actions on auditors concerned," Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal, the president of



the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), told PTI here. When asked whether the ICAI will inspect the books of the payments major Paytm group now, he said, "As we have taken a suo moto decision to look into the role of the auditors of Byju's, we are now thinking about looking to the role of the auditors of the payments major

LAKME FASHION WEEK



Models walk the ramp presenting the creations of the students of Inter National Institute of Fashion Design (INIFD) during the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) X Lakme Fashion Week (LFW), in Mumbai, Wednesday, March 13.

India performs better than China on key global integration parameters: DHL report

New Delhi, Mar 13: India has overtaken China on two key parameters — export to GDP ratio and services export — with regard to integration into the global market, said a DHL Global Connectedness Report on Wednesday. India's exports-to-GDP ratio has exceeded China's since 2021 and also the country's services trade intensity far for both exports and imports, said the 'New DHL Global Connectedness Report 2024' by DHL and New York University's Stern School of Business, released here. The report said that in 2021 and 2022, India's exports and imports as a share of GDP increased sharply. India exported goods and services

was 23 per cent of the GDP (up from 19 per cent in 2020) and imported goods and services 26 per cent of GDP (also up from 19 per cent in 2020). India's services trade intensity far exceeds China's for both exports and imports, the report said. However, as regards the merchandise trade, India has larger imports relative to its GDP while China has larger exports. "While India's global connectedness ranking reflects its current economic standing, the report makes it clear: the world can expect to see India's international engagement increase manifold in the years to come," said RS Subramanian, Senior Vice President for South Asia at DHL Express.

Sensex tanks 900 points to slip below 73k amid broad-based selloff

Mumbai, Mar 13:

Equity benchmark index Sensex on Wednesday crashed over 900 points to sink below 73,000 level due to widespread selling pressure amid a sharp fall in small-cap and midcap indices. Besides, deep losses in utility, energy and metal stocks and recent selling by foreign investors added to the gloom, analysts said. Benchmark indices started the session on a positive note, but the selling intensified during afternoon trade, with all sectoral indices ending in the red. The 30-share index tanked 906.07 points or 1.23 per cent to settle at 72,761.89. During the day, it dropped 1,152.25 points or 1.56 per cent to 72,515.71. The Nifty plummeted

338 points or 1.51 per cent to 21,997.70. Power Grid was the biggest loser in the Sensex pack, sliding over 7 per cent, followed by NTPC, Tata Steel, Tata Motors, JSW Steel, Bharti Airtel, Titan, Reliance Industries and Hindustan Unilever. In contrast, ITC, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Nestle, Bajaj Finance and HDFC Bank were the gainers. "In contrast to the global up-

trend, the unfavourable risk-reward balance of mid and smallcap stocks, fuelled by prolonged premium valuations, has aggravated the downfall. Meanwhile, FMCG and contrarian plays like gold are offering some refuge. Other than the premium valuation no fundamental issue is noticed to drawback the long-term growth image of domestic midcaps," said Vinod Nair,

Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge tanked by 5.11 per cent, while the midcap index declined by 4.20 per cent.

All the indices ended in the red, with utilities tumbling 7.21 per cent, metal dropping by 5.75 per cent, services (5.71 per cent), telecommunication (5.45 per cent), oil & gas (5.16 per cent), commodities (4.28 per cent) and industrials (4.23 per cent).

A total of 3,516 stocks declined, while 400 advanced and 60 remained unchanged on BSE. Meanwhile, industry veteran Uday Kotak on Wednesday said there may be some "early froth", and it may be a "little bubbly" but the markets are not out of control.

Coal Ministry will fulfill 874 mn tonnes coal requirement: Prahlad Joshi

For power sector in FY25**New Delhi, Mar 13:**

The coal ministry is geared up to fulfill the 874 million tonnes coal demand for the power sector in financial year 2024-25, Union Minister Prahlad Joshi said on Wednesday. For the financial year ending March 31, the Power Ministry had placed a requirement of 821 million tonnes, Joshi told PTI on the sidelines of the release of 'PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan in Coal Sector' booklet. Their (power ministry's) demand has been met. They had asked for 821 million tonnes and it has

been supplied, the Minister said. "For FY25, the power ministry has asked for 874 million tonnes of coal. We will fulfill this requirement also. We are going to cross 1 billion tonne coal production by this March," he said. The share of imported coal for blending purposes has gone down this fiscal compared to last fi-

nanial year, Joshi said. In FY24, coal import for blending was around 22.20 million tonnes, while it was at 30.80 million tonnes in the financial year 2022-23, he said. Savings to the tune of Rs 82,264 crores had been made through the reduction of coal imports in just one year, Joshi said.

The government is also aiming to make the import of coal to 'nil' by 2026. The coal ministry is also engaged with the Ministry of Railways for availability of rakes, Joshi said. The average availability of rakes for transportation of coal has also improved from 369 rakes per day last fiscal to 392 rakes a day till date, the minister said.

First chip from Tata's Dholera plant will be out in December 2026: Vaishnav

Dholera (Gujarat), Mar 13:

The first set of semiconductors will start rolling out from Tata Electronics' plant here in December 2026, union minister for communications and IT Ashwini Vaishnav said on Wednesday. Speaking at the ground-breaking ceremony of Tata Group and CG Power chip plants, Vaishnav said India will be among the top five chip ecosystems in the world by 2029. "The first chip from Dholera plant will be out in December 2026 and chip from Micron plant will be out by December 2024," the minister said. He said Tata's Dholera plant will make chips in 28, 50, 55 nanometer node. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday laid the foundation of three chip

plants — two units by Tata Electronics and the third by CG Power — entailing total investment of Rs 1.26 lakh crore. The three plants include the country's first high-tech chip manufacturing plant of Tata Electronics which the company is setting up in partnership with Taiwan's Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp at Dholera's special industri-

al region. The plant will have the capacity to produce 50,000 wafers per month and involve an investment of Rs 91,000 crore. The Centre will contribute 50 per cent of the capex on pari passu basis. These chips driven by advanced technology will cater to multiple sectors — power management chips for electric vehicles (EV), telecom, defence, automotive, consumer electronics, display, and power electronics. Semiconductor is a "foundational" industry touching almost every aspect of life, powering everything from fridge to ACs and cars, aircraft to trains. PM also laid the foundation of another new assembly and test facility of Tata Electronics in Jagiroad, Assam.

Airtel celebrates Customer Day

Mumbai, Mar 13:

Bharti Airtel, one of India's leading telecommunications service providers, on Wednesday celebrated Customer Day across all its office locations in the country. All Airtel employees who are in non-customer facing roles stepped out of their everyday role to join their frontline counterparts and directly interact with the customers. Employees across all Airtel office locations in the country worked with home delivery engineers, fiber executives and retail workforces in the markets. These employees include everyone from the topmost senior leadership team to the junior managers in all offices. The Customer Day is a part of Airtel's multiple initiatives that are centered on its core DNA of customer obsession.

Bank of Baroda launches BoB Earth Green Deposits

As part of its ESG initiatives, Bank of Baroda launches bob Earth Green Term Deposits, the proceeds of which will be specifically earmarked for environment-friendly projects/sectors

General Public/Resident Indians, NRIs and High Net Worth Individual (HNI) investors are all eligible to



Raipur, Mar 13: Bank of Baroda (Bank), one of India's leading public sector banks, on Wednesday announced the launch of the BoB Earth Green Term Deposit Scheme, with the aim to raise deposits that will be deployed towards financing eligible environment-friendly projects and sectors. The BoB Earth Green Term Deposits offer depositors the opportunity to earn attractive interest rates on a range of tenors and participate in India's transition to a green and sustainable economy. The Bank is offering interest rates of up to 7.15% p.a. The

invest in the BoB Earth Green Term Deposit scheme. Debadatta Chand, Managing Director & CEO, Bank of Baroda said, "The Bank has taken great strides in embedding sustainability into its operations, including our approach to risk management, governance, social responsibility and environmental impact. The launch of the BoB Earth Green Term Deposit Scheme offers depositors dual benefits of stable & secure financial returns and the opportunity to contribute to a greener planet. As one of

thering its ESG mandate and enhancing its green financing portfolio." Under the BoB Earth Green Term Deposit Scheme, Bank of Baroda has introduced some innovative tenures that act as a reminder of the planet's Climate & Sustainability goals, such as Tenure 1.5 years-signifying the aim to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and Tenure 1717 days - doubly emphasising the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The funds raised through BoB Earth Green Term Deposits will be allocated to eligible green projects/sectors such as Renewable Energy, Clean Transportation, Sustainable Water and Waste Management, Energy Efficiency, Climate Change Adaptation, Pollution Prevention and Control, Green Buildings, Biodiversity Conservation etc. Existing and new customers of Bank of Baroda can open a Green Deposit through any of the Bank's branches across India. On Bank of Baroda's 116th Foundation Day last year, the Bank launched a number of green initiatives under the name of "BoB Earth" to reaffirm its commitment and responsibility towards protecting & preserving the gifts of nature for our future generations. The launch of BoB Earth Green Deposits is a step forward in this direction.

