







# Recognition and Prosperity of Vishwakarma Brothers and Sisters Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee

This scheme will not only enhance skills of artisans and craftspeople from all over the country but the products made by them will also get new recognition in the world.

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

## PM VISHWAKARMA

### Benefits of Scheme

- PM Vishwakarma Certificate and ID Card
- Training for Skill Upgradation and Stipend of Rs. 500 per day
  - Toolkit upto Rs. 15 thousand
- Collateral free loan up to Rs. 3 lakh for Vishwakarma brothers and sisters
  - Incentive for Digital Transactions
- Marketing Assistance like Quality Certification, Branding, and Advertisement for products

### Artisans and Craftspeople engaged in 18 traditional trades



Carpenter | Boat Maker | Armourer | Blacksmith | Basket/Mat/Broom Maker/Coir Weaver |  
Doll & Toy Maker(Traditional) | Goldsmith | Potter | Cobbler/Shoesmith/Footwear Artisan |  
Hammer and Tool Kit Maker | Sculptor (Stone Carver), Stone Breaker | Mason | Barber |  
Garland Maker | Washerman | Tailor | Fishing Net Maker

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 Rajasthani 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.

**वित्त मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE**

### Attention! GST Taxpayers

Whose Aggregate Annual Turnover\* is upto a specified limit\* can opt for GST Composition Scheme for the FY 2024-2025 by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2024

Eligible taxpayers who wish to avail the Composition Scheme can follow these steps on the GST-portal ([www.gst.gov.in](http://www.gst.gov.in)):

- Log in to the Taxpayers' Interface
- Go to Services > Registration > Application to Opt for Composition Levy
- Fill the FORM GST CMP-02 and submit

Those eligible taxpayers, who are already availing Composition Scheme, need not file FORM CMP-02 if they are eligible.

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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

**GST Composition Scheme: Big Benefits for Small Taxpayers**

**Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs**

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## Agarwal issues strict instructions to ensure that govt schemes reach lower level



Raipur, Mar 13:

State Education, Tourism and Culture Minister and in-charge of Kanker district, Brijmohan Agrawal held a marathon meeting of district level officials in Kanker late on Monday night of March 11th to ensure better implementation of various schemes of the Central and State Government and as per the intention of the government. Instructions were given to ensure access at the lower level. Minister Agarwal clearly directed the officials present in the meeting to prepare a systematic strategy before the implementation of any scheme so that no

eligible beneficiary is deprived of the benefits. It was also said that any kind of negligence or laxity in this will not be tolerated at all. He said that the resolve taken by the country's successful Prime Minister Narendra Modi to develop the country has to be fulfilled by all of us together. He told the officials that the people have many aspirations and expectations from the new government of the state and as per the expectations of the people, our government has taken many important decisions in the last three months.

While reviewing the Panchayat and Rural Development Department, Minister in-charge of the district, Brijmohan

Agrawal expressed his displeasure over the 9207 cases remaining for construction even after the approval and release of the first installment under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, all the work will be completed by the end of this month, he instructed the CEO of District Panchayat to start it. Similarly, instructions were given to ensure payment of the outstanding amount of incentive issued to the farmers in the years 2014-15 and 2015-16 by March 20. While reviewing the Jaljeevan Mission, Minister Agrawal directed the Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering to conduct the necessary survey before starting the

construction work under the scheme. At the same time, both the departments were directed to execute the work in coordination for the solar panels installed under CREDA. He clearly said that until 100 percent availability of drinking water in houses is not ensured, the full amount should not be paid to the contractors. Similarly, under Mahtari Vandan Yojana, information was taken about transfer of funds to all the eligible beneficiaries through DBT and said that no eligible sister should be deprived of the benefits of this scheme.

While reviewing the Food Department, the Prime Minister directed to run a campaign to provide gas connections to 1526 beneficiaries under the Ujjwala Scheme and to continuously review the operators of the gas agency. Similarly, while reviewing the road construction works, the Minister in-charge of the district gave instructions to compulsorily complete the Nandanmara Bridge before the upcoming rainy season.

## 681 students to get degrees at 2nd Convocation of Amity University

### Governor will preside over the convocation

Raipur, Mar 13:

Amity University Chhattisgarh (Raipur) is a part of 20-year old, leading education group of India, set up with a vision to contribute to nation-building through education, where currently 2,50,000+ students are pursuing 250 programmes across campuses in India and abroad. Amity University Chhattisgarh (Raipur) is yet another landmark project by Amity to revolutionize the Indian higher education sector by providing globally benchmarked, research and employment oriented education.

A total of 681 students will be conferred degrees at the 2nd convocation of the Amity University Chhattisgarh which will be held on Friday, March 15, at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Auditorium here at 09.00 am.

Among the 681 students, a whopping 357 candidates (52.42 percent) are girls while 324 students (47.57 percent) are boys. As many as 575 students



will be conferred undergraduate degrees (UG) and 106 students will be conferred postgraduate degrees (PG) at the convocation. In total, 22 gold medals, 16 silver medals and 05 bronze medals will be awarded to meritorious students, according to the university officials. The University announced that the degree of honorary doctorate (Doctor of Science) - Honoris causa will be conferred on Secretary (DARE) and Director General (ICAR) Dr. Himanshu Pathak. One

student will be awarded the prestigious Shri Baljit Shastri Award for Best in Human and Traditional Values such as honesty, integrity, respect for others, caring attitude and respect for heritage and culture. Fifteen students will be awarded the Dr. Ashok K Chouhan award for completing their degree with 100% scholarship whereas one student will be awarded with all round trophy for best performance in academics, sports and social service. Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.)

Piyush Kant Pandey addressing the press conference on Wednesday, March 13 said that Chhattisgarh Governor B i s w a b h u s a n Harichandan will preside over the convocation while Dr. Ashok K Chauhan, Founder President Amity University will deliver the convocation address. Dr. Aseem K. Chauhan, Chairman, Amity University Chhattisgarh will deliver words of wisdom. Dr. W. Selvamurthy, Chancellor, Amity University Chhattisgarh will deliver the opening address. Prof. (Dr.) Colonel Umesh Kumar Mishra, Chairman CG-PURC will be present where in Prof (Dr) Piyush Kant Pandey will deliver the welcome address with convocation report. Registrar Dr. Suresh Dhyani, Director PR Dr. Shivam Arun Patnaik, HOI Amity School of Communication Dr. K.N. Kishore and Dy Registrar Exams Mr. Ashish Singh were present at the press conference.

## MMI Narayana Hospital organised Survivor Meet

### On occasion of World Kidney Day

Raipur, Mar 13:

In a heartening gathering on World Kidney Day, survivors, kidney transplant recipients, dialysis patients, and those successfully cured from kidney diseases came together for a memorable Survivor Meet. The event, organized with utmost success, was a testament to the strength and triumph of individuals who faced kidney health challenges.

Patients from various walks of life expressed their gratitude and heartfelt thanks to Dr. Sunil Dharmani, the Clinical Lead and Senior Consultant of the Department of Nephrology MMI Narayana Hospital, for his exemplary care and commitment that has given them a renewed lease on life.

The Survivor Meet featured a diverse range of



activities, fostering engagement and camaraderie among attendees. Dance performances, musical interludes, heartfelt poems, and a poster-making competition added vibrancy to the event.

A notable highlight of the occasion was the poster-making competition on the theme 'CKD Diet.' Both hospital staff and patients participated enthusiastically, showcasing creativity and awareness about kidney health. The artworks provided valuable insights

into the importance of a well-managed diet for those with chronic kidney disease (CKD).

Dr. Sunil Dharmani, along with other distinguished doctors, graced the event, contributing to its success. The eminent doctors present included Dr. Rakesh Chand, Dr. Gaurav Joshi, Dr. PK Harikumar, Dr. SumitGupta, and Dr. Dharmesh Lad. Their presence not only added medical expertise but also inspired confidence and hope among the participants.

The Survivor Meet not only celebrated triumph over adversity but also promoted awareness about kidney health, emphasizing the crucial role of medical professionals in the journey to recovery. This week MMI Narayana Hospital, Raipur has done 3 successful kidney transplant case.

## Action taken against industries violating environmental rules



**Raipur, Mar 13:** On the instructions of Collector, Dr. Gaurav Singh, continuous action is being taken against industries violating environmental rules. In the same sequence, the Environment Department team has taken action to seize a large quantity of banned plastic carry bags from M/s Vijay Industries operating in village-Dhusera, Abhanpur. It is noteworthy that Housing and Environment Department, Chhattisgarh has banned the manufac-

### On Collector's instruction

turing and use of plastic carry bags. The Environment Department is continuously investigating and arresting the industries. In the same sequence, during the inspection of M/s Vijay Industries operating in village-Dhusera, Abhanpur, the industry was found to be manufacturing banned plastic carry bags and a huge quantity of about 131

kg plastic carry bags was recovered from the industry. Besides, instructions were issued to the industry to stop operations under the provisions contained in the Water and Air Acts and the Electricity Department was also directed to disconnect the power of the said industry. Instructions have been given by the Collector to continue the action further and to take strict action if anyone is found producing any kind of banned plastic products.

## Farmer friendly state govt transferred Rs 13, 320 cr to farmers accounts

Raipur, Mar 13:

Being a businessman as well as a farmer, I congratulate the state and central government for fulfilling the guarantee of the Prime Minister of the country, Narendra Modi for more than 24.72 lakh farmers of the state have been benefited under Krishak Unnat Yojana Kharif. Rs 13, 320 crore were transferred to the account as assistance amount which will give impetus to the strengthening and development of the farmers of the state. Today the farmers of the state are very happy and proud of themselves. This will prove to be a milestone for the Chhattisgarh government to accelerate the economic growth of the state. With money going into the pockets of farmers, their purchasing power will increase which will ultimately reach the



market. The farmer of the state is the biggest consumer of our market, through which money comes into the market, economic activities increase due to which the government gets additional revenue and the state is moving towards its peak riding on the chariot of development. Chhattisgarh, developed on the lines of developed India, is slowly taking its shape, said Vikram Singhdeo, Working President, Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

## Mansukh Mandaviya releases CA Amit Chimnani's book 'Modi Magic'

**Book compares the UPA and Modi govts with statistics as well as comments from experts across the country**

Raipur, Mar 13:

Chartered Accountant, expert in economic matters, former Chairman of CA branch Raipur, former advisor to the Accountant General of Chhattisgarh and state media in-charge of BJP, Amit Chimnani, book 'Modi Magic', was released by the Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in New Delhi on Tuesday. On this occasion, Mandaviya said that presenting the works of governments with data is definitely a commendable task. CA Amit Chimnani's book 'Modi Magic' is giving factual information on many areas, this will make it easier for every-

one to understand the works of governments. I once again congratulate CA Amit Chimnani for this work.

Amit said that he was working behind this book for the last several months. This book will also work as a referral book for the coming 50 years, because in this book, the tenure of 10 years of two governments, UPA and Modi government. There is a comparison based on the data of both the governments in GDP, inflation rate, tax collection, amount given to the states, foreign investment, export, work done in defense and railway sector, schemes run for youth, women and farmers. Many such important topics including middle class, work done for the poor, revival of religious heritage, work towards developed India, Make in India, use of technology in India, budget of vari-



ous ministries for 20 years are included in this book. Chhattisgarh State Chief Minister Vishnudeo Sai, State President, Kiran Singhdeo, Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao, Vijay Sharma have also sent their best wishes for the factual presentation.

Amit told that another special thing about this book is that after almost every topic, famous personalities associated with

that field have given their expert comments in this book, which include spiritual gurus, many national economists, tax experts, CA organization, tax organization etc. Comments of the national president, former president, and even people associated with international trade associations are included in this book.

Amit informed that now when Prime Minister

Narendra Modi is in the fray for the third time to gain public trust, this book will prove to be very useful in taking decisions from the point of view of Lok Sabha elections. When the public will see the work of both the governments with facts and figures, then it will come to know that the work done by the Modi government is no less than a miracle, that is why the name of the book is 'Modi Magic'. Amit also discussed with the journalists in Delhi, shared many statistics and presented them his book.

Amit told that his aim is to provide information to the people through data, hence he will not sell it, he will give this book free of cost to many sections, including public representatives and journalists, and the public can also download it from Amit Chimnani's own website 'Modimagics.com'.

## Education key to development of society and nation: Sao

### Calls for effort to remove social evils



Raipur, Mar 13:

Samuhik Adarsh Vivah & Samman Samaroh (mass ideal marriage and felicitation ceremony) was organized in village Cherkapur on Monday under the joint aegis of Tehsil Sahu Sangh Palari, Rohansi, Bhawanipur, Datan area and Nagar Sahu Sangh Palari. Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao attended the function as chief guest.

At the outset all the guests garlanded the photograph of Maa Karma and offered prayers to her. Mahant of Kabir Ashram conducted the marriage as per the rituals. Deputy Chief Minister Sao along with all the guests and social workers blessed the 28

### Participates in Samuhik Adarsh Vivah & Samman Samaroh

newlyweds and wished them a happy and prosperous life.

While addressing the programme, Deputy Chief Minister Sao called for effort to take society forwards towards modernity while preserving the culture. For this, it is necessary to lay emphasis on education while removing the existing evils and practices in the society, he emphasised.

According to him only an educated society can create a strong state and nation. According to him mass marriage of Sahu community is a laudable initiative. Parents of

poor families were always worried about the marriage of their daughters. There was a need to take loan or even sell property for the marriage of daughters. Those daughters of poor families are getting the benefit of this ideal marriage, he said. The program was also addressed by MLA Sandeep Sahu and Motilal Sahu.

Kasdol MLA Sandeep Sahu, Raipur Rural MLA Motilal Sahu, former MLA Shakuntala Sahu, State Sahu Samaj President Tahal Singh Sahu, officials from District Administration and other office bearers of the society were present in large numbers. People doing excellent work in the society were honored from the main stage.

## Classifieds

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## AM/NS India CSR promotes menstrual hygiene management

**In Gram Panchayats of Dantewada**

**Dantewada, Mar 13:** AM/NS India CSR organized an orientation program on Menstrual Hygiene Management, across several Gram Panchayats in Dantewada. Aimed at raising awareness and providing essential support, the initiative targeted 443 adolescent girls and women in villages including Madadi, Palnar, Phulpad,



Kirandul, Tikanpal, and

Sameli. The program, facilitated through Anganwadi centers, encompassed an educational session on menstrual hygiene practices and the distribution of sanitary napkins. The orientation program not only provided practical support but also encouraged open discussions and learning. By educating and providing menstrual hygiene resources, AM/NS India CSR shows its dedication to helping and empowering communities.



WATER CRISIS



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

CJ, 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 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



CJ D Y 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 PTI. Dreaming big might not have come easily to Pragya, herself a diamond in the rough. But now her dreams have taken wings.

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.

Commemoration of Int'l Women's Day at PPA

Paradip, Mar 13:

Paradip Port Authority in association Parareep 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 respective fields in the current fiscal. A major attraction of the event was dance performance by Specially abled Girl children of Jagruti school.

They were also felicitated on the occasion. Mrs. Susmita Samal, Chairperson, Working Women Cell, PPA offered Welcome speech, Dr. Runu Singh of PPA compeered the programme, Mrs. Itishree Mohanty offered vote of thanks.

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).

Maha cabinet approves proposal to change British-era names

Of 8 railway stations in Mumbai

Mumbai, Mar 13 (PTI):

The Maharashtra cabinet on Wednesday cleared a proposal to change the British-era names of eight suburban railway stations in Mumbai. The decision was taken at the cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

These eight stations are located on the Western, Central and Harbour lines of Mumbai's suburban network operated by the Central Railway and the Western Railway. As per the proposal, Currey Road station will be renamed as Lalbaug, Sandhurst Road station as Dongri, Marine Lines station as Mumbadevi, Charni Road station as Girgaon, Cotton Green station will be Kalachowki, Dockyard Road station as Mazgaon and Kings Circle as Tirthankar Parshwanath.

Sandhurst Road station has been considered as two stations as it serves both Central and Harbour lines. After the legislative sanction, the proposal will be sent to the Union Home Ministry and the Railway Ministry. The state government has already sent a proposal to

rename Mumbai Central station as Nana Jagannath Shankarsheth station to the Union government.

In 2017, the Union government renamed the Elphinstone Road suburban station in the city, which took its name from Lord Elphinstone, Governor of Bombay Presidency from 1853 to 1860, as Prabhadevi station after the nearby Prabhadevi temple.

NAME CHANGE: By this deed I, the undersigned PRAVEEN KUMAR MISHRA (new name) previously called PRAVIN KUMAR MISHRA (old name), doing SERVICE (give profession or vocation) and resident of EWS 707, VAISHALI NAGAR, BHILAI C.G. (address) solemnly declare: 1. That for and on behalf of myself and my wife, children and remitter issue, I do hereby assume from this date the name, surname PRAVEEN KUMAR MISHRA so that I and my wife, children and remitter issue may hereafter be called, known and distinguished not by my former name, surname, but assumed name surname of PRAVEEN KUMAR MISHRA. 2. That for the purpose of evidencing such my determination I declare that I shall at all times hereafter in all records, deeds and writings and in all proceedings, dealings and transactions, private as well as upon all occasions whatsoever, use and sign the name of PRAVEEN KUMAR MISHRA as my name/surname in place and in substitution of my former name/surname. 3. That I expressly authorize and request all persons in general and relatives and friends in particular, at all times hereafter to designate and address me, my wife, my children, and remitter issue by such assumed name/surname of PRAVEEN KUMAR MISHRA. 4. In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my former and adopted name/surname of PRAVIN KUMAR MISHRA and PRAVEEN KUMAR MISHRA affix my signature and seal, if any, this 13 MAR 2024. PRAVEEN KUMAR MISHRA EWS 707, Vashali nagar, Bhilai(C.G)

Kishan Reddy hails Centre's decision to celebrate Sep 17

As 'Hyderabad Liberation Day'

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.

Vidyasagar Rao, who was a senior BJP leader, said September 17 is officially celebrated in the districts of present day Maharashtra and Karnataka which were part of the erstwhile Hyderabad State.

Punjab National Bank POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties). Circle Office SASTRA, Naya Raipur PH.No.(0771)2210417/19. Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Punjab National Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under Sub-Section (12) of Section 13 read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices as below mentioned calling upon the Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notices and Interest thereon within 60 days from date of the receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amounts, notice is hereby given to the borrowers, guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 said rules on this date mentioned below. The borrowers & guarantors in particular and the Public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Punjab National Bank for amount mentioned below and interest thereon. The borrower's and / or guarantor's 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.

Bank of Maharashtra APPENDIX IV POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties) (RULE 8(1)). Branch :Byron Bazaar Raipur, C.G. 0771-4265624, 4265623 e-mail: bom981@mahabank.co.in. Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Bank of Maharashtra under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of Powers conferred under Sub-Section (12) of Section 13 read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices as below mentioned calling upon the Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with interest thereon within 60 days from date of the receipt of the said notices. The notices were sent by Regd. AD Post. The borrowers having failed to repay the amounts, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 said rules on this date mentioned below. The borrowers in particular and the Public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Bank of Maharashtra for amount mentioned below and interest thereon. The borrower's 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.

Punjab and Sind Bank. Zone: 2nd Floor, Near CI Square, Nayapura, Kolar Road, Akabarpur, Main Kolar Road, Bhopal-462042 Tel. 0755-4243700. Bank invites offers, under two Bid System, for Commercial premises in Raipur (Chhattisgarh), measuring carpet area 1700-2000 sq.ft. on ground floor, on lease basis for a minimum period of 15 years. For detail visit our website: www.punjabandsindbank.co.in. Zonal Manager, Bhopal



# Gambling den raided; 12 arrested

Bhilai, Mar 13:

Amleshwar police station raided a gambling den on the banks of River Kharun and nabbed a dozen of gamblers red handed while gambling on playing cards. Rs 85,750 cash and 11 mobile phones were seized from them.

SDOP (Patan) Devansh Singh Rathore informed that they are conducting a special campaign against the illegal activities of gambling and betting. In this sequel, they received a tip off regarding some people who were gambling on playing cards at a public place on the banks of River Kharun at village Jamrao. Police team conducted a raid and nabbed the gamblers red handed. The arrested accused



are Raja Baghel (38) son of Baua Baghel a resident of Telibandha, Raipur; Anil Kumar Singh (60) son of Late Sukhlal Singh a resi-

dent of Tikrapara, Raipur; Manoj Yadav (37) son of Late Jagdish Yadav, a resident of Telibandha, Raipur; Ajay Karwani (47)

son of Late Lakhmi Chand Karwani, a resident of Telibandha Raipur; Vishwanath Pandey (30) son of Late Ramanuj Pandey a resident of Telibandha Raipur.

Sheikh Azmuddin, a resident of Raja Talab, Raipur; Vivek Pandey (34) son of Kishore Pandey, a resident of Telibandha Raipur; Saurabh Jain (35) son of Ramesh Kumar Jain, a resident of Rajendra Nagar, Raipur; Naseer Khan (47) son of Kadeer Khan a resident of DD Nagar, Raipur; Shubham Kurre (28) son of Sewak Ram Kurre a resident of Telibandha Raipur; Gulab Das Markande (30) son of Lain Das Markande a resident of Telibandha Raipur; Mohit Yadav (18) son of Chhagan Lal Yadav, a resident of Sundar Nagar, Raipur; Vishwanath Pandey (30) son of Late Ramanuj Pandey a resident of Telibandha Raipur.

# Man gets 20 years RI for raping minor girl and sharing obscene videos on social media

Bhilai, Mar 13:

A Fast Track Special Court in Durg awarded 20 years of rigorous imprisonment to a 27-year-old married man for sexual assault on a minor girl and sharing her obscene photos and videos on Instagram. Additional Sessions Judge (Fourth), FTSC - POCSO, Sangeeta Naveen Tiwari convicted Mohammad Sajid Ali (27) son of Sheikh Saheb Ali, a resident of near Pond, G-Cabin, Sirsa Road, Old Bhilai on Wednesday. The 17-year-old victim had lodged a complaint at Old Bhilai Police Station on December 16, 2022. Police filed the charge sheet on

January 20, 2023.

Special Public Prosecutor Santosh Kassar informed that the accused is known to the victim and is a friend of her elder brother. Victim's elder brother had met with an accident in February 2021 after which the accused used to visit their house with other friends. Meanwhile, he started talking with the girl and soon they developed a love affair. The accused raped the girl and captured her nude photos and videos on his mobile phone. The accused continued to exploit and harass the minor girl and often threatened her of sharing her photos and videos on social media.

Meanwhile, the accused got married on Mar 16, 2022. The harassed girl changed her mobile number after which the accused shared her nude photos and videos on Instagram using a fake ID. When the girl's family came to know about the incident, they reached the police station and the victim lodged an FIR against the accused under section 376 (2) (n) of IPC, Section 67 (a) of IT Act and Section 6 of POCSO Act.

After trial, the Special Court found the accused guilty and awarded 20 years rigorous imprisonment and Rs 5000 fine under section 06 of POCSO Act.

# St Thomas students witness PM's foundation stone laying ceremony



Bhilai, Mar 13:

Under the Viksit Bharat Abhiyan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of three semiconductor plants in the country virtually on March 13. The aim of Viksit Bharat Abhiyan is to give a roadmap towards making India developed, in which educational institutions, technocrats, and students are in the lead role. St Thomas College, Bhilai also witnessed this through the virtual medium. Speaking on the occasion, coordinator of college's Viksit Bharat Abhiyan, Dr Amit Kumar Tamrakar highlighted about

the technical aspects of semi-conductors and their usefulness. College administrator Father Dr Joshi Varghese appreciated this program. Principal of the college, Dr MGRoymon said that this initiative by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will provide employment to thousands of youth of our country. Dr Pratik Sharma, Assistant Professor, Dept of Commerce told the students about the commercial benefits of semiconductors. This program was organized virtually in the college conference hall. Faculty members of the college and students actively participated in the virtual program.

# Preparations begin for Lok Sabha elections 2024

Bhilai, Mar 13:

Collector Richa Prakash Choudhary chaired a meeting of the nodal officers appointed for the Lok Sabha elections 2024 in the Collectorate meeting room on Wednesday and gave instructions to start preliminary preparations as per the responsibilities assigned to the officers. Along with the preparations to make proper announcement of elections, she spoke about proper enforcement of model code of conduct in the district. Other subjects discussed in the meeting included election expenditure monitoring, EVM and complaint cell, transport system, postal ballot home voting, route chart vehicle arrangement, videography CCTV camera, formation of MCMC committee, employee welfare, etc. She took information regard-



ing election training, material distribution and arrangements in return centers and information for the observers. The Collector has informed all the office / department head officers that the code of conduct will come into effect with the announcement of the election programme. As soon as the code of conduct becomes effective, action should be

taken to immediately remove references and photographs of all public representatives from the official websites of all government, corporation, commission and state government public undertakings. As soon as the code of conduct is implemented, it has to be done within 24 and 48 hours. An action plan should be prepared to arrange for deployment of

force during elections. The Collector said that all the SDMs should take a meeting with the concerned BLOs and ensure that the necessary information is mentioned in the polling centers from now on. She said that only government serving officers and employees will be deployed in polling party or election work. All officers and employees will have to actively complete the election work. ADM Arvind Ekka, District Panchayat CEO Ashwani Dewangan, Additional Collector and Deputy District Election Officer BK Dubey, Additional Collector Yogita Dewangan, Municipal Corporation Durg Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar, Municipal Corporation Bhilai Charoda Commissioner Dashrath Rajput and all nodal officers were present.

# Nyota Bhojan organised at PM Shri Govt Primary School, Sirsida

Bhilai, Mar 13:

Nyota Bhojan Yojana has been implemented under Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Yojana. The objective of Nyota Bhojan is to develop a sense of belonging among the community, to increase the nutritional value of food and to develop a sense of equality among children of sections. In this sequel, Nyota Bhojan was organized on the occasion of the birthday of institution head Dhaneshwari Sahu at PM Shri Government Primary School, Sirsida.

Sweets were offered to the children before the mid-day meal. A meeting of the School Management



Development Committee was held to discuss annual examination, scholarship for disabled children, teacher training and other topics. Dashend Sahu, Chandu Lal Thakur, Leena Dewangan, Mahendra Sahu, Heera Lal, Rakesh Kumar, Kripa Ram Patel, Aditya Tandon, Dhiraj Sahu, Kamini Dewangan, Peelu Ram, Gopal Thakur and other teachers were present.

# Doctors celebrate IWD



Bhilai, Mar 13:

Women doctors of Indian Dental Association celebrated International Women's Day. The Chief Guest Dr Namita Mittal Goyal (Gynaecologist) gave detailed information about cosmetic gynecology and menopause. All the women doctors enjoyed various competitions and surprise games. The pro-

gram concluded with cake cutting and prize distribution. The outline of the program was prepared by the organization's President Dr Manju Yadav, Secretary Dr Fatima Khan, Dr Sayli Qureshi, Dr Dikshal Indurkar and Dr Savita Kabadwal. Senior doctors Dr Deepthi Rathore, Dr Vidya Vaidya, Dr Smrita Srivastava and other doctors were present.

# 62 LED Street Lights installed at village Jararoda



Bhilai, Mar 13: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Corporate Social Responsibility Department (CSR) has installed 62 LED Street Lights in Jararoda village, adjacent to Kuteshwar Mines, as part of its organizational social responsibility. BSP had provided funds for the installation of these street lights in Jararoda. SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, conducts several public welfare activities as part of its CSR initiatives towards Education, Employment, Culture, Sports, Public Health, and medicine, for the community in and around its areas of operations.

# 'Surakshit Matritava' Reproductive & Child Health Workshop organized

Bhilai, Mar 13:

As a part of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Reproductive & Child Health (RCH) initiatives, the 'Surakshit Matritava' workshop was organized at Jawahar Lal Nehru Hospital & Research Centre, on March 09, 2024. The hospital's Obstetrics & Gynaecology department organized the one-day Workshop, to educate the nursing students, under the guidance of Dr Ravindranath M, CMO I/c (M&HS), Dr Pramod Binayake, Dr Vineeta Dwivedi, and Dr Kaushalendra Thakur, CMOs (M&HS). The Workshop was inaugurated with the lighting of ceremonial lamp in the presence of Guests and dignitaries. Dr Sangeeta Kamra, ACO



(M&HS), HOD (Obs&Gyne) & RCH I/c, and Dr Roshan Hussain, ACO (M&HS) were also present on this occasion, along with other Consultants, Senior Officials, and Hospital Staff, and more than 100 Nursing Students from various Nursing Colleges of Bhilai, including PGCON, SSCN and Apollo

College of Nursing. Dr Ravindranath M, CMO I/c (M&HS), in his address, stated the importance of educating the primary health workers and nursing staff regarding methods to decrease maternal and neonatal mortality. At the outset, Dr Sangeeta Kamra, ACO (M&HS), HOD (Obs&Gyne) in her

Welcome Address outlined the importance of safe motherhood and its role in decreasing maternal and foetal mortality. Various lectures based on topics related to Reproductive & Child Health, including abnormal labour, prolonged labour, obstetrical emergencies, CPD, induction of labour, Embryology, vasa

previa, shoulder dystocia, and birth injuries were held during the workshop by the doctors of the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Guest Speakers of the Workshop Dr Sulbha Vavre and Dr Sunita Agrawal, Retired HODs of JLN Hospital & RC, also shared their insights on these topics, along with, Asst Professors from PG College of Nursing and Shri Shankaracharya College of Nursing. The Workshop concluded with a Quiz based on the topics of the Workshop, and prizes were given to the participants, to encourage young minds. The programme was compered by Dr Himani Gupta and Dr Prabhdeep Kaur, while Dr Roshan Hussain, ACO (M&HS) proposed the Vote of Thanks.

# Housewives prove their mettle in the literary event 'Belan Chakki aur Kalam'

## Dr Aruna Palta appreciates activities of 'Swayamsiddha'

Bhilai, Mar 13:

Swayamsiddha organised an innovative literary seminar at Bhilai Niwas on Monday. Five housewives were honoured with Swayamsiddha Samman. The venue was decorated with a big stone mill, cut outs of Hindi letters, hand-made artefacts and portraits of Amrita Pritam, Mamta Kalia, Chitra Mudgal, Shivani and Mother Teresa. Five women were honored in the 'Swayamsiddha Samman' and an entirely different honour of GrihaSwamini. Dr Aruna Palta, Vice Chancellor of Hemchand Yadav University, Durg, was the chief guest. In her address, she said appreciated the activities of Swayamsiddha and added



that after retirement she would like to join Swayamsiddha Group and work for the society. Senior litterateur Dr Pardeshi Ram Verma presided over the programme. Sarla Sharma, Santosh Jhanjhi and senior litterateur Dr Sudhir Sharma were the keynote speakers. The hall echoed with thunderous applause, when Santosh Jhanjhi recited her ghazal in her melodious voice. Sarla Sharma won everyone's heart in her familiar style. She said that the men got the women to sign the agreement of taking care of the house and

children without taking their consent. If women want to write their own feelings, no one can stop them. Dr Sudhir Sharma said that the first word that any child in the world pronounces is mother; hence there is no one more creative than mother. Dr Pardeshi Ram Verma amazed everyone with his erudition and knowledge. The audiences kept listening to him mesmerized and kept getting enriched. Dr Sonali Chakraborty, organizer of the program and director of Swayamsiddha, said that they are making efforts to connect women with

music, literature and culture for the last ten years. We inspire women to write about their feelings through our online and offline personality development training. This helps women to overcome mental depression. Women from five different fields were honored with Swayamsiddha Samman. Yamunotri Verma was felicitated as GrihaSwamini; Pushpa Purushothaman from the field of education, Dr Mitthu from the field of counseling and education, Dr Mita from the field of medicine and Shefali Bhattacharya was honored in the field of journalism. Senior journalist Tikam Singh Pipariya, lyricist Mayank Chaturvedi, Poet Gajraj Das Mahant and senior writer of Raipur - Neelima Mishra presented their compositions. A book 'Garbh Ke Sanskar Falibhoot Hote Hain' by Shilu Lunia, member of

Swayamsiddha, was released by the guests. In the fourth session, compositions were recited by Swayamsiddha members including Kamal Chakraborty, Komal Ghosh, Ratna Dufare, Ranjana Suraj, Shradha Mishra, Aarti Tiwari, Kakoli Chaudhary and others. Members of the five club groups of Swayamsiddha - Aparajita, Swastika, Tejaswini, Vishwaroopa and Jagriti were also honoured. The program was conducted by Maneka Verma and vote of thanks was proposed by Seema Kannoje. Dr Rajni Nelson, Sandeep Chakraborty, Archana Sengupta, Lakshita Verma, Rajkumari Kannoje, Sheela Prakash, Vandana Nadambara, Neera Lakhera, Rita Vaishnav, Bindu Nayak and others supported in organising the event. A large number of women were present in the programme.

# BSP's Sabarmati Welding Plant supplies 10 rakes of 260 Metre Rail Panels

Bhilai, Mar 13:

As many as ten rakes of 260 meter welded rail panels have so far been dispatched to Indian Railways from SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Flash Butt Welding Plant (FBWP) at Sabarmati in Gujarat, since the first 260 Metre welded rail panels was dispatched from FBWP on November 06, 2023. The 10th rake has been despatched to Indian Railways and the 11th rake is now ready for loading. As many as 60 numbers of 260 metre panels weighing approximately 940 tonnes are loaded onto a single rake. SAIL-BSP took over the Sabarmati welding plant of Western Railways after an MOU was signed with Indian Railways in December 2022 to meet the increased demand from Railways for 260 meter



long welded rail panels. The input rails for welding at the FBWP, Sabarmati are being supplied in 26 metre length from Rail and Structural Mill of BSP. By utilizing the FBWP facilities at Sabarmati, the volume of long rail panel supplies from Bhilai Steel Plant have been augmented. Multiple teams from BSO, RDCIS-Ranchi and CMO were deployed to help in the commissioning of the Plant, standardization of welding parame-

ters and starting of the FBWP Sabarmati Plant. After overcoming all challenges, commercial production commenced from FBWP-Sabarmati on September 18, 2023. All out efforts are now being made to enhance production from FBWP by the team at Sabarmati led by MK Sahu, GM and Contract Operating Authority and Anish Sengupta, CGM (URM) and Nodal Officer for the Sabarmati Project from SAIL-BSP side.



## Seven-day training and awareness campaign organized

At HTPS, Korba West on occasion of National Safety Week

Korba, Mar 13:

National Safety Week 2024 was celebrated at Hasdev Thermal Power Station (HTPS), Korba West. Under these weekly awareness programs organized between March 4, to March 11, 2024, the Safety Department of HTPS, Korba West informed the workers and plant staff about unsafe working conditions and industrial accidents occurring due to human error and carelessness. For their effective prevention, efforts were made to ensure active participation of plant workers in safety management through worker training programs, slogan competitions, quiz programs, home management competitions



and hazard hunt games. In the same sequence, under the training and awareness program based on women safety, all the regular and non-regular women employees of the plant were provided information about Home Security and Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, 2013.

On this occasion, Executive Director cum factory occupier Sanjay Sharma sent congratulations and best wishes for this successful event and the distinguished guests present at the venue included Additional Chief Engineer PK Swain, MK Gupta, Sudhir Kumar Pandya, P. Bhaskar Rao,

MS Khan, While mentioning the importance of safety at the workplace in front of Senior Chief Chemist AK Kurnal and other officers and employees, it was said that I hope that through various programs organized on the occasion of Safety Week, the trained workers will increase their awareness to-

wards safety. We will maintain this and will be able to protect ourselves from the danger of possible accidents in future. After which, with the blessings of Executive Director (Production) Sanjay Sharma and other distinguished guests, the officers and employees who contributed significantly in the successful organization of these weekly programs and the participants and judges of the competition who performed excellently in the various competitions organized during this period were awarded. He was encouraged. Various departments of Hasdev Thermal Power Station, Korba West as well as the contract firms working in the plant had a commendable contribution in making the program successful.

## Accused nabbed with 14 kg Ganja worth Rs 1.40 lakh

Bemetara, Mar 13:



On March 12, Police Station City Kotwali Bemetara staff received information through an informer that Santosh Singh Chauhan, resident of village Ranka, has kept a plastic sack in his cow shed for illegal sale of a narcotic like Ganja. On this information, Cyber Cell team and Police Station City Kotwali Bemetara along with staff and witnesses reached the spot and cordoned off the spot and conducted raids. Ganja weighing 14 kg worth approximately Rs 1,40,000/- has been seized from the possession of the accused. In which a case of illegal drug ganja has been registered and further action is being taken against 01 accused under 20 (B) Narcotic Act. The accused nabbed is Santosh Singh Chauhan S/o Late. Panchu

Chauhan age 43 years, R/o Ranka police station and district Bemetara. In the past, action has been taken against him in illegal ganja case. Bemetara Police will continue to take strict and effective action against people involved in illegal liquor; gambling, betting, ganja, drugs and other illegal activities.

In the said case action was taken under the direction and guidance of senior officers, Police Station

City Kotwali Bemetara in-charge Chandradev Verma and Cyber Cell in-charge Sub Inspector Mayank Mishra, Souni Santosh Dhruve, Head Constable Ravindra Tiwari, Vinod Patre, Mohit Chelak, Lokesh Singh, Constable Rajesh Dhruv, Moti Jaiswal, Sanjay Patil, Saurabh Singh, Inderjit Pandey, Nuresh Verma, Shiv Sen and other police station staff played a commendable role.

## SECRWWO honours divisional women employees

Poetry Seminar 'Shakti Garjana' and felicitation ceremony mark International Women's Day

Bilaspur, Mar 13:



In a celebration of women's contributions, the SECRWWO Bilaspur Division honoured the remarkable women employees of the division in a felicitation ceremony held at Little Bunny School. The event, which coincided with International Women's Day on March 12, underscored the organization's commitment to recognizing and empowering women in the railway workforce.

women in railway operations, 42 deserving employees were honoured for their outstanding contributions. Each recipient was commended for their dedication and hard work, serving as inspiring role models for their peers.

In her address, Chief Guest and Chairman of Divisional SECRWWO, Shradha Pandey, expressed her heartfelt appreciation for the invaluable role women play in society. She emphasized the versatility and resilience of women, who excel in various roles both at home and in the professional sphere.

Pandey lauded the significant strides women have made in all fields, noting their indispensable contribution to the nation's progress. She concluded by reaffirming the belief that a woman is the cornerstone of every household, embodying strength, compassion, and unwavering determination.

Led by Mandal SECRWWO President Shradha Pandey, the ceremony commenced with the lighting of the lamp, symbolizing enlightenment and empowerment. Attendees were treated to a mesmerizing display of dance and poetry in the seminar titled 'Shakti Garjana,' where poets like Shradha Shaurya, Kalyani Dahare, and Priyanka Tripathi captivated the audience with their empowering verses. Highlighting the exemplary achievements of

## 11 softball players of the district will be honoured

In the state sports 'Alankaran Samaroh'

Bijapur, Mar 13:



State Sports 'Alankaran Samaroh' to be held after last 4 years and it will be held at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Auditorium, Raipur from 11:00 am on March 14 in which the Chief Minister and Sports Minister of the state will present national and international competitions in the 'Alankaran Samaroh'. Players who won medals will be honoured with various awards, in which 11 national and international players of the softball game conducted at Bijapur Sports Academy from Bijapur district will be honoured at the hands of the Chief Minister.

This includes players Suresh

Hemla Rakesh Mahobia, who won a silver medal in the Junior National competition, while Renuka Telam, Ribika Vacham, Kavita Hemla, Jyoti Hamla and Anita Kudiam had won the bronze medal in the Sub-Junior National Competition. They had received the Sports Ankur decoration and players who had won the bronze medal in the

Senior National viz. Sunita Hemla, Kavita Hemla, Asha Hemla and Jyoti Hemla will be honoured with the Khel Shikhar Award by the Chief Minister. In this 'Alankaran Samaroh' is for the session 2019-20 and 2020-21, the remaining ceremonies of the remaining seasons will also be organized as soon as possible in which excellent players will

also be announced.

International coach of the academy and labour inspector of the district, Sopan Karnewar told that he has also been awarded the softball game, Pankaj Vikram Awardee, Excellent Player Award and Chief Minister Trophy and from the sports quota, he was posted on the post of labour inspector in Bijapur in 2015. In the coming years, softball players of Bijapur will also be honoured with the Outstanding Player Award. For this achievement of the district, District Magistrate Anurag Pandey, CEO Hemant Naresh Nandanwar, Sports In-Charge Dilip Uike congratulated all the players and congratulated them for their bright future.

## Players to get gift of gallery construction & flood lights



Pending for years in the hockey ground

Bilaspur, Mar 13:

The players are now going to get the gift of gallery construction and flood lights pending for years in the hockey ground of the State Level Sports Training Institute located at Bahtarai. Beltara MLA Sushant Shukla and Bilha MLA Dharamlal Kaushik performed the bhoomipujan of the gallery and flood light work to be built by PWD at a cost of Rs 10 crore 29 lakh.

On this occasion, Dharamlal Kaushik said that with the construction of the gallery in the hockey ground, this stadium will become fully equipped, due to which the players of the state will benefit from it and by installing flood lights, night matches can be organised. In

this sequence, Sushant Shukla said that the demand for gallery and flood lights in the hockey ground was being made for a long time, completion of which will benefit the hockey players as well as the sports lovers. Resources and developed stadium play a big role in the quality of players, unless resources are available and the stadium is fully developed, it is difficult to achieve the target.

With the construction of gallery and installation of flood lights in the hockey stadium, the hockey ground will be ready for international level competition. In the coming time, every effort will be made to ensure that there is no shortage for the Bahtarai Sports Center and the players. There will be facilities like broadcasting umpire room. Apart from this, flood lights will be installed as per international standards.

## Immoral incident happened in POTA cabin Gangaloor

Congress constitutes 8 member committee to investigate

Bijapur, Mar 13:

Taking seriously the incident of pregnancy of a class 12th student of Gangaloor Residential Girls High School POTA Cabin in Bijapur district and giving birth to a newborn child, Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) President Deepak Baij has formed an eight-member investigation under the leadership of Balod MLA

Sangeeta Sinha. A committee has been formed, In this, Balod MLA Sangeeta Sinha Convenor, MLA Sihawa Ambika Markam, MLA Bhanupratappur Savitri Mandavi, President District Congress Committee Kanker Subhadra Salam, President District Panchayat Narayanpur Shyambati Netam, President District Panchayat Dantewada

Tulika Karma, member District Panchayat Bijapur Neena Rawatiya Udde, President District Panchayat Bijapur Bodhi Tati are the members.

The State Congress Committee has requested the members of the investigation committee to immediately visit the affected village/hostel, meet/discuss with the local villagers/hostel officials including the victim's family, become

aware of the actual situation of the incident and send their report to the State Congress Committee. do Convenor of the investigation team, Sangeeta Sinha has said that on 15/03/2024, an eight-member investigation team will go to Gangaloor and after investigating the incident, it will send the overall investigation report to the State Congress Committee.

## India to lead in semiconductor chip manufacturing: Prof. Chakrawal

Foundation ceremony of Semiconductor Project takes place in CU

Bilaspur, Mar 13:



Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (a Central University) witnessed the foundation laying ceremony by Prime Minister Narendra Modi of three semiconductor projects worth approximately 1.5 trillion rupees in Gujarat's Dholera and Sanand, and Morigaon in Assam, through virtual means, as part of the 'India Techade: Chips for a Developed Bharat' program. The program was telecast at two venues, Rajat Jayanti Auditorium and Central Library of the university.

the University, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal stated at the foundation ceremony that this is a historic moment from where India will lead in semiconductor chip manufacturing. This initiative will make India self-reliant and stand out among developed nations in the field of technology. In the near future, India will be the center of chip-based economy. He mentioned that the inauguration of these three projects will open endless possibilities in semiconductor chip manufacturing in India, providing new employment opportunities for youth.

Dr. Vijay Nath, in his lecture, emphasized on the practical use of semiconductor chips in various electronic devices in our lives. He expressed that the progress in chip manufacturing in India and the unprecedented efforts by the Indian government in this sector will contribute significantly not only to the entire region of South East Asia but also to the global community.

Prior to the commencement, the esteemed guests performed the lighting of

the lamp in front of the statues of Goddess Saraswati and Baba Guru Ghasidas Ji, followed by offering flowers. Subsequently, the guests were welcomed with flower bouquets. The welcome address was delivered by Prof. Shailendra Kumar, Dean of Student Welfare.

At the end of the program, the Registrar of the University, Prof. Manish Shrivastava presented the vote of thanks, and Dr. Princy Matlani conducted the proceedings. Deans of various Schools, department heads, faculty members, researchers, and students attended the event.

India is a beautiful bouquet of cultural diversity: V-C Prof. Chakrawal Interacts with participants from Kerala in the Yuva Sangam Program

On March 13, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawal of the Indian University met with students and teachers from Kerala at the administrative building's conference hall as part of the Yuva Sangam program organized by the Ministry of Education, Government of India. Prof. Chakrawal said

that India is a beautiful bouquet due to its diverse cultural dimensions. Our reverence for nature, social responsibilities, the ethos of welfare and compassion, and social harmony make us superior. He expressed gratitude to Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi for initiating the Youth Confluence program aimed at acquainting the nation with the rich and glorious traditions and encouraging youth to embrace the country's prosperous and dignified heritage. He hoped that all the members from Kerala visiting Chhattisgarh must have experienced the best of hospitality in the spirit of 'Chhattisgariya sable badhiya'.

The program was conducted by the Nodal Officer of the University for the Youth Confluence program, Prof. Rajendra Kumar Mehta, and a vote of thanks was given by Prof. Ashwini Kumar Dixit. Students also shared their experiences at this event.

It is noteworthy that in the fourth phase of the Yuva Sangam program, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh has collaborated with the Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode, Kerala. This program aims to develop tourism, traditions, progress, technology, and interpersonal relationships among youth.

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Advt. No.: R/03/2024 Dated February 26, 2024  
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222	154043	Selection of Concessionaire for Management of Food Court and Operation & Maintenance of Jalia Talab Re-Development Work within Abd. Area.	1.00 (One) Lacs Per Annum	04/04/2024 IST 05.30 PM

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**कार्यालय कलेक्टर/अध्यक्ष, जिला निर्माण समिति सुकमा जिला - सुकमा (उ.ग.)**  
// मैनुअल पद्धति प्रथम निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना //  
क्रमांक/497/नित/43/वि.नि.स./2023-24 सुकमा दिनांक 13/03/2024

क्र.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)	निविदा का प्रपत्र प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि
1	Construction WBM Road Almagunda to Duled Part- 01 to Part 06 RD 0.00 km to 8.00 km	296.58	22/03/2024

कार्यालय कार्यालय की निविदा से संबंधित आवश्यक सूचनाएं, शर्तें, शर्तें, विस्तृत निविदा विधि, निविदा दस्तावेज से अन्य जानकारी कार्यालयीन दिवस पर कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जा सकती है - (कलेक्टर महोदय द्वारा अनुमोदित)  
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G-08517/3

**Directorate Urban Administration & Development**  
4TH Floor, D Block, Indravati Bhavan (HOD Building), Nava Raipur Atal Nagar, Chhattisgarh, 492002  
Phone 0771-2222972 Email: [ce.uad.cg@gmail.com](mailto:ce.uad.cg@gmail.com)  
**RFP NOTICE**  
RFP No./DIR/2023-24/2424 NAVA RAIPUR ATAL NAGAR, DATED 11-03-2024.  
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Directorate Urban Administration & Development (UAD) is the Mission Directorate for implementation of all Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Urban Development in the State. Through this notice UAD invites bid for "RFP for Selection of Consulting Firms/Agency/NGO/Institute to support in implementing online SLB-PAS module for Directorate Urban Administration & Development (UAD), Chhattisgarh."

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- RFP documents can be seen on the website <http://uad.cg.gov.in> and downloaded from the said portal.
- The RFP can be postponed or cancelled at any time due to administrative reasons and no claim shall be entertained on this account.
- Modifications/Amendments/Corrigendum, if any shall not be advertised in the newspaper but shall be published in the departmental website only. The undersigned reserves the right to change the terms and conditions, select/reject any application without assigning any reason thereof.
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## CENTRAL Chronicle

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### 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. Despite reassurances from Union Home Minister Amit Shah, concerns loom large over the potential exacerbation of communal divisions. The Opposition and religious groups voice apprehensions, fearing discriminatory implications and heightened communal tensions. Mamata Banerjee, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, pledges vehement opposition should the CAA compromise the citizenship rights of Indian residents. Meanwhile, the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) seeks legal recourse, challenging what they deem as arbitrary and biased provisions favoring specific religious identities. The tumultuous journey of the CAA traces back to its parliamentary passage in December 2019, followed by presidential assent, which ignited protests nationwide. Criticism primarily centers on the exclusion of Muslims, despite the historical persecution faced by Muslim minorities in neighboring countries. Moreover, concerns emerge regarding the potential labeling of Muslim refugees as "illegal migrants" within India's borders. The onus now falls squarely on the central government to assuage apprehensions, particularly in border states like West Bengal and Assam, where sensitivities towards immigration issues run high. Crucial to this effort is the demonstration that the CAA transcends political expediency and electoral calculus, instead emphasizing its role in tackling infiltration and rationalizing citizenship procedures. In navigating the complexities surrounding the CAA, the government must engage in proactive dialogue, fostering understanding and cooperation among diverse stakeholders. Transparency and clarity in communication are imperative to dispel misgivings and build trust. Moreover, addressing the broader socio-political implications demands a nuanced approach, balancing security concerns with humanitarian considerations. While the CAA seeks to address the plight of persecuted minorities from neighboring countries, its implementation must uphold constitutional values of equality and secularism. Any perception of religious bias or discrimination undermines the foundational principles of India's democracy. Therefore, stringent safeguards and oversight mechanisms are essential to ensure fair and impartial application of the law. Furthermore, the government must address the legitimate concerns raised by various stakeholders, including civil society groups and human rights organizations. Meaningful consultations and inclusive decision-making processes can pave the way for a more inclusive and consensus-driven approach to immigration and citizenship policies. As the CAA unfolds, India stands at a critical juncture, grappling with questions of identity, inclusion, and constitutional principles. The government's stewardship of this process will not only shape the future of citizenship laws but also profoundly influence the nation's social fabric and democratic ethos.

### 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. The theme for World Kidney Day 2024, "Kidney Health for All - Advancing Equitable Access to Care and Optimal Medication Practice," resonates deeply in our current socio-political landscape. At its core, this theme encapsulates the fundamental principle that every individual, regardless of their background or socioeconomic status, deserves access to quality kidney care. Indeed, kidneys serve as the unsung heroes of our physiological well-being, undertaking a myriad of essential functions, including waste filtration, blood pressure regulation, and hormone production. Yet, despite their indispensable role, kidney diseases often lurk in the shadows, silently wreaking havoc on individuals' health and vitality. Chronic kidney disease (CKD) stands as a formidable global health challenge, affecting over 850 million individuals worldwide and contributing to a staggering 3.1 million deaths in 2019 alone. If left unchecked, CKD is projected to ascend to the ominous rank of the 5th leading cause of years of life lost by 2040—an alarming trajectory that demands urgent intervention and preventive measures. The road to achieving equitable access to kidney care is fraught with challenges, including socioeconomic disparities and resource constraints. However, amidst these challenges lie opportunities for progress and innovation. Embracing telemedicine, fostering innovative prevention strategies, and nurturing collaborative partnerships between governments, healthcare providers, and advocacy organizations can pave the way for tangible advancements in kidney wellness. Central to the pursuit of kidney health is the imperative of adopting a holistic approach to lifestyle modification. Unhealthy habits, such as sedentary living, obesity, smoking, and indiscriminate use of over-the-counter painkillers, serve as potent catalysts for accelerating the progression of kidney disease. As such, prioritizing lifestyle choices that promote kidney health—such as smoking cessation, moderation of alcohol consumption, regular physical activity, and adherence to a kidney-friendly diet—holds immense promise in mitigating the burden of kidney diseases. A kidney-friendly diet, characterized by the consumption of nutrient-rich foods and avoidance of excessive salt and processed foods, is indispensable for both prevention and management of kidney diseases. Such dietary interventions not only support renal function but also facilitate repair and maintenance, nurturing a holistic sense of well-being and vitality. As we commemorate World Kidney Day, let us reaffirm our collective commitment to advancing kidney wellness for all. Let us harness the power of awareness, advocacy, and action to break the silence surrounding kidney diseases and pave the way for a future where equitable access to quality kidney care is a reality for every individual, irrespective of their circumstances.

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

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 editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com.

### CONFIDENCE BUILDING MARCH

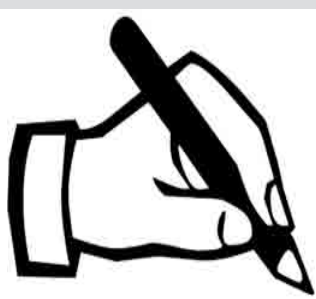


Children salute armed forces personnel during a confidence building march ahead of Lok Sabha polls, in Nadia, Wednesday, March 13.

### 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. On March 5, the price of 1 ounce gold increased to \$ 2,126. Not only this, but the price of gold also increased by 2.5 percent in 2 months of 2024. Due to the high price of gold, during 14 to 18 February, Sovereign Gold equivalent to the price of 12.8 tonnes of gold was purchased, because by investing in it, investors got more profit than gold. The price of gold per 10 grams was Rs.62,600 on February 28, Rs.63,900 on February 29, Rs.64,250 on March 1, Rs.65,200 on March 4 and Rs.66,100 on March 5. Even on March 10, the price of gold remained at Rs.66,021.

According to some of the world's leading rating agencies that estimate the price of gold, such as ABV AMRO, the price of gold may be \$ 2,000 per ounce in 2024, whereas, according to DBS, the price of gold in 2024 may be \$ 2,050 per ounce, while According to TD Securities, the price of gold may be \$ 2,133 per ounce in 2024, while according to Citi Group, the price of gold in 2024 may be \$ 2175 per ounce and according to UBS, the price of gold in 2024 may be \$ 2,250 per ounce.

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.

Lok Sabha elections in India are going to be held in the months of May and June and there is a strong possibility of Modi government coming back to power. Political stability strengthens the economy. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) figures have also been better than expected. The GDP growth rate in the third quarter of the current financial year was 8.4 percent, which is better than everyone's forecasts. India's GDP, in amount, reached Rs.41.74 lakh crore in the third quarter, increasing India's chances of becoming the world's fourth largest economy. Even in the second quarter, the GDP growth rate was 7.6 percent.

The retail inflation rate declined to 5.10 percent in January 2024, which was 5.72 percent in the month of December. There will be further reduction in inflation. Having better condition of the economy, the employment situation in the country will be better and in the state of self-reliance, people may be motivated to invest in gold in the hope of higher returns. Investors benefit from the increase in the price of gold, but difficulties increase for those who

need to buy it. Nowadays it is the wedding season, and this is the need of the people in India, because in the social fabric of India, gold ornaments are given to girls in marriage. Now even men are given gold ornaments.

Since 2024 is a leap year, this year is considered auspicious for marriage. Many marriages took place on 29 February. However, the months of April, May, August, November, and December are also considered auspicious for marriage. According to Mithila Panchang, there are a total of 32 auspicious days times for marriage in 2024.

In India, there has been a close relationship between marriage and gold jewellery since time immemorial. Marriage here is considered incomplete without gold jewellery. There is a tradition of giving jewellery to both the bride and groom during marriage. In marriage, many types of jewellery are given to the bride, while in India there is a tradition of giving gold chain, ring, bracelet etc. to the groom.

Gold is exchanged during the 16 rites of Hindu religion i.e. from birth to death. At the time of birth of a child, he or she is made to wear a gold pendant with a black thread around his waist. Even at the time of Yajnopavit Sanskar, gold ornaments are worn on the child. When bride enters the house for the first time, the mother-in-law gifts gold jewellery to her daughter-in-law. Not only this, even at the time of death, gold is donated to a Brahmin. For Indian women, gold is not just a jewel, but a symbol of their well-being, self-respect, and pride. Therefore, they buy gold but never sell it. Cases of selling gold jewellery are seen only in situations of crisis.

In marriage, rich and poor all give gold ornaments to their daughter as per their capacity, but now it has become a problem for the poor to give gold ornaments to their daughter in marriage, because in the last 17 years, the price of gold per 10 grams has increased. There has been a signifi-

cant increase in price. The price of gold per 10 grams was Rs.10,000 on 5 May 2006, which increased to Rs.50,000 on 22 July 2020 and crossed the level of Rs.62,000 on 20 March 2023 and crossed the level of Rs.66,000 on 5 March 2024.

According to the National Statistical Office (NSO), the per capita annual income in India was Rs.33,717 in the financial year 2006-07, while the per capita annual income in the financial year 2022-23 was Rs.98,118. If we convert this annual income into per month, then the average monthly income of an Indian in the financial year 2006-07 was Rs.2,810, which will increase to Rs.8,177 per person in the financial year 2022-23. However, these figures can be considered merely an indication, as it is a figure calculated by dividing the total income of the country by the total population.

According to an estimate, in the year 2006, an average of Rs.5 lakh to Rs.10 lakh was being spent on a wedding, of which the share of expenditure on jewellery was usually 20 to 30 percent. Today this expenditure has increased to Rs.10 lakh to 20 lakh, but the share of expenditure on jewellery is decreasing. Due to the unprecedented increase in the price of gold in the last 17 years, the wedding budget of the lower and middle class has increased significantly, but the income has not increased comparatively as expected. However, this comparison is meaningless because the exact data of everyone's income is not available.

In such a situation, the marriage will take place during the auspicious time of marriage this year, but not everyone will be able to give jewellery to their daughters and sons-in-law as per their wish, because the Federal Reserve Bank is expected to cut policy rates in the coming months, and loan and deposit interest rates will be reduced. The price of gold may increase further in the coming months due to the possibility of continued global geopolitical crisis, disruption of supply chains globally, etc.

### 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. The University of Copenhagen's most recent study suggests that we shouldn't use more than 10% of the total biomass produced annually. According to the study, increased carbon dioxide levels cause terrestrial plants to create 66 gigatons of carbon dioxide annually, compared to a human intake of 17 gigatons. According to the research, 10% of pre-industrial plant biomass would be the safe limit for human exploitation of this resource.

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. As a key ally, she can bolster INDIA coalition and safeguard democracy. Unity among opposition leaders is vital for upcoming elections.

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. While Mamata's party's influence is confined to West Bengal, the INDIA coalition holds stakes across the entire nation. A flexible approach to seat allocation is necessary to maximize collective impact. It is imperative for the members of the opposition bloc to stand united in the face of the looming elections.

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. Was it dissent, pressure, or a silent protest against institutional integrity erosion? India, home to around 98 crore registered voters, teeters on uncertainty. Goel's exit casts a shadow over our electoral foundation, urging greater transparency within the institution.

MK Nair, Raipur

### 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.

At the heart of the issue lies a discrepancy between the number of seats won by political parties

and the actual votes they receive. In the inaugural Lok Sabha elections of 1951-1952, a mere 48% of Indians possessed the right to vote, reflecting a stark gap in democratic participation. Fast forward to contemporary times, and while the electorate has expanded significantly, concerns persist regarding the correlation between votes cast and seats secured.

Consider the striking example of the Indian National Congress in the 1950s. Despite garnering a substantial proportion of the popular vote, it secured an overwhelming majority of seats, underscoring the disproportionate influence of the electoral system. Similarly, in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the Congress Party's electoral performance failed to translate into commensurate parliamentary representation, raising questions about the system's efficacy and fairness.

The disparity between votes cast and seats won not only undermines the democratic man-

date but also fosters disillusionment among voters. When the majority's voice remains unheard in the corridors of power, the very essence of representative democracy is compromised. It is imperative, therefore, to recalibrate our electoral framework to ensure a more equitable and transparent process.

One potential avenue for reform lies in reimagining the basis of representation in the Lok Sabha. Instead of solely relying on the first-past-the-post system, which often leads to skewed outcomes, a proportional representation mechanism could better reflect the will of the electorate. By allocating seats in proportion to the votes garnered by each political party, this approach would enhance the legitimacy and inclusivity of our democratic institutions.

Moreover, the issue of age-related retirement for politicians warrants careful consideration. While individuals in various professions are subject to retirement policies, politicians often evade

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.

Furthermore, the absence of term limits for elected representatives exacerbates the concentration of power and perpetuates incumbency advantage. Unlike countries such as the United States, where term limits restrict the tenure of elected officials, India lacks similar provisions. This absence not only stifles democratic renewal but also hampers the emergence of diverse voices and perspectives in governance.

In essence, the reform of the Indian electoral system is a multifaceted endeavor that demands concerted action from policymakers, civil society, and the electorate. By embracing proportional representation, instituting

age-related retirement norms, and implementing term limits for elected representatives, we can chart a course toward a more vibrant, inclusive, and responsive democracy.

The journey toward electoral reform will undoubtedly encounter resistance and obstacles. However, the imperative to safeguard the integrity and vitality of our democratic institutions transcends partisan interests and short-term considerations. It is incumbent upon all stakeholders to rise above political expediency and embrace reforms that uphold the democratic ideals enshrined in our Constitution.

In conclusion, the time for electoral reform in India is ripe, and the stakes could not be higher. As we navigate the complexities of our political landscape, let us seize this opportunity to forge a more equitable, inclusive, and participatory democracy—one that truly reflects the aspirations and diversity of the Indian populace.



**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

## 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 smallcap 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-

nancial 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-

## 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

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

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



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

India's leading banks, Bank of Baroda is committed to furthering 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.



## Anganwadi workers seek overdue honorarium

### Workers appeal to district collector amidst payment grievances

Central Chronicle News

**Khairagarh, Mar 13:** Anganwadi workers and assistants in the district are grappling with unpaid honorarium, prompting them to appeal to District Collector Chandrakant Verma for resolution. Despite two months passing, including the strike period, these workers haven't received their due payments.

The workers, troubled by the delay, submitted a letter to the Collector highlighting their plight. It's been revealed that Anganwadi workers and assistants haven't received their honorarium for January, February, and



even for the period of the strike. Adding to their frustration, there's a glaring discrepancy in the payment process within the district itself. While honorarium has been disbursed in the Chhuikhadan project,

workers in Khairagarh are left empty-handed. They emphasized the inconsistency within the district, questioning the disparity in treatment. Moreover, they lamented the perennial issue of delayed honorarium dis-

bursement in Khairagarh, citing a recurring obstacle in timely payment.

Expressing frustration, they pointed out that officials often attribute the delay to unavailability of allotments, yet the promptness of payment in Chhuikhadan raises questions about this explanation.

During their visit to the Collectorate, workers lamented the lack of timely payments and various allowances, including travel allowances (T.A.) and mobile recharge allowances. They also highlighted the unavailability of essential resources like gas cylinders in certain sectors, hindering their

work.

Demanding prompt action, the workers urged the Collector to ensure timely payment of honorarium from both Central and State Governments, along with other benefits such as hot food, fuel, and incentives. Additionally, they called for regular joint consultation committee meetings to address their grievances effectively.

Anganwadi workers and assistants, including Lata Tiwari, Varsha, and Sadhna, were present during the appeal to the District Collector. Their plea remains for prompt resolution and fair treatment in terms of payment and support.

## Sagar Kumar secures spot in Jr National Ball Badminton

Central Chronicle News

**Kurud, Mar 13:** Sagar Kumar Nishad, a student of Government Higher Secondary School in Parkhanda Development Block, Kurud District, has achieved a remarkable feat by earning a spot in the Junior National Ball Badminton Competition. Principal Heera Ram Sah proudly announced that Sagar's talent will be showcased in the prestigious event scheduled to take place in Patna, Bihar, from March 10 to March 14.

The selection of Sagar Kumar Nishad for this esteemed competition marks a significant milestone not



only for him but also for the entire community. District Education Officer Brajesh Bajpai, along with Sports Officer Harish Dewangan, Development Block Education Officer Ravindra Kumar Mishra,

Assistant Development Block Education Officer Chandra Kumar Sahu, and other officials expressed their congratulations and best wishes to Sagar Kumar Nishad.

The villagers, including Sankul Sanmvak Toman Lal Dhruv, Exercise Teacher Gopal Kumar Sahu, and various well-wishers such as Pokhan Kumar Yadav, Prakash Kumar Chandrakar, Yogash Vishwakarma, Khelwan Nishad, Shubham Goswami, Ajit Nishad, and Mohit Sahu, joined in extending their heartfelt wishes for Sagar's success and a bright future ahead.

## Tata Ace overturns, 4 seriously injured

Central Chronicle News

**Dongargaon, Mar 13:** An alarming incident unfolded near the Shivnath river bridge on the Khujji road as a Tata Ace, laden with labourers, veered out of control, resulting in serious injuries for four individuals. The accident underscores the perilous practice of transporting labourers in cargo vehicles, exposing them to grave risks.

The ill-fated Tata Ace, bearing registration number CG08AR 4805, was ferrying 17 women labourers from village Sambalpur in the Khujji area to their workplace in Tumdibod Bhanjali Kelabari. The vehicle lost control on the Shivnath river, ultimately



overturning. While the driver and other occupants emerged unscathed, four women sustained severe injuries in the chaotic crash. Sarita, aged 55, suffered facial and ocular injuries, while Kalabai and Parbhotin Bai Kanwar sustained head injuries. Another woman faced grave finger injuries.

Following the accident, all the labourers and injured were promptly transported to Dongargaon Community Health Center

for urgent medical attention. The seriously injured victims received preliminary treatment before being referred for further medical care.

Driver Leelar Dhanekar attributed the accident to the sudden loss of control at a turn near the river. The incident sheds light on the widespread practice of transporting labourers in cargo vehicles to reach their workplaces, illustrating the daily risks undertaken by these workers in pursuit of employment opportunities.

### Under the Krishak Unnati Yojana

Central Chronicle News

**Korea, Mar 13:** In a significant development, more than 19,000 farmers in Korea district have received a total sum of Rs 114 crore as part of the Krishak Unnati Yojana. This initiative, spearheaded by the Vishnu Deo Sai government, marks a substantial step towards supporting agricultural growth and prosperity in the region.

Under the Krishak Unnati Yojana, a staggering Rs 13,320 crore has been disbursed to over 24.72 lakh farmers across the state as input assistance. This milestone achievement solidifies



Chhattisgarh's position as the first state government in the country to procure paddy at a support price of Rs 3100 per quintal.

The State Level Farmer Development Scheme witnessed the participation of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, Union Minister Arjun Munda, Chhattisgarh Minister Ramvihar Netam, and other dignitaries, including Chief Minister of

Madhya Pradesh Mohan Yadav and Chhattisgarh Assembly Speaker Dr. Raman Singh, who joined the event in Balod via video conferencing.

In a district-level implementation of the Krishak Unnati Yojana, a program was conducted at the Government Adarsh Ramanuj Government Higher Secondary School in Baikunthpur, under the leadership of MLA



Bhaiya Lal Rajwade. A total of 12,42,653 quintals of paddy were procured from 19,654 farmers in the district, with payments totaling Rs 271,27,11,935 being disbursed.

Notably, farmers who sold paddy at support prices during the Kharif year 2023-24 received a subsidy of Rs 19,257 per acre. Through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), an input assistance

amount of Rs 113,95,12,984 has been credited to the bank accounts of eligible farmers.

MLA Bhaiya Lal Rajwade commended the Vishnu Deo Sai government's swift action in fulfilling its promises and urged recipients to utilize the funds judiciously for the betterment of their households and families, in line with Prime Minister Modi's vision for inclusive growth.

## NSS camp at Columbia College of Pharmacy spreads awareness

Central Chronicle News

**Kharora, Mar 13:** The National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit of Columbia College of Pharmacy organized a seven-day camp at Mangal Bhawan, Tekari, aimed at raising awareness among villagers. Throughout the camp, volunteers conducted activities focusing on the Swachh Bharat Mission and the eradication of plastic pollution. The inaugural ceremony witnessed the presence of Gram Panchayat Tekari Sarpanch Khilendra Verma, College Principal Dr. Surendra Saraf, and College Head of Department (HOD) Dr. Ashish Majumdar.

During the camp's routine activities, various community projects were undertaken as part of the free project work. Volunteers engaged in cleaning the village pond, tidying the primary school courtyard, maintaining the



temple premises, and ensuring the cleanliness of the cremation ground surroundings. Intellectual discussions enriched the camp experience, covering diverse topics led by experts. Dr. Ashish Majumdar shed light on the new education policy, emphasizing its implications. Sneha Shukla, on the third day, focused on the conservation of birds, animals, and trees, highlighting environmental stewardship.

Manoj Sahu, President of Bharti Maitri Rural Development Institute Kurud Dhamtari, along with Vikas Sahu, Vice President, and Dr. Sarika Srivastava,

PhD in Food and Nutrition, discussed malnutrition and eating habits on the fifth day, raising awareness about health issues prevalent in the community.

On the sixth day, the NSS team delved into the significance of colors in life and inspired youth with the teachings of Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi. They shared insights into the aspirations of "India of Dreams," instilling a sense of national pride among villagers. The camp saw enthusiastic participation from numerous students, contributing to its success and fostering a spir-

it of community engagement and learning.

Additionally, cultural programs were organized every night, showcasing the talents of participating students. On the last day of the camp, volunteers, led by NSS officers of the college Manoj Verma, organized a free health check-up camp in collaboration with Bihan Hospital Saddu. Villagers benefitted from services including blood pressure, sugar, and eye check-ups.

Following the health camp, volunteers took to the streets of the village on the lines of "Apna Mat Apna Adhikar" campaign, raising

awareness about the importance of exercising their rights and casting their vote in elections.

In the closing ceremony of the program, Chief Guest Khilendra Verma, Sarpanch Gram Tekari, presided over the event, alongside Dr. Surendra Saraf, Principal of Columbia Pharmacy, and Special Guest Harjeet Singh Hura, Secretary of Janpragati Education Society. Dr. Ashish Majumdar, Head of Department, delivered a closing address.

Manoj Verma, Program Officer of National Service Scheme, extended a vote of thanks to all attendees, expressing gratitude for their participation and support. Volunteers of the college, including Alka Baghel, Bhaskar Sahu, Chanchal Sahu, Devwati Puri, and Omkar Pathak, were also present to mark the successful conclusion of the camp.

## Teachers' federation raises concerns over unpaid honorarium for election duties

### Khairagarh District executive meeting highlights grievances of education workers

Central Chronicle News

**Khairagarh, Mar 13:** The meeting of Khairagarh District Executive of Assistant, Samagra Teachers Federation was organized at the rest house in Chhuikhadan. District and block officials attended the meeting, which addressed various pertinent issues affecting education workers in the region.

One of the primary grievances brought forth during the meeting pertained to the non-disbursement of honorarium to employees who served in the 288 polling stations during the recent Assembly elections.

Despite their dedicated service, these workers have yet to receive their rightful compensation, sparking discontent among the education community.

In addition to the matter of honorarium, discussions also centered around the promotion proceedings for assistant and general teachers. Officials disclosed that while waiting lists for promotions have been issued in most districts across the state, Khairagarh district remains in the dark regarding this crucial information. The absence of clarity has left many teachers in a state of limbo regarding their career progression.

Further exacerbating the situation is the alleged reluctance of the District Education Officer (DEO) to grant necessary permissions for conducting higher examinations. Despite per-

sistent appeals from the Federation, the DEO's inaction has hindered the timely addition of teachers to service books and impeded future promotional opportunities.

Expressing deep dissatisfaction with the unresolved issues, the Federation issued a stern warning of an impending strike if the concerns were not addressed within a week. The meeting concluded with a collective resolve among attendees to push for swift resolutions to these pressing matters.

Notable figures present at the meeting included District President Sahu, along with Shiv Charan Verma, Sanju Ram Kanwar, Dodeshwar Chandel, Bhikhend, Komal Kothari, and other prominent members of the education community.

## Rajim Kumbh Mela concludes, darkness descends over Triveni Sangam

### After 15 days of illumination, silence replaces bustle at famous confluence

Central Chronicle News

**Rajim, Mar 13:** The celebrated Rajim Kumbh Mela, a renowned event of the country, has drawn to a close. For 15 days, from March 24th to March 8th, the Triveni Sangam area was adorned with brilliant lights, transforming the atmosphere into a spectacle akin to daylight even during the night hours. Under this radiant glow, visitors thronged the fairgrounds, contributing to a record-breaking attendance of lakhs of people, marking a historic turnout.

This year's Kumbh Mela witnessed extensive infrastructure development, with widened roads and newly laid stone pathways facilitating seamless transportation for traders and visitors alike. Notably, roads extending approximately seven kilometers were con-



structed within the river itself, illuminated by the glow of countless lights, imparting a milky hue to the thoroughfare.

Various amenities were meticulously arranged throughout the venue, including welcome gates, stages for spiritual congregations, platforms for Naga Sadhus from diverse Akharas, performance stages for artists, Mukta Kashi stages showcasing renowned talents from

across the country, and bathing ghats such as the Triveni Mahanadi Aarti Ghat and Shahi Snan Ghat. Even the iconic Laxman Jhula gleamed from afar, adding to the grandeur of the event. However, with the conclusion of the fair, the lights have been extinguished, signaling the departure of contractors who meticulously adorned the area. Consequently, darkness now envelops Triveni Sangam, prompting shop-

keepers to swiftly dismantle their stalls and depart. While some remnants such as bamboo poles remain, efforts are underway to clear the grounds, albeit amidst the persistent challenge posed by mosquitoes.

As the buzz of activity fades and tranquility settles over the once bustling grounds, the echoes of this year's illuminated extravaganza linger as a testament to the grandeur of the Rajim Kumbh Mela.



### Mosquito Menace: Post-Fair Predicament

Following the conclusion of the fair, the river area is plagued by a mosquito terror. The evening brings forth a swarm of mosquitoes, making even a simple step into the river a daunting task. Residents and visitors alike are greatly distressed by this sudden surge in mosquito activity. Adding to the woes is the pervasive filth strewn across the fairgrounds. Despite the festivity's end, paper, polythene, wrappers, and clothes litter the area with abandon. Regrettably, there seems to be no initiative from any cleanliness organization or administrative body to address this issue, leaving devotees struggling with significant inconvenience during their bathing rituals.

### Rapid water depletion threatens Navagaon Anicut

The collected water of Navagaon Anicut is rapidly emptying, posing a grave concern for local communities. During the Kumbh Mela, this mini reservoir served as a vital source of water for millions of devotees, providing essential relief from water scarcity issues. However, due to alleged negligence from the Water Resources Department, the gate has been left open, resulting in a swift outflow of water. Local residents fear that if the gate remains unchecked, the anicut will be completely drained within the next two to three days, exacerbating water shortages during the upcoming four months of summer. According to reports, the gate was opened by a sand contractor for the purpose of sand transportation, raising suspicions of illicit activities. This development presents a significant challenge for the Water Resources Department, as they must urgently address the situation to prevent further depletion of the reservoir. With the Triveni Sangam relying on water from both sources, the impending depletion of the anicut heightens concerns about the availability of water for future needs. Residents are demanding immediate action to halt the water release from Navagaon Anicut, emphasizing the critical importance of preserving this vital water source at all costs.



# Ashwin replaces Bumrah at top of ICC Test rankings

Rohit rises to 6th among batters

Dubai, Mar 13 (PTI):

A nine-wicket haul in his 100th Test match helped Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin reclaim the top spot in the bowlers' list, while his captain Rohit Sharma was back in the top-10 at sixth in the batting charts of the latest ICC rankings on Wednesday.

Ashwin was at his best throughout the Dharamsala contest against England as the experienced right-arm spinner picked up four wickets in the first innings and then a 36th five-wicket haul in the second innings as India cruised to a dominant triumph in the fifth and final Test of their series.

The big haul helped Ashwin move past teammate Jasprit Bumrah into the premier position that he previously held earlier this year, the ICC said in a statement.

Rohit, who smashed a



hundred in Dharamsala, rose five places to sixth and within 108 rating points of No.1 ranked Test batter Kane Williamson. Yashasvi Jaiswal (up

two places to eighth) and Shubman Gill (up 11 spots to equal 20th) reached new career-best ratings following excellent individual series against Ben Stokes' side.

Bumrah fell into a share of the second position with Australia seamer Josh Hazlewood following his six scalps in the second Test against New Zealand in Christchurch.

Ashwin's teammate Kuldeep Yadav earned a new career-high rating and jumped 15 places to 16th overall on the latest rankings following his seven wickets and Player of the Match heroics against England.

New Zealand's Matt Henry (up six spots to 12th) also moved up to a career-best mark.

India spinner Ravindra Jadeja remained well out in front of second-placed Ashwin in the updated list for Test all-rounders, with Australia skipper Pat Cummins (up two places to eighth) and Henry (up six spots to 11th) among the big movers.

Rawalpindi and Lahore to host 5 T20Is against New Zealand next month

Islamabad, Mar 13 (AP):

Pakistan will host New Zealand in a five-match Twenty20 International series next month as part of its preparations for the T20 World Cup. The Pakistan Cricket Board on Wednesday said Rawalpindi will host three games on April 18, 20 and 21 and the remaining two will be played at Lahore on April 25 and 27. New Zealand will likely be missing several frontline players including Daryl Mitchell, Mitchell Santner and Lockie Ferguson, who will be playing in the Indian Premier League. New Zealand beat Pakistan 4-1 at home in Shaheen Shah Afridi's debut T20I series as skipper earlier this year. "This tour symbolizes the deep-rooted ties and mutual respect that define the relationship between our two cricketing nations," Usman Wahla, the PCB's director of international cricket, said. "Our avid cricket fans and the people of Pakistan will welcome the New Zealand team again. We hope to have yet another competitive series which is a key part of our buildup to this year's ICC T20 World Cup."

The June 2-30 T20 World Cup will be held in North America and the Caribbean.

## It feels like I am going to make my debut again: Pant



New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):

Rishabh Pant will soon be back on the field 14 months after surviving a life-threatening car accident and ahead of that moment, the wicketkeeper-batter is "nervous" like a debutant all over again.

Pant was cleared to play the IPL by the BCCI on Tuesday. His team Delhi Capitals will open its IPL campaign against Punjab Kings in Mohali on March 23.

He met with a horrific car crash in December, 2022, while driving to his

home in Roorkee. He suffered multiple injuries and a ligament reconstruction surgery had to be performed on his right knee. He was also left to nurse a fractured wrist and ankle.

"I am excited and nervous at the same time. It feels like I am going to make my debut again," said Pant in a Delhi Capitals release.

The 26-year-old underwent an extensive rehabilitation and recovery process at the National Cricket Academy following the accident.

"To be able to play crick-

et again after everything I've been through is nothing short of a miracle. I'm grateful to all my well-wishers and fans, and most importantly, the BCCI and staff at NCA. All their love and support continues to give me immense strength," said Pant.

On joining the Delhi Capitals pre-season camp, Pant added, "I am excited to return to Delhi Capitals and the IPL, a tournament I enjoy so much. Our team owners and support staff have been by my side throughout with their full support, guidance and co-operation at every step, for which I am deeply grateful."

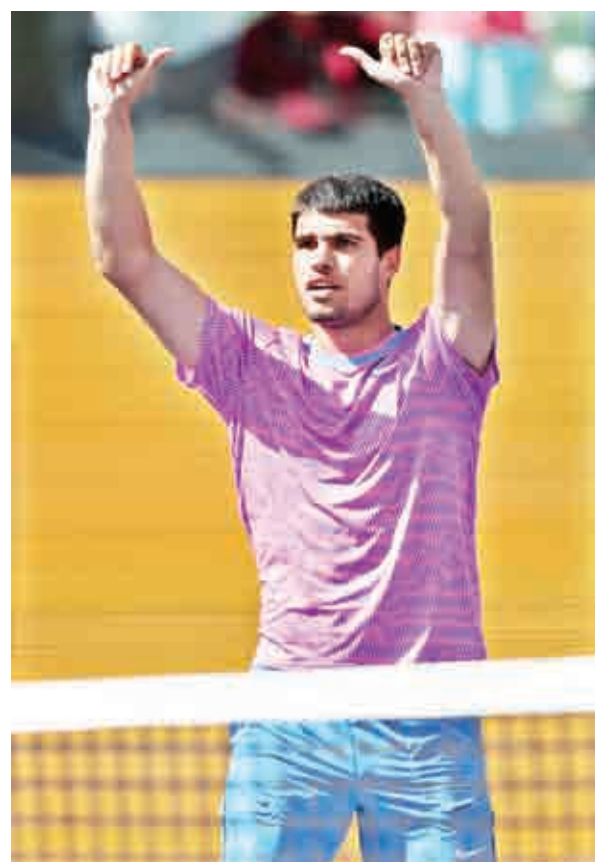
"I can't wait to re-unite with my DC family and play in front of the fans again."

Pant will be expected to bat as well as keep wickets with the BCCI declaring him fit as a wicketkeeper-batter.

The southpaw was present at the Capitals table during the IPL auction last year.

The big-hitting player has appeared in 33 Tests, 30 ODIs and 66 T20 Internationals for India.

## Carlos Alcaraz advances to quarterfinals at Indian Wells



Indian Wells, Mar 13 (AP):

Second-ranked Carlos Alcaraz avenged a previous loss to Fabian Marozsan, winning 6-3 6-3 to reach the quarterfinals of the BNP Paribas Open

as the top remaining seed in the men's draw.

A day after "lucky loser" Luca Nardi stunned No. 1 Novak Djokovic in the third round at Indian Wells, Alcaraz on Tuesday advanced easily over the

Hungarian who ousted him from the Italian Open in May.

Marozsan was a qualifier and the No. 135 player in the world when he upset Alcaraz then on the verge of taking the top spot in the rankings 6-3 7-6(4) in the third round in Rome.

"Honestly, I was nervous before the match. I'm not going to lie," Alcaraz said.

"Playing against someone that beat you... Today I knew what I had to do."

Australian Open champion Jannik Sinner beat Ben Shelton 7-6(4) 6-1 later Tuesday for his 18th consecutive victory. The third-ranked Italian has won 15 matches in a row to start 2024, claiming titles at Melbourne and Rotterdam. It was the 150th hard-court victory for the 22-year-old Sinner, who became first player born in the 2000s to reach that milestone. Sinner had a set point, up 5-4 and 40-30 in the first, before Shelton was saved by a net cord. It then took Sinner another 15 minutes to close out the first set; in the second, he went up 3-0 and coasted to the victory. Sinner advanced to the quarterfinals to play Jiri Lehecka, a 6-2-6-4 winner over Stefanos Tsitsipas.

## There is sense of calmness in this team: Ellyse Perry



New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):

After guiding Royal Challengers Bangalore to the Women's Premier League knock-outs with a record breaking six-wicket haul, all-rounder Ellyse Perry said a calmer dressing room is behind the team's success this season.

Perry ended with sensational figures of six for 15 against Mumbai Indians to qualify for the Eliminator here on Tuesday. "We started the game really well and that was probably our best bowling performance in the power play in the last three matches," said Perry in a media interaction on Wednesday.

When asked if there has been a shift in the attitude in the dressing room and

change in the mindset of the players compared to last season, Perry said, "There is a sense of calmness and the team is enjoying themselves."

"In the dressing room and as well as on the field there has been lots of smiles and huge focus to just go out there and enjoy because it's a pretty special tournament and the crowd has been amazing from five matches which were super special and now being here in Delhi is just been a really great chance for the group to spend more time together." RCB finished fourth out of five teams in the inaugural season in 2023. Perry was all praise for RCB teammate and India international Richa Ghosh.

## India take series lead with seven wicket win

New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):

India defeated Sri Lanka by seven wickets in the third T20 to take an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match Samarth Championship for Blind Cricket here on Wednesday.

Chandana Deshapriya (76) scored a fifty to help Sri Lanka post 162/3 after being invited to bat first at the Karnail Singh Stadium.

Dinesh Rathva, Naresh Tumda, Lokesh and Pankaj Bhue, who was adjudged the Player of the Match, then contributed with the bat as India chased down the target with 27 balls to spare. India thus claimed the bilateral series with two more matches to go.

Sri Lanka got off to a decent start but lost two wickets inside the power play. In a must-win match, Deshapriya and skipper Damith Sandaruwan then started rebuilding the innings. While Deshapriya scored 76 runs in 63 balls, Sandaruwan struck 46 in 47 balls. For India, Bhue picked a wicket.

Chasing 163, India started off well scoring 75 runs in the first eight overs. Pankaj and Dinesh laid the platform for the chase as the Men In Blue looked all set to claim the series.

India lost Dinesh in the eighth over as Pankaj in 12th but that didn't derail the chase.

## Ravindra becomes youngest recipient of Sir Richard Hadlee Medal

Christchurch, Mar 13 (PTI):

The biggest find of New Zealand's World Cup campaign in India, Rachin Ravindra on Wednesday became the youngest recipient of the Sir Richard Hadlee Medal after becoming the country's best male cricketer of the year.

Among women, Melie Kerr grabbed the major prizes at the New Zealand Cricket Awards.

Kane Williamson was recognised for his outstanding form in the Test arena with the ANZ Test Player of the Year Award, and winning the Redpath Cup for men's first-class batting.

At 24, Ravindra is the youngest winner in the award's history, after a season that's seen him become a mainstay of New Zealand's red and white ball sides.

After breaking into the 50-over side in March last year, Ravindra shone in the ODI World Cup in India, scoring 578 runs at an average of 64, including three centuries and two half-centuries, including an unbeaten 123 in the tournament opener



against England in Ahmedabad. As a result, Ravindra was named as the ICC's Emerging Player of the Year for 2023, and also secured a USD 350,000 Indian Premier League contract with Chennai Super Kings. The Sir Richard Hadlee Medal capped off a breakout season for Ravindra on the international stage, on which he contributed for the Kiwis across all three formats.

Ravindra continued his meteoric rise in the Test arena, registering New Zealand's highest ever maiden Test century with 240 during the first Test against South Africa at Bay Oval, and playing a key role in the BLACK-CAPS first ever Test series victory over South Africa.

## Looking forward to next stage of my healing journey: Shami

New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):

His stitches removed after a surgery to fix an injured ankle, senior India pacer Mohammed Shami on Wednesday said he was looking forward to the next phase of his "healing journey."

The pacer, who took 24 wickets in the 2023 ODI World Cup, missed the five-match Test series against England recently and will also sit out of the IPL after having undergone surgery for an ankle injury last month.

"Hello everyone! I wanted to provide an update on my recovery process. It has been 15 days since my surgery, and I recently had my stitches removed. I am thankful for the advancements and looking forward to the next stage of my healing journey," Shami wrote on 'X' along with three photographs.

The 33-year-old Shami



has been missing in action since the ODI World Cup last year.

Shami, who was one of the architects of India's stupendous World Cup campaign, played through pain as he had problems with his landing but didn't let it affect his performance. Shami, who was recently conferred with the Arjuna Award, has 229 Test, 195 ODI and 24 T20 wickets in his decade-long career.

## Wasn't satisfied with decision to bat at one down: Babar Azam

Karachi, Mar 13 (PTI):

Former Pakistan skipper Babar Azam's public expression of his unhappiness at being asked to bat at number three in T20 Internationals indicates that all is not well in the national team's dressing room.

It all started after the top-order batter was forced to step down as the leader in all three formats by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). Babar made his feelings clear at a media interaction during the Pakistan Super League on Tuesday that he was not satisfied with the decision to bat at number three during the New Zealand T20Is in January.

Pakistan lost the series 1-4 after the successful opening pair of Babar and Muhammad Rizwan was split, and the latter opened alongside a young Saim Ayub. "It was the Pakistan team's demand at the time.



I did that for Pakistan.

"If I was asked individually, I wasn't satisfied with the decision to bat at one down position. However, I did that for Pakistan," Babar said. He also clarified that he didn't take any pressure opening in the shortest format, either for Pakistan or his PSL franchise Peshawar Zalmi.

Earlier, Rizwan had also expressed his unhappiness at the change in the batting order and said that the management's decision was not fruitful and hurt the side.

"You can say that it [breaking the opening pair] has hurt Pakistan. I can say that Babar bhai has a big heart.

## Bairstow available for Punjab Kings for full IPL season

New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):

England batter Jonny Bairstow will be available for the entire duration of the Indian Premier League, beginning March 22, despite returning home only recently following a long Test tour of India.

On the sidelines of the Dharamsala Test, the BCCI officials were in talks with their England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) counterparts over the availability of their players for the IPL.

Test regulars like skipper Ben Stokes, Joe Root and Mark Wood had already made themselves unavailable for the lucrative T20 league as part of ECB's workload management following the five-Test series that ended in Dharamsala on Sunday.

"Bairstow is expected to arrive in India on March 18 or 19 and will be available for the team's first game against Delhi Capitals on March 23," said an IPL source.



Bairstow, who played his 100th Test in Dharamsala, had a forgettable time with the bat in India and would be looking to be back among the runs in the IPL.

Sanjay Bangar, who was appointed as cricket director at Punjab Kings ahead of the 2024 edition, will double up as the batting coach of the side. Bangar was previously with RCB and has also been India's batting coach. Considering that, the franchise has parted ways with Wasim Jaffer, who was the team's batting consultant last season.

## Kuldeep had inkling he will be my 700th Test scalp: Anderson

London, Mar 13 (PTI):

Veteran England pacer James Anderson has revealed that Kuldeep Yadav had a hunch about being his 700th Test wicket when the two came face to face during the fifth and final Test against India in Dharamsala.

Anderson became the first pacer and third bowler to take 700 Test wickets on March 9 with Yadav being his landmark scalp. It was Anderson's 187th Test appearance.

"Kuldeep edged one down to third man for a single. As he got to the non-striker's end, and as I was walking back to my mark, he said: 'I'm going to be you 700th wicket,'" Anderson said BBC's Tailenders podcast.

"He wasn't saying he was trying to get out, he was just saying he had a feeling. We both laughed at



it." Anderson, however, said the moment would have been more joyous had England finished on the winning side in the series which they lost 1-4.

"I didn't celebrate, there was nothing to celebrate. Obviously that was a nice moment to achieve the feat on a picturesque ground. I would have felt a bit more excited if we would have won," the 41-year-old pacer said.

"I don't play cricket for milestones, I play cricket to win matches for my team."



## 'We don't have money to spend....', says Kharge

Kalaburagi, Mar 13 (PTI):

Congress President M Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday indicated that the party is facing funds crunch alleging that bank accounts where money donated by people had been kept had been frozen by the BJP-led NDA government, while huge fines have been imposed on the party by Income-Tax department.



Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP, Kharge also called upon the people to stand strong together and ensure his party's victory in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, to "save" the Constitution and democracy in the country.

Noting that everyone should have equal opportunity in election, Kharge accused BJP of freezing

Congress' bank accounts and imposing huge fines on the party through Income tax, while "they are not ready to disclose thousands of crores of rupees they have got through electoral bonds, despite Supreme Court's directions."

"It was our party money that you the people gave as donations,

they have frozen it and we don't have money to spend....while, they (BJP) are not disclosing about electoral bonds they got because their theft will come out, their wrong deeds will come out, so they asked for time till July," he said.

Accusing Modi of naming a cricket stadium in Gujarat after himself,

Kharge, hitting out at the PM, said, "You are still alive, such namings are done after someone (pass away). When a person is alive, memorials are not erected in his name, it is to be done by followers of that person later."

He also claimed that people of Kalaburagi (Gulbarga), from where he unsuccessfully contested in 2019 elections, have decided to "rectify their mistake" and make Congress victorious in the coming polls.

Karge was defeated by BJP's Umesh Jadhav in Gulbarga by a margin of 95,452 votes in the previous elections. Popularly known as "Solilada Saradara", (a leader without defeat), that was the first electoral loss in his political life spanning several decades.

## NEW SHIP LAUNCH



Two anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft (ASW SWC) 'INS Agray' and 'INS Akshay' built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) during the launch, in Kolkata, Wednesday.

## Vedanta promotes equitable future across communities

New Delhi, Mar 13: Vedanta

Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, observed International Women's Day this year through a blend of online and on-the-ground initiatives that reaffirmed its commitment to building an inclusive future by expanding the opportunities for advancement available to women. With one of the highest female-to-male employee ratios in the industry, Vedanta Aluminium is now accelerating efforts to ensure women comprise a third of all its employees in the near future. In the leadup to International Women's Day, the company launched a groundbreaking campaign titled 'TheFutureOfMetal', featuring a series of generative AI videos and captivating short films. The campaign sought to transform entrenched misconceptions of the metals, mining and modern manufacturing industries as a male-dominated sector, by highlighting the determined women professionals already excelling within the industry as compelling role models. Through this, it seeks to inspire more women to tap into the rewarding careers emerging in these sec-

tors. As an equal opportunity employer, Vedanta Aluminium strives to drive meaningful change and propel women's empowerment, both in the workplace and beyond. Towards this end, the business units of Vedanta Aluminium organized a myriad of activities to celebrate the achievements of its women employees and community members, through both awareness sessions and engagement activities that promoted greater inclusivity in every aspect of life.

On the occasion, John Slaven, CEO, Vedanta Aluminium said, "The diversity of skills and perspectives arising from the increased participation of women builds organisations that perform better and stay resilient in the long-term. Vedanta Aluminium is therefore committed to developing an equitable environment that fosters diverse and inclusive teams. As India's largest aluminium producer, we are building a culture that rewards drive and diligence over all other considerations, in our continuous pursuit of greater innovation and business excellence."

## Pakistani Hindus living in India get ready to file online applications

For citizenship

Nagpur, Mar 13 (PTI):

Delighted by the Centre's move to notify the implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA), nearly 2,000 Pakistani Hindus living in Nagpur are preparing to seek Indian citizenship.

The migrants from the neighbouring country are figuring out the nitty-gritty of filing online applications that will enable them to live in India without the hassle of seeking visa extensions and other paperwork.

Besides, some of their relatives who entered the country in recent years are seeking relaxation in the cut-off date to accommodate them.

The Centre Monday implemented the CAA, noti-

fying the rules four years after the law was passed by Parliament to fast-track citizenship for undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who came to India before December 31, 2014.

Vinod Raheja from Ghotki town in Sindh province of Pakistan said he and seven of his family members crossed over to India through the Wagah-Attari border on a visit visa hours on December 31, 2014.

Raheja said they hadn't even dreamt about the "life-changing" event that would unfold 10 years later, referring to CAA. He is among those who have already submitted their online applications for Indian citizenship.

A resident of Nagpur's Jaripatka locality, which has a sizable population

of Sindh, Raheja said he was a cloth merchant in Pakistan when he came to India with his wife, two children, parents and two other relatives.

"We have been staying here on long-term visas. We are thrilled with the implementation of CAA as we will now become the citizens of India," said Raheja, thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for making CAA a reality.

Raheja, who works with a private company, has requested PM Modi to relax the cut-off date for people like his mother-in-law and her family who came to India six months after his entry.

"It will be a huge relief as they have to go through procedures like long-term visa and other paperwork," he said.

Sagar Wadhwa came

with his family to India from Quetta in Pakistan's Balochistan province in 2012, when he was in Class 9th.

The 27-year-old businessman from Nagpur said he is excited that India will now be his permanent home. His online application too has been submitted, said Wadhwa.

Rajesh Jhambia, a local social worker who works for the rights of such migrants, told PTI that they have already received 100 applications for online submissions. "The applications will be filed by Sunday. Around 2,000 citizenship applications will be filed from Nagpur," he said.

Like Raheja, Jambia also requested PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to consider the cases of such migrants who came to India after 2014.

## HC RULING

## 'Grandparents should share custody of children caught in matrimonial disputes'

Nainital, Mar 13 (PTI): The Uttarakhand High Court has said grandparents should also share the custody of children caught in matrimonial disputes and directed family courts to follow law commission recommendations in such cases.

In a recent order on a PIL filed by advocate Shruti Joshi, a division bench Justices Ritu Bahri and Rakesh Thapliyal said the child's custody in cases of matrimonial disputes should be shared by both the parents as well so that the child's emotional growth is not affected.

It has been observed that while dealing with the disputes of parents, a child's emotional needs and proper emotional growth are never examined and by the time the litigation reaches the high court, the children have already suffered much mental agony, the bench said.

Joshi's PIL was on address-

ing the mental anguish suffered by such children during the legal proceedings of matrimonial disputes.

The Law Commission has recommended the amendment of the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956, to make it more fair to children of parents involved in matrimonial disputes.

Since the procedure of amendment in the Act is a lengthy one, the high court gave a direction that all the recommendations made by the commission should be mandatorily followed by family courts.

The high court also asked the family courts to follow a letter dated 11.01.2024 issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice for the appointment of counsellors, who should be child psychologists, in such cases so that their report is scientific and can be taken as an evidence for granting custody of the child.

## Battle for Baramati: Pawar reaches out to old rival

Mumbai, Mar 13 (PTI):

NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar is leaving no stone unturned to ensure that his daughter Supriya Sule retains the Baramati Lok Sabha constituency, and has even reached out to his arch-rival Anantrao Thopte.

Sule, a three-time MP, is likely to face challenge from Sunetra Pawar, wife of Sule's cousin and president of the rival Nationalist Congress Party Ajit Pawar, in the coming election. Ajit, now deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, wields as much clout in Baramati as his uncle, if

not more.

There was a time when Sharad Pawar would hold just one or two campaign rallies in Baramati, so sure he would be of his victory. But now, at 83, he is traveling the length and breadth of the constituency located in Pune district even before the elections are announced.

On Saturday, Pawar met Anantrao Thopte, who was recuperating from a knee surgery, at his house in Bhor.

Thopte, a nonagenarian, had won from the Bhor assembly seat a part of Baramati Lok Sabha constituency six times before losing in 1999.

His son Sangram Thopte is the current Congress MLA from Bhor. Anantrao, who was a cabinet minister in several governments in the state before 1995, was known as Sharad Pawar's arch foe within the Pune district Congress.

Ulhas Pawar, a senior Congressman from Pune, told PTI that the Pawar-Thopte rivalry often played out in elections to the district cooperative bank, sugar cooperatives and milk federations.

Sangram Thopte, a three-time MLA, is said to be at loggerheads with Ajit Pawar in the district politics, he noted.

Political alignments have changed drastically with Ajit parting ways with his uncle Sharad Pawar and joining the Shiv Sena-BJP government in the state last year.

Ulhas Pawar said the Pawar senior's meeting with Anantrao was "political compulsion."

"One needs to make compromises. In coalition politics, compromises are inevitable. This meeting was for Sharad Pawar's daughter's sake. But if the truce lasts, it will help the prospects of the Congress and NCP (SP) in Pune district, and also those of the Maha Vikas Aghadi coalition," he added.

## 53rd Safety Week concludes at PPA

Paradip, Mar 13:

Focus on Safety Leadership for Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Excellence" as the theme, 53rd National Safety Week being observed by Paradip Port Authority today came to an end. P.L. Haranadh, Chairman, PPA lowered the National Safety week Flag, this afternoon at an event held at Gate No. 4, in presence of Dy.Chairman, Nilabhra Dasgupta, Shri Soma Sekhar Bajaramath, Addl. Asst. Director, Inspectorate Dock Safety along with other HODs and PPA officials and vari-



ous stakeholders. Chief Guest on the occasion, P.L. Haranadh, Chairman, PPA said that bad practices invite accidents and for this working culture must be improved. We must be aware about safety practices and for this he stressed on imparting

proper practical trainings. 23km wide arterial concrete roads has been developed inside harbour area. First time among Major Ports, one mechanised road sweeping machine has been engaged inside harbour on a trial basis. Inside colony area, light-

ing improvement is being undertaken, so that it will be well lit within next two months. He hoped that, like previous year, this year will also be "least accident" year as far as Port working area is concerned.

## SPIRITUAL PERFORMANCE



Artists from 'Birju Maharaj Parampara', Delhi, perform 'Katha Raghunath Ki' during the Nrita Sanrachna, a festival of choreographic works based on Ramayana organized by Sangeet Natak Akademi, in Guwahati, Wednesday.

## HC reserves verdict on plea against winding up MAEF

New Delhi, Mar 13 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday reserved its verdict on a petition challenging the Centre's decision to dissolve the Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) which was set up in 1989 for promoting education among educationally backward minorities.

The Centre has defended its decision, saying MAEF has become "obsolete" when there is a dedicated ministry holistically executing schemes for the benefit of the minorities.

A bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Mini Pushkarna closed the hearing on the PIL by Syeda Saiyidain

Hameed, John Dayal and Daya Singh after the lawyers representing the parties concluded their submissions.

Senior advocate Anand Grover, appearing for the petitioners, contended that the decision to dissolve MAEF was not as per the mandate of law and the funds allocated for the benefit of minorities cannot be diverted.

Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma defended the closure of the foundation, which was fully funded by the government, contending that it has become "obsolete" at a time when there was a dedicated Ministry of Minority Affairs holistically executing schemes

for the benefit of the minorities. He said the authorities concerned have taken a policy decision to dissolve the foundation as per law. "Arguments heard. Judgement reserved," the bench said.

Petitioners had approached the high court earlier this month against the February 7 order of the ministry which instructed the MAEF to carry out the closure process at the earliest and submit copy of the closure certificate issued by the Registrar of Societies of the Delhi government on completion of all procedures, as per extant laws.

The ministry's order

was issued in reference to a proposal received from the Central Waqf Council (CWC) on January 21 to close the MAEF.

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