



**Pulwama widows seek written assurance from Raj Govt; CM Gehlot**  
PG 05 >>



# Afternoon

VOICETM

Views & Vision of City

Volume: 15, Issue: 160

FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2023 MUMBAI

08 PAGES, ₹ 2/-

RNI No. MAHENG/2009/29332

www.afternoonvoice.com

# MAHARASHTRA BUDGET 2023

## Opposition walked out of Maharashtra Assembly to seek discussion on relief for farmers



### SOME MAJOR DECISIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE TODAY ARE.....

- Fifth Jyotirlinga as Bhimashankar to be developed in Ambegaon in Pune. Rs 50 crore proposed.
- Rs 50 crore proposed for development of the first women's school set up by social reformer Savitribai Phule in Pune.
- Marathi Vidhyapeeth will be set up in Amravati.
- Maharashtra Budget: Provisions announced for solar power projects, electric buses
- 20,000 gram panchayats will have solar power projects
- State Transport will have 500 electric buses
- Gorewada International Park at Nagpur will have African Safari.
- Rs 13,437 cr proposed for the environment department.
- CCTV phase two projects proposed.

There was chaos in Maharashtra Assembly with the opposition demanding that the state government give immediate relief to farmers whose crops were destroyed in unseasonal rains accompanied by hailstorms earlier this week. The opposition members were on their feet when Speaker Rahul Narvekar rejected an adjournment notice submitted by the Congress' Nana Patole (congress)

on the issue. Narvekar said the issue will be taken up for debate on Friday and urged MLAs to allow Question Hour to continue.

But Patole was adamant and was supported by Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar, NCP MLA Chhagan Bhujbal and Congress' Balasaheb Thorat. Bhujbal said nothing can be more important than providing relief to farmers and sought immediate discussion on it. Some opposition MLAs gathered

into the Well of the House and shouted slogans against the government. LoP Pawar criticised the government for not comforting the distressed farmers Chief minister Eknath Shinde said his government will never leave farmers in the lurch.

Leader of Opposition in Maharashtra Assembly Ajit Pawar said the budget 2023-24 lacks vision and direction. The budget was slogan-oriented, aimed at pleasing

each and every community. But it is hollow. It does not mention industrial investments. What about the exodus of industrial projects from Maharashtra to other states. The budget has completely overlooked the financial status of Maharashtra,". Pawar also said that the Budget does not address the state's growing debt burden which has crossed Rs 6.5 lakh crore.

**I CONTINUED ON PAGE 04**

## Maharashtra Budget 2023 is all about big announcements

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Devendra Fadnavis who is also a finance minister of Maharashtra made some big announcements in the Maharashtra Budget 2023. His entry was grand and lavish, he arrived with red leather folder in hand, Deepak Kesarkar was also all set to make announcements. The Maharashtra government has announced ₹6000 annual cash benefit to 1.15 crore farmers on the lines of PM Kisan Yojana. The state will bear the burden of ₹6900 crore a year for the scheme. Farmers in 14 suicide-hit districts to get cash benefit of ₹1800 per year instead of grains distributed through PDS.

The e-pachnama will be conducted with the help of drone and satellite to assess the damage owing to natural calamities such as

unseasonal rains and others. The state government has announced insurance cover of ₹5 lakh to fisherfolks. Fadnavis announced a fourth comprehensive women's policy. Under this scheme a girl child from below poverty level families to be given ₹75,000 till she attains the age of 18. 50 percent discount for women in State Transport travel across the state, Fadnavis announced.

The Maharashtra deputy CM announces Led-Ladki scheme under which grants will be given to yellow and orange ration card holders for education. 50 new hostels will be started for working women across the state.

**I CONTINUED ON PAGE 02**

## Editoritis

# Maharashtra Budget 2023 is all about big announcements

▶▶▶ PAGE 1

The state government will develop a logistics hub at Nagpur on a plot admeasuring 1,000 acre.

Of the 337-km Metro network planned in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, 46km metro lines have already been operational. 50km lines to be operational this year.

Fadnavis tabled the Economic Survey of Maharashtra 2022-23 in the state Legislative Assembly. According to the survey, the state's economy in 2022-23 is expected to grow at 6.8 per cent as against 7 per cent of the Indian economy.

BEST gets another electric double-decker bus; to ply on the CSMT-World Trade Centre route. After a long wait, the Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking (BEST) on Wednesday received one more electric double-decker bus.

The deputy CM announced hike in anganwadi workers remuneration to ₹10k from ₹8,300. Anganwadi helpers will get ₹5500 from existing ₹4425 a month. Mediclaim cover given to BPL families under Mahatma Phule Jivandayee Yojana has been increased to ₹5 lakh from ₹1.5 lakh. Also, a patient will be able to get free treatment up to ₹5 lakh for free under its Mahatma Phule Janarogya Yojana. Earlier, the cap for treatment was of ₹1.5 lakh.

Modi Awas Yojana will be rolled out under which 10 lakh affordable houses to be built in next three years by spending Rs12,000 crore. Three lakh of them will be built in 2023-24. A welfare board for autorickshaw and taxi drivers will be started in Maharashtra. The state government will develop a logistics hub at Nagpur on a plot admeasuring 1,000 acre. Of the 337-km Metro network planned in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, 46km metro lines have already been operational. 50km lines to be operational this year.

The overall budget was focused on farmers, women, youth, employment and environment. Among the provisions are 10 lakh affordable houses to be built in next three years and 50 kilometres of Metro lines to be made operational in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region this year. Fadnavis tabled the Economic Survey of Maharashtra 2022-23 in the state Legislative Assembly. According to the survey, the state's economy in 2022-23 is expected to grow at 6.8 per cent as against 7 per cent of the Indian economy. By comparison, the state economy expanded by 9.1 per cent in 2021-22.

Rs 36,000 crore allocation for infra projects, premium for farmers was announced. Rs 36,000 crore allocation for various mega infra projects. Based on Niti Aayog, Maharashtra to set up MITRA Sansthan. State government to provide premium for farmers under PM Krishi Bima Yojna. Apart from Rs 6,000 to individual farmers from the central scheme, the state promises additional Rs 6,000. It means every eligible farmer will be entitled for Rs 12,000.

Maharashtra economy in 2022-23 is expected to grow at 6.8 percent as against 7 per cent of the Indian economy, according to the Economic Survey of Maharashtra 2022-23, which was presented in the state Legislative Assembly by Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Devendra Fadnavis. According

to the survey, the agriculture and allied sector will be the prime driver of the growth in the state economy in 2022-23, with an estimated increase of 10.2 per cent. Rs 500 tenders granted ahead of 2019 polls by publicity dept without CM approval: LoP Ajit Pawar

BEST gets another electric double-decker bus; to ply on the CSMT-World Trade Centre route. After a long wait, the Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking (BEST) on Wednesday received one more electric double-decker bus. The new bus has a seating capacity of 90 passengers and can cover 100 km with just a 45-minute charge. It has a 231-kilowatt-hour battery life of up to 250 km

Maharashtra Budget Highlights, Rs 3,520 crore proposed for the public health department; 10 lakh houses under PM Awas Yojna. A Kolhapuri chappal cluster centre will be started in Kolhapur and a bamboo cluster will be set up in Gadchiroli and -Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jan Arogya Yojana health scheme ceiling has been raised from Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. Rs 3,520 crore allocated to the public health department. -Various corporations based on communities like Lingayat, Ramoshi, etc, for which Rs 50 crore each have been allotted.

For working women's betterment in Maharashtra, 50 new hostels will be started. Fadnavis also announced a hike in the remuneration of Anganwadi workers from Rs 8,300 to 10,000. He added that Anganwadi helpers will get a hike to Rs 5,500 from the existing Rs 4,425 a month. Under Mahatma Phule Jivandayee Yojna, the state has increased the Mediclaim cover given to BPL families from Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. Moreover, the free treatment of Mahatma Phule Janarogya Yojana has also increased from Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. Rs 1729 crore proposed for Mumbai beautification; Rs 39,000 crore for proposed Metro projects. -Rs 39,000 crore has been proposed for Metro projects in Thane, Nashik, Pimpri-Chinchwad.-Rs 1729 crore has been proposed for beautification of Mumbai.

Vaidehi

Volume No. 15 | Issue No. 160

Afternoon  
VOICE

RNI No. MAHENG/2009/29332

VISIONS & VISION OF CITY

Flat No. 2, J- Wing Ground floor, Sumer Nagar Building 3, S.V. Road,  
Near Gandhi Motors, Borivali - West, Mumbai - 400 092.

Editor

**Dr. Vaidehi**

Vaidehi has received several Awards like I Congo-karmavir chakra, Bedal Powell scout and guide awards 2021- best journalist, Newspaper Association of India award- best journalist. She received lot of awards for her contribution towards journalism.

[www.afternoonvoice.com](http://www.afternoonvoice.com)  
[www.beyondthenews.biz](http://www.beyondthenews.biz)  
[www.mumbaimanoos.com](http://www.mumbaimanoos.com)

[www.newsmakers.co.in](http://www.newsmakers.co.in)  
[www.nbcaward.com](http://www.nbcaward.com)  
[www.hackers5.com](http://www.hackers5.com)

Email- afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com • SMS -9820199881

For any queries regarding the editorial desk, contact - 7506760610

Disclaimer : The views expressed in the edit are solely of the editor. The publication do not necessarily share the opinions expressed. Any litigation against the content or publication will be entertained under the Jurisdiction of Mumbai only.



# Voices



## Letters to the Editor

### Heartbreak for Satish Kaushik fans!

It was heartbreaking news for Satish Kaushik fans as he bid good bye to the world when he was at the peak of his career. He was a multifaceted personality & a celebrated actor, director, writer, producer who excelled on the silver screen in whatever role he undertook. Comedy was his forte & he lit up the screen whenever he faced the camera apart from being a serious film maker.

Satish Kaushik will be remembered for films like Jane Bhi Do Yaro, Mr India, Roop ki Rani.....etc & the void created by his death will be difficult to fill. The world of films is orphaned by his passing away & May the Almighty keep his soul in peace!

R.I.P Satish Kaushik.

S.N.Kabra.

### Malaria

Malaria has always been a major public health problem in India. Large pools of stagnant water left behind by heavy torrential rainfall and flash floods and ignored by the authorities have become the perfect breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

Jubel D'Cruz

### World Agnihotra Day

12 March is World Agnihotra Day. Agnihotra is a simple fire ritual mentioned in ancient Vedic scriptures which is performed to reduce pollution and spiritually purify the atmosphere. Performing Agnihotra regularly at sunrise and sunset kills all the pathogens. It also purifies the surrounding environment up to the distance of 1km. The fumes released after performing Agnihotra are potent enough to kill all the pathogens and negative particles existing within the 10 feet distance from the person performing it. In Hindu Dharma, Agnihotra is recommended for purifying the environment. Agnihotra has the power to protect from nuclear radiation too; Agnihotra cleanses germs and viruses from the environment, Agnihotra keeps you and your family members healthy and reduces the probability of you falling sick. Additionally, the Chaitanya emanating from the Agnihotra helps at the spiritual level. During Covid19, it was noticed that those who performed Agnihotra did not contract the virus. In today's times, biological weapons have become part of arsenal. If these get deployed during World War 3, Agnihotra can protect you from widespread diseases caused by such weapons. Agnihotra will protect you from the lethal radiation emanating from the detonation of nuclear bombs.

Dr.Jyoti kale

# Parting with nature -So near but so far

They are regular flowers. But humans have no time to observe its beauty. Now in lock down when we have time we are looking at our friend nature and we can enjoy its beauty in the natural surroundings. It may be a positive side of today's terrible scenario that again we are going towards nature. Our ancestors were very close to it so they lived healthy lives but generations over generation we are going away from nature so all these consequences of nature we are facing. Bring color and texture to your garden with plants that bloom year after year. Some flowers bloom during the month of April. With vivid blooms in colors like pink, red, burgundy and purple, anemones usher in spring loud and proud if you are keenly interested in photography.

Bougainvillea which is available almost everywhere. With all the different beautiful shades it is a treat to watch through. Their petals are like leaves. They come out in bunches. Aboli also clicked which orange in color and grew, multiplied and spread with its beauty. In April you will find thousands of daffodils, tulips, cherry blossoms, magnolias, peonies, azaleas and spring ephemerals like Virginia bluebells. Our Bright Spots list of what is currently blooming will help you to get a picturesque atmosphere and colourful snaps all round your building compound.

Freesia blooms are vibrant in color and citrusy in scent and a surefire way to brighten your home or garden this spring. Tulips' elegant bulbous shape and vibrant color options make tulips a popular choice for spring wedding bouquets and table centerpieces and for welcoming your guests for Sunday lunch. You can directly sow many annual flowers this month. Try your hand at growing. Lock down provides you time and ideas to develop your garden on the balcony. Sunflowers, Nasturtiums, Snapdragon, Alyssum, Cosmos, Calendula, Cleome, Marigolds and Bachelor's Buttons. They are easy if you haven't

grown flowers from seed before.

Peonies and tulips are hands down my favorite spring flowers. My grandmother used to have the prettiest peony bush in her front yard. They remind me of her. And tulips are just so simple, delicate and purely a pleasure to watch at this time of the year.

#### Phlox

Garden Phlox has fragrant, showy blooms in pink, purple, white or red. It's great for cutting or tall borders. Plant in the sun to part shade. Phlox attracts butterflies.

#### Hardy Hibiscus

Hardy hibiscus loves full sun and attracts both hummingbirds and butterflies. It starts blooming late in the summer producing huge flowers in shades of red, pink or white. The plant dies back in the winter and is very late to break dormancy. It's usually mistaken for dead, but give it time and you'll be rewarded with spectacular color!

#### Shasta Daisy

Shasta Daisies will always brighten up your day! This classic perennial has large white blooms that last until early fall. Shasta daisy thrives in well-drained, not overly rich soil. Choose from different varieties for different heights – short ones are perfect for borders and tall ones create a dramatic backdrop. A perfect low maintenance plant and makes great cut flowers.

#### Coneflower

Coneflower is a mid-summer bloomer that's a great cut flower. There are many different varieties of plants, you're sure to find one that's right for your garden. Coneflower is deer resistant and attracts butterflies. Plant in full sun.

#### Black-eyed Susan

Rudbeckia or Black-eyed Susan is a must for the summer garden. It blooms from July to September, is deer and rabbit resistant and attracts butterflies. Plant in full sun, and be sure to remove spent blooms for more flowering.

#### Perennial Geranium

Perennial Geranium is a great border plant. Tiny brilliantly colored flowers bloom for months

starting in late spring. Plant in part shade to shade. It's resistant to rabbits and attracts butterflies.

#### Lavender

Lavender is a favorite flower for its wonderful fragrance. It's a great border plant and likes well-drained soil. Plant in full sun. It's deer and rabbit resistant and attracts butterflies. Great plant to dry and use in sachets or pot-pourri.

#### Coreopsis

Coreopsis has sunny daisy-like flowers that bloom in a variety of colors, such as yellow, pink, red or bi-color. The flowers blossom early summer to midsummer. Deadheading spent blooms will increase bloom time. They attract birds and butterflies. Grows about 1 to 3 feet tall.

#### Bee Balm

Bee Balm has showy flowers that bloom July through August. Its fragrance attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. Plant in sun to part shade. Grows about 1 to 4 feet tall.

#### Allium

Alliums bloom in a wide range of colors, including shades of yellow, white, pink, and purple. Offering a whimsical structure in the garden, Alliums have tall thick stems that hold up a globe-like cluster of florets. Plant in full sun. Grows about 1 to 3 feet tall. They're deer resistant, attract birds and make great cut flowers.

Early-blooming plants that put on colorful displays send a welcome signal that spring is starting. Many types of plants bloom by the end of April, including bulbs, annuals, perennials and shrubs. A few wildflowers also start to flower by April's end, bringing bright spots of color to wooded or naturalized areas. Enjoy the real beauty of flowers and make hay when the sun shines.

- C.K. Subramaniam

Columnist

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at [afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com](mailto:afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com)  
No postal letters will be entertained  
(The views expressed are authors' own.)

# Devendra Fadnavis presented state budget

A fortnight after interactions with bureaucrats and taking note of views of people from various walks of life, deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis will present the state budget on Thursday. The biggest challenge before Fadnavis, who will present his first budget as finance minister, will be to tackle the state's biggest ever debt burden and resolve the row over the old pension scheme. Fourteen lakh employees of state and aided institutions will be on indefinite strike from March 14 if the Shinde-Fadnavis government fails to implement the old pension scheme. Nearly a decade ago, while addressing employees of the power sector in Nashik, Fadnavis had expressed concern over the state's financial situation. Fadnavis, who had then just taken over the reins of the state, had observed that the day was not far off when his government would have to secure loan from financial institutions for payment of salaries and wages. "I have inherited a debt burden of Rs 3.35 lakh crore from the CongressNCP government. We will have to take stringent measures for improving the financial situation," he had stated.

## Salary & pension cost on the rise, subsidies by Maha govt decline

Subsidies provided by the Maharashtra government are shrinking

whereas revenue expenditure on salaries, pensions and interest for servicing debt are rising. Around 30.9% of revenue expenditure in the current fiscal (2022-23) has gone for salaries and wages alone followed by another 13.2% on pensions. Out of the total Rs 4,27,780 crore revenue expenditure this fiscal, Rs 1,31,986 crore was spent on salaries and wages followed by Rs 56,300 crore on pension and Rs 46,763 crore (10.9%) on interest. Expenditure on subsidies was Rs 28,111 crore (6.6%), much lower than in the previous fiscal.

## Industry in Maharashtra set to expand by 6.9%, services to decline

The manufacturing sector in Maharashtra is set to grow at 6.9% for 2022-23 against 4.2% in 2021-22, according to the state's economic survey for 2022-23. Construction and mining/quarrying, which along with manufacturing form some of the broad categories in the industrial sector, are expected to grow by 4.4% against 0.9-1.3% in the previous year. Overall, Maharashtra's industrial sector is expected to grow by 6.1% from 3.8% in 2021-22. Up to November 2022, the number of industrial projects approved were 211 with an overall investment of Rs 35,870 crore. In sharp contrast, Gujarat with 168 projects has attracted



investments worth Rs 98,159 crore. Up to September 2022, the state saw an inflow of Rs 62,425 crore in foreign direct investments (FDI) remaining in the forefront while Gujarat received FDI of Rs 26,866 crore. In 2021-22 the state received Rs 1.15 lakh crore in FDI while Gujarat received only Rs 20,169 crore.

## Rise in industrial growth silver lining for govt

For the Eknath Shinde government, which is under attack from the Opposition for the flight of big-ticket projects to Gujarat, the estimated rise in industrial growth is the silver lining in the Maharashtra's economic survey which was tabled in legislature on Wednesday. Within industry, the growth rate in the manufacturing segment is estimated to rise from 4.2% to 6.9%, that of the construction segment is set to increase from 1.3% to 4.4%. Growth rate of the mining segment is also set to increase from 0.9% to 4.4%. However, growth in the segment of utilities including

electricity and water supply is set for a decline from 12.5% to 7%.

## Special cell for lactating mothers in all new buildings, announces Maharashtra govt

On the occasion of Women's Day the state government made a slew of announcements for the welfare and safety of women. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde informed the assembly that deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis would announce the 'women's policy' for the state during his budget speech at 12 noon on Thursday. Fadnavis too will have to restrict himself on imposing new taxes. Recently, Fadnavis had meetings with officials as well as elected representatives, but he too will have to restrict himself on imposing new taxes and may have to draft a populist plan in view of ensuing civic polls and assembly elections next year.

## 'Most revenue-earning depts will miss targets in view of unrealistic targets given by state'

The bureaucrat said most revenue-

earning departments will miss targets in view of unrealistic targets given by state. "The excise department was given a target of Rs 22,000 crore. We do not think it will achieve it. In most departments, the situation is similar. We are dependent on revenue from excise, stamp and value added tax, we have not been able to tackle other resources," a senior bureaucrat said.

## 'State's debt burden stood at Rs 6.8 lakh crore'

As per the latest RBI report on composition of outstanding liabilities as on March 31, 2023, the state's debt burden stood at Rs 6.8 lakh crore, while the economic survey said the burden stood at 6.49 lakh crore. Maharashtra is at No. 3; Tamil Nadu with Rs 7.53 lakh crore leads the list, followed by UP with debt burden of Rs 7.1 lakh crore.

## Focus on debt as Fadnavis is set to present budget today

A fortnight after interactions with bureaucrats and taking note of views of people from various walks of life, deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis will present the state budget on Thursday. The biggest challenge before Fadnavis, who will present his first budget as finance minister, will be to tackle the state's biggest ever debt burden and resolve the row over the old pension scheme.

# MAHARASHTRA BUDGET 2023

## ▶▶▶ PAGE 1

### Allocations for waterways, farming announced

- Rs 162 crore investments in waterways.
- Rs 29,163 crore proposed for farming.
- Jems and Jewellery Centre at Navi Mumbai.
- Rs 43,000 crore for women and child development proposed.
- Scholarship for students of Classes 5th to 8th raised to Rs 5,000. For students of Classes 8th to 10th will be Rs 7,500.

### Rs 39,000 crore for proposed Metro projects; Rs 1,700 crore for Mumbai beautification

- Rs 39,000 crore proposed for Metro projects in Thane, Nashik, Pimpri-Chinchwad.
- Rs 1,729 crore proposed for beautification of Mumbai.
- Rs 351 crore for Late Bal Thackeray memorial at Shivaji Park, Dadar proposed.
- Water transport from Mumbai to Navi Mumbai, Thane, Vasai-Virar proposed.
- Rs 741 crore proposed for Dr B R Ambedkar memorial at Indu Mills, Dadar.

- Rs 14,000 crore for roads, Rs 19,400 crore allocation for PWD
- Unorganised sector workers' corporations will be set up.
- Taxi, auto rickshaw corporation chalak-malak will be set up. These corporations will address concerns of auto rickshaw and taxi drivers.
- Rs 14,224 crore for roads and flyover constructions proposed.
- PWD allocation of Rs 19,400 crore proposed.
- Remaining 2% work of Nagpur-Mumbai Samruddhi Yojna to be completed this year

Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, who also holds the finance portfolio, said that 98 percent of the Nagpur-Mumbai Samruddhi Yojna work has been completed and opened for the public. The remaining two percent connectivity from Sindhkhedra to Shegaon in Buldhana will be completed this year. Meanwhile, the Nagpur-Goa Shakti Marg proposal is ready, he announced. Rs 3,520 crore for the public health department, 10 lakh houses under PM Awas Yojna. A bamboo cluster will be set up in Gadchiroli and a Kolhapuri chapal cluster centre will be started in Kolha-

pur. Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jan Arogya Yojna health scheme ceiling rose from Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. Rs 3,520 crore allocation for the public health department. Various corporations based on communities like Lingayat, Ramoshi, etc, for which Rs 50 crore each have been allotted. Scholarships for minority's students will be raised by Rs 25,000. Under PM Awas Yojna, ten lakh houses will be built in the next three years.

- Rs 20,000 crore to make Marathwada drought-free
- Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan phase 2.0 will be implemented.
- Rs 20,000 crore proposed to make Marathwada drought free.
- Rs 3325 cr for water and sanitation schemes proposed in the budget.

Maharashtra Budget 2023-24: Rainfall expected to be below normal due to El Nino, says Fadnavis. Addressing the issue of irrigation and water shortage, Devendra Fadnavis said that lesser rainfall is expected this year due to El Nino. In this regard, he announced the following provisions of the Budget. River linking projects to mitigate drought and water crisis in Marathwada, North Maharashtra, Vidarbha. Rs 1,500

crore provided for Gosikhurd National Irrigation project. The project Maharashtra Budget 2023-24: Drip irrigation, farm ponds for farmers announced Among the provisions of the Budget:

### In the first CM Eknath-Shinde-led government's Budget, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced the following:

- Rs 36,000 crore allocation for infra projects, premium for farmers announced
- Rs 36,000 crore allocation for various mega infra projects. State government to provide premium for farmers under PM Krishi Bima Yojna. Apart from Rs 6,000 to individual farmers from the central scheme, the state promises additional Rs 6,000. It means every eligible farmer will be entitled for Rs 12,000.
- Paddy growing farmers will get Rs 15,000 incentive per hectare.
- To promote organic farming, 25 lakh hectares will be brought under organic farming.
- At Buldhana, an advanced orange processing centre will be set up.
- Provision of Rs 1,234 cr for cashew processing units.



## Nation

# Pulwama widows seek written assurance from Raj Govt; CM Gehlot reacts

The widows of the three CRPF jawans from Rajasthan, who were killed in the 2019 Pulwama terror attack, on Thursday demanded a written assurance from the Ashok Gehlot government that their demands, including jobs to their relatives on compassionate grounds, will be met to end their protest. The widows have been protesting since February 28 and launched an indefinite hunger strike five days ago.

They have been camping outside former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot's residence since Monday. A medical team on Thursday checked their vitals. The widows demand a change in rules so that their relatives and not just children can get government jobs on compassionate grounds. Reacting to the demand,



Gehlot asked on Twitter if it would be "appropriate" to give jobs to other relatives of the martyred jawans instead of their children. "How can we justify giving the job to any other relative by trampling upon the rights of the children of the martyr? What will happen to the children of the

martyr when they grow up? Is it appropriate to trample upon their rights?" he asked.

He also shared a screenshot of a statement in which he said one of the widows is demanding a job for her husband's brother (devar). He said if the job is given to the brother of the killed

CRPF jawan then the family members and relatives of all the widows "may exert inappropriate" pressure to give the job to other relatives while depriving the children of the martyr of their right to a job. Gehlot also accused state BJP leaders of "using the widows of the martyrs for their narrow political interests and thus dishonouring them". "BJP leaders had misbriefed Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. I have shared the facts with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge," he said in another tweet. The widows also demand the construction of roads and installation of statues of the martyrs in their villages.

On Thursday, they sought a written assurance from the state government that their demands will be met. "We want a written

assurance from the government. The chief minister should meet us so that we can raise our issues before him. Also, action should be taken against policemen who manhandled us," one of the widows told reporters.

The National Commission for Women took cognizance of the issue and asked the state DGP to conduct an inquiry into the allegations of "mistreatment and assault" by the widows against police officials. "NCWIndia has taken cognizance. Chairperson @sharmarekha has written to DGP Rajasthan to personally look into the matter and conduct an inquiry into allegations of mistreatment and assault levelled by the women against police officials. Detailed ATR must be apprised to NCW," the commission tweeted. PTI

## Delhi excise policy case: ED questions Sisodia again in Tihar jail



The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday began the second round of questioning of former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia at the Tihar Jail here in connection with its money laundering probe into alleged irregularities in the Delhi excise policy, officials said.

The federal probe agency had recorded the statement of the 51-year-old Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader for the first time on March 7 for about five hours. Sisodia is currently lodged in judicial custody after the CBI arrested him on February 26 in connection with alleged corruption in the formulation and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi liquor or excise policy for 2021-22.

The ED obtained a local court's permission to question the politician, who till recently

was the deputy CM of Delhi, in the cell number 1 of the jail. The agency is expected to question him about the alleged change and destruction of cellphones that were in his possession and the policy decisions and the timeline followed by him as the excise minister of Delhi. These charges were made by it in its charge sheets filed before the court.

It is alleged that the Delhi government's excise policy for 2021-22 to grant licences to liquor traders allowed cartelisation and favoured certain dealers, who had allegedly paid bribes for it, a charge strongly refuted by the AAP. The policy was later scrapped and the Delhi LG recommended a CBI probe following which the ED booked a case against the same accused under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). PTI

## CBI Takes Over Investigation Into 'Financial Irregularities' In National Creche Scheme

The CBI has taken over the investigation into alleged financial irregularities in the running of the Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme in which the Indian Council for Child Welfare was one of the implementing agencies, officials said Thursday. The CBI took up the case against unidentified persons under IPC sections of criminal breach of trust and cheating on a reference from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, which had earlier filed an FIR with Delhi Police. The Delhi High Court had constituted a three-member committee under the chairmanship of the ministry's joint secretary to look into alleged irregularities in the scheme which the Centre

implemented till 2016.

According to the Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW), 5,029 creches were functional across the country in 2015-16. Based on the committee's findings, the high court had directed the Centre to take a view if a probe by an agency like the CBI is warranted or not. It was pointed out that there were several lacunae in the manner the funds received by the ICCW were distributed to the state councils.

It is alleged that funds were distributed without reference to the ground situation regarding the number of creches functioning and children enrolled therein for which extra funds were demanded. The extra funds were with the state

councils, and there was no visible effort to refund the additional funds taken. "The High Court Committee and minutes of EC (ICCW executive committee) show that the existence of creches at ground level was much below of even that reported by the state councils, leaving a huge margin between fund requirement and fund demanded. The use of this margin of funds is not apparent because records are not maintained as per accounting requirements, and also, a large part of the final disbursement is in cash in all places where records have been traced," the FIR points out. It said the executive committee (EC) of ICCW is the decision-making body and manages its activities. PTI

## BJP MLA Madal Virupakshappa Facing Bribery Charges Depos Before Lokayukta Cops

In the eye of the storm, BJP MLA Madal Virupakshappa, who is an accused in a bribe case deposed before the Lokayukta police in Bengaluru on Thursday. Flanked by a lawyer and policemen, the MLA from the Channagiri constituency in Davangere reached the Lokayukta office.

According to Lokayukta sources, Deputy Superinten-

dent of Police Antony John J K, who has been appointed as the investigation officer, is interrogating the MLA. Virupakshappa, who resigned as the Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL) chairman, is accused of collecting bribes through his son from contractors supplying raw materials for the KSDL.

The Lokayukta sleuths had

arrested Virupakshappa's son Prashanth Kumar M V from the KSDL office on March 2 while allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 40 lakh from a contractor. Prashanth Kumar is the chief accounts officer of the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board. Further searches led to the recovery of Rs 8.23 crore from the KSDL office and the MLA's house. PTI



World

# Ram Chandra Paudel elected new Nepal President



Ram Chandra Paudel has been elected as the new Nepal president. Paudel secured 33 thousand 8 hundred and 2 electoral votes while his rival Subash Chandra Nembwang secured 15 thousand 5 hundred and 18 electoral votes, according to Nepal's Election Commission. Further, according to Nepal's Election Commission, 313 members of the federal parliament took part in the voting while 518 members from the Province assemblies also participated in the electoral process to pick the next president. The voting took place

at Nepal's Parliament building in New Baneshwar, Kathmandu. The Election Commission in the Himalayan nation had set up two separate polling stations for federal parliamentarians and the Province Assembly members at the Hall. Lawmakers from all provinces have arrived in Kathmandu for the election. A total of 884 members make up the Electoral College, including 275 members of the House of Representatives, 59 of the National Assembly and 550 of the seven provincial assemblies. Paudel was supported by eight parties while

Subash Chandra Nembang, the sole candidate from CPN-UML, was tipped to be backed by independent lawmakers. The Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) had not supported or proposed any candidate for president. Both Paudel and Nembang had later met RPP chairman Rajendra Lingden and other office-bearers at RPP's office and sought their votes in the election. However, RPP had decided to abstain from voting on the eve of the presidential election. Most of the central working committee members had opined at a five-hour-long meeting on Wednesday that the party should not participate in the presidential election as it stays rooted in its core agenda, which favours the restoration of monarchy. RPP spokesperson Mohan Shrestha confirmed that the central working committee has decided to stay neutral in the presidential election. "It has been unanimously decided to not participate and stay neutral in the presidential election," Shrestha said.

# WHO fires director in Asia following charges of racial misconduct



The World Health Organisation has fired its top official in the Western Pacific after the Associated Press reported last year that dozens of staff members accused him of racist, abusive and unethical behaviour that may have compromised the UN health agency's response to the coronavirus pandemic. In an email sent to employees on Wednesday, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Dr. Takeshi Kasai's appointment had been terminated after an internal investigation resulted in findings of misconduct. Tedros did not refer to Kasai by name, referencing only his title as regional director in the Western Pacific. It is the first time in WHO's history that a regional director has been dismissed. "This has been an unprecedented and challenging journey for all of us," Tedros wrote. He said that the process of naming a new regional director for the Western Pacific would begin next month, with the election to be held in October. The Japanese government, which supported Kasai's nomination for the role, declined to com-

ment. A summary of the internal WHO investigation presented at a meeting of the agency's executive board this week in Geneva found Kasai regularly harassed workers in Asia, including engaging in aggressive communication, public humiliation, (and) making racial comments. Senior WHO directors told the organization's top governing body that Kasai had created a toxic atmosphere, that staff members were afraid of retaliation if they spoke out against him and that there was a lack of trust in WHO. The officials also found Kasai manipulated at least one performance evaluation of a subordinate, according to confidential materials obtained by the AP.

# On Khalistan activists, US says "we condemn terrorism in all its forms"



The United State condemned terrorism in all of its forms including those who resort to violence to achieve their ends, whether they are political or otherwise, State Department Spokesperson Ned Price on being asked about Khalistan. "So we condemn terrorism in all of its forms. We condemn terrorism; we condemn violent extremism. We condemn all of those who resort to violence to achieve their ends, whether they are political or otherwise. There is never a justification to resort to violence. Regardless of the motivation,

regardless of the perpetrator, we take the threat of terrorism around the world, whether that's to regional peace and security or to our own security, extraordinarily seriously," Price said in the press briefing on Wednesday (local time). He was asked to share his views on Khalistani activists that are active in North America and who were responsible for the bombing of Air India in 1985. There have been fears of an upturn in activities by the separatist outfit after suspected Khalistan supporters vandalised temples in Australia.

# World Police Summit: UAE tech company unveils undercover police vehicle

A United Arab Emirates (UAE)-based technology firm has launched an undercover police vehicle, which is customised to assist and enhance surveillance, road security, law enforcement, and crime prevention, according to Khaleej Times. The special vehicle was launched by the tech firm at the Dubai World Police Summit, Khaleej Times reported. Anas Al Zghoul, head of research and development at the tech company 'Tatweer', said, "This is an undercover car where we have mounted a technology device in the front that is an integrated solution customised to assist and enhance surveillance, road security, law enforcement, and crime prevention." "This device or module can be moulded to fit any size and shape on the bumper of the make and model of the car," added Zghoul. Zhogul also stated that the system of the ve-



hicle is integrated with top-notch automatic number plate recognition cameras, surveillance CCTV capabilities, speed detection, law enforcement innovative mobile app and web application - which, together, build the complete ecosystem, according to Khaleej Times. Hosted by Dubai Police, the summit is being held at the Dubai World Trade Centre from 7 to 9 March 2023. The World Police Summit provides an unparalleled platform to explore the current challenges facing police

forces and the latest technological advancements, strategies, and innovations across the law enforcement and security spectrum. Meanwhile, Heruon launched its new breakthrough technology, Artemis, on Wednesday, at the prestige Dubai World Police Summit Building on its award-winning facial and object recognition technology. Artemis can detect Wi-Fi and Bluetooth signals and can be adapted to detect Global System for Mobile communication (GSM) etc.

## Expression

# Due to the changing lifestyle, the temperature of the earth has increased unexpectedly in the last two decades



Vijay Gang

Retired Principal Educational  
Columnist Malout Punjab

The discrepancy is that people have considered artificial facilities as real happiness. Due to this increasing temperature, the death toll due to heat has increased in the continent of Asia in the last few years. One of the major reasons for this is that the new generation does not want to adopt the traditional methods of preserving life. The Meteorological Department fears that hot winds will start blowing in March itself and this year the heat will break all records. At the root of this suspicion the summer figures are those recorded in the month of February. It was a warm spring day in many cities. Many cities in western and central India experienced the hottest February in the last fifty years. In view of the apprehension of the Meteorological Department, the Government of India has also issued a warning to the states to deal with diseases arising due to heat. This preparation reminds of the warning issued by an international organization in the past that by the year 2030, the temperature in many countries of the world will rise so much that it will be unbearable for humans. It will be difficult. This warning is not unfounded. Last year, many countries of Europe had to face the havoc of rising heat. In Britain, the structure of the London Bridge had to be covered with a heat-resistant sheet so that it would not melt in the heat. Due to the heat in France, train services had to be stopped. In many European cities, in view of the heat, citizens were advised to leave the house only when necessary. Incidents of smoldering forests from America to Brazil have also troubled a large section of the population for a long time. Climate It is getting

hotter, because we are not sensitive to the environment. Researchers believe that in the period from 1850 to 1900, many such habits were included in our lifestyle, which gradually became a big challenge for the entire environment. The increase in temperature on the surface of the earth also started from that time. Especially the race for industrialization and the intention of maximum exploitation of natural resources have made the situation uncontrollable. Use of fossil fuels, cutting of forests and emission of toxic gases in the name of development It has made such a situation that for a long time the news of the continuous weakening of the ozone layer is coming to the fore and still we are not avoiding the use of the factors due to which the emitted gases are increasing the erosion of the ozone layer. Due to the cutting of forests, not only the greenhouse effect, but the temperature of the earth is also increasing. An international group formed to study climate change has reported that thirty percent of the emissions of carbon dioxide, one of the gases responsible for increasing the temperature of the world, Responsible forests have to be cut. Due to the cutting of a large number of forests, a major source of oxygen production has ended. On the other hand, from factories to the increasing number of vehicles on the road, the carbon emissions in the urban areas have reached such an extent that all the countries of the world are forced to consider reducing the amount of carbon emissions at their minimum acceptable rate. For the last few years, global conferences are being held continuously to formulate policies regarding the control of carbon emissions. All the big countries of the world And agree that the minimum rate of carbon emissions should be achieved by 2030, but how will this happen, the interests of different sectors are not

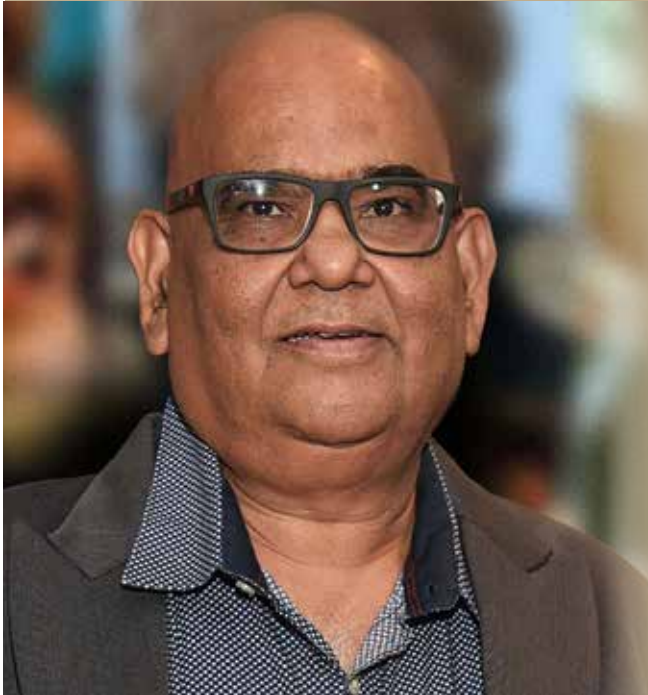
allowing the expected results on this issue. Developed countries are hesitating to provide promised funds to poor countries, while developing countries and underdeveloped countries are retreating from desired policies saying that the environmental balance has been disturbed by developed countries through their various schemes. Now if they don't get proper compensation, why should they pay for someone else's development? felling of trees Apart from this, unscientific town planning, increasing population, increasing number of asphalt roads, increasing use of plants like computers, air conditioners and fridges are also the factors of increasing mercury in our environment. It is being said that due to the increasing construction in the cities, the wind speed has decreased and it does not produce the expected cooling effect. According to the Indian Meteorological Department, how the growing forest of buildings in the cities is helping to increase the temperature, it can be understood with an example. There is now a very dense settlement between Mumbai and Pune. Initiative Sea breeze used to reach Pune from Mumbai without any hindrance and people did not feel the need of fan even in summer. But now it is not so, because high-rise buildings have started blocking the sea winds. In states like Rajasthan, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Delhi, people used to sleep comfortably on their roofs during summer vacations. But now it is becoming difficult to sleep on the roofs in summer. Due to the changing lifestyle, the temperature of the earth has increased unexpectedly in the last two decades. The discrepancy is that people have considered artificial facilities as real happiness. Due to this increasing temperature, the death toll due to heat has increased in the continent

of Asia in the last few years. One of the major reasons for this is that the new generation does not want to adopt the traditional methods of preserving life. For example, in India itself, when people used to go out in summer, they used to keep their heads covered, did not leave the house without drinking water and hungry and took measures to avoid heatstroke. But for the new generation, all these are just things to explain to the heart. Ace Summer days are starting to get more dreary for this generation in the U.S. There is also a matter of concern that if the heat continues to increase like this, it will adversely affect agriculture and due to this there will be a decline in food grain production. Its bad effect on the yield of wheat has been observed in the last two years. This situation can lead to starvation of a large part of the population. Studies have found that due to warming, drought is increasing in some parts of the world, deserts are spreading. If this happens then the number of such people in the world will also Will increase, who will have to flee from their place under compulsion. This situation will also affect the world economy. Its worst effect will be on that class, which is called the proletariat in common parlance. If the world's temperature continues to rise at this rate, glaciers will melt more rapidly, which will pose a threat to a large part of the cities located on the seashore. It is also worth keeping in mind that most of these cities are big centers of trade and business. That is, if their geographical structure was adversely affected, this will also adversely affect the economy of the region. Civilization cannot be pulled back to the standards of a few decades back, but we can avoid worsening the situation by changing our habits, by making some improvements in our lifestyle.



# Entertainment

## Actor-filmmaker Satish Kaushik passes away at the age of 66



Actor-filmmaker Satish Kaushik passed away following a heart attack early Thursday morning, said his close friend and industry colleague Anupam Kher. He was 66.

According to Kher, Kaushik was at a friend's home in Delhi when he complained of uneasiness. In a tweet earlier, Kher said he was shocked to hear about Kaushik's sudden death.

"I know that death is the ultimate truth but never in my dreams I thought that I would have to write that about my best friend Satish Kaushik. A sudden full stop to 45 years of friendship. Life will never be the same without you Satish! Om Shanti," Kher tweeted.

"He felt uneasy and he told driver to take him to the hospital and on the way he suffered a heart attack around 1 am," Kher told PTI.

The post-mortem report of the veteran actor and filmmaker confirmed that his sudden demise was caused by a heart attack. "His death was caused by a cardiac arrest. No injury marks were found on his body and neither was there any traces of alcohol in his system. There were also no signs or indications of any foul play. His blood and viscera samples have been preserved and sent for investigation," said a source. A host of Bollywood celebrities arrived at the late actor's residence to pay their respects to him and extend condolences to the bereaved family. Among those who paid a visit to the actor's kin were his close friends Anupam Kher, Javed Akhtar and Boney Kapoor. Salman Khan also paid his last respects to Kaushik. Farhan Akhtar, Shilpa Shetty, Pankaj Tripathi, Ranbir Kapoor, Sanjay Kapoor, Aruna Irani, Anu Malik, Abhishek Bachchan, Ishaan Khatter, David Dhawan, and Rakhi Sawant were also spotted outside the late actor's residence.

Kaushik was a versatile actor, writer, director and producer, who made his mark in the Indian film industry with his captivating performances and unique sense of humour. He gained recognition in the 1980s and 1990s for his work in popular films such as 'Mr India', 'Saajan Chale Sasural', and 'Judaai'. ANI

## Priyanka Chopra-Nick Jonas celebrate Holi with Preity Zinta-Gene Goodenough

Global icon Priyanka Chopra and her husband Nick Jonas, recently celebrated Holi, with actor Preity Zinta and her husband Gene Goodenough. Taking to Instagram, Priyanka shared a picture on her stories and wrote, "Happy Holi to all celebrating! As you can tell we take it very seriously."

Preity also shared some glimpses from her celebration and thanked Priyanka and Nick for hosting such a fun Holi. "Happy Holi everyone What a fun day today turned out to be. Thank you @priyankachopra & nick jonas for being such gracious & fun hosts. Absolutely loved celebrating Holi with you guys. Thank god it was not raining & the sun was out. I'm sleeping like a baby tonight after all the dancing & yummy food, Happyholi, Desivibes, Ting," she captioned the post.

In one of the pictures, Preity and Gene could be seen posing with Nick, Priyanka, and other guests smeared in gulaal. Soon after the 'Kal Ho Na Ho' actor shared the video fans flooded the comment section with red hearts and fire emoticons. "Preity and Pri," a fan commented. Another fan wrote, "Looks fab! Happy holi." Meanwhile, on the work front, Priyanka will be next seen in an upcoming spy-thriller web series 'Citadel' which will stream on the OTT platform Amazon Prime Video from April 28, 2023, with two adrenaline-fueled episodes, followed by a new episode released weekly every Friday through May 26. In Citadel, Priyanka Chopra and Richard Madden play elite spies who work for an organisation called Citadel. ANI



## Lady Gaga confirmed to not perform at 2023 Oscars ceremony



Singer-songwriter Lady Gaga will not be performing 'Hold My Hand' at this year's Oscars ceremony, confirmed Oscars executive producer and showrunner Glenn Weiss, reported Variety, an American media company. According to the outlet, during a creative team press conference on Wednesday afternoon, Weiss confirmed the news that Gaga, who landed her fourth career nomination for the 'Top Gun: Maverick' song 'Hold My Hand' will not be performing.

"We invited all five nominees. We have a great relationship with Lady Gaga and her camp. She is in the middle of shooting a movie right now. Here, we are honouring the movie industry and what it takes to make a movie after a bunch of back and forth..." Weiss said.

He added, "It didn't feel like she can get a performance to the calibre that we're used to with her and that she is used to. So, she is not going to perform on the show." Right now, Gaga is in the midst of filming 'Joker: Folie a Deux'. Director Todd Phillips shared the first image of the star as Harley Quinn on Valentine's Day opposite 'Joker' actor Joaquin Phoenix. Meanwhile, except for Gaga, all of this year's Oscar nominees for the best original song have been confirmed to perform at the event on March 12. As per Variety, in the Oscars tradition, all nominated songs are sung at the Oscars ceremony. This year's performers include Rihanna (Lift Me Up), Sofia Carson and Diane Warren (Applause), Stephanie Hsu, David Byrne and Son Lux (This Is a Life), and Rahul Sipligunj and Kaala Bhairava (Naatu Naatu). ANI