



PAGE 10

# CENTRAL Chronicle

Raipur, Monday, April 18, 2022 | Pages 12 | Price ₹ 3.00 | City Edition | Fastest growing English Daily of Chhattisgarh

PAGE 11



www.centralchronicle.in

## BRIEF



Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya performs asanas during a Yoga event in Meerut, Sunday.

## Destroyed

**Farrukhabad:** Wheat crop cultivated over 80 bigha land in a village here was destroyed in a fire that was sparked after a high-tension wire broke and fell in the field, police said. The incident took place in Jithauli village of Rajepur area, they said. The crop was ready to be harvested when it was wasted in the fire. It was doused by fire tenders rushed to the field.

## Extension

**New Delhi:** The government has granted an extension of one year to Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Kamlesh Nikanth Vyas. The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension in service to Vyas for a period of one year beyond May 3, 2022 or "until further orders", read a statement from the personnel ministry.

## Greet

**New Delhi:** Greeting people on Easter, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday wished that the spirit of joy and brotherhood be furthered in society. Easter is celebrated by Christians all over the world in belief of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. "Happy Easter! We recall the thoughts and ideals of Jesus Christ and the emphasis on social justice as well as compassion."

## Tribute

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to former prime minister Chandra Shekhar on his birth anniversary on Sunday, saying he was a towering personality who was widely admired for his commitment to democratic values and efforts to remove poverty.

## Fire

**New Delhi:** A fire broke out at Delhi's Uphaar Cinema Hall Sunday morning, officials said. No injuries have been reported in the fire that affected the theatre's balcony and a floor, the officials said. A call about the blaze was received at 4:46 am and nine fire tenders were rushed to the spot, said Delhi Fire Service Director Atul Garg.

## Mishap

**Saharanpur:** A man and his 10-year-old son were killed when their motorcycle was crushed under a mini-truck that had overturned in Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh, police said on Sunday. According to the police, the accident took place on Saturday evening on Gangoh-Nanauta road under Gangoh police station limit.

**Weather**  
High 41 Low 26

## Mob goes on rampage over social media post

■ Damage police vehicles, injure cops

Hubballi (K'taka), Apr 17 (PTD):

A large number of people allegedly went on a rampage damaging many police vehicles, a nearby hospital and a Hanuman temple in the old town of Hubballi in Karnataka and injured some police officers on duty over a social media post in the early hours of Sunday, police said. Prohibitory orders under Section 144 has been clamped in Hubballi city, police added.

"Around 40 people have been arrested and some FIRs have been registered. Twelve of our officers on duty were injured and some police vehicles were



Security personnel detain people after incidents of stone throwing in some areas of Old Hubballi late on Saturday evening, in Hubballi district, Sunday.

damaged. We have taken all precautionary measures so that such incidents do not occur again. We will not spare those who have taken law into their hands,"

Ashish Mishra bail issue

## SC order today on plea to cancel bail

New Delhi, Apr 17 (PTD):

The Supreme Court is scheduled to deliver on Monday its order on a plea seeking cancellation of bail to Ashish Mishra, son of Union minister Ajay Mishra, in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana is likely to pronounce its verdict at 10:30 am on Monday.

The top court on April 4 had reserved its order on a plea of farmers seeking cancellation of bail to Ashish Mishra.

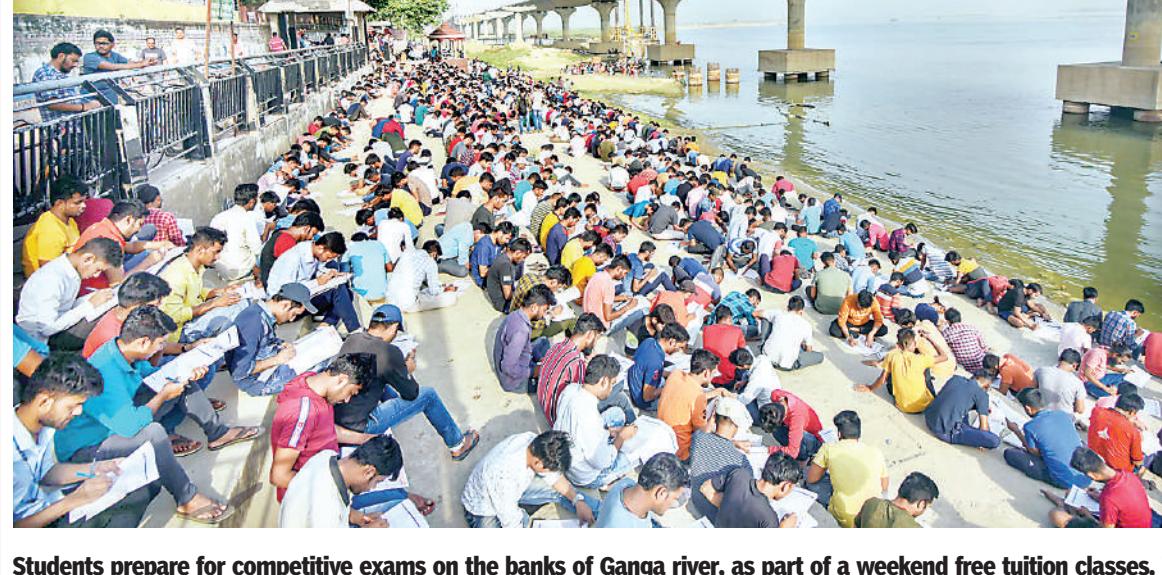
The apex court had earlier raised questions over the Allahabad High Court verdict granting bail to Ashish Mishra, saying unnecessary details like post-

mortem report and nature of wounds should not have gone into when the trial was yet to commence.

The special bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, had also taken strong note of the fact that the state government did not file an appeal against the high court's order as suggested by the apex court-appointed SIT. The bench had taken note of the submissions of senior advocate Dushyant Dave and Prashant Bhushan, appearing for farmers, that the high court did not consider the extensive charge sheet and rather relied upon the FIR where it was alleged that one person received bullet injuries?

The special bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, had also taken strong note of the fact that the state government did not file an appeal against the high court's order as suggested by the apex court-appointed SIT. The bench had taken note of the submissions of senior advocate Dushyant Dave and Prashant Bhushan, appearing for farmers, that the high court did not consider the extensive charge sheet and rather relied upon the FIR where it was alleged that one person received bullet injuries?

### FREE TUITION CLASSES



Students prepare for competitive exams on the banks of Ganga river, as part of a weekend free tuition classes, in Patna, Sunday.

Docs on COVID-19 situation

## 'People should get tested, mask mandate be brought back'

New Delhi, Apr 17 (PTD):

With the COVID-19 positivity rate in the national capital again, doctors on Sunday said people developing coronavirus-like symptoms should get themselves tested and authorities should make the wearing of masks mandatory to help check the spread of infection.

The COVID-19 positivity rate in the national capital has jumped from 0.5 per cent to 5.33 per cent in two weeks.

While the Delhi Disaster Management Authority

(DDMA) will take stock of the situation on April 20, the doctors said that the meeting should have been held here in view of the recent daily spurt in cases and the major spike in the positivity rate.

On Saturday, the city logged 461 cases with a positivity rate of 5.33 per cent, while two deaths were also reported. On Friday, Delhi had recorded 366 cases.

Before this, the city had reported a positivity rate of 5.09 per cent on February 1, while on January 31, the figure was 6.2 per cent. Doctors at

leading government and private hospitals emphasised that there was a need to increase testing in the wake of the spike in cases, even as they said that "no drastic restrictions" were needed as of now.

People who are developing symptoms are not going for COVID-19 test, largely. Now, with a surge in cases and the positivity rate beyond five per cent again, I would urge people to go for testing if they are having symptoms. "Even those going for home isolation should go for testing," said a senior doctor at LNJP Hospital.

Before this, the city had reported a positivity rate of 5.09 per cent on February 1, while on January 31, the figure was 6.2 per cent. Doctors at

Striking a note of harmony, amidst the recent flare-up of communal issues in Karnataka, the historic Chennakeshava temple at Belur in Hassan district kick-started the annual rathotsava (chariot festival) celebrations this year, after verses of Quran were recited in keeping with the syncretic tradition followed there for years.

Following the traditions, which according to locals have been practised for centuries, Syed Sajjad Basha, Khaji of Doddha Meduru, chanted verses from the

Quran on Day 1 of the two-day rathotsava festival on April 13, following which the chariot was pulled.

According to authorities there, it is not clearly known as to when the tradition of reciting Quranic verses began at the fair in the temple, which was built by Hoysala rulers.

However, the temple manual, which dates back to 1932, has a mention about the tradition, which is being followed to this day, they said.

Belur was the erstwhile capital of the Hoysalas and

referred to as Velapur, Velur and Belahur at different points in history. The temple, which is known for its sculptural extravaganza, was consecrated by the famous Hoysala king Vishnuvardhana to mark his victories in 1116 AD against the Cholas.

Thousands of people had gathered at the rathotsava that saw Lord Chennakeshava, one of the incarnations of Lord Vishnu, being carried out in a chariot after Basha read out the verses from the Islamic scripture.

Basha recited the verses in the presence of temple authorities, with local leaders and a large gathering of

people, standing at the foot of the chariot. He said the practice has been followed for generations by his ancestors and that his son and grandson too would follow the same. "I have been chanting Quranic verses at the festival for the last 50 years now. It is done to pray that Chennakeshava swami does good for all. All of us, whether Hindu or Christian or Muslim, should live peacefully together and there should be no differences among us," he added.

Former minister and JD(S) MLA H D Revanna, who participated in the event, said the tradition has been followed for ages and has to be continued.

## Court cannot act as expert in field of education: SC

New Delhi, Apr 17 (PTD):

A court cannot act as an expert in the field of education and it should be left to the institutions to determine whether a candidate possesses requisite qualification or not, the Supreme Court has said.

A bench of Justices M R Shah and B V Nagarathna said there cannot be any deviation from the educational qualifications mentioned in an advertisement of job.

"In the field of education, the court of law cannot act as an expert normally, therefore, whether or not a student/candidate is possessing the requisite qualification should better be left to the educational institutions, more particularly, when the Expert Committee considers the matter," the bench said.

The observation came while dismissing a batch of appeals challenging the

order of the Jharkhand High Court with regard to the selection process for appointment to the post of postgraduate trained teachers in the high school of Jharkhand for different subjects under different categories.

The top court said that as per the advertisement, a candidate must have postgraduate/bachelor degree in history. "We have gone through degrees/certificates in the case of respective writ petitioners. It appears that the respective writ petitioners have obtained postgraduate degrees/bachelor degrees, as the case may be, in one of the branches of history, namely, Indian Ancient History, Indian Ancient Culture, Medieval/Modern History, Indian Ancient History, Culture and Archaeology etc," the bench said.

Therefore, having studied and obtaining the degree in only one branch of history cannot be said to be having a degree in history subject as a whole, which was the requirement, it said.

"In the present case, the educational qualifications required have been specifically mentioned in the advertisement. There is no ambiguity and/or confusion in the advertisement providing educational qualification and the post for which the applications were invited (History/Civics).

### A DAY AFTER VIOLENCE

## Uneasy calm, heavy police presence in Jahangirpuri

New Delhi, Apr 17 (PTD):

An uneasy calm prevailed in Jahangirpuri's C Block on Sunday, a day after violence broke out during a Hanuman Jayanti procession.

Shops and markets near the Jahangirpuri metro station were functioning as usual on Sunday and there was a heavy police deployment in C Block, the epicentre of the violence that left eight police personnel and a local injured.

Sheikh Amzad, a resident of C Block, said he was inside the mosque in C Block when the violence broke out on Saturday evening.

"They (participants of Hanuman Jayanti procession) were chanting 'Jai Shri Ram' and raising

provocative slogans. They forcibly entered the mosque and started tying saffron flags in its premises.

They were threatening us with swords... That's when stone pelting began.

"Such an incident has never before happened in

Jahangirpuri," Amzad told PTI.

Amzad claimed that nearly 50 people forcibly entered the mosque.

Security has been beefed up in and around C and D blocks near the mosque. Barricades have

been put up and police personnel deployed at every 200 metres. Despite this, shops around the mosque were all shut. Manoj Kumar said he was at his shop in C Block when the violence broke out.

Fourteen people have been arrested in connection with the violence during a Hanuman Jayanti procession in northwest Delhi's Jahangirpuri, police said Sunday. They said there was stone-pelting and some vehicles were also torched during the clashes between two communities Saturday evening. A senior official said a police sub-inspector received a bullet injury during the violence.



Security personnel keep vigil after clashes broke out between two communities during a Hanuman Jayanti procession on Saturday, at Jahangirpuri in New Delhi, Sunday.

been put up and police personnel deployed at every 200 metres. Despite this, shops around the mosque were all shut. Manoj Kumar said he was at his shop in C Block when the violence broke out.

Amzad claimed that nearly 50 people forcibly entered the mosque.

Security has been beefed up in and around C and D blocks near the mosque. Barricades have

been put up and police personnel deployed at every 200 metres. Despite this, shops around the mosque were all shut. Manoj Kumar said he was at his shop in C Block when the violence broke out.

The conference is an institutional platform for conceptual level deliberations, culminating in making important policy decisions for the Indian Army.

The conference is an institutional platform for conceptual level deliberations, culminating in making important policy decisions for the Indian Army.

The anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir as well as the overall situation in the Union Territory will also be deliberated upon extensively at the conference, the officials said.

The officials said detailed deliberations have been planned to assess the possi-

bility implications of the war in Ukraine for regional security as well as various military aspects of the conflict.

The commanders will also carry out a comprehensive review of India's military preparedness along the 3,400-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC) in view of the lingering military standoff with China in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh, they said.

The anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir as well as the overall situation in the Union Territory will also be deliberated upon extensively at the conference, the officials said.

The officials said detailed deliberations have been planned to assess the possi-

bility implications of the war in Ukraine for regional security as well as various military aspects of the conflict.

The commanders will also carry out a comprehensive review of India's military preparedness along the 3,400-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC) in view of the lingering military standoff with China in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh, they said.

The anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir as well as the overall situation in the Union Territory will also be deliberated upon extensively at the conference, the officials said.

The officials said detailed deliberations have been planned to assess the possi-

bility implications of the war in Ukraine for regional security as well as various military aspects of the conflict.

The commanders will also carry out a comprehensive review of India's military preparedness along the 3,400-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC) in view of the lingering military standoff with China in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh, they said.

The anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir as well as the overall situation in the Union Territory will also be deliberated upon extensively at the conference, the officials said.

The officials said detailed deliberations have been planned to assess the possi-

bility implications of the war in Ukraine for regional security as well as various military aspects of the conflict.

The commanders will also carry out a comprehensive review of India's military preparedness along the 3,400-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC) in view of the lingering military standoff with China in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh, they said.

The anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir as well as the overall situation in the Union Territory will also be deliberated upon extensively at the conference, the officials said.

The officials said detailed deliberations have been planned to assess the possi-

bility implications of the war in Ukraine for regional security as well as various military aspects of the conflict.

The commanders will also carry out a comprehensive review of India's military preparedness along the 3,400-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC) in view of the lingering military standoff with China in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh, they said.

The anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir as well as the overall situation in the Union Territory will also be deliberated upon extensively at the conference, the officials said.

# Empowered Panchayats enable Patan Block win National Award

Patan was the leading development block in the implementation of Central and State schemes

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 17: Patan block has achieved its distinct identity in the nation through its concrete works on rural development. The empowered Panchayats of this development block ensured best implementation of the schemes of the central government and state government as well.

On April 24, Patan block will be honored with Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Samman. The credit of this success goes to the hard work of thousands of villagers of Patan block along with Panchayat representatives and government staff. Patan made this achievement through effective implementation of the government schemes.

**Effective implementation of MGNREGA:** When the movement of people was stopped due to the lockdown and the entire country had come to a standstill, MGNREGA works were



CM Baghel at Patan Janpad Panchayat (File Photo)

being conducted uninterruptedly in Patan while following the Covid protocol of social distancing, etc. In the year 2020-21, 59000 laborers worked through MGNREGA while in the year 2021-22, 55000 laborers worked through MGNREGA. Among these workers, there was a considerable percentage of women workers.

The most significant work done through MGNREGA was the water conservation structures. The work of conserving ground water through Narva Structure was launched through MGNREGA projects. At all the villages where the first phase of Narva has been implemented, there was a spectacular increase in the level of ground water and the farmers got enough water to take the second crop.

**Establishment of Gauthans and benefits of Godhan Nyay Yojana:** In the year 2020-21, 76 Gauthans were established in Patan block and 31

demand not only within the country but in foreign countries like Italy and Indonesia as well.

Fulfilled the dream of self-reliance: Even during the adverse situations of lockdown, the villages of Patan block did not face any problem for basic needs. The Baadis of Kesara and Borenda continued to produce vegetables using organic manure. These baadis continued to meet the local demands of vegetables.

Canals revived, scope of solar irrigation increased: The irrigation canal system like that of Sipconia had become dilapidated in lack of maintenance over years. This canal network was revived through large scale repair works. Work was done in the direction of increasing the scope of irrigation through solar power mediums in Kautha, Borenda and other villages. The level of ground water increased through Narva Yojana and provided a permanent benefit to the farmers.

## DMC repairs water supply pipeline within five hours

Damaged due to construction work by PWD



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 17: The water supply pipeline that had been damaged due to road construction work being carried out by the PWD has been repaired by Durg Municipal Corporation within five hours and is expected that supply of water would be resumed shortly. Here it needs a mention that the 300 mm dia pipeline near Malviya Nagar Chowk had been damaged on Saturday evening while the construction work of near the GE Road for the widening and drainage construction. The pipeline is used to supply water in Amdi Mandir, Deepak Nagar, Five Buildings, New Police Line and Oriya Basti area. Also the damage caused to the 10-inch pipeline in front of the district hospital resulted in hindered water supply to Kela Bari, Kasaridih and Dabrapara area and Ganjpara Chowk in front of Kishore Mandir. On getting

the information, Durg MLA Arun Vora and Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal reached the spot in the morning. After inspecting the damaged pipeline, the Mayor discussed it with collector and asked him to check with the PWD as pipeline is getting damaged repeatedly during the construction work due to which the general public is getting upset for water. He further asked the Collector to direct the concerned department to work cautiously so as to avoid any further damage to pipeline. Due to it being related to essential services, the damaged pipeline has been repaired within 5 hours by the officers and employees on the instructions of Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal and Municipal Commissioner Hareesh Mandavi. It is expected to resume water supply shortly. Hefty fine will be imposed by the corporation on repetition to the concerned construction agency.

About two years ago during the CoronaVirus Pandemic, people once again realised the importance of when there was a

shortage of oxygen at the hospitals for the treatment of Covid patients. During this period, Bhilai Municipal Corporation took up a mega tree plantation campaign. The saplings planted on the roadsides have grown to small trees now and are providing shade to the passers-by. The roadside vendors are doing busi-

ness in the shade of these trees.

A roadside vendor Vicky Dewangan, who sells coconut water and fruit juice, said that the Bhilai Municipal Corporation had planted saplings near his roadside stall. Now these

saplings have become trees and are providing shade. The Horticulture Department of the

## Beautification: Randomly placed hoardings removed on Mayor's initiative

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 17: In a bid to beautify the city in a mode similar to that of metro cities, randomly placed hoardings are being removed from the entire city. In the last three days Bhilai Municipal Corporation has been working to remove such hoardings. The agencies involved in hoardings were asked to remove the hoardings several times through notices, but seeing no positive outcome, the Municipal Corporation decided to remove the illegal hoardings from the entire city and started the proceedings. In view of the beautification of the city, the work of removing illegal hoardings is being done in all the six zones. The earthmover of the corporation is working to remove the hoardings. Initially, hoardings near the service road adjoining the National Highway are being removed. The randomly placed hoardings also looked unsightly, due to lack of similar patterns, it was also affecting the beauty of the city. At the same time, on the instructions of Mayor Neeraj Pal,



now the concept of Unipole, which looks similar to the metro city, will be brought in. For this, the Mayor-in-Council, headed by Mayor Neeraj Pal, had already approved the work of installing Unipole and very soon the work on this will start. Deputy Commissioner Sunil Agrahari told that the tender process and departmental process has already been initiated in this regard. Keeping in mind a certain size, height and traffic etc, Unipoles will be installed on the lines of Metro City. Talking about the illegal hoardings removed so far, he informed that more than 150 hoardings have been removed so far. On

the instructions of Corporation Commissioner Prakash Surve and Additional Commissioner Ashok Dwivedi, Assistant Revenue Officers Balkrishna Naidu, Parameshwar Chandrakar, Malkhan Singh Sori along with their team have worked to remove the random hoardings. Soon the process of removing hoardings in the inner area of the city will also be started.

## Saplings planted two years ago, now giving relief from scorching sun

Central Chronicle News



throughout the year. Tree guards were installed for protecting the saplings from animals. The tree guards were made attractive through paintings; water bags were installed so that the plants get water continuously, stacking was done to support the growing plants, fertilizers and water were provided on time.

Along with this, the nearby residents and businessmen were also appealed to take care of the plants. As a result, many of the saplings have now grown to trees. Many plants have grown up to the height of 25 feet. Plants need a lot of water during the summer days. The corporation made proper arrangements for watering the plants during the entire summer season.

Although some plants were damaged due to animals, anti-social elements and vehicles, still most of the plants are alive and growing healthy. In lieu of dead and damaged plants, the BMC has again planted saplings.

Gulmohar, Kadamba, Stopadia and Tapodia Rosa were chosen for street plantation. It needs to be mentioned here that on the instructions of Mayor Neeraj Pal and Corporation Commissioner Prakash Surve, the concerned officials are taking special care of the saplings planted on the roadside during the summer days. The work of tree plantation was done on the instructions of the BMC Administrator and Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure.

## Brahmakumaris provides relief material to Fire Mishap Victims

Central Chronicle News



about the power of God and mentioned that God's planning is the best for us and we need to have some patience and contentment in our mind, taking lessons from what happened.

She added that we have to be careful that such incidents do not happen in future. The sisters went from house to house and distributed kit bags made of essential daily useful items.

At the outset, Brahma Kumari Asha Didi, the director of Bhilai Seva

Kendras flagged off the truck load of relief mate-

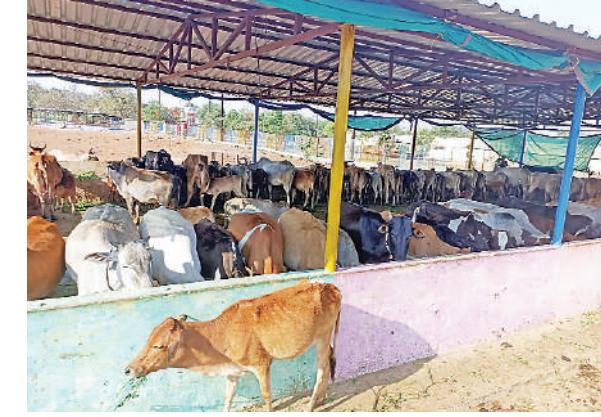
rial in which food grains, utensils, clothes and kit bags of essential items of daily life from the Rajyog



Bhavan Sector-07 for Surya Nagar.

## Plethora of livelihood oriented activities at Urban Gauthan

Central Chronicle News



Bhilai, Apr 17: The Urban Gauthan located in Kosa Nagar is witnessing a plethora of livelihood oriented activities. The women SHGs are involved in producing vermicompost manure, earthworms, fisheries, incense stick production and much more. With the innovative initiative of Bhilai Municipal Corporation, the women of SHG are achieving self-reliance.

Mayor Neeraj Pal and Commissioner Prakash Sarve are continuously monitoring the activities of Gauthan.

Bhilai Municipal Corporation is increasing the opportunities of livelihood in Urban Gauthan.

Under the ambitious project of Chhattisgarh government, the Urban Gauthan of Kosa Nagar in Bhilai is taking the shape of a livelihood centre.

Stray cattle are getting care in this Gauthan. The women of Self Help Groups are moving on the path of self-reliance by

conducting employment oriented work. On the instructions of Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure, Commissioner Prakash Sarve is making efforts to make the Gauthan well-equipped. The women have got a means to become financially capable through innovative working.

About 120 cattle have been kept in the Gauthan. Napier grass has been grown in the campus itself to provide green fodder. Cow dung is collected for production of vermicompost. The women of Nai

Udaan SHG (field level organization Zone 1) are engaged in making manure from cow dung. The women are manufacturing 10 tonnes of vermicompost manure per month. So far, about 150 tonnes of manure has been sold by them.

This group also purchases cow dung from nearby people at the rate of Rs 2 per kg. Cattle owners of nearby places visit the gauthan every day to sell cow dung. Earthworm production is also being given importance in this Gauthan. About 70 kg of

earthworm is being produced per month. Earthworms are supplied for use in fisheries as well as to make the soil fertile.

Production of cow dung cakes and wood from cow dung is also being done on a large scale. The cow dung cakes and wood is being used for cremation in nearby Muktidham. Women are generating good income through production of these products.

Women of Jeevan Jyoti Self Help Group Kohka are manufacturing incense sticks. They pre-

pare a powder by filtering cow dung and black soil. Agarbatti is made from this powder and bamboo sticks. 5 to 8 kg incense sticks are being manufactured daily. The incense sticks are being supplied to Dhanora as well as nearby temples and local people.

Women of Mother Gayatri Self Help Group Supela are manufacturing soap and herbal gulal from flowers emanating from the temples. The flower petals are dried and are used in soap production. During Holi, 100

kg gulal was produced here and was sold in the local market. At present, a local trader of Nagapura has placed an order of 20 kg gulal.

Arya Mahila Self Help Group Kohka is producing mushrooms in the shed of Gauthan complex. Mushroom production and demand is high during the winter season. Presently, 8 to 9 kg of mushrooms are being produced and sold every month. It had good demand in hotels / restaurants as well as the local market.

Vegetable production is also being done in the baadi. Jai Ambe Mahila Self Help Group Kosanagar is involved in this activity. Women are trying to increase their income by cultivating spinach, chawla, fenugreek, coriander, cabbage, chilli, tomato, banana, papaya, capsicum, etc.

Women of Annapurna Women's Self Help Group and Shiv Shakti Group Supela made diyas during the Diwali season. The group produced 44000 diyas during Diwali. It was sold through BMC,

# New budget to determine direction of devp for Nava Ch'garh: CM

**Ch'garh Govt is working vigorously for public interest and devp of state**

**CM addresses people of the state in the 28th episode of his monthly radio talk 'Lokvaani'**

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 17: In his address to people of the state during the 28th episode of his monthly radio talk 'Lokvaani' today, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that our new budget will determine the direction of development for Nava Chhattisgarh.

Presently, the size of the state budget is Rs one lakh 12 thousand 603 crore 40 lakh.

Chief Minister gave a series of answers to the queries of the audience in Lokvaani and informed about the strong economic status of Chhattisgarh state. Certainly, it is a matter of pride for every Chhattisgarhiya that the budget size of the state has crossed the mark of Rs 1 lakh crore. State govern-

## BJP-Congress working in cahoots: AAP

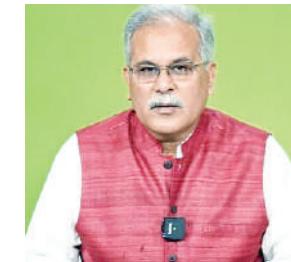
**There is nothing wrong in providing facilities with money saved from corruption: Dr Pathak**

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 17: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP Dr Sandeep Pathak alleged that both BJP and Congress cheated the people. Both BJP and Congress are working in cahoots as it is evident from the fact that their corrupt leaders do not go to jail with change in government, said Dr Pathak while talking to the reporters here today.



Dr Pathak who came to Chhattisgarh first time after becoming Rajya Sabha MP said AAP's responsibility increased ever since it came to power in Punjab. According to him Delhi is the only state where Delhi government is running in profit despite free facilities in some areas to the people. There is noth-



tion in State's share of GST and Central taxes, Chhattisgarh Government has presented a budget of revenue surplus. The debt burden and fiscal deficit of the state are continuously decreasing and the capital expenditure is on all-time high. Today's episode of Lokvaani was focused on the topic 'Nava Chhattisgarh, New Budget'.

This is so far the biggest budget presented by the state government, ever since the state of Chhattisgarh was formed. Presently, the size of the state budget is Rs one lakh 12 thousand 603 crore 40 lakh.

Chief Minister gave a series of answers to the queries of the audience in Lokvaani and informed about the strong economic status of Chhattisgarh state. Certainly, it is a matter of pride for every Chhattisgarhiya that the budget size of the state has crossed the mark of Rs 1 lakh crore. State govern-

ment's budget for the financial year 2022-23 includes the provisions in proportion to the population of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, while the social and economic sectors have also been given the due attention. Our priority regarding the agriculture sector is very vocal. In the year 2022-23, an amount of Rs 20 thousand 405 crores has been provisioned for the agriculture budget. We are moving forward by ensuring optimal utilization of our resources, value-addition, fair value to the dedication and hard work of our toiling people and right price for the production in the state. This strategy is

proving to be a catalyst in the economic growth of the state.

In today's episode, Umakant Verma of Malda village of Raipur district congratulated Chief Minister for presenting a budget of more than Rs 1 lakh crore for Chhattisgarh.

Shri Rajesh Vaswani of Raipur congratulated him for presenting the budget of surplus revenue and not imposing any new tax on the traders in the budget despite the COVID crisis.

Chief Minister said that there was a time when the UPA government of Delhi would give a bigger amount to the state, more than what the Centre has been providing now, but still the state could not have a surplus budget. Presently State and Centre's amount in the budget is almost equal. Besides, the problems related to GST have intensified. Despite all these challenges, we have successfully made a budget of surplus on the basis of the efficiency of our

Budget Provision of 37% for the social sector

In response to the question of priorities in the budget asked by Amrapali Sahare of Ranveerpur of Kabeerdham district, Chief Minister said that the population of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes in our state is about 45 percent. In the total provision of our budget, 33 percent has been allocated for Scheduled Tribes and 12 percent for Scheduled Castes. If we look at the social and economic sector, we have allocated 40 percent of the provisions for the economic sector, and about 37 percent for the social sector as well.

Sanjay Jain of Rajnandgaon asked about the status of State's debt, to which Chief Minister Mr. Baghel answered that on December 17, 2018, we had inherited a debt of Rs 41 thousand 695 crores. After the formation of our government, the increase in net debt is Rs 42 thousand 528 crores.

### Ten female passengers injured as bus turns turtle

Balodabazar, Apr 17: Ten persons in a passenger bus got injured, when in order to save a bike rider, the bus turned turtle entering a farm in a village under Pallari area.

As per reports, the bus was going from Balodabazar to Raipur and when it reached Kotawa of Pallari, a person on a bike was coming from the Opposite direction at around 9:30 am. All of sudden in order to avoid dashing against the bike, the bus driver applied brakes strongly and after which the bus turned out of control and went inside a farm nearby and turned turtle. In this 10 women are reported to have got injured. It was after the incident that people from nearby area came to their rescue and took them to Pallari Hospital, where after first-aid they were all relieved. It is learnt that five persons in the bus are reported to have received serious injuries, but they all are out of danger.



CM Bhupesh Baghel attending the 76th annual convention of Chandranahu (Chandra Vikas Mahasamiti) made declaration for formation of new district of Saragarh-Bilaigarh and for which an OSD will be appointed.

## ANNUAL CONVENTION

### CM pays tribute to Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

#### On his death anniversary

Raipur, Apr 17: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has paid tribute to the former President of India and educationist, Bharat Ratna Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan on his

death anniversary on April 17. Baghel has said that Dr Radhakrishnan ji, as an ideal teacher, fulfilled his dedication and commitment towards education in his life as well. He considered education as a mission. He studied society, religion and philosophy deeply and wrote many books.

Because of talent of Dr Radhakrishnan, he was made a member of the Constituent Assembly. The Chief Minister said that Dr Radhakrishnan left behind an invaluable heritage of knowledge and education. His wisdom will always inspire the future generations.

## Nayab Tehsildar Masturi suspended with immediate effect

#### On finding his action against the conduct of State Civil Services Act

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Apr 17: Taking the case of Nayab Tehsildar Ramesh Kumar posted in Masturi Tehsil office of Bilaspur district has gone viral on the social media and due to which his conduct was found against the Government Service rule. Collector Bilaspur in this regard has mentioned to the Commissioner Bilaspur division and has asked SDM (Revenue) to submit report that on April 4, 2022, Tehsildar Ramesh Kumar Kamar posted in the Tehsil Masturi office has gone viral. In this the conduct of the Tehsildar is being found against the rules.

The first witness of this video is Meena Netam, Manish Mishra, Asst. Grade-III and Ropuchand Rai general citizen. It was

based upon the statement and report by the colleagues it is aptly clear that the incident has taken place in the office of RK Kamar Nayab Tehsildar court. Finding the above action as one against the rule-3 of Chhattisgarh Civil Services Conduct act and a punishable offence and found it as one maligning the image of government and revenue court and made recommendations for disciplinary action.

It was based upon the report by SDM Revenue that Collector Bilaspur has suspended RK Kamar Nayab Tehsildar Masturi will immediate effect and sent proposal to the Divisional Commissioner Bilaspur for necessary action.

## School buses examined for fitness in Raipur

School. During inspection, the team of Transport Department examined a total of 94 school buses, in which insurance and fitness related flaws were found in 29 buses.

The department has collected a total revenue of Rs 86 thousand from these vehicles. Transport officials said that strict action will be taken if school buses are found not fol-

lowing the guidelines of the Supreme Court. The transport department official said that the team of the department conducted surprise check of the school buses. According to the officials 67 Buses in Delhi Public School, 27 Buses of St. Xavier's and Ryan Public School were inspected. Permit, Fitness, Insurance, PUC, Bus Driver's

ernment is studying about PESA Act draft and on implementation of this Act, the non-tribal samaj is not to be bothered at all.

As per demand of Samaj, he made declaration of Rs 1.07 cr for Kachana Gurwa Gondwana Bhawan. MLA Rajim Amitesh Shukla said that it is with construction of road, electricity and irrigation facilities that development of every samaj is ensured. It is with this objective, Baghel government is giving momentum to development works. He made declaration of Rs 10 lakh for 'Aamat Gond Samaj' Bhawan.

state-level to the state government.

MLA Rajim Amitesh Shukla said that it is with construction of road, electricity and irrigation facilities that development of every samaj is ensured. It is with this objective, Baghel government is giving momentum to development works. He made declaration of Rs 10 lakh for 'Aamat Gond Samaj' Bhawan.

state government has increased the number of forest produce being purchased on MSP from 7 to 65 products. Now 'kodo', 'Kutki' and all other forest produces is being purchased on MSP.

He made an appeal to the people of the Samaj not to sell any forest produce be it 'Mahua' at price lesser than one fixed by the state government. Baghel informed that food park is being installed at 3 different places in the district and this will lead to value addition and increase avenues for employment and would also increase income of people.

Further Baghel informed that from May 1, Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Bhumiheen Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana was launched and under this landless labourers were passed on benefit of Rs 7000 per annum. Under Godhan Nyay Yojana, now the work is being started to make paint using cow-dung and also generate electricity. Baghel informed that in Gariyaband district, around 21000 tribals have been issued forest rights letter. He said that the objective behind schemes of the state government is to ensure that money flows into their pocket and they become more prosperous.

Addressing the convention, CM Baghel said that the state government is committed towards development and safeguarding the interest of tribals in the state. Many schemes have been launched for their welfare and upliftment. He said that the state gov-

**EMBARGO IMPOSED...  
CAN'T USE FUNDS...  
SAHARA IS HAVING ₹ 25,000 CRORE WITH SEBI...**

**CAN ANYONE RUN WHEN IN SHACKLES?**



Vande Mataram

**SAHARA  
INDIA PARIWAR**

Since last 9 years, there has been an Embargo of the Hon'ble Supreme Court on Sahara India Pariwar that if the Pariwar raises any fund out of sale of any asset or out of mortgage, that fund will be deposited in SEBI-SAHARA account and not even a single rupee can be utilised for making repayments to public.

This way SEBI-SAHARA account is having around ₹ 25,000 Crores. SEBI SHOULD MAKE THE PAYMENTS TO THE DEPOSITORS FROM THIS AMOUNT. Why is SEBI not making payments to the public?

This way how can Sahara make timely payments to its depositors? However, Sahara is still making payments but delayed payments.

# Every effort is being made to make women self-reliant: Bhedia

**Women Empowerment Convention held**

**Central Chronicle News**

Raipur, Apr 17: Women and Child Development Minister Anila Bhedia organised a women empowerment conference in the city building of Balodabazar Bhatapara district headquarters. Chief Guest of the function was Mrs. Bhedia said that as per the intention of the state government, every effort is being made to make women self-reliant. Along with strengthening the rural economy, employment opportunities are being provided in the village itself. Now women are not limited only to the within the walls of the house but along with doing household chores, they are moving



forward on the path of dependence. For this, women are being encouraged by the state government through various schemes. Apart from this, strict steps are also being taken to protect the freedom of women and their constitutional rights.

82 numbers Mini Rice Mill Machines were provided to women self-help groups in the conference of cost price per unit is Rs one lakh 3 thousand. Along with this, loans worth more than Rs 30 lakh 12 thousand of 113 women self-help groups have been waived

under Chhattisgarh Mahila Kosh Loan Scheme. Under this, 10 women self-help groups were given loan waiver certificates. Rajya Sabha MP Chhaya Verma said that last year two mini rice meals were given to women self-help groups in village Hathband and Karmanda. The dedication and hard work of the women of the group has yielded positive results. Impressed by this, mini rice mills have been approved for women self-help groups. This will give them additional income. On this occasion, Chairman of Text Book Corporation Shailesh Nitin Trivedi, District Panchayat President Rakesh Verma, Raipur District Panchayat President Mrs. Domeshwari Verma, former MLA, i Janak Verma, District President Hitendra Thakur, Dinesh Yadu, Chairman of Chamber of Commerce, Jugal Kishore Bhattar, District Panchayat Vice President, Sarita Thakur, District Panchayat member Parmeshwar Yadu and a large number of three-tier Panchayat representatives were present.



Students of School submitting their answer-sheets in the School on completion of online exam.

## Kisan Mela: Farmers learned the tricks of new technology

**Central Chronicle News**

Raipur, Apr 17: A three-day Kisan Mela organised by the Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers Welfare and Biotechnology, Government of Chhattisgarh at the Science College ground, Bilaspur was organized from April 13. On the concluding occasion, there was a crowd of people throughout the day to see the exhibition of farming. To make agriculture prosperous, farmers learned the tricks of new technology in this exhibition. A large number of farmers from across the state shared their experiences of farming innovation, technology, production and marketing at the fair. In the fair, machines of ad-



vanced technology have also been provided free of cost to the farmers. The farmers shared their experiences and said that organizing such fairs proves

beneficial for them. They also get a market for the sale of their products through the fair. Students and farmers of Agriculture College

reached the fair site in large numbers to see the exhibition of Agriculture and Horticulture Department in the fair. Under the

District Mineral Trust fund in the stall of Agriculture Department, 08 farmers of village Hiri development block Bilha were given sprinkler set of 30 pipes, three HP diesel pumps to 06 farmers, battery operated spares were distributed to 04 farmers free of cost. Rameshwar Singh Markam while expressing his happiness on getting the diesel pump said that he has three and a half acres of agricultural land. Irrigation facility will be provided in one and a half acres of land with the help of diesel pump. He said that farming has now become a profitable business due to the farmer friendly schemes launched by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. Mr. Mansingh said that he has got bat-

tery operated spare. Earlier, for spraying medicine, spares had to be hired at the rate of Rs 50 per hour. This caused unnecessary financial burden. Ramu Meher of village Hiri has ten acres of agricultural land. He got the sprinkler set in the fair today. He told that the price of this sprinkler set is more than Rs 24,000. It is not possible for everyone to make this purchase. Now by getting sprinkler set, farming will be easy. Mini Rice Mill, Fodder Cutter Machine, Mini Oil Mill have been kept for display in the stall of Agriculture Department. Organic Kulthi, Kodo, Til and Dubraj and Vishnubhog rice, Vermi compost manure have also been kept in the exhibition for sale.

## Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai to be 33rd district of Ch'garh

● CM announces after bypoll win

Raipur, Apr 17 (PTI): Hours after the ruling Congress won the Khairagarh Assembly seat in a byelection, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel kept his party's promise and announced the creation of a new district of Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai. The state now has 33 districts.

Within three hours after the election certificate was handed over to the winning candidate, the CM announced the formation of Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai district as per the poll promise," a government official

said. Last year four new districts had been created.

Salhewara and Jaalbandha areas in Khairagarh constituency will be made tehsil and up-tehsil, the official added.

Congress had promised that Khiragarh will be made a district within 24 hours if the party won the April 12 by-election.

Congress' Yashoda Verma won the Khairagarh bypoll by a margin of 20,176 votes against her nearest rival Komal Janghel of the BJP. Verma got 87,879 votes while the BJP's Janghel secured 67,703 votes.

By-election was held following the death of incumbent JCC (J) MLA and former MP Devratt Singh in November 2021.

## 10 booked for protest against coal mine project

Ambikapur, Apr 17: A rioting case was registered against 10 people for taking part in a protest march against a coal mine project in Surguja district, police said on Saturday.

The march was taken out on Friday by villagers against the Parsa coal mine project and officials said they ransacked some properties of the mining firm at the project site near Salhi village under Udaipur police station limits. "As per the complaint of project site security officer Anupam Dutta, some 220-250 people stormed into the premises armed with sharp-edged and traditional weapons.

They ransacked and torched the company's properties including a generator and makeshift tin shed, worth around Rs 10 lakh. They abused and assaulted workers there," an official said. No arrest has been made in the case and further probe is underway, he added. The Chhattisgarh government recently gave

final approval for use of 841.538 hectare forest land for Parsa mining project spread across Surguja and Surajpur districts. The mine has been allotted to Rajasthan Rajya Vidyalaya Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVNL).

The residents of the project affected villages, including Fatehpur and Hariharpur, have been protesting against the mine for a long time and demanding a probe into the forged gram sabha documents based on which clearance was given for mining.

They have been protesting since April 2 and had even carried out a foot march last year till Raipur 300 kilometres away but the state government has not relented, said Alok Shukla, convenor of Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan, which is fighting for the rights of tribals as well as environmental conservation.

The FIR against the tribals is an attempt to suppress the protest, he added.

IIT Naya Raipur has been conducting similar OIP's every year since 2017. Students from academic institutions like IIT Kharagpur, NIT Durgapur, NIT Warangal, NIT Hamirpur, NIT Delhi, NIT Agartala, NIT Tiruchirappalli, NIT A.P., NIT Meghalaya, Jamia Millia Islamia New Delhi, BIT Mesra, etc., had participated last year.

IIT-NR being the only institute among IITs to have an advanced 5G lab facility, will provide a blended learning module, by clubbing fundamental and advanced topics together, during these six to eight weeks program. Selected students are engaged in research projects, while still fulfilling summer internship requirements for their academic programs. The program will also teach students about the fundamentals of research and innovation, initiate

## Outreach Internship Program (OIP) at IIIT-NR

**Central Chronicle News**

Raipur, Apr 17: The Outreach Internship Program (OIP) is one of IIIT Naya Raipur's flagship research activity-based programs, where students from prestigious institutions across the country are selected to join the institute for 6 to 8 weeks, for carrying out research projects, under the supervision of IIIT-NR faculty members.

It offers them an opportunity to explore the advanced labs like 5G Lab, AI and ML Lab, IoT Lab, VLSI Lab, Speech Processing Lab, Networking Lab, Antenna and Microwave Circuit Design Lab, Anechoic Chamber, etc., as well as to learn about simulators and cutting-edge instruments.

IIIT Naya Raipur has been conducting similar OIP's every year since 2017. Students from academic institutions like IIT Kharagpur, NIT Durgapur, NIT Warangal, NIT Hamirpur, NIT Delhi, NIT Agartala, NIT Tiruchirappalli, NIT A.P., NIT Meghalaya, Jamia Millia Islamia New Delhi, BIT Mesra, etc., had participated last year.

journeys in research, upgrade knowledge, time management and improve paper writing skills. The program proves very helpful for the students as many students submit their work in reputed journals and conferences.

"India has huge talent and providing the students an opportunity to work in our advanced research facilities, will motivate them to pursue research in future, which will bring innovation to our society and will make the world a better place to live," said Dr. Punya Paltani, Dean Research and Development.

The OIP is being coordinated by Dr. Shrivishal Tripathi (Faculty-In charge-OIP). The OIP will commence from May 16, 2022 and will end on July 16, 2022, and the last date for the application is April 25, 2022.

## Website is the mirror of the University: V-C



be made on the website according to the academic, research and social needs. These changes will increase the uniformity of the information available on the website. There should be a feeling of pride in our mind about the work we have done. He said that people who talk about solving problems achieve success.

The Vice-Chancellor said that the mantra of 'Sabka Saath and Sabka Vikas' is not just a slogan but reflects a spiritual-ideological vision. We should choose the minimum goal, achieve success.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra

# State Govt should stop insulting Mahara society: Dilip Peddi



Konta, Apr 17:

Dilip Peddi, the divisional president of Mahara Samaj Youth Division, issued a press release accusing the Congress government of the state of insulting the Mahara society and said that the Chief Minister of the state Bhupesh Baghel, on 01 November 2021 last year at a function of the Mahara

Samaj of Bastar division made an announcement to rename Bastar High School, Jagdalpur after Jagtu Mahara and Dharamu Mahara as Women's Polytechnic College, Dharampura and to construct a grand Mahara Samaj Bhawan of 2 crores in Divisional Headquarters Jagdalpur. But till date it does not seem to be completed, but Bastar High School Jagdalpur has been renamed after Swami Atmanand English Medium School.

On 01 November 2021 in front of hundreds of society officials of Mahara society at Chief Minister's residence Raipur and again on 20 November 2021 in Jagdalpur's program, Chief Minister once again announced to rename Bastar High School

Jagdalpur in the name of Jhagtu Mahara and Women's Polytechnic Announcement was made to rename the college Dharampura after Dharamu Mahara. With the said announcement, people of Mahara community with five lakh population residing in Bastar division expressed happiness as well as thanked the Chief Minister, but after about 6 months after the announcement. But the State Government Bastar High School, Jagdalpur was renamed after Swami Atmanand English Medium and not after Jagtu Mahara as Bastar High School due to which Mahara society is feeling cheated and humiliated.

Jagtu Mahara, the Yug Purush of Mahara Samaj, who donated hundreds of acres of land to the first

king of Jagdalpur, in whose name Jagtuguda is now known as Jagdalpur, by announcing naming after such a great man, it was so big by not fulfilling the said announcement. Congress government insulted the society and Society will never forget this insult. Mahara Samaj Youth Division Bastar Division will very soon agitate against this humiliation against the state government.

Former Congress candidate of Jagdalpur Assembly Shamu Kashyap, while defending the government for his political interests, continues to issue statements in favor of the government, doing politics under the guise of society and issuing statements in favor of the government is his personal political interest.

## Easter celebration at St. Joseph Parish Bacheli

Bacheli, Apr 17:



"Easter recalls the Resurrection of Christ after three days in the tomb, following his death on Good Friday. Holy Week begins, however, with Palm Sunday, when Jesus entered Jerusalem amid throngs shouting, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Across the world, services are held on Easter, and typically people sing hymns dedicated to the festival. The same was observed at St. Joseph Parish Bacheli on 16th April at 11 pm during the Holy Mass."

The Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish along with their Parish Priest Rev. Fr.

Sajan and Rev. Sisters celebrated the festival of love and sacrifice. The main celebrant was Rev. Fr. Jose Panthalankal. In his homily Father said that we too must have the intensity like Mary Magdalene who was eagerly searching for Lord Jesus where he was kept after death. He meant to say that we have to grow spiritually and serve others like Jesus did throughout his life.

Easter eggs are said to represent Jesus' emergence from the tomb and resurrection." After the Holy Mass, the priests distributed Easter Egg to all the devotees thus sharing the love of Jesus Christ, a new hope and beginning.

Blood Bank Centre at Rajiv Gandhi Chowk in city was inaugurated by Divisional Commissioner Dr Sanjay Alang. On this occasion Sanjay Alang said that Chhattisgarh comes among the effective field of Sickle Cell Anemia and there are many of its cases found and for its treatment more blood is required. Similarly in C-section operation for pregnant women also blood is required and so the importance of Blood Bank automatically increases. Since this Blood Bank centre has been opened in the heart of city, it is easily accessible for all those requiring blood during emergency.

In this programme the CHMO Dr Pramod Mahajan, CP Lal, AD Bara, Nishant Lal, Nitin Harjpal, Avinash Motwani, Cyril George, Dhirendra Jagat, Sandeep Kumar Sahu, Nishu Tanwar and other persons were present. The landline number of this Blood Bank Centre is 07552-400055 and mobile no. is 9977300055.

Divisional Commissioner on this occasion felicitated the NGO institution with mementoes and this included Spot Donor Blood Group; Jaija Foundation; Suryavanshi Blood Service Samiti; Khawab Foundation; Dhriti Foundation, Shanta Foundation.

In this programme the CHMO Dr Pramod Mahajan, CP Lal, AD Bara, Nishant Lal, Nitin Harjpal, Avinash Motwani, Cyril George, Dhirendra Jagat, Sandeep Kumar Sahu, Nishu Tanwar and other persons were present. The landline number of this Blood Bank Centre is 07552-400055 and mobile no. is 9977300055.

## Baba Saheb was a visionary and flag bearer: Birendra Didhi

Rajim, Apr 17:



■ Massive bike rally taken out on Ambedkar's birth anniv

sarpanch and under the aegis of Anushuchit Jati, Janjati Adhikari, Karamchari Sangh here in heart of city at the Bus Stand.

First the guests lighted traditional lamp and garlanded the photo of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar and offered rich tributes to the leader. In order to reach out to the masses with

ideology and works of Baba Saheb Ambedkar, a team of 200 youth took out a massive bike rally along with DJ in the city and passed through 'Satnami Para', 'Mahamaya Mandir', 'Rani Dharamshala', 'Ygatir Mandir Chowk', 'Bus Stand to Raipur Road and then reached Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar's statue in Navapura city and garlanded it. The bike rally converged in the form of public meeting at the Bus Stand. In this meeting, in order to

pass on Baba Saheb's message to general public, Pt. Tuleshwar Dhirilahare gave a wonderful presentation of cultural programme through song and music. The guests present were welcomed with flower bouquet and 'neel' and then a welcome speech was presented by District President AJAKS Sanjay Ekka and gave information about the Constitutional Rights to every individual as mentioned in the Constitution.

Rather he continued to struggle with firm will to provide the right of equality, independence and fundamental rights to every citizen. Speaking further he said that Baba Saheb in order to provide domicile rights to Indian citizens he presented the reply with fact and figures.

The constitution framed by Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar is for the welfare of human society and in this equal rights have been provided to people of different castes, religions.

The key speaker of the programme, Birendra Kumar Didhi, grandson of founder of flag-bearers of Satnam Sangh - Guru Ghasidas Jayanti Dada Nakul Dev Didhi from Raipur, addressing the public gathering said that Baba Saheb's life was full of struggle and still he never backed out.

He further said that the state government has started various schemes for people from all sections of the society, so as to ensure their financial condition. Ensuring basic amenities and carrying out economic development speedily is priority of the state government and firm action is being

taken in this regard. The future demands of basic amenities of the people of the region will be fulfilled.

The people of the village welcomed MLA and expressed gratitude for starting of development works.

MLA Anita Yogendra Sharma laid stone for construction of a water tanks and expansion of water pipeline, boundary wall construction, concretisation of lanes worth Rs 1.80 cr in Gram Panchayat Adsena here on Saturday.

MLA Anita Yogendra Sharma said that the denizens of the region were having demand of basic amenities and seeing which it will now be fulfilled and stone for it has been laid as well.

She further said that the state government has

started various schemes for people from all sections of the society, so as to ensure their financial condition. Ensuring basic

amenities and carrying out economic development speedily is priority of the state government and firm action is being

taken in this regard. The future demands of basic

amenities of the people of the region will be fulfilled.

The people of the village welcomed MLA and expressed gratitude for starting of development

works.

On this occasion Mahila Congress BCC Sarojini Verma, Sarpanch Dr Tejram Pal, Dy. Sarpanch Vijay Markandey, Pradeep Gilhare, Pratap Makandey, Rahul Bharadwaj, Surendra Markandey, Sonbatti Vishwakarma and other persons were present in large number.

■ In Gram Aadsena

taken in this regard. The future demands of basic

amenities of the people of the region will be fulfilled.

The people of the village welcomed MLA and expressed gratitude for starting of development

works.

On this occasion Mahila

Congress BCC Sarojini Verma, Sarpanch Dr

Tejram Pal, Dy. Sarpanch Vijay Markandey, Pradeep

Gilhare, Pratap Makandey, Rahul

Bharadwaj, Surendra

Markandey, Sonbatti

Vishwakarma and other

persons were present in

large number.

■ In Gram Aadsena

taken in this regard. The future demands of basic

amenities of the people of the region will be fulfilled.

The people of the village welcomed MLA and expressed gratitude for starting of development

works.

On this occasion Mahila

Congress BCC Sarojini Verma, Sarpanch Dr

Tejram Pal, Dy. Sarpanch Vijay

Markandey, Pradeep

Gilhare, Pratap Makandey, Rahul

Bharadwaj, Surendra

Markandey, Sonbatti

Vishwakarma and other

persons were present in

large number.

■ In Gram Aadsena

taken in this regard. The future demands of basic

amenities of the people of the region will be fulfilled.

The people of the village welcomed MLA and expressed gratitude for starting of development

works.

On this occasion Mahila

Congress BCC Sarojini Verma, Sarpanch Dr

Tejram Pal, Dy. Sarpanch Vijay

Markandey, Pradeep

Gilhare, Pratap Makandey, Rahul

Bharadwaj, Surendra

Markandey, Sonbatti

Vishwakarma and other

persons were present in

large number.

■ In Gram Aadsena

taken in this regard. The future demands of basic

amenities of the people of the region will be fulfilled.

The people of the village welcomed MLA and expressed gratitude for starting of development

works.

On this occasion Mahila

Congress BCC Sarojini Verma, Sarpanch Dr

Tejram Pal, Dy. Sarpanch Vijay

Markandey, Pradeep

Gilhare, Pratap Makandey, Rahul

Bharadwaj, Surendra

Markandey, Sonbatti

Vishwakarma and other

persons were present in

large number.

■ In Gram Aadsena

taken in this regard. The future demands of basic

amenities of the people of the region will be fulfilled.

The people of the village welcomed MLA and expressed gratitude for starting of development

works.

On this occasion Mahila

Congress BCC Sarojini Verma, Sarpanch Dr

Tejram Pal, Dy. Sarpanch Vijay

Markandey, Pradeep

Gilhare, Pratap Makandey, Rahul

Bharadwaj, Surendra

Markandey, Sonbatti

Vishwakarma and other

persons were present in

large number.

■ In Gram Aadsena

taken in this regard. The future demands of basic

amenities of the people of the region will be fulfilled.

The people of the village welcomed MLA and expressed gratitude for starting of development

works.

On this occasion Mahila

Congress BCC Sarojini Verma, Sarpanch Dr

Tejram Pal, Dy. Sarpanch Vijay

Markandey, Pradeep

Gilhare, Pratap Makandey, Rahul

Bharadwaj, Surendra

Markandey, Sonbatti

Vishwakarma and other

persons were present in

large number.

■ In Gram Aadsena

taken in this regard. The future demands of basic

amenities of the people of the region will be fulfilled.

The people of the village welcomed MLA and expressed gratitude for starting of development

works.

## BRIEF

## Shoots

**Gurugram:** A policeman was injured after a man shot at him to try and free his accomplice here, officials said.

Constable Gauri Shankar, who is posted with the Sector-29 Police Station, was chasing two motorcycle-borne persons in his mobile van, they said. When he cornered the duo, policemen caught hold of one of them, the officials said, adding that the other shot at and injured the constable to free his accomplice. Police officers and crime unit teams were at spot.

## Gold

**Jaipur:** Customs officials have seized over 292 grams of gold valued at Rs 15.95 lakh from a passenger, who arrived at Jaipur International Airport from Dubai. The passenger was carrying 64 pieces of solid fine gold with white polish, which were concealed inside bracelets. The gold was detected during checking, officials said. Smuggled gold collectively weighing 292.270 grams, valued at Rs 15,95,794 was recovered which has been seized under Customs Act.

## Sneaks

**Kolkata:** "Cricket has no boundaries!" The saying was proved right by a 31-year-old Bangladeshi man who sneaked into India to watch Indian Premier League (IPL) matches. Md Ibrahim, a resident of Purva Chandpur in Narayanganj district of Bangladesh, was apprehended near the International Border in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas, the BSF said. During interrogation, he revealed that he is a cricket fan and was going to Mumbai to watch IPL matches.

## Nabbed

**Gurugram:** An electrician has been nabbed for allegedly murdering a 79-year-old man in Badshahpur area with an ice-pick, police said. Ravi, a Gandhi colony resident, was apprehended within 48 hours of the murder. The accused during interrogation told police that he had once visited the house of the victim, Janardan, for some electric repair work, and knew he had money. He bought an ice-pick and went to victim's house posing as someone looking to rent a room.

## Booked

**Thanjavur:** A day after Gnanajothi (72) was rescued from a house here in which she was confined for past 10 years by her two well-earning sons, the siblings were booked for allegedly abandoning the senior citizen. The Tamil University police registered a case against the two sons, a 50-year-old police inspector Shanmugasundaram who works in Chennai and his younger brother Venkatesan (45), a Doordarshan employee based in Pattukottai under Section 24.

# Sat phones, thermal imagers find way to terror groups

**Srinagar, Apr 17 (PTI):**

Fifteen signatures of Iridium satellite phones, used by the US-led allied forces in Afghanistan, and Wi-Fi-enabled thermal imaging devices that help a terrorist to escape security cordon especially during night have been found in the militancy-hit Kashmir valley, officials here said on Sunday.

They said some of the signatures of Iridium satellite phones have been found in cyber space since February. It started from North Kashmir and now there have been some spots in parts of South Kashmir as well, they said.

These satellite phones could be part of the consignment dumped by the allied forces while leaving Afghanistan or may have been snatched by the Taliban or terrorists fighting there, the officials said.

The officials said that signatures of thermal imaging devices which can be connected to Wi-Fi have also been found from some of the encounter sites.



Iridium satellite phone model used by US in Afghanistan.

need to panic as the movement of these phones was being specially monitored and those using them would definitely be in custody soon or get neutralised, the officials said.

Bodies like the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) and

the Defence Intelligence Agencies (DIA) have been tasked with finding and giving out real-time information about the presence of these satellite phones in the Kashmir valley, they said. In the aftermath of the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) first restricted the use of Iridium and Thuraya satellite phones and infrastructure, and in 2012 completely banned them under the provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act.

Passengers importing satellite telephone as baggage are required to declare them to the Customs on arrival at immigration and customs checkpoints.

Also, the satellite phone declared by Customs can be allowed clearance subject to production of permission for use from the government's Department of Telecommunications.

The officials said that signatures of thermal imaging devices which can be connected to Wi-Fi have also been found from some of the encounter sites.

This device, which is not part of the Pakistani Army and may possibly have found its way into Kashmir from Afghanistan, is used by terrorists to find their way out during cordon and search operations especially during night.

The device senses the image of approaching security personnel from the heat generated from his body besides giving an overview of the general area outside their hideouts, the officials said.

As a precautionary measure, the security forces now carry jammers along with other tools to block all signals so that the terrorists do not find a way to escape from the area, the officials said.

## Opposition raises concern over criminal procedure amendments

**New Delhi, Apr 17 (AFP):**

The Parliament has cleared a contentious bill that grants sweeping powers to police to collect biometric and physical measurements of people who have been convicted, arrested or detained.

The Criminal Procedure Identification Bill (CPI) seeks to update a British-era law to enable police to collect samples of a person's biometric details, such as fingerprints and iris scans, if they have been arrested, detained or placed under preventive detention on charges that attract a jail term of seven years or more.

Opposition political parties have branded the proposed law as draconian



and raised concerns about data breaches and violation of privacy.

Lawmakers also fear adverse implications for human rights, and have called for the bill to be referred to a parliamentary standing committee or a select committee for detailed deliberations.

"If this bill becomes law, India will enter a dark and

dangerous phase, a full-fledged police state – and any irksome opposition will simply be brutalised into silence with laws such as this one," said Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra.

"With the advance in technology, the state has ever greater powers of surveillance over citizens."

**Mumbai, Apr 17 (PTI):**

Stating that stoking communal fires in the name of Shriram is an insult to the very "idea of Lord Ram", Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Sunday said even Lord Ram will be restless over the developments in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone, where communal clashes on Ram Navami led to the imposition of curfew.

He accused the BJP of adopting a strategy of sowing religious discord to win elections, even at the cost of breaking the country.

In his weekly column "Rokhthok" in Shiv Sena mouthpiece 'Saamana', Raut wrote, "if someone



Sanjay Raut

wants to stoke the fire of fundamentalism and disturb the peace to win elections, they are sowing seeds of a second Partition".

Raut is the executive editor of Saamana.

Referring to communal clashes in various parts of the country on Ram

## 'JANTA DARSHAN'



UP CM Yogi Adityanath during a 'Janta Darshan' programme in Gorakhpur, Sunday.

## Raj Thackeray to visit Ayodhya in June

**Pune, Apr 17 (PTI):**

- Says will give tit for tat if loudspeakers not removed



Raj Thackeray

prayers on loudspeakers".

"On May 1, I will address a public gathering at S a m h a j i n g a r (Aurangabad). On June 5, I will visit Ayodhya for darshan along with MNS volunteers. I also appeal to others to come to Ayodhya," the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) president told a press conference in Pune. When asked about

the purpose of his visit to Ayodhya, Raj Thackeray parried the question, saying he has not travelled out for a long time.

Interestingly, amid a war of words between the ruling Shiv Sena and Raj Thackeray, Sena MP Sanjay Raut said that state minister Aaditya Thackeray will visit Ayodhya next month.

He reiterated his demand that loudspeakers on mosques be removed by May 3 or else MNS will play 'Hanuman Chalisa' eulogising Lord Hanuman on loudspeakers outside mosques.

"People think that loudspeakers atop mosques is a religious issue but it is a social issue. If you want to play loudspeakers five times a day then we will play 'Hanuman Chalisa' the MNS chief said.

five times in front of mosques. I appeal to all Hindu brothers to be prepared. We will wait till May 3 when Ramzan ends. But if they don't stop, and if they think that their religion is bigger than the judiciary, then we will give tit for tat. The MNS is preparing for it," he said.

Stating that the MNS never wanted communal riots to take place in the country or to disturb the peace, Raj Thackeray said the Muslim community should look at the demand for the removal of loudspeakers from mosques from a humanitarian angle. "We are not opposing their prayers. But if they insist on using loudspeakers then they will have to listen to our prayers on loudspeakers," the MNS chief said.

He said the Forest Department will soon start work on the project.

"We will build cottages. Locals are already in-

## Deomali to be developed for eco-tourism: Chief Secretary

**Bhubaneswar, Apr 17 (PTI):**

The Odisha government is planning eco-tourism on Deomali peak in Koraput district, Chief Secretary S C Mohapatra has said.

The peak, at an elevation of 1,672 metres, is the tallest in the Eastern Ghats.

"I visited Deomali hilltop. We had a detailed discussion on how eco-tourism can be developed there. Site selection for a retreat has also been done," Mohapatra told reporters at Koraput.

He said the Forest Department will soon start work on the project.

"We will build cottages. Locals are already in-

olved in tourism and are charging some fees for vehicles visiting the place. A gate has been constructed. I had discussions with villagers on how they can provide better amenities," he said.

Mohapatra hoped that Deomali will become the most sought-after destination in the future, and tourism will be the source of income for hundreds of villagers.

Deomali, situated near Doodhbari village, around 70 km from Koraput town, is surrounded by dense forest rich in flora and fauna. The hill is also rich in mineral resources such as bauxite, limestone and gemstones.

## NGT asks states to explore viability of electric, PNG crematorium

**New Delhi, Apr 17 (PTI):**

The National Green Tribunal has directed all states and union territories to switch over to environment friendly methods of cremation and explore viability of electric or PNG crematorium alongside wood to curb air pollution.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said air pollution takes place in the course of cremation and electric/PNG crematoria can be set up as an option to the wood-based crematorium. A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said air pollution takes place in the course of cremation and electric/PNG crematoria can be set up as an option to the wood-based crematorium. The tribunal noted that as per religious



panel said it had asked all states and UTs to consider remedial steps to prevent such pollution and educate and motivate people to switch over to environment friendly methods of cremation. "To begin with, electric/PNG crematoria can be set up as an option to the wood-based crematorium and if and to the extent people are persuaded to do so, a wood-based crematorium can be given a go. The report does not show serious effort on this aspect. Authorities concerned may explore viability of electric/PNG crematorium alongside wood-based cre-

## Seven-day Kolkata film festival from Apr 25

**Kolkata, Apr 17 (PTI):**

pected to attend the seven-day gala, he said.

As a mark of tribute to Ray on his birth centenary year, 'Pather Panchali', 'Nayak', 'Hirak Rajar Deshe', 'Inner Eye' and 'Bala' would also be screened.

A special section has been arranged in memory of filmmaker Satyajit Ray's masterpiece 'Aranyer Din Ratri' will be the inaugural movie of the 27th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF), to be held here from April 25 to May 1. A bouquet of 163 movies from 40 countries, including 104 feature films, will be screened across 10 venues of the festival, which was originally slated for November 2021 but was deferred due to a spike in COVID-19 cases, KIFF director Raj Chakraborty said.

Finland, being the focus country of 27th KIFF, at least six films from the country will be screened. Over 1 lakh people are ex-

pecting to attend the seven-day gala, he said. Memorial Lecture, this year, will be delivered by 'Piku' director Shoojit Sircar on the second day, while exhibitions would be organised to honour late singers Lata Mangeshkar, Sandhya Mukhopadhyay and Bappi Lahiri.

Goutam Ghosh, renowned filmmaker and senior KIFF committee member, said competitions will be held in three categories — innovation in moving images, Indian language films and short films.

"Many independent movies are being made all over the country and the world. This festival wants to acknowledge some of the best works," Ghosh said.

The Satyajit Ray

belief, the mode of cremation by fire is considered to be pious and in one cremation, 350-450 Kg of wood is burnt in the open. While making it clear that it has no intention to hurt any religious belief, the green

matorium, in the interest of environment and also lesser cost for those who find it difficult to afford high cost of wood-based cremation. This aspect may be considered by authorities concerned of all states/UTs," the bench, also comprising Justices Sudhir Agarwal and Arun Kumar Tyagi, said. The tribunal was hearing a plea filed by Real Anchors Developers Pvt. Ltd relating to prevention of air pollution on account of dust and emissions during cremation at Shakti Khand-4 in Indirapuram, Ghaziabad.

## BRIEF

## Cereal

**Maryland:** The US Food and Drug Administration is investigating Lucky Charms cereal after dozens of customers complained of illness after eating it. The FDA said it has received more than 100 complaints related to Lucky Charms so far this year. The FDA takes seriously any reports of possible adulteration of a food that may also cause illnesses or injury, the agency said. Several hundred people have also posted on a food safety website, iwaspoisoned.com, complaining.

## Suspect

**Columbia:** Police have arrested a 22-year-old male in connection with a shooting at a busy shopping mall in South Carolina's capital that left 14 people injured. Columbia Police Chief WH Skip Holbrook said one of three people initially detained by law enforcement as a person of interest, remains in police custody and is expected to be charged with unlawful carrying of a pistol. It is not immediately known if the suspect has an attorney who could speak on his behalf.

## Rosario

**Mexico City:** Rosario Ibarra, whose long struggle to learn the fate of her disappeared son helped develop Mexico's human rights movement and led her to become the country's first female presidential candidate, died at age 95 in northern city of Monterrey. The National Human Rights Commission now headed by her daughter Rosario Piedra announced the death on its Twitter account, calling her a pioneer in the defense of human rights, peace and democracy in Mexico.

## Discuss

**Riyadh:** Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, their second call since the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The Saudi Press Agency said the two discussed bilateral relations and ways of enhancing them in all fields. The Saudi readout of the call said the crown prince affirmed support for efforts that would lead to a political solution to the crisis in Ukraine. It recently announced USD 10 million in aid for Ukrainians.

## Accused

**Armuchee:** Police say a northwest Georgia man killed his grandmother by stuffing her in a freezer while she was still alive. Floyd County Police discovered the body of Doris Cumming, 82, late Thursday in the Armuchee home she shared with her grandson, 29-year-old Robert Keith Tincher III. Tincher was charged with murder, aggravated battery and concealing the death of another. He remains jailed in Rome. It's unclear if he has lawyer who could comment.

## Russians flee Putin regime to join Ukraine refugees



Moscow-born Olga Romanova near her home in the Israeli settlement of Maale Adumim.

**Rehovot, Apr 17 (AFP):**

The moment Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine, Russian filmmakers Anna Shishova-Bogolyubova and Dmitry Bogolyubov knew they had to leave Moscow.

"We were the next on the list," the couple told AFP in their borrowed flat in Rehovot, a quiet Israeli

city 20 kilometres (12 miles) south of Tel Aviv. Once you're on the list of alleged "foreign agents", you face a life of "self-censorship or, sooner or later, prison", said Bogolyubov, who directed the German-financed 2019 documentary "Town of Glory".

The film portrays President Vladimir Putin's use of references

related to the fight against Nazi Germany to establish his authority in Russian villages. As its international isolation has deepened, Moscow has come to view all movies made with foreign financing with suspicion, including documentaries, and the couple said theirs was no exception. "Over the past few years, we felt threatened. In the past few months in particular, people were spying on us and taking photographs on our film sets," Shishova-Bogolyubova said. The couple decided to continue working in Russia but, taking advantage of their Jewish ancestry, they obtained Israeli citizenship just in case.

Israel's Law of Return gives the right of citizenship to anyone with at least one Jewish grandparent, a criterion that tens of thousands in both Russia and Ukraine meet.

## North Korea tested new tactical guided weapon

**Seoul, Apr 17 (AP):**

North Korea has test-fired a new type of tactical guided weapon designed to boost its nuclear fighting capability, state media reported Sunday, days after it passed its biggest state anniversary without an expected military parade, which it typically uses to unveil provocative weapons systems.

The test, the 13th round of weapons launches by Pyongyang this year, came amid concerns that North Korea may soon conduct a larger provocation like a nuclear test in an effort to expand the country's weapons arsenal and increase pressure on its rivals amid stalled diplomacy. The official Korean Central News Agency said leader Kim Jong Un and

Firing of a weapon at undisclosed location in North Korea.



other top officials observed the launch. It said the weapon tested has great significance in drastically improving the firepower of the frontline long-range artillery units, enhancing the efficiency in the operation of (North Korea's) tactical nukes of and diversification of their firepower missions. KCNA didn't elaborate,

but the mention of the word tactical nukes suggested the weapon is likely capable of carrying a battlefield nuclear warhead that could hit strategic targets in South Korea, including US military installations. The KCNA dispatch didn't say when and where the launch occurred. North Korea is trying to deploy not only long-

## REMEMBRANCE



Demonstration in remembrance of terror victims of the 2019 Easter Sunday suicide bombings at three churches and three deluxe hotels in Colombo, Sri Lanka on Sunday.

## Human trafficking raises alarm in divided Cyprus

**Nicosia, Apr 17 (AFP):**

Cyprus's frozen conflict is providing fertile ground for human traffickers with cases at "alarming" levels in the EU member state, and the breakaway north considered as bad as Afghanistan. "I love her, but at the same time she reminds me about my past," said one Cameroonian trafficking survivor, referring to her young daughter. "There was so much abuse during those months," added the woman in her 20s, who said she was rescued by a client from her ordeal. "I didn't die ... and God saved me, so I know that He has a plan for my life," she told an NGO working with survivors



tions. While the report does not formally rank the breakaway Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, only recognised by Ankara, it says the territory would be in Tier 3 with the worst offenders including Afghanistan and North Korea if it did. Cyprus has been split since 1974, after Turkey invaded in response to a Greek-sponsored coup. And the lack of progress in resolving the conflict shifts attention and resources away from issues like human trafficking, said Nasia Hadjigeorgiou, assistant professor in transitional justice and human rights from the University of Central Lancashire Cyprus.



Alvaro Conrado, father of Alvaro Conrado, a boy who died in April, 2018, during protests against Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

## Families demand justice from Nicaragua protest repression

**Managua, Apr 17 (AFP):**

Alvaro Conrado's last words were: "It hurts to breathe." He was 15 when he was shot in the stomach while bringing water to students protesting against the government of Nicaragua President Daniel Ortega four years ago. He was likely shot by a sniper. His family is still waiting for justice.

"Justice and truth. That's what we want, we want them to tell us what happened. Four years after his death no one has been arrested," the teenager's father, also called Alvaro Conrado, told AFP from the family home in Managua.

Protests had broken out two days before the younger Alvaro's death, on April 18, 2018 — initially against a social security reform before ex-

ploding into a massive anti-government movement. The country was brought to a standstill for five months, during which the government's response left 355 people dead and more than 100,000 exiled, according to the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights.

Nicaragua has been gripped by political crisis since. The government declared the protests an attempted coup d'état, and has since banned nu-

## Tunisian weavers turn rags into eco-friendly rugs



A Tunisian craftswoman weaves a rug in the southwestern Tunisian oasis of Nefta.

**Nefta, Apr 17 (AFP):**

Najet unravels an old pair of jeans, raw material for a designer carpet: traditional, eco-friendly crafts are being adapted for new markets thanks to a project born in the Tunisian desert. "I

learned to weave at a young age, from my mother," said the 52-year-old from the oasis town of Nefta, 500 kilometres (310 miles) south of Tunis. Now, she is making a living from it. She is selling her Turkish-style kilim rugs via Shanti, a social

enterprise that helps artisans from across the North African country reach buyers and bring vital revenue into some of its most marginalised communities.

Shanti is the brainchild of Najet's Franco-Tunisian nephew Mehdi Baccouche. "Unstitching old jumpers, tearing up old cotton garments, making rugs out of them, it's a folk art found in all Tunisian homes," he told AFP.

While the skill "has been around forever", reaching buyers is a challenge, he added.

Alvaro Conrado's last words were: "It hurts to breathe." He was 15 when he was shot in the stomach while bringing water to students protesting against the government of Nicaragua President Daniel Ortega four years ago. He was likely shot by a sniper. His family is still waiting for justice.

"Justice and truth.

That's what we want, we want them to tell us what happened. Four years after his death no one has been arrested," the teenager's father, also called Alvaro Conrado, told AFP from the family home in Managua.

Protests had broken

out two days before the younger Alvaro's death, on April 18, 2018 — initially against a social security reform before ex-

## Libya's underground homes wait for tourism revival

**Gharyan, Apr 17 (AFP):**

Gharyan's unique underground houses were hewn into the mountain-side centuries ago, and many lie abandoned, but residents of the Libyan town are hoping tourism can help restore their heritage. "My great-great-great-great-great-grandfather dug this yard 355 years ago," said Al-Arbi Belhaj, who owns one of the oldest houses in the mixed Berber-Arab town south of Tripoli. His ancestor would have used a "tajouk" pickaxe to chip away at the ground before loading the rubble into a woven date-palm "gouffa" basket to carry it away, he said. Dug deep into the arid Nafusa mountains at around 700 metres (2,300 feet) above sea level, the home would have been

protected against the scorching summers that bring temperatures up to 45 degrees Celsius (113 Fahrenheit). It would have also stayed warm throughout the often snowy winters. The region's bedrock has a consistency that allowed the underground dwelling — known as a damous — to last for cen-

turies without collapsing. Some of the buildings are over 2,300 years old, and ancient Greek historians mentioned their existence, according to historian Youssef al-Khattali. The area also has burial sites dating back to Phoenician times, he added. Today, Belhaj says he is the owner of the oldest underground

home in Gharyan, a town where many residents have family records and property deeds dating back centuries. The Warren of rooms dug into the rock around the courtyard once housed as many as eight large families, he said. He was the last person to be born there, in 1967. In 1990, like many people seeking more comfortable dwellings with running water and electricity, the family moved out of the home, but they kept ownership of it.

Now, Belhaj has renovated it and turned it into a tourist attraction.

While late dictator Moamer Kadhafi allowed tourists to visit the country on organised trips, visitors have been thin on the ground since his fall in a 2011 revolt, which sparked a decade of chaos.

According to the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights, Nicaragua has been gripped by political crisis since. The government declared the protests an attempted coup d'état, and has since banned numerous opposition political parties, NGOs, independent media and even private universities. Every level of government is in the iron grip of the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) party. Ex-guerrilla Ortega, 76, was unsurprisingly re-elected in November to his fourth consecutive mandate. Before the vote, several potential opponents were jailed, accused of trying to overthrow the government with the help of Washington.

Several days before the anniversary of the start of the protests, Ortega's wife and vice president, Rosario Murillo, branded the movement a "hellish malevolent evil explosion" and said it "will not be excused nor forgotten."

## Endangered whales make stand in Cape Cod

**Provincetown, Apr 17 (AFP):**

After many hours scouring Cape Cod Bay in US and a few false alarms, those aboard the Research Vessel Shearwater on a bright April day make their first sighting: three North Atlantic right whales, including a rare mother-calf pair.

The captain cuts the engines and a trio of marine biologists spring into action, rapidly snapping photos and noting markings that can be used to identify individual animals and track injuries — a vital part of conservation efforts for a species believed to have 336 members. While the whaling that drove them to near-extinction has long been banned, unintended collisions with ships and entanglements



with fishing gear are today the main threats for Eubalaena glacialis, one of the most endangered mammals in the world. Approaching 60 feet in length and weighing over 70 tons, the North Atlantic right whale is the third largest whale in existence. Their life spans are similar to humans, with individuals living up to a century. "Unfortunately, since 2010, their population has been decreasing," explains Christy Hudak, the leader of the Center for Coastal Studies' expedition that set off from Provincetown, a historic New England fishing village that is today popular for whale watching and gay tourism.

# CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 47 No. 193

## Loan apps fraud

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had summoned senior executives of Google recently and sought a detailed list of micro-lending apps operational in the country, as part of its ongoing investigation into instant app-based loan frauds. Executives at Google, Hyderabad, were called to provide a list of all such mobile apps in order to verify them through the Google Play Store. The agency's Hyderabad office is probing 38 non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and over 300 fintech firms under the anti-money laundering law. There is an alarming trend of instant loan apps in India. Despite clear guidelines from Reserve Bank of India (RBI), some fraudsters find loopholes to develop and publish such applications. Last year, Google had removed about 100 instant loan apps from its PlayStore in the country that were involved in alleged collection of personal data and its misuse, fraudulent and unlawful practices of physical threats and use of other coercive methods for recovery of loans, according to the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY). RBI had said that legitimate public lending activities can be undertaken by banks, NBFCs registered with RBI and other entities who are regulated by the state governments under appropriate statutory provisions such as Money Lending Acts. Members of the public were cautioned not to fall prey to such unscrupulous activities and were requested to verify the antecedents of the company/firm offering loans online or through mobile apps, the RBI had said. As per the 'Google Play Developer Policy', financial services apps that offer personal loans are required to disclose key information such as minimum and maximum periods of repayment, maximum annual percentage rate, and a representative example of the total loan cost.

A majority of the victims in the loan apps scam, it turns out, are well-educated individuals and information technology professionals. When downloading an app, regardless of the threat level, one must always check for the permissions it asks and check the reviews as well. The most common target audiences are the educated lot and the small-time businessmen hit by the economic downturn. Investigators have found that, after a customer downloads an app and uploads the documents demanded, the loan amount is credited into the applicant's bank account. The phone numbers of the customer as well as the numbers of his family members are shared by the app company with others. After a customer avails a loan, tele-callers and agents of about 20-30 similar apps call the customers and lure them into availing more loans. They would say, 'You are eligible because your credentials have been verified by the company from which you borrowed the first loan.' Many customers fell for this trick and ended up borrowing upto Rs the maximum of 50,000. The interest rate is 35 percent. After the due date, a flat Rs 3,000 as penalty per day is levied on the customer. Many customers end up borrowing more to repay a previous instant loan, and end up in a deep pit from where escape would be difficult. There have been cases of fraud instant loan apps being run from outside of India as well, particularly from China. Only way to prevent such crimes is to allow loans only from apps of registered bank and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), but the trend of informal lending in society makes it challenging.

## Racism and bigotry

S based, University of Pennsylvania law professor, Amy Wax made many derogatory remarks about immigrants and Indians on a news channel talk show. For many immigrants living in America, casual racism that surfaces during day-to-day encounters is not a rarity. However, things can sound surprising, even shocking when blatant racism and indecorous mention of colour and caste comes from high positions in academic and professional circles. Perhaps that explains why when a Pennsylvania law professor Amy Wax calling India in derogatory terms and slamming forward caste women, seemed really unsavoury. But who really is Amy Wax who seems to be losing restraint on showing her racist and bigoted side. Amy Wax is a lawyer, academic and a neurologist. Born in Troy, New York, Wax was raised in a Jewish household. Ironically, Wax who has been making anti-immigrant comments in the past too herself comes from an immigrant family. Her parents were both immigrants from Eastern Europe. The intellectual class in the US uniformly and loudly rejects all forms of racism. If Wax expresses ideas that echo racist theses, it would indicate that she is betraying her own intellectual class. Appropriately, her university acknowledged her betrayal when it condemned her xenophobic and white supremacist discourse.

Wax offered her own definition of the spirit of liberty, which she identified as the virtue associated with people who are mistrustful of centralized concentrations of authority who have a kind of 'don't tread on me' attitude, who are focused on our freedoms, on our liberties, on sort of small-scale personal responsibility who are non-conformist in good ways. Apart from the fact that Wax is attributing a cultural attitude to Asians (more than half of humanity), her idea of liberty reflects feelings associated with aggressive, nationalistic historical memes (for example, don't tread on me) rather than the kind of political concept we might expect from a serious intellectual. The definition of what it means to be 'white' in America has always been fraught. Unlike ethnicity, which has at least some basis in shared DNA, the quality of 'whiteness' or 'non-whiteness' is both amorphous and transitory, defined differently at various points in our history, usually depending on who was doing the defining. The eugenics who pushed through broad-scale immigration restriction in 1917 and 1924 were obsessed with classifying races. Yet those early 20th century immigrants did assimilate, despite being in many cases far more culturally incompatible as Wax phrases it than today's newcomers. Assimilation took time, usually three generations to be fully realized, but it not only occurred for the progeny of Yiddish speaking arrivals from Russia but for illiterate peasants and millions of others like Africans and Asians. Indians assimilate with the US fastest.

Central Chronicle welcomes, articles, write ups, comments on different issues for editorial page (800-900 words), Letter to editor for this page. It can be sent by e-mail at: [editor@centralchronicle@gmail.com](mailto:editor@centralchronicle@gmail.com)

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

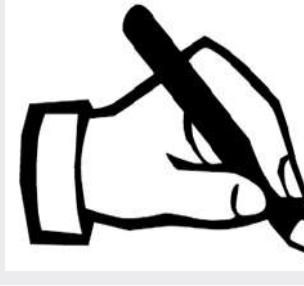
## WHEAT GRAIN UNLOADING



Labourers unload wheat grain from a trailer at a wholesale grain market on the outskirts of Amritsar, Punjab.

## Explaining India's unequivocal position on Russia

SUMIT GANGULY



**A**s global democracies lined up to condemn the actions of Russia in Ukraine, one country was less forthcoming in its criticism and it was the largest democracy of them all: India. Throughout the ongoing crisis, the government in India has carefully avoided taking an unequivocal position. It has abstained on every United Nations resolution dealing with the matter and refused to join the international community in economic measures against Moscow, prompting a warning from the US over potentially circumventing sanctions. Even statements from India condemning the reported mass killing of Ukrainian civilians stopped short of apportioning blame on any party, instead calling for an impartial investigation. As a scholar of Indian foreign and security policy, I know that understanding India's stance on the war in Ukraine is complex. In considerable part, India's decision to avoid taking a clear-cut position stems from a dependence on Russia on a host of issues including diplomatic, military and energy-related.

This stance is not entirely new. On a range of fraught global issues, India has long avoided adopting a firm position based on its status as a nonaligned state – one of a number of countries that is not formally allied to any power bloc. From a strategic standpoint today, decision-makers in New Delhi believe that they can ill afford to alienate Russia because they count on Moscow to veto any adverse United Nations Security Council resolution on the disputed

region of Kashmir. Since the partition of the subcontinent in 1947, India and Pakistan have fought three wars over Kashmir, and the region continues to be a source of tension. Harking back to the days of the Soviet Union, India has relied on Russia's veto at the UN to protect itself from any adverse statement on Kashmir. For example, during the East Pakistani crisis of 1971, which led to the creation of Bangladesh – the Soviets protected India from censure at the UN, vetoing a resolution demanding the withdrawal of troops from the disputed region. In all, the Soviets and Russia have used their veto power six times to protect India. India has not had to rely on Russia for a veto since the end of the Cold War. But with tension over Kashmir still high amid sporadic fighting, New Delhi will want to ensure that Moscow is on its side should it come before the Security Council again.

In large part, India's close relationship with Russia stems from Cold War allegiances. India drifted into the Soviet orbit mostly as a counter to America's strategic alliance with Pakistan, India's subcontinental adversary. India is also hopeful of Russian support or at least neutrality in its long-standing border dispute with the People's Republic of China. India and China share a border of more than 2,000 miles (near 3,500 km), the location of which has been contested for 80 years, including during a war in 1962 that failed to settle the matter. Above all, India does not want Russia to side with China should there be further clash-

es in the Himalayas, especially since the border dispute has again come to the fore since 2020, with significant skirmishes between the Indian Army and China's People's Liberation Army. India is also acutely dependent on Russia for a range of weaponry. In fact, 60 percent to 70 percent of India's conventional arsenal is of either Soviet or Russian origin.

Over the past decade, New Delhi has sought to significantly diversify its weapons acquisitions. To that end, it has purchased more than USD 20 billion worth of military equipment from the US over the past decade or so. Nevertheless, it is still in no position to walk away from Russia as far as weapons sales are concerned. To compound matters, Russia and India have developed close military manufacturing ties. For nearly two decades, the two countries have co-produced the highly versatile BrahMos missile, which can be fired from ships, aircraft or land. India recently received its first export order for the missile, from the Philippines. This defence link with Russia could be severed only at considerable financial and strategic cost to India. Also, Russia, unlike any Western country including the United States, has been willing to share certain forms of weapons technology with India. For example, Russia has leased an Akula-class nuclear submarine to India. No other country has been willing to offer India equivalent weaponry, in part over concerns that the technology will be shared with Russia. In any case, Russia is able to provide India with high-technology weaponry at prices significantly lower than any Western supplier. Not surprisingly, despite significant American opposition, India chose to acquire the Russian S-400 missile defence battery.

It isn't just India's defence industry that is reliant on Moscow. India's energy sector is also inextricably tied to Russia. Since the George W Bush administration ended India's status as a nuclear pariah, a designation it had held for testing nuclear weapons outside the ambit of the

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, India has developed a civilian nuclear program. Although the sector remains relatively small in terms of total energy production, it is growing and Russia has emerged as a key partner. After the US-India civilian nuclear agreement of 2008 allowed India to participate in normal civilian nuclear commerce, Russia quickly signed an agreement to build six nuclear reactors in the country. Neither the US nor any other Western country has proved willing to invest in India's civilian nuclear energy sector because of a rather restrictive nuclear liability law, which holds that the manufacturer of the plant or any of its components would be liable in the event of an accident.

But since the Russian government has said it will assume the necessary liability in the event of a nuclear accident, it has been able to enter the nuclear power sector in India. Western governments, however, are unwilling to provide such guarantees to their commercial companies. Away from nuclear power, India also has invested in Russian oil and gas fields. India's state-run Oil and Natural Gas Commission, for example, has long been involved in the extraction of fossil fuels off Sakhalin Island, a Russian island in the Pacific Ocean. And given that India imports close to 85 percent of its crude oil requirements from abroad albeit only a small fraction from Russia, it is hardly in a position to shut off the Russian spigot. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken recently noted that India's 'relationship with Russia has developed over decades at a time when the United States was not able to be a partner to India' and suggested that Washington was prepared now to be that partner. But given the diplomatic, military and energy considerations, it is difficult to see India deviating from its balancing act over Russia any time soon.

(Sumit Ganguly is Professor and the Tagore Chair in Indian Cultures and Civilizations, Indiana University in US.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Remains mirage

As per the government's Doubling Farmers' Income Committee report, the benchmark household income of 2015-16 was Rs 8,059 per month and this was promised to be doubled in real terms, taking inflation into account. As such, the target income by 2022 is Rs 21,146 per month remains a mirage. The centre vowed to double farmers' income between 2015 and 2022 but in the midway point farm families in Jharkhand actually saw their average monthly income drop by thirty percent. The very disappointing fig emerged from the four states which are as under: In Jharkhand, however, a farm family's average income fell from Rs 7,068 to Rs 4,895 over the same period. In Madhya Pradesh, it fell from Rs 9,740 to Rs 8,339, in Nagaland, from Rs 11,428 to Rs 9,877, and for Odisha, it dipped marginally from Rs 5,274 to Rs 5,112. The Committee recommended that the Department of Agriculture and Family Welfare 'should formulate a Special Team to figure out the reasons for falling farmers' income in those States and take some course corrective measures so that the doubling of far lost sight of.' When asked what steps the Department had taken to increase farmers' income in these States, the Department responded that 'input in this regard will need to be sought from the concerned State governments, a reply that the parliamentary panel termed as 'lackadaisical'. In the 2019-20 Budget, announced just before Lok Sabha polls, the department received 4.7 percent of total allocations. That proportion has dropped every year since, and in 2022-23, the department's budget accounted for only 3.1 percent of the total. 'Keeping in mind the vital role played by agriculture in overall economy of the country, the Committee recommend the Department to take up the issue of decline in percentage budgetary allocation in favour of the Department out of Central Pool with the Ministry of Finance and ensure that this declining trend is reversed or at least gets discontinued from the next Budget onwards,' said the panel. We are also aware how the country is getting huge orders to export wheat and it can be possible when our farmers will produce more and get the maximum benefits of such situations.

Yash P Ralhan, Jalandhar

### Federal structure

At a time when the need is to restructure the federal structure of the country, so as to give more autonomy to the States and enable them to fashion their destiny, the government of the day appears to be bent upon recasting the entire country into its regressive vision. The obsessive concern about Hindi should be seen as part of this project. The proceedings and the conduct of Ministers within Parliament give the impression that the non-Hindi speaking States do not matter. Grotesque names to the central government sponsored schemes are mostly unintelligible to people of the south. Any attempt at the forceful imposition of Hindi will be disastrous.

Manohar, via email

## WHAT THEY TWEET!



Kawal@Sibal

Russian info-warfare is extremely poor. West is controlling narrative to extent that serious confusion about performance of Russian army & massive scale of casualties has resulted. Why don't they publish details of these prisoners from Nato countries.



TSandeep@sandythapar

It's almost been half a century. Why do politicians not settle the Capital issue? Give Chandigarh to Punjab, make Haryana's capital anywhere between Ambala, Mohali & Panchkula. Or Karnal! Remember a new capital means addl outlay, addl contracts, addl earnings. A la Jagan!



Monica@jasuja

discrimination is faced by Indians everywhere but we prefer to 'let it pass'. However that doesn't mean it doesn't happen, just that we prefer to move on. Condemn this happening in SG. People with white skin are born with a lottery no matter whether they feel the privilege or not.

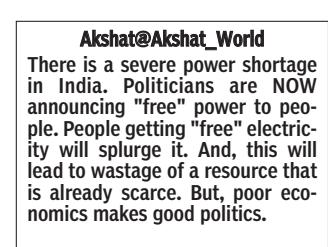


Vaibhav@SinghIFS

Nature's Red Carpet Welcome! Kartik swamy Temple Trek Rudraprayag!



The combined ability of Japan and India to provide developmental/infrastructural alternatives (to BRI etc.) to the South Asian, Indian Ocean and to some extent even African states is not widely appreciated. This is a power and promise packed duo.



There is a severe power shortage in India. Politicians are now announcing "free" power to people. People getting "free" electricity will splurge it. And, this will lead to wastage of a resource that is already scarce. But, poor economics makes good politics.

## BRIEF

## Headwinds



**New Delhi:** MG Motor India President and Managing Director Rajeev Chaba told PTI that increase in raw material costs and semiconductor prices, coupled with supply chain disruptions due to the war in Ukraine, could become headwinds for automobile industry.

## Drilling

**Agartala:** ONGC has successfully drilled three gas wells in Tripura by using new technology, a senior company official said on Sunday. The new technology - Managed Pressure Drilling (MPD) proved to be beneficial in the state because conventional drilling could not be used in these geographical locations, said ONGC Tripura Asset Manager, Tarun Malik while speaking at a function.

## Expects



**New Delhi:** Gaming start-up Winzo expects its ecosystem to create more than 1 lakh direct and indirect jobs over the next one year. Winzo co-founder Saumya Singh Rathore told PTI that with growth in the number of games, the company is engaging influencers.

## Looking

**Mumbai:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is planning to take on lease at least 50,000 square feet of office space in Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) and South Mumbai.

According to an Expression of Interest (EoI) floated by the RBI, the acquisition of office premises is proposed on a long-term lease basis for a minimum 40,000 square feet carpet area located in and around BKC within a radius of 5 km from its BKC office.

## Bullish



**New Delhi:** Bullish on the growth potential of India's office market, TATA Realty and Infrastructure MD and CEO Sanjay Dutt told PTI that the total leasing of office space across major seven cities is expected to rise to more than 30 million square feet in 2022.

## Stake

**New Delhi:** Mahindra Holidays & Resorts India Ltd said it will increase its holding in Rocksport Pvt Ltd, a firm engaged in soft adventure activities and learning programmes, to 23.42 per cent with the acquisition of a tad over 4.88 lakh equity shares for Rs 12 crore. The company has agreed to subscribe to an additional 4,88,321 equity shares of Rocksport in three installments for a total cash consideration of Rs 12 crore, MHRIL said.

# GST Council may do away with 5% rate

## Move items to 3% & 8% slabs

**New Delhi, Apr 17 (PTD):**

With most states on board to raise revenue so that they do not have to depend on Centre for compensation, the GST Council at its meeting next month is likely to consider a proposal to do away with the 5 per cent slab by moving some goods of mass consumption to 3 per cent and the remaining to 8 per cent categories, sources said.

Currently, GST is a four-tier structure of 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent. Besides, gold and gold jewellery attract 3 per cent tax. In addition, there is an exempt list of items like unbranded and unpacked food items which do not attract the levy. Sources said in order to augment revenue



the Council may decide to prune the list of exempt items by moving some of the non-food items to 3 per cent slab.

Sources said that discussions are on to raise the 5 per cent slab to either 7 or 8 or 9 per cent, a final call will be taken by the GST Council which comprises finance ministers of both Centre and states.

As per calculations, every 1 per cent increase in the 5 per cent slab, which mainly includes

packaged food items, would roughly yield an additional revenue of Rs 50,000 crore annually.

Although various options are under consideration, the Council is likely to settle for an 8 per cent GST (Goods and Services Tax) for most items that currently attract 5 per cent levy. Under GST, essential items are either exempted or taxed at the lowest rate while luxury and demerit items attract the highest tax. Luxury and sin goods

also attract cess on top of the highest 28 per cent slab. This cess collection is used to compensate states for the revenue loss due to GST roll out.

With the GST compensation regime coming to an end in June, it is imperative that states become self-sufficient and not depend on the Centre for bridging the revenue gap in GST collection.

The Council had last year set up a panel of state ministers, headed by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, to suggest ways to augment revenue by rationalising tax rates and correcting anomalies in the tax structure. The group of ministers is likely to finalise its recommendations by early next month, which will be placed before the Council in its next meeting, likely by mid-May, for a final decision.

# Govt amends FEMA rules to allow 20% FDI in LIC

**New Delhi, Apr 17 (PTD):**

The government has amended rules of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), paving the way for up to 20 per cent foreign direct investment in the insurance behemoth LIC.

The government is planning to dilute its stake in LIC through the Initial Public Offering (IPO). LIC in February had filed the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) before the markets regulator Sebi for the IPO.

Last month, Sebi gave approval to the draft papers and the insurer is in the process of filing a request for proposal with changes.

Following the Cabinet approval, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on March 14 had amended the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy to facilitate overseas investment in LIC ahead of the mega public offer. FEMA notification was required to operationalise the provisions



DPIIT issued through a press note, including FDI policy changes that will allow large foreign portfolio investors to subscribe to shares of LIC.

"These rules may be called the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) (Amendment) Rules, 2022," said a gazette notification issued recently.

The notification has inserted a paragraph in the existing policy, allowing up to 20 per cent FDI in LIC through the automatic route.

Since the foreign inflows' ceiling for public sector banks is 20 per cent under government approval route as per the present FDI policy, it has been decided to allow foreign investment of up to 20 per cent in LIC and

other such corporate bodies.

"Foreign investment in LIC shall be subject to the provisions of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 (LIC Act) as amended from time to time and such provisions of the Insurance Act, 1938, as amended from time to time, as are applicable to LIC," it said.

Setting the stage for the country's biggest-ever public offering, Sebi has approved the draft prospectus for sale of a 5 per cent stake by the government for an estimated Rs 63,000 crore.

According to the draft paper, LIC's embedded value, a measure of the consolidated shareholders' value in an insurance company, has been pegged at about Rs 5.4 lakh crore as of September 30, 2021 by international actuarial firm Milliman Advisors.

Although the DRHP does not disclose the market valuation of LIC, as per industry standards it would be about three times the embedded value or around Rs 16 lakh crore.

## Mutual funds add over 3 cr folios in FY-22

### On sharp rally in equity market, digitisation

**New Delhi, Apr 17 (PTD):**



the number of folios with 43 fund houses rose to 12.95 crore in March 2022 from 9.78 crore in March 2021, registering a gain of 3.17 crore during the one-year period.

The industry crossed a milestone of 10 crore folios in May 2021.

The number of folios under equity, hybrid and solution oriented schemes, wherein the maximum investment is from retail segment, stood at about 10.34 crore as of March 2022.

Folios are numbers designated to individual investor accounts. An investor can have multiple folios.

The mutual fund space has been witnessing consistent growth in folio numbers in the past few years.

It saw an addition of 73 lakh investor accounts in 2019-20, 1.13 crore in 2018-19, 1.6 crore in 2017-18, over 67 lakh in 2016-17 and 59 lakh in 2015-16.

Retail online transaction platform UPI will likely continue to dominate the digital payments space in the country even as newer methods such as BNPL and digital currency are expected to define the future of payments, a study has said.

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments will drive growth of digital payments in India in the next five years, PwC India said in a report.

UPI is expected to continue to be the major contributor in the digital payments space, followed by BNPL, it said.



The Indian digital payments market saw steady growth at a CAGR of 23 per cent (volume wise), and is expected to reach 217 billion (21,700 crore) transactions in FY26 from 59 billion (5,900 crore) in FY22, said the report titled The Indian Payments Handbook 2021-26.

In 2020-21, UPI transactions reached a record 22 billion (2,200 crore), and it is expected to reach 169 billion (16,900 crore) by 2025-26, growing at a CAGR (compounded annual growth rate) of 122 per cent, it said.

Partnerships with other countries in Asia to enable

tremendous growth in the coming years," Mihir Gandhi, Partner & Payments Transformation Leader, PwC India, said.

Presenting a snapshot of the trends that will contribute to growth of digital payments industry in India, the report said that existing products and emerging use cases such as UPI, Fastag, transit (NCMC) and cards will continue to make inroads and gain additional wallet share of the Indian customers. These methods will continue to drive the growth in adoption and transactions numbers, said the report.

Enabling recurring payments and IPO subscriptions along with cross-border remittances will provide a boost to UPI. Parking and fuel payments are being explored as new use cases for Fastag, PwC report said further.

"We expect the payments industry to focus heavily on enhancing customer experience and providing customer options for payment, enhancing security, undertaking innovations in technology like distributed ledger technology (DLT) and emerging tech like IoT (Internet of Things) over the next couple of years.

"With the efforts and initiatives of key stakeholders such as regulators, banks, payment fintech companies, card networks and service providers, the industry is going to see

## Earnings, global cues to dictate market trend this week

**New Delhi, Apr 17 (PTD):**

scheduled to be announced on Monday, Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said, markets will react to two major earnings - Infosys and HDFC Bank -- on Monday.

India's second-largest software services firm Infosys last week posted a 12 per cent year-on-year increase in consolidated net profit for the March quarter at Rs 5,686 crore, as it projected 13-15 per cent revenue growth for FY23 on the back of a "strong demand environment" and "robust deal pipeline".

The country's largest private sector lender HDFC Bank on Saturday reported a 22.8 per cent jump in its standalone net profit at Rs 10,055.2 crore for the quarter ended March 2022. Besides, MindTree, ACC, HCL Technologies, Nestle and Hindustan Zinc would announce their earnings this week.

through four control orders. "The control mechanism envisaged under those orders has outlived its utility," the official said, adding the proposed bill will help in boosting exports by emphasising on quality, and protecting intellectual property rights of tea of Indian origin.

It also talks about de-criminalising minor offences and limiting penal action to civil penalty for non-compliances.

Further, the bill introduces the doctrine of proportionality, which makes it mandatory for every action of the Tea Board to be in tune with the objectives of the bill so as to prevent any unfair or unilateral action by the Board.

WPI inflation for March is

the industry and the economic scenario currently prevalent in the country.

Explaining the importance of the bill, the official said it recognises small growers and puts emphasis on their training, adoption of new technology, capacity building, value addition; safeguards interest of tea garden workers; and promotes ease of doing business.

Currently, the central government exercises control over the tea sector

through four control orders. "The control mechanism envisaged under those orders has outlived its utility," the official said, adding the proposed bill will help in boosting exports by emphasising on quality, and protecting intellectual property rights of tea of Indian origin.

It also talks about de-criminalising minor offences and limiting penal action to civil penalty for non-compliances.

Further, the bill introduces the doctrine of proportionality, which makes it mandatory for every action of the Tea Board to be in tune with the objectives of the bill so as to prevent any unfair or unilateral action by the Board.

WPI inflation for March is

the industry and the economic scenario currently prevalent in the country.

Explaining the importance of the bill, the official said it recognises small growers and puts emphasis on their training, adoption of new technology, capacity building, value addition; safeguards interest of tea garden workers; and promotes ease of doing business.

Currently, the central government exercises control over the tea sector

through four control orders. "The control mechanism envisaged under those orders has outlived its utility," the official said, adding the proposed bill will help in boosting exports by emphasising on quality, and protecting intellectual property rights of tea of Indian origin.

It also talks about de-criminalising minor offences and limiting penal action to civil penalty for non-compliances.

Further, the bill introduces the doctrine of proportionality, which makes it mandatory for every action of the Tea Board to be in tune with the objectives of the bill so as to prevent any unfair or unilateral action by the Board.

WPI inflation for March is

the industry and the economic scenario currently prevalent in the country.

Explaining the importance of the bill, the official said it recognises small growers and puts emphasis on their training, adoption of new technology, capacity building, value addition; safeguards interest of tea garden workers; and promotes ease of doing business.

Currently, the central government exercises control over the tea sector

through four control orders. "The control mechanism envisaged under those orders has outlived its utility," the official said, adding the proposed bill will help in boosting exports by emphasising on quality, and protecting intellectual property rights of tea of Indian origin.

It also talks about de-criminalising minor offences and limiting penal action to civil penalty for non-compliances.

Further, the bill introduces the doctrine of proportionality, which makes it mandatory for every action of the Tea Board to be in tune with the objectives of the bill so as to prevent any unfair or unilateral action by the Board.

WPI inflation for March is

the industry and the economic scenario currently prevalent in the country.

Explaining the importance of the bill, the official said it recognises small growers and puts emphasis on their training, adoption of new technology, capacity building, value addition; safeguards interest of tea garden workers; and promotes ease of doing business.

Currently, the central government exercises control over the tea sector

through four control orders. "The control mechanism envisaged under those orders has outlived its utility," the official said, adding the proposed bill will help in boosting exports by emphasising on quality, and protecting intellectual property rights of tea of Indian origin.

It also talks about de-criminalising minor offences and limiting penal action to civil penalty for non-compliances.

Further, the bill introduces the doctrine of proportionality, which makes it mandatory for every action of the Tea Board to be in tune with the objectives of the bill so as to prevent any unfair or unilateral action by the Board.

WPI inflation for March is

the industry and the economic scenario currently prevalent in the country.

Explaining the importance of the bill, the official said it recognises small growers and puts emphasis on their training, adoption of new technology, capacity building, value addition; safeguards interest of tea garden workers; and promotes ease of doing business.

Currently, the central government exercises control over the tea sector

through four control orders. "The control mechanism envisaged under those orders has outlived its utility," the official said, adding the proposed bill will help in boosting exports by emphasising on quality, and protecting intellectual property rights of tea of Indian origin.

It also talks about de-criminalising minor offences and limiting penal action to civil penalty for non-compliances.

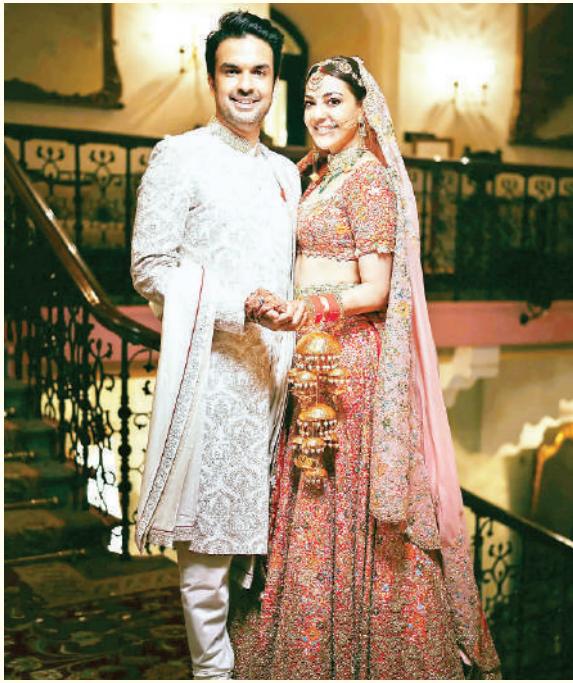
Further, the bill introduces the doctrine of proportionality, which makes it mandatory for every action of the Tea Board to be in tune with the objectives of the bill so as to prevent any unfair or unilateral action by the Board.

WPI inflation for March is

the industry and the economic scenario currently prevalent in the country.

## Kajal Aggarwal pens emotional post for husband Gautam Kitchlu

**A**ctress Kajal Aggarwal, who is in the family way, has penned an emotional post to her husband Gautam Kitchlu, to not just thank him for his love and care during her pregnancy, but to also let him know what an amazing father he will make. Taking to Instagram, the actress on Thursday wrote, "Dear Husband, Thank you for being the greatest husband + to-be-dad a girl could ask for. Thank you for being so selfless, for waking up with me almost every night while I had 'morning' sickness, for camping out on the couch with me for weeks because it was the most comfy place for me to sleep, for immediately texting the doctor and taking me to mom's house to put my legs up during the braxton hicks contractions and never hesitating or making me feel bad, for always making sure I'm well fed, well hydrated and comfortable, for taking care of me and lastly for loving me through it all. "Before our sweet baby comes, I want you to know how wonderful you are and that you will be an amazing father as well! "In the past eight months, I have watched you become the most loving dad. I know how in love with this baby you are and how much you care already- it makes me feel so lucky that our baby will have a father who



loves unconditionally, be there no matter what and have an extraordinary role model to look up to. "Our lives are going to change drastically, and I'm so grateful for that. We won't have all the alone time we have now - we won't be able to go to the movies every weekend, or lay around and sleep and binge watch shows, we probably won't go out impromptu partying for a while or have as many date nights... BUT we will have

a beautiful baby that will fill our hearts with so much joy. "There will be sleepless nights, times we feel sick, times we aren't feeling ourselves, but this will also be the best time of our life. Things will change but one thing will stay the same and that is how much I love you! I'm blessed to have you by my side for our greatest adventure yet. You are going to be the most terrific father and I love the life we live."

## Jaya Ojha replaces Vaishali Thakkar in 'Gur Se Meetha Ishq'



**T**he show 'Gur Se Meetha Ishq' on Star Bharat will soon introduce the audience to a new and unique love story. The show's star-studded cast will include actress Pankhuri Awasthi as a female tourist guide who defies the stereotype inherent in this male-dominated society,

actress Meera Deosthale in the challenging role of Pari, a mentally challenged girl, and Ishaan Dhawan as the photographer. Neil will appear as Khurana. The show's other cast members include several well-known actors, including 'Uttaran' actress Vaishali Thakkar, who will play Neil Khurana's (Ishaan Dhawan) mother.

According to the most recent news from SET sources, actress Vaishali Thakkar has been replaced on the show 'Gur Se Meetha Ishq' overnight. The main rea-

son for this is that she was told she didn't fit in with this character. In such a case, this character is now being played by the well-known Veteran actress Jaya Ojha, who rose to prominence with her portrayal of Mandodari in the 2008 TV series 'Ramayana'. Aside from that, she has played a variety of essential characters on television.

When asked about her character in 'Gur Se Meetha Ishq', actress Jaya Ojha responded enthusiastically saying, "In the show, I play Neil's mother. She is a mature

and considerate woman. It is not my choice, but this character has chosen me for this role. The producers believe I can play this character well because I previously played a similar character in a popular show. In Star Bharat I was preferred for this role, for which I am grateful. I hope I have a lot of fun attempting to play this character and that people enjoy my character and acting."

Watch Gud Se Meetha Ishq this April 18, Monday to Friday at 7:30 pm only on Star Bharat.

## Chhavi Mittal reveals she's fighting breast cancer



**A**ctress Chhavi Mittal known for her roles in TV shows and movies has revealed on her Instagram handle about her struggle of fighting with breast cancer. The actress had written an emotional and inspiring note to share how she is dealing with the illness. "Dear breasts, This is an appreciation post for you. The first time I noticed your magic was when you gave me immense pleasure... but your importance peaked when you fed both my babies. Today it's my turn to stand by you when one of you fights cancer. It's not the best thing to happen, but it doesn't have to bog my spirits down." She further wrote that it is not going to be easy for her to deal with it but she is prepared to fight with it. "It's not going to be easy, but it doesn't have to be tough. I might not look the same again, but it doesn't have to make me feel different. A big cheer for all breast cancer survivors.. you have no idea how much inspiration I draw from you today." The actress and mother of two added: "And also, for those of you who already know, thank you for being so supportive. Every call you make, every msg you send, every visit you pay me.. is appreciated no end and that's all that makes a difference." After the post her fans and friends dropped their early recovery messages. Actor Karan V Grover mentioned with heart emojis: "personification of strength..With u each step and all the way, anything u need" Arjun Bijlani also sent his wishes, saying: "Once a fighter always a fighter. May god give u and ur family all the strength you need.." The actress has co-founded Shitty Ideas Trending (SIT), a digital production company, along with her husband Mohit Hussein. We just wish her a speedy recovery.

## HOROSCOPE MONDAY APRIL 18

### Aquarius: Jan 21 – Feb 18

Those who know the real you find your lack of confidence frustrating, Aquarius. Your talents are starting to mere mortals, yet you rarely take credit for all your abilities. Today you get an opportunity to participate in a project that could make or break your career. You may hesitate, weigh your capabilities in your mind, and come up short. Not only can you do this, you can do it better than anyone else!

### Gemini: May 22 – June 21

You're likely to wake up today with a compulsion to clean or organize something, Gemini. This may be rather unlike you. If we didn't know better we'd say that you were feeling a parental urge, and your nesting instinct is kicking in. Indulge your domestic desires today. Tomorrow you're probably going to be in quite a different frame of mind!

### Libra: Sept 23 – Oct 22

You've been working hard lately and deserve the professional acclaim that comes your way, Libra. As a result of your efforts, it's likely you'll receive or will soon receive a bonus, raise, or promotion of some kind. Celebrate, but just one night. If you let the party continue indefinitely, the bill could be too large even for you! Be frugal and work hard. That's your real ticket to the good life.

### Pisces: Feb 19 – Mar 20

You may be in a quiet, reflective mood today, Pisces. You could receive a communication from an old friend that sets you remembering the good old days of your youth. You can't help but look at some of your pivotal decisions and wonder how your life would have been different had you made other choices. It's pointless to play that game. Don't wonder about "what if." Embrace this day of meditation.

### Cancer: June 22 – July 22

Today should be a "no holds barred" day as you strategize your next career move, Cancer. If you were in the army, you'd be a five-star general by now - your tactical sense is that good. Unfortunately, your office isn't handing out stars. You'll have to be satisfied with a raise and promotion - the least they can offer after all your hard work. If no such offer is forthcoming, go and ask for it!

### Scorpio: Oct 24 – Nov 22

This is likely to be a day geared to fulfilling the needs of family. Lesser persons would resent the obligation, but not you, Scorpio. You have a nurturing spirit. As long as you feel appreciated, you're happy to go the extra mile (or two). You can expect to feel loved by those around you. You have a willing, giving nature, and it shows in your aura like a beacon for all to see.

### Aries: Mar 21 – Apr 20

Today, Aries, forget socializing, working, and answering the phone. Stay home and cuddle in a blanket by the fire. Get out your old yearbooks or photo albums and have fun reflecting on good times from your past. Enjoy being quiet and still. Listen to the ticking of the clock and the wind outside. Measure time by the shadows moving across the room. Give yourself this day of meditation.

### Leo: July 23 – Aug 23

Today might be largely devoted to household tasks, Leo. It isn't exactly the most glamorous assignment, but you take a certain pleasure in attending to daily necessities. Pay some bills, throw in a few loads of laundry, do some yard work and cooking. Your partner or family will appreciate your efforts. It's even more fun if it isn't expected of you. And who knows? Maybe they'll reciprocate.

### Sagittarius: Nov 23 – Dec 21

Guilt can be a powerful motivator, Sagittarius, but it isn't a pure one. Today you could feel obligated to help a family member with something you'd prefer to take no part in. There are times, like this, when familial duty trumps personal desires. Do your best to be helpful and gracious even though it could be a trying time for you. You'll feel good about yourself once it's all done.

### Taurus: Apr 21 – May 21

Don't be surprised if neighbors come to your door asking for a favor â€” and not just to borrow a cup of sugar! While your initial response will be to say yes (it's your nature, after all), think twice. This "favor" could involve a major time commitment. Is this what you want to do? You can put your needs ahead of your friends' and still be a good neighbor. Don't worry, they'll understand.

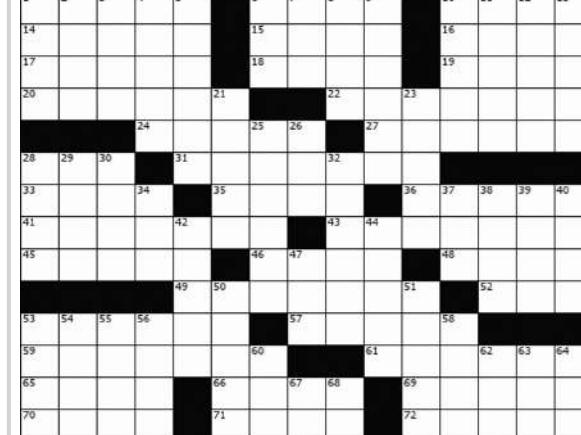
### Virgo: Aug 24 – Sept 22

This is going to be a rather busy day for you, Virgo. And you're likely to love every minute of it. You can expect to meet many people as you go about your day. There will be side trips and detours that you weren't anticipating, but they're all the more delightful because of their spontaneity, like the unexpected lunch with a friend. Such stolen moments enrich your life.

### Capricorn: Dec 22 – Jan 20

Today you could feel overwhelmed with obligations and commitments to others. There isn't a moment free for yourself, not even for a bathroom break! Clearly, something's out of balance. Capricorn, it's time to take charge of your life. It's wonderful that you have such a giving, generous spirit, but you do no one any favors if you burn out from exhaustion. Take some time to refill the well of your soul.

## CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- Mixed greens
- Between
- Fly
- Select group
- Walk nervously
- Past due
- Coral island
- Stagger
- Office acronym
- Brahms piece
- Lizard or snake, e.g.
- Seasons
- Hanging ornament
- Short sleep
- Harpooned
- Distinct times
- Abhor
- Make merry
- Phone bug
- Antiseptic
- Starchy veggie (sl.)
- Smell

### DOWN

- Oceans
- Palo
- MGM's symbol
- Motorist's aid
- River mouths
- Rainy mo.
- West of Hollywood
- Bakery employee
- Remove
- Bed boards
- Desert haven
- Start of a Dickens title (2 wds.)
- Drive back
- Greek vowel
- Juan's father
- Pekoe server
- Used a stool
- Politician \_\_\_\_\_ Gingrich

### SOLUTION 272

I	n	R	-	W	A	M	E	D	O	M	I	N
I	D	E	A	R	E	R	A	E	E	E	E	N
S	O	A	N	V	E	R	E	R	A	T	A	N
S	A	L	I	V	E	R	E	R	A	T	A	N
C	H	A	N	E	R	E	R	A	T	A	A	N
R	I	P	E	N	R	E	R	A	T	A	A	N
U	S	E	N	C	R	E	R	A	T	A	A	N
S	T	E	N	C	R	E	R	A	T	A	A	N
S	F	I	L	I	C	E	R	A	T	A	A	N
W	A	T	F	R	C	O	R	A	T	A	A	N
A	E	D	A	W	A	R	E	R	A	A	A	N
N	E	M	H	R	E	R	E	R	A	A	A	N



## I would like to play a cop on OTT: Anuj Sachdeva

**O**ver the years, Anuj Sachdeva has essayed quite a few characters, but the one role that's eluded him is his dream role - of playing a man in uniform.

Anuj is currently playing the ideal son, brother, lover boy Cheeranjeev Chaudhary in the TV show 'Woh Toh Hai Albelaa' and his character is being loved by his well-wishers and fans.

The actor is now keen to explore the OTT place simultaneously with a character that he has never played on screen - that of a cop or a police officer. "I want to play a cop/an officer in uniform, basically do an intense, performance-oriented role which has been my forte as an actor."

Sachdeva was recently seen in an OTT mini-series 'Ek Extra Mile' on Voot and his comic timing in the show was highly revered.

Sachdeva made his OTT debut in 2018 with Shitty Ideas Trending's 'Bin Bulaye Mehmaan season 2' and was later seen in Zoom Studio's 'The Reunion'. He also played a significant role in Amazon Prime's 'Breathe'.

Talking about his OTT debut, he said: "Bin Bulaye Mehmaan Season 2" was offered to me at a time when I had no experience in

the digital space. Shitty Ideas Trending was known for its comedy web series and I was keen to collaborate with them. Mohit Hussein directed the show and I enjoyed being a part of it as it helped me evolve as an actor."

"Having worked in television and films prior I was an actor who would always go by what's written in the script. I would study the dialogues and stick to them. With Bin Bulaye Mehmaan I was introduced to the art of improvisation on set and in the scene. Initially, it took me a little time to adjust but then I started enjoying the improvisation process," he added.

Since we are talking about OTT, can you share two of your favourite web series? "I would recommend 'House Of Cards'. Kevin Spacey's performance as the lead is what I take back from the show apart from its brilliant writing and storytelling. "The second web series I loved is 'The OA', a fantasy meets reality web series. The magic is in the writing of the show where the audience by the end of the season wonders if what happened to the lead character was real or just a figment of her imagination," Anuj concluded.

## ALTBalaji marks a milestone

**B**reaking barriers, entertaining the audiences with clutter-breaking content, and achieving milestones, India's leading home-grown digital platform ALTBalaji, completes fabulous five years today. Its a #High5ForAlt as the platform celebrates 5 years of unlimited entertainment and creating nonstop, binge-worthy content for the viewers across the globe. The platform has established a niche for itself in the originals space and played a vital role in inculcating an individual binge-watching habit amongst Indian audiences. With an exciting library of 90+ original shows on the app, ALTBalaji has been catering to fans of all genres, making ALTBalaji the go-to place for entertainment, especially during these trying times.

Closer to its fifth anniversary, ALTBalaji for the first time forayed into the non-fiction reality space with the biggest and most fearless reality show Lock Upp. With

Kangana Ranaut as the host and controversial celebrity contestants as kaidi for 72 days in a jail, the show has become a blockbuster hit. Within the first 32 days of its launch the show garnered 200+ MN Viewers- the highest in the Indian Digital reality space. ALTBalaji also became the first-ever OTT platform globally to release the metaverse-based game of Lock Upp where viewers can interact

with the show's universe and play to win real money! With more exciting announcements, partnerships, and new shows, ALTBalaji continues to power through and reach out to viewers across age groups for both solo and family-viewing.

Join in the celebration of ALTBalaji turning 5 by tuning into the platform for your daily dose of entertainment!

# KKR seek to bounce back against RR after back-to-back losses

Mumbai, Apr 17 (PTI):

Their confidence severely dented after two comprehensive defeats on the trot, last edition's runner-up side Kolkata Knight Riders would seek to get their inconsistent campaign back on track when they face Rajasthan Royals in an IPL match here on Monday.

KKR were beaten by Delhi Capitals and Sunrisers Hyderabad by 44 runs and seven wickets respectively in their last two matches. They had earlier lost to Royal Challengers Bangalore.

With three wins and three losses, KKR are at the mid-table while the Royals have won three matches and lost two games till now.

KKR had an impressive start to the league with three wins from four matches but the back-to-back losses had taken them down below the top-4 and they would look to regain that slot.

But to do that they will have to pull themselves up in both batting and bowling. None of the batters, except for Andre Russell, has been consistent so far while the likes of spinner Varun Chakravarthy and pacer Pat Cummins have dished out average performances. Russell is the current top-scorer for



KKR with 179 runs from six matches and has also contributed with five wickets with the ball.

Captain Shreyas Iyer has not been in the best of form with just one half-century in his name for a total of 151 runs in six matches. Nitesh Rana and Venkatesh Iyer have been lacking in consistency, while Sam Billings is struggling to get runs.

In the bowling department, none, except pacer Umesh Yadav (10 wickets from 6 matches) has been up to expectations.

Chakravarthy, KKR's highest wicket-taker last season, has been struggling big time with just four wickets from six matches.

Chakravarthy's senior spin colleague Sunil Narine is also in the same

boat with just four wickets. Australia Test captain Cummins, who joined late due to national commitment, also need to step up and do better than his current figures of three wickets from as many matches.

The Royals, on the other hand, will start as favourites in Monday's match with the tournament's highest run-getter and wicket-taker in their

ranks in Jos Buttler and Yuzvendra Chahal.

Chahal has been in top form with 12 wickets from five matches, also with a fine economy of 6.80 and he would fancy to add more scalps to his name, especially against a struggling KKR batting unit.

Veteran New Zealand pacer Trent Boult (7 wickets from 4 matches) is the other Royals bowler who has been doing well.

But senior India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin is terribly out of form. He picked up just one wicket from five matches while conceding 143 runs and it remains to be seen how long the team management will persist with him.

The Royals, however, have not fired as a batting unit with the likes of captain Sanju Samson (117 from 5 matches) and the hugely talented Devdutt Padikkal (114 from 5 matches) failing to click so far.

Their batting has revolved mainly around Buttler, who has set the IPL on fire with 272 runs from five matches with one hundred and two fifties.

Shrimon Hetmyer has been the only other Royals batter who has done well so far with 197 runs from five matches with the help of one half-century.

**Mathias Boe likely to return as India's badminton doubles coach**



New Delhi, Apr 17 (PTI):

Danish legend Mathias Boe is likely to return for a second stint as the doubles coach of the Indian badminton team after Malaysia's Tan Kim Her declined the offer despite the Sports Ministry approving his appointment.

Boe, a London Olympics silver-medallist and former world No. 1 doubles player, had trained the Indian doubles players, including Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, ahead of the Tokyo Olympics.

"We were very keen to get Tan Kim Her and also had got the approval of SAI and ministry but then he refused to accept the offer. So he is not coming as of now," Badminton Association of India (BAI) secretary general Sanjay Mishra told PTI.

"We are currently in discussion with Mathias Boe. He has the experience of training our players and had done well with Satwik and Chirag. Nothing is finalised yet but we are trying to get his services at least till the Asian Games if not beyond."

**We need to get better in all aspects of game, says DC coach Ponting**



Mumbai, Apr 17 (PTI):

Delhi Capitals head coach Ricky Ponting feels his team needs to improve in all aspects of the game after its third defeat in five games in the ongoing Indian Premier League.

DC lost by 16 runs to Royal Challengers Bangalore at the Wankhede Stadium here Saturday night to lie at the bottom half of the IPL table with just four points.

And, Ponting said it's time DC start clicking as a unit in all aspects of the game.

"We haven't had our full strength batting. Mitchell Marsh played his first game and probably didn't quite fit the tempo of the game that we needed. Rovman Powell hasn't fired so far in middle order. So we need to fix some things and what we intended to do throughout the tournament," Ponting said at the post-match press conference.

conference. "There is definitely some areas for improvement with the bat and ball. In couple of overs, we absolutely have been blown out of the park. We need to get better in all aspects of the game."

Ponting said getting the team combination right will be key for DC in their upcoming matches.

"The next two games are pretty important for us and we need to look at all aspects of our game, pick the right team and those 11 players we pick, need to stand up and get the job done," the coach said.

The former Australia captain called on his top-order batters to stand up and take more responsibility. "We want the guys to have the best opportunities to make big scores and obviously if you are batting in the top 4 in T20, you have got the best opportunity to make big scores," said the batting legend.

## DK has presented very strong case for India comeback: Kohli

Mumbai, Apr 17 (PTI):

Calling him the man of the IPL so far, Virat Kohli feels his Royal Challengers Bangalore teammate Dinesh Karthik has made a strong case for another India comeback with his stellar run in the T20 tournament so far.

Karthik, who has been playing the role of a finisher for RCB, has had the highest strike rate among the leading run-getters in the tournament scoring 197 runs in six innings at 209.57. He has only been dismissed once in the tournament.

On Saturday night, he smashed an unbeaten 66 off 34 balls as RCB beat Delhi Capitals by 16 runs.

In a conversation with Karthik on iplt20.com, Kohli said it has been a joy and honour to watch the wicket-keeper batter go



about his business in the competition.

"I am here with the man of the IPL for me so far... It's been wonderful. I won't even say long may it continue' because it will and

teammate AB de Villiers will also be proud of Karthik for finishing games for the franchise like the South African used to do.

"I am very happy that DK is so clear in his goals. I can surely tell you that you have presented a very strong case for yourself moving forward playing T20 cricket not just for RCB but also I am sure lot of people are taking notice at the highest level as well."

"You mentioned. I think AB will be very proud watching from Pretoria, sitting at home and watching you finish games for us and take the team across the line," he added.

Karthik last played for India in the ODI World Cup in 2019. The 36-year-old is used to making comebacks ever since making his debut in 2004. He has played 36 Tests, 94 ODIs and 32 T20 Internationals.

## I have been trying everything to be a part of Indian team: Dinesh Karthik

Mumbai, Apr 17 (PTI):

In the form of his life, seasoned wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik on Saturday said that he has been "trying everything" to stage a comeback into the Indian team.

Karthik, 36, who began his journey in international cricket way back in 2004, has not put a foot wrong in the ongoing IPL-15, playing some of the finest knocks for his franchise Royal Challengers Bangalore, who spent on Rs 5.5 crore on him in the auction.

He stretched his excellent run of form with a blistering 34-ball 66, paving the way for RCB's 16-run win over Delhi Capitals.

"I must admit that I have a bigger goal. I have been working really hard. My aim is to do something special for the country. This is part of my journey. I have been trying everything to be a part of the Indian team," Player of the Match Karthik said at the presentation ceremony. With his



ate calmness with me. Positions and calmness comes from preparation. Shahbaz (with whom he has added 74 runs) is a special player; he will do special things as a player. He is up for a challenge. He can hit the ball a long way," Karthik said. Karthik has brightened his chances of being picked for the upcoming T20 World Cup in Australia.

RCB skipper Faf du Plessis was full of praise for Karthik.

"To get 190 you needed a special innings, and credit goes to the two boys Shahbaz and DK. We felt like we haven't been as good as we would've liked at death bowling, so today we had a special plan."

"It was pretty wet out there, and the start they had, many teams would fall away. But we stuck around. A good win."

"The way DK is playing at the moment, I may sound like a broken record, but he is playing the best he has ever. He is so clear, calm and composed," du Plessis said.

exceptional batting, Karthik has filled the void created by the departure of the great AB de Villiers in the RCB set up. "Feels good to know that people associ-

## We were not good enough, life has not ended: Bumrah



Mumbai, Apr 17 (PTD):

A lot of games will little luck here or there. But it is the way it is. We are not shying away that we were not good enough and the table is not lying. In the rest of our games, we will try to give our best shot and come out on the better side," Bumrah said at the post-match press conference.

Bumrah said the team is still trying to be positive as they "haven't lost everything in life".

"Life has not ended, sun is going to rise again tomorrow. This is the game of cricket, right? Somebody has to win or lose. We haven't lost everything in life right? We just lost a cricket game. That's the spirit which is there in our team. "Nobody is as disappointed as we are. Nobody from the outside can see the hardwork we have put in," said Bumrah.

On Saturday, they were done in by KL Rahul's masterful hundred as he powered Lucknow Super Giants to an 18-run win to push the five-time champions closer to a league-stage elimination.

"We have been in a fight.



## Gerard scores in Villarreal 2-1 win at Getafe before injury

Barcelona, Apr 17 (AP):

Gerard Moreno scored one goal and set up another before the Villarreal striker was substituted because of injury during his team's 2-1 win at Getafe in the Spanish league. Despite struggling with injuries this season, Gerard has been a key player in Villarreal's impressive run to the Champions League semifinals after ousting Juventus and, this week, Bayern Munich in the knockout rounds. Gerard gave Villarreal the lead in the seventh minute and helped to make it 2-0 in the 16th when he stole the ball in midfield to start a counterattack. The Spain striker who also set up Samuel Chukwueze's late winner to topple Bayern on Tuesday, again made the key pass by playing Manuel Trigueros clear to beat David Soria. Gerard had to be substituted in the 61st after he was attended by team doctors. He touched the back of his right thigh before walking off gingerly.

Emery said Gerard had a muscular injury but team doctors had yet to determine how long he would be out, leaving in question his availability for the European semifinals against Liverpool in two weeks.

He has not been unlucky with injuries this season. We hope this is not serious and that he recovers quickly because we really need him, defender Pau Torres said.

## EASTER SUNDAY PRAYERS



Devotees belonging to Christian community pray on the occasion of Easter Sunday, in Ranchi, Sunday.

## Clash breaks out between two groups during religious procession

Amaravati, Apr 17 (PTD):

A minor skirmish led to stone pelting between two communities at Holagunda village in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh but the situation has returned to normal after police intervened and pacified both the sides, police sources said on Sunday. The skirmish occurred on Saturday night while a religious procession was being taken out on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti, police sources said.

When the procession reached a mosque in the village, the Jayanti organisers switched off the mike, in reverence to the Ramzan observation. But some

devotees allegedly chanted 'Jai Shri Ram' slogans. Irked by this, the Muslims started pelting stones at the Hanuman Jayanti procession. The Jayanti participants too retaliated, police said. The police then took the two sides to the local police station to quell the frenzy. Some tension prevailed even at the station but the authorities gave a stern warning to the two sides and brokered peace, the sources added.

Kurnool Superintendent of Police Sudhir Kumar Reddy rushed to Holagunda village to oversee the situation. Additional police force was deployed to prevent any untoward incident.

Palakkad(Ker), Apr 17 (PTD):

The two back-to-back murders of an RSS and a PFI leader in the last couple of days in the district were part of a pre-planned conspiracy, police said on Sunday. ADGP (Law and Order) Vijay Sakhare, who reached Palakkad after the murder of RSS leader S K Srinivasan (45), told reporters here that "there is a conspiracy behind both murders. We will find out who is behind it. The killers were only foot soldiers."

He also refuted the allegations that the police failed to prevent the RSS leader's murder, on Saturday, despite there

being a possibility of retaliation after the killing of Popular Front of India (PFI) leader Subair (43) on Friday. Sakhare said it was "very very difficult" to prevent a planned murderer and both the killings were 'well planned.'

Speaking to PTI, the senior police officer said it cannot be said whether the killings, especially that of the PFI leader, were politically motivated, but the murder of the RSS leader is believed to be a retaliatory killing.

ADGP Vijay Sakhare

He further said that while no one has been arrested in connection with the two cases, several suspects were in custody of the police, who were questioning them, and based on the outcome of the interrogations, arrests would be made. He also said that two Special Investigation Teams (SITs) have been constituted to probe the murders and the police has some good clues and leads in the cases.

Several schemes and plans have been formulated

Nitish on bypoll debacle

## 'Janata Malik hai'

Patna, Apr 17 (PTD):

A day after the ruling NDA lost a by-election to the opposition RJD, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Sunday asserted that the will of people is supreme. "Janata Malik hai" was his terse reply to journalists who sought his reaction on the Bochahan assembly bypoll, which saw the BJP losing to the Tejashwi Yadav-led party by a big margin.

The RJD stunned the ruling NDA on Saturday after its young candidate Amar Paswan defeated his nearest BJP rival Baby Kumari by a massive margin of 36,658 votes in the by-election. The outcome has come as a jolt to the ruling coalition, more so to the BJP, for which a victory would have been a vindication of sorts in the wake of recent moves like sacking Nishad leader Mukesh Sahani from the cabinet and eviction of Chirag



Chief Minister Nitish Kumar pays last respect to former MP and JD(U) veteran leader Naval Kishore Rai, who passed away, in Patna, Sunday.

ters of his Janata Dal (United), was also asked about the apprehension of a spike in coronavirus cases which has led to clamping of fresh restrictions in some places.

"We will handle it well in Bihar since we never let our guard down. For quite some time, the number of cases reported in a day across the state has been in a single digit. Yet we are maintaining a high testing rate," Kumar said. He also stated that the government was making efforts to keep under check the outbreak of encephalitis, commonly known as brain fever, that typically strikes Bihar every summer. He also said arrangements were being made to meet the challenges that unusually high temperatures prevailing in the state may bring.

## Muslims shower petals, offer sharbat during Hanuman Jayanti procession

Kota (Raj), Apr 17 (PTD):

Amid incidents of communal clashes in parts of the country, Muslims in a locality here welcomed a Hanuman Jayanti procession by offering sharbat and showering petals to those taking part in it. They also set up stalls outside the two mosques in the area and offered cold water and sharbat to the devotees. Ramganj Mandi SDM Rajesh Daga said the Muslims came out of the mosques to welcome the procession after offering evening namaz. When asked to join, Muslim youths displayed their martial art skills along with those from the Hindu community, he said.

The procession started from the Hanuman temple in Kherabad village on Saturday evening and covered around two kilometers, passing through a Muslim-

## Over 9,500 inducted in BSF this year for security duties

New Delhi, Apr 17 (PTD): The Border Security Force (BSF), India's frontier force for Pakistan and Bangladesh, has commissioned over 9,500 personnel in the first three-and-a-half months of this year to bolster its manpower, official data said.

These personnel, largely in the entry rank of constable, are being gradually deployed at border posts along Pakistan and Bangladesh and for internal security duties in the hinterland that includes undertaking armed combat against Left Wing Extremists (LWE), a senior officer told PTI. Out of the total 9,550 troops commissioned into the force between January 1-April 13, about 1,700 are women personnel, the data said.

## NIKASHI FESTIVAL



Devotees carry holy water from the River Ganga as they wait in queues to perform worship of Vindhyanavini Devi on occasion of Nikashi festival, in Mirzapur, Sunday.

## India questions WHO's methodology to estimate COVID-19 mortalities

New Delhi, Apr 17 (PTD):

body over the methodology used.

India on Saturday questioned the World Health Organisation's methodology to estimate COVID-19 mortalities in the country, saying using such a mathematical modelling cannot be applied to estimate the death figures for such a vast nation of geographical size and population.

The Union health ministry issued a statement in response to a New York Times article titled India Is Stalling WHO's Efforts to Make Global Covid Death Toll Public dated April 16, saying the country has on several occasions shared its concerns with the global health

when using the data from Tier I countries and when using unverified data from 18 Indian states. Such a wide variation in estimates raises concerns about validity and accuracy of such a modelling exercise," the ministry said in the statement.

According to the health ministry, India has shared its concerns with the methodology along with other member states through a series of formal communications, including six letters issued to WHO on November 17, December 20, 2021; December 28, 2021; January 11, 2022; February 12, 2022; and March 2, 2022 and virtual meetings held

on December 16, 2021, December 28, 2021, January 6, 2022, February 25, 2022 and the SEARO Regional Webinar held on February 10, 2022. During these exchanges, specific queries have been raised by India along with other member states -- China, Iran, Bangladesh, Syria, Ethiopia and Egypt -- regarding the methodology and use of unofficial sets of data.

The concern specifically includes on how the statistical model projects estimates for a country of geographical size and population of India and also fits in with other countries which have smaller populations.

"The model gives two highly different sets of excess mortality estimates of

## LS Speaker's appeal to people 'Come forward, contribute in India's progress'

New Delhi, Apr 17 (PTD):

ing together to ensure that we make our contribution in bringing change in the economic, social life of the people of this country", he said. The Lok Sabha speaker said it is the duty of every citizen to keep India first in their endeavours, he said.

"If one works keeping nation first, irrespective of the field one is working in, it will add more strength to our efforts and accelerate the speed with which we are working to make a new India," he said. "And, with everybody's effort our tar-

get will be achieved. We will be in a position to lead the world when we complete 100 years of our Independence," he added. Birla lauded the people for helping those in need during Covid-19 pandemic and

said this is the culture of India.

"During coronavirus pandemic, we saw how people helped those in need, deprived and poor. This is the culture of our India. And because of this we could fight corona," he said. In nation's fight against Covid, Prime Minister Narendra

Modi and his government "worked with a vision", encouraged scientists and innovations by youth, individuals, organisation and society, he said.

Addressing the gathering, he highlighted the glorious history and culture of Rajasthan, underlining that the people of the state have made "huge" contributions to the progress of the country and also earned respect with their selfless service to the cause of changing lives of the deprived and poor.

"We must keep our ancestors' values, our culture, alive" he said in his message to the people of Rajasthan, adding, "Take vow that you will make your contribution in the progress of this country."



Om Birla



PAGE 10

# CENTRAL Chronicle

Bilaspur, Monday, April 18, 2022 | Pages 12 | Price ₹ 3.00 | City Edition | Fastest growing English Daily of Chhattisgarh

PAGE 11



www.centralchronicle.in

## BRIEF



Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya performs asanas during a Yoga event in Meerut, Sunday.

## Destroyed

**Farrukhabad:** Wheat crop cultivated over 80 bigha land in a village here was destroyed in a fire that was sparked after a high-tension wire broke and fell in the field, police said. The incident took place in Jithauli village of Rajepur area, they said. The crop was ready to be harvested when it was wasted in the fire. It was doused by fire tenders rushed to the field.

## Extension

**New Delhi:** The government has granted an extension of one year to Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Kamlesh Nikanth Vyas. The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension in service to Vyas for a period of one year beyond May 3, 2022 or "until further orders", read a statement from the personnel ministry.

## Greet

**New Delhi:** Greeting people on Easter, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday wished that the spirit of joy and brotherhood be furthered in society. Easter is celebrated by Christians all over the world in belief of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. "Happy Easter! We recall the thoughts and ideals of Jesus Christ and the emphasis on social justice as well as compassion."

## Tribute

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to former prime minister Chandra Shekhar on his birth anniversary on Sunday, saying he was a towering personality who was widely admired for his commitment to democratic values and efforts to remove poverty.

## Fire

**New Delhi:** A fire broke out at Delhi's Uphaar Cinema Hall Sunday morning, officials said. No injuries have been reported in the fire that affected the theatre's balcony and a floor, the officials said. A call about the blaze was received at 4:46 am and nine fire tenders were rushed to the spot, said Delhi Fire Service Director Atul Garg.

## Mishap

**Saharanpur:** A man and his 10-year-old son were killed when their motorcycle was crushed under a mini-truck that had overturned in Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh, police said on Sunday. According to the police, the accident took place on Saturday evening on Gangoh-Nanauta road under Gangoh police station limit.

Weather  
High 41 Low 26

## Mob goes on rampage over social media post

■ Damage police vehicles, injure cops

Hubballi (K'taka), Apr 17 (PTD):

A large number of people allegedly went on a rampage damaging many police vehicles, a nearby hospital and a Hanuman temple in the old town of Hubballi in Karnataka and injured some police officers on duty over a social media post in the early hours of Sunday, police said. Prohibitory orders under Section 144 has been clamped in Hubballi city, police added.

"Around 40 people have been arrested and some FIRs have been registered. Twelve of our officers on duty were injured and some police vehicles were



Security personnel detain people after incidents of stone throwing in some areas of Old Hubballi late on Saturday evening, in Hubballi district, Sunday.

damaged. We have taken all precautionary measures so that such incidents do not occur again. We will not spare those who have taken law into their hands,"

Ashish Mishra bail issue

## SC order today on plea to cancel bail

New Delhi, Apr 17 (PTD):

The Supreme Court is scheduled to deliver on Monday its order on a plea seeking cancellation of bail to Ashish Mishra, son of Union minister Ajay Mishra, in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana is likely to pronounce its verdict at 10:30 am on Monday.

The top court on April 4 had reserved its order on a plea of farmers seeking cancellation of bail to Ashish Mishra.

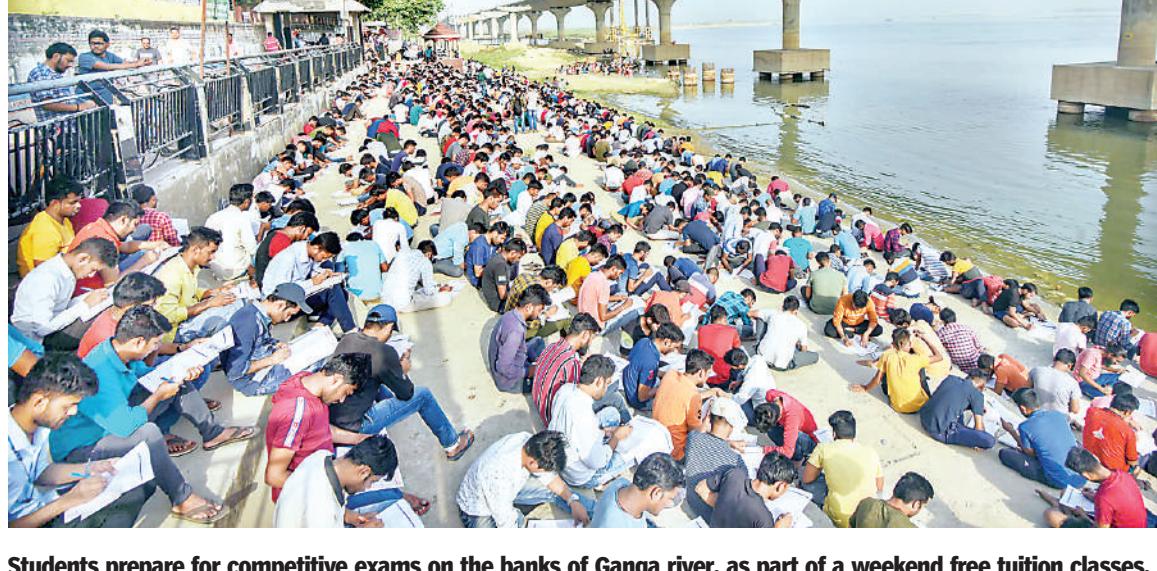
The apex court had earlier raised questions over the Allahabad High Court verdict granting bail to Ashish Mishra, saying unnecessary details like post-

mortem report and nature of wounds should not have gone into when the trial was yet to commence.

The special bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, had also taken strong note of the fact that the state government did not file an appeal against the high court's order as suggested by the apex court-appointed SIT. The bench had taken note of the submissions of senior advocate Dushyant Dave and Prashant Bhushan, appearing for farmers, that the high court did not consider the extensive charge sheet and rather relied upon the FIR where it was alleged that one person received bullet injuries?

The special bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, had also taken strong note of the fact that the state government did not file an appeal against the high court's order as suggested by the apex court-appointed SIT. The bench had taken note of the submissions of senior advocate Dushyant Dave and Prashant Bhushan, appearing for farmers, that the high court did not consider the extensive charge sheet and rather relied upon the FIR where it was alleged that one person received bullet injuries?

### FREE TUITION CLASSES



Students prepare for competitive exams on the banks of Ganga river, as part of a weekend free tuition classes, in Patna, Sunday.

Docs on COVID-19 situation

## 'People should get tested, mask mandate be brought back'

New Delhi, Apr 17 (PTD):

With the COVID-19 positivity rate in the national capital again, doctors on Sunday said people developing coronavirus-like symptoms should get themselves tested and authorities should make the wearing of masks mandatory to help check the spread of infection.

The COVID-19 positivity rate in the national capital has jumped from 0.5 per cent to 5.33 per cent in two weeks.

While the Delhi Disaster Management Authority

(DDMA) will take stock of the situation on April 20, the doctors said that the meeting should have been held here in view of the recent daily spurt in cases and the major spike in the positivity rate.

On Saturday, the city logged 461 cases with a positivity rate of 5.33 per cent, while two deaths were also reported. On Friday, Delhi had recorded 366 cases.

Before this, the city had reported a positivity rate of 5.09 per cent on February 1, while on January 31, the figure was 6.2 per cent. Doctors at

leading government and private hospitals emphasised that there was a need to increase testing in the wake of the spike in cases, even as they said that "no drastic restrictions" were needed as of now.

People who are developing symptoms are not going for COVID-19 test, largely. Now, with a surge in cases and the positivity rate beyond five per cent again, I would urge people to go for testing if they are having symptoms. "Even those going for home isolation should go for testing," said a senior doctor at LNJP Hospital.

Before this, the city had reported a positivity rate of 5.09 per cent on February 1, while on January 31, the figure was 6.2 per cent. Doctors at

SURPRISING BUT TRUE

Bengaluru, Apr 17 (PTD):

Striking a note of harmony, amidst the recent flare-up of communal issues in Karnataka, the historic Chennakeshava temple at Belur in Hassan district kick-started the annual rathotsava (chariot festival) celebrations this year, after verses of Quran were recited in keeping with the syncretic tradition followed there for years.

Following the traditions, which according to locals have been practised for centuries, Syed Sajjad Basha, Khaji of Doddha Meduru, chanted verses from the

Quran on Day 1 of the two-day rathotsava festival on April 13, following which the chariot was pulled.

According to authorities there, it is not clearly known as to when the tradition of reciting Quranic verses began at the fair in the temple, which was built by Hoysala rulers.

However, the temple manual, which dates back to 1932, has a mention about the tradition, which is being followed to this day, they said.

Belur was the erstwhile capital of the Hoysalas and

## Court cannot act as expert in field of education: SC

New Delhi, Apr 17 (PTD):

A court cannot act as an expert in the field of education and it should be left to the institutions to determine whether a candidate possesses requisite qualification or not, the Supreme Court has said.

A bench of Justices M R Shah and B V Nagarathna said there cannot be any deviation from the educational qualifications mentioned in an advertisement of job.

"In the field of education, the court of law cannot act as an expert normally, therefore, whether or not a student/candidate is possessing the requisite qualification should better be left to the educational institutions, more particularly, when the Expert Committee considers the matter," the bench said.

The observation came while dismissing a batch of appeals challenging the

order of the Jharkhand High Court with regard to the selection process for appointment to the post of postgraduate trained teachers in the high school of Jharkhand for different subjects under different categories.

The top court said that as per the advertisement, a candidate must have postgraduate/bachelor degree in history. "We have gone through degrees/certificates in the case of respective writ petitioners. It appears that the respective writ petitioners have obtained postgraduate degrees/bachelor degrees, as the case may be, in one of the branches of history, namely, Indian Ancient History, Indian Ancient Culture, Medieval/Modern History, Indian Ancient History, Culture and Archaeology etc," the bench said.

Therefore, having studied and obtaining the degree in only one branch of history cannot be said to be having a degree in history subject as a whole, which was the requirement, it said.

"In the present case, the educational qualifications required have been specifically mentioned in the advertisement. There is no ambiguity and/or confusion in the advertisement providing educational qualification and the post for which the applications were invited (History/Civics).

### A DAY AFTER VIOLENCE

## Uneasy calm, heavy police presence in Jahangirpuri

New Delhi, Apr 17 (PTD):

An uneasy calm prevailed in Jahangirpuri's C Block on Sunday, a day after violence broke out during a Hanuman Jayanti procession.

Shops and markets near the Jahangirpuri metro station were functioning as usual on Sunday and there was a heavy police deployment in C Block, the epicentre of the violence that left eight police personnel and a local injured.

Sheikh Amzad, a resident of C Block, said he was inside the mosque in C Block when the violence broke out on Saturday evening.

"They (participants of Hanuman Jayanti procession) were chanting 'Jai Shri Ram' and raising



provocative slogans. They forcibly entered the mosque and started tying saffron flags in its premises. They were threatening us with swords... That's when stone pelting began.

"They (participants of Hanuman Jayanti procession) were chanting 'Jai Shri Ram' and raising

Jahangirpuri," Amzad told PTI.

Amzad claimed that nearly 50 people forcibly entered the mosque.

Security has been beefed up in and around C and D blocks near the mosque. Barricades have

### 14 arrested for violence

Fourteen people have been arrested in connection with the violence during a Hanuman Jayanti procession in northwest Delhi's Jahangirpuri, police said Sunday. They said there was stone-pelting and some vehicles were also torched during the clashes between two communities Saturday evening. A senior official said a police sub-inspector received a bullet injury during the violence.

been put up and police personnel deployed at every 200 metres. Despite this, shops around the mosque were all shut. Manoj Kumar said he was at his shop in C Block when the violence broke out.

### 5-DAY CONCLAVE

## Army commanders to review national security challenges

■ Ukraine war implications also on agenda

New Delhi, Apr 17 (PTD):

Top Army commanders will carry out an extensive review of India's national security challenges along the borders with China and Pakistan as well as assess any possible geopolitical implication of the Russia-Ukraine war for the region.

The Army Commanders' Conference is an apex level biannual event that is held in April and October every year.

The conference is an institutional platform for conceptual level deliberations, culminating in making important policy decisions for the Indian Army.

The anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir as well as the overall situation in the Union Territory will also be deliberated upon extensively at the conference, the officials said.

ble implications of the war in Ukraine for regional security as well as various military aspects of the conflict.

The commanders will also carry out a comprehensive review of India's military preparedness along the 3,400-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC) in view of the lingering military standoff with China in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh, they said.

The anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir as well as the overall situation in the Union Territory will also be deliberated upon extensively at the conference, the officials said.

Bengaluru, Apr 17 (PTD):

Striking a note of harmony, amidst the recent flare-up of communal issues in Karnataka, the historic Chennakeshava temple at Belur in Hassan district kick-started the annual rathotsava (chariot festival) celebrations this year, after verses of Quran were recited in keeping with the syncretic tradition followed there for years.

Following the traditions, which according to locals have been practised for centuries, Syed Sajjad Basha, Khaji of Doddha Meduru, chanted verses from the

Quran on Day 1 of the two-day rathotsava festival on April 13, following which the chariot was pulled.

According to authorities there, it is not clearly known as to when the tradition of reciting Quranic verses began at the fair in the temple, which was built by Hoysala rulers.

However, the temple manual, which dates back to 1932, has a mention about the tradition, which is being followed to this day, they said.

Belur was the erstwhile capital of the Hoysalas and

referred to as Velapur Velur and Belur at different points in history. The temple, which is known for its sculptural extravaganza, was consecrated by the famous Hoysala king Vishnuvardhana to mark his victories in 1116 AD against the Cholas.

Thousands of people had gathered at the rathotsava that saw Lord Chennakeshava, one of the incarnations of Lord Vishnu, being carried out in a chariot after Basha read out the verses from the Islamic scripture.

Basha recited the verses in the presence of temple authorities, with local leaders and a large gathering of

people, standing at the foot of the chariot. He said the practice has been followed for generations by his ancestors and that his son and grandson too would follow the same. "I have been chanting Quranic verses at the festival for the last 50 years now. It is done to pray that Chennakeshava swami does good for all. All of us, whether Hindu or Christian or Muslim, should live peacefully together and there should be no differences among us," he added.

Former minister and JD(S) MLA H D Revanna, who participated in the event, said the tradition has been followed for ages and has to be continued.

referred to as Velapur Velur and Belur at different points in history. The temple, which is known for its sculptural extravaganza, was consecrated by the famous Hoysala king Vishnuvardhana to mark his victories in 1116 AD against the Cholas.

Thousands of people had gathered at the rathotsava that saw Lord Chennakeshava, one of the incarnations of Lord Vishnu, being carried out in a chariot after Basha read out the verses from the Islamic scripture.

Basha recited the verses in the presence of temple authorities, with local leaders and a large gathering of

# Empowered Panchayats enable Patan Block win National Award

Patan was the leading development block in the implementation of Central and State schemes

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 17: Patan block has achieved its distinct identity in the nation through its concrete works on rural development. The empowered Panchayats of this development block ensured best implementation of the schemes of the central government and state government as well.

On April 24, Patan block will be honored with Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Samman. The credit of this success goes to the hard work of thousands of villagers of Patan block along with Panchayat representatives and government staff. Patan made this achievement through effective implementation of the government schemes.

**Effective implementation of MGNREGA:** When the movement of people was stopped due to the lockdown and the entire country had come to a standstill, MGNREGA works were



CM Baghel at Patan Janpad Panchayat (File Photo)

Gauthans were constructed in the year 2021-22. 1.14 lakh quintals of cow dung have been purchased through these gauthans. Gauthans are being developed as centers of employment oriented activities. Units for production of spices / powdered spices, oil extraction, etc. were opened at Gauthans. Work is also being done for the production of Australian species of earthworms in Gauthans. One such unit of earthworm production is operational at Gauthan of village Kurnigundra. Innovations like electric-

ity from cow dung: The project of generating electricity from cow dung is being done in Gauthan located in village Sikola of Patan. It is really difficult to think for most of the people that something like electricity can be generated in a Gauthan by the villagers. But this fantasy has been turned into reality at Sikola. Dome Shed has been built for livelihood oriented activities in village Sankra. Products like Ashtagandha are being manufactured here. The Ashtagandha being produced here has excellent

demand not only within the country but in foreign countries like Italy and Indonesia as well.

**Fulfilled the dream of self-reliance:** Even during the adverse situations of lockdown, the villages of Patan block did not face any problem for basic needs. The Baadis of Kesara and Borenda continued to produce vegetables using organic manure. These baadis continued to meet the local demands of vegetables.

Canals revived, scope of solar irrigation increased: The irrigation canal system like that of Sipconia had become dilapidated in lack of maintenance over years. This canal network was revived through large scale repair works. Work was done in the direction of increasing the scope of irrigation through solar power mediums in Kauthi, Borenda and other villages. The level of ground water increased through Narva Yojana and provided a permanent benefit to the farmers.

## DMC repairs water supply pipeline within five hours

Damaged due to construction work by PWD



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 17: The water supply pipeline that had been damaged due to road construction work being carried out by the PWD has been repaired by Durg Municipal Corporation within five hours and is expected that supply of water would be resumed shortly. Here it needs a mention that the 300 mm dia pipeline near Malviya Nagar Chowk had been damaged on Saturday evening while the construction work of near the GE Road for the widening and drainage construction. The pipeline is used to supply water in Amdi Mandir, Deepak Nagar, Five Buildings, New Police Line and Oriya Basti area. Also the damage caused to the 10-inch pipeline in front of the district hospital resulted in hindered water supply to Kela Bari, Kasaridih and Dabrapara area and Ganjpara area and Ganjpara Chowk in front of Kishore Mandir. On getting

the information, Durg MLA Arun Vora and Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal reached the spot in the morning. After inspecting the damaged pipeline, the Mayor discussed it with collector and asked him to check with the PWD as pipeline is getting damaged repeatedly during the construction work due to which the general public is getting upset for water. He further asked the Collector to direct the concerned department to work cautiously so as to avoid any further damage to pipeline. Due to it being related to essential services, the damaged pipeline has been repaired within 5 hours by the officers and employees on the instructions of Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal and Municipal Commissioner Hareesh Mandavi. It is expected to resume water supply shortly. Hefty fine will be imposed by the corporation on repetition to the concerned construction agency.

About two years ago during the CoronaVirus Pandemic, people once again realised the importance of when there was a

shortage of oxygen at the hospitals for the treatment of Covid patients. During this period, Bhilai Municipal Corporation took up a mega tree plantation campaign. The saplings planted on the roadsides have grown to small trees now and are providing shade to the passers-by. The roadside vendors are doing busi-

ness in the shade of these trees. A roadside vendor Vicky Dewangan, who sells coconut water and fruit juice, said that the Bhilai Municipal Corporation had planted saplings near his roadside stall. Now these saplings have become trees and are providing shade. The Horticulture Department of the



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Apr 17: In a bid to beautify the city in a mode similar to that of metro cities, randomly placed hoardings are being removed from the entire city. In the last three days Bhilai Municipal Corporation has been working to remove such hoardings. The agencies involved in hoardings were asked to remove the hoardings several times through notices, but seeing no positive outcome, the Municipal Corporation decided to remove the illegal hoardings from the entire city and started the proceedings. In view of the beautification of the city, the work of removing illegal hoardings is being done in all the six zones. The earthmover of the corporation is working to remove the hoardings. Initially, hoardings near the service road adjoining the National Highway are being removed. The randomly placed hoardings also looked unsightly, due to lack of similar patterns, it was also affecting the beauty of the city. At the same time, on the instructions of Mayor Neeraj Pal,

now the concept of Unipole, which looks similar to the metro city, will be brought in. For this, the Mayor-in-Council, headed by Mayor Neeraj Pal, had already approved the work of installing Unipole and very soon the work on this will start. Deputy Commissioner Sunil Agrahari told that the tender process and departmental process has already been initiated in this regard. Keeping in mind a certain size, height and traffic etc, Unipoles will be installed on the lines of Metro City. Talking about the illegal hoardings removed so far, he informed that more than 150 hoardings have been removed so far. On

the instructions of Corporation Commissioner Prakash Surve and Additional Commissioner Ashok Dwivedi, Assistant Revenue Officers Balkrishna Naidu, Parameshwar Chandrakar, Malkhan Singh Sori along with their team have worked to remove the random hoardings. Soon the process of removing hoardings in the inner area of the city will also be started.

## Saplings planted two years ago, now giving relief from scorching sun

Central Chronicle News



throughout the year. Tree guards were installed for protecting the saplings from animals. The tree guards were made attractive through paintings; water bags were installed so that the plants get water continuously, stacking was done to support the growing plants, fertilizers and water were provided on time.

Along with this, the nearby residents and businessmen were also appealed to take care of the plants. As a result, many of the saplings have now grown to trees. Many plants have grown up to the height of 25 feet. Plants need a lot of water during the summer days. The corporation made proper arrangements for watering the plants during the entire summer season.

Although some plants were damaged due to animals, anti-social elements and vehicles, still most of the plants are alive and growing healthy. In lieu of dead and damaged plants, the BMC has again planted saplings.

Gulmohar, Kadamba, Stopadia and Tapodia Rosa were chosen for street plantation. It needs to be mentioned here that on the instructions of Mayor Neeraj Pal and Corporation Commissioner Prakash Surve, the concerned officials are taking special care of the saplings planted on the roadside during the summer days. The work of tree plantation was done on the instructions of the BMC Administrator and Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure.

## Brahmakumaris provides relief material to Fire Mishap Victims

Central Chronicle News



about the power of God and mentioned that God's planning is the best for us and we need to have some patience and contentment in our mind, taking lessons from what happened.

She added that we have to be careful that such incidents do not happen in future. The sisters went from house to house and distributed kit bags made of essential daily useful items.

At the outset, Brahma Kumari Asha Didi, the director of Bhilai Seva

about the power of God and mentioned that God's planning is the best for us and we need to have some patience and contentment in our mind, taking lessons from what happened.

She added that we have to be careful that such incidents do not happen in future. The sisters went from house to house and distributed kit bags made of essential daily useful items.

Kendras flagged off the truck load of relief mate-

rial in which food grains, utensils, clothes and kit



bags of essential items of daily life from the Rajyog Bhavan Sector-07 for Surya Nagar.

## Plethora of livelihood oriented activities at Urban Gauthan

Central Chronicle News



Bhilai, Apr 17: The Urban Gauthan located in Kosa Nagar is witnessing a plethora of livelihood oriented activities. The women SHGs are involved in producing vermicompost manure, earthworms, fisheries, incense stick production and much more. With the innovative initiative of Bhilai Municipal Corporation, the women of SHG are achieving self-reliance. Mayor Neeraj Pal and Commissioner Prakash Sarve are continuously monitoring the activities of Gauthan.

Bhilai Municipal Corporation is increasing the opportunities of livelihood in Urban Gauthan. Under the ambitious project of Chhattisgarh government, the Urban Gauthan of Kosa Nagar in Bhilai is taking the shape of a livelihood centre. Stray cattle are getting care in this Gauthan. The women of Self Help Groups are moving on the path of self-reliance by

conducting employment oriented work. On the instructions of Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure, Commissioner Prakash Sarve is making efforts to make the Gauthan well-equipped. The women have got a means to become financially capable through innovative working.

About 120 cattle have been kept in the Gauthan. Napier grass has been grown in the campus itself to provide green fodder. Cow dung is collected for production of vermicompost. The women of Nai

Udaan SHG (field level organization Zone 1) are engaged in making manure from cow dung. The women are manufacturing 10 tonnes of vermicompost manure per month. So far, about 150 tonnes of manure has been sold by them.

This group also purchases cow dung from nearby people at the rate of Rs 2 per kg. Cattle owners of nearby places visit the gauthan every day to sell cow dung. Earthworm production is also being given importance in this Gauthan. About 70 kg of

earthworm is being produced per month. Earthworms are supplied for use in fisheries as well as to make the soil fertile.

Production of cow dung cakes and wood from cow dung is also being done on a large scale. The cow dung cakes and wood is being used for cremation in nearby Muktidham. Women are generating good income through production of these products.

Women of Jeevan Jyoti Self Help Group Kohka are manufacturing incense sticks. They pre-

pare a powder by filtering cow dung and black soil. Agarbatti is made from this powder and bamboo sticks. 5 to 8 kg incense sticks are being manufactured daily. The incense sticks are being supplied to Dhanora as well as nearby temples and local people.

Women of Mother Gayatri Self Help Group Supela are manufacturing soap and herbal gulal from flowers emanating from the temples. The flower petals are dried and are used in soap production. During Holi, 100

kg gulal was produced here and was sold in the local market. At present, a local trader of Nagapura has placed an order of 20 kg gulal.

Arya Mahila Self Help Group Kohka is producing mushrooms in the shed of Gauthan complex. Mushroom production and demand is high during the winter season. Presently, 8 to 9 kg of mushrooms are being produced and sold every month. It had good demand in hotels / restaurants as well as the local market.

Vegetable production is also being done in the baadi. Jai Ambe Mahila Self Help Group Kosanagar is involved in this activity. Women are trying to increase their income by cultivating spinach, chawla, fenugreek, coriander, cabbage, chilli, tomato, banana, papaya, capsicum, etc. Women of Annapurna Women's Self Help Group and Shiv Shakti Group Supela made diyas during the Diwali season. The group produced 44000 diyas during Diwali. It was sold through BMC, malls and stalls.

Amber Women Self Help Group is doing fisheries in the Dabri built in Radhika Nagar Gauthan campus. Now the Corporation has developed this Dabri into a pond. Many species of fish including Talapia will be reared in this pond. Om Women's Self Help Group of Kosa Nagar will be engaged in poultry farming at the shed being built in the gauthan. The group will make profit by selling eggs, chicks and chickens. It needs to be mentioned here that the state government is continuously making action plans to make the women of the city self-reliant. People shall not migrate to other cities for employment and they should get employment in their own city Bhupesh Baghel government is making the women financially capable by providing employment through self-help groups. The administration of Bhilai Municipal Corporation is also working in this direction.

# New budget to determine direction of devp for Nava Ch'garh: CM

**Ch'garh Govt is working vigorously for public interest and devp of state**

**CM addresses people of the state in the 28th episode of his monthly radio talk 'Lokvaani'**

**Central Chronicle News**

Raipur, Apr 17: In his address to people of the state during the 28th episode of his monthly radio talk 'Lokvaani' today, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that our new budget will determine the direction of development for Nava Chhattisgarh.

Public participation will have an important role in the growth and progress of the state. Our government is consistently working for public interest and the development of the state. Despite the impact of COVID crisis and the reduc-

tion in State's share of GST and Central taxes, Chhattisgarh Government has presented a budget of revenue surplus. The debt burden and fiscal deficit of the state are continuously decreasing and the capital expenditure is at all-time high. Today's episode of Lokvaani was focused on the topic 'Nava Chhattisgarh, New Budget'. This is so far the biggest budget presented by the state government, ever since the state of Chhattisgarh was formed. Presently, the size of the state budget is Rs one lakh 12 thousand 603 crore 40 lakh.

Chief Minister gave a series of answers to the queries of the audience in Lokvaani and informed about the strong economic status of Chhattisgarh state. Certainly, it is a matter of pride for every Chhattisgarhiya that the budget size of the state has crossed the mark of Rs 1 lakh crore. State govern-



ment's budget for the financial year 2022-23 includes the provisions in proportion to the population of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, while the social and economic sectors have also been given the due attention. Our priority regarding the agriculture sector is very vocal. In the year 2022-23, an amount of Rs 20 thousand 405 crores has been provisioned for the agriculture budget. We are moving forward by ensuring optimal utilization of our resources, value-addition, fair value to the dedication and hard work of our toiling people and right price for the production in the state. This strategy is

proving to be a catalyst in the economic growth of the state.

In today's episode, Umakant Verma of Malda village of Raipur district congratulated Chief Minister for presenting a budget of more than Rs 1 lakh crore for Chhattisgarh. Shri Rajesh Vaswani of Raipur congratulated him for presenting the budget of surplus revenue and not imposing any new tax on the traders in the budget despite the COVID crisis.

Chief Minister said that there was a time when the UPA government of Delhi would give a bigger amount to the state, more than what the Centre has been providing now, but still the state could not have a surplus budget. Presently State and Centre's amount in the budget is almost equal. Besides, the problems related to GST have intensified. Despite all these challenges, we have successfully made a budget of surplus on the basis of the efficiency of our

state. Budget Provision of 37% for the social sector

In response to the question of priorities in the budget asked by Amrapali Sahare of Ranveerpur of Kabeerdham district, Chief Minister said that the population of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes in our state is about 45 percent. In the total provision of our budget, 33 percent has been allocated for Scheduled Tribes and 12 percent for Scheduled Castes. If we look at the social and economic sector, we have allocated 40 percent of the provisions for the economic sector, and about 37 percent for the social sector as well. Sanjay Jain of Rajnandgaon asked about the status of State's debt, to which Chief Minister Mr. Baghel answered that on December 17, 2018, we had inherited a debt of Rs 41 thousand 695 crores. After the formation of our government, the increase in net debt is Rs 42 thousand 528 crores.

## Ten female passengers injured as bus turns turtle

Balodabazar, Apr 17: Ten persons in a passenger bus got injured, when in order to save a bike rider, the bus turned turtle entering a farm in a village under Pallari area.

As per reports, the bus was going from Balodabazar to Raipur and when it reached Kotawa of Pallari, a person on a bike was coming from the Opposite direction at around 9:30 am. All of sudden in order to avoid dashing against the bike, the bus driver applied brakes strongly and after which the bus turned out of control and went inside a farm nearby and turned turtle. In this 10 women are reported to have got injured. It was after the incident that people from nearby area came to their rescue and took them to Pallari Hospital, where after first-aid they were all relieved. It is learnt that five persons in the bus are reported to have received serious injuries, but they all are out of danger.



CM Bhupesh Baghel attending the 76th annual convention of Chandranahu (Chandra) Vikas Mahasamiti made declaration for formation of new district of Saragarh-Bilaiigarh and for which an OSD will be appointed.

## CM pays tribute to Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

### On his death anniversary

Raipur, Apr 17: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has paid tribute to the former President of India and educationist, Bharat Ratna Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan on his

death anniversary on April 17. Baghel has said that Dr Radhakrishnan ji, as an ideal teacher, fulfilled his dedication and commitment towards education in his life as well. He considered education as a mission. He studied society, religion and philosophy deeply and wrote many books.

Because of talent of Dr Radhakrishnan, he was made a member of the Constituent Assembly. The Chief Minister said that Dr Radhakrishnan left behind an invaluable heritage of knowledge and education. His wisdom will always inspire the future generations.

## Nayab Tehsildar Masturi suspended with immediate effect

### On finding his action against the conduct of State Civil Services Act

**Central Chronicle News**

Raipur, Apr 17: Taking the case of Nayab Tehsildar Ramesh Kumar posted in Masturi Tehsil office of Bilaspur district has gone viral on the social media and due to which his conduct was found against the Government Service rule. Collector Bilaspur in this regard has mentioned to the Commissioner Bilaspur division and has asked SDM (Revenue) to submit report that on April 4, 2022, Tehsildar Ramesh Kumar Kamar posted in the Tehsil Masturi office has gone viral. In this the conduct of the Tehsildar is being found against the rules.

The first witness of this video is Meena Netam, Manish Mishra, Asst. Grade-III and Ropuchand Rai general citizen. It was based upon the statement and report by the colleagues it is aptly clear that the incident has taken place in the office of RK Kamar Nayab Tehsildar court. Finding the above action as one against the rule-3 of Chhattisgarh Civil Services Conduct act and a punishable offence and found it as one maligning the image of government and revenue court and made recommendations for disciplinary action.

It was based upon the report by SDM Revenue that Collector Bilaspur has suspended RK Kamar Nayab Tehsildar Masturi will immediate effect and sent proposal to the Divisional Commissioner Bilaspur for necessary action.

## School buses examined for fitness in Raipur

School. During inspection, the team of Transport Department examined a total of 94 school buses, in which insurance and fitness related flaws were found in 29 buses.

The department has collected a total revenue of Rs 86 thousand from these vehicles. Transport officials said that strict action will be taken if school buses are found not fol-

lowing the guidelines of the Supreme Court. The transport department official said that the team of the department conducted surprise check of the school buses. According to the officials 67 Buses in Delhi Public School, 27 Buses of St. Xavier's and Ryan Public School were inspected. Permit, Fitness, Insurance, PUC, Bus Driver's



**There is nothing wrong in providing facilities with money saved from corruption: Dr Pathak**

**Central Chronicle News**

Raipur, Apr 17: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP Dr Sandeep Pathak alleged that both BJP and Congress cheated the people. Both BJP and Congress are working in cahoots as it is evident from the fact that their corrupt leaders do not go to jail with change in government, said Dr Pathak while talking to the reporters here today.

Dr Pathak who came to Chhattisgarh first time after becoming Rajya Sabha MP said AAP's responsibility increased ever since it came to power in Punjab. According to him Delhi is the only state where Delhi government is running in profit despite free facilities in some areas to the people. There is noth-

ing wrong in rendering free basic services to the public, he said.

According to him government can save a lot of money for the welfare of people by checking corruption. Though there is no shortage of any resources in Chhattisgarh, yet the state government has to seek loans because of lack of will power and corruption prevailing in the state, he said, adding that state government has a debt of about Rs 1 lakh crore. According to AAP leader mining mafias were ruling the roost in the state. State government employees were unhappy with the government. Private schools made the education as busi-

ness. He said that both BJP and Congress are in cahoots. People now have an alternative in form of Kejriwal ji. He said that AAP government would be formed in Chhattisgarh in the time to come.

State election in-charge Gopal Rai told that the people are happy with the Kejriwal government in Delhi. Free education, health and other necessary facilities are being provided in Delhi. According to him adverse political scenario is prevailing in Chhattisgarh. State in-charge Sanjeev Jha said that people in Chhattisgarh are now seeking change. This time there will definitely be a change.

Sanctions Rs 1.07 cr for Kachana Ghurwa Gondwana Bhawan

state government has increased the number of forest produce being purchased on MSP from 7 to 65 products. Now 'kodo', 'Kutki' and all other forest produces is being purchased on MSP.

He made an appeal to the people of the Samaj not to sell any forest produce be it 'Mahua' at price lesser than one fixed by the state government. Baghel informed that food park is being installed at 3 different places in the district and this will lead to value addition and increase avenues for employment and would also increase income of people.

Further Baghel informed that from May 1, Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Bhumiheen Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana was launched and under this landless labourers were passed on benefit of Rs 7000 per annum. Under Godhan Nyay Yojana, now the work is being started to make paint using cow-dung and also generate electricity. Baghel informed that in Gariyaband district, around 21000 tribals have been issued forest rights letter. He said that the objective behind schemes of the state government is to ensure that money flows into their pocket and they become more prosperous.

Addressing the convention, CM Baghel said that the state government is committed towards development and safeguarding the interest of tribals in the state. Many schemes have been launched for their welfare and upliftment. He said that the state gov-

ernment is studying about PESA Act draft and on implementation of this Act, the non-tribal samaj is not to be bothered at all.

As per demand of Samaj, he made declaration of Rs 1.07 cr for Kachana Ghurwa Gondwana Samaj bhawan and granted sanction for it as well. CM directed the Collector to find out solution to problems at local level and asked to send the proposals to be resolved at

state-level to the state government.

MLA Rajim Amitesh Shukla said that it is with

construction of road, electricity and irrigation facilities that development of every samaj is ensured. It is with this objective, Baghel government is giving momentum to development works. He made declaration of Rs 10 lakh for 'Aamat Gond Samaj' Bhawan.

state government has increased the number of forest produce being purchased on MSP from 7 to 65 products. Now 'kodo', 'Kutki' and all other forest produces is being purchased on MSP.

He made an appeal to the people of the Samaj not to sell any forest produce be it 'Mahua' at price lesser than one fixed by the state government. Baghel informed that food park is being installed at 3 different places in the district and this will lead to value addition and increase avenues for employment and would also increase income of people.

Further Baghel informed that from May 1, Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Bhumiheen Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana was launched and under this landless labourers were passed on benefit of Rs 7000 per annum. Under Godhan Nyay Yojana, now the work is being started to make paint using cow-dung and also generate electricity. Baghel informed that in Gariyaband district, around 21000 tribals have been issued forest rights letter. He said that the objective behind schemes of the state government is to ensure that money flows into their pocket and they become more prosperous.

Addressing the convention, CM Baghel said that the state government is committed towards development and safeguarding the interest of tribals in the state. Many schemes have been launched for their welfare and upliftment. He said that the state gov-

ernment is studying about PESA Act draft and on implementation of this Act, the non-tribal samaj is not to be bothered at all.

As per demand of Samaj, he made declaration of Rs 1.07 cr for Kachana Ghurwa Gondwana Samaj bhawan and granted sanction for it as well. CM directed the Collector to find out solution to problems at local level and asked to send the proposals to be resolved at

state-level to the state government.

MLA Rajim Amitesh Shukla said that it is with

construction of road, electricity and irrigation facilities that development of every samaj is ensured. It is with this objective, Baghel government is giving momentum to development works. He made declaration of Rs 10 lakh for 'Aamat Gond Samaj' Bhawan.

state government has increased the number of forest produce being purchased on MSP from 7 to 65 products. Now 'kodo', 'Kutki' and all other forest produces is being purchased on MSP.

He made an appeal to the people of the Samaj not to sell any forest produce be it 'Mahua' at price lesser than one fixed by the state government. Baghel informed that food park is being installed at 3 different places in the district and this will lead to value addition and increase avenues for employment and would also increase income of people.

Further Baghel informed that from May 1, Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Bhumiheen Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana was launched and under this landless labourers were passed on benefit of Rs 7000 per annum. Under Godhan Nyay Yojana, now the work is being started to make paint using cow-dung and also generate electricity. Baghel informed that in Gariyaband district, around 21000 tribals have been issued forest rights letter. He said that the objective behind schemes of the state government is to ensure that money flows into their pocket and they become more prosperous.

Addressing the convention, CM Baghel said that the state government is committed towards development and safeguarding the interest of tribals in the state. Many schemes have been launched for their welfare and upliftment. He said that the state gov-

ernment is studying about PESA Act draft and on implementation of this Act, the non-tribal samaj is not to be bothered at all.

As per demand of Samaj, he made declaration of Rs 1.07 cr for Kachana Ghurwa Gondwana Samaj bhawan and granted sanction for it as well. CM directed the Collector to find out solution to problems at local level and asked to send the proposals to be resolved at

state-level to the state government.

MLA Rajim Amitesh Shukla said that it is with

construction of road, electricity and irrigation facilities that development of every samaj is ensured. It is with this objective, Baghel government is giving momentum to development works. He made declaration of Rs 10 lakh for 'Aamat Gond Samaj' Bhawan.

state government has increased the number of forest produce being purchased on MSP from 7 to 65 products. Now 'kodo', 'Kutki' and all other forest produces is being purchased on MSP.

He made an appeal to the people of the Samaj not to sell any forest produce be it 'Mahua' at price lesser than one fixed by the state government. Baghel informed that food park is being installed at 3 different places in the district and this will lead to value addition and increase avenues for employment and would also increase income of people.

Further Baghel informed that from May 1, Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Bhumiheen Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana was launched and under this landless labourers were passed on benefit of Rs 7000 per annum. Under Godhan Nyay Yojana, now the work is being started to make paint using cow-dung and also generate electricity. Baghel informed that in Gariyaband district, around 21000 tribals have been issued forest rights letter. He said that the objective behind schemes of the state government is to ensure that money flows into their pocket and they become more prosperous.

Addressing the convention, CM Baghel said that the state government is committed towards development and safeguarding the interest of tribals in the state. Many schemes have been launched for their welfare and upliftment. He said that the state gov-

ernment is studying about PESA Act draft and on implementation of this Act, the non-tribal samaj is not to be bothered at all.

As per demand of Samaj, he made declaration of Rs 1.07 cr for Kachana Ghurwa Gondwana Samaj bhawan and granted sanction for it as well. CM directed the Collector to find out solution to problems at local level and asked to send the proposals to be resolved at

state-level to the state government.

MLA Rajim Amitesh Shukla said that it is with

construction of road, electricity and irrigation facilities that development of every samaj is ensured. It is with this objective, Baghel government is giving momentum to development works. He made declaration of Rs 10 lakh for 'Aamat Gond Samaj' Bhawan.

state government has increased the number of forest produce being purchased on MSP from 7 to 65 products. Now 'kodo', 'Kutki' and all other forest produces is being purchased on MSP.

He made an appeal to the people of the Samaj not to sell any forest produce be it 'Mahua' at price lesser than one fixed by the state government. Baghel informed that food park is being installed at 3 different places in the district and this will lead to value addition and increase avenues for employment and would also increase income of people.

Further Baghel informed that from May 1, Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Bhumiheen Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana was launched and under this landless labourers were passed on benefit of Rs 7000 per annum. Under Godhan Nyay Yojana, now the work is being started to make paint using cow-dung and also generate electricity. Baghel informed that in Gariyaband district, around 21000 tribals have been issued forest rights letter. He said that the objective behind schemes of the state government is to ensure that money flows into their pocket and they become more prosperous.

Addressing the convention, CM Baghel said that the state government is committed towards development and safeguarding the interest of tribals in the state. Many schemes have been launched for their welfare and upliftment. He said that the state gov-

ernment is studying about PESA Act draft and on implementation of this Act, the non-tribal samaj is not to be bothered at all.

As per demand of Samaj, he made declaration of Rs 1.07 cr for Kachana Ghurwa Gondwana Samaj bhawan and granted sanction for it as well. CM directed the Collector to find out solution to problems at local level and asked to send the proposals to be resolved at

state-level to the state government.

MLA Rajim Amitesh Shukla said that it is with

construction of road, electricity and irrigation facilities that development of every samaj is ensured. It

# Every effort is being made to make women self-reliant: Bhedia

**Women Empowerment Convention held**

**Central Chronicle News**

Raipur, Apr 17: Women and Child Development Minister Anila Bhedia organised a women empowerment conference in the city building of Balodabazar Bhatapara district headquarters. Chief Guest of the function was Mrs. Bhedia said that as per the intention of the state government, every effort is being made to make women self-reliant. Along with strengthening the rural economy, employment opportunities are being provided in the village itself. Now women are not limited only to the within the walls of the house but along with doing household chores, they are moving



forward on the path of dependence. For this, women are being encouraged by the state government through various schemes. Apart from this, strict steps are also being taken to protect the freedom of women and their constitutional rights.

82 numbers Mini Rice Mill Machines were provided to women self-help groups in the conference of cost price per unit is Rs one lakh 3 thousand. Along with this, loans worth more than Rs 30 lakh 12 thousand of 113 women self-help groups have been waived

under Chhattisgarh Mahila Kosh Loan Scheme. Under this, 10 women self-help groups were given loan waiver certificates. Rajya Sabha MP Chhaya Verma said that last year two mini rice meals were given to women self-help groups in village Hathband and Karmanda. The dedication and hard work of the women of the group has yielded positive results. Impressed by this, mini rice mills have been approved for women self-help groups. This will give them additional income. On this occasion, Chairman of Text Book Corporation Shailesh Nitin Trivedi, District Panchayat President Rakesh Verma, Raipur District Panchayat President Mrs. Domeshwari Verma, former MLA, i Janak Verma, District President Hitendra Thakur, Dinesh Yadu, Chairman of Chamber of Commerce, Jugal Kishore Bhattar, District Panchayat Vice President, Sarita Thakur, District Panchayat member Parmeshwar Yadu and a large number of three-tier Panchayat representatives were present.



Students of School submitting their answer-sheets in the School on completion of online exam.

## Kisan Mela: Farmers learned the tricks of new technology

**Central Chronicle News**

Raipur, Apr 17: A three-day Kisan Mela organised by the Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers Welfare and Biotechnology, Government of Chhattisgarh at the Science College ground, Bilaspur was organized from April 13. On the concluding occasion, there was a crowd of people throughout the day to see the exhibition of farming. To make agriculture prosperous, farmers learned the tricks of new technology in this exhibition. A large number of farmers from across the state shared their experiences of farming innovation, technology, production and marketing at the fair. In the fair, machines of ad-



vanced technology have also been provided free of cost to the farmers. The farmers shared their experiences and said that organizing such fairs proves

beneficial for them. They also get a market for the sale of their products through the fair. Students and farmers of Agriculture College

reached the fair site in large numbers to see the exhibition of Agriculture and Horticulture Department in the fair. Under the

District Mineral Trust fund in the stall of Agriculture Department, 08 farmers of village Hiri development block Bilha were given sprinkler set of 30 pipes, three HP diesel pumps to 06 farmers, battery operated spares were distributed to 04 farmers free of cost. Rameshwar Singh Markam while expressing his happiness on getting the diesel pump said that he has three and a half acres of agricultural land. Irrigation facility will be provided in one and a half acres of land with the help of diesel pump. He said that farming has now become a profitable business due to the farmer friendly schemes launched by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. Mr. Mansingh said that he has got bat-

tery operated spare. Earlier, for spraying medicine, spares had to be hired at the rate of Rs 50 per hour. This caused unnecessary financial burden. Ramu Meher of village Hiri has ten acres of agricultural land. He got the sprinkler set in the fair today. He told that the price of this sprinkler set is more than Rs 24,000. It is not possible for everyone to make this purchase. Now by getting sprinkler set, farming will be easy. Mini Rice Mill, Fodder Cutter Machine, Mini Oil Mill have been kept for display in the stall of Agriculture Department. Organic Kulthi, Kodo, Til and Dubraj and Vishnubhog rice, Vermi compost manure have also been kept in the exhibition for sale.

## Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai to be 33rd district of Ch'garh

● CM announces after bypoll win

Raipur, Apr 17 (PTI): Hours after the ruling Congress won the Khairagarh Assembly seat in a byelection, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel kept his party's promise and announced the creation of a new district of Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai. The state now has 33 districts.

Within three hours after the election certificate was handed over to the winning candidate, the CM announced the formation of Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai district as per the poll promise," a government official

said. Last year four new districts had been created.

Salhewara and Jaalbandha areas in Khairagarh constituency will be made tehsil and up-tehsil, the official added.

Congress had promised that Khiragarh will be made a district within 24 hours if the party won the April 12 by-election.

Congress' Yashoda Verma won the Khairagarh bypoll by a margin of 20,176 votes against her nearest rival Komal Janghel of the BJP. Verma got 87,879 votes while the BJP's Janghel secured 67,703 votes.

By-election was held following the death of incumbent JCC (J) MLA and former MP Devratt Singh in November 2021.

## 10 booked for protest against coal mine project

Ambikapur, Apr 17: A rioting case was registered against 10 people for taking part in a protest march against a coal mine project in Surguja district, police said on Saturday.

The march was taken out on Friday by villagers against the Parsa coal mine project and officials said they ransacked some properties of the mining firm at the project site near Salhi village under Udaipur police station limits. "As per the complaint of project site security officer Anupam Dutta, some 220-250 people stormed into the premises armed with sharp-edged and traditional weapons.

They ransacked and torched the company's properties including a generator and makeshift tin shed, worth around Rs 10 lakh. They abused and assaulted workers there," an official said. No arrest has been made in the case and further probe is underway, he added. The Chhattisgarh government recently gave

final approval for use of 841.538 hectare forest land for Parsa mining project spread across Surguja and Surajpur districts. The mine has been allotted to Rajasthan Raja Vidhyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVNL).

The residents of the project affected villages, including Fatehpur and Hariharpur, have been protesting against the mine for a long time and demanding a probe into the "forged" gram sabha documents based on which clearance was given for mining.

They have been protesting since April 2 and had even carried out a foot march last year till Raipur 300 kilometres away but the state government has not relented, said Alok Shukla, convenor of Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan, which is fighting for the rights of tribals as well as environmental conservation.

The FIR against the tribals is an attempt to suppress the protest, he added.

IIT Naya Raipur has been conducting similar OIP's every year since 2017. Students from academic institutions like IIT Kharagpur, NIT Durgapur, NIT Warangal, NIT Hamirpur, NIT Delhi, NIT Agartala, NIT Tiruchirappalli, NIT A.P., NIT Meghalaya, Jamia Millia Islamia New Delhi, BIT Mesra, etc., had participated last year.

IIT-NR being the only institute among IITs to have an advanced 5G lab facility, will provide a blended learning module, by clubbing fundamental and advanced topics together, during these six to eight weeks program. Selected students are engaged in research projects, while still fulfilling summer internship requirements for their academic programs. The program will also teach students about the fundamentals of research and innovation, initiate

## Outreach Internship Program (OIP) at IIIT-NR

**Central Chronicle News**

Raipur, Apr 17: The Outreach Internship Program (OIP) is one of IIIT Naya Raipur's flagship research activity-based programs, where students from prestigious institutions across the country are selected to join the institute for 6 to 8 weeks, for carrying out research projects, under the supervision of IIIT-NR faculty members.

It offers them an opportunity to explore the advanced labs like 5G Lab, AI and ML Lab, IoT Lab, VLSI Lab, Speech Processing Lab, Networking Lab, Antenna and Microwave Circuit Design Lab, Anechoic Chamber, etc., as well as to learn about simulators and cutting-edge instruments.

IIIT Naya Raipur has been conducting similar OIP's every year since 2017. Students from academic institutions like IIT Kharagpur, NIT Durgapur, NIT Warangal, NIT Hamirpur, NIT Delhi, NIT Agartala, NIT Tiruchirappalli, NIT A.P., NIT Meghalaya, Jamia Millia Islamia New Delhi, BIT Mesra, etc., had participated last year.

journeys in research, upgrade knowledge, time management and improve paper writing skills. The program proves very helpful for the students as many students submit their work in reputed journals and conferences.

"India has huge talent and providing the students an opportunity to work in our advanced research facilities, will motivate them to pursue research in future, which will bring innovation to our society and will make the world a better place to live," said Dr. Punya Paltani, Dean Research and Development.

The OIP is being coordinated by Dr. Shrivishal Tripathi (Faculty-In-charge-OIP). The OIP will commence from May 16, 2022 and will end on July 16, 2022, and the last date for the application is April 25, 2022.

## Website is the mirror of the University: V-C



be made on the website according to the academic, research and social needs. These changes will increase the uniformity of the information available on the website. There should be a feeling of pride in our mind about the work we have done. He said that people who talk about solving problems achieve success.

The Vice-Chancellor said that the mantra of 'Sabka Saath and Sabka Vikas' is not just a slogan but reflects a spiritual-ideological vision. We should choose the minimum goal, achieve success.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and Officers also expressed their views. Keeping in view the convocation of the university, consent was given after considering the necessary changes to be made in the website.

Present in the meeting, the Registrar, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Deans

# State Govt should stop insulting Mahara society: Dilip Peddi



Konta, Apr 17:

Dilip Peddi, the divisional president of Mahara Samaj Youth Division, issued a press release accusing the Congress government of the state of insulting the Mahara society.

On 01 November 2021 in front of hundreds of society officials of Mahara society at Chief Minister's residence Raipur and again on 20 November 2021 in Jagdalpur's program, Chief Minister once again announced to rename Bastar High School

Jagdalpur in the name of Jagtu Mahara and Women's Polytechnic Announcement was made to rename the college Dharampura after Dharamu Mahara. With the said announcement, people of Mahara community with five lakh population residing in Bastar division expressed happiness as well as thanked the Chief Minister, but after about 6 months after the announcement. But the State Government Bastar High School, Jagdalpur was renamed after Swami Atmanand English Medium School.

On 01 November 2021 in front of hundreds of society officials of Mahara society at Chief Minister's residence Raipur and again on 20 November 2021 in Jagdalpur's program, Chief Minister once again announced to rename Bastar High School

Jagdalpur, in the name of Jhagtu Mahara and Women's Polytechnic Announcement was made to rename the college Dharampura after Dharamu Mahara. With the said announcement, people of Mahara community with five lakh population residing in Bastar division expressed happiness as well as thanked the Chief Minister, but after about 6 months after the announcement. But the State Government Bastar High School, Jagdalpur was renamed after Swami Atmanand English Medium School.

Former Congress candidate of Jagdalpur Assembly Shamu Kashyap, while defending the government for his political interests, continues to issue statements in favor of the government, doing politics under the guise of society and issuing statements in favor of the government is his personal political interest.

# ABVP observe birth anniv of Dr Ambedkar

Pandaria, Apr 17:

Members of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) observed the birth anniversary of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar with great enthusiasm. On this occasion the party workers present in different villages garlanded the photo of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar and lighted traditional lamp and recalled his works on his birth anniversary. It is reaching among the kids in Natpara at Pandatrai, sweets and snacks were distributed and it was observed as 'Samrasta Diwas'. In this programme Chief ST Cell Sachin Dhrurve said that Baba Saheb spent his entire life to make society equivalent for all. ABVP would continue its tirade against untouchability. District convener Tushar Chandravanshi said that



ABVP through this programme wants to pass on the message to the youths that all the persons in the society are equal and united and do not hold any grudges or differences with others, irrespective of their caste or religion. Contribution of Baba Saheb for the society and the country is unforgettable and he always struggled for the welfare and upliftment of 'dalits' and people from weaker sections of the society. It is for his works that issue like untouchability and others are no longer existing in the society. Addressing the gathering in Natpara Nagar Mantri ABVP Pandatrai Sheshnarayan Chandravanshi informed that education is one such weapon through which any dictator can be stopped. In this programme, District convener Tushar Chandravanshi, District ST cell Chief Sachin Dhruve, Tulsi Yadav, Mithilesh, Chaman, Ajay, Shravan, Amit, Dashru, Chikesh, Dhaneshwar and others were present in large number.

# Easter celebration at St. Joseph Parish Bacheli

Bacheli, Apr 17:

"Easter recalls the Resurrection of Christ after three days in the tomb, following his death on Good Friday. Holy Week begins, however, with Palm Sunday, when Jesus entered Jerusalem amid throngs shouting, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Across the world, services are held on Easter, and typically people sing hymns dedicated to the festival. The same was observed at St. Joseph Parish Bacheli on 16th April at 11 pm during the Holy Mass."

The Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish along with their Parish Priest Rev. Fr.



Sajan and Rev. Sisters celebrated the festival of love and sacrifice. The main celebrant was Rev. Fr. Jose Panthalankal. In his homily Father said that we too must have the intensity like Mary Magdalene who was eagerly searching for Lord Jesus where he was kept after death. He meant to say that we have to grow spiritually and serve others like Jesus did throughout his life.

Easter eggs are said to represent Jesus' emergence from the tomb and resurrection." After the Holy Mass, the priests distributed Easter Egg to all the devotees thus sharing the love of Jesus Christ, a new hope and beginning.

# Blood Bank is important for all emergencies: Alang

Bilaspur, Apr 16:

Blood Bank Centre at Rajiv Gandhi Chowk in city was inaugurated by Divisional Commissioner Dr Sanjay Alang. On this occasion Sanjay Alang said that Chhattisgarh comes among the effective field of Sickle Cell Anemia and there are many of its cases found and for its treatment more blood is required. Similarly in C-section operation for pregnant women also blood is required and so the importance of Blood Bank automatically increases. Since this Blood Bank centre has been opened in the heart of city, it is easily accessible for all those requiring blood during emergency.

Divisional Commissioner on this occasion felicitated the NGO institution with mementoes and this included Spot Donor Blood Group; Jajba Foundation; Suryavanshi Blood Service Samiti; Khawab Foundation; Dhriti Foundation, Shanta Foundation.

In this programme the CHMO Dr Pramod Mahajan, CP Lal, AD Bara, Nishant Lal, Nitin Harjpal, Avinash Motwani, Cyril George, Dhirendra Jagat, Sandeep Kumar Sahu, Nishu Tanwar and other persons were present. The landline number of this Blood Bank Centre is 07552-400055 and mobile no. is 9977300055.

# Nutritional food not distributed in Anganwadis

Dongargarh, Apr 17:

## From April

In the block, the supplementary nutritional food given by the Anganwadi to the malnourished children has not been made available since the month of April.

In the past, it was operated through women's self-help groups located in different villages and authorized by the department.

Along with malnourished children, pregnant women and lactating women were also getting the benefit of this diet through Anganwadi.

But according to the new guidelines by the government, this scheme governed by government in-

stitution, is facing some problems in the allocation of nutritional supplements. After talking to Anganwadi workers, it was learned that this month's packet has not arrived yet and the packets were distributed till March last month.

It was received by the department through WhatsApp message that the demand letter and number entered for the month of May has been sought by the department from the Anganwadi workers, on the basis of which the distribution of supplementary nutrition-

# Teacher Rajesh embezzled govt money without going to school for 17 years'

## Withdrew salary of about Rs 41,70,000



for almost 17 years by not giving his presence in the village for many years and not even teaching the children. A lot of injustice has been done to the people of our village Gattapad, villagers added. The villagers alleged that the only reason for the children of village Gattapad being illiterate after being deprived of education is the Sukma district administration. The district administration never paid any attention to whether any teacher in the inner areas is giving education to the children by going to their original posted school or not. It is being told that to extract the salary of any teacher, the signature of the Sarpanch, Secretary and CSC (CRC) of the Education Department is taken, the government money is embezzled in extracting the salary of a teacher like Rajesh for about 41,70,000. They too have a big hand. All these together have spoiled the future of many tribal children. Along with the teacher Rajesh, a clear inquiry should be done on these people by issuing a notice of inquiry.

Villagers said that they did not know that any teacher is posted here in Gattapad village for 17 years. They came to know that since 2005 in village Gattapad, a teacher named Rajesh has been appointed. Even today we villagers do not even know the above mentioned teacher Rajesh and the villagers of village Gattapad have never even seen him. Teacher Rajesh has been withdrawing his salary every month by staying in Kunta

# Baba Saheb was a visionary and flag bearer: Birendra Didhi



Massive bike rally taken out on Ambedkar's birth anniv

sarpanch and under the aegis of Anushuchit Jati, Janjati Adhikari, Karamchari Sangh here in heart of city at the Bus Stand.

First the guests lighted traditional lamp and garlanded the photo of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar and offered rich tributes to the leader. In order to reach out to the masses with

ideology and works of Baba Saheb Ambedkar, a team of 200 youth took out a massive bike rally along with DJ in the city and passed through 'Satnam Par', 'Mahamaya Mandir', 'Rani Dharampala', 'Gyatri Mandir Chowk', 'Bus Stand to Raipur Road and then reached Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar's statue in Navapara city and garlanded it. The bike rally converged in the form of public meeting at the Bus Stand. In this meeting, in order to pass on Baba Saheb's message to general public, Pt. Tuleshwar Dhirilahare gave a wonderful presentation of cultural programme through song and music. The guests present were welcomed with flower bouquet and 'neel' and then a welcome speech was presented by District President AJAKS Sanjay Ekka and gave information about the Constitutional Rights to every individual as mentioned in the Constitution.

The key speaker of the programme, Birendra Kumar Didhi, grandson of founder of flag-bearers of Satnam Sangh - Guru Ghasidas Jayanti Dada Nakul Dev Didhi from Raipur; addressing the public gathering said that Baba Saheb's life was full of struggle and still he never backed out.

Rather he continued to struggle with firm will to provide the right of equality, independence and fundamental rights to every citizen. Speaking further he said that Baba Saheb in order to provide domicile rights to Indian citizens he presented the reply with fact and figures.

The constitution framed by Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar is for the welfare of human society and in this equal rights have been provided to people of different castes, religions.

# MHBCY acting as big gift for villagers

## Are getting treatment sitting at home and free of cost medicines

freedom from a fungal infection known as 'Timia' through this Haat Bazar Clinic. He informed that for last four months, he was suffering with fungal infection in his face and it is generally known as 'daad', 'khaj', 'khujali'. Due to this he used to face lot of irritation, burning sensation and red boils in his face. So Gendal got his infection examined in Haat Bazar Clinic in Gram Kamjri from the medical team. His infection was identified and treatment was offered along with



medicines and he did not have to visit the nearest health centre. So this prestigious scheme of MHBCY is acting as big gift for the villagers, as persons like Gendal, suffering with

Tinia infection got cured easily and got relief getting free-of-cost medicines. Through this mobile medical unit, the people of the villages and remote areas are getting

# Devotees do white-washing of Hanuman's temple



Prior to Hanuman Janmotsav

were going out for work, they noticed that this temple of Lord Shri Hanuman has not been painted on 'Hanuman Janmotsav'

and therefore they all decided to do white-washing and give it new look. Among those who assisted included Ghanshyam Yadav, Raja Swarnakar, Yogesh Yadav, Gajendra Yadav, Uttam Yadav and others.

good health treatment and sufficient facilities in such clinic for not so serious problems. Set aside this they are also being offered treatment sitting at home and for this there is lot of enthusiasm among the villagers.

Under this scheme, there are total of 35 'haat bazar' functional in the District and there the medical teams are offering treatment to patients for diseases like blood sugar, blood pressure, anaemia, mal-nutrition, safe institutional delivery and are also being given information in detailed as to how to avoid falling prey to other diseases, if they get treatment well on time.

## BRIEF

## Shoots

**Gurugram:** A policeman was injured after a man shot at him to try and free his accomplice here, officials said.

Constable Gauri Shankar, who is posted with the Sector-29 Police Station, was chasing two motorcycle-borne persons in his mobile van, they said. When he cornered the duo, policemen caught hold of one of them, the officials said, adding that the other shot at and injured the constable to free his accomplice. Police officers and crime unit teams were at spot.

## Gold

**Jaipur:** Customs officials have seized over 292 grams of gold valued at Rs 15.95 lakh from a passenger, who arrived at Jaipur International Airport from Dubai. The passenger was carrying 64 pieces of solid fine gold with white polish, which were concealed inside bracelets. The gold was detected during checking, officials said. Smuggled gold collectively weighing 292.270 grams, valued at Rs 15,95,794 was recovered which has been seized under Customs Act.

## Sneaks

**Kolkata:** "Cricket has no boundaries!" The saying was proved right by a 31-year-old Bangladeshi man who sneaked into India to watch Indian Premier League (IPL) matches. Md Ibrahim, a resident of Purva Chandpur in Narayanganj district of Bangladesh, was apprehended near the International Border in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas, the BSF said. During interrogation, he revealed that he is a cricket fan and was going to Mumbai to watch IPL matches.

## Nabbed

**Gurugram:** An electrician has been nabbed for allegedly murdering a 79-year-old man in Badshahpur area with an ice-pick, police said. Ravi, a Gandhi colony resident, was apprehended within 48 hours of the murder. The accused during interrogation told police that he had once visited the house of the victim, Janardan, for some electric repair work, and knew he had money. He bought an ice-pick and went to victim's house posing as someone looking to rent a room.

## Booked

**Thanjavur:** A day after Gnanajothi (72) was rescued from a house here in which she was confined for past 10 years by her two well-earning sons, the siblings were booked for allegedly abandoning the senior citizen. The Tamil University police registered a case against the two sons, a 50-year-old police inspector Shanmugasundaram who works in Chennai and his younger brother Venkatesan (45), a Doordarshan employee based in Pattukottai under Section 24.

# Sat phones, thermal imagers find way to terror groups

**Srinagar, Apr 17 (PTI):**

Fifteen signatures of Iridium satellite phones, used by the US-led allied forces in Afghanistan, and Wi-Fi-enabled thermal imaging devices that help a terrorist to escape security cordon especially during night have been found in the militancy-hit Kashmir valley, officials here said on Sunday.

They said some of the signatures of Iridium satellite phones have been found in cyber space since February. It started from North Kashmir and now there have been some spots in parts of South Kashmir as well, they said.

These satellite phones could be part of the consignment dumped by the allied forces while leaving Afghanistan or may have been snatched by the Taliban or terrorists fighting there, the officials said.

The officials said that signatures of thermal imaging devices which can be connected to Wi-Fi have also been found from some of the encounter sites.



Iridium satellite phone model used by US in Afghanistan.

need to panic as the movement of these phones was being specially monitored and those using them would definitely be in custody soon or get neutralised, the officials said.

Bodies like the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) and

the Defence Intelligence Agencies (DIA) have been tasked with finding and giving out real-time information about the presence of these satellite phones in the Kashmir valley, they said. In the aftermath of the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) first restricted the use of Iridium and Thuraya satellite phones and infrastructure, and in 2012 completely banned them under the provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act.

Passengers importing satellite telephone as baggage are required to declare them to the Customs on arrival at immigration and customs checkpoints.

Also, the satellite phone declared by Customs can be allowed clearance subject to production of permission for use from the government's Department of Telecommunications.

The officials said that signatures of thermal imaging devices which can be connected to Wi-Fi have also been found from some of the encounter sites.

This device, which is not part of the Pakistani Army and may possibly have found its way into Kashmir from Afghanistan, is used by terrorists to find their way out during cordon and search operations especially during night.

The device senses the image of approaching security personnel from the heat generated from his body besides giving an overview of the general area outside their hideouts, the officials said.

As a precautionary measure, the security forces now carry jammers along with other tools to block all signals so that the terrorists do not find a way to escape from the area, the officials said.

## Opposition raises concern over criminal procedure amendments

**New Delhi, Apr 17 (AFP):**

The Parliament has cleared a contentious bill that grants sweeping powers to police to collect biometric and physical measurements of people who have been convicted, arrested or detained.

The Criminal Procedure Identification Bill (CPI) seeks to update a British-era law to enable police to collect samples of a person's biometric details, such as fingerprints and iris scans, if they have been arrested, detained or placed under preventive detention on charges that attract a jail term of seven years or more.

Opposition political parties have branded the proposed law as draconian



and raised concerns about data breaches and violation of privacy.

Lawmakers also fear adverse implications for human rights, and have called for the bill to be referred to a parliamentary standing committee or a select committee for detailed deliberations.

"If this bill becomes law, India will enter a dark and

dangerous phase, a full-fledged police state – and any irksome opposition will simply be brutalised into silence with laws such as this one," said Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra.

"With the advance in technology, the state has ever greater powers of surveillance over citizens."

**Mumbai, Apr 17 (PTI):**

Stating that stoking communal fires in the name of Shriram is an insult to the very "idea of Lord Ram", Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Sunday said even Lord Ram will be restless over the developments in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone, where communal clashes on Ram Navami led to the imposition of curfew.

He accused the BJP of adopting a strategy of sowing religious discord to win elections, even at the cost of breaking the country.

In his weekly column "Rokhthok" in Shiv Sena mouthpiece 'Saamana', Raut wrote, "if someone



Sanjay Raut

wants to stoke the fire of fundamentalism and disturb the peace to win elections, they are sowing seeds of a second Partition".

Raut is the executive editor of Saamana.

Referring to communal clashes in various parts of the country on Ram

## 'JANTA DARSHAN'



UP CM Yogi Adityanath during a 'Janta Darshan' programme in Gorakhpur, Sunday.

## Raj Thackeray to visit Ayodhya in June

**Pune, Apr 17 (PTI):**

- Says will give tit for tat if loudspeakers not removed



Raj Thackeray

prayers on loudspeakers".

"On May 1, I will address a public gathering at S a m h a j i n g a r (Aurangabad). On June 5, I will visit Ayodhya for darshan along with MNS volunteers. I also appeal to others to come to Ayodhya," the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) president told a press conference in Pune. When asked about

the purpose of his visit to Ayodhya, Raj Thackeray parried the question, saying he has not travelled out for a long time.

Interestingly, amid a war of words between the ruling Shiv Sena and Raj Thackeray, Sena MP Sanjay Raut said that state minister Aaditya Thackeray will visit Ayodhya next month.

He reiterated his demand that loudspeakers on mosques be removed by May 3 or else MNS will play 'Hanuman Chalisa' eulogising Lord Hanuman on loudspeakers outside mosques.

"People think that loudspeakers atop mosques is a religious issue but it is a social issue. If you want to play loudspeakers five times a day then we will play 'Hanuman Chalisa' the MNS chief said.

five times in front of mosques. I appeal to all Hindu brothers to be prepared. We will wait till May 3 when Ramzan ends.

But if they don't stop, and if they think that their religion is bigger than the judiciary, then we will give tit for tat. The MNS is preparing for it," he said.

Stating that the MNS never wanted communal riots to take place in the country or to disturb the peace, Raj Thackeray said the Muslim community should look at the demand for the removal of loudspeakers from mosques from a humanitarian angle.

"We are not opposing their prayers. But if they insist on using loudspeakers then they will have to listen to our prayers on loudspeakers," the MNS chief said.

He said the Forest Department will soon start work on the project.

"We will build cottages. Locals are already in-

volved in tourism and are charging some fees for vehicles visiting the place. A gate has been constructed. I had discussions with villagers on how they can provide better amenities," he said.

Mohapatra hoped that Deomali will become the most sought-after destination in the future, and

tourism will be the source of income for hundreds of villagers.

Deomali, situated near Doodhbari village, around 70 km from Koraput town, is surrounded by dense forest rich in flora and fauna. The hill is also rich in mineral resources such as bauxite, limestone and gemstones.

NGT asks states to explore viability of electric, PNG crematorium

**New Delhi, Apr 17 (PTI):**



The National Green Tribunal has directed all states and union territories to switch over to environment friendly methods of cremation and explore viability of electric or PNG crematorium alongside wood to curb air pollution.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said air pollution takes place in the course of cremation and electric/PNG crematoria can be set up as an option to the wood-based crematorium. A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said air pollution takes place in the course of cremation and electric/PNG crematoria can be set up as an option to the wood-based crematorium. The tribunal noted that as per religious

matorium, in the interest of environment and also lesser cost for those who find it difficult to afford high cost of wood-based cremation. This aspect may be considered by authorities concerned of all states/UTs," the bench, also comprising Justices Sudhir Agarwal and Arun Kumar Tyagi, said. The tribunal was hearing a plea filed by Real Anchors Developers Pvt. Ltd relating to prevention of air pollution on account of dust and emissions during cremation at Shakti Khand-4 in Indirapuram, Ghaziabad.

belief, the mode of cremation by fire is considered to be pious and in one cremation, 350-450 Kg of wood is burnt in the open. While making it clear that it has no intention to hurt any religious belief, the green

## Seven-day Kolkata film festival from Apr 25

**Kolkata, Apr 17 (PTI):**

pected to attend the seven-day gala, he said.

As a mark of tribute to Ray on his birth centenary year, 'Pather Panchali', 'Nayak', 'Hirak Rajar Deshe', 'Inner Eye' and 'Bala' would also be screened.

A special section has been arranged in memory of filmmaker Buddhadeb Dasgupta, legendary actor Dilip Kumar, Bengali actress Swatilekha Sengupta and European directors Jean Paul Belmondo, Jean Claude Carriere, and Je Luc Godard, Chakraborty said.

Finland, being the focus country of 27th KIFF, at least six films from the country will be screened. Over 1 lakh people are ex-

pecting Memorial Lecture, this year, will be delivered by 'Piku' director Shoojit Sircar on the second day, while exhibitions would be organised to honour late singers Lata Mangeshkar, Sandhya Mukhopadhyay and Bappi Lahiri.

Goutam Ghosh, renowned filmmaker and senior KIFF committee member, said competitions will be held in three categories — innovation in moving images, Indian language films and short films.

"Many independent movies are being made all over the country and the world. This festival wants to acknowledge some of the best works," Ghosh said.

Many independent movies are being made all over the country and the world. This festival wants to acknowledge some of the best works," Ghosh said. The tribunal noted that as per religious

## Deomali to be developed for eco-tourism: Chief Secretary

**Bhubaneswar, Apr 17 (PTI):**

The Odisha government is planning eco-tourism on Deomali peak in Koraput district, Chief Secretary S C Mohapatra has said.

The peak, at an elevation of 1,672 metres, is the tallest in the Eastern Ghats.

"I visited Deomali hilltop. We had a detailed discussion on how eco-tourism can be developed there. Site selection for a retreat has also been done," Mohapatra told reporters at Koraput.

He said the Forest Department will soon start work on the project.

"We will build cottages. Locals are already in-

olved in tourism and are charging some fees for vehicles visiting the place. A gate has been constructed. I had discussions with villagers on how they can provide better amenities," he said.

Mohapatra hoped that Deomali will become the most sought-after destination in the future, and tourism will be the source of income for hundreds of villagers.

Deomali, situated near Doodhbari village, around 70 km from Koraput town, is surrounded by dense forest rich in flora and fauna. The hill is also rich in mineral resources such as bauxite, limestone and gemstones.

motorium, in the interest of environment and also lesser cost for those who find it difficult to afford high cost of wood-based cremation. This aspect may be considered by authorities concerned of all states/UTs," the bench, also comprising Justices Sudhir Agarwal and Arun Kumar Tyagi, said. The tribunal was hearing a plea filed by Real Anchors Developers Pvt. Ltd relating to prevention of air pollution on account of dust and emissions during cremation at Shakti Khand-4 in Indirapuram, Ghaziabad.

## BRIEF

## Cereal

**Maryland:** The US Food and Drug Administration is investigating Lucky Charms cereal after dozens of customers complained of illness after eating it. The FDA said it has received more than 100 complaints related to Lucky Charms so far this year. The FDA takes seriously any reports of possible adulteration of a food that may also cause illnesses or injury, the agency said. Several hundred people have also posted on a food safety website, iwaspoisoned.com, complaining.

## Suspect

**Columbia:** Police have arrested a 22-year-old male in connection with a shooting at a busy shopping mall in South Carolina's capital that left 14 people injured. Columbia Police Chief WH Skip Holbrook said one of three people initially detained by law enforcement as a person of interest, remains in police custody and is expected to be charged with unlawful carrying of a pistol. It is not immediately known if the suspect has an attorney who could speak on his behalf.

## Rosario

**Mexico City:** Rosario Ibarra, whose long struggle to learn the fate of her disappeared son helped develop Mexico's human rights movement and led her to become the country's first female presidential candidate, died at age 95 in northern city of Monterrey. The National Human Rights Commission now headed by her daughter Rosario Piedra announced the death on its Twitter account, calling her a pioneer in the defense of human rights, peace and democracy in Mexico.

## Discuss

**Riyadh:** Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, their second call since the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The Saudi Press Agency said the two discussed bilateral relations and ways of enhancing them in all fields. The Saudi readout of the call said the crown prince affirmed support for efforts that would lead to a political solution to the crisis in Ukraine. It recently announced USD 10 million in aid for Ukrainians.

## Accused

**Armuchee:** Police say a northwest Georgia man killed his grandmother by stuffing her in a freezer while she was still alive. Floyd County Police discovered the body of Doris Cumming, 82, late Thursday in the Armuchee home she shared with her grandson, 29-year-old Robert Keith Tincher III. Tincher was charged with murder, aggravated battery and concealing the death of another. He remains jailed in Rome. It's unclear if he has lawyer who could comment.

# Russians flee Putin regime to join Ukraine refugees



Moscow-born Olga Romanova near her home in the Israeli settlement of Maale Adumim.

**Rehovot, Apr 17 (AFP):**

The moment Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine, Russian filmmakers Anna Shishova-Bogolyubova and Dmitry Bogolyubov knew they had to leave Moscow.

"We were the next on the list," the couple told AFP in their borrowed flat in Rehovot, a quiet Israeli

city 20 kilometres (12 miles) south of Tel Aviv. Once you're on the list of alleged "foreign agents", you face a life of "self-censorship or, sooner or later, prison", said Bogolyubov, who directed the German-financed 2019 documentary "Town of Glory".

The film portrays President Vladimir Putin's use of references

related to the fight against Nazi Germany to establish his authority in Russian villages. As its international isolation has deepened, Moscow has come to view all movies made with foreign financing with suspicion, including documentaries, and the couple said theirs was no exception. "Over the past few years, we felt threatened. In the past few months in particular, people were spying on us and taking photographs on our film sets," Shishova-Bogolyubova said. The couple decided to continue working in Russia but, taking advantage of their Jewish ancestry, they obtained Israeli citizenship just in case.

Israel's Law of Return gives the right of citizenship to anyone with at least one Jewish grandparent, a criterion that tens of thousands in both Russia and Ukraine meet.

# North Korea tested new tactical guided weapon

**Seoul, Apr 17 (AP):**

North Korea has test-fired a new type of tactical guided weapon designed to boost its nuclear fighting capability, state media reported Sunday, days after it passed its biggest state anniversary without an expected military parade, which it typically uses to unveil provocative weapons systems.

The test, the 13th round of weapons launches by Pyongyang this year, came amid concerns that North Korea may soon conduct a larger provocation like a nuclear test in an effort to expand the country's weapons arsenal and increase pressure on its rivals amid stalled diplomacy. The official Korean Central News Agency said leader Kim Jong Un and

Firing of a weapon at undisclosed location in North Korea.



other top officials observed the launch. It said the weapon tested has great significance in drastically improving the firepower of the frontline long-range artillery units, enhancing the efficiency in the operation of (North Korea's) tactical nukes of and diversification of their firepower missions. KCNA didn't elaborate,

but the mention of the word tactical nukes suggested the weapon is likely capable of carrying a battlefield nuclear warhead that could hit strategic targets in South Korea, including US military installations. The KCNA dispatch didn't say when and where the launch occurred. North Korea is trying to deploy not only long-

# REMEMBRANCE



Demonstration in remembrance of terror victims of the 2019 Easter Sunday suicide bombings at three churches and three deluxe hotels in Colombo, Sri Lanka on Sunday.

# Human trafficking raises alarm in divided Cyprus

**Nicosia, Apr 17 (AFP):**

Cyprus's frozen conflict is providing fertile ground for human traffickers with cases at "alarming" levels in the EU member state, and the breakaway north considered as bad as Afghanistan. "I love her, but at the same time she reminds me about my past," said one Cameroonian trafficking survivor, referring to her young daughter. "There was so much abuse during those months," added the woman in her 20s, who said she was rescued by a client from her ordeal. "I didn't die ... and God saved me, so I know that He has a plan for my life," she told an NGO working with survivors



tions. While the report does not formally rank the breakaway Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, only recognised by Ankara, it says the territory would be in Tier 3 with the worst offenders including Afghanistan and North Korea if it did. Cyprus has been split since 1974, after Turkey invaded in response to a Greek-sponsored coup. And the lack of progress in resolving the conflict shifts attention and resources away from issues like human trafficking, said Nasia Hadjigeorgiou, assistant professor in transitional justice and human rights from the University of Central Lancashire Cyprus.



Alvaro Conrado, father of Alvaro Conrado, a boy who died in April, 2018, during protests against Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

# Families demand justice from Nicaragua protest repression

**Managua, Apr 17 (AFP):**

Alvaro Conrado's last words were: "It hurts to breathe." He was 15 when he was shot in the stomach while bringing water to students protesting against the government of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega four years ago. He was likely shot by a sniper. His family is still waiting for justice.

"Justice and truth. That's what we want, we want them to tell us what happened. Four years after his death no one has been arrested," the teenager's father, also called Alvaro Conrado, told AFP from the family home in Managua.

Protests had broken out two days before the younger Alvaro's death, on April 18, 2018 — initially against a social security reform before ex-

ploding into a massive anti-government movement. The country was brought to a standstill for five months, during which the government's response left 355 people dead and more than 100,000 exiled, according to the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights.

Nicaragua has been gripped by political crisis since. The government declared the protests an attempted coup d'état, and has since banned nu-

# Tunisian weavers turn rags into eco-friendly rugs



A Tunisian craftswoman weaves a rug in the southwestern Tunisian oasis of Nefta.

**Nefta, Apr 17 (AFP):**

Najet unravels an old pair of jeans, raw material for a designer carpet: traditional, eco-friendly crafts are being adapted for new markets thanks to a project born in the Tunisian desert. "I

learned to weave at a young age, from my mother," said the 52-year-old from the oasis town of Nefta, 500 kilometres (310 miles) south of Tunis. Now, she is making a living from it. She is selling her Turkish-style kilim rugs via Shanti, a social

enterprise that helps artisans from across the North African country reach buyers and bring vital revenue into some of its most marginalised communities.

Shanti is the brainchild of Najet's Franco-Tunisian nephew Mehdi Baccouche. "Unstitching old jumpers, tearing up old cotton garments, making rugs out of them, it's a folk art found in all Tunisian homes," he told AFP.

While the skill "has been around forever", reaching buyers is a challenge, he added.

Alvaro Conrado's last words were: "It hurts to breathe." He was 15 when he was shot in the stomach while bringing water to students protesting against the government of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega four years ago. He was likely shot by a sniper. His family is still waiting for justice.

"Justice and truth.

That's what we want, we want them to tell us what happened. Four years after his death no one has been arrested," the teenager's father, also called Alvaro Conrado, told AFP from the family home in Managua.

Protests had broken out two days before the younger Alvaro's death, on April 18, 2018 — initially against a social security reform before ex-

# Libya's underground homes wait for tourism revival

**Gharyan, Apr 17 (AFP):**

Gharyan's unique underground houses were hewn into the mountain-side centuries ago, and many lie abandoned, but residents of the Libyan town are hoping tourism can help restore their heritage. "My great-great-great-great-grandfather dug this yard 355 years ago," said Al-Arbi Belhaj, who owns one of the oldest houses in the mixed Berber-Arab town south of Tripoli. His ancestor would have used a "tajouk" pickaxe to chip away at the ground before loading the rubble into a woven date-palm "gouffa" basket to carry it away, he said. Dug deep into the arid Nafusa mountains at around 700 metres (2,300 feet) above sea level, the home would have been

protected against the scorching summers that bring temperatures up to 45 degrees Celsius (113 Fahrenheit). It would have also stayed warm throughout the often snowy winters. The region's bedrock has a consistency that allowed the underground dwelling — known as a damous — to last for cen-

turies without collapsing. Some of the buildings are over 2,300 years old, and ancient Greek historians mentioned their existence, according to historian Youssef al-Khattali. The area also has burial sites dating back to Phoenician times, he added. Today, Belhaj says he is the owner of the oldest underground

home in Gharyan, a town where many residents have family records and property deeds dating back centuries. The Warren of rooms dug into the rock around the courtyard once housed as many as eight large families, he said. He was the last person to be born there, in 1967. In 1990, like many people seeking more comfortable dwellings with running water and electricity, the family moved out of the home, but they kept ownership of it.

Now, Belhaj has renovated it and turned it into a tourist attraction. While late dictator Moamer Kadhafi allowed tourists to visit the country on organised trips, visitors have been thin on the ground since his fall in a 2011 revolt, which sparked a decade of chaos.

The captain cuts the engines and a trio of marine biologists spring into action, rapidly snapping photos and noting markings that can be used to identify individual animals and track injuries — a vital part of conservation efforts for a species believed to have 336 members. While the whaling has long been banned, unintended collisions with ships and entanglements

with fishing gear are today the main threats for Eubalaena glacialis, one of the most endangered mammals in the world. Approaching 60 feet in length and weighing over 70 tons, the North Atlantic right whale is the third largest whale in existence. Their life spans are similar to humans, with individu-

als living up to a century. "Unfortunately, since 2010, their population has been decreasing," explains Christy Hudak, the leader of the Center for Coastal Studies' expedition that set off from Provincetown, a historic New England fishing village that is today popular for whale watching and gay tourism.

After many hours scouring Cape Cod Bay in US and a few false alarms, those aboard the Research Vessel Shearwater on a bright April day make their first sighting: three North Atlantic right whales, including a rare mother-calf pair.

The captain cuts the engines and a trio of marine biologists spring into action, rapidly snapping photos and noting markings that can be used to identify individual animals and track injuries — a vital part of conservation efforts for a species believed to have 336 members. While the whaling has long been banned, unintended collisions with ships and entanglements

with fishing gear are today the main threats for Eubalaena glacialis, one of the most endangered mammals in the world. Approaching 60 feet in length and weighing over 70 tons, the North Atlantic right whale is the third largest whale in existence. Their life spans are similar to humans, with individu-

als living up to a century. "Unfortunately, since 2010, their population has been decreasing," explains Christy Hudak, the leader of the Center for Coastal Studies' expedition that set off from Provincetown, a historic New England fishing village that is today popular for whale watching and gay tourism.

# CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 10 No. 18

## Loan apps fraud

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had summoned senior executives of Google recently and sought a detailed list of micro-lending apps operational in the country, as part of its ongoing investigation into instant app-based loan frauds. Executives at Google, Hyderabad, were called to provide a list of all such mobile apps in order to verify them through the Google Play Store. The agency's Hyderabad office is probing 38 non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and over 300 fintech firms under the anti-money laundering law. There is an alarming trend of instant loan apps in India. Despite clear guidelines from Reserve Bank of India (RBI), some fraudsters find loopholes to develop and publish such applications. Last year, Google had removed about 100 instant loan apps from its PlayStore in the country that were involved in alleged collection of personal data and its misuse, fraudulent and unlawful practices of physical threats and use of other coercive methods for recovery of loans, according to the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY). RBI had said that legitimate public lending activities can be undertaken by banks, NBFCs registered with RBI and other entities who are regulated by the state governments under appropriate statutory provisions such as Money Lending Acts. Members of the public were cautioned not to fall prey to such unscrupulous activities and were requested to verify the antecedents of the company/firm offering loans online or through mobile apps,' the RBI had said. As per the 'Google Play Developer Policy', financial services apps that offer personal loans are required to disclose key information such as minimum and maximum periods of repayment, maximum annual percentage rate, and a representative example of the total loan cost.

A majority of the victims in the loan apps scam, it turns out, are well-educated individuals and information technology professionals. When downloading an app, regardless of the threat level, one must always check for the permissions it asks and check the reviews as well. The most common target audiences are the educated lot and the small-time businessmen hit by the economic downturn. Investigators have found that, after a customer downloads an app and uploads the documents demanded, the loan amount is credited into the applicant's bank account. The phone numbers of the customer as well as the numbers of his family members are shared by the app company with others. After a customer avails a loan, tele-callers and agents of about 20-30 similar apps call the customers and lure them into availing more loans. They would say, 'You are eligible because your credentials have been verified by the company from which you borrowed the first loan.' Many customers fell for this trick and ended up borrowing upto Rs the maximum of 50,000. The interest rate is 35 percent. After the due date, a flat Rs 3,000 as penalty per day is levied on the customer. Many customers end up borrowing more to repay a previous instant loan, and end up in a deep pit from where escape would be difficult. There have been cases of fraud instant loan apps being run from outside of India as well, particularly from China. Only way to prevent such crimes is to allow loans only from apps of registered bank and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), but the trend of informal lending in society makes it challenging.

## Racism and bigotry

S based, University of Pennsylvania law professor, Amy Wax made many derogatory remarks about immigrants and Indians on a news channel talk show. For many immigrants living in America, casual racism that surfaces during day-to-day encounters is not a rarity. However, things can sound surprising, even shocking when blatant racism and indecorous mention of colour and caste comes from high positions in academic and professional circles. Perhaps that explains why when a Pennsylvania law professor Amy Wax calling India in derogatory terms and slamming forward caste women, seemed really unsavoury. But who really is Amy Wax who seems to be losing restraint on showing her racist and bigoted side. Amy Wax is a lawyer, academic and a neurologist. Born in Troy, New York, Wax was raised in a Jewish household. Ironically, Wax who has been making anti-immigrant comments in the past too herself comes from an immigrant family. Her parents were both immigrants from Eastern Europe. The intellectual class in the US uniformly and loudly rejects all forms of racism. If Wax expresses ideas that echo racist theses, it would indicate that she is betraying her own intellectual class. Appropriately, her university acknowledged her betrayal when it condemned her xenophobic and white supremacist discourse.

Wax offered her own definition of the spirit of liberty, which she identified as the virtue associated with people who are mistrustful of centralized concentrations of authority who have a kind of 'don't tread on me' attitude, who are focused on our freedoms, on our liberties, on sort of small-scale personal responsibility who are non-conformist in good ways. Apart from the fact that Wax is attributing a cultural attitude to Asians (more than half of humanity), her idea of liberty reflects feelings associated with aggressive, nationalistic historical memes (for example, don't tread on me) rather than the kind of political concept we might expect from a serious intellectual. The definition of what it means to be 'white' in America has always been fraught. Unlike ethnicity, which has at least some basis in shared DNA, the quality of 'whiteness' or 'non-whiteness' is both amorphous and transitory, defined differently at various points in our history, usually depending on who was doing the defining. The eugenics who pushed through broad-scale immigration restriction in 1917 and 1924 were obsessed with classifying races. Yet those early 20th century immigrants did assimilate, despite being in many cases far more culturally incompatible as Wax phrases it than today's newcomers. Assimilation took time, usually three generations to be fully realized, but it not only occurred for the progeny of Yiddish speaking arrivals from Russia but for illiterate peasants and millions of others like Africans and Asians. Indians assimilate with locals in the US fastest.

## WHEAT GRAIN UNLOADING

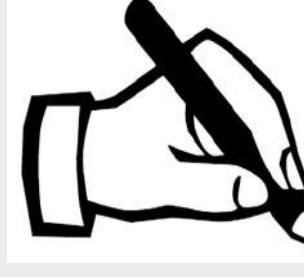


Labourers unload wheat grain from a trailer at a wholesale grain market on the outskirts of Amritsar, Punjab.

## Explaining India's unequivocal position on Russia



SUMIT GANGULY



**A**s global democracies lined up to condemn the actions of Russia in Ukraine, one country was less forthcoming in its criticism and it was the largest democracy of them all: India. Throughout the ongoing crisis, the government in India has carefully avoided taking an unequivocal position. It has abstained on every United Nations resolution dealing with the matter and refused to join the international community in economic measures against Moscow, prompting a warning from the US over potentially circumventing sanctions. Even statements from India condemning the reported mass killing of Ukrainian civilians stopped short of apportioning blame on any party, instead calling for an impartial investigation. As a scholar of Indian foreign and security policy, I know that understanding India's stance on the war in Ukraine is complex. In considerable part, India's decision to avoid taking a clear-cut position stems from a dependence on Russia on a host of issues including diplomatic, military and energy-related.

This stance is not entirely new. On a range of fraught global issues, India has long avoided adopting a firm position based on its status as a nonaligned state – one of a number of countries that is not formally allied to any power bloc. From a strategic standpoint today, decision-makers in New Delhi believe that they can ill afford to alienate Russia because they count on Moscow to veto any adverse United Nations Security Council resolution on the disputed

region of Kashmir. Since the partition of the subcontinent in 1947, India and Pakistan have fought three wars over Kashmir, and the region continues to be a source of tension. Harking back to the days of the Soviet Union, India has relied on Russia's veto at the UN to protect itself from any adverse statement on Kashmir. For example, during the East Pakistani crisis of 1971, which led to the creation of Bangladesh – the Soviets protected India from censure at the UN, vetoing a resolution demanding the withdrawal of troops from the disputed region. In all, the Soviets and Russia have used their veto power six times to protect India. India has not had to rely on Russia for a veto since the end of the Cold War. But with tension over Kashmir still high amid sporadic fighting, New Delhi will want to ensure that Moscow is on its side should it come before the Security Council again.

In large part, India's close relationship with Russia stems from Cold War allegiances. India drifted into the Soviet orbit mostly as a counter to America's strategic alliance with Pakistan, India's subcontinental adversary. India is also hopeful of Russian support or at least neutrality in its long-standing border dispute with the People's Republic of China. India and China share a border of more than 2,000 miles (near 3,500 km), the location of which has been contested for 80 years, including during a war in 1962 that failed to settle the matter. Above all, India does not want Russia to side with China should there be further clash-

es in the Himalayas, especially since the border dispute has again come to the fore since 2020, with significant skirmishes between the Indian Army and China's People's Liberation Army. India is also acutely dependent on Russia for a range of weaponry. In fact, 60 percent to 70 percent of India's conventional arsenal is of either Soviet or Russian origin.

Over the past decade, New Delhi has sought to significantly diversify its weapons acquisitions. To that end, it has purchased more than USD 20 billion worth of military equipment from the US over the past decade or so. Nevertheless, it is still in no position to walk away from Russia as far as weapons sales are concerned. To compound matters, Russia and India have developed close military manufacturing ties. For nearly two decades, the two countries have co-produced the highly versatile BrahMos missile, which can be fired from ships, aircraft or land. India recently received its first export order for the missile, from the Philippines. This defence link with Russia could be severed only at considerable financial and strategic cost to India. Also, Russia, unlike any Western country including the United States, has been willing to share certain forms of weapons technology with India. For example, Russia has leased an Akula-class nuclear submarine to India. No other country has been willing to offer India equivalent weaponry, in part over concerns that the technology will be shared with Russia. In any case, Russia is able to provide India with high-technology weaponry at prices significantly lower than any Western supplier. Not surprisingly, despite significant American opposition, India chose to acquire the Russian S-400 missile defence battery.

It isn't just India's defence industry that is reliant on Moscow. India's energy sector is also inextricably tied to Russia. Since the George W Bush administration ended India's status as a nuclear pariah, a designation it had held for testing nuclear weapons outside the ambit of the

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, India has developed a civilian nuclear program. Although the sector remains relatively small in terms of total energy production, it is growing and Russia has emerged as a key partner. After the US-India civilian nuclear agreement of 2008 allowed India to participate in normal civilian nuclear commerce, Russia quickly signed an agreement to build six nuclear reactors in the country. Neither the US nor any other Western country has proved willing to invest in India's civilian nuclear energy sector because of a rather restrictive nuclear liability law, which holds that the manufacturer of the plant or any of its components would be liable in the event of an accident.

But since the Russian government has said it will assume the necessary liability in the event of a nuclear accident, it has been able to enter the nuclear power sector in India. Western governments, however, are unwilling to provide such guarantees to their commercial companies. Away from nuclear power, India also has invested in Russian oil and gas fields. India's state-run Oil and Natural Gas Commission, for example, has long been involved in the extraction of fossil fuels off Sakhalin Island, a Russian island in the Pacific Ocean. And given that India imports close to 85 percent of its crude oil requirements from abroad albeit only a small fraction from Russia, it is hardly in a position to shut off the Russian spigot. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken recently noted that India's 'relationship with Russia has developed over decades at a time when the United States was not able to be a partner to India' and suggested that Washington was prepared now to be that partner. But given the diplomatic, military and energy considerations, it is difficult to see India deviating from its balancing act over Russia any time soon.

(Sumit Ganguly is Professor and the Tagore Chair in Indian Cultures and Civilizations, Indiana University in US.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Remains mirage

As per the government's Doubling Farmers' Income Committee report, the benchmark household income of 2015-16 was Rs 8,059 per month and this was promised to be doubled in real terms, taking inflation into account. As such, the target income by 2022 is Rs 21,146 per month remains a mirage. The centre vowed to double farmers' income between 2015 and 2022 but in the midway point farm families in Jharkhand actually saw their average monthly income drop by thirty percent. The very disappointing fig emerged from the four states which are as under: In Jharkhand, however, a farm family's average income fell from Rs 7,068 to Rs 4,895 over the same period. In Madhya Pradesh, it fell from Rs 9,740 to Rs 8,339, in Nagaland, from Rs 11,428 to Rs 9,877, and for Odisha, it dipped marginally from Rs 5,274 to Rs 5,112. The Committee recommended that the Department of Agriculture and Family Welfare 'should formulate a Special Team to figure out the reasons for falling farmers' income in those States and take some course corrective measures so that the doubling of far lost sight of.' When asked what steps the Department had taken to increase farmers' income in these States, the Department responded that 'input in this regard will need to be sought from the concerned State governments, a reply that the parliamentary panel termed as 'lackadaisical'. In the 2019-20 Budget, announced just before Lok Sabha polls, the department received 4.7 percent of total allocations. That proportion has dropped every year since, and in 2022-23, the department's budget accounted for only 3.1 percent of the total. 'Keeping in mind the vital role played by agriculture in overall economy of the country, the Committee recommend the Department to take up the issue of decline in percentage budgetary allocation in favour of the Department out of Central Pool with the Ministry of Finance and ensure that this declining trend is reversed or at least gets discontinued from the next Budget onwards,' said the panel. We are also aware how the country is getting huge orders to export wheat and it can be possible when our farmers will produce more and get the maximum benefits of such situations.

Yash P Ralhan, Jalandhar

### Federal structure

At a time when the need is to restructure the federal structure of the country, so as to give more autonomy to the States and enable them to fashion their destiny, the government of the day appears to be bent upon recasting the entire country into its regressive vision. The obsessive concern about Hindi should be seen as part of this project. The proceedings and the conduct of Ministers within Parliament give the impression that the non-Hindi speaking States do not matter. Grotesque names to the central government sponsored schemes are mostly unintelligible to people of the south. Any attempt at the forceful imposition of Hindi will be disastrous.

Manohar, via email

## WHAT THEY TWEET!



Kawal@Sibal

Russian info-warfare is extremely poor. West is controlling narrative to extent that serious confusion about performance of Russian army & massive scale of casualties has resulted. Why don't they publish details of these prisoners from Nato countries.



TSandeep@sandythapar

It's almost been half a century. Why do politicians not settle the Capital issue? Give Chandigarh to Punjab, make Haryana's capital anywhere between Ambala, Mohali & Panchkula. Or Karnal! Remember a new capital means addl outlay, addl contracts, addl earnings. A la Jagan!



Monica@jasuja

discrimination is faced by Indians everywhere but we prefer to 'let it pass'. However that doesn't mean it doesn't happen, just that we prefer to move on. Condemn this happening in SG. People with white skin are born with a lottery no matter whether they feel the privilege or not.



Vaibhav@SinghIFS

Nature's Red Carpet Welcome! Kartik swamy Temple Trek Rudraprayag!



Happymon@Jacob

The combined ability of Japan and India to provide developmental/infrastructural alternatives (to BRI etc.) to the South Asian, Indian Ocean and to some extent even African states is not widely appreciated. This is a power and promise packed duo.

Akshat@Akshat\_World

There is a severe power shortage in India. Politicians are now announcing "free" power to people. People getting "free" electricity will splurge it. And, this will lead to wastage of a resource that is already scarce. But, poor economics makes good politics.

## BRIEF

## Headwinds



**New Delhi:** MG Motor India President and Managing Director Rajeev Chaba told PTI that increase in raw material costs and semiconductor prices, coupled with supply chain disruptions due to the war in Ukraine, could become headwinds for automobile industry.

## Drilling

**Agartala:** ONGC has successfully drilled three gas wells in Tripura by using new technology, a senior company official said on Sunday. The new technology - Managed Pressure Drilling (MPD) proved to be beneficial in the state because conventional drilling could not be used in these geographical locations, said ONGC Tripura Asset Manager, Tarun Malik while speaking at a function.

## Expects



**New Delhi:** Gaming start-up Winzo expects its ecosystem to create more than 1 lakh direct and indirect jobs over the next one year. Winzo co-founder Saumya Singh Rathore told PTI that with growth in the number of games, the company is engaging influencers.

## Looking

**Mumbai:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is planning to take on lease at least 50,000 square feet of office space in Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) and South Mumbai.

According to an Expression of Interest (EoI) floated by the RBI, the acquisition of office premises is proposed on a long-term lease basis for a minimum 40,000 square feet carpet area located in and around BKC within a radius of 5 km from its BKC office.

## Bullish



**New Delhi:** Bullish on the growth potential of India's office market, TATA Realty and Infrastructure MD and CEO Sanjay Dutt told PTI that the total leasing of office space across major seven cities is expected to rise to more than 30 million square feet in 2022.

## Stake

**New Delhi:** Mahindra Holidays & Resorts India Ltd said it will increase its holding in Rocksport Pvt Ltd, a firm engaged in soft adventure activities and learning programmes, to 23.42 per cent with the acquisition of a tad over 4.88 lakh equity shares for Rs 12 crore. The company has agreed to subscribe to an additional 4,88,321 equity shares of Rocksport in three installments for a total cash consideration of Rs 12 crore, MHRIL said.

# GST Council may do away with 5% rate

## Move items to 3% & 8% slabs

**New Delhi, Apr 17 (PTD):**

With most states on board to raise revenue so that they do not have to depend on Centre for compensation, the GST Council at its meeting next month is likely to consider a proposal to do away with the 5 per cent slab by moving some goods of mass consumption to 3 per cent and the remaining to 8 per cent categories, sources said.

Currently, GST is a four-tier structure of 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent. Besides, gold and gold jewellery attract 3 per cent tax. In addition, there is an exempt list of items like unbranded and unpacked food items which do not attract the levy. Sources said in order to augment revenue



the Council may decide to prune the list of exempt items by moving some of the non-food items to 3 per cent slab.

Sources said that discussions are on to raise the 5 per cent slab to either 7 or 8 or 9 per cent, a final call will be taken by the GST Council which comprises finance ministers of both Centre and states.

As per calculations, every 1 per cent increase in the 5 per cent slab, which mainly includes

packaged food items, would roughly yield an additional revenue of Rs 50,000 crore annually.

Although various options are under consideration, the Council is likely to settle for an 8 per cent GST (Goods and Services Tax) for most items that currently attract 5 per cent levy. Under GST, essential items are either exempted or taxed at the lowest rate while luxury and demerit items attract the highest tax. Luxury and sin goods

also attract cess on top of the highest 28 per cent slab. This cess collection is used to compensate states for the revenue loss due to GST roll out.

With the GST compensation regime coming to an end in June, it is imperative that states become self-sufficient and not depend on the Centre for bridging the revenue gap in GST collection.

The Council had last year set up a panel of state ministers, headed by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, to suggest ways to augment revenue by rationalising tax rates and correcting anomalies in the tax structure. The group of ministers is likely to finalise its recommendations by early next month, which will be placed before the Council in its next meeting, likely by mid-May, for a final decision.

# Govt amends FEMA rules to allow 20% FDI in LIC

**New Delhi, Apr 17 (PTD):**

The government has amended rules of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), paving the way for up to 20 per cent foreign direct investment in the insurance behemoth LIC.

The government is planning to dilute its stake in LIC through the Initial Public Offering (IPO). LIC in February had filed the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) before the markets regulator Sebi for the IPO.

Last month, Sebi gave approval to the draft papers and the insurer is in the process of filing a request for proposal with changes.

Following the Cabinet approval, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on March 14 had amended the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy to facilitate overseas investment in LIC ahead of the mega public offer. FEMA notification was required to operationalise the provisions



DPIIT issued through a press note, including FDI policy changes that will allow large foreign portfolio investors to subscribe to shares of LIC.

"These rules may be called the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) (Amendment) Rules, 2022," said a gazette notification issued recently.

The notification has inserted a paragraph in the existing policy, allowing up to 20 per cent FDI in LIC through the automatic route.

Since the foreign inflows' ceiling for public sector banks is 20 per cent under government approval route as per the present FDI policy, it has been decided to allow foreign investment of up to 20 per cent in LIC and

other such corporate bodies.

"Foreign investment in LIC shall be subject to the provisions of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 (LIC Act) as amended from time to time and such provisions of the Insurance Act, 1938, as amended from time to time, as are applicable to LIC," it said.

Setting the stage for the country's biggest-ever public offering, Sebi has approved the draft prospectus for sale of a 5 per cent stake by the government for an estimated Rs 63,000 crore.

According to the draft paper, LIC's embedded value, a measure of the consolidated shareholders' value in an insurance company, has been pegged at about Rs 5.4 lakh crore as of September 30, 2021 by international actuarial firm Milliman Advisors.

Although the DRHP does not disclose the market valuation of LIC, as per industry standards it would be about three times the embedded value or around Rs 16 lakh crore.

## Mutual funds add over 3 cr folios in FY-22

### On sharp rally in equity market, digitisation

**New Delhi, Apr 17 (PTD):**



the number of folios with 43 fund houses rose to 12.95 crore in March 2022 from 9.78 crore in March 2021, registering a gain of 3.17 crore during the one-year period.

The industry crossed a milestone of 10 crore folios in May 2021.

The number of folios under equity, hybrid and solution oriented schemes, wherein the maximum investment is from retail segment, stood at about 10.34 crore as of March 2022.

Folios are numbers designated to individual investor accounts. An investor can have multiple folios.

The mutual fund space has been witnessing consistent growth in folio numbers in the past few years.

It saw an addition of 73 lakh investor accounts in 2019-20, 1.13 crore in 2018-19, 1.6 crore in 2017-18, over 17 lakh in 2016-17 and 59 lakh in 2015-16.

## UPI to stay on top, BNPL, digi currency to drive digital payments

### Integrating payments into biz software to help

**New Delhi, Apr 17 (PTD):**



Retail online transaction platform UPI will likely continue to dominate the digital payments space in the country even as newer methods such as BNPL and digital currency are expected to define the future of payments, a study has said.

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

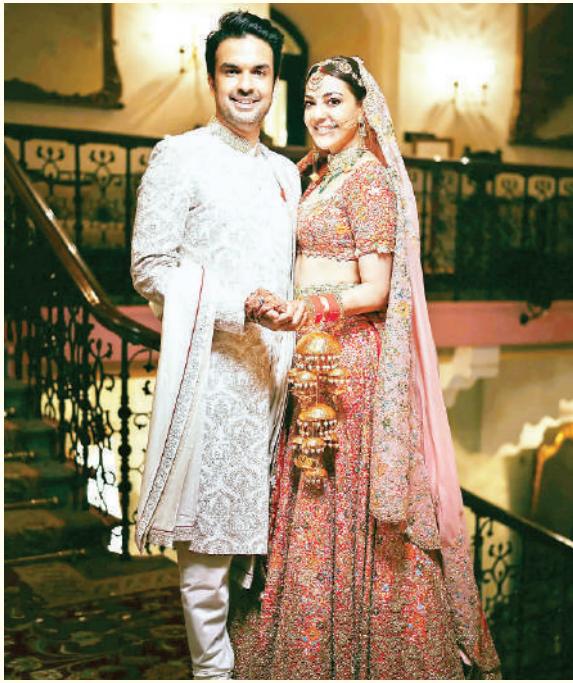
Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and offline payments

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Buy Now Pay Later (BN

## Kajal Aggarwal pens emotional post for husband Gautam Kitchlu

**A**ctress Kajal Aggarwal, who is in the family way, has penned an emotional post to her husband Gautam Kitchlu, to not just thank him for his love and care during her pregnancy, but to also let him know what an amazing father he will make. Taking to Instagram, the actress on Thursday wrote, "Dear Husband, Thank you for being the greatest husband + to-be-dad a girl could ask for. Thank you for being so selfless, for waking up with me almost every night while I had 'morning' sickness, for camping out on the couch with me for weeks because it was the most comfy place for me to sleep, for immediately texting the doctor and taking me to mom's house to put my legs up during the braxton hicks contractions and never hesitating or making me feel bad, for always making sure I'm well fed, well hydrated and comfortable, for taking care of me and lastly for loving me through it all. "Before our sweet baby comes, I want you to know how wonderful you are and that you will be an amazing father as well! "In the past eight months, I have watched you become the most loving dad. I know how in love with this baby you are and how much you care already- it makes me feel so lucky that our baby will have a father who



loves unconditionally, be there no matter what and have an extraordinary role model to look up to. "Our lives are going to change drastically, and I'm so grateful for that. We won't have all the alone time we have now - we won't be able to go to the movies every weekend, or lay around and sleep and binge watch shows, we probably won't go out impromptu partying for a while or have as many date nights... BUT we will have

a beautiful baby that will fill our hearts with so much joy. "There will be sleepless nights, times we feel sick, times we aren't feeling ourselves, but this will also be the best time of our life. Things will change but one thing will stay the same and that is how much I love you! I'm blessed to have you by my side for our greatest adventure yet. You are going to be the most terrific father and I love the life we live."

## Jaya Ojha replaces Vaishali Thakkar in 'Gur Se Meetha Ishq'



**T**he show 'Gur Se Meetha Ishq' on Star Bharat will soon introduce the audience to a new and unique love story. The show's star-studded cast will include actress Pankhuri Awasthi as a female tourist guide who defies the stereotype inherent in this male-dominated society,

actress Meera Deosthale in the challenging role of Pari, a mentally challenged girl, and Ishaan Dhawan as the photographer. Neil will appear as Khurana. The show's other cast members include several well-known actors, including 'Uttaran' actress Vaishali Thakkar, who will play Neil Khurana's (Ishaan Dhawan) mother.

According to the most recent news from SET sources, actress Vaishali Thakkar has been replaced on the show 'Gur Se Meetha Ishq' overnight. The main rea-

son for this is that she was told she didn't fit in with this character. In such a case, this character is now being played by the well-known Veteran actress Jaya Ojha, who rose to prominence with her portrayal of Mandodari in the 2008 TV series 'Ramayana'. Aside from that, she has played a variety of essential characters on television.

When asked about her character in 'Gur Se Meetha Ishq', actress Jaya Ojha responded enthusiastically saying, "In the show, I play Neil's mother. She is a mature

and considerate woman. It is not my choice, but this character has chosen me for this role. The producers believe I can play this character well because I previously played a similar character in a popular show. In Star Bharat I was preferred for this role, for which I am grateful. I hope I have a lot of fun attempting to play this character and that people enjoy my character and acting."

Watch 'Gur Se Meetha Ishq' this April 18, Monday to Friday at 7:30 pm only on Star Bharat.

## Chhavi Mittal reveals she's fighting breast cancer



**A**ctress Chhavi Mittal known for her roles in TV shows and movies has revealed on her Instagram handle about her struggle of fighting with breast cancer. The actress had written an emotional and inspiring note to share how she is dealing with the illness. "Dear breasts, This is an appreciation post for you. The first time I noticed your magic was when you gave me immense pleasure... but your importance peaked when you fed both my babies. Today it's my turn to stand by you when one of you fights cancer. It's not the best thing to happen, but it doesn't have to bog my spirits down." She further wrote that it is not going to be easy for her to deal with it but she is prepared to fight with it. "It's not going to be easy, but it doesn't have to be tough. I might not look the same again, but it doesn't have to make me feel different. A big cheer for all breast cancer survivors.. you have no idea how much inspiration I draw from you today." The actress and mother of two added: "And also, for those of you who already know, thank you for being so supportive. Every call you make, every msg you send, every visit you pay me.. is appreciated no end and that's all that makes a difference." After the post her fans and friends dropped their early recovery messages. Actor Karan V Grover mentioned with heart emojis: "personification of strength..With u each step and all the way, anything u need" Arjun Bijlani also sent his wishes, saying: "Once a fighter always a fighter. May god give u and ur family all the strength you need.." The actress has co-founded Shitty Ideas Trending (SIT), a digital production company, along with her husband Mohit Hussein. We just wish her a speedy recovery.

### HOROSCOPE MONDAY APRIL 18

#### Aquarius: Jan 21 – Feb 18

Those who know the real you find your lack of confidence frustrating, Aquarius. Your talents are starting to mere mortals, yet you rarely take credit for all your abilities. Today you get an opportunity to participate in a project that could make or break your career. You may hesitate, weigh your capabilities in your mind, and come up short. Not only can you do this, you can do it better than anyone else!

#### Gemini: May 22 – June 21

You're likely to wake up today with a compulsion to clean or organize something, Gemini. This may be rather unlike you. If we didn't know better we'd say that you were feeling a parental urge, and your nesting instinct is kicking in. Indulge your domestic desires today. Tomorrow you're probably going to be in quite a different frame of mind!

#### Cancer: June 22 – July 22

Today should be a "no holds barred" day as you strategize your next career move, Cancer. If you were in the army, you'd be a five-star general by now - your tactical sense is that good. Unfortunately, your office isn't handing out stars. You'll have to be satisfied with a raise and promotion - the least they can offer after all your hard work. If no such offer is forthcoming, go and ask for it!

#### Scorpio: Oct 24 – Nov 22

This is likely to be a day geared to fulfilling the needs of family. Lesser persons would resent the obligation, but not you, Scorpio. You have a nurturing spirit. As long as you feel appreciated, you're happy to go the extra mile (or two). You can expect to feel loved by those around you. You have a willing, giving nature, and it shows in your aura like a beacon for all to see.

#### Libra: Sept 23 – Oct 23

You've been working hard lately and deserve the professional acclaim that comes your way, Libra. As a result of your efforts, it's likely you'll receive or will soon receive a bonus, raise, or promotion of some kind. Celebrate, but just one night. If you let the party continue indefinitely, the bill could be too large even for you! Be frugal and work hard. That's your real ticket to the good life.

#### Aries: Mar 21 – Apr 20

Today, Aries, forget socializing, working, and answering the phone. Stay home and cuddle in a blanket by the fire. Get out your old yearbooks or photo albums and have fun reflecting on good times from your past. Enjoy being quiet and still. Listen to the ticking of the clock and the wind outside. Measure time by the shadows moving across the room. Give yourself this day of meditation.

#### Leo: July 23 – Aug 23

Today might be largely devoted to household tasks, Leo. It isn't exactly the most glamorous assignment, but you take a certain pleasure in attending to daily necessities. Pay some bills, throw in a few loads of laundry, do some yard work and cooking. Your partner or family will appreciate your efforts. It's even more fun if it isn't expected of you. And who knows? Maybe they'll reciprocate.

#### Sagittarius: Nov 23 – Dec 21

Guilt can be a powerful motivator, Sagittarius, but it isn't a pure one. Today you could feel obligated to help a family member with something you'd prefer to take no part in. There are times, like this, when familial duty trumps personal desires. Do your best to be helpful and gracious even though it could be a trying time for you. You'll feel good about yourself once it's all done.

#### Taurus: Apr 21 – May 21

Don't be surprised if neighbors come to your door asking for a favor â€” and not just to borrow a cup of sugar! While your initial response will be to say yes (it's your nature, after all), think twice. This "favor" could involve a major time commitment. Is this what you want to do? You can put your needs ahead of your friends' and still be a good neighbor. Don't worry, they'll understand.

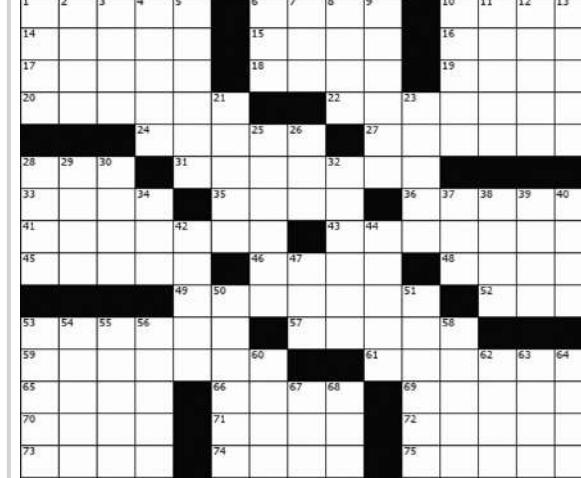
#### Virgo: Aug 24 – Sept 22

This is going to be a rather busy day for you, Virgo. And you're likely to love every minute of it. You can expect to meet many people as you go about your day. There will be side trips and detours that you weren't anticipating, but they're all the more delightful because of their spontaneity, like the unexpected lunch with a friend. Such stolen moments enrich your life.

#### Capricorn: Dec 22 – Jan 20

Today you could feel overwhelmed with obligations and commitments to others. There isn't a moment free for yourself, not even for a bathroom break! Clearly, something's out of balance. Capricorn, it's time to take charge of your life. It's wonderful that you have such a giving, generous spirit, but you do no one any favors if you burn out from exhaustion. Take some time to refill the well of your soul.

### CROSSWORD



#### ACROSS

- Mixed greens
- Between
- Fly
- Select group
- Walk nervously
- Past due
- Coral island
- Stagger
- Office acronym
- Brahms piece
- Lizard or snake, e.g.
- Seasons
- Hanging ornament
- Short sleep
- Harpooned
- Distinct times
- Abhor
- Make merry
- Phone bug
- Antiseptic
- Starchy veggie (sl.)
- Smell



## I would like to play a cop on OTT: Anuj Sachdeva

**O**ver the years, Anuj Sachdeva has essayed quite a few characters, but the one role that's eluded him is his dream role - of playing a man in uniform.

Anuj is currently playing the ideal son, brother, lover boy Cheeranjeev Chaudhary in the TV show 'Woh Toh Hai Albelaa' and his character is being loved by his well-wishers and fans.

The actor is now keen to explore the OTT place simultaneously with a character that he has never played on screen - that of a cop or a police officer. "I want to play a cop/an officer in uniform, basically do an intense, performance-oriented role which has been my forte as an actor."

Sachdeva was recently seen in an OTT mini-series 'Ek Extra Mile' on Voot and his comic timing in the show was highly revered.

Sachdeva made his OTT debut in 2018 with Shitty Ideas Trending's 'Bin Bulaye Mehmaan season 2' and was later seen in Zoom Studio's 'The Reunion'. He also played a significant role in Amazon Prime's 'Breathe'.

Talking about his OTT debut, he said: "Bin Bulaye Mehmaan Season 2" was offered to me at a time when I had no experience in

the digital space. Shitty Ideas Trending was known for its comedy web series and I was keen to collaborate with them. Mohit Hussein directed the show and I enjoyed being a part of it as it helped me evolve as an actor."

"Having worked in television and films prior I was an actor who would always go by what's written in the script. I would study the dialogues and stick to them. With Bin Bulaye Mehmaan I was introduced to the art of improvisation on set and in the scene. Initially, it took me a little time to adjust but then I started enjoying the improvisation process," he added.

Since we are talking about OTT, can you share two of your favourite web series? "I would recommend 'House Of Cards'. Kevin Spacey's performance as the lead is what I take back from the show apart from its brilliant writing and storytelling.

"The second web series I loved is 'The OA', a fantasy meets reality web series. The magic is in the writing of the show where the audience by the end of the season wonders if what happened to the lead character was real or just a figment of her imagination," Anuj concluded.

## ALTBalaji marks a milestone

**B**reaking barriers, entertaining the audiences with clutter-breaking content, and achieving milestones, India's leading home-grown digital platform ALTBalaji, completes fabulous five years today. Its a #High5ForAlt as the platform celebrates 5 years of unlimited entertainment and creating nonstop, binge-worthy content for the viewers across the globe. The platform has established a niche for itself in the originals space and played a vital role in inculcating an individual binge-watching habit amongst Indian audiences. With an exciting library of 90+ original shows on the app, ALTBalaji has been catering to fans of all genres, making ALTBalaji the go-to place for entertainment, especially during these trying times.

Closer to its fifth anniversary, ALTBalaji for the first time forayed into the non-fiction reality space with the biggest and most fearless reality show Lock Upp. With



Kangana Ranaut as the host and controversial celebrity contestants as kaidi for 72 days in a jail, the show has become a blockbuster hit. Within the first 32 days of its launch the show garnered 200+ MN Viewers- the highest in the Indian Digital reality space. ALTBalaji also became the first-ever OTT platform globally to release the metaverse-based game of Lock Upp where viewers can interact with the show's universe and play to win real money!

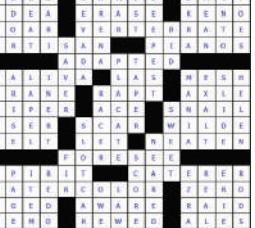
With more exciting announcements, partnerships, and new shows, ALTBalaji continues to power through and reach out to viewers across age groups for both solo and family-viewing.

Join in the celebration of ALTBalaji turning 5 by tuning into the platform for your daily dose of entertainment!

273

- Met solo
- Separate
- Vacation spot
- Behold
- Byron's "before"
- Wicked
- "Enchanted" (movie)
- Sly look
- Religious pamphlet
- Tire pattern
- French preposition
- Alphabet part
- Most arid
- Minor quarrels
- Prohibition
- Requirements
- Spooky
- Roof part
- Angry
- Adam's home
- Contact
- Primary color

#### SOLUTION 272



# KKR seek to bounce back against RR after back-to-back losses

Mumbai, Apr 17 (PTI):

Their confidence severely dented after two comprehensive defeats on the trot, last edition's runner-up side Kolkata Knight Riders would seek to get their inconsistent campaign back on track when they face Rajasthan Royals in an IPL match here on Monday.

KKR were beaten by Delhi Capitals and Sunrisers Hyderabad by 44 runs and seven wickets respectively in their last two matches. They had earlier lost to Royal Challengers Bangalore.

With three wins and three losses, KKR are at the mid-table while the Royals have won three matches and lost two games till now.

KKR had an impressive start to the league with three wins from four matches but the back-to-back losses had taken them down below the top-4 and they would look to regain that slot.

But to do that they will have to pull themselves up in both batting and bowling. None of the batters, except for Andre Russell, has been consistent so far while the likes of spinner Varun Chakravarthy and pacer Pat Cummins have dished out average performances. Russell is the current top-scorer for



KKR with 179 runs from six matches and has also contributed with five wickets with the ball.

Captain Shreyas Iyer has not been in the best of form with just one half-century in his name for a total of 151 runs in six matches, Nitesh Rana and Venkatesh Iyer have been lacking in consistency, while Sam Billings is struggling to get runs.

In the bowling department, none, except pacer Umesh Yadav (10 wickets from 6 matches) has been up to expectations.

Chakravarthy, KKR's highest wicket-taker last season, has been struggling big time with just four wickets from six matches.

Chakravarthy's senior spin colleague Sunil Narine is also in the same

boat with just four wickets. Australia Test captain Cummins, who joined late due to national commitment, also need to step up and do better than his current figures of three wickets from as many matches.

The Royals, on the other hand, will start as favourites in Monday's match with the tournament's highest run-getter and wicket-taker in their

ranks in Jos Buttler and Yuzvendra Chahal.

Chahal has been in top form with 12 wickets from five matches, also with a fine economy of 6.80 and he would fancy to add more scalps to his name, especially against a struggling KKR batting unit.

Veteran New Zealand pacer Trent Boult (7 wickets from 4 matches) is the other Royals bowler who has been doing well.

But senior India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin is terribly out of form. He picked up just one wicket from five matches while conceding 143 runs and it remains to be seen how long the team management will persist with him.

The Royals, however, have not fired as a batting unit with the likes of captain Sanju Samson (117 from 5 matches) and the hugely talented Devdutt Padikkal (114 from 5 matches) failing to click so far.

Their batting has revolved mainly around Buttler, who has set the IPL on fire with 272 runs from five matches with one hundred and two fifties.

Shrimon Hetmyer has been the only other Royals batter who has done well so far with 197 runs from five matches with the help of one half-century.

**Mathias Boe likely to return as India's badminton doubles coach**



New Delhi, Apr 17 (PTI):

Danish legend Mathias Boe is likely to return for a second stint as the doubles coach of the Indian badminton team after Malaysia's Tan Kim Her declined the offer despite the Sports Ministry approving his appointment.

Boe, a London Olympics silver-medallist and former world No. 1 doubles player, had trained the Indian doubles players, including Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, ahead of the Tokyo Olympics. "We were very keen to get Tan Kim Her and also had got the approval of SAI and ministry but then he refused to accept the offer. So he is not coming as of now," Badminton Association of India (BAI) secretary general Sanjay Mishra told PTI.

"We are currently in discussion with Mathias Boe. He has the experience of training our players and had done well with Satwik and Chirag. Nothing is finalised yet but we are trying to get his services at least till the Asian Games if not beyond."

**We need to get better in all aspects of game, says DC coach Ponting**



Mumbai, Apr 17 (PTI):

Delhi Capitals head coach Ricky Ponting feels his team needs to improve in all aspects of the game after its third defeat in five games in the ongoing Indian Premier League.

DC lost by 16 runs to Royal Challengers Bangalore at the Wankhede Stadium here Saturday night to lie at the bottom half of the IPL table with just four points.

And, Ponting said it's time DC start clicking as a unit in all aspects of the game.

"We haven't had our full strength batting. Mitchell Marsh played his first game and probably didn't quite fit the tempo of the game that we needed. Rovman Powell hasn't fired so far in middle order. So we need to fix some things and what we intended to do throughout the tournament," Ponting said at the post-match press conference.

conference. "There is definitely some areas for improvement with the bat and ball. In couple of overs, we absolutely have been blown out of the park. We need to get better in all aspects of the game."

Ponting said getting the team combination right will be key for DC in their upcoming matches.

"The next two games are pretty important for us and we need to look at all aspects of our game, pick the right team and those 11 players we pick, need to stand up and get the job done," the coach said.

The former Australia captain called on his top-order batters to stand up and take more responsibility. "We want the guys to have the best opportunities to make big scores and obviously if you are batting in the top 4 in T20, you have got the best opportunity to make big scores," said the batting legend.

## DK has presented very strong case for India comeback: Kohli

Mumbai, Apr 17 (PTI):

Calling him the man of the IPL so far, Virat Kohli feels his Royal Challengers Bangalore teammate Dinesh Karthik has made a strong case for another India comeback with his stellar run in the T20 tournament so far.

Karthik, who has been playing the role of a finisher for RCB, has had the highest strike rate among the leading run-getters in the tournament scoring 197 runs in six innings at 209.57. He has only been dismissed once in the tournament.

On Saturday night, he smashed an unbeaten 66 off 34 balls as RCB beat Delhi Capitals by 16 runs.

In a conversation with Karthik on iplt20.com, Kohli said it has been a joy and honour to watch the wicket-keeper batter go



about his business in the competition.

"I am here with the man of the IPL for me so far... It's been wonderful. I won't even say long may it continue' because it will and

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

## I have been trying everything to be a part of Indian team: Dinesh Karthik

Mumbai, Apr 17 (PTD):

In the form of his life, seasoned wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik on Saturday said that he has been "trying everything" to stage a comeback into the Indian team.

Karthik, 36, who began his journey in international cricket way back in 2004, has not put a foot wrong in the ongoing IPL-15, playing some of the finest knocks for his franchise Royal Challengers Bangalore, who spent on Rs 5.5 crore on him in the auction.

He stretched his excellent run of form with a blistering 34-ball 66, paving the way for RCB's 16-run win over Delhi Capitals.

"I must admit that I have a bigger goal. I have been working really hard. My aim is to do something special for the country. This is part of my journey. I have been trying everything to be a part of the Indian team," Player of the Match Karthik said at the presentation ceremony. With his



last year, Tsitsipas was on court just 12 hours after winning a long quarterfinal. I had to put my soul out, Tsitsipas said on Saturday.

I wanted to stay on the court as much as I had to, trying to start rallies and make it physical. It worked in my favor."

Zverev said he felt spent against Tsitsipas following his own lengthy quarterfinal on Friday against Jannik Sinner, during which he struggled with a leg injury.

"It took a lot out of me (and) the issue with my leg didn't help," Zverev said.

He was grateful for a positive start to the clay-court season after a challenging few weeks.

The Tokyo Olympics gold medalist was put on probation for one year last month for yelling and cursing and hitting the chair umpire's stand repeatedly with his racket following a loss in doubles at the Mexico Open. He was fined and kicked out of the tournament, unable to defend his singles title.

On Saturday night, he



smashed an unbeaten 66 off 34 balls as RCB beat Delhi Capitals by 16 runs.

In a conversation with Karthik on iplt20.com, Kohli said it has been a joy and honour to watch the wicket-keeper batter go

about his business in the competition.

"I am here with the man of the IPL for me so far... It's been wonderful. I won't even say long may it continue' because it will and

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

you're in that space and I can see that. It was an honour to watch you bat again. Thanks for getting us across the line," said Kohli.

The former India captain said his long-time RCB

you're in that space and I

## EASTER SUNDAY PRAYERS



Devotees belonging to Christian community pray on the occasion of Easter Sunday, in Ranchi, Sunday.

## Clash breaks out between two groups during religious procession

Amaravati, Apr 17 (PTD):

A minor skirmish led to stone pelting between two communities at Holagunda village in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh but the situation has returned to normal after police intervened and pacified both the sides, police sources said on Sunday. The skirmish occurred on Saturday night while a religious procession was being taken out on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti, police sources said.

When the procession reached a mosque in the village, the Jayanti organisers switched off the mike, in reverence to the Ramzan observation. But some

devotees allegedly chanted 'Jai Shri Ram' slogans. Irked by this, the Muslims started pelting stones at the Hanuman Jayanti procession. The participants too retaliated, police said. The police then took the two sides to the local police station to quell the frenzy. Some tension prevailed even at the station but the authorities gave a stern warning to the two sides and brokered peace, the sources added.

Kurnool Superintendent of Police Sudhir Kumar Reddy rushed to Holagunda village to oversee the situation. Additional police force was deployed to prevent any untoward incident.

Palakkad(Ker), Apr 17 (PTD):

The two back-to-back murders of an RSS and a PFI leader in the last couple of days in the district were part of a pre-planned conspiracy, police said on Sunday. ADGP (Law and Order) Vijay Sakhare, who reached Palakkad after the murder of RSS leader S K Srinivasan (45), told reporters here that "there is a conspiracy behind both murders. We will find out who is behind it. The killers were only foot soldiers."

He also refuted the allegations that the police failed to prevent the RSS leader's murder, on Saturday, despite there

being a possibility of retaliation after the killing of Popular Front of India (PFI) leader Subair (43) on Friday. Sakhare said it was "very very difficult" to prevent a planned murderer and both the killings were 'well planned.'

Speaking to PTI, the senior police officer said it cannot be said whether the killings, especially that of the PFI leader, were politically motivated, but the murder of the RSS leader is believed to be a retaliatory killing.

ADGP Vijay Sakhare

He further said that while no one has been arrested in connection with the two cases, several suspects were in custody of the police, who were questioning them, and based on the outcome of the interrogations, arrests would be made. He also said that two Special Investigation Teams (SITs) have been constituted to probe the murders and the police has some good clues and leads in the cases.

Several schemes and plans have been formulated to prevent any further such incidents in the district and these would be implemented during the day, he added.

Srinivasan, a former district leader and office-bearer of RSS, was attacked by a six-member gang at his motorbike shop in Melamuri near here on Saturday, barely 24 hours after Subair was hacked to death at Elappully in the district while he was returning home along with his father after offering prayers in a mosque on Friday afternoon. A local RSS leader, Sanjith, was murdered in the same area, as was Subair, five months ago allegedly by SDPI workers.

Muslims shower petals, offer sharbat during Hanuman Jayanti procession

Kota (Raj), Apr 17 (PTD):

Amid incidents of communal clashes in parts of the country, Muslims in a locality here welcomed a Hanuman Jayanti procession by offering sharbat and showering petals to those taking part in it. They also set up stalls outside the two mosques in the area and offered cold water and sharbat to the devotees. Ramganj Mandi SDM Rajesh Daga said the Muslims came out of the mosques to welcome the procession after offering evening namaz. When asked to join, Muslim youths displayed their martial art skills along with those from the Hindu community, he said.

dominated area, with two mosques on its way. A majority of those who took part in the procession wore saffron clothes. Muslims led by Tahir Ahmad welcomed the procession, showering petals and offering garlands to those taking part in it. They also set up stalls outside the two mosques in the area and offered cold water and sharbat to the devotees. Ramganj Mandi SDM Rajesh Daga said the Muslims came out of the mosques to welcome the procession after offering evening namaz. When asked to join, Muslim youths displayed their martial art skills along with those from the Hindu community, he said.

## Over 9,500 inducted in BSF this year for security duties

New Delhi, Apr 17 (PTD): The Border Security Force (BSF), India's frontier force for Pakistan and Bangladesh, has commissioned over 9,500 personnel in the first three-and-a-half months of this year to bolster its manpower, official data said.

These personnel, largely in the entry rank of constable, are being gradually deployed at border posts along Pakistan and Bangladesh and for internal security duties in the hinterland that includes undertaking armed combat against Left Wing Extremists (LWE), a senior officer told PTI. Out of the total 9,550 troops commissioned into the force between January 1-April 13, about 1,700 are women personnel, the data said.

## '40 lakh Indians died due to 'govt negligence' during Covid'

New Delhi, Apr 17 (PTD):

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday claimed that 40 lakh Indians died during the coronavirus pandemic due to the government's 'negligence' and once again demanded that all families of the deceased be given Rs four lakh compensation each. Taking to Twitter, Gandhi shared the screenshot of a New York Times report which claimed that India is stalling the WHO's efforts to make global Covid death toll public.

"Modi ji neither speaks the truth, nor lets others speak. He still lies that no one died due to oxygen shortage!" Gandhi charged in a tweet in Hindi along with the screenshot of the report. "I had said earlier also due to the negligence of the government during